



Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Center, Inc.

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Clean Air Month to mark renewed focus on air quality

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Marking the start of the Clean Air Month in November, Hon. Jose Atienza, Jr., Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) urged local governments to take action to improve air quality. "The Clean Air Act and national government efforts are not enough to solve this problem," he said at a workshop for cities yesterday. "The real implementation happens in our cities, our communities."

The Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) Center and the Partnership for Clean Air (PCA) are using Clean Air Month to revive the attention for reducing air pollution in Philippines' cities. Half a million people a year die prematurely in Asia because of air pollution, while climate change threatens the well-being of people. Millions more suffer from respiratory illnesses, especially children and the elderly. Estimates indicate that ten percent of Metro Manila residents are exposed to hazardous levels of particulate matter (PM). Health costs associated with air pollution are estimated at half a billion dollars each year in Metro Manila and other major Philippine cities.

The total number of vehicles in the Philippines will increase 5-fold by 2035 compared with 2005. As the percentage of people living in cities will increase from about 50% in 2005 to over 80% in 2035, most impacts of air pollution will be felt in cities.

"We achieved a lot since the Clean Air Act was introduced ten years ago such as the removal of lead and reduction of sulfur levels in fuel" says PCA's Chair Rene Pineda. "However, a lot remains to be done. For example, polluting 2-stroke tricycles still dominate and we need funds to replace them with cleaner 4-stroke tricycles."

A series of workshops and events are planned in November on air quality management and sustainable transport together with DENR, Department of Transport and Communication (DOTC), and key international partners including Asian Development Bank, Asian Clean Fuels Association (ACFA), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles of the UN (PCFV).

Air pollution is likely to get increased attention in the climate change agreement that will be negotiated in Copenhagen in December. "Air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions often come from the same sources, and black carbon and ozone also contribute to climate change." explains Sophie Punte, CAI-Asia Center's Executive Director. "This means that taking smoke belching vehicles off the road is good for blue skies and a better climate."

For more information, please contact: Glynda Bathan, Policy and Partnerships Manager, CAI-Asia Center, tel +63 2 395 2843, glynda.bathan@cai-asia.org; or Victoria Segovia, Executive Director, Partnership for Clean Air, tel +63 2 395 2843, pcacoordinator@gmail.com.

Related link: www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia

- Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) Center: promotes reductions in air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transport, energy and other sectors. The Center, together with the CAI-Asia Partnership and Country Networks, translates knowledge to policies and action. www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia
- Partnership for Clean Air: Multi-sectoral organization composed of civil society, government and industry working to ensure the quality of air as mandated by law.

Clean Air Month 2009

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	ORGANIZERS	TARGET PARTICIPANTS	CONTACT
22 October	Workshop on Clean Air for Philippine Cities	A.Venue Hotel Suites Makati City	GTZ, DENR, CAI-Asia Center, PCA and League of Cities of the Philippines	Selected Philippine cities (by invitation)	Glynda Bathan – CAI Asia Center Tel 395-2843, Fax 395-2846 glynda.bathan@cai-asia.org Ronald Cartegena – LCP Tel. 830-0057; ronald_0215@yahoo.com
28 October	UNEP-TNT Clean Fleet Management Toolkit Launch	Manila Golf and Country Club	CIA-Asia, PBE, PCA, with support from UNEP and PCFV	Managers of Private and Public Fleets in the Philippines	Glynda Bathan – CAI Asia Center Tel 395-2843, Fax 395-2846 glynda.bathan@cai-asia.org
6 November	Seminar on Cleaning the Air for LGUs of Metro Manila	EMB Air Quality Training Hall	DENR - EMB	LGUs in Metro Manila (DENR - EMB will invite)	Elen Basug – EMB Telefax: 928-4674; Tel:920-2251 elenemb2002@gmail.com
12 November	Forum on Greening the Transport Sector – with BEST Recognition	Mandarin Hotel, Gateway, Cubao, Quezon City	DOST, PCA, Leagues of Cities of the Philippines, ECAP, CAI-Asia Center	League of Cities of the Philippines; city planners, government officials, academe, private sector (by invitation)	Glenda F. David - DOTC Mobile: 0921-6006582 Gfd88@yahoo.com Vicky M. Segovia – PCA Tel 395-2843, fax 395-2846 pcacoordinator@gmail.com
13 November	Roundtable Forum on Clean Air 10 Celebrations	Sulu Hotel, Quezon City	DENR, PCA, CAI-Asia Center, ECAP, League of Cities of the Philippines	Policymakers, program development officers, DILG representatives, League of Cities of the Philippines (by invitation)	Jovie Labajo (Usec Tessam Castillo's Office)- DENR Tel 920-0945 jovielabajo@yahoo.com Elen Basug – EMB Telefax: 928-4674; Tel:920-2251 elenemb2002@gmail.com Vicky M. Segovia – PCA Tel 395-2843, Fax 395-2846 pcacoordinator@gmail.com
17 November	Biofuels Forum	TBA	Asian Clean Fuels Association (ACFA), CAI-Asia Center		Glynda Bathan – CAI-Asia Center Tel 395-2843, Fax 395-2846 glynda.bathan@cai-asia.org
16 – 19 November	Exhibition of Regional Finalists for National Search for Sustainable	SM City, North EDSA	EMB-DENR, SMART Communications, in cooperation with the	General public is invited to view the Exhibits	Elen Basug – EMB Tel 920-2251, Fax 928-4674

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	and Eco-Friendly Schools	4 th Floor, The Annex	Dept. of Education, Commission on Higher Education		elenemb2002@gmail.com
19 November	Awarding of Winners for the National Search for Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Schools	SM City, North EDSA 4 th Floor, The Annex	EMB-DENR, SMART Communications, in cooperation with the Dept. of Education, Commission on Higher Education	The Awardees and the General Public	Elen Basug – EMB Tel 920-2251, Fax 928-4674 elenemb2002@gmail.com
19 – 20 November	Launching of Philippine Youth Environment Network (PhilYEN) <i>Theme: Kabataan Sama-Samang Naninindigan Para Sa Kalikasan</i>	Leong Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City	EMB, Earthday Network Philippines, DENR-SCO, NYC, DILG, Mga Anak Ng Inang Daigdig, CAYA, Sandiwaan Learning Center		Elen Basug – EMB Telefax: 928-4674; Tel: 920-2251 elenemb2002@gmail.com
23 – 27 November	East Asian Seas Congress 2009 <i>Theme: Partnerships at Work – Local Implementation and Good Practices</i>	Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City	PEMSEA DENR	By invitation	Usec. Tessam Castillo DENR Tel 920-0945 Jovie Labajo (Usec Tessam Castillo's Office)- DENR Tel 920-0945 jovielabajo@yahoo.com
25 – 26 November	National Senior Educators' Assembly 2009 Theme: The Environmental Awareness and Education Law (Republic Act 9512), and the Challenges for Building a Climate Change – Resilient Nation	Hotel Stotsenberg, Clark Field, Pampanga	DENR-EMB, Philippine Association of Tertiary Level Educational Institutions in Environmental Protection and Management (PATLEPAM), Philippine Federation for Environmental Concerns (PFEC)	By invitation or application	Elen Basug – EMB Telefax: 928-4674; Tel: 920-2251 elenemb2002@gmail.com