

World Water Day 2011 in Southeast Asia



Water Malaysia, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia, UNESCO-IHP and DID Malaysia.

- 11th March 2011 at Vistana Hotel in Kuantan, Pahang - A colloquium themed "Water for Cities: Responding to Urban Challenge". The Colloquium is organized by UNESCO-IHP Malaysia, DID Malaysia in collaboration with Institute of Engineers Malaysia.
- 11th March 2011 A "Workshop on Domestic Water for Women" held at the same venue in Kuantan, Pahang. This Workshop is also organized by UNESCO-IHP and DID Malaysia.
- 21-22 March 2011 at the Dewan Seri Melati, Kompleks Perbadanan Putrajaya, Putrajaya held A "Workshop on Water and Media: Rising up to the Challenge". This workshop is organized by UNESCO-IHP, LESTARI, DID Malaysia in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia, the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water Malaysia, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia.

Activities held in celebration of the World Water Day 2011 in Southeast Asia.

World Water Day 2011 in Malaysia:

- The Rt. Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, officiated the National World Water Day 2011 Celebration in Pekan, Pahang on 12th March 2011. This event is co-organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia, the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and

World Water Day 2011 in Philippine:

The World Water Day (WWD) is being celebrated every March 22 of the year. It is an important event being observed at the international and national levels specifically to highlight the importance of water. This year's international theme is **"Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge"**. The objectives of this event are: to focus international attention on the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialization and uncertainties caused climate change, conflicts and natural disaster on urban water system; to spotlight and encourage governments, organizations, communities and individuals to actively engage in addressing the challenges of urban water management.

The over-all coordinator for the 2011 World Water Day celebration in the Philippines was the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through its

River Basin Control Office (RBCO), along with partners from other national government agencies, non-government organizations and the private sectors.

The Philippine Water Partnership (PWP) actively participated as one of the Resource Persons during the National Executive-Legislative Dialogue on Water Supply and Sanitation on March 17, 2011. The major output in this Dialogue was the consolidated public statement of commitment and call for action to the Executive and Legislative Departments to improve access by the poor to safe and clean drinking water.

Another highlight of the week-long celebration is the “**Philippines Walk for Water**” which was organized by PWP with major support from Maynilad and other agencies/organizations on March 22, 2011 at the SM Mall of Asia (MoA) grounds. More than 2,000 participated in this activity which is the Philippine counterpart of the global event, *World Walks for Water* to raise awareness on the country’s current water and sanitation issues. Some of the walkers carried containers filled with water to experience the plight of thousands of people – many of whom are children – who have to walk for several kilometers just to get water.

The “**Walk**” culminated with the presentation of the “**Declaration of Commitment and Call for Action**” to President Benigno S. Aquino III. During the main program, selected school children had the opportunity to read water stories with the President as a culmination of the “Ripples of Hope



Postcard Campaign”. Other children from Regions 5 (Bicol) and 10 (Northern Mindanao) were able to participate in the reading via remote broadcast sessions. The postcard reading dramatized the presentation of water concerns by ordinary citizens to the government leaders.

PWP participated in the Walkthrough and Boat Ride at Estero de Paco and Estero de San Miguel (two polluted tributaries of the Pasig River situated in the City of Manila) on March 16, 2011. The event provided PWP members and others who joined this activity the opportunity to see the improvements in the Estero and showcased active community involvement in the management of esteros.

The objective of this activity was to strengthen linkages between public and private agencies concerned with the management of the

country’s water resources and harmonize inter-agency programs for the rehabilitation of our polluted urban waterways particularly the Pasig River and its tributaries.

Other activities undertaken to bring more attention to the need for sustainable water management were:

- National River Forum in Sulo Hotel on March 14
- Pasig River Fluvial Parade on March 15
- Water Trail in Quezon City on March 21
- Symposium on Best Practices on Water at Microtel, SM MoA on March 22
- Water Quality Management Area Forum at Richmonde Hotel in Quezon City on March 24
- Clean-up of Estero dela Reina / Tullahan in Gagalangin, Tondo on March 25



After the walk, the country's leaders and water stakeholders would meet at the SM MOA Music Hall where President Benigno Aquino III will listen to the stories of children telling him about how clean water has improved the quality of their lives. A Water Declaration from the National Executive-Legislative dialogue that transpired in Congress would also be given to the President.

A similar event will be staged in Bicol and Cagayan de Oro and their activities will be beamed live to the Manila event via Smart Communications, Inc.



Details picture can be found in here:

- 2011 March 22 - World Water Day @Mall of Asia, Philippines
<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=56830&id=100000524337743&l=013b40d0cf>
- 2011 March 22 - Philippine Youth Walks For Water - Mall of Asia.
<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=56837&id=100000524337743&l=b57da1684e>
- 2011 March 22 - Philippine Cagers Walk for Water - Mall of Asia.
<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=56841&id=100000524337743&l=ee879707d9>