

## NOTICE OF TRAINING

TO : **ALL MEMBERS OF CALAPAN RIVER WQMA GOVERNING BOARD  
ALL MEMBERS OF CORON BAY WQMA GOVERNING BOARD  
ALL MEMBERS OF SABANG BAY WQMA GOVERNING BOARD**

FROM : **The Chairperson  
WQMA GOVERNING BOARD**

SUBJECT : **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WASTEWATER AND SEPTAGE  
MANAGEMENT ON 02 JUNE 2021**

DATE : MAY 25, 2021

This Notice is hereby given to all members of the Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) Governing Board to register and participate in the upcoming virtual event entitled **“INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WASTEWATER AND SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT”** which will be held on **June 2, 2021, 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN via Zoom Platform**). This event aims to convene representatives of different government agencies from national, regional and local levels and engage them in a discussion on effective and efficient implementation of wastewater and septage management programs compliant with the provisions of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

As members of the WQMA Governing Board, you and your designated representative are requested to attend the said virtual event. The Concept Note and Program are attached for reference. Kindly fill out the registration link: <https://bit.ly/3o9lsU0>

Your usual support in this program is very much appreciated.

**ATTY. MICHAEL DRAKE P. MATIAS**  
WQMA Chairperson



## CONCEPT NOTE

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WASTEWATER AND SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT

June 02, 2021 | 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN  
Via Zoom (Online) Platform

### Rationale / Background

The Clean Water Act of 2004 or RA 9275 is a milestone legislation that addresses the call for an integrated, holistic, decentralized, and participatory approach to abating, preventing, and controlling water pollution.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is designated as the lead government agency responsible for the implementation and enforcement of RA 9275 or the Clean Water Act (Chapter 3, Section 19). It shall issue orders against any person or entity and impose fines, penalties, and other administrative sanctions to compel compliance with water quality regulations and the provisions of this (Clean Water) Act (Chapter 3, Section 9r).

Section 28 of Chapter 5 of the CWA rules that any person who commits any of the prohibited acts or violates any of the provision of the Clean Water Act or its implementing rules and regulations shall be fined by the (DENR) Secretary, upon the recommendation of the PAB of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) nor more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) for every day of violation. The fines shall be increased by ten percent (10%) every two (2) years to compensate for inflation and maintain such fines' deterrent function. Further, the (DENR) Secretary, upon recommendation of the PAB, may order the closure, suspension of development or construction, or cessation of operations or, where appropriate disconnection of water supply, until such time that proper environmental safeguards are put in place and/or compliance with the Clean Water Act or its rules and regulations are undertaken.

Stricter provisions for fines and imprisonment are provided for in the same section (28) of the CWA for gross negligence and other violations resulting in serious injury or loss of life and/or irreversible water contamination of the surface, ground, coastal and marine water.

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in its Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2019-62 qualifies the prohibited acts under the MC (Section 6.7) that include:

1. Failure of LGUs to enact Sewage Treatment and Septage Management Ordinance (SSMO)
2. Failure of commercial establishments to comply with the requirement of taking adequate wastewater facilities
3. Refusal to desludging as required by the MC
4. Refusal of new and existing residential customers to connect to available sewer lines. Commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional structures/establishments have the option to construct their own full wastewater treatment facility as required by DENR or LLDA or to connect to existing available sewer line subject to the pre-treatment requirement of the sewerage service provider
5. Dumping of septage and untreated wastewater to drainages, canals, rivers, and other natural and artificial waterways and other open areas
6. Desludging and transporting of septage without the necessary permits and accreditation from the authorized permitting agencies
7. Hiring/availing the services of illegal/non-accredited desludger, transporter by any person or establishment to desludging septic tanks or dispose of their wastewater
8. Those acts prohibited by Section 27 of RA 9275 (the Philippine CWA of 2004), and
9. Failure to comply with Section 79 (a) and (b) of PD 856 (Code on Sanitation of the Philippines)

Failure to enforce the prescribed rules as stipulated in the DILG MC as prohibited acts carries the following penal provisions:

1. All local officials and/or employees who fail to implement the provisions of the MC may be held administratively liable
2. In the exercise of their supervisory powers, the Governors and Mayors should commence disciplinary actions against local officials who fail to carry out the mandate of the law and their responsibilities.

The Department of Health (DOH) promulgated Administrative Order (AO) No. 2019-0047 prescribing the National Standard on the Design, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Septic Tank Systems. The Penal Provisions adopted by the AO are those found under Section 103 of the Sanitation Code of the Philippines, which carries the punishment of imprisonment and fines determined upon the discretion of the court.

The NEDA Infrastructure Committee-approved Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP) reports that around 74% of households are connected to onsite or offsite treatment and are considered safely managed. But for these onsite treatment systems such as septic tanks to be considered safely managed, they must employ an effective septage management program. Otherwise, it shall be construed as a failure to comply with the requirements of safely managed systems. The same Master Plan designates two deadlines for meeting national targets, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) that ends in 2022 needs to meet a 97% access to sanitation, while the target set in the

Sustainable Development Goals that are to be accounted by the end of 2030 shall meet a 100% access to sanitation.

### Objectives

The International Symposium on Wastewater and Septage Management hopes to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To orient and provide cutting-edge information to officials and staff from EMB and other Philippine Departments on effective and efficient implementation of wastewater and septage management programs that are compliant with the provisions of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.
2. To identify and resolve implementation issues and challenges at the local level in the context of the targets set and with the resources and guidance provided at the national, and
3. To plan and set commitments by EMB and other relevant government agencies participating in the symposium for organizing, assisting, and monitoring the compliance of local government agencies and sanitation service providers to the requirements of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and other relevant regulations and national programs.

### Expected Outputs

The expected outputs are the following:

1. A firm understanding of the requirements of relevant laws, policies, and programs on wastewater and septage management
2. An appreciation of best practices and innovations on the implementation of wastewater and septage management programs, and
3. Action Plan (next steps/resolutions) to be implemented by EMB and relevant agencies following the symposium.

### Resource Speakers and Panel of Reactors

#### Resource Speakers

1. **Mr. David Robbins** (USA)  
CEO, Global Development Services, LLC (Flagstaff, Arizona)
2. **Ir. Mohd Taufik Salleh** (Malaysia)  
Head, Planning and Engineering, Indah Water Konsortium

3. **Mr. Ryan Yuen** (Singapore)  
Deputy Director, Industry and Technology Collaboration Department, Public Utilities Board  
and Managing Director Singapore International Water Week
4. **Mr. Paul Lazaro** (Philippines)  
Vice-President and Head, Lending Program Management Group, Development Bank of the  
Philippines

#### **Panel of Reactors**

1. **Engr. William P. Cuñado**  
EMB Director
2. **ASec Roderick Planta**  
Assistant Secretary, Investment Programming Group, NEDA
3. **Engr. Vizminda Osorio**  
EMB Assistant Director
4. **Engr. Nicanor E. Mendoza**  
EMB Chief, Water Quality Management Section
5. **Engr. Tony Garcia**  
Wastewater Management Consultant, Maynilad Water
6. **Engr. Evelyn Sagun**  
Component Team Leader, Water and Sanitation, USAID-SURGE Project
7. **Engr. Gerardo Mogol**  
Former DOH Sanitation Head, Senior Sanitation Specialist
8. **Dr. Ofelia Alcantara**  
Mayor, Tolosa, Leyte, Finance Specialist

#### **Moderators/Facilitators**

1. **Engr. Jay Tecson**  
President and CEO of GWSi
2. **Atty. Ipat Luna**  
DENR Designate for Senate/Office of Sen. Loren Legarda

# INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WASTEWATER AND SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT

June 02, 2021 | 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN  
Via Zoom (Online) Platform

Programme			
Time	Activity / Topic	Resource Person	Description / Remarks
8:00 am	Entry of Participants / Video Playing	Secretariat	Video on "Sanitation"
8:30am	Formal Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Call to Order</li> <li>▪ Instructions and Reminders</li> <li>▪ Invocation and National Anthem</li> </ul> Welcome Remarks / Keynote Speech	Moderator/Emcee  Engr. William P. Cuñado EMB Director	
8:45 am	Activity Overview and Acknowledgement of Participants	Moderator/Emcee	Background/ Introduction of Symposium Program Flow, Objectives and Registration List
9:00 am	Introduction of Resource Speakers	Moderator/Emcee	
9:05 am	Wastewater and Septage Management: Improving Guidelines and Policies	Mr. Dave Robbins	(USA)
9:20 am	Choosing Appropriate Wastewater Management Technologies and Approaches: Principles and Cases	Ir. Mohd Taufik Salleh	(Malaysia)
9:35 am	Treated Wastewater Re-Use and Recycling: Singapore's Experience	Mr. Ryan Yuen	(Singapore)
9:50 am	National Government Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NSSMP</li> <li>▪ Sanitation</li> <li>▪ Sewerage Project (ADB Funding)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DPWH</li> <li>▪ DOH</li> <li>▪ LWUA</li> </ul>	
10:15 am	Financing Wastewater and Septage Management Programs	Mr. Paul Lazaro	(Philippines)
10:30 am	Open Forum	Moderators/Emcees Panel of Reactors ChatBox Moderator	
11:30 am	Way Forward (Next Step Planning) Recap	Moderators/Emcees EMB Officials/Staff Other Agencies	Flash "White Board" for suggested actions/events
12:00 nn	Closing Remarks	Engr. Vizminda Osorio EMB Assistant Director	Other Announcements

### Target Participants

The main participants are the heads from the EMB Central and Regional Office, Governing Boards of WQMAS, and select government agencies from national, regional and local level.

1. Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Central and Regional Directors (EMB-RDs) – Main Participants
2. Water Quality Management Areas (WQMAS) Governing Boards – Main Participants
3. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)/NSSMP Regional Coordinators – Collaborators
4. Department of Health/Center for Health Development (CHD) – Collaborators
5. Department of Interior and Local Government Regional Offices (DILG-RO) – Collaborators
6. League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and select invited LGUs – Collaborators
7. League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and select invited LGUs – Collaborators
8. Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) and select invited Water Districts – Collaborators