

“Environmental Governance by Local Partnership Seminar Workshop on the Rivers in Metro Cebu Region”

This seminar, funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), was organised by the Environmental Management Bureau of DENR – Region VII, PCAPI – Region VII, Cebu City, and Kitakyushu City. The seminar included 120 participants from various sectors of society, i.e. NGO/NPOs, civic groups, industries, academia, government agencies, local government units (LGUs), media, and residents. The objectives of the seminar were as follows:

- (1) Promote mutual understanding among various stakeholders in society towards an integrated environmental initiative
- (2) Set up common goals for all stakeholders
- (3) Prepare an action plan for rehabilitation of Guadalupe River and Butuanon River;
- (4) Identify the role of each stakeholder

Various stakeholders in the region were brought together to have a common understanding of the present condition of the local environment and the steps taken by various sectors to improve the environment, as well as the identification of important issues, common goals and necessary actions with the aim of developing a consensus with all stakeholders involved.

The first day of the seminar focused on obtaining a grasp on the current situation and activities being carried out by various stakeholders. The seminar included presentations and discussions on environmental improvement approaches by the administrations of Cebu, Mandaue, Lapu-Lapu, and Ube; approaches by enterprises, including two factories in which cleaner production was introduced; and approaches by residents and NGOs from barangays in Cebu and Mandaue, as well as PCAPI, CLEAR, and Lihok Pilipina Foundation, Inc., and Minamata and KITA.

The second day of seminar was a workshop to develop an action plan for the rehabilitation of Guadalupe and Butuanon rivers. The current situation of the rivers was presented and discussed in separate discussion groups. An action plan was developed and entitled the “Metro Cebu Environmental Initiative”. The Initiative also included the establishment of the “Metro Cebu Environmental Improvement Council”, which included representatives of the Environmental Management Bureau of DENR, PCAPI, Mandaue, Cebu, NGOs from Cebu and Mandaue, academia from the University of Cebu, representatives from LGUs (Guadalupe, Mandaue), and the media. These persons are responsible for consulting to the local governments on actions to be taken in the improvement of the environment of Metro Cebu. It was decided that activities on public awareness for solid waste disposal and recycling were to start in Barangay Guadalupe (Guadalupe River) and some barangays in Mandaue City (Butuanon River).