

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU REGION IX
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION UNIT

15 – SEPTEMBER– 2022

PR 2209- 0034

PRESS RELEASE



Demonstrating the Government's commitment to combating marine litter pollution and protecting the country, particularly its coastal areas and to strengthening Local Government Unit (LGU) capacities and local level implementation of NPOA-ML, the Environmental Management Bureau IX through the Solid Waste Management Section in collaboration with the Environmental Education and Information Unit decisively launched the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, reduction, and, Management of Marine Litters (NPOA) in Region IX on September 14-15, 2022 during the IEC Summit 2022 at Manuel's Resort, Zamboanga del Norte.

The IEC Summit 2022 highlights the Regional Launching of the NPOA ML and the Capacity Building of LGUs in the Region. Also gathered to show support and commitment are the active members of the Regional Ecology Center (REC) namely the Department of Education, Department of Interior and Local Government Unit, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Education and the National Economic Development Authority of Region IX. Representatives from the mentioned NGA's stated their message of support and pledge of commitment to the development of NPOA ML.

Further, seventy (70) Municipal ENRO's attended and represented their LGUs and likewise pledged their support.

The DENR Region IX's highest ranking Official, Regional Executive Director, Ronald D. Gadot, strongly opened the program with the statement, *"As the ecosystem cannot function properly and effectively in the absence of some microorganisms, we, in the DENR cannot implement this plan effectively without our partner agencies and especially you, the LGUs"*.

Following RED's Opening statement is the inspirational message from the EMB IX's Regional Director, Engr. Alex D. Jimenez. RD Alex inspired the participants that Zamboanga Peninsula leads in producing export quality marine products, thus, it is vital to work together as a team in protecting the only marine resource we have from the destruction that marine litter can bring.

The EMB Director, Engr. William P. Cuñado, though He was not present physically, showed full support and left an encouraging message to all participants through a video message.

Thereafter, Engr. Alwin Jay Robel of the EMB Central Office SWM Division presented an AVP on the Rationale of NPOA ML and officially launched the said action plan in the Region.

Concluding the Launching is the messages of support from the partner agencies who pledged to fully commit and align their programs to form a unified approach to the development of NPOA ML in the Region and sealed the messages with the signing of commitment thereafter.

Afternoon's program highlighted the acknowledging of best practices and Outstanding LGUs in the Region whose efforts are worthy of emulation and thus need to be recognized and highlighted.

The 2nd day is intended for the capacity building of the LGUs where Engr. Carlo Xavier Ysip from Macafferri Phils. shared his expertise in Sanitary Landfill Design and Speakers from the EMB Central Office also talked about the enhancement/updating of the Local Government Unit – Solid Waste Management Self-Compliance Monitoring and Auditing Report and concluded by Engr. Jerby Reales, SWM Staff with the Online reporting format in compliance with Section 24.

Closing the 2-day event is a message from the Chief, Clearance and Permitting Division, Engr. Winnie S. Ramos, encourages the participants to re-echo what they've learned and start to take baby steps in combatting marine pollution in their own homes and barangays.