



Ministry of Oceans
and Fisheries



PEMSEA

MOF/PEMSEA ODA Project
Reducing Marine Plastics in the
East Asian Seas Region

2025 MEP Program Planning Workshop
(PHILIPPINES)

18-19 March 2025
Seda Manila Bay,
Parañaque City, Philippines



Ministry of Oceans
and Fisheries



MOF/PEMSEA ODA PROJECT ON REDUCING MARINE PLASTICS IN THE EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION

2025 Marine Environment Protectors Program Planning Workshop

18-19 March 2025; Seda Manila Bay, Paranaque, Philippines

INTRODUCTION

1. The ODA Project entitled “Reducing Marine Plastics in the East Asian Seas Region” or the Marine Plastics ODA Project is a six-year initiative between Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asian and the Republic of Korea through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. It aims to reduce marine plastics in 10 local sites in the Philippines (6 towns and cities) and Timor-Leste (4 towns and cities) through improved governance and management, demonstration of best practices and innovative solutions, monitoring of marine plastics and litter, and increasing capacity and awareness.
2. Under its fourth component, i.e., increasing capacity and awareness, the Project launched the Marine Environment Protector (MEP) program with which the Project engaged local environmental Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) for raising awareness on marine plastics pollution. Through the 2024 MEP Program, the Project engaged four NGOs in the four sites of the Philippine which mobilized local support from communities in their respective sites to improve behavior and practices in conserving coastal areas and the marine environment through proper plastic waste management.
3. For the 2025 MEP Program, PEMSEA Resource Facility has organized a planning workshop for the Philippine sites to provide updates and learnings on their MEP program implementation, thus far develop the implementation plans of MEP Partners for 2025, and ensure engagement and full support of their respective LGUs on their proposed marine plastics waste management.
4. The program of the 2025 MEP Program Planning Workshop is attached as Annex 1 and the list of participants as Annex 2.
5. Presentation materials and photo documentation are attached as Annex 3.

Meeting Objectives and Expected Outcome

6. The 2025 MEP Program Planning Workshop main objectives were to:
 - Convene representatives of the MEP partner organization in six sites in the Philippines to discuss the current status of MEP Programs in four sites and share their lessons learned from the implementation;
 - Identify the partners’ awareness campaign activities and make sure that it is in-line with the program’s targets for 2025; and

- Discuss and exchange good practices on various plastic waste reduction campaigns that may be applicable in their respective sites.
7. The expected outcomes of the consultation meeting were to:
- Share experiences on 2024 Accomplishments and Lessons Learned of the four (4) project sites;
 - Introduce the MEP Partners from Bulan and Calbayog who will start their MEP Program in 2025;
 - Draft comprehensive 2025 work plans and timelines in-line with the 2025 implementation guide set by RPMU; and
 - Establish target outputs for 2025 implementation and ways to effectively impact the local communities in their respective sites.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025 MEP PROGRAM PLANNING WORKSHOP

18 March 2025 (Day 1): Introduction, 2024 MEP Program reporting, introduction of 2 new MEP Partners and 2025 MEP Planning Workshop.

Opening

8. Dr. Won-Tae Shin, the Regional Project Manager of the Marine Plastic ODA Project, delivered the opening remarks. He congratulated the four sites who started their implementation in 2024 and welcomed the two MEP Partners from Bulan and Calbayog, who will just start their program implementation in 2025. He expressed his gratitude for the continuous support of the MEP Partners to the project and highlighted the importance of the MEP Program's contribution to increase the capacity and awareness of local communities regarding marine plastics.
9. Dr. Shin emphasized the significance of the workshop in order to create a better work plan for 2025 which should be aligned with the implementation guide provided to the MEP partners in order for them to draft a comprehensive work plan and timeline. He reiterated that the 2-day planning workshop's objective is to make the activities more effective in increasing awareness and hoped that the program would be key supplementary programs of their respective city/municipality's environmental campaign.
10. Ms. Bhona Mae Onate of the Solid Management Division of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), delivered the message of Ms. Juvinia Serafin to the participants of the workshop. Ms. Serafin expressed her sincere gratitude to PEMSEA and to the MEP local partners for spearheading these initiatives in different sites in the Philippines. These efforts play a crucial role in strengthening the collective efforts to protect the marine environment. She also emphasized the incredible impact of local champions in mobilizing their communities and fostering positive behavioral change in coastal conservation and plastic waste management.
11. Ms. Serafin stressed that the workshop should be a platform to share insights, refine the strategies, and strengthen partnerships in shaping the next phase of the program in 2025. She

underscored the importance of ensuring that the program remains effective, inclusive and sustainable. Furthermore, she highlighted the active participation of the MEP partners in the workshop, not only to share their experiences and enhance their activities, but to also contribute to the program's objective and inspire more communities to join the campaign against marine plastic pollution in the Philippines.

Workshop objectives and setting expectations

12. Mr. John Christian Castillo introduced himself as the MEP coordinator starting in 2025. He thanked the four MEP Partners for their active support to the MEP program and welcomed the two new MEP partners from Calbayog and Bulan. He then laid out the objectives of the workshop and all the activities prepared by the RPMU for further enhancing the program implementation in 2025. Mr. Castillo emphasized that the program for this year should be a follow through to all the efforts done from last year and create effective, sustainable and replicable activities that can create more impact to the local communities.

Reporting of the 2024 MEP Program Implementation

DAANBANTAYAN

13. Ms. Jelly Tahanlangit of Bitoon Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (BARBA) reported 2024 accomplishments of the MEP Program in Daanbatayan. Here are their summarized accomplished activities:
 - Information Education Communication (IEC) drives in the residents of Barangay Poblacion and Bitoon Elementary School Students
 - Fabrication of shooting bins for 2 Elementary schools
 - World Ocean Day activities including installing of DIY trash traps in selected waterways
 - Monthly Coastal Cleanups
 - Incentives and reward for the students of Somimbang and Bitoon Elementary School (eco bricks in exchange of school supplies)
14. Ms. Tahanlangit also provided a substantive report from the monthly coastal cleanups which include the types of waste collected, the amount of plastic wastes, and the trend of waste collected in specific areas.

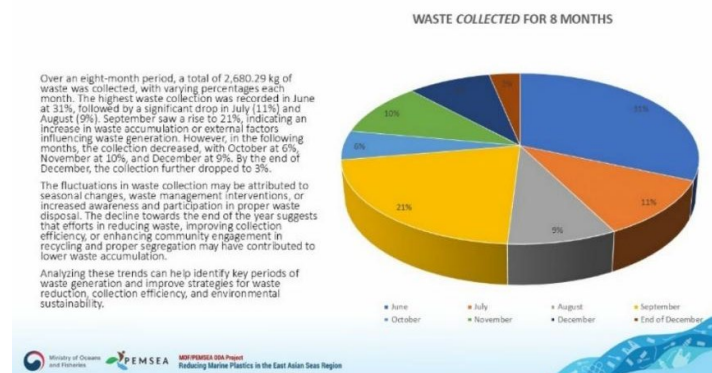


Figure 1. BARBA of Daanbatayan recorded a trend of waste collected from their monthly coastal cleanup in 2024.

15. BARBA shared their experiences in providing incentives in plastic waste collection in schools which was established in order to entice the local communities to be part of their programs. They noted that the initiative not only helps manage plastic waste effectively, but also motivates students to take an active role in environmental conservation.

COMMENT FROM RPMU:

16. Dr. Shin commended BARBA's efforts on implementing activities with substantive outcomes, specifically, their report on the coastal cleanups. He emphasized that these reports can be a significant support to studies and create trends on marine plastics in Daanbantayan which their LGUs might utilize as references in the future. He encouraged other participants to also do the same and put it as part of their activity reports.
17. Dr. Shin also recognized the active support of Daanbantayan Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) to BARBA to ensure that all their activities are aligned with the Municipality's initiatives in reducing marine plastics. He hoped that these activities can be replicated and enhanced in 2025 and in order to create more impact to the local communities.

DIPOLOG

18. Ms. Evelyn Luna of Andres Bonifacio College (ABC) reported 2024 accomplishments of the MEP Program in Dipolog. Here are their summarized accomplished activities:
- Launching of the project, *KADAGATAN AMPINGAN*, *PLASTIK LIKAYAN* and celebration of World Ocean Day including IEC drive, coastal cleanup and installation of info signages
 - Coastal Cleanup during International Coastal Cleanup Day
 - Fabrication and Installation of 14 Signages
 - IEC Campaign in Three High Schools
 - Forum on Safeguarding Ocean Sustainability: Our Responsibility
 - Forum: Managing Plastics and Solid Wastes for a Greener Tomorrow
19. Ms. Luna shared that given the advanced technology in communication, the program should offer more creative activities in order to entice younger generations to participate in the program.

COMMENT FROM RPMU:

20. Dr. Shin noted that ABC's activities had been focused on meetings and encouraged them to be more inclusive in creating activities for 2025 by including other stakeholders to the project's awareness campaigns. He advised ABC to learn from other MEP Partners' experiences, particularly those applicable to the local communities in Dipolog.

PUERTO PRINCESA

21. Ms. Shellemai Roa of Project Zacchaeus reported 2024 accomplishments of the MEP Program in Puerto Princesa. Here are their summarized accomplished activities:
- Capacity building for Eco Warriors and youth volunteers conducted in selected Barangay LGUs such as Tiniguiban, Sicsican and Sta. Monica
 - 100 trash bins with behavioral nudges produced and deployed
 - Eco Kolek Interactive Booth designed and produced
 - Eco Kolek merchandise design produced
 - World Ocean Day 2024: SWM School Roadshow 2024: “Basura Mo, Basura Ba Talaga?” conducted in PPSAT TESDA
 - World Ocean Day 2024: Coastal and Underwater Cleanup in Snake Island, Honda Bay, and Sta. Lourdes
 - International Coastal Cleanup 2024 and 11th Save the Puerto Princesa Bays Program
22. Ms. Roa shared that one of the challenges they encountered in their implementation was their lack of technical skill to produce materials to promote the MEP program and emphasized the importance of the active support of the LGUs to help them cover the MEP activities in Puerto Princesa. She committed that PZ will try to improve their promotional materials in 2025 by adding manpower to manage social media and other promotional materials.

COMMENT FROM RPMU:

23. Dr. Shin suggested that Project Zacchaeus enhance ODA Project visibility in their activities to boost awareness of the MEP program in Puerto Princesa City, despite having multiple donors and sponsors. For 2025, he stressed that MEP Partners should use the branding of MEP Program during the activities indicated in their workplan to help local communities easily identify project initiatives.

TANDAG

24. Ms. Maricel Vasquez of Motherly Association for River Initiatives towards Environmental Sustainability (MARITES) reported 2024 accomplishments of the MEP Program in Tandag. Here are their summarized accomplished activities:
- Full Concept Development and consultation event at CENRO Office
 - Empowering Trainers: Characterization of Plastic Waste for Effective Management
 - Capacity Building: Training on Basic Bookkeeping, Financial Management and Audit
 - BLGUs Meeting on Awareness Campaign and IEC Drive in Barangays
 - Awareness campaign on BLGUs on the project, *Basuralympics* and Hanging Garden Contest
 - Purchase of materials for Coastal and river Cleanup
 - *Basuralympics* Launching event (Turn Over of Clean-up Materials per barangay)

25. Ms. Vasquez explained that Tandag failed to finish its implementation in 2024 due to internal issues in CENRO, which halted communication between MARITES and the RPMU. She added that MARITES should establish direct communication with the RPMU to reduce reliance on CENRO for barangay-level activity implementation.

COMMENT FROM RPMU:

26. Dr. Shin commented that majority of the budget had been allocated to internal activities of MARITES. He advised the CENRO to ensure that the program allot their budget to activities that target various groups in their local communities instead. He requested CENRO to build MARITES' capacity for effective MEP Program implementation in Tandag and ensure the 2025 work plan aligns with the implementation guidelines.

OPEN FORUM

27. Ms. Onate commended all the efforts of the MEP Partners in implementing the 2024 MEP Program in their respective sites. Based on the reports accomplished, Ms. Onate stated that these initiatives on the ground are significant to the objectives of the LGUs to reduce marine plastics in the four sites. To provide more materials that can be used for IEC drives, she recommended the MEP Partners to utilize the [Marine Litter Learning Kit](#) available on the EMB website for conducting seminars and forums. For school-based activities, she suggested that the MEP Partners to use the [interactive modules](#) developed for the Department of Education (DepEd) by the National Solid Waste Management Commission and Nestle for Grades 1 to 10.
28. To summarize the evaluation of the accomplishments and areas that can be improved by the MEP Partners, Mr. Castillo highlighted the following:

Achievements:

- Successful World Ocean Day and International Coastal Cleanup Day activities
- 3 sites were able to accomplish their MEP Activities
- 7000++ people involved in cleanups and MEP activities
- Some activities covered by local media in some sites (Dipolog and Daanbantayan)

What can be improved:

- Redundancy of events (Youth is heavily targeted for IEC drives)
- Lack of substantive reports for coastal cleanups
- Lack of visibility on social media and local media
- Loss of communication and inconsistent in reporting

29. Dr. Shin added that for 2025, the MEP Partners are not encouraged to spend a large amount of the budget on production of merchandise and reminded that these promotional materials should be limited. Instead, he encouraged them to focus on replicable and sustainable activities.
30. Ms. Gusung Lee, Technical Advisor of the Marine Plastics ODA Project, asked Daanbantayan and Puerto Princesa about the installation of trash bins in various areas. She inquired who monitors the waste collection in the trash bins and how to ensure that these are in good condition.

31. Mr. Mamerto Rodrigo of Daanbantayan MENRO mentioned that under the implementing rules of RA 9003, the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Plans of cities and municipalities are jurisdictional. Thus, all institutional facilities are mandated to establish Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) depending on the SWM strategy in their respective city/municipality. He highlighted that in Daanbantayan, after the collection of wastes on the installed trash bins near the classrooms, the collected wastes will be placed in the school MRF. The barangays then collect these wastes and hold them until the scheduled municipal collection to the MRF. Mr. Rodrigo added that BARBA are also required to record the wastes collected from the school trash bins.
32. Ms. Roa of Project Zacchaeus, on the other hand, highlighted their *EcoKolek* program, where they distribute fabric trash bins to partner households. During distribution on these bins, they conduct orientation sessions to educate partners on its proper utilization and the Eco-warriors' collection process. These Eco-warriors are tasked with monitoring wastes collected from the fabric trash bins.
33. Dr. Shin thanked Daanbantayan and Puerto Princesa MEP Partners not only for providing their experiences in implementing their MEP Programs in their sites but for also giving their insights on issues that affect the effectivity of their initiatives in plastic waste management which can also be experienced by other LGUs and MEP Partners.

Introduction of MEP Partners in Bulan and Calbayog

34. Mr. Jopet Medalla of the Samahan ng mga Fakulti ng SorSU – Bulan Campus presented the profile of their organization. Established only in 2025, the organization is composed of 39 faculty members of SorSU – Bulan Campus and 10 associate members, led by their President, Mr. Mark Anthony Dipad. Despite having no prior activities in plastic waste management, SorSU – Bulan Campus is currently involved in implementing the Beach Monitoring activities of the ODA Project in Bulan and has been actively participating in various initiatives of Bulan MENRO.
35. Mr. Ritche Tomnob of the KABALIKAT Civicum 427 Calbayog Chapter presented the profile of their organization. Established in 1991 as KABALIKAT Radiocom, the organization has evolved as a civic group engaged in public assistance particularly during disasters and natural calamities or whenever there is a need to ensure public safety and convenience. KABALIKAT has been involved in various programs of Calbayog City related to environment protection and preservation.

2025 MEP Planning Workshop

36. Mr. Castillo opened the 2025 Planning Workshop with a presentation regarding the 2025 MEP Program objectives and targets. He emphasized the significance of the MEP Program to the Marine Plastic ODA Project as it complements the other three components' impact in reducing marine plastics in their respective sites.
- 37.

38. Mr. Castillo stressed that for 2025, the MEP Partners should focus on enhancing their campaigns through understanding the MEP Program's objective – **to improve behavior and practices in conserving coastal areas and the marine environment through proper plastic waste management**. He then discussed four qualities of an impactful awareness campaign that can be used to assess the activities they will propose for their 2025 work plans.

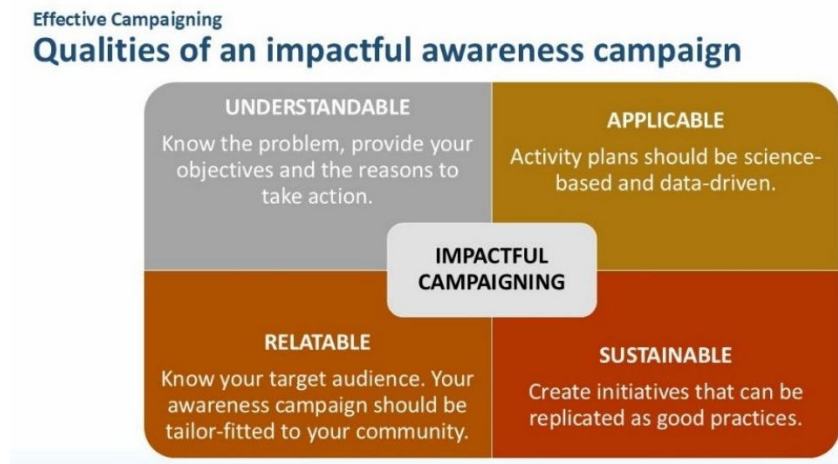


Figure 2: 4 qualities of an impactful awareness campaign

39. Mr. Castillo reiterated the goals of this year's MEP Program based on the [2025 implementation guide](#) that were provided to the participants prior to the workshop:
- Implement at least 8-9 activities indicated in 4 key targets of the MEP program.
 - **BARANGAY** = 1 activity (Selection of MEP barangay (also the sample barangay for behavioral change survey in December/ BLGU initiatives)
 - **COMMUNITIES** = 2 activities
 - **YOUTH** = 3 activities
 - **MEP PARTNER** = 2-3 activities
 - Increase visibility of the MEP program through media exposure, social media posts, informative signages and event documentation.
 - Enhance the engagement of municipality/city wide level in the project's activities that supports the wider implementation of the project.
 - Establish one sample barangay for implementation of the behavioral change survey in December.
40. To provide more information regarding the activities that can be included to the MEP Program work plans and how to allocate the budget to be provided to the MEP Partners, Mr. Castillo discussed frequently asked questions (FAQs) to the participants.
41. Mr. Tomnob of KABALIKAT Civicum clarified what expenses can be put under management/institutional fee. Dr. Shin answered that the institutional fee can be used by MEP Partners for whatever purpose to enhance the implementation of the program, he added that this is the only budget that does not need any official receipt for reporting.

42. Mr. Rodrigo of Daanbantayan MENRO inquired whether part of the budget could be used to provide additional livelihood for BARBA members by hiring them for MEP activities. Dr. Shin stressed that the budget for the MEP Program cannot be allocated as salaries for members of partner organizations. He added that livelihood activities should not be dedicated to members of the MEP partner organizations. Instead, the budget should be used to support and enhance the program of the NGOs to capacitate them to create more sustainable activities.
43. Ms. Luna of ABC then asked if the organization can buy sewing machines for women's groups to repurpose plastic wastes. Dr. Shin emphasized that purchasing equipment and machines should not be charged to the MEP budget.
44. Mr. Medalla of SorSU Bulan emphasized that there should be a pre-assessment for the behavioral change survey to have a baseline information and see the behavioral change trend in each site. Ms. Gusung Lee supported Mr. Medalla's comments and suggested that the behavioral change survey should be done in June rather than December.
45. Following the open forum, Mr. Castillo asked the participants to prepare for a group discussion aimed at developing a comprehensive work plan with the guidance of RPMU and EMB. The participants were divided into the following:
Bulan and Calbayog – Won-Tae Shin and John Castillo
Daanbantayan – Elsie Merina and Klyra Orbien
Dipolog and Puerto Princesa – Gusung Lee
Tandag – Bhona Mae Onate



46. Ms. Klyra Orbien wrapped up Day 1 by providing the highlights of each presentation.

19 March 2025 (Day 2): Presentation of 2025 MEP Draft Work Plans, Reminders from the RPMU and CAMPAIGN THAT WORKS – Friends of HOPE

47. Ms. Klyra Orbien opened Day 2 by providing activities prepared by the RPMU.

Reporting of 2025 MEP Program implementation work plans

TANDAG

48. Mr. Carl Elpa of Tandag CENRO presented MARITES's proposed workplan for 2025. The following are their MEP activities:

- Month of the Ocean/World Ocean Day Celebration Clean up drive
- Conduct IEC campaign for (6) Elementary Schools within (6) Barangays
- Installation of trash traps (buoy)
- Collection, monitoring, and maintenance of trash traps
- Making of IEC Materials (Using G.I. Sheet with 8 actual plastic wastes with the number of years to degrade/decompose) with trash bins below.
- Installation of Trash Bins along Tandag City River and Creeks
- Installation of Trash Bins on the Elementary Schools of the (6) Barangays
- International Coastal Clean-up Day 2025 (river and coastal clean-ups)
- Training for Women on Eco-bag sewing (sachets, tarps, etc)
- Behavioral Change Survey

COMMENTS FROM RPMU:

49. Dr. Shin emphasized the need for MARITES to modify its implementation of activities in 2025. He stressed that CENRO should provide guidance particularly in establishing a system for installing trash bins along the riverside in coordination with barangat officials. He further reminded Tandag representatives that the budget should focus on capacity-building of other groups in their communities rather than supporting MARITES members' livelihoods.

PUERTO PRINCESA

50. Ms. Shellemai Roa of Project Zaccheus presented their proposed work plan for 2025. The following are their MEP activities:

- Support the conduct of series of coastal clean-up: Save the Puerto Princesa Bays Program
- Creation of an AVP for Digital billboards and PEMSEA Advertisement, and other Information materials
- Conduct of World Ocean Day Celebration (Coastal cleanup, exhibit, and mudball throwing)
- Conduct of Roadshows in Elementary Schools, with City Dep-Ed, and exhibits during Environmental Programs/celebrations.

- Conduct of Learning Development Interventions for Eco Kolek for making products/merchandise using recyclables.
- Support for the Conduct of International Coastal Cleanup (Coastal cleanup, exhibit, and mudball throwing).
- Signing of MOA with different Department in the City Government; Conduct Learning Development Intervention for City Government of Puerto Princesa Employees
- Partnerships with established public and private institutions, the academe, LGU to collaborate in the campaigns against marine plastics
- Support for upscaling of at-source collection of recyclables of Eco Kolek.
- Behavioral Change Survey

COMMENTS FROM RPMU:

51. Dr. Shin reminded Project Zacchaeus to highlight the project's initiatives through visibility of the Marine Plastics ODA Project branding in their activities. He mentioned that Project Zacchaeus can seek the MEP coordinator's assistance on the branding of materials and to share the promotional materials they produce to the RPMU so it can be reported as their MEP Program accomplishment.

DIPOLOG

52. Ms. Evelyn Luna of ABC presented their proposed work plan for 2025. The following are their MEP activities:
- Building a sustainable partnership with Barangay Miputak (Meeting with BLGU to review RA 9003 and briefing on MEP implementation in their barangay)
 - Celebration of World Ocean Day with coastal and waterway cleanup
 - Roadshow with ABC's basic education pupils
 - Hold a poster making contest with the theme, KADAGATAN AMPINGAN, PLASTIK LIKAYAN (2 categories, traditional and digital) for elementary pupils
 - On the spot Tiktok video competition on the theme, KADAGATAN AMPINGAN, PLASTIK LIKAYAN among high school students, both public and private
 - International Coastal Cleanup with short program
 - Inter-barangay competition for reusing and recycling of plastics in vegetable production and beautification
 - Support a local divers club collect deep sea trash
 - Enhance partnership with barangays through a notarized quadripartite MOA (CENRO-MEP-LGU Barangay and EMB)
 - Behavioral Change Survey

COMMENTS FROM RPMU:

53. Dr. Shin commended Dipolog's way of presenting its draft workplan and encouraged other MEP Partners to include the contribution of LGUs and MEP Local Partners to the program so it can be used to report the cost-sharing of the MEP partnership.

DAANBANTAYAN

54. Ms. Jelly Tahanlangit of BARBA presented their proposed workplan for 2025. The following are their MEP activities:

- Information Education Campaign (IEC) for Agujo Elementary School, Habitat Housing, Malocbaloc Fishermen Association and AGFA (Agujo Fishermen Association)
- Installation of 5 MRF in Barangay Agujo
- Video contest In CTU students regarding Marine litter management
- World Ocean Day coastal cleanup
- ICC coastal cleanup
- Earth Day coastal cleanup
- Installation of Shooting Bins in CTU
- Training on sewers of eco pillows
- Behavioral Change Survey

COMMENTS FROM RPMU:

55. Dr. Shin praised MENRO's role in guiding BARBA's activities and emphasized that MEP partners should leverage their capacity-building programs to promote awareness of income-generating opportunities through plastic waste repurposing across other groups in their communities.

CALBAYOG

56. Mr. Ritche Tomnob of KABALIKA Civicum presented their proposed work plan for 2025. The following are their MEP activities:

- Coastal clean-up with data collection on different type of waste collected
- Sagip DAGAT Radio Program (Topic: Drive against Aquatic Trash)
- Crafting of IEC materials for IEC drive to elementary schools on how elementary students can reduce plastic wastes
- World Ocean's Day (Launching of Project, Installation of DIY Waste Trap and River Clean Up, and Mural Painting Contest)
- Introduction workshop on MEP program to Kabalikat Members Operatives
- Upcycling Recycling Plastic Training
- International Coastal Clean Up (Installation of Fix Segregated Metal Trash box and signages)
- Plastic Bottle Planter-ReUse Seminar
- Eco Savers Program in School "Plastic mo may Pakinabang"
- Sample Barangay Inter-Purok Plastic Waste Christmas Décor Competition
- Behavioral Change Survey

COMMENTS FROM RPMU:

57. Dr. Shin pointed out that payment for facilitators of the introduction workshop for their members are discouraged and requested all MEP Partners, especially the partner LGUs to provide their assistance to local partners in facilitating plastic waste IEC drives and workshops. He added that KABALIKAT Civicum can request RPMU to introduce Marine Plastic Project initiatives to their members once the team visits Calbayog in June or September.

BULAN

58. Mr. Jopet Medalla of Samahan ng Fakulti ng SORSU – Bulan Campus presented their proposed work plan for 2025. The following are their MEP activities:
- Community Basurahan Project (Launching of MEP Program, Signing of MOA with Barangays and fabrication of trash bins)
 - IEC Campaign on Plastic Waste Segregation and Orientation on the Implementation of the Community Basurahan Project to Local household
 - IEC Campaign for LAMBAKLAD Fisherfolks Organization of San Rafael
 - Project Tarp-UP: Election Tarpaulins Upcycling for Fisherfolk Wives of San Rafael
 - Eco-Skwela: Marine Plastic Pollution Awareness and Waste Segregation Roadshow at San Rafael Elementary School
 - Bulan EcoPark (Material Recovery Facility cum RCA) Tour
 - Plastic Waste Pollution Awareness and Segregation Campaign Roadshow at Alberto de Castro Elementary School, Zone 2
 - World Ocean Day (Coastal cleanup, mural painting contest and campaign roadshow)
 - International Coastal Clean-up Day
 - IEC Campaign for SFSORSUBC Members
 - Behavioral Change survey

COMMENT FROM RPMU:

59. Dr. Shin requested Mr. Medalla to closely work with their MENRO as this is the first year of the implementation. He added that MENRO has been implementing various environmental projects in Bulan, he expects that the MEP Program will be able to assist Bulan Municipality in enhancing their awareness campaign against marine plastics.

Reminders on submission of documents and activity design for the release of first tranche and second tranche

60. To close the MEP Planning workshop, Mr. Castillo provided some reminders to the MEP Partners, specifically to the approval of their final workplans and the signing of the LOAs. Mr. Castillo also provided the adjustments on the use of MEP Programs shared folder and the new expense categories for the financial report. The full presentation can be accessed in Annex 3.

61. Ms. Roa of Project Zacchaeus requested for a data monitoring sheet that they can use for coastal clean-ups to record the types of wastes they collected and the total amount of waste per category. Mr. Castillo responded that the RPMU will provide a copy of the beach litter monitoring card that is currently being used for the beach litter monitoring activities of the six project sites.
62. Regarding the activity photos, Ms. Roa asked if there is a specific number of photos that they should upload in the shared folder of each activity. Mr. Castillo emphasized that the MEP Partners can upload as many photo as they can but he encouraged partners to select presentable and high-resolution photos that can be used for reports and presentations.
63. Ms. Evelyn Luna asked if the MEP partners can still add photos in their activity reports as they did last year. Mr. Castillo encouraged partners to still put photos in their activity reports as visual references to the activities indicated in the document but encouraged the partners to upload the high-resolution photos in the shared photo folder to avoid photo compression.

CAMPAIGN THAT WORKS: Effective practices in implementing plastic pollution campaigns in the Philippines

64. To provide inspiration and best practices to enhance the MEP Partner's awareness campaign, the RPMU invited the Managing Director of Friends of HOPE, Ms. Ilusion Farias, to share the organization's initiatives in reducing marine plastics through their *Aling Tindera* Program in various parts of the Philippines.
65. *Aling Tindera* program partners with sari-sari store owners, informal waste pickers and women in the local barangays, to collaborate on diverting plastic waste away from the environment through incentivizing the collection of wastes in their respective barangays. HOPE provides support to their partners to be able to collect plastic wastes and provide it to the partner upcycling companies.
66. Ms. Farias highlighted that the program has been successful as it already gained a total community revenue of ₱18,453,744 and collected 7,903,327 kilograms of wastes from different barangays around the Philippines.

OPEN FORUM

67. Dr. Shin commended *Aling Tindera* Program's use of the EPR fund to support their initiatives and suggested the MEP Partners study the EPR law to know how to avail the fund for their local initiatives. He also requested EMB to provide the guidelines and requirements to avail the fund.
68. Ms. Gusung Lee asked regarding the market price that *Aling Tindera* Program used for various kinds of plastic. Ms. Ilusion Farias stressed that the only marketable kind of plastic in the Philippines is clear, no-label PET Bottles and other types of plastics does not have a market price. *Aling Tindera* Program pays additional amount for PET bottle collections so that their partners can earn from the initiative. On the other hand, they still collect and pay for other kinds of plastic which they send out to their partner companies for processing.

CLOSING REMARKS

69. Dr. Won-Tae Shin congratulated all the MEP Partners for the successful 2025 MEP Planning Workshop. He highlighted that the draft work plans that were presented are in-line with the objectives of the Marine Plastics ODA Project for 2025 and he hoped for the successful implementation of the program in 6 sites in the Philippines. He also commended the RPMU for facilitating the workshop and the guest speaker for providing their experiences in their campaign in reducing marine plastic wastes.



Annex 1: Detailed Program of the Consultation Workshop



Ministry of Oceans
and Fisheries



PEMSEA

Marine Environment Protectors (MEP) Planning Workshop

18-19 March 2025 | Seda Manila Bay, Paranaque, Philippines

Provisional Programme

Date and Time	Details of the Program	Notes
Day 0	Arrival of participants	
Day 1: 2024 Report and 2025 Planning Workshop		
08:30-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:10	Introduction	Klyra Orbien, Junior Communications Officer, ODA Marine Plastics Project (Emcee)
09:10-09:20	Opening Message	PEMSEA ED or ODA RPM
09:20-09:30	Opening Message from EMB	EMB
09:30-09:40	Objectives of the workshop Expectation setting	John Castillo, OIC, PRF Communications, ODA Marine Plastics Project
09:40-10:00	Photo op / Health break	
10:00-10:30	Reporting on MEP Program implementation (Identifying opportunities, challenges and recommendations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daanbantayan Dipolog 	MEPs from Daanbantayan and Dipolog
11:00-11:30	Reporting of MEP Program implementation (Identifying opportunities, challenges and recommendations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puerto Princesa Tandag City 	MEPs from Puerto Princesa and Tandag City
11:30-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-13:30	Presentation of the Organization Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulan Calbayog 	MEPs from Bulan and Calbayog
13:30-14:00	Health Break	

14:00-14:30	2025 Implementation Guide (the program's goal, key targets and the implementation of the behavioral survey, and timeline of activities)	John Castillo
14:30-16:00	Group discussion and consultation	MEPs and RPMU
16:00-16:30	Wrap up and intro to Activities for Day 2	Klyra Orbien
18:00	Dinner	
Day 2: Presentation of 2025 MEP Plans and Campaigns Workshop		
09:00-09:15	Recap of the first day	Klyra Orbien
09:15-10:00	Reporting of 2025 MEP Program implementation Plan (4 key targets) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tandag City ○ Puerto Princesa ○ Dipolog 	MEPs from Tandag City, Puerto Princesa and Dipolog
10:00-10:15	Health break	
10:15-11:00	Reporting of 2025 MEP Program implementation Plan (4 key targets) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daanbantayan ○ Calbayog ○ Bulan 	MEPs from Daanbantayan, Calbayog and Bulan
11:00-11:50	Open Forum (Feedback on their 2025 MEP activities)	RPMU EMB FASPS
11:50-12:00	Reminders on submission of documents and activity design for the release of first tranche and second tranche	John Castillo
12:00-13:30	Lunch break	
13:30-14:00	CAMPAIGN THAT WORKS: Effective practices in implementing plastic pollution campaigns in the Philippines	Project HOPE - <i>Aling TIndera Program</i>
14:00-14:30	Open Forum (Q&A)	Speakers (Klyra Orbien as Moderator)
14:30-14:45	Closing Remarks	Won-Tae Shin
Day 3: Departure of participants		

Annex 2: List of Participants

EMB

Bhona May Onate

Information Officer III
EMB Central - DENR

Municipality of Bulan

Mikhail Paolo Rosil

Environmental Management Specialist 1
Municipal Environment and Natural Resources
Office (MENRO) – Bulan Municipality

Mr. Jopet Vincent Medalla

Bulan MEP Partner
Samahan ng mga Fakulti ng SorSU – Bulan
Campus

Calbayog City

Ritche Tomnob

Calbayog MEP Partner
KABALIK Civicum 427 Calbayog Chapter

Municipality of Daanbantayan

Mamerto Rodrigo

MENRO Officer
Municipal Environment and Natural Resources
Office (MENRO) – Daanbantayan Municipality

Jelly Tahanlangit

Daanbantayan MEP Partner
Bitoon Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries
Association (BARBA)

Dipolog City

Chonita Velasco

City Environment and Natural Resources Office
(CENRO) – Dipolog

Evelyn Luna

Dipolog MEP Focal Person
Andres Bonifacio College (ABC)

Puerto Princesa City

Alonzo Peralta

Member of the Technical Working Group for the
PPC Sanitary Waste Management Board
Office of the City Environment and Natural
Resources Office (CENRO) – Puerto Princesa

Shellemai Roa

Puerto Princesa MEP Partner
Project Zacchaeus

Tandag City

Carl Elpa

Environmental Management Specialist 1
Office of the City Environment and Natural
Resources Office (CENRO) – Calbayog

Maricel Vasquez

Tandag MEP Partner
Motherly Association for River Initiatives
towards Environmental Sustainability (MARITES)

PEMSEA Resource Facility

Won-Tae Shin

Regional Project Manager
MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics Project

Gusung Lee

Technical Advisor
MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics Project

John Christian Castillo

OIC - Communications
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Elsie Merina

Admin Associate
PEMSEA Resource Facility

Klyra Orbien

Junior Communication Officer
MOF/PEMSEA Marine Plastics Project

Arsenio Dacaymat Jr.

IT Assistant

PEMSEA Resource Facility

Friends of HOPE

Ilusion Farias

Managing Director
Friends of HOPE

Annex 3. Presentation Materials

Day 1 (18 March 2025):

Presentation Files on 2024 MEP Accomplishment Report and Lessons Learned:

A3.1 [Daanbantayan](#)

A3.2 [Dipolog](#)

A3.3 [Puerto Princesa](#)

A3.4 [Tandag](#)

Presentation Files on Organizational profile of MEP Partners from Bulan and Calbayog:

A3.5 [Bulan \(Samahan ng mga Fakulti ng SorSU – Bulan Campus\)](#)

A3.6 [Calbayog \(KABALIKAT Civicum 427 Calbayog Chapter\)](#)

RPMU Presentation on the 2025 MEP Implementation Guide and FAQ on MEP Program:

A3.7 [2025 Implementation Guide and FAQs](#)

Day 2 (19 March 2025):

Presentation Files on Refined Pilot Project Proposals from the LGUs (2nd day of the meeting)

A3.8 [Tandag](#)

A3.9 [Puerto Princesa](#)

A3.10 [Dipolog](#)

A3.11 [Daanbantayan](#)

A3.12 [Calbayog](#)

A3.13 [Bulan](#)

Presentation Files in RPMU Reminders and Revised Expense Category

A3.14 [RPMU Reminders and revised expense category for financial reporting](#)

Presentation Files of Friends of HOPE regarding *Aling Tindera* Program:

A3.15 [Friends of HOPE: Aling Tindera Program](#)

Photos taken from the consultation workshop can be access here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17dC6HN8lTndqCUyil8zZlJPjtsLgKCAv?usp=sharing>