



EMB conducts simultaneous stakeholder consultations and seminar on toxic chemical substances management

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), through its Chemical Management Section and the Philippine Ozone Desk, conducted the “Seminar on Updates on Chemical Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act (RA) 6969” along with a Stakeholder Consultation held at Cebu Grand Hotel, Cebu City on July 17–18, 2024.

The two-day consultation and seminar aim to raise awareness about the different regulations governing the use of chemical substances in the industry and provide updates on the latest rules and regulations under RA 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Geri-Geronimo R. Sañez, Chief of the EMB Environmental Quality Management Division (EMB-EQMD), said,

“We aim to impart a deeper understanding of the importance of chemical safety and the need for strict regulations in this field.”

“Through consultations and seminars like this, various sectors and industries, both private and public, are becoming more aware of the guidelines about chemicals and substances that are harmful to the environment, the ozone layer, and the global climate,” Sañez emphasized.”

During the seminar, Engr. Edwin Romel N. Navaluna, Chief of the EMB-Chemical Management Section, provided an overview of chemical management in the Philippines. Mr. Robert Louise Almarinez discussed the Pre-Manufacture and Pre-Importation Notification (PMPIN), the Abbreviated and Detailed Form Small Quantity Importation (SQI) Clearance, Polymer Exemption and the

Philippine Inventory of Chemicals and Chemical Substances (PICCS).

EMB technical officers also discussed guidelines on risk-based prioritization of existing chemicals and risk assessment guidelines for existing chemicals and upcoming policies related to Vinyl Chloride Impurities, Confidential Business Information (CBI), the 2024 PICCS, and Benzene.

Various Chemical Control Orders (CCOs) were iterated





during the event including the regulations for Chromium VI Compounds, Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds, Arsenic and Arsenic Compounds, Cyanide and Cyanide Compounds, and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB).

Given the serious risks these priority chemicals pose, the DENR-EMB has mandated that they be regulated, phased out, or banned. CCOs prohibit, limit, or regulate the use, manufacture, import, transport, processing, storage, possession, and wholesale of these chemicals.

Mr. Onofre Escota and Ms. Eloisa Myra Balicha, officers from the Philippine Ozone Desk also discussed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer such as hydrofluorocarbons,

the Hydrofluorocarbons Phase-Out Management Plan, the Kigali Implementation Plan, and the Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Sector.

Mr. Jonathan L. Belmonte, Assistant Chief of the Customs Firearms and Explosives Unit and Overall Supervisor for the Environmental Protection and Compliance Division discussed the Bureau of Customs Rules and Procedures on the Importation and Processing of Chemicals and Related Products.

This consultation seminar is part of the country's ongoing efforts to promote environmental protection and public health through the proper management of hazardous and toxic chemicals.

