



Quarterly newsletter on news and updates on environmental programs and activities of the Philippine Ports Authority —Port Management Office of Misamis Oriental/ Cagayan de Oro



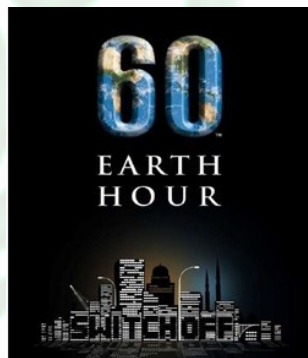
PMO MO/C kicks off 2020 Envi Programs with 1st Quarter Mangrove Planting and Coastal Clean-up

—Read story at page 2



PMO MO/C acquires own Anti-Smoke Belching machines

In compliance with the Clean Air Act and in furtherance of the Air Quality Management in the Port of Cagayan de Oro, the Port Management Office of Misamis Oriental/ Cagayan de Oro acquired one (1) unit of Diesel Opacity Smoke Meter and an Automatic Gas Analyzer machine that measure **Page 4**



World Earth Hour 2020

The Port of Cagayan de Oro once again participated in the annual Earth Hour celebration on 28 March 2020. This year, the Ports of Benoni and Balingoan, and Oroport Cargo-handling Services, Inc., the CDO Port's cargo handling operator, also took part in the activity that ran from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. **Page 6**

FEATURE



A Green-thumbed Earth Warrior —Page 5

Mangrove Planting and Coastal Clean-up...from page 1

In active cooperation and partnership with the Local Government Unit of the Municipality of Opol and the Rotary Club – Cagayan de Oro, the Port Management Office of Misamis Oriental/ Cagayan de Oro successfully conducted the first Mangrove planting and Coastal Clean-Up activity of the new year on 11 January 2020 in Opol, Misamis Oriental.

The PMO personnel, Rotary Club members, and participants from the

Stella Maris– Apostleship of the Sea had planted 500 mangrove propagules at a mangrove site in Opol.

The activity was graced by Opol Mayor, Hon. Maximo Seno who also came early together with the personnel of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO).

Right after the mangrove planting, the participants proceeded to the

designated beach coast for the coastal clean-up activity where they had collected an estimated 200 kilos of residual wastes.

The LGU Opol provided the garbage truck for the transport and disposal of the said collected wastes.

The PMO had their first coastal clean-up along the shores of Opol on 25 August 2019, just a few weeks after the Port of Opol **Page 3**



The Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) conferred the Certificate of Appreciation to the PMO MO/C. The Certificate was received by Port Manager Isidro V. Butasac Jr. (in blue shirt). The PMO personnel then posed for a photo, concluding the activity.





Mangrove Planting and Coastal Clean-up...from page 2

was opened and operational.

With the establishment of the said Port, PMO MO/C commits to actively engage in environment-related activities in the Municipality of Opol especially for the protection and

conservation of its water and marine resources.

Mangrove Tree Planting Activity of XU McKeough Marine Center

Nearly a week after, on 17 January 2020, the PMO again participated in

another mangrove tree planting activity in Barangay Bonbon, Cagayan de Oro City. The activity was organized by McKeough Marine Center (MMC) of Xavier University—Ateneo de Cagayan.

500 mangrove propagules were planted in the Mangrove Rehabilitation Site of the City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office (CLENRO).

Last year, the XUMMC had presented the results of its Mangrove Mapping Project before the concerned LGUs and agencies, including PMO MOC. The said Project worked on the profiles of mature and newly-planted mangroves, the recommended mangrove species, and the potential mangrove planting sites along the Macajalar Bay.



The PMO MO/C personnel (in blue-collared shirts) together with the personnel of Xavier University McKeough Marine Center.





Anti-Smoke Belching machines...from page 1

the amount of smoke coming from a diesel-powered vehicle, and exhaust emission gas from gasoline-powered vehicles, respectively.

Both machines are portable and can provide real-time measurements. Reading results are printed automatically. The Diesel Opacity Smoke Meter has also the capacity to measure a vehicle's peak RPM (revolutions per minute) and the oil-temperature. On the other hand, the Automatic Gas Analyzer measures the following: Carbon Monoxide (CO), Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Fuel Dependent Hydro Carbons (HC), Oxygen (O₂) and Nitric Oxide (NO_x). Calibration of the machines is com-

pliant with the standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The PMO's Environmental Specialist, Ms. Core D. Suan informed that car exhausts emit gases that can harm the environment and human health. Thus, she remarked that is imperative for the PMO to comply with the standards of the National Air Quality for these gases.

Representatives of the service provider, the BP Integrated Technologies, Inc. conducted a demonstration on how to operate the machines, how to maintain/clean its parts, among others, before the representatives of the PMO MO/C Division offices and cargo handling operator. The machines were then used on actual vehicles during the practical demonstration.



Diesel Opacity Smoke Meter (red) and Automatic Gas Analyzer (black)



PMO personnel participate in the orientation conducted by the representatives of BP Integra-ed Technologies, Inc.



The machines are used on different types of vehicles during the practical demonstration.



Sample receipt of the result of gas emission analysis.



FEATURE

A Green-thumbed Earth Warrior

Venturing into a new employment in the city from his humble farming in the Municipality of Libona, Bukidnon, the 47-year old Esperedio "Jun" P. Tulabing never did expect that his knowledge and skills in plant care and propagation would be applied in his new job in the Port of Cagayan de Oro.

Background in farming

Originally from Cebu, Tulabing's family transferred to Libona, Bukidnon when he was still a teenager. Without a father figure and as the eldest child, he learned to work for a living to support his family. He worked in farms owned by prominent families in Bukidnon.

He never had formal training or vocational education on farming and plant propagation. He learned about these from all his work experiences and lectures from experts who came to visit the farms where he was working in.

Job application in PMO MO/C

In the past few years, Tulabing has stopped working in somebody's farm. He instead started cultivating his own farmland. He and his wife sell some harvested crops while most of them are for their family's own consumption.

Upon knowing about job hiring for utility workers in the Port Management Office of Misamis Oriental/Cagayan de Oro from one of his friends, he gave it a try.

In December 2019, he was hired as an outsourced utility personnel and was assigned in CDO Port's Port Terminal Complex (PTC) up to the present. During his job interview with the PTC Manager, he informed that he is a farmer and has knowledge about plant propagation when asked about taking care of plants.

PTC Manager Jessica D. Angeles told that she needed a plant specialist who can take good care of the plants in the carbon sink areas of the Port's new Passenger Terminal Building (PTB) and is knowledgeable on fertilizer applications and pest control to be able to maintain the abundance of the gardens in the long run.

"I really need that skill (in a personnel)," the PTC Manager said.

She further informed that the landscape artist provided fertilizers and the formula but prior to Tulabing's arrival, the plants were alive but not that healthy. Worse, aphids started to damage the plants by early December.



Working in the PMO

Upon working in CDO Port, Tulabing encountered more variety of plants, many of which are new to him. However, as a natural plant grower, he began to explore on how to reproduce the plants through either the conventional planting of the seeds or through budding and marcotting for seedless plants. Many of these experiments have thrived such as the fusion of two varieties of African Talisay erected outside the PTB.

He explained that growing a plant such as fruit-bearing trees take about fifteen (15) years, but through other methods of propagation such as grafting and marcotting, the desired plant will grow and bear fruit within four (4) to five (5) years only.

He also introduced to his co-workers the use of banana leaf as temporary "pot" seedlings, instead of using plastic wraps. This way, seedlings can be easily transferred and planted into the soil including the banana leaf wrap which will eventually decompose and serve as organic fertilizer.

In addition to his daily work assignments around the Terminal, he made sure to check on the plants for trimming, weeding, fertilizing and inspection for potential pests.

Although he can handle several kinds of plants, this Plant Care Specialist revealed that he is more inclined in growing vegetables. Thus, together with other PTC personnel whom he have taught, and with the support of the PTC Management, he established mini-vegetable gardens of tomatoes ("kamatis"), bitter melon ("ampalaya"), and malabar spinach ("alugbati") around the Terminal Complex. At present, ampalaya can now be harvested in the Port.

Tulabing said that he planned to plant sponge gourd ("patola"), cabbage ("pechay"), and okra next time. During the interview, he showed some seeds of okra and alugbati sealed in a small pack that he was bringing along inside the pocket of his uniform.

PTC Manager praised Tulabing for his innate gift of making plants grow healthily even on non-fertile soil. "Whatever plant he sows, really thrives."

Plant cultivation as a source of joy

For Tulabing, plant growing is more than just a job for him. He expressed that working in the gardens shakes his stress away and brings him happiness.

"*Ganahan kaayo ko [magtanum-tanom], labi na'g mabuhi [ang tanom] Malipay ko. [I really love propagating plants. I'm happy especially if the plants survive and grow]*", he conveyed.

For the PMO, Jun Tulabing is a great additional active mover or "Earth Warrior" for the PMO's continuing greening initiatives in ports.



Esperedio "Jun" P. Tulabing harvests bitter gourds ("ampalaya") in a garden established within the Port Terminal Complex in CDO Port.

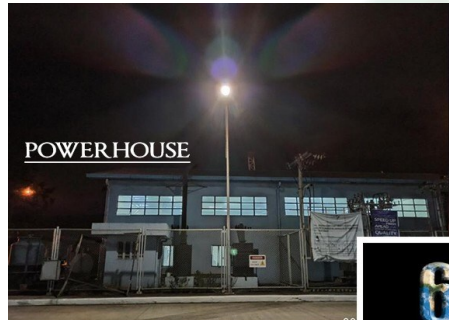


Non-essential lights around the ports and its buildings, including the Passenger Terminal Building (PTB) were turned off for an hour. Exemptions were those streetlights, lights in operational areas, and in office units that are open 24 hours to serve the port users such as the Assessment, Billing, and Collecting Unit (ABCU).

PMO employees also joined the Earth Hour by shutting down non-essential lights and electronic appliances in their respective homes. They happily shared their photo documentation of their participation.

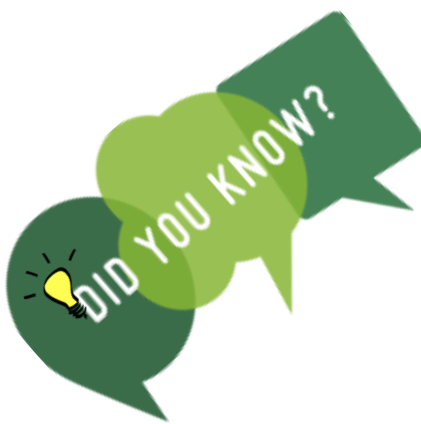
The Earth Hour is a worldwide event participated by million people around the globe and by more than 150 countries and territories as a commitment to a healthy and sustainable planet. It began in Sydney, Australia in 2007. This year, as the world is currently facing health crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Earth Hour global organizing team

PMO MO/C joins Earth Hour 2020



established a digital platform through "On-the-night" live streams and enjoined the people to participate in the event

digitally. Now on its 14th year, and amidst the current pandemic, the said event still drew high participation around the world.



Why is Earth Hour held in late March?

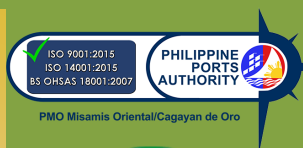
The second-to-last and last weekend of March is around the time of the Spring and Autumn equinoxes in the northern and southern hemispheres respectively, which allows for near coincidental sunset times in both hemispheres, thereby ensuring the greatest visual impact for a global 'lights out' event.

Source: <https://www.earthhour.org/>

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