



Kalikasan

Western Visayas

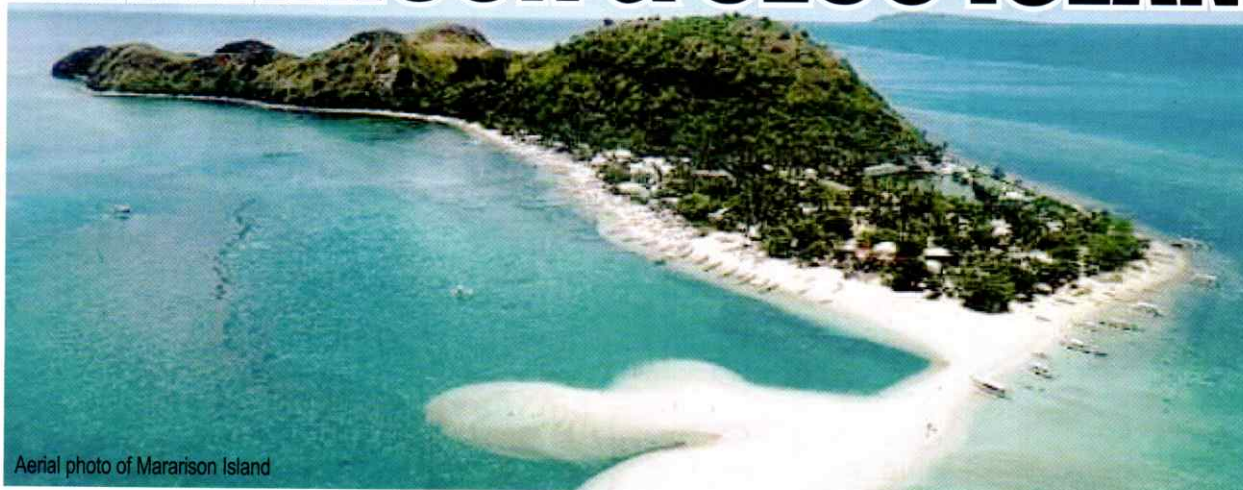


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SECRETARY CIMATU LOOKS INTO MARARISON & SECO ISLANDS



Aerial photo of Mararison Island

The protection and conservation of island ecosystems in Western Visayas is on the priority list of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu. On several occasions, he stressed the need to protect and conserve the pristine state of the beautiful islands in the region.

In the province of Antique, Secretary Cimatu have arranged trips to personally visit and look into the conditions of Mararison Island off Culasi town and of Seco Island off Tibiao town.

During his visit to Mararison Island, he was able to talk to the local officials and folks in the community and saw the need to put in place the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) program. He emphasized the necessity to educate both the local leaders and the community on the importance of recycling, reusing and reducing wastes, especially plastics. He encouraged them to protect and sustain the island's fragile ecosystem.

Drinking potable water is a challenge for local folks at Mararison Island to obtain, as they needed to travel 15 to 20 minutes to the mainland of Culasi town to source it. Secretary Cimatu had seen firsthand how the local folks, even children, gathered potable drinking water and saw the need for water conservation. He was glad to learn that the islanders practiced rainwater harvesting.

Mararison Island is a scenic spot that has slowly gained popularity after it was featured in a popular magazine TV show KJMS showing the angelic voices

of its children's choir welcoming the visitors to the island. The pandemic has temporarily stopped the tourism activities in the island.

Another beautiful spot in the province of Antique which Secretary Cimatu wanted to strengthen its protection is the Seco Island. It is a 100-hectare Marine Protected Area (MPA) located approximately 39 kilometers west of Tibiao municipality.

With its vast ecotourism potentials, Secretary Cimatu is eyeing the protection of Seco Island to avert possible degradation from future developments and unregulated activities. He ordered the DENR 6 key officials to prepare a plan for the island thus, the Seco Island Restoration and Rehabilitation Comprehensive Plan (CY 2021-2026) was crafted by DENR 6 thru its CENRO Culasi and PENRO Antique field offices.



Secretary Cimatu and team reached the Island of Seco off Tibiao in the province of Antique during his ocular inspection of the area.



Secretary Cimatu closely watched a girl while carefully pours out the drinking water from her gallon to the water container. The water was sourced out from mainland Culasi town.

With the crafting of the Plan after assessments, numerous concerns in Seco Island were identified such as illegal fishing activities, illegal quarrying of bunker sand, uncoordinated tourism activities, and improper waste management, to mention a few. The plan also identified strategies to address each concern, namely: the need to conduct carrying capacity assessment, coastal integrity vulnerability assessment, zoning, operational capacity development, clean up drive/IEC advocacy, fishery law enforcement, ecotourism development, establishment of docking/anchorage area, institutional collaboration, and the creation of Seco Island Development Council.###



Seco Island

DENR 6 equips Lawin Patrollers

In sustaining all the forest protection initiatives of the Department in the region, the Lawin Patrollers are equipped not only with trainings to teach them necessary knowledge and skills, but also with the gears they would need in doing their patrol work.

On March 2, 2021, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 6 through the Enforcement Division (ED) led by its Chief, Forester June Melissa C. Garol, conducted the distribution of uniforms, personal protective equipment (PPE), and gears provided by the Central Office (Forest Management Bureau) among Lawin Patrollers/Forest Rangers of PENRO Guimaras and PENRO Iloilo.

A total of 141 uniforms comprising of shoes, 2 pants, 2 shirts and a cap; and PPEs which include whistle, flashlight, hammock, raincoat and dry bag were distributed to the Lawin Patrollers/Forest Rangers of PENRO Guimaras and PENRO Iloilo. Meanwhile, the DENR 6 regional office also provided them with a total of 160 flashlights, 160 protection goggles, 480 cloth face masks and 160 gloves.

Forestrangers are also the Lawin Patrollers, called as such for using the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System. Now called Lawin System in brief, the technology was developed through the partnership of DENR and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2015. It made use of science-based assessment through a user-friendly and innovative technology that helps monitor the status of the forest and biodiversity in the country.

Lawin System uses two softwares – the SMART and the Cyber Tracker. SMART or the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool is used to analyze data taken during

the patrol work. It also records the different environmental and biodiversity threats in the areas patrolled. Thus, from the gathered information, the Department and the local government units concerned may create strategies to prevent or address the threats. The Cyber Tracker is a software installed in the mobile phones of the Patrollers. It records the distance covered, the various flora and fauna and the different threats in and around the patrolled areas.

Gone are the days when the data collected from the ground takes weeks or months to be submitted to the regional office. With the Lawin System, all data can be downloaded in a laptop or desktop with SMART, get analyzed by the data manager and strategize a way to address the threats recorded. It can also be reported realtime.

Thus, with all the hardwork the Lawin Patrollers are doing, both the central and regional offices kept supporting them with their needed gears and equipment. They continue with their challenging tasks amidst the pandemic.

Also present during the distribution were DENR 6 RED Francisco E. Milla, ARD for Technical Services Livino B. Duran, and Iloilo PENR Officer Salvador C. Manglinong.###

DID YOU KNOW?

Out of the six provinces in Western Visayas, Negros Occidental has the largest forestland area with 252,221.38 hectares.



Complete gears for Lawin Patrollers/Forest Rangers as provided by the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and DENR Region 6.



From right: Forester June Melissa C. Garol, Enforcement Division Chief; RED Francisco E. Milla, Jr., ARD for Technical Services Livino B. Duran, and Iloilo PENR Officer Salvador C. Manglinong, Jr. together with some of the Lawin Patrollers/Forest Rangers.

Birds and Wetlands in Western Visayas

The Annual Waterbird Census (AWC) 2021 has showed large quantities of migratory and resident waterbirds which only prove that in this region, wetlands are healthy.

An estimated 80,150 waterbirds were counted flocking in the different wetlands across the six provinces of Western Visayas during the conduct of AWC in January this year. More than 2,000 additional bird species were also recorded and included in the estimated count. What attract these unique and beautiful bird species to our wetlands? It is the abundant food supply which sustains them throughout the migration season.

The annual waterbird count is conducted to gather information

on waterbird population in wetland sites in the region during the non-breeding period of most species (January) and to serve as basis for evaluation of their sites. It can also help in improving knowledge of little-known waterbird species and wetland sites and thus provide information on the conservation status of waterbird species for use by international agreements.

Of the six provinces in the region, Negros Occidental counted in an estimate of 53,077 birds in all of its 27 bird count sites. Capiz ranked next with 11,863 birds in 12 sites and Iloilo with 11,778 birds in 16 sites. Antique counted 1,527 birds in its six sites; Guimaras with 1,432 in 7 sites and Aklan counted 473 birds in 2 sites.###



Great knots fly overhead in Ivisan, Capiz



Black-winged stilts in San Jose, Arevalo in Iloilo City captured through the lens of a telescope.



A serene wetland site in Camaligan, Batan, Aklan



A wetland area in Pandan, Antique where a Philippine duck was once spotted.



Migratory birds visit in Sipaway Island, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental



A migratory bird just took off flying in a wetland area in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.

Earth Day 2021 In Western Visayas

Theme: RESTORE OUR EARTH "Be Part of the Change"

Earth Day 2021 on April 22 has adopted the theme: "Restore Our Earth. Be Part of the Change."

Once again, human inhabitants of Planet Earth faced one crucial truth to its own survival: it is a must to restore this Earth for our own good. Thus, despite the limitations brought by the pandemic, field offices of DENR 6 has arranged activities to campaign for restoration of our precious planet through various Earth Day 2021 activities.

In the province of Aklan, PENRO staff supervised the mangrove planting activity with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Sangguniang Kabataan of Kalibo at Bakhawan Nature Study

and Eco-Park in New Buswang, Kalibo, Aklan. A total of 200 mangrove propagules of rhizophora species were planted. Mangrove forests mitigate the impacts of climate change, restore and sustain the beauty of our natural resources.

DENR PENRO Antique led a tree planting activity at Osorio II, San Remigio where a total of 88 Kamagong seedlings were planted in the area. It was participated in by thirteen (13) personnel and staff of PENRO Antique.

An Environmental Webinar aimed at increasing public awareness about the current environmental issues was conducted in Negros Occidental. With

the theme: "Doing our Fair Share to Restore the Earth", it was hosted by the LIKAS-TUP Visayas. PENRO Negros Occidental PIO Ma. Theresa A. Robles was invited to discuss a presentation entitled "Restore Our Earth" alongside Hannah Emde of NEPADA Wildlife where she discussed topics on Protecting Biodiversity and Mitigating Climate Change. This is part of the Information and Education Campaign to instill in people the value of biodiversity conservation and protection and how to mitigate climate change by restoring our earth.

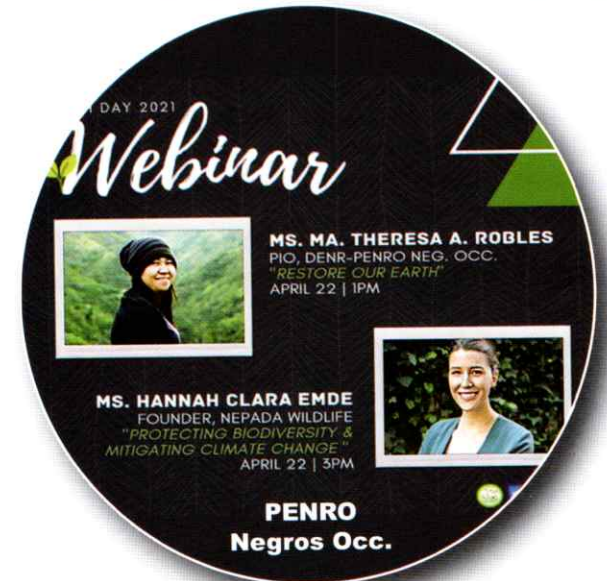
Due to pandemic restrictions, CENRO Guimbal



PENRO
Aklan



PENRO
Antique



of PENRO Iloilo conducted a lecturette among office personnel on April 22, 2021. CENR Officer Vicente T. Mellizas put emphasis on Earth Day theme and underscored the need to focus our environmental initiatives to restore the earth. Interesting facts about the Earth was also presented which has added value to the celebration.

In Guimaras, a simultaneous clean-up activity was conducted in three municipalities, namely: Taklong Island National Marine Reserve (TINMR) in Barangay Avila, Buenavista; Barangay Hoskyn,

Jordan; and at Sibunag River in Alegria, Sibunag. Around 200 volunteers coming from Peoples Organizations, local government units and partner agencies supported the activity. Two hundred fifty (250) kgs. of solid wastes were collected in three areas. Moreover, on April 23, a coastal clean-up and mangrove planting activity was also conducted in Brgy. Igawayan, San Lorenzo with 45 volunteers. An estimated 20 kgs. of coastal wastes were collected and 200 Bacauan propagules were planted.

In Capiz, PENRO personnel conducted a two-day nursery operation and clean-up activity of the office compound. Employees helped one another during the hauling of compost, bagging of potting media which was intended to support the seedling production of PENRO Capiz Nursery.

No pandemic has dampen the desire of everyone to take part in Earth Day 2021 activities, which is the largest grassroots movement around the globe to promote environmental protection and conservation.###



PENRO
Guimaras



PENRO Iloilo



PENRO
Capiz

Guimaras flagship species mascots welcome Sec Cimatú

In a gesture of warm welcome, the two flagship species or mascots of Taklong Island National Marine Reserve (TINMR) waited for DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatú on the shores of TINMR during his brief visit in the island province.

TINMR in Guimaras island province covers an area of 1,143.45 hectares and is the biggest among the 13 Marine Protected Areas (MPA) managed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). It is composed of two major islands of Taklong-Tandog and small islets in Barangay Lapaz and San Roque in Nueva Valencia municipalities.

Touted as the "Jewel of Guimaras", TINMR was a recipient of the Para el Mar (for the seas) Awards when it bagged the first place as the Most Outstanding NIPAS MPA in 2017. It was the first awardee for the then new category in Para el Mar Awards for protected areas with marine component under the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992.

The conservation and sustainable development of TINMR is important to Secretary Roy A. Cimatú as he continues to push for clean water and enhanced biodiversity conservation, two of his ten priority programs.

Pawpaw the Pawikan and

Banban the Banagan had its soft launching as TINMR's flagship species in time for the Secretary's visit on May 12, 2021. The two marine animals' protection and conservation is being campaigned among Guimarasnons as the sustainability of both play an important role in the marine ecosystem of the island province.

During his brief visit, Secretary Cimatú took the time to listen to PENR Officer Vicente A. Sardina's updates on the environmental programs and projects implemented in the

province during a brief presentation. Secretary Cimatú, on the other hand, lauded the clean waters surrounding TINMR and the abundant naturally-grown mangroves in the area. ###



Secretary Cimatú led the ribbon cutting for the soft launching of TINMR's flagship species mascots.



The team of RSCIG led by its Chief, Artemio Salvador C. Colacion (2nd from right) had a photo op with DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatú (4th from left) and then DENR 6 Regional Executive Director Francisco E. Milla, Jr. (1st from right).

Save Our Watershed Launching



DENR 6 attended the virtual SOW Campaign National Launching at the Activity Center on June 30, 2021.

The DENR 6 led by Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran attended the virtual national launching of Save Our Watershed (SOW) campaign on June 30, 2021 with DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatú personally leading the event. The SOW campaign kicked-off from the implemented Forestland Management Project (FMP) which aims to protect and conserve the watershed areas in the country. The DENR 6 will soon conduct its provincial SOW launching to engage more stakeholders to also protect and help conserve the watersheds in Western Visayas. ###

DENR 6 revalidates FL occupants

A revalidation of Forest Land (FL) occupants in the island of Boracay in Malay, Aklan was undertaken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 6 from June 8-11, 2021.

The joint team of CENRO Boracay, Enforcement and Legal Divisions of DENR 6 regional office conducted a simultaneous on-site validation and updating of occupancy by the structure owners or claimants of areas within the identified forestlands.

Previous revalidation of forestland occupants was already undertaken by the Regional Office. However, during a follow-up monitoring and updating conducted by CENRO Boracay, existing/new structures were identified but were not included in the consolidated list of FL occupants/structures. Moreover, there are inconsistencies in the names of claimants or owners. Thus, the activity was conducted to reconcile data with previous revalidation.

The revalidation of FL occupants serves as the baseline information of DENR in the enforcement of applicable Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) laws and regulations in the island. This is still part of the continuing rehabilitation activities in the island under Boracay Action Plan (BAP) Theme 1 which is the Enforcement of Laws and Regulations.###



On-site revalidation of forestlands occupants at Brgy. Balabag.



On-site revalidation at Brgy. Yapak



Encoding of data to reconcile and finalize the list of structures in Forest Lands Blocks.

....from page 10 On-The-Spot

of scale, ecosystems are the largest components of biodiversity, and pandemics can emerge from many of them. Ecosystems function similarly to human body. If they are healthy, they are likely to prevent diseases. Wildlife species threatened for exploitation are more likely to be the source of diseases. Human activities increase the risk of an unhealthy environment. She ended her essay with a call to action to do simple things that could help restore the ecosystem.

Vince proposed in his essay the value of adopting the One Health Approach which goal

is to achieve optimal health outcomes and recognizes the interconnection between all of Earth's inhabitants – plant, animal and human lives and their shared environment. It is from the environment that we get our air to breathe, water to drink and food to fill our dinner plates. This is a big task indeed for agency considering the limiting factors, he wrote. Then, he goes on to reason that with proper mindset and strong political will, ecosystem restoration can be achieved with everybody's participation.###

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EMB launches virtual Kantalikahan Year 2

Kantalikahan is an innovative way of promoting public awareness on the need to make actions which supports environmental protection and behavior change through the art of music.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in this region conducted the virtual environmental song writing contest in its second year last June 25, 2021. This is also part of the Environment Month celebration with the theme: *Sama-samang Pagkilos, Sama-samang Paghilom. Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan*.

All fourteen entries to the *Kantalikahan* Year 2 are original compositions using different music genre such as ballad, pop, classical and jazz. The message of the songs focused on environmental protection, conservation and preservation.

The entries competed for three (3) spots in this year's contest. The song "Bagong Pag-asa" composed by Mr. Joshua Paredes of Brgy. Sambag, Jaro, Iloilo City which was interpreted by Ms. Stephanie Mijares bagged the first prize of Thirty Thousand Pesos (PhP 30,000.00),

while the song "Isagawa't, Isabuhay" composed and interpreted by Mr. Dante Beriong from the Province of Antique bagged the second prize of Twenty Thousand Pesos (PhP 20,000.00). Ranked third is the song "Earth", composed and interpreted by Mr. Edison Otañes also from the Province of Antique with Ten Thousand Pesos (10,000.00).

The entries were judged according to lyrics/ impact of the message (40 percent), voice quality (30 percent), musicality (15 percent) and originality (15 percent).###



MGB tackles river restoration through dredging

A webinar was conducted by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) on June 23, 2021 via Zoom platform which discussed the government policy issuances governing River Restoration through Dredging Activities.

Resource speakers from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), MGB 6 and Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) 6 tackled the series of government policies on dredging activities. It was attended by participants coming from the provincial government of the six provinces of the region, DENR Regional Office, PENROs and CENROs, Non-Government Organizations and academe.

"Dredging activities are conducted to redirect the flow of water and address flooding, stabilize the embankment and protect existing structures such as bridges and dikes. It also helps to clear riverbeds of debris and other unwanted materials deposited in the river system which can cause flooding

during heavy rains," said MGB Regional Director Raul A. Laput. "As a result of dredging activities, disasters could be prevented," adds Director Laput.

Various government policies have been issued relative to river restoration through dredging activities, namely: DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2020-01, which sets the guidelines on river restoration

in the province of Negros Occidental; DAO No. 2020-07 which covers policies on large-scale river restoration in the remaining parts of the country; and Joint Memorandum Circular 2019-01 signed by the cabinet secretaries of DPWH, DENR, DILG, and DOTr which was the basis of all other subsequent DAOs and issuances issued relative to river restoration through dredging activities.###



EB Magalona River in the province of Negros Occidental is one of the rivers in Region 6 subject to dredging activities.

DENR 6 virtual ENR Academy

No pandemic can stop the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 6 from giving continuous training among its employees for their career improvement.

A total of 81 participants has graduated from ENR Academy (ENRA) Frontline and Basic Courses in February and March this year. The ENR Frontline Course with Class Bayanihan numbering to 40 participants attended the course in February 16 to 19 and 22 to 24, 2021. Another batch has graduated from ENR Basic Course with Class Fearless attended by 41 participants on March 8 to 12 and 15-19, 2021.

"Love your work and work with passion.

Remember, you are more blessed than the others," said Regional Executive Director Francisco E. Milla, Jr. in his virtual message to the participants.

ENRA is a specialized competency development program of the Department designed to augment knowledge gaps, calibrate understanding of ENR laws and sharpen proficiencies of all DENR employees especially in the frontline offices and leaders in order to improve the delivery of public service. Thus, the training helps to prepare future leaders in the Department to be as competent as they should be in their respective work assignments.###



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES BASIC COURSE

MARCH 8 TO 12 AND 15 TO 19, 2021



Admin. Division Chief Ernest C. Federiso



ARD Raul L. Lorilla



RED Francisco E. Milla

In observance of the Philippine Arbor Day on June 25, 2021, the DENR CENRO Bago City in collaboration with Motorcycle Club of Manapla, UCURD (Brgy. Canlusong), Brgy. San Isidro officials and *Tanods* and Tribu Buho of Sitio Ronel, Barangay San Isidro, E. B. Magalona, Negros Occidental planted 500 Narra tree seedlings.

Arbor Day originated in the United States in 1872. The Philippines established Arbor Day in 2003 to promote a healthier ecosystem and it was revived in 2012 with a signed law which declared Arbor Day a tree-planting day and a public working holiday. The people are encouraged to plant native and ornamental trees.



In celebration of the 158th Anniversary of The Philippine Forestry Service and Arbor Day 2021, the Conservation and Development Division (CDD) of DENR 6 led by Dr. Emelyn Peñaranda, launches the Community Pan-TREE with the theme: "Mananom sa Masarangan kag Mag ani sa Palaabuton" and distributed more than 200 fruit tree seedlings to market goers in Sta. Barbara municipal market in Iloilo province. The activity was also in collaboration with the local government unit of Sta. Barbara.###

Sagip Suba in celebration of World Environment Day

Around 150 volunteers joined the simultaneous “Sagip Suba” activity, or a river clean-up in two different areas in the province of Aklan, namely: Barangay Tagas, Tangalan and Barangay Manhanip in Malinao, Aklan.

The river clean up led by PENRO Aklan was conducted on June 5, 2021 in celebration of the World Environment Day and in

observance of the Philippine Environment Month. It was strongly supported by the respective Barangay LGUs, residents, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and employees of PENRO Aklan led by PENR Officer Merlene C. Aborka. Locally, the DENR adopted the theme: *Sama-samang Pagkilos, Sama-samang Paghilom*, which underscored

the need to unite together in order for us all to heal together.

PENRO Aklan led the river clean-up activity which is one big step to inculcate the need to have clean water among the stakeholders. Our bodies of water provide us with food and medicine and a shelter to marine life.###



Biodegradable and non-bio wastes were collected and frees up the waterways



WOMEN IN NGP

One of the strongest support groups in the implementation of DENR’s greening effort, the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP), are the women. In Negros Occidental, women employees engaged in seedling production activity in culmination of the 2021 Women’s Month celebration in March. This also supports the International Day of Forests and World Water Day celebrations.

Women are also good caretakers of our environment, and many of them have been a good force behind the success of DENR’s reforestation program. There are approximately 1,331 women workers in the region enrolled in ENGP. They play critical roles in helping sustain and manage our natural resources at their community level. Along with their able children and their husbands, they diligently contributed to the success of raising seedlings and in planting the same in their assigned areas.###



Aklan PENR Officer Merlene C. Aborka (left) led the river clean-up activity

On-The-Spot Virtual Essay Writing Contest Year 2

The DENR 6 thru its Regional Strategic Communication and Initiatives Group (RSCIG) spearheaded the On-The-Spot Virtual Essay Writing Contest Year 2 as part of the celebration of Environment Month 2021 with the theme: *Sama-Samang Pagkilos, Sama-Samang Paghilom, Ikaw, Ako, Tayo Ang Kalikasan*.

The Essay Writing Contest adopted the theme: *Pandemics and Ecosystem Restoration*, which encouraged participants to underscore the need to protect and conserve our various ecosystems which served as key to preventing future pandemics.

Bagging the Champion and 2nd Place awards are Thereze Pauline V. Capaque and Vicente Camilo Corpus, respectively from PENRO Guimaras, and the 1st Place went to Kriss Kringle C. Jordan of PENRO Antique.

Thereze captured in her essay the abrupt transition of our daily social lives from before and after the COVID-19 pandemic hits all of us. Then described the hope at the back of our minds this way:

For over a year of battling with a covert yet malevolent enemy, we all share a hopeful reverie – to stroll around without hiding beneath the

sheer sheet of mask and clearly see everything without the visual obstruction of an eye shield. We dream to freely wander and to appreciate God's wonder once more. But this is by far the greatest hope that impels us to keep going: the smell of fear and anxiety from people being worn off, and all that remains is the ecstatic scent that finally, everyone can breathe at liberty – with no physical barriers, with no physical detachment, with no death-trap to be wary of.

Kriss described in her essay the need for humans to ensure healthy ecosystems: *In terms*

turn to page 6 On-The-Spot....



Champion: Thereze Pauline V. Capaque



1st: Kriss Kringle C. Jordan



2nd: Vincent Camilo Corpus

Youth Desk Park groundbreaks in Capiz



L-R: Admin. Aide VI Georlyn Bereber, YES-O Focal Person; Chief, Administrative Officer Reynold V. Escobar concurrent OIC Chief, Technical Services Division; OIC PENR Officer Joel L. Navarra; OIC Chief, Management Services Division Noemi C. Losbañes; Admin. Officer I Hazel Joy S. Valencia, YES-O Focal Person.



Youth Desk Park's panoramic view.

A Youth Desk Park in Capiz had its groundbreaking on June 14, 2021.

The Youth Desk Park is an effort to decrease the amount of waste produced through the continuous collection of different recyclable materials such as bench with table set, sheds, beautification alternatives and the like.

The project is also seen to improve the recycling initiative in the office, employees' homes and different areas of Capiz as it also aid in the province's sustainability goal of minimizing the waste produced each year.

Different innovations of the agency's partners such as the Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O), and Local Government Unit Sanguniang Kabataan will also be showcased at the Youth Desk Park.

The groundbreaking was spearheaded by OIC PENR Officer Joel L. Navarra, OIC Technical Services Division, Reynold V. Escobar, OIC-Management Services Division, Noemi C. Losbañes, Youth Desk Officers, Hazel Joy S. Valencia and Georlyn R. Bereber.###

DENR 6 pioneers Tayo Ang Kalikasan's ENR Ambassadors

With its proactive support, the DENR Region 6 thru its Regional Strategic Communication and Initiatives Group (RSCIG) was chosen as pilot region which pioneered the Tayo Ang Kalikasan (TAK) Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Ambassadors Project in the country.

As such, the thirty (30) TAK ENR Ambassadors of Western Visayas from the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental underwent a 3-Saturday virtual training titled: ENR Ambassadors in Action: Shaping Tomorrow's Green Campaigners on March, 20, 27 and April 19. It was a fun and collaborative training on how to create effective environmental campaigns for the local communities. The ENR Ambassadors were also taught how to use the social media as a tool to communicate DENR's mandates to their target audience. The training has tapped resource speakers and mentors from GreenducationPH. Then on April 22, 2021, the TAK facilitated the virtual awarding ceremony of ENR Ambassadors of Region 6.

The virtual ceremony which ran for almost two hours featured the six proposed projects of ENR Ambassadors from six provinces, to wit: bamboo

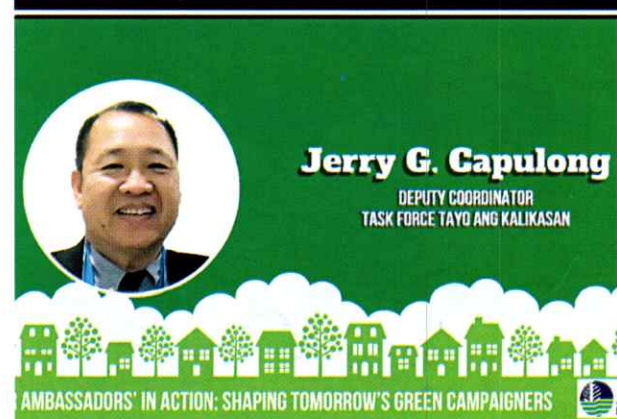
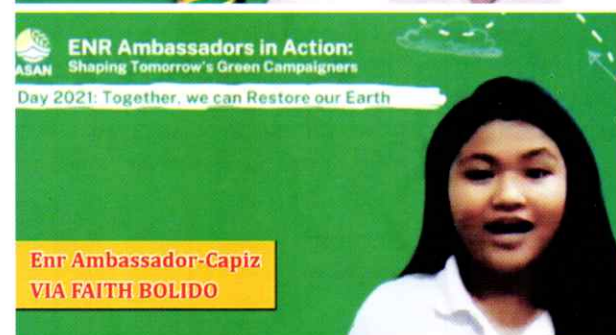
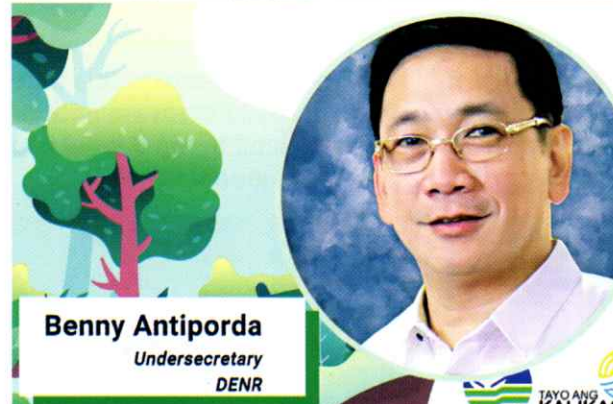
planting in Capiz called "KAWAYAN Project"; IEC campaign on marine pollution dubbed as TRASHMission Mararison in Antique; campaign on proper waste disposal among youths in Aklan called "Go for Basura Mo, IBulsa Mo (BamBu)" and "ECO 143" in Negros Occidental; waste segregation campaign in Iloilo titled "PAG-IRIRIMAW: Unity Towards Diversity in Maintaining the Beauty of Mother Earth" and "Basura Ayuda sa Ekonomiya" in Guimaras.

The awarding ceremony was also part of DENR's Earth Day 2021 activities with the theme: Restore Our Earth.

TAK ENR Ambassadors are those qualified and deserving student/youth endorsed by their respective school heads and have been verified by the Information Officers of DENR 6 field offices. As ENR Ambassadors, they shall serve as effective partner and force multiplier in helping change the

behavior of people in their communities towards understanding environmental stewardship, with the duration of one year.

TAK is a brainchild of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and has become a DENR brand which campaigns for every individual to embrace good stewardship of our natural resources since we are all part of nature.###



LEADERSHIP CHANGE IN DENR REGION 6



Turn-over of RED



Turn-over of ARD Technical Services

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 6 had change of leaderships at its key positions that are seen to boost the regional office's performance.

Beginning with the change of its Regional Executive Director (RED), DENR Region 6 is now led by Forester Livino B. Duran who hails from Idio, Sebaste, Antique. The former RED, Forester Francisco E. Milla, Jr., was re-assigned to his home region in Bicol.

Duran who formerly holds the position as Assistant Regional Director (ARD) for Technical Services turned over the position, all its authorities and responsibilities to Forester Raul L. Lorilla. Lorilla, a former ARD for Management Services next turned over the position to Atty. Noel C. Empleo, who is

in concurrent capacity as Chief of DENR 6 Legal Division.

"This is a rough and tough times, but we know the terrain, our limitations, our resources, and our people. We speak the same dialect, share the same customs and traditions," RED Duran said as he outlined the commonalities of all officials and workers of DENR Region 6 that could best serve as anchor for a harmonious working relationship towards making DENR Region 6 one of the top performing regions in the country.

Back in 2014, the DENR 6 has ranked Number 1 best performing region in the country. This time DENR 6 key officials, majority of them are natives of Western Visayas, aim to land in top 3 if not top 1, best performing DENR regional office.

"We really need to advance the performance of this region," said RED Duran. "If this region has proven its competencies and capabilities in the past and we landed in number one spot, then we could work hard to rank in no. 3, at least," he added during his first Regional Management Conference (RMC) with the regional officials on June 7, 2021.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu issued Special Order No. 2021-293 approved last June 2, 2021 which designated Forester Duran as the OIC Regional Executive Director for DENR 6, making him the 3rd in the line of Regional Executive Directors to come from the region, after former RED Raoul T. Geollegue who hails from Negros Occidental and the late Engr. Julian D. Amador who is from Iloilo City.###



First Executive Committee (ExeCom) meeting with the new DENR 6 Regional Executive Director Livino B. Duran on June 7, 2021.



Turn-over of ARD Management Services