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## EMB R8 holds Regional Solid Waste Management Summit

Tacloban City - The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Region 8 spearheads the 2022 Regional Ecological Solid Waste Management Summit on June 22 at the Summit Hotel to mark the celebration of June as Philippine Environment Month, anchored on the theme, "Aksyon Para sa Natatanging Mundo" and highlighting the #OnlyOneEarth campaign for World Environment Day 2022.



Dr. Arturo N. Salazar, Assistant Regional Director for Management Services of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 8, welcomed the participants to the event. He said that coming together to share the success in the implementation of RA 9003, or the Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, and to launch the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) at the regional level signifies everyone's commitment to teamwork.



Usec. Benito Antonio T. de Leon, Undersecretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and Attached Agencies of the DENR, said that the whole of Philippine society and economy should be involved in creating system-wide approaches across value chains to allow resources to stay in the economy for the longest possible time so that these resources will not end up as waste in the seas or disposal sites.

"May our collective capacities and actions be strengthened towards clean and litter-free Philippine seas," Usec de Leon said in his pre-recorded video message.

Hon. Frances Ann B. Petilla, Mayor of Palo, Leyte and President of the League of Municipalities – Leyte Chapter, gave her message of support and commitment to fully implement the NPOA-ML in her municipality. Likewise, Mayor Nacional V. Mercado of Maasin City, Southern Leyte, who is also the Regional Representative to the League of Cities in the Philippines; Mayor Ivan Dayan C. Agda of Borongan City, Eastern Samar; and Mayor Richard I. Gomez of Ormoc City, in their video messages, expressed their support for the NPOA-ML.

Moreover, heads of offices and representatives from the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Science and Technology Region 8 (DOST) Region 8, and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region 8 gave their respective messages of support to the national action plan.

Ms. Consolacion P. Crisostomo, Chief, Planning, Policy, and Program Development Division of EMB Central Office, presented the briefer of the NPOA-ML while Ms. Ingrid Macabre, Solid Waste Management (SWM) Section Head of Ormoc City, discussed the city's localized City Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (CPOA-ML).

Another important point during the Summit was the awarding ceremony for 13 barangays and private institutions with commendable implementation of solid waste management, namely: Brgy. Daganas, Catarman, Northern Samar; Brgy. Occidental II, Gamay, Northern Samar; Brgy. 02, Quinapondan, Eastern Samar; Brgy. Lipata, Paranas, Samar; Brgy. Lanawan, Macarthur, Leyte; Brgy. San Isidro, Dulag, Leyte; Brgy. Luntad, Palo, Leyte; Brgys. Manaybanay and Yapad, Pastrana, Leyte; Brgys. Can-isak and Guindaohan, Barugo, Leyte; PASAR Foundation; and Leyte Home Depot Tacloban.

To provide the participants, especially the mayors and environmental officers, more options in managing their wastes, Ms. Esther Hong, Sales Director of The Clean 02 Eco-friendly Corporation, presented the Ultra High Thermal Decomposition Technology. Also, the participants were able to view materials and products showcased by various exhibitors in the mini-exhibit of best SWM practices. They also signed the Commitment to Zero Waste to Philippine Waters by 2040.

In closing, Engr. Reynaldo B. Barra, OIC-Regional Director of EMB R8, enjoined everyone to combat the threats of the waste management crisis and its linkage to climate change, and make social progress that will make the people of Eastern Visayas live wealthier, healthier, and longer in solidarity with each other. He likewise conveyed his gratitude for the many years of partnership and cooperation as he is about to end his tenure in the government service. Nevertheless, he assured everyone that he would still be actively involved in various environmental endeavors even outside his capacity as a public official.

