

PEMSEA News

Philippine President Meets with EAS Congress Co-organizers and PEMSEA

Manila, Philippines – President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo discussed preparations for the hosting by the Philippines of the East Asian Seas Congress 2009 with Environment Secretary Jose L. Atienza, Jr., the Conference host, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) Executive Director Raphael P.M. Lotilla, UNDP Philippines Country Director Renaud Meyer, East Asian Seas Partnership Council Chair Dr. Chua Thia-Eng and PRF Chief Technical Officer Adrian Ross in a meeting held at Malacañan on 12 March 2009.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was also presented with published reports on work completed by DENR and PEMSEA in Manila Bay, and the coastal Provinces of Batangas and Bataan.. The publications included the Manila Bay Area Environmental Atlas, the State of the Coasts of Batangas Province and the Coastal and Land Use Zoning Plan of Bataan Province. Dr. Chua Thia-Eng presented PGMA with the publication “Securing the Oceans: Essays on Ocean Governance”, which PEMSEA produced in cooperation with the Nippon Foundation.

The EAS Congress is expected to be attended by 1000 participants from within and outside the East Asian Seas Region. Held every three years, this year’s Congress will focus on sharing Local Implementation and Good Practices in Sustainable Development and Integrated Coastal Management in the coasts and oceans of the region.

The EAS Congress will include a Ministerial Forum to be hosted by Secretary Atienza, with Ministers from the East Asian Seas region. The theme of the Forum will be Climate Change Adaptation through Integrated Coastal Management. President Macapagal-Arroyo will be invited to formally open the Ministerial Forum, which commences on 26 November 2009.

PEMSEA has been hosted by the Philippine Government through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources since 1994.

Bataan Gears up for Asia-wide LGU Forum

Balanga City, Philippines – The Provincial Government of Bataan has started to prepare for its hosting of the 2009 Forum of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development (PNLG), an association of local governments in the East Asian region implementing ICM programs. The forum will be held in November as part of the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009.

The hosting of the PNLG Forum is one of the major activities lined up by the Bataan Integrated Coastal Management Project (BICMP). The organization of the forum was discussed during a workshop held on 2-3 April 2009 in Balanga City (Bataan) to refine the BICMP work program for 2009. Bataan will be closely coordinating the organization of the Forum with PEMSEA and PNLG Secretariat based in Xiamen, PR China.

During the Bataan Coastal Care Foundation Fellowship held on 26 February, the Provincial Government of Bataan headed by Governor Enrique Garcia, Jr., also the incumbent PNLG vice president, announced the Province's commitment to host the said event. In particular, Bataan will host the PNLG General Assembly on 21 November and the site visit on 22 November. For the Technical Workshop, the PNLG will co-convene the workshop focusing on land- and sea-use zoning which will be conducted as part of the EAS Congress' International Conference in Manila.

With its 24 member and 7 observer local governments from 9 countries across the East Asian region, including other interested groups and local government networks in the Philippines, in particular, the PNLG Forum is expected to be attended by over 100 participants. The newest ICM parallel site of PEMSEA, Thua Thien-Hue Province (Vietnam), is expected to be inducted during the General Assembly meeting bringing the membership to 25 local governments

The PNLG members meet annually to exchange information and practical experiences, as well as to discuss and identify strategies to address challenges to sustainable development that are being encountered by local governments. Since 2001, the Network has conducted seven forums covering key issues such as natural and man-made hazards prevention and management and water resources protection, utilization and management. The Province of Chonburi (Thailand) has expressed its intent to serve as host of the 2010 PNLG Forum.

Bataan in Full Force towards Sustainable Coastal and Marine Management

Makati City, Philippines – Remaining true to its objectives, the Provincial Government of Bataan together with the civil society and a consortium of Bataan-based companies (i.e., the Bataan Coastal Care Foundation (BCCF)) continue to set good examples with their continuing partnership to implement the Bataan ICM program.

At the 5th Fellowship Meeting held on 26 February 2009, with Governor Enrique Garcia, Jr. leading Bataan's local government leaders, 17 members of the BCCF were represented, along with representatives of civil society groups and the provincial environmental office. PEMSEA was represented by Prof. Raphael P.M. Lotilla, PRF Executive Director.

Ms. Malu Erni, President of BCCF and Executive Director of Petron Foundation, highlighted the key accomplishments of the Foundation over the years, including:

- Increase in number of BCCF's member companies from 17 in 2002 to 23 at present;
- Implementation of Bataan's Coastal Land- and Sea-use Zoning Plan (CLSUZP) with technical descriptions for the establishment of municipal water boundaries certified by NAMRIA, and a unified zoning ordinance drafted with the objective to govern the CLSUZP implementation for the whole province;
- Integration of the Land- and Water-Use Development Plan for the Municipality of Abucay as part of the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan already nearing completion;
- Mangrove planting conducted annually, and now covering a total of 45 hectares, with 47,000 seedlings and 337,000 propagules planted;
- Coastal clean up activities covering 156 km of the 188-km coastline of the province (83 percent);
- Regular Talisay River clean up, which is a major tributary of Manila Bay;
- Establishment of the Ecological Waste Management Program;
- Establishment of artificial reefs (600 units established in Limay, Mariveles and Orion's municipal waters) and fish sanctuaries;
- Establishment of Bataan as a birdwatching site in the Philippines with 15,700 bird count and 30 species;
- Campaign against illegal fishing, resulting in the arrest of 216 suspected illegal fishers and confiscation of 22 fishing vessels, fine-mesh nets and other outlawed fishing gears from January to December 2008; and
- Resolution on closure of the whole Manila Bay against commercial fishing passed. (RDC III-RPOC III-RDCC III Joint Resolution No. 03-01-2008).

In addition to the BCCF accomplishments, Governor Garcia also informed the Meeting of the Province's efforts in sectors such as on health, infrastructure and education. The Governor further encouraged the members of the BCCF to continue their efforts and assured the BCCF of the Provincial Government's commitment and support to the long-term implementation of the ICM program in Bataan.

PEMSEA Executive Director Raphael P.M. Lotilla commended the BCCF on its achievements, adding that these can serve as an inspiration to various local governments as well as with the private sector in other parts of the East Asian Seas region.

Building on its accomplishments, the BCCF together with the Provincial Government of Bataan have identified the full implementation of the CLSUZP as a key priority to ensure that every town and city of Bataan faithfully executes the zoning requirements, which includes the issuance of relevant ordinances and full compliance to these new regulations. Implementation of the CLSUZP will form part of the three-year work plan being developed by the Project Management Office (PMO) of Bataan with support from the Province's Project Coordinating Committee and the PEMSEA Resource Facility.

The highlight of the meeting was the signing of a Certificate of Commitment by the Provincial Government of Bataan, BCCF and PEMSEA to sustain the public-private partnership for the implementation of the Bataan ICM Program. In the Certificate, the parties pledged to “attain the vision of a well-developed community with an abundant natural resource, clean environment and responsible citizenry empowered and committed to care for nature and its bounty”, as well as to continue to forge partnerships with every stakeholder of the province while helping provide “sustainable solutions to the environmental concerns of Manila Bay and the Seas of East Asia.”

The Province of Bataan will host the forthcoming Forum of the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development in November 2009.

ICM Scaling up in Cambodia: Old Problems, New Solutions

Coastal management is not a new concept in Cambodia. The level of funding committed by national agencies and international partners over the past few years attests to the serious attention being provided to pull address poverty alleviation and other aspects of sustainable development. A quick estimate made by the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and PEMSEA in 2006 indicated that investments in projects and programs within the framework of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) from 1998 were about USD 90.477 million. This was about 1.24 percent of the GDP in 2006 - that's USD 6.95 investment per capita for Cambodia's population of 13 million.

During Cambodia's National ICM Scaling up Workshop, which was held in Phnom Penh on 6 March, local officials from coastal provinces echoed a common question, "Why are we still poor?" For issues of basic environmental services, to more complicated matters concerning rapid urban expansion, to issues of local empowerment, local representatives from the Provinces of Kampot, Kep and Koh Kong stated that effective coastal and marine management remains elusive. Poverty is still a central concern and rural agricultural areas, including coastal communities, still comprise roughly 35 percent of people below the poverty line.

Efforts by international and local donors on coastal and marine management initiatives have been thwarted by limited human and institutional capacity and fragmented/sectoral initiatives which resulted to duplication of efforts and piecemeal resolution of issues. When one issue is addressed, another one crops up.

Addressing more than 30 participants at the opening of the workshop, H.E. Khong Samnunon stressed the importance of collaboration and cooperation, and called for a stronger involvement of stakeholders not only in the workshop but in the implementation of the agreed workplan.

"With population increase comes several challenges of managing the coastal areas. An institution or two cannot solve the problems of coastal and marine management. We therefore need your involvement in this workshop to identify how we can move forward in our commitment to implement the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia in Cambodia."

Following a series of consultations and workshops on the national implementation of the SDS-SEA, the MOE conducted an Inception Workshop on ICM scaling up to initiate the process of adoption and implementation of a comprehensive six-year program for coastal and marine management in the country.

From Passive to Active

The scaling up strategy extends geographic and functional coverage of ICM activities in coastal municipalities and provinces and is designed to promote a coordinated response among various institutions in addressing a broad spectrum of issues on coastal and marine management. The scaling up strategy combines issues that are immediate needs at the local level and a longer term effort to strengthen national and local institutions in coastal and ocean governance. The National ICM scaling up program consists of capacity development, policy development and enforcement, institutional arrangements and the implementation of comprehensive programs to address a plethora of issues from habitat protection to sanitation. The six-year scaling program was drafted after months of local and national consultation. It will be finalized for submission to the National Coastal Steering Committee towards the end of this year. The experiences in Sihanoukville, a PEMSEA ICM demonstration site for the past six years, will be utilized as a training ground and knowledge-sharing center to encourage other coastal provinces and municipalities to implement ICM.

“Capacity development should address the predominant issue of passivity,” said one speaker during the workshop.

Indeed, the Sihanoukville experience is rooted on a capacity development approach that enables various agencies and sectors to collaborate and address local problems, instead of relying mainly on “capacity substitution” or mobilizing external consultants to do the job. This instilled an attitude of self-reliance and confidence among local staff that there is a solution to their own problems – that they ARE the solutions to their problems. Through a learning-by-doing approach, local staff were given the chance to develop their own skills through on-the-ground implementation of activities in a way that proves to be more empowering.

Chonburi Making Significant Progress in Developing its State of the Coasts Report

Chonburi, Thailand – The 160-km coastline of Chonburi Province, with its 26 coastal LGUs, will be evaluated in an initial State of the Coasts (SOC) report. The current social, economic and environmental status, including governance mechanisms, of the Province will be assessed in relation to the status prior to the implementation of integrated coastal management (ICM) in 1995 (i.e., the selected baseline year). Similarly, the progress of the Province in the implementation of ICM since 2001, including the impacts of its implementation, will be reviewed.

Apart from tracking the progress of ICM implementation, results will be likewise evaluated in terms of the progress of the Province in meeting its sustainable development targets.

The State of the Coasts Technical Working Group (SOC-TWG), including cluster representatives from the 26 coastal local government units (LGUs), representatives from the provincial agencies and the Project Management Office (PMO) convened a data consolidation and validation workshop on 9-13 March. The five-day workshop facilitated the filling in of data/information in the SOC reporting template, the initial analysis of consolidated data, the identification of critical data gaps as well as identifying strategies to address some of the critical gaps.

Workshop participants agreed to exhaust other data sources to gather more comprehensive information that can be included in the initial SOC report for Chonburi. Moreover, specific action plans and timelines in completing the report were developed. The participation of stakeholders in validating results, identifying implications of observed changes as well as in the formulation of key recommendations to be included in the report was particularly identified as an important consideration.

The local governments of Chonburi Province recognized the value of implementing the SOC reporting system in providing information on various aspects affecting the sustainable development of the marine and coastal areas, including the governance system. Various task teams (SOC-TWG) have been identified through Provincial Order No. 105/2009 issued in January in order to ensure the timely and smooth implementation of the reporting system. The implementation of the reporting system had been facilitated by efforts to translate the materials for SOC development into the local language. Resource materials provided by PEMSEA include the SOC reporting template, which outlines the data requirements, and the Guidebook for the State of the Coasts, which describes the general process of developing the SOC.

The SOC for Chonburi is scheduled to be completed by June 2009.

Workshop for DPR Korean Officials and Experts Concludes Successfully

Manila, Philippines – A workshop on project development for officials and experts from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was organized on 18–21 March in Manila and Batangas, Philippines. The workshop was designed to provide basic understanding of the PEMSEA approach on integrated coastal management (ICM) and the common framework for Sustainable Development of Coastal Areas (SDCA) through ICM.

DPR Korea has been a strong advocate of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) as declared during the 1st East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting in 2007. To support DPR Korea with the in-country implementation of the SDS-SEA, the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) developed and contracted a project for preparing necessary works for SDS-SEA implementation through external funding.

During the portion of the workshop on the development of a river basin management project, participants actively engaged in the discussion identifying the major capacity needs for the development and implementation of the Taedong River Basin Management Plan. Dr. Jun Tuddao from the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources presented information on the development and implementation of a river basin management plan for the Pampanga River Basin as a specific case study. Other workshop topics covered the formulation of National ICM Policy in DPR Korea, and the application of various ICM tools for scaling up ICM in DPR Korea, including the State of the Coasts reporting system and the development of a Coastal Strategy Implementation Plan in Nampho.

A one-day field trip to the Batangas ICM demonstration site and Mabini Municipality in Batangas Province, Philippines, complemented the workshop. The visits enabled the participants to gain first-hand information on the benefits of ICM and lessons learned from the various ICM-related activities implemented in the area particularly in bringing together the various stakeholders to combat environmental and resource degradation.

PRF Executive Director Raphael P.M. Lotilla discussed ways to enhance collaboration between PEMSEA and DPR Korea for the implementation of the SDS-SEA. DPR Korean representatives expressed their country's support to PEMSEA, and indicated their consideration in signing the 'Agreement Recognizing the Legal Personality of PEMSEA' within the year. It was also agreed that DPR Korea would endeavor to implement the projects discussed during the training sessions, and that PEMSEA would continue to seek financial and technical support for the projects.

The Philippines Gears Up for the East Asian Seas Congress

Manila, Philippines – The Government of the Philippines will host the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009, to be held on 23-27 November at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila. Co-organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and PEMSEA with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Coastal Management Center, the Congress carries the theme “Partnerships in Action: Local Implementation and Good Practices,” emphasizing on-the-ground actions and innovations that contribute significantly in the achievement and meeting of regional and global environmental commitments.

The six major workshop themes of the International Conference will touch on various issues, good practices and local initiatives/implementation of coastal and ocean management. Each theme will address essential aspects of sustainable coastal and ocean development and the interrelated social, economic and environmental challenges being faced by governments, the private sector and communities alike. These include: a) Coastal and Ocean Governance; b) Natural and Man-made Hazard Prevention and Management; c) Habitat Protection, Restoration and Management; d) Water Use and Supply Management; e) Food Security and Livelihood Management; and f) Pollution Reduction and Waste Management.

The EAS Congress 2009 will also feature the Ministerial Forum on Application of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) for Climate Change Adaptation, the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG), the 2nd EAS Youth Forum on Youth, Oceans and Climate Change, and the “SEAnergies” exhibition on innovative technologies and good practices.

“The Philippines’ hosting of the EAS Congress will be a venue for the country to demonstrate the actions taken in response to various regional and global environmental instruments and targets. We have many good examples that showcase initiatives and achievements in coastal and ocean management, including the integrated coastal management sites in Bataan, Batangas, Cavite and Guimaras which demonstrate local government implementation of Executive Order 533, our national policy on sustainable development of the country’s coastal and marine environment and resources.” states Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Jose L. Atienza, Jr.

“The sharing of knowledge and lessons learned from various governments on how they are tackling the pressing environmental issues in the region is truly the highlight of the Congress. Equally important is the Youth Forum where young people in the region can learn more about the marine and coastal areas, including climate change. We all know that these are urgent issues that many people care about but the youth have the most at stake,” adds PEMSEA Executive Director Raphael P.M. Lotilla.

The EAS Congress convenes every three years to review and present to the region the results and impacts towards achieving sustainable development in the region. In 2003, the Congress witnessed the signing of the Putrajaya Declaration by the 12 Ministers from the region, which endorsed the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA), the region’s common platform for capacity building, strategic action and cooperation in managing the ocean and coastal resources of the region. In 2006, the region took a bolder step through the signing of the Haikou Partnership Agreement and Partnership Operating Arrangements which provide for both governments and nongovernmental organizations to stand as Partners and serve as complements of each other in the implementation of the SDS-SEA. In November, the EAS Congress 2009 will highlight the initiatives and good practices at the local level covering various areas of coastal and ocean management.

Key national government agencies join the DENR as part of the National Organizing Committee (NOC). These include Foreign Affairs, Tourism, Budget and Management, Interior and Local Government, Office of the President, Customs, Metro Manila Development Authority, Manila International Airport and the Philippine Information Agency.

Coastal and economic managers, national and local government officials, policymakers, scientists and representatives from local and international NGOs, the private sector, the academe, and youth representatives throughout East Asia as well as other regions of the world are expected to attend the East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress and share knowledge and engage in dynamic discussions regarding trends, issues and future actions related to coastal and ocean governance.

For more information on the EAS Congress, contact the Secretariat at congress@pemsea.org or visit www.pemsea.org/eascongress.

Philippines, East Asian Region Prepares Declaration on Climate Change

The East Asian Seas Region Ministerial Forum, to be held in Manila on 26-27 November 2009 as part of East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress 2009 and to be hosted by Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Jose L. Atienza Jr., will be addressing climate change adaptation through integrated coastal management. The East Asian Seas region is recognized as being highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Like the Philippines, other countries of the region are beginning to see and feel the impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the frequency and intensity of tropical storms, resulting in flooding, destruction of property, and loss of lives. There is an urgent need for countries to systematically adapt to, what appears to be, the inevitable scenarios of rising sea levels and unpredictable weather patterns.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Reports refers to ICM as the most appropriate process to deal with climate change, sea level rise and other current and long-term coastal challenges. Here in the Philippines, Executive Order 533 adopts ICM as a national strategy to ensure sustainable development of the country's coastal and marine environment and resources. Several other countries in the region have adopted similar policies and legislation.

The Ministerial Forum will discuss how ICM can be systematically applied in addressing adaptation to climate change. They will also discuss the formulation of a policy and endorsing a regional action agenda for scaling up ICM programs as an on-the-ground approach to climate change adaptation, particularly among local governments of the region.

The Ministerial Forum is being hosted by the Government of the Philippines, and co-organized by the DENR and PEMSEA.

The high-level gathering will immediately follow the International Conference of the EAS Congress 2009, which is being convened under the theme of "Partnerships at Work: Local Implementation and Good Practices", 23-26 November.

For more information on the EAS Congress, contact the Secretariat at congress@pemsea.org or visit www.pemsea.org/eascongress.

DENR Leads Philippine Water Week Exhibit at Trinoma Mall

In celebration of the Philippine Water Week and the international observance of World Water Day last March 22, the importance of water and ways to conserve was staged in an exhibit at the Trinoma Mall from 23-27 March.

Dubbed, Makibahagi: Pagyamanin ang Tubig Natin, the exhibit is located at the 4th Floor, Cinema Lobby of Trinoma was made possible through the collaboration of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in partnership with the Ayala Foundation, Ayala Malls and Trinoma Mall.

DENR Secretary Lito Atienza stressed the importance of effective collaboration to address the country's water problem.

"It is ultimately up to every citizen to be informed, responsible and involved when it comes to the problem of water supply and quality, which we also know is a global concern. Also effective collaboration between the government and the private and corporate sectors on the water problem is the call of the hour," Atienza said.

The activity is also in support of the United Nation's declaration of the "Water for Life Decade" from 2005-2015 which aims to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015.

Also part of the program for the opening of exhibit was an environmental skit entitled "Water Warrior" that will be shown to the public. The mini-play is a project of the Ayala Foundation in cooperation with the Sustainable Energy Development Programme of the United States Agency for International Development. Another highlight of the event is the launching of a story book for students entitled "Bakawan" by Ms. Michelle Oblea, the country's Miss Philippines Water 2008. The "bakawan" or mangrove book forms part of the Bright Minds Read kit of the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Other exhibitors joining the EMB-DENR are the DENR's various offices such as the National Solid Waste Management Commission, River Basin Control Office, National Water Resources Board, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, and Manila Bay River Coordinating Office. For the private sector, joining the exhibit are Manila Water, Nestle Philippines and Maynilad Water Services as well as other government agencies such as Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and Local Water Utilities Administration. PEMSEA exhibited materials on the East Asian Seas Congress through the River Basin Control Office

DENR-EMB and Various Agencies Set National Competition for Sustainable and Eco-friendly Schools

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) together with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Smart Communications have announced a national competition for public and private schools nationwide that are committed in implementing various environmental programs.

According to Environment Chief Lito Atienza, schools are dynamic focal points of learning and powerful vehicles for change.

"By organizing competitions such as this, schools are given the opportunity to be recognized for their valuable efforts in implementing environment-related programs. With their efforts documented and highlighted, we can encourage students, faculty and school administrators to adopt and promote eco-friendly practices in their schools, homes and communities thus spreading the wonders of living an environmentally-smart lifestyle," Atienza said.

Atienza added that the activity also forms part of DENR's response to the newly signed law, Republic Act 9512 (An Act to Promote Environmental Awareness through Environmental Education), which requires all public and private schools to integrate environmental education in their curricula at all levels.

The nationwide contest dubbed, "National Search for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Schools," was organized to recognize efforts of various schools to undertake eco-friendly programs and activities.

Open to all elementary, high school and tertiary school levels, the activity aims to encourage schools and academic institutions to become more actively involved in environmental issues at a practical and local level. It also aims to develop skills and understanding among students, faculty and school administrators to initiate active responses and increase community awareness and involvement on environmental concerns.

Smart Communications joins the activity as part of its own environment advocacy for schools: "We are happy to partner with' the DENR and other agencies for this nationwide search. This activity will encourage schools to promote environmental consciousness among the youth," said Ramon Isberto, Smart Public Affairs Head.

School entries should revolve around the theme' "Sustainable and Eco-friendly Initiatives." Participating schools should include a brief description of the Project.

Entries will be rated according to the following: Environment-related Aspects of the School's Policy (20 pts); Environment-friendly School Operations and Presence of Environmental Programs (30 pts); Environment-related Features of the School Curriculum- (30 pts); Presence of Vibrant Eco Organizations in Campus (10 pts); and Presence of Partners and Linkages in Environment Programs/Projects (10 pts). Only one entry per school will be accepted.

Participating schools must submit entries in three (3) hard copies to respective DepEd Division Offices for elementary and high school categories, and to EMB Regional Offices for the higher education category by 30 April 2009. The minimum requirement for judging will be the hard copies. Entries can likewise be submitted online in JPEG format with a resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi), a minimum size of 1536 x 2048 pixels, and a maximum file size of 1MB. Entries may be

emailed to ecofriendlyschool@gmail.com. The top entry per category for every region will be forwarded to the EMB Central Office for national judging.

For the national level, for College, High School and Elementary levels, prizes include plaques of recognition, as well as:

- P50,000 - 1st Prize;
- P40,000 - 2nd Prize;
- P30,000 - 3rd Prize and:

For the regional level, a certificate of recognition and a cash prize of P5,000 will be given to regional finalists for each category.

All winning entries for each of the three categories, together with selected entries will be displayed during the national awarding ceremonies in November 2009, coinciding with the National Environmental Awareness Month celebration.

For further details, please contact the Environmental Education and Information Division of the Environmental Management Bureau-DENR at telefax: (02) 9284674 or 9202251, or visit www.emb.gov.ph