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ERDB, FMB hold year-end assessment and strategic planning of e-NGP



DENR key officials spearhead the opening of the year-end assessment and strategic planning of e-NGP (from left to right) ERDB Director Sofio B. Quintana, Undersecretary for Field Operations Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, Assistant Secretary for Staff Bureaus For. Ricardo L. Calderon, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations-Visayas Marcial C. Amaro, Jr. and FMB Director Nonito M. Tamayo.

Pampanga, Philippines- The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and the DENR Regional offices convened for the Enhanced National Greening Program (e-NGP) year-end assessment and strategic planning on December 12-14, 2018 at The Orchid Gardens Hotel, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Topics discussed in the three-day event include the status of e-NGP with emphasis on Production of Quality Planting Materials (PQPM), Mangrove and Beach Forest Development Project (MBFDP) and Bamboo Plantation Development Program (BPDP).

ERDB Director Sofio B. Quintana welcomed the participants all over the

country and encouraged everyone to an open-minded and active sharing of ideas and opinions. DENR key officials, Assistant Secretary Marcial C. Amaro, Jr. and Assistant Secretary Ricardo L. Calderon commended the ERDB and FMB for holding the event and recognized that the event is crucial for the improvement of the implementation of e-NGP.

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ERDB Director Sofio B. Quintana welcomes the participants of the event at The Orchid Gardens Hotel, San Fernando, Pampanga on December 12-14, 2018.

Sylvatrop trains ERDB researchers on writing for journals

The importance of publishing scientific research was emphasized during the 2018 Sylvatrop Writing Workshop for ERDB Researchers on October 15-19, 2018 at the NDN Grand Hotel in Santo Tomas, Batangas. Participated by around 40 researchers and technical staff from the ERDB Main Office and Research Centers (RCs), the workshop was organized to capacitate



Left photo: Dr. Jose Alan Castillo, ERDB's Senior Science Research Specialist, served as the resource person during the 5-day workshop. Right photo: The workshop participants during the learning activities and writing sessions. Photos by JC Viray and Jascha Sapin

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ERDB, FMB hold year-end...from page 1

Meanwhile, DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations, Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, in his inspirational message, recognized the importance of holding the event and challenge the participants to work hard. *“There is no perfect program that is why we are doing this year-end assessment, after that we make a conscious effort to improve our program. Let’s do our job right. This is a very huge program in which we use a large amount of money of the country,”* said Usec Cuna.

According to the report of FMB Director Nonito M. Tamayo, 1,667,242,795 seedlings were planted all over the country through NGP as of December 7, 2018. He further enjoined the participants to work together and even surpass the targets, if possible, to contribute to the rehabilitation of deforested and degraded areas in the country.

Reports showed that through the NGP- PQPM, a total of 22 DENR clonal



FMB Director Nonito M. Tamayo discusses the e-NGP accomplishments as of December 7, 2018.

nurseries were established nationwide, 16 of these were turned over to the DENR Regional Offices, which they use in the production of quality planting materials for the implementation of the e-NGP. Seventy-five seed sources were established, one per province, through the field offices. Hi-QVAM 1 was provided

also to support the production of quality planting materials. The MBFDP has planted mangroves in 50,417 hectares of land to increase coastal resilience in severely affected areas of typhoon Yolanda.

The BDPD, on the other hand, has established 49,747.20 hectares of bamboo plantation in the country with 10,805,650 bamboo planting stocks produced by different partner People’s Organizations. BDPD has a continuing partnership with the Department of Defense and established 3,000 has of bamboo plantation in Fort Magsaysay 7th Infantry Division in Nueva Ecija.

Strategic planning for 2019 includes the discussion on the conduct of soil sampling and analysis as part of the survey, mapping, and planning and the use of drone in monitoring process. Through this event, the DENR is even more committed to ensure the continuity of e-NGP implementation in the coming years. –Texts and photos by **Ann Valerie V. Gillado, TTD**

Sylvatrop train ERDB...from page 1

and enhance their skills in technical writing.

Sylvatrop Managing Editor Adreana S. Remo stressed that as the research bureau of the DENR, ERDB researchers should publish the results of their studies in peer-reviewed journals, particularly in Sylvatrop, the Department’s official technical journal.

The 5-day workshop’s highlight was the comprehensive discussion on the parts of a journal article. Dr. Jose Alan Castillo, ERDB’s Senior Science Research Specialist, served as the resource person. Dr. Castillo shared his experiences on writing in internationally-accredited, peer-reviewed journals. He is also ERDB’s permanent representative to the Sylvatrop Editorial Board (SEB).

Dr. Castillo, together with the editorial staff, provided one-on-one mentoring with the participants on how to improve their technical writing skills. Around 40 draft journal articles were submitted during the workshop which covered varied topics such as vulnerability assessment, impact assessment, biodiversity, and urban and social research.

Sylvatrop gave special awards to recognize outstanding training participants. Mr. John Benrich Zuniga of the Coastal Zone and Freshwater Ecosystems Research Division (CZFERD) top paper; Ms. Veronica



Mercado (UERD), Mr. Timothy John Dizon (FERD), Ms. Nova Jane Espinosa (FWRDEC), Mr. Alvin Angelo Salting (ARDEC), and Ms. Janine Baguhin (LESD) Promising Paper Award.

This workshop was a collaboration between TTD and the Human Resource Development Section (HRDS) of ERDB. It was graced by Dr. Bighani Manipula, ERDB’s Assistant Director and Sylvatrop’s Editor-in-Chief; Dr. Lucena Mercado, one of the ERDB’s technical experts; Ms. Liberty Asis, TTD’s OIC-Chief.

Aside from capacitating ERDB researchers, the Writeshop also served

Around 40 participants coming from the ERDB main office and its Research Center participated in the activity.

as an avenue to encourage more article submissions from ERDB and its RCs. Sylvatrop also conducted the same activity earlier this year, which then trained technical personnel from various DENR offices across the country. **Melanie N. Ojeda, TTD**

As part of the weeklong celebration of the 14th National Biotechnology Week (NBW), a Technology Forum on "Saving Philippine Forest Trees thru Genetic Diversity Studies" was held on November 7, 2018 at the ERDB Auditorium. This year's theme is "Pambansang Hamon, Pambansang Solusyon."

Nine schools participated in the activity which include the De LaSalle University in Dasmariñas Cavite, Colegio de San Juan de Letran Calamba, Colegio de Los Baños, Christian School International, Makiling School Inc., LSPU Los Baños, Southern Luzon State University, UPLB League of Agricultural Biotechnology students, UP Genetic Researchers and Agricultural Innovators Society (GRAINS) and Habay Elementary School in Bacoor, Cavite. Some ERDB staff also attended the event. There were 88 participants in the forum.

ERDB OIC Assistant Director Dr. Bighani M. Manipula welcomed the participants. He said that the forum aims to educate particularly the young people or the "millenials" on the importance of biotechnology. He also said that biotechnology is important and can provide the best solution to cope up with

ERDB launches Enviotech: Promoting biotechnologies for a healthy environment



Left photo: Ms. Ruth Ramirez discussing one of the topics on biotechnology. Right photo: Ms. Maria Innah Montala presents ERDB's project on genetic diversity.

the increasing population.

Ms. Liberty E. Asis, TTD OIC Chief launched the Enviotech logo which was conceptualized by the Technology Transfer Division staff. She also mentioned the different activities which include seminars and forum which will be conducted in connection with the celebration. She also mentioned the technologies developed in ERDB which include the Hi-Q Vam 1, tissue culture

of different species of bamboo, ex-situ and in-situ germplasm collection, phytoremediation for greening mined-out areas and bioremediation schemes.

Ms. Ruth Serena Consuelo C. Ramirez, a BS Biology graduate from UPLB was one of the resource speakers during the forum. She discussed the topic on "Biotechnology Applications in the Philippine Environment Setting". **Marla V. Cambay, TTD**

Two fora on biotechnology held on the 14th NBW celebration

In celebration of the 14th National Biotechnology Week (NBW), the Department of Science and Technology-National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (DENR-ERDB) conducted two different fora on Biotechnology on November 15, 2018 held at Hall D, World Trade Center, Pasay City. The activity is in line with this year's theme: "Pambansang Hamon, Pambansang Solusyon" which aims to showcase how biotechnology could help address the challenges that the Philippines faces today. Moreover, it is geared towards highlighting significant contributions of biotechnology to agriculture and food security, health care services, education, industrial and economic development, and environment sustainability. Two representatives (1 male and 1 female) from the ERDB-THWRDEC (Toxic, Hazardous Waste, Research attended the forum while other attendees are mostly representatives from various academes in the National Capital Region.

DOST-NRCP regular members presented two (2) completed projects during the first part of the forum entitled: "Communicating Basic Research Results to the People: Biotechnology Results".



Presentations during the forum include "Greening Mined-Out Areas in the Philippines" by Ms. Nelly S. Aggangan, Ph.D., NCRP Regular Member, Division VI and "Anti-infective Bacteria from Marine Sediments of Philippine Archipelago - A Treasure for Biotechnology Applications" by Ms. Doralyn S. Dalisay, Ph.D., NCRP Regular Member, Division IV. The research-based information presented are geared towards enhancing knowledge of the participants of what is happening around and the realization of the importance of biotechnology.



Above photo: The exhibit displays at the National Biotechnology Week (NBW) celebration. Below photo: The attendees during the forum.

ERDB conducts writeshop on indigenous Philippine forest trees and seed mosaic art competition

Around 14 regional staff from the country gathered on October 25-27, 2018 at Ramada Hotel, Manila to analyze and synthesize nationwide data and begin preparing their report on Indigenous Philippine Forest Tree Species.

Their report is an output of a six-year study titled "Germplasm Collection, Seed Production and Seed Banking of Superior Forest Trees and Development and Management of Database and Information System for Quality Planting Materials" under the Forest Ecosystem Resiliency and Sustainability Program of the ERDB. The study was conceived to primarily support the need for planting materials in the implementation of the National Greening Program (NGP) of the government pursuant to Executive Order No. 23. It aimed to ensure seed sources and supply of quality germplasm for planting stock production of priority forest tree species especially indigenous, endangered, and commercially valuable.



The participants during the writeshop proper.

Set to this goal, the team had been working hard and scouring the different parts of the country for phenotypically superior Individual Plus Trees (IPTs) using the criteria for selection under the DAO 2010-11. Seeds were also collected for seed testing procedures and protocols.

According to Forester Romana A. Mauricio, study leader, key features of the report will include information on 167 Philippine forest tree species documented and verified; seeds of more than 129 forest tree species studied; and 50 protocols formulated. A database is

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UBRDEC holds strategic workshop, bolsters R&D capabilities

The Urban and Biodiversity Research, Development and Extension Center (UBRDEC) in Pagbilao, Quezon conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop & Effective Proposal Preparation for Urban and Biodiversity Research last November 5-9, 2018 to strengthen its capabilities in urban ecosystems and biodiversity research and formulate plans and policies for the following year.

Prof. Elsa P. Santos, chair of the Department of Social Forestry and Forest Governance, UPLB College of Forestry was invited as resource speaker in the event. Professor Santos gave a short course from November 5-6 on effective research proposal preparation with a special focus on biodiversity and urban ecosystems, the center's fields of specialization. She also presented insights and ideas on research gaps and researchable areas in the aforementioned fields of study.



(Left photo): Professor Elsa Santos of UPLB College of Forestry discusses biodiversity research proposal preparation. (Right photo): UBRDEC technical and support staff with For. Gregorio Santos, Jr., UBRDEC Center Head (middle, front row) with Prof. Elsa Santos.

Thereafter, the research technical staff engaged in meeting and consultation sessions from November 7-9 to establish administrative policies such as: mission,

vision and goals; organizational setup; vertical and horizontal authority relationships functions. **Emerson B. Ranara, LAUFTeRC**

ERDB senior citizens and PWDs learn more about ENR technologies

A learning activity of Senior Citizens and PWDs was conducted on November 23, 2018 at the Caramin Lake Resort, Barangay West Talaongan, Municipality of Cavinti, Laguna. It was a 1-day activity aimed to have exchange of knowledge and insights between and among the ERDB and National Power technical staff on two ERDB's technologies on bamboo planting and use of Hi-Q Vam 1.

A short program was conducted wherein Dr. Lucena U. Mercado in behalf of Dr. Bighani M. Manipula, OIC-Asst. Director gave an inspirational message on the activity. Dr. Mercado was very thankful to the NPC in providing a venue for exchanging knowledge on Environment and Natural Resources undertakings and ecosystem services technology. Afterwards, the Chief of NPC, Caliraya, Mr. Wilfredo I. Ducusin gave the welcome remarks. He was thankful to ERDB for choosing the place to share the experiences and best practices of ENR technologies.

Forty nine (49) technical staff and representative from the municipality of Cavinti, Laguna attended the said activity which was composed of 43 males and six (6) females. The resource speakers were Ms. Florentina Oliva and Ms. Carmelita Mojica. Ms. Oliva discussed the importance and process of planting bamboo with actual hands-on

demonstration. Ms. Mojica discussed and explained the use of Hi-Q Vam 1. She also distributed some Hi-Q Vam 1 samples.

A closing program followed, then the awarding of certificates took place. **Aurora S. Jose, TTD/Lina M. Pader, AFMD**



The participants of ERDB Senior and PWD Citizens and technical staff of National Power Corporation attended the ENR Learning Activity on November 23, 2018.

ERDB conducts...from page 4

In the afternoon, another forum on "ENVIOTECH: Saving Philippine Forest Trees thru Genetic Diversity Studies" was conducted by the DENR-ERDB. The forum aims to promote and utilize science-based innovations to conserve and protect the environment. Lectures presented during the forum include "Biotechnology applications in the Philippine environment setting" by Ms. Ruth Serena Consuelo C. Ramirez, "Genetic diversity studies of Philippine indigenous forest tree species" by Ms. Maria Innah S. Montala and "Amplifying: DNA Analysis in focus" by Mr. Jordan M. Abellar. A video on DNA analysis was also presented.

The 5-day celebration of the National Biotechnology Week from November 12 to 16, 2018 featured interactive exhibits and biotechnology research projects and innovations of the participating agencies and organizations. **THWRDEC**

also being developed to provide proper and accessible storage of information on Philippine forest tree species.

Aside from data reporting and writeshop, the participants also created

the seed mosaic art using residual seeds from their collection. **Romana A. Mauricio and JMCailung, FERD**



Participant presents the data on Workshop.



(Right photo) Seed Mosaic Art of participants from Coastal, Resources and Ecotourism Research, Development and Extension Center (CRERDEC) (Left photo) Watershed and Water Resources Research, Development and Extension Center (WWRDEC)

Syensaya 2018: Innovation for Collective Prosperity

Celebrated in the tradition of Syensaya, the Los Baños Science Community (LBSCFI) formally opened the three-day activities on Nov. 7, 2018 at the Baker Hall in UPLB. The theme for 2018 is “*Innovation for Collective Prosperity*”.

Dr. Edwin C. Villar, Deputy Director for Research and Development, PCAARRD delivered the welcome remarks. He was thankful to all member-agencies for their high level of cooperation, and commitment for bringing science and innovations closer to the people of Los Baños.

The guest speaker was Undersecretary for Regional Operations, DOST USEC Brenda L. Nazareth-Manzano. An accomplished career woman.

USEC Manzano commended LBSCFI for consistently organizing the event and for its passion and unwavering support towards the development and advancement of science and technology (S & T). She said that LBSFI has been a strong ally of DOST in promoting S & T with its strong and dynamic presence in the town and neighboring communities.



DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations, USEC Brenda L. Nazareth-Manzano was the guest speaker during the LBSCFI's Syensaya 2018



For. Roberto P. Cereno (center) of the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources and Engr. Pantaleon L. Tabanao (2nd from right), general manager of the Laguna Water District Aquatech Resources Corporation receive their plaques of appreciation to personalities who have played key roles in achieving the LBSCFI's objectives. Also in photo are the LBSCFI steering committee members. Photos by Earl Vincent Escasura, TTD

Likewise, USEC Manzano emphasized the importance of innovation, collaboration, and inclusion toward achieving social change and inclusive growth. She called for the research and development efforts that would

go beyond publication, directly benefit society, bring science closer to the public, and would boost production. She also encouraged everyone to work together towards a more dynamic, progressive,

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ARDEC extends clonal propagation and Hi-Q Vam 1 technologies to communities in Carmen, Cebu

Representatives from eight different Peoples Organizations (POs) within the vicinity of Carmen Copper Corporation (CCC), namely: Pandong Bato Farmers Association, Absa Christian Farmers Livelihood Association, Bagakay Farmers Association, Sta Cruz Farmers Association Loay, Ilag Cantabaco Home Based Workers Association, Copper Mine Agro Ventures Organization, Barangay Biga Bagong Buhay and selected staff from CCC's Environment and Community Relations Departments participated in “*On Site Training and Hands-on Demonstration on Cloning of Forest Trees and Application of Hi-Q Vam 1*” on October 17-18, 2018 at the Coastal Resources and Ecotourism Research, Development and Extension Center (CRERDEC) training hall, Camp 7, Minglanilla, Cebu. The training is one of the target activities under the on-going study of the Agroforestry Research, Development and Extension Center (ARDEC) inside the CCC's mine site.

Forester Maribeth N. Espina, ARDEC Senior Science Research Specialist, lectured the topic on clonal propagation and Mr. Sergio P. Baron, Clonal Nursery Supervisor, conducted the hands-on

demonstration. The participants had first-hand experience on producing cloned forest tree species from preparation of three -nodal cuttings and soaking them in fungicide solution and rooting hormones, up to planting of cuttings in polyethylene bags with soil applied with Hi-Q Vam 1.

Likewise, Forester Joan Grace T. Yamas, Science Research Technician I from ARDEC, lectured on the benefits of Hi-Q Vam 1 while Mr. Agripino F. Araño led the hands-on demonstration on its application. Ms. Maria Grace P. Moralde, ARDEC Senior Science Research Specialist and Gender and Development (GAD) focal person, discussed the topic on Gender Sensitivity and Gender and Development during the training.

The participants also visited the clonal nursery facility of CRERDEC located near the area. They experienced assessing a good parent tree as source of seeds or wildings and also visited the established hedge garden in the area. The rooting and hardening houses of the clonal nursery were opened to the participants for them to observe the facility and the actual step by step process of clonal propagation.

Mr. Rodrigo M. Real Jr., ARDEC Community Development Officer, during his speech said that the training was undertaken to prepare the POs on the possibility of contracting them by the CCC in the mass propagation of cloned forest trees. He also took the opportunity to inform the participants about the research study being implemented by ARDEC in the mined-out area of CCC and briefed them on the objectives of the study.

For. Roy C. Sabijon, CCC's Reforestation Officer, encouraged the participants to take the chance to learn the said technologies as these could become potential sources of income. He added that if the research study of ARDEC yields positive result, it could mean added income for POs in the future.

As an output of the training, action plans were prepared by every POs. Each action plan showed strategies on how the participants are going to practice and adopt their learnings from the two-day training. **Rodrigo M. Real Jr., ARDEC**

CRERDEC and DepEd partners for senior high environmental education

The Coastal Resources and Ecotourism Research, Development and Extension Center (CRERDEC) of the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) recently teamed up with the Department of Education (DepEd) for a Work Immersion Program under the K-12 basic education curriculum. Said curriculum will enable Senior High School (SHS) students to acquaint themselves with the workplace, apply their competencies in areas of specialization in a realistic environments, gain practical skills, and develop good work ethics and values relevant to the pursuit of college education, entrepreneurship, employment, or middle-level skills development. DepEd Order No. 30, Series of 2017 stipulates that work immersion is the key feature of SHS curriculum.2

Committed to support the visions of DepEd, CRERDEC entered into partnership with the Camp 7 National High School in Minglanilla, Cebu and allowed their 40 graduating SHS students to experience and gain insights as science researchers. Students were divided into four batches to facilitate better learning experiences. The first batch comprising of 11 students reported last November 26 to December 7, 2018 for a minimum of 80 hours at the CRERDEC Office in Camp 7, Minglanilla, Cebu. This collaborative endeavor served as a venue for the students to learn and acquire not only the basic concepts and knowledge on ecosystems management, research, development and extension (ROE) agenda, and technology transfer and promotion activities of the office but also the core values, work ethics and standards of government employees as well.

During the first day of work immersion, CRERDEC staff gave an orientation about the office – its vision, mission, organizational structure, functions, operations and services. Firstly, the students were made to understand how CRERDEC operates as a research institution in support to the DENR field operations. Then, the students were also given an opportunity to express their expectations.

Succeeding sessions were devoted to lectures, discussions and sharing of information on topics such as seed technology; nursery establishment, care and maintenance; production of good quality planting materials by means of asexual propagation; macro- and micro-propagation of forest species; ecotourism



Senior high school students of Camp 7 national high school pose with some CRERDEC staff.

development; and carrying capacity determination of ecotourism sites. In addition, students also had the chance to discover some helpful facts relating to social media policy, as facilitated by CRERDEC Technology Transfer and Extension Unit (TTEU). Visual presentations, demonstrations, and actual field practice such as identification of specimens, use of instruments and apparatus, soil bagging and potting, seed processing, and propagation using seeds and vegetative parts were some activities students engaged in to

enhance the theories they learned during lectures. The lecturers were the technical staff from TTE and Research and Development Units. Ideas and questions from students were encouraged to flow in relative to the specific topics discussed. The first batch of students acknowledged that actual demonstration, hands-on, and practical exercises in the tree seed laboratory and clonal nursery further provided them with new learning skills and competencies. **Reynaldo L. Lanuza and Ann Lizther F. Jumawan, CRERDEC**



SHS students writing and sharing their expectations from the work immersion program with CRERDEC

In celebration of the National Climate Change Consciousness Week on November 17-24, 2018, the Urban and Biodiversity Research, Development and Extension Center (UBRDEC) teamed up with local government units (LGUs) in Sorsogon province to conduct a Community Forum on Climate Change and the Human Environment at Seamancor Ecodevelopers, Inc., Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon last November 16, 2018.

The forum was organized by UBRDEC, led by Center Head For. Gregorio Santos, Jr. in close cooperation with LGU Prieto Diaz and PENRO Sorsogon. Attended by some 99 local citizens from various sectors, it aimed to educating and promoting awareness on climate change among stakeholders. With this goal in mind, resource speakers from the Provincial Government of Sorsogon were invited to discuss relevant and timely topics at the forum.

Forester Santos opened forum discussions with a talk on climate change & the human environment, giving the audience a primer on the causes and effects of climate change. He was followed by Engr. Raden Dimaano, department head of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRMO) discussed the provincial government's disaster risk reduction management mechanism and protocols. Finally, Ms. Melody Perez of the Provincial Government of Sorsogon - Environment and Natural Resources Office oriented the forum participants on the provincial government's climate change programs and initiatives

UBRDEC, Sorsogon LGUs join forces in climate change awareness forum



Participants of the community forum on Climate Change and the Human Environment

For his part, Prieto Diaz Mayor Benito "Boytee" Doma gave simple and concrete tips to his constituents to help preserve the town's natural resources and maintain its ecological balance, while PENRO Sorsogon Atty. Ronnel Sopsop called for continued cooperation and vigilance to safeguard the future of the next generation.

A fifth-income class municipality with a population of about 22,442 people, Prieto Diaz is the easternmost frontier of Luzon Island, situated in a historically disaster-prone area. Its long coastline is known for its mangrove beach forest, home to a teeming aquatic ecosystem that provides the town with rich marine resources and a natural buffer against typhoons. **Emerson B. Ranara, UBRDEC**



UBRDEC Center Head For. Gregorio Santos, Jr. with Prieto Diaz Mayor Benito "Boytee" Doma

Syensaya 2018...from page 6

smart and resilient S&T innovation in the country.

The ribbon cutting/opening of exhibit followed and exhibit tour/viewing of exhibits.



The high school students as they explore the ERDB exhibit with the theme "ENVIOTECH: Promoting Biotechnologies for a Healthy Environment" during the LBSCFI's Syensaya 2018 celebration held on Nov. 7, 2018 at the UPLB Baker Hall.

For this year, ERDB's Exhibit focused on ENVIOTECH: Promoting Biotechnologies for a Healthy Environment.

There were more than 2,000 guests from various organizations including the

academe and students. This year's host is the DOST-FPRDI. **Aurora S. Jose, TTD**

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Executive Advisers : Sofio B. Quintana, PhD, CESO IV
Bighani M. Manipula, PhD.

Editorial Adviser : Liberty E. Asis

Managing Editor : Marla V. Cambay

Technical Editor : Marita W. Briz

Layout : Liberato A. Bacod

Circulation : Marilou C. Villones
Catalina dM. Aldemita
Eduardo M. Tolentino

Photographer : Gino S. Laforteza

Printing : Celso A. Luna