



Capacity Building Workshop in Environmental Compliance with MSMEs at Elan Hotel Greenhills

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Environmental Compliance Assistance Center (ECAC) successfully held the first Capacity Building Workshop in Environmental Permitting last March 9 and 10 2016 at the Elan Hotel Greenhills in San Juan, Metro Manila.

The MSMEs in attendance were from different industries including plastic manufacturing, clinics, fast food chains, etc. which also widely contributes to pollution. The workshop aimed to enhance the environmental compliance of MSMEs by advising them on permitting requirements and issues. Last 2015, the Environmental Management Bureau migrated some of its permitting systems online for added convenience and fast tracking, and with this new innovation, the workshop also aimed to spread awareness and give MSMEs a hands on opportunity to try the online permitting systems. Topics for discussion include Accreditation of Pollution Control Officers, application of Environmental Compliance Certificate/Certificate of Non Coverage, submission of self-monitoring reports and application of discharge permit and registration of hazardous wastes generators, among others.

Attended by representatives coming from different MSMEs from NCR and Region 4A, the workshop started with encouraging words from Engr. Jean Borromeo, Head Executive Assistant of EMB NCR to represent Regional Director Vizmindia Osorio. "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children," she encouraged the participants. The notice of violation EMB issues is only to discourage establishments from not complying with environmental laws and regulations.

Also part of the workshop were topics on Climate Change Adaptation and the benefits that MSMEs could gain if they converted to a more environmental friendly environment. Best practices of other establishments were also discussed to encourage MSMEs to help the environment.

Aside from the workshop, ECAC will also be holding another industry forum on Naga City on April 13-15, 2016 and in Tuguegarao City on April 28, 2016. In June 2016, another capacity development workshop will be held. For questions and other information, you may call ECAC at 376-5541 or email us at ecac.emb@gmail.com.###