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Symposium and Exhibit on Bamboo and Climate Change held

In an effort to promote and emphasize the importance of bamboo in climate change mitigation through its carbon sequestration potential and showcase the different products made from bamboo, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in partnership with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) organized the National Symposium and Exhibit on Bamboo and Climate Change on Nov. 21, 2016 at the Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila.

In his welcome remarks, CCC Vice Chairperson Emmanuel de Guzman commended DENR Secretary Regina L. Lopez for her sterling leadership. DENR Secretary Regina L. Lopez gave the keynote address. She said, "One of the strategic ways of doing development work (in which she was involved for 25 years) is to



Left photo: DENR Secretary Regina L. Lopez speaks to participants on the importance of bamboo in combatting climate change. Right photo: Ilocos Sur Congressman Deogracias B. Savellano, a bamboo advocate, was the guest speaker during the symposium. (photo courtesy of DENR)

show models." She further said, "Bamboo is one way to combat climate change because it absorbs more carbon than similar tree species." She also mentioned the 5 performance indicators of a successful project which are: happiness, health and

sense of well-being, peace and order, environment and economy.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Zenaida C. Maglaya presented the Philippine

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DENR joins 12th NBW celebration

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) participated in the opening of the 12th National Biotechnology Week (NBW) celebration on November 21 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) in Quezon City. The theme of the weeklong celebration was Bioteknolohiya: Kaagapay sa Pangkalahatang Kaunlaran. Yakapin ang Pagbabago, Biotek na Tayo!"



ERDB Assistant Director Dr. Antonio M. Daño representing the DENR during the ribbon cutting of the exhibit for the 12th National Biotechnology Week spearheaded by former senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel and other high-ranking officials of participating agencies. Photo by Nestor Leviste

ERDB holds forum on mining at 12th NBW celebration



From left to right: For. Gregorio E. Santos Jr., of ERDB, Engr. Rodolfo L. Velasco, Jr., Chief of the Mine Safety, Environment and Social Development Division of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and For. Paul Cuadra of ERDB during the open forum.

In connection with the celebration of the 12th National Biotechnology Week (NBW), the ERDB conducted the "Forum on phytoremediation of mined-out areas" which was held at the Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BSWM) Auditorium on Nov. 23, 2016. The annual weeklong celebration had the theme "Yakapin ang Pagbabago, Biotek na Tayo, Bioteknolohiya: Kaagapay sa Pangkalahatang Kaunlaran",

ERDB Director Henry Adornado gave the welcome remarks. He invited everyone to look at the exhibit and request for IEC materials that they can use in their respective offices.

Ms. Veronica O. Sinohin, TTD Chief gave the overview of the activity and a brief background of the National Biotechnology Week celebration.

Engr. Rodolfo L. Velasco, Jr., Chief of the Mine Safety, Environment and Social Development Division of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) presented the mission and vision of their office.

For. Paul Cuadra, Supv. Science Research Specialist of ERDB tackled the topic "Phytoremediation of Mined-Out Areas: Itogon, Benguet Experience". In their research, 5 species were used in rehabilitating the mine waste area which were as follows: agoho, Benguet pine, kupang, batino and narra. The study found out that agoho is a resilient species that thrives and grows even in adverse conditions of a mine waste area. Batino had the lowest average survival. This was done with the application of Mycorrhiza (ERDB's HiQ Vam technology) and topsoil management.

The second presenter was For. Gregorio E. Santos, Jr., Supv. Science Research Specialist of ERDB. He presented the topic "Phytoremediation of Mined-Out Areas: The Bagacay, Samar Experience". Based on their experiment, they found that the combination of forest soil, lime and organic fertilizer (chicken dung) proved to be the best treatment among the six various soil treatments they conducted.



For Gregorio E. Santos Jr. also from ERDB presenting the topic "Phytoremediation of Mined-Out Areas: The Bagacay, Samar Experience".



For. Paul Cuadra of ERDB presenting their study titled "Phytoremediation of Mined-Out Areas: Itogon, Benguet Experience".

Several questions were asked including the issue on which must given more importance, the mining or rehabilitation of the environment. Engr. Velasco answered the question by explaining that there are different mitigating measures to ensure the balance between taking care of the environment and earning profit. For. Paul Cuadra also mentioned that the rehabilitation of mining areas aspect must be serious and mining companies should also invest in people in their rehabilitation efforts.

Ms. Nery Alba, Chief of the Urban, Toxic and Hazardous Waste Research Center gave the closing remarks. She said, "Let us join hands in rehabilitating the mined-out areas and let us have a commitment in saving the environment". Marla V. Cambay TTD

Symposium and Exhibit... from page 1

Bamboo Industry Development Program of the DTI. She mentioned the objectives of the program, organizational structure of the DTI, accomplishments, and the special projects such as the shared service facility on bamboo processing.

One of the guest speakers in the symposium is a bamboo advocate in the person of Ilocos Sur Congressman

Deogracias B. Savellano, Principal Author of House Bill No. 232 entitled "A Resolution Proclaiming the Month of September as Philippine Bamboo Month". The bill was recently proposed at the House of Representatives in its first regular session last Aug. 23, 2016.

The symposium also included break-out sessions that tackled different concerns and issues on bamboo in the Philippines. Among the topics discussed during the sessions were: Bamboo

Ecology and Production, Bamboo Post-harvest Technologies, Bamboo Utilization, Bamboo Industrialization, and Bamboo Policy and Advocacy.

The symposium provided a venue for bamboo enthusiasts, policy makers and investors to look into the market potential and environmental benefits of bamboo and encouraged everyone to be united in promoting the bamboo industry. Marla V. Cambay, ERDB



ERDB celebrates its 29th Anniversary



ERDB and its research center employees all dressed up in colorful costumes as they celebrate the 29th anniversary celebration by presenting different Philippine festivals. Photos by Ezra Suministrado and Liberato Bacod, TTD

In celebration of its 29th year anniversary this 16th of December 2016, the ERDB held its annual event for all its employees. Some representatives from the 6 ERDB regional centers flew in to Los Baños to join in all the festivities held at the Botanic Gardens in UPLB.

Father Luis Tolentino, parish priest of the St. Therese Chapel in UPLB led everyone in a prayer of blessing for the anniversary celebration during the Thanksgiving Mass at the ERDB Auditorium.

For. Paul J. Cuadra, ERDB Employees Association President opened

the ceremony with a word of welcome.

Dressed in different colorful, ethnic costumes, the ERDB staff and some regional centers' representatives from the 13 regions joined the parade.

This year's theme is "Kulturang Atin, Pagyamanin" which showcased the different Philippine cultural festivals. Thirteen festivals were presented in the program as follows: Sinulog, Bangkero, Pintaflores, Panagbenga, Ati-Atihan, Kadayawan, Pintados, Pahiyas, Magayon, Halamanan, Kaamulan, Mascara and, Kawayan.

During the last part of the program, the dance contest of the representatives from each division and research center was held. The contestant from the Watershed and Water Resources Research Center (WWRRC) emerged as the "dance floor king" while participant from the Mining and Degraded Areas Rehabilitation Research Center (MDARRC) was announced as winner in the "dance floor queen" category.

All the division chiefs and research center heads were also requested to give their individual dance performance.

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DENR joins 12th NBW Celebration... from page 1

High-ranking officials of the participating departments, namely, Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Trade Industry (DTI), and the Department of Health (DOH), graced the opening ceremonies. ERDB Assistant

Director Dr. Antonio M. Daño was also in attendance to represent the DENR.

The highlight of the opening program was the keynote message delivered by former senator and biotech advocate Dr. Aquilino "Nene" Q. Pimentel. During his speech, Dr. Pimentel asserted that biotechnology is a vital component for the full development of a nation and for hunger and poverty reduction.

Right after the opening ceremonies, the program proceeded to the ribbon

cutting and official launching of the exhibit at the BSWM grounds. Different agencies set up their booths for the exhibit visitors to see. ERDB, likewise, featured its phytoremediation technology.

Aside from the exhibit, a trade fair for different biotechnology products were also arranged at the BSWM grounds and at the Quezon City Hall walkway. Talks, seminars, and other activities were also held during the weeklong celebration that lasted until November 25. Melanie N. Ojeda, TTD

In an attempt to reach a wider audience specifically, the young generation, the ERDB exhibited the Mangrove and Beach Forest Development Project (MBFDP) in the Market Market Mall, Taguig City on November 8, 2016. The event was part of the Clean Air Act Concert spearheaded by the Earthday Jam Foundation, Inc. in partnership with the Ayala Malls, Market Market and the DENR. Its target audience was the youth to encourage them in protecting and preserving the environment.

High school students from various towns visited the exhibit of ERDB. The MBFDP was introduced to the young visitors. The importance of mangrove to the environment was explained and different mangrove species were also shown. Different IEC materials on ERDB, mangroves, and other ERDB projects and technologies of the Bureau were also given away. Other DENR Bureaus and private institutions also joined the exhibit.

Well-known music personalities like Lou Bonevie and Gloc 9 and bands like the Square One, 6cyclemind and Silent Sanctuary performed at the concert. To help promote the environmental protection and achieve clean air, they sang not just their hit songs but also environmental music. Other activities were the film showing of "Luntiang Kawal" and a student forum. Ann Valerie V. Gillado, TTD



ERDB holds exhibit in 2016 Clean Air Concert



High school students from different schools visit the ERDB exhibit and some of the artists who performed in the Clean Air Concert (Above), Ms. Lou Bonevie, the President of Earthday Jam Foundation (Left) and Gloc9 (Right). Photos by Ezra Suministrado

Luisiana LGU visits ERDB, signs MOA for PARTNER BOND project



LGU from Luisiana, Laguna tours around ERDB's Bamboo and Rattan Gallery during the study tour

The local government unit (LGU) of Luisiana, Laguna visited the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) and its facilities on November 4, 2016 as part of the Bureau's research and development extension activities. The study tour was also conducted as a preliminary activity for the PARTER BOND project in collaboration with the municipality.

Thirteen participants joined the study tour. Headed by Luisiana Vice Mayor Luibic Jacob, the group was composed of Luisiana councilors and other municipal officials. ERDB Assistant Director Dr. Antonio M. Daño welcomed them through a short message where he expressed his hopes for them to learn and appreciate the efforts of ERDB in protecting and conserving the environment.

During the activity, the group visited the Los Baños Experiment Station (LBES), the Rattan and Bamboo Gallery, and the Research and Development Demonstration Zone (RDZ) for Charcoal Briquetting Technology and Mist and Non-mist Propagation of Forest Tree Species. Demonstrations of the said technologies were conducted with the

Indigenous forest tree species cover 246.2-ha land of FRMMR



The 246.2-ha established plantation of indigenous forest tree species inside the Fort Ramon Magsaysay Military Reservation. Photo by NGP

The hard labor of IP communities bore fruit as the 246.2-ha land of Fort Ramon Magsaysay Military Reservation (FRMMR) in Nueva Ecija is successfully planted with indigenous forest tree species.

A total of 86 workers benefitted from this project initiated by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), 7th Infantry Division (ID), Philippine Army, and Bacao Ecological Systems and Technologies, Inc. (BESTI) in compliance with EO 26, the implementation of the National Greening Program (NGP) whose implementation is extended until 2028 under EO 193. It is a means to attain biodiversity conservation and protection, poverty reduction, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. This initiative is also in line with DENR Secretary Regina Lopez's vision of expanded and enhanced NGP to create meaningful impact to the lives of communities through involvement of different civil societies, strengthening food security, and provision of livelihood. After completing the plantation establishment, the ERDB thru BESTI will encourage the IP communities to do intercropping to support their food requirement.

The residents within and nearby FRMMR, the kapampangans together with various IP communities: Aeta, Igorot, Dumagat, worked hand-in-hand to accomplish the plantation establishment under the supervision of the ERDB team. Indigenous forest tree species such as laneteng-gubat, kalumpit, lipote, bignai, kupang, malugai, lamug, narra, Philippine

ash, igyo, dita, supa, akleng-parang, alibangbang, tangisang-bayawak, tuai, malapapaya, banuyo, magabuyo, and molave now cover the vast 246.2-ha of land of FRMMR traversing Brgy. Langka in Palayan City and Brgy. Nauzon in Laur.

The plantation activities started on September 2016 and are completed by December 14, 2016. Ninety percent

(90%) of planting materials survival rate was observed; thus, maintenance and replanting activities are to be done in the remaining weeks of this year. Maintenance and patrolling will commence at the start of 2017 to ensure the survival of the indigenous forest tree species. Rio Christine P. Bustamante, NGP OpCen



Workers mostly Indigenous People involved in the plantation establishment inside the FRMMR. Photo by NGP

MDARRC conducts “MDARRC sa Barangay” in Datu Agod, Antipas

True to its tagline “Bringing MDARRC Closer to the Community”, a technical assistance on the application, adoption and management of ENR technologies dubbed as “MDARRC Sa Barangay” was conducted by the Mining and Degraded Areas Rehabilitation Research Center (MDARRC) on November 23, 2016 at Datu Agod, Antipas, Cotabato. The activity was part of the Center’s unique strategy in reaching out various clientele under the

future partnership with the barangay in developing a self-reliant community while at the same time developing and protecting the environment and natural resources within the barangay and nearby communities”.

Brgy. Captain Zosimo T. Hatamosa of Datu Agod expressed his appreciation to MDARRC for choosing their barangay as a partner in promoting environmental protection and management. He wished that the Center

Baptist Rural Life Center (MBRLC) was also presented by Information Officer II Jethrone M. Setenta upon the request of Brgy. Captain Hatamosa to give the participants the idea of making a sustainable vegetable garden in their own backyard for assurance of a good supply of nutritious food and for added income as well.



(Left photo) Training Specialist I Marybeth D. Jumao-as demonstrates the proper procedure in bamboo propagation through culm cutting. (Right photo) Supervising SRS Vilma Flauta-Nitura and Training Specialist Marybeth D. Jumao-as of MDARRC give the posters produced by the Center to Brgy. Captain Zosimo T. Hatamosa (left) and Brgy. Kagawad Ramon Q. Oyaman of Datu Agod, Antipas, Cotabato during the MDARRC sa Barangay on November 23, 2016 at Datu Agod, Antipas, Cotabato. The activity is part of the implementation of the PARTNER-BOND project.

Pro-Active Response Towards Nurturing Environmental Relations: A Barangay Outreach Project Based on Community Needs and Demands (PARTNER-BOND) Project to promote the adoption of technologies identified by the partner barangays.

Thirty (30) participants from Brgy. Datu Agod, Antipas, Cotabato attended the said event cum campaign and cooperation-building activity as part of the Center’s extension strategy.

In lieu of MDARRC OIC-Center Head Dr. Bighani M. Manipula, Supervising SRS Vilma Flauta-Nitura, PARTNER-BOND project coordinator, thanked the participants for the warm response to the Center’s invitation. She said that the activity would surely pave way for

would continue in extending technical assistance to their community through trainings and other related activities that would help save the environment and uplift the quality of life of his constituents. Brgy. Datu Agod was identified by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) as a flood-prone and soil-erosion risk area.

The one-day activity includes lecture-demo on the procedures on macro-somatic clonal propagation with application of mycorrhiza which was presented by SRS I Norlyn S. Yap and the presentation on commercial bamboo farming by Training Specialist I Ms. Marybeth D. Jumao-as. A lecture on FAITH (Food Always In the Home) Gardening, a vegetable gardening technology developed by Mindanao

In her closing message, Ms. Vilma Flauta-Nitura disclosed that the Center has been conducting MDARRC sa Barangay for two years already to build confidence, support and partnership by involving various stakeholders in ENR-related activities being conducted by the Center. She also expressed her high hopes that both MDARRC and Brgy. Datu Agod would share more fruitful years in protecting the environment.

Last year, MDARRC also conducted the same activity at Brgys. Maibo and Bukay Pait in Tantaran, South Cotabato as part of the PARTNER-BOND project. Today, both partner barangays implement tree growing and nurturing projects in their respective barangays to restore their watershed areas. Jethrone M. Setenta, MDARRC

ERDB conducts workshop.. from page 8

The 4-day program of activities consisted of lectures and a workshop. The various topics discussed by the resource speakers were: (1) Overview of technology assessment, technology classification and characterization,

analysis of potential social impact and technological, legal and institutional analysis by Dr. Roberto F. Rañola, Jr.; (2) Environmental analysis by Prof. Alessandro A. Manilay; (3) Financial analysis by Dr. Marilyn M. Elauria; and (4) Monitoring, evaluation framework

and processes, evaluation indicators and performance assessment by Prof. Christine Joyce B. Mendoza.

After the workshop, the next steps or way forward to be undertaken were explained to the participants. Aurora S. Jose, TTD

UTHRC facilitates 4th ELTAG quarterly meeting with field visit to ENR related projects

Capacity building under the PARTNER BOND activity is a strategy being undertaken in relation to the promotion/dissemination of ENR technology. Relatively, a group called ENR Livelihood Advocates Group (ELTAG) composed of representatives from the Local Government Units of Metro Manila was organized in CY 2012 by then ERDS-NCR and quarterly meetings are being regularly spearheaded. The ELTAG is a partner of DENR in the advocacy campaign towards promotion of ENR technology. On November 16, 2016, the UTHRC-TPPU facilitates the 4th ELTAG Quarterly Meeting held at Valenzuela City Social Hall. Attendees of the activity include a total of fifteen (15) representatives from the seven (7) cities of Metro Manila. The participants are composed of 5 males and 10 females.

After the conduct of meeting for an update of member's ongoing projects and related plans, a visit to Valenzuela ENR-related projects is part of the day's activity. The Valenzuela Solar Farm and the Material Recovery Facility of Barangay Balangkas are the areas visited by the group. Said tour is being

undertaken as part of the strategies for technology promotion and awareness. Moreover, such undertaking increases the environmental related knowledge and appreciation to the ENR projects/

technologies by the members. Hence, replication of the ENR projects/technologies could be made/adopted in other ELTAG member areas of jurisdiction.



The Valenzuela Information Officer discussing the historical background of the city at the Valenzuela Museum

UTHRC conducts learning event cum team building activity

As part of the continuing effort to capacitate the UTHRC staff and ensure successful implementation of the center's project/activities, a learning event is held on November 17-18, 2016 at ERDB auditorium. The 2-day activity entitled "Learning event on poster preparation and laboratory analysis/procedures cum team building workshop" is geared towards enhancing the knowledge of the UTHRC staff on poster preparation and exhibit display. Included also on the event is a tour on laboratory facilities being maintained/operated by ERDB and the mycorrhizal experimental station. Moreover, team building activities are also facilitated to boost the camaraderie between and among the UTHRC staff and ensure a strong group dynamics

Resource speakers/lecturers during the event are Mesdames Liberty Asis, Adreana Santos-Remo, Janine F. Contingerra, and Carmelita M. Mojica from ERDB-TTD and LESD. On the other hand, Ms. Marilou Arcillas and her staff facilitate the team building activities. Director Henry A. Adornado and Forester Angelito B. Exconde gave inspiring



The participants – UTHRC staff together with the LESD staff.

messages to the participants. As a result, the UTHRC staff appreciate much the said activity. In a nutshell, a stronger sense of enthusiasm and interest in attaining the center's area of excellence in the management of toxic substances and hazardous wastes among staff could be felt. UTHRC



Ms. Carmelita Mojica explains the laboratory analysis/procedures that could be undertaken in the ERDB Laboratories.



BCWERC head presents programs and functions to support Cebu Province Monitoring Scheme

Dr. Alicia L. Lustica (left) discusses BCWERC's vision and RDE programs and projects through its core functions, 'Enhancing Resilience of Wetlands and Coastal Areas to Support Biodiversity Conservation and Ecotourism Development in the Visayas.'

Dr. Alicia L. Lustica, Center Head of the Biodiversity, Coastal, Wetlands and Ecotourism Center (BCWERC), converged with the Cebu Province Government officials during the 'Forum-Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Development of the Cebu Province - Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Goals' last November 4, 2016 at the Cebu Business Hotel, Colon St., Cebu City. Officials from the line bureaus and the PENR Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 7 also attended the said event. Invited executives

and representatives presented their respective office's goals and programs.

Dr. Alicia L. Lustica shared BCWERC's vision and discussed the Research, Development and Extension (RDE) programs and projects through its core functions, 'Enhancing Resilience of Wetlands and Coastal Areas to Support Biodiversity Conservation and Ecotourism Development in the Visayas'. Meanwhile, the Division Heads of the Cebu Provincial Government also presented the Cebu province's current situation in relation to the government's current environmental management goals.

The said M & E workshop organized by the PENRO Cebu province included agenda on 'Climate-Smart Disaster

Risk Reduction and Environmental Protection,' which significantly aims for the development framework that define approaches to achieve a safer, adaptive, and disaster resilient communities. According to Dr. Lustica, BCWERC will continue collaborating with the Cebu Provincial Office, with the commitment to extend technical assistance in clonal nursery operations, biodiversity conservation, mangrove plantation, and ecotourism development. Strengthening partnership with the LGU will contribute in the attainment of objectives vis-à-vis the goals of PENR Office towards the achievement of Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Protection Agenda of the Province of Cebu. BCWERC

ERDB conducts workshop on ENR technology assessment and post-evaluation



The participants during the capacity building cum writeshop on ENR Technology assessment and Post Evaluation of Transferred Technologies on November 8 – 11, 2016 at Boy Scouts of the Philippines Hotel, College, Laguna

The capacity building cum writeshop on ENR technology assessment and post evaluation of transferred technologies was conducted on November 8 – 11, 2016 at the Boy Scouts of the Philippines Hotel, College, Laguna. The said activity was attended by the ERDB-Main and Research Centers technical staff. The workshop aimed to: (1) provide participants with the basic framework of technology assessment, monitoring, and post-evaluation procedure; (2) introduce participants to basic tools and methods of technology assessment, monitoring, and evaluation; and (3) assist participants in writing technology characterization and post-evaluation reports. The expected outputs were: (a) enhanced competency of ERDB staff on the use of tools and methods of technology assessment, monitoring and evaluation; (b) enhanced technology assessment, monitoring and evaluation tools; and (c) technology characterization report and post-evaluation reports of transferred ENR technologies.

ERDB celebrates... from page 3

The performers from the Psalm of David Orchestra Inc. gave the intermission number. The group was composed of out-of-school youth volunteers.

Asst. Dir. Antonio M. Daño in his closing remarks thanked everyone for organizing and participating in the event. AD Daño said, "We should not forget the center of the celebration who is Jesus Christ and the love of God for each one of us." He emphasized the unity and cooperation among all employees in order to achieve the ERDB's goal.

Director Henry A. Adornado thanked everyone for another year and encouraged everyone to improve their work in the coming year. Marla V. Cambay, TTD

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