

The first batch of Training of Trainers (TOT) on POPs and E-Waste Management composed of technical officers of the Environmental Management Bureau from NCR, Regions 1, 3, 4A, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13. (Seated, right to left) Dr. Louernie Fernadez de Sales, Resource Person, Eng. Leah Texon, National Project Manager of PCB-WEEE, Central Luzon Regional Director Lormelyn E. Claudio, Mr. Renato Cruz, Chief, Environmental Quality Management Division-EMB, Engr. Edwin Navaluna, Section Chief, Chemical Management Section-EMB, and Roxanne Figueroa, EcoWaste Coalition.

EMB holds Trainers' Training on hazardous chemicals and safe e-waste management

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) conducted the first of a series of trainings for its technical officers nationwide and other partners on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS) and e-waste management held on October 8-11, in Clark Pampanga, following the release of the Training Manual for the Implementation of Polychlorinated Byphenyls (PCB) Management for Electric Cooperatives and Safe e-Waste Management.

The training manual was culled out from contributions and inputs from the Chemical and Hazardous Waste Management Sections of the EMB and other project partners, including outcomes and outputs from the "Safe PCB and E-Waste Management Project."

EcoWaste Coalition in cooperation with the EMB and UNIDO Project Team lead the drafting and finalization of the manual. It was prepared under the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), DENR-EMB and Global Environment Facility (GEF) project entitled "Implementation of PCB Management Programs for Electric Cooperatives and safe e-waste management.

Central Luzon Regional Director Lormelyn E. Claudio said in her opening message, "The Trainer's Training on PCB and E-Waste Management is a fitting event to capacitate our EMB technical people to inform the stakeholders and the public at large about the hazards and health impact of POPs especially PCBs, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and electronic wastes (e-wastes)."

Claudio lauded the Safe PCB and E-Waste Management Project of the EMB through UNIDO because through it "we become channels in the proper management of PCBs and e-wastes."

As one of the key takeaways during the workshop/training, the participants were coached to use the training manual as resource material for training Regulators, Industry (TSD facilities, recyclers and processors), Electric Cooperatives, Academia and Informal Sectors (waste pickers, junkshops, recyclers and consolidators) and other stakeholders that are interested in the environmentally-sound management of PCBs and WEEE.

Involving these sectors will pave the way in creating platforms in identifying capacity-building gaps and needs assessment among the sectors which could support decision-makers to effectively boost implementation of PCB and WEEE management.

Awareness campaign and capacity building are key aspects to boost information dissemination and to ensure proper understanding on the effective implementation and the environmentally sound management (ESM) on PCBs and WEEE.

PCBs, PBDEs and e-wastes, also known as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) are hazardous chemicals and among the priority POPs targeted for worldwide phase out under the Stockholm Convention on POPs. The Stockholm convention is a global agreement where the Philippines is a party.

In a related development, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) unveiled the first e-waste storage facility in the country last March 1, 2019, located in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City. The partnership of the DENR-EMB, UNIDO, Integrated Recycling Industries, Inc. (IRI) and Barangay Bagong Silang, Caloocan City was further confirmed with the signing of the Cooperation Agreement amongst the four parties, on October 5, 2019. It aims to support the upgrading of the existing Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) of Bagong Silang to a Treatment Storage and Disposal (TSD) facility for E-wastes.

This collaboration between the government, partner organization and stakeholders will create a facility to promote ESM of discarded electrical or electronic devices, or what is commonly referred to as e-waste.

The e-waste storage facility will be manned by trained personnel from local recyclers to store collected e-wastes, particularly old and busted television sets. Collected e-wastes will then be transferred for proper dismantling and recycling at the IRI based in Laguna, IRI is a company specializing in the reclamation and recycling of useful materials from e-waste.

The establishment of the e-waste storage facility is an initiative of the Safe PCB and E-Waste Management Project funded by the GEF, implemented by UNIDO through EMB-DENR.###