

## **NGO Activities in the Improvement of River Quality and Environmental Education**

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Ladies and Gentlemen, good day!

On behalf of the University of Cebu and CLEAR, based in Metro Cebu, Philippines, I, Eng'r. Benilda Q. Gadin, wish to thank the organizers of this 5<sup>th</sup> Thematic Seminar for the honor of sharing our activities and experiences in a third world country with you.

### **Fast Facts of Cebu**

Cebu City is located at the center of the Visayan island, 584 km south of Manila (the capital of the Philippines). It has a land area of 5,000 square km. As to its topography, it appears to be elongated, approximately 25km long and 45 km at its widest point; predominantly rugged and mountainous. For its population, for Cebu island, it has 3 million constituents and for Metro Cebu 1.5 million. Its capital is Cebu City.

### **City Garbage Profile**

For the City of Cebu Garbage Profile, the population source is 718,821 with a total households of 147,600. The calculated average waste generated garbage by one person is 500g. The daily waste disposal of Cebu City ranges from 500-520 tons.

### **Budget and Revenues**

The City has allocated a Budget for the department of Public Services to be distributed for Collection and Disposal; Street Cleaning; Administrative; Street Lighting; Artesian Wells. Here is the data of the revenue from the collection of garbage fees last 2002.

### **Zero-Waste Management Program**

University of Cebu has launched the Zero – Waste Management Program last 1999 with the Theme, for future sake: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Respond.

### **Recycled Products Fair**

The University of Cebu in support to its Zero – Waste Management program sponsored the Recycled products' Fair. A contest was held for the best and most practical recycled product with the set criteria. After the contest products were sold to the University constituents for use and for possible replication.

### **Planting Seeds of Hope**

In Consolacion, Cebu year 2000, the University of Cebu thru its community extension service department has initiated the 'Million mangroves for the Millennium Project'. This was a mangrove reforestation movement participated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other Universities in Metro Cebu. There were 10 species of mangroves donated by the department of natural resources (DENR) that were propagated. Presently, the mangrove areas are now fully developed and some foreign birds are migrating from September until March.

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**Midstream**

The CLEAR River Monitoring Team conducting analysis of the water quality using field instruments. Parameters like pH, conductivity and dissolved Oxygen were monitored. The limited analysis on the water quality was due to unavailability of instruments that could be used for analysis.

**Field Training**

Eng'r. Gadin conducting field training to CLEAR volunteers on how to use the field instruments as well as imparting techniques on how to properly get samples for analysis.

**Manifesto for the Environment**

TV, Radio and Press coverage of the joint 'Manifesto for the Environment' by the Kitakyushu Green Youth and CLEAR Youth Sector.

**Massive River Clean-up**

CLEAR initiated the Massive River Clean – up last 2002: 300 Metro Cebu joined hands with the Japanese Youth delegation and members of other civic and industrial groups.

For more than a decade, CLEAR has done its part in restoring and protecting the state of the environment. Its collaboration with other NGOs and the academe specifically, with the University of Cebu had somehow helped in raising public awareness on environmental issues.

In behalf of my organizations, I reconfirm our commitment to work for Mother Earth – whether independently or in cooperation with similarly committed individuals or agencies. We reiterate our deep appreciation for Kitakyushu City – for its leadership and for being bright example of the strength of its citizenry in reversing environmental degradation, and also to the organizers of this seminar the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan), IGES, UNESCAP and other sponsoring organizations. We hope that your experience can be replicated in other urban areas – especially in our country, the Philippines. We are only few concerned Cebuanos in an over populated urban community, but deep in our hearts, we will continue our quest for environmental justice.

Thank you very much and good day!