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MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO : **All River Cluster Commanders**
Battle for Manila Bay

All Regional Executive Directors

All Regional Directors (EMB and MGB)

All Bureau Directors
FMB, BMB, EMB, LMB, MGB & ERDB

The Executive Director, National Water Resources Board

The Administrator
National Mapping and Resource Information Authority

The Deputy Executive Director
Manila Bay Coordinating Office

FROM : **The Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change**

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FOR WEBINAR ON “RESILIENT RIVERS...RESILIENT COMMUNITIES” ON NOVEMBER 23, MONDAY, 1:00 – 5:00 P.M. AS PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK**

DATE : 16 October 2020

This refers to the celebration of the National Climate Change Consciousness Week with the theme of “Adapting for a Sustainable Future” which will be held from 19-25 November 2020.

One of the lined-up activities is a webinar on “Achieving the Goals for Resilient Rivers...Resilient Communities” to be held on **23 November 2020, Monday at 1:00 PM**. Along with our selected officials as speakers, this webinar will tackle the paradigm shift from river recovery to river resilience for future generations. Goals and objectives as well as various tools for resilient rivers will also be presented by Dr. Eva Abal, CEO of the International River Foundation, Brisbane, Australia. The principles and strategies to be learned from the webinar can be applied in our Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program (esteros and creeks clean-up), Adopt-an-Estero/Water Body Program, and our Rivers for Life Program.

In this regard, we are inviting you, together with your two (2) technical staff in this webinar. Please confirm your and your other personnels’ attendance by providing the required information in the registration link <http://bit.ly/WebRegResilientRiver> on or before November 12, 2020. Online link for the webinar is as follows: <https://meet.google.com/osf-oqwu-mmp>.

For your consideration.


ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH

CONCEPT NOTE

RESILIENT RIVERS...RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

(A Webinar for Managers and Implementers of River Protection and Management Programs)

November 23, 2020 (Monday), 1:00 pm (Manila Time)

As part of the Commemoration of the 13th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week

RATIONALE:

Rivers support the entire web of life. Countless species of fish, birds and other animals live in and along rivers and depend on them for their food. They connect ecosystems. Terrestrial and marine ecosystems currently absorb half of man-made carbon emissions. Biodiversity and ecosystem services help us adapt to and mitigate climate change.

But at the rate of how human activities have bolstered global warming and have affected Earth's climate, climate change can strain and threaten such aquatic ecosystems by altering these conditions, including water body temperature.

Climate models have projected that on a warmer planet, storms will dump more water. Higher temperature causes thermal expansion of ocean water, causing sea level rise, and thus, mixing salt water with fresh water. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global average sea levels should rise eight to 34 inches by year 2100, a much faster pace than the four to 10-inch increase of the past century.

Notwithstanding other pressures brought about by climate change, (i.e. reduced oxygen levels due to more frequent algal blooms, thus affecting aquatic life; increased evaporation from reservoirs and lakes, hence less water to dilute pollutants; increased polluted runoff from urban and agricultural areas; sewerage systems overwhelmed by storm water, thus sending raw sewage and waste water into rivers), rivers in the country are distressed from nutrient and sediment load, catchment disturbance, hydrological disturbance, and habitat condition.

The Asian Water Development Outlook 2013 report highlights two realities that need urgent attention and priority action across Asian nations. First, there is alarming inequality in access to improved water services for households. Second, 80% of Asia's rivers are in poor health.

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals are opportunities to protect and restore our water bodies through: improving water quality by reducing pollution; implementing integrated water resources management; protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems; expanding international cooperation and capacity building; strengthening community participation.

Realizing these goals require a more dynamic but specific approach to addressing not only the ill-effects of climate change but more so of sustaining efforts and building more resilient environment (i.e. river systems) and communities. Thus, the shift of paradigm of how we secure our rivers from rehabilitation to resilience. The opportunity to learn new technologies from seasoned technical experts should be taken advantage to improve implementation of programs in the Department, hence this online symposium.

OBJECTIVES:

General: To increase awareness and knowledge of program managers and implementers on new ways of doing things (technology) for river protection and management.

Specific:

1. To assess existing integrated river basin and water resource management frameworks and build on by identifying mechanisms for mitigating and adapting to climate change;
2. To ensure that rivers and their basins are integrated in planning and design to provide increased climate resilience;
3. To provide a link for partnership, including access to information and tools;
4. To learn resilience pathways through case studies

METHODOLOGY:

The symposium will be carried out using an online platform that will be spearheaded by the Office of the DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change and the Climate Change Service.

PARTICIPANTS:

Proposed attendees to the webinar are the River Cluster Commanders of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program, DENR Regional Executive Directors, Assistant Regional Directors for Technical Services, DENR EMB Regional Directors, PENROs, CENROs and technical personnel directly involved in watershed and water body rehabilitation and management, NWRB, RBCO, EMB, BMB, FMB and CCS technical personnel

TENTATIVE PROGRAM CONTENT

Time	Particulars	In-Charge
12:50- 1:00 pm	Registration	Host
1:00 – 1:20 pm	Opening Preliminaries:	
	* Opening Prayer	Host/Participant
	* Overview/Leveling of Expectations	Dir. Elen Basug, DENR Climate Change Service
	* Opening Message/Rationale	Atty. Analiza R. Teh DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change
1:20 – 1:40 pm	1. The State of River Basins in the Philippines	Dir. Antonio Dano RBCO
1:40 – 2:00 pm	2. The State of Major Water Bodies in the Philippines	AD Vizminda Osorio EMB
2:00 – 3:00 pm	3. Achieving Goals for Resilient Rivers	Dr. Eva G. Abal, CEO, International River Foundation
	-what is river resilience -resilient river blueprints *whole-of-system models and decision support tools incorporating climate change scenarios	
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Open forum	Host
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Closing preliminaries	
	*Way Forward (prospects from the speaker's view)	Dr. Eva G. Abal,
	*Reaction from the Participants	TBA
	*Closing Remarks	Asec Ric Calderon
		DENR Asst. Secretary for Climate Change