



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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## DENR-EMB RECOGNIZES WOMEN LEADERS IN THE LUNTIANG PUSO AWARDING CEREMONY



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) kicked off the celebration of World Environment Day and Philippine Environment Month with the theme “No to Waste: Advancing Circular Economy to #BeatPlasticPollution” through highlighting the achievements of women’s organizations engaged in environmental management projects of the agency.

Held last June 5, 2023 at the Ayala Mall Vertis North, Quezon City, the event featured a full day of an art exhibition from the Earth Day 2023 collection, interactive games, a learning forum on Solutions to Plastic Pollution, acoustic performance, and partners’ display of green technology-forward products and services.

Anchored to three Filipino core values namely cooperation, prudence and empathy, the Luntiang Puso Women in Action for Environment Award highlighted the contribution of women’s organizations in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of EMB programs, projects, and activities. Specifically, the recognition honored the women leaders in solid waste management, water quality management, air quality management, and toxic and hazardous waste management.

“We in the Department believe that women, more so the women’s organizations input and involvement in environmental programs make our efforts in protecting the environment more inclusive and valuable,” DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations - Luzon, Visayas and Environment Juan Miguel Cuna said during the awarding ceremony.



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Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina from Donsol, Sorsogon hailed as the first place winner and received P75,000. The second place winner, Kababaihan Kasangga ni Inang Kalikasan from Naggasican, Santiago City received P50,000. The third place winner, United Women's Organization from Mandaue City Cebu received P25,000.

All winners also received a Plaque of Recognition and a special token from EcoNest PH and SACHI Group.

Rigid process was involved in the selection of awardees. The DENR-EMB Gender and Development (GAD) counterparts in the Regional Offices submitted their nominees to the Central Office. With over 19 entries received, the nominations were judged based on the following criteria: Leadership and Participation, Impact on the Community, and Sustainability.

The entries were evaluated by judges Ms. Katherine Vinegas, GAD Consultant for gender and environment and member of the resource pool of the Philippine Commission on Women; Ms. Juvinia Serafin, OIC-Chief of the Solid Waste Management Division-EMB; and Engr. Michiko Sibunga, OIC-Section Chief of the Water Quality Management Section- Environmental Quality Management Division.

Three consolation prize winners, namely, Toril Kalambuan Association from Davao City, La Trinidad Women's Brigade from La Trinidad, Benguet, and Eco-Huggle MRF Ugong (Scrap to Crafts) from Valenzuela City, received a cash prize of P15,000

The event was also attended by the representatives from Ayala Mall Vertis, Philippine Commission on Women and EcoNestPH, as well as the teachers and student representatives of Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O) from schools all over Metro Manila.

"May the ideas and inspiration we have today translate to actions towards protecting our environment," DENR-EMB Assistant Director and Chair of Gender and Development Program Engr. Esperanza Sajul said at the event conclusion.