“Laguna de Bay shall be transformed into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of the watershed destruction, land conversion and pollution.”

“... Fish pen and fish cage operators have to reduce their areas of occupation......and that poor fishermen shall have priority in its entitlement”

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte – SONA 2016

THE LAGUNA DE BAY DEVELOPMENT FORUM
RIDING ON THE WAVES OF CHANGE

The Laguna Lake Development Authority, under the leadership of General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina, hosted the Laguna de Bay Development forum this year, titled “Riding on the Waves of Change.”

Held at the Lakeshore Tent in Taguig City, the Development Forum brought together over 200 of the key policymakers, government heads, stakeholders and fisherfolk organizations to raise awareness on the numerous efforts and operations that are underway furthering the development of Laguna de Bay.

In his speech, GM Medina explained the objective of this special forum: “We’ve taken this opportunity to share a greater overview of all the coordinated efforts that are happening simultaneously. We’ve invited all the heads of participating government agencies to come and share their programs, as well as give them the opportunity to directly address the questions from concerned stakeholders such as the fisherfolk. Through this initiative, LLDA hopes to raise awareness and show that we are, indeed, committed to protecting the rights of Laguna de Bay communities, as well as the country’s biggest freshwater lake.”

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<td>By 2040, the Laguna de Bay Basin is an ecologically balanced resource that fosters vibrant economic development and sustains the needs of the present and future generations through the participation of empowered and responsible stakeholders.</td>
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<td>To manage, develop and transform the Laguna de Bay Region into a vibrant economic zone through conservation of lake basin resources and good governance with the participation of the empowered and responsible stakeholders.</td>
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Let us make 2018 the best and brightest year yet!

My warmest greetings to the men and women of the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

My first year at the helm of the DENR was incredibly busy, yet gratifying. Your eager welcome, inspiring support, and dedicated hard work allowed me to lead this Department and its attached agencies, particularly the LLDA, to levels surpassing expectations.

The year 2017 was a truly great one: we were able to move forward in the face of hard challenges. We prioritized the most visible and urgent environmental programs – those affecting the quality of our air, water and land resource. We strengthened field operations and law enforcement in the regions, in pursuit of sustainable development. We enhanced policies and measures, as we set our directions for the next six years.

This year 2018 could be a tough one, but we are ready to prove our mettle and to build on the gains made in 2017. I call on everyone: Let us give our best as public servants, and serve our countrymen with excellence.

I look forward to working with you to make 2018 the best and brightest year yet for the LLDA and for the DENR.

Mabuhay!

Roy A. Cimatu
Secretary
Greetings from the LLDA!

LAKEWATCH is the official newsletter of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), which will come to you every quarter of the year. We hope that this will bring us closer to all the communities that we serve around the Laguna Lake region as mandated by the Republic Act 4850.

We want to get closer to the communities we serve. We want you to be informed and share in our policy and planning activities, and regulatory and compliance duties, as well as in the equally important infrastructure and development thrusts.

As President Rodrigo Duterte declared in his first SONA in 2016, “The Laguna Lake shall be transformed into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of the watershed destruction, land conversion and pollution.”

The overall success of LLDA will depend much on your support and how you share our mission and vision in protecting, preserving, and developing our precious water, Laguna de Bay.

May the LAKEWATCH be our strong link that will join and keep us together to achieve our common goal.

*Mabuhay ang Laguna de Bay!*

JAIME “JOEY” C. MEDINA
GENERAL MANAGER
The Laguna Copperplate Inscription (LCI) was a document written in old Malay-Tagalog, inscribed on ancient Kawi script on a copper sheet, measuring 8 x 12 inches in 900 AD. It was found in 1989 by a sand quarry worker in Barangay Wawa, Lumban, near the outlet to Laguna de Bay, and was first deciphered by Antoon Postma, in 1990. The document itself contains a message of debt condonation, as can be noted in the following English translation.

“By this document, the Commander-in-Chief of Tundun, represented by the authority of Honorable Lord Minister of Pailah, cleared and forgave Lady Angkatan, her brother Bukah, children and all living descendants of the Honorable Namwaran, (a devoted subject of Chief Binwangan) of all debts that he owed the Chief of Dewata, represented by the Chief of Medang, as witnessed by the Honorable Lord of Puliran.”

The document mentioned certain toponyms (place names) and territorial jurisdiction like Pailah and Puliran. Reflecting on the meaning of Pulilan, by using the notes and examples in Vocabulario de lengua tagala (1613) by Fray Pedro de San Buenaventura, proves that Pulilan is the old name of Laguna de Bay. It notes Pulilan (if referring to Laguna de Bay in relation to Manila), Namumulilan, (if one comes from Manila going to Laguna de Bay and its environs to trade); Namumulilan ako. (I am trading around Laguna de Bay); Tagapulilan ca? (if one is asked in Manila: “Are you from Laguna de Bay? Are you a native of Laguna? “)

The above mentioned Pulilan is literally Laguna de Bay and not only the southern eastern part of the lake.

The Birth of the Lake

Early geologists had diverse opinions regarding the origin of Laguna de Bay. The theory that the lake was previously a volcanic crater or that it had originated through subsidence due to a volcanic eruption still needs supporting facts. A shallow crater at the southern end of Talim Island can be found and serves as evidence of its volcanic history. It is believed that Laguna de Bay may have been formed by two major volcanic eruptions between 27,000-29,000 years ago (UP Planades, 2011).

Based on recent findings, Laguna de Bay was, indeed, once a part of Manila Bay. This is evidenced by the discovery of drill cores of marine shell species, which can also be found in Manila Bay.

These species of marine shells can also be located in the upper shores of Bagumbayan (Luneta Park) and in the Marikina Fault in Pasig-Marikina River junction (Laguna de Bay Master Plan, 1995).
Before, the mindset of the LLDA was strictly regulatory, and there was not much development in the region... I have been slowly telling our staff that there should be a new mindset. From being strictly regulatory, we should function as a regulatory-developmental agency.

Government steps up efforts for Laguna Lake rebirth

BY JOYCE REYES-AGUILA

Armed with a directive from President Rodrigo Duterte to transform the Laguna de Bay “into a vibrant economic zone,” Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina faces 2018 intent upon building on the agency’s accomplishments during his first year in office. The fiat remains clear: Promote development in the region and restore the health of the waters of the historic lake.

In 2017, GM Medina simultaneously addressed numerous challenges that have hampered the operations of the LLDA from progressing in key areas. The former mayor of Pateros assumed office facing problems such as illegal fish pen and cage structures, water pollution, illegal reclamation, and even the overlapping of functions of some offices involved in the operations of the lake. But on his second day in office, the LLDA chief already oversaw the demolition of unauthorized constructions in the lake to demonstrate his office’s resolve to effect change. “We targeted the structure of big corporations, many of which abused (the system),” he said in a recent interview. “Many were issued fishpen and fishcage permits, but built structures in excess of their registered areas. These blocked many lanes intended for navigation and some were located outside designated areas. Many did not have permits to operate.”

To date, the general manager estimates that a total of 3,267 hectares of illegal structures have been demolished under his leadership. “Modesty aside, we have the highest number of demolished structures,” he continued. “To give you an idea, this is more than the land area of the whole of Makati City.”

Making Way

But demolishing structures is not enough, according to the general manager. To sustain and further its efforts, LLDA revisited its 1999 zoning plan for the lake in order to streamline and adopt it to present conditions. Medina reported that at the beginning of last year, the aquaculture area in the lake measured around 15,000 hectares. “To know which area is really sustainable for the lake in terms of aquaculture, I convened scientists and technical experts,” he explained. “The team was led by Dr. Emil Javier, former president of the University of the Philippines and a member of the National Academy of Science and Technology. They did two days of pro bono work.

“They concluded that only 9,200 hectares of aquaculture is sustainable for Laguna Lake. For every hectare, there should be at least eight hectares that are free. That is the challenge to us – how to limit it to only 9,200 hectares,” the LLDA chief continued.

As part of their plans to improve the health of Laguna de Bay Area, GM Medina has also taken
to seeding the rivers, lakes and creeks with fingerlings through initiatives like the Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) Program, which was implemented by the Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol and Sen. Cynthia Villar who also serves as the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

**GIVING POWER BACK TO THE FISHERFOLK**

Medina is also taking steps to ensure that small fishermen are prioritized when the plans for the lake are implemented – another main pillar of President Duterte’s orders to the LLDA during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) last year.

“I will not prioritize the big corporations because they are already rich,” he added. “I have ordered that smaller fisherfolk be prioritized in issuing permits. Our challenge is how to prevent small fisherfolk from being dummy entities of these corporations.”

In line with the Duterte administration’s Build, Build, Build program that aims “to increase the productive capacity of the economy, create jobs, increase incomes, and strengthen the investment climate leading to sustained inclusive growth,” according to the Philippine Infrastructure Transparency Program website, Medina said smaller fisherfolk will be at the center of prioritization in the projects of the LLDA.

GM Medina explained that development is concentrated in some areas of the lake, with one side composed of affluent cities and another of some of the country’s fourth- and fifth-class municipalities. “I saw that development is limited because there is no quality infrastructure that leads to these areas,” he revealed. “Now, when there are development projects that are proposed, we bring these to the other side so that jobs will be created as well as economic development.”

The general manager added his office wants to ensure that the families of the lake’s smaller fishermen also benefit from the administration’s projects. To do this, the LLDA will be coordinating...
For Laguna de Bay, there is great potential for ecotourism. As long as these plans do not destroy or pollute the lake, it will help with its economic development.

For Laguna Lake, there shall be transformed into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of watershed destruction, land conversion, and pollution.

—President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

with different local government units (LGUs) to conduct a general registration where it will also collect biometrics. Medina said this will help ascertain that benefits and livelihood programs will be made available to the families of the estimated 22,000 small-scale fisherfolk and around 125,000 to 150,000 of their family members.

CLEANING UP IN THE AGENCY

Internally, Medina also had to attend to operational matters to fine-tune the effectiveness of his office. “Before, the mindset of the LLDA was strictly regulatory, and there was not much development in the region,” he said. “I have been slowly telling our staff that there should be a new mindset. From being strictly regulatory, we should function as a regulatory-developmental agency.”

The general manager said he has also fired employees who been leveled with graft and corruption charge and had recommendations for dismissal, so that the agency’s “stakeholders could see that we are serious.” He also had the President’s words for the LLDA printed on the wall of his office and in front of their building to remind employees of what is expected of them every day: “Laguna Lake shall be transformed into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing

While not new to politics, the former mayor who administered Pateros for three consecutive terms said the Duterte administration has encouraged government agencies to harmonize their services instead of being only interested in their own respective turfs. “I think that part of the responsibility of the LLDA is to make sure there is no overlapping of functions and to help complement the work of government agencies,” he said. As an example, different agencies provide permits to every type of motorboat in Laguna Lake.

Medina has made his office accessible to its stakeholders as well, meeting regularly with mayors so that the developmental projects in the area can be harmonized with local projects. “I learned that there are 11 fish landing centers that are fully funded by the national government, but have not been implemented because they are not able to obtain permits from the LLDA,” he shared. “The funds were about to expire. When I learned...
about it, I talked to the mayors and local government officials. Now, these fish landing centers are almost complete. The coordination is faster now."

MAJOR MOVEMENT

This year, Medina said he is pushing for a mega project based on a masterplan created during the Marcos administration. The plan had three components, with two being completed. First is the construction of the Manggahan Floodway and the building of the Napindan hydraulic structure to serve as a sort of gate to the Pasig River so that water will not backflow.

"The third and most important component: A construction of a Paranaque spillway that has not yet been done," he said. "Right now, the only outlet of the Laguna Lake is the Pasig River. This means that if the Pasig River reaches full capacity, it will take some time for water to find its way out. That's what happened during Ondoy in 2009, when the surrounding areas were still flooded three to four months after the typhoon. And most of the time, the Pasig River is also silted."

He reported that the feasibility studies for the project will be completed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Department of Public Works and Highway by March this year. "I am really pushing for it. I came from the region and was mayor of Pateros for nine years. During Ondoy, I really experienced the flooding. I saw that if there is no substantial flood control project for Laguna Lake, with climate change and everything, flooding will really occur. I will be very vocal and noisy about this," he stressed.

The LLDA noted the project of Manila Water and Sta. Rosa City to distribute portable toilets to communities to help lessen the domestic waste the lake takes in and ensure that the waste is brought to facilities for treatment. GM Medina shared a recent study by the World Health Organization that revealed that while 83 percent of Filipino households have mobile phones, only 73 percent have working toilets. "Where does the human waste go, but to the streams, rivers, and eventually the lake? There are 24 major river systems that all discharge to the lake, contributing to its destruction and pollution."

"Many do not know that the lake is already a source of water from Metro Manila – four percent of our water supply comes from it," he revealed. "The lake is multi-use and is a source of affordable protein. The fresh water fish for Metro Manila is sourced from Laguna Lake. And if you compare the quality of fish from Laguna Lake and Dagupan City in Pangasinan, you'd be surprised that fish from the lake is cheaper because there is no commercial feeding."

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Medina is also pushing for awareness on the lake’s potential for transportation to aid the worsening traffic situation in Metro Manila, particularly the 16 million residents that live around the Laguna de Bay. Aligned with the president’s directive to develop the area into an ecotourism destination, his office has already started talks with the local officials of Talim Island – the largest island in Laguna Lake – to have its roads fixed and identify opportunities for development. "Later on, we can have ferry boats from C-6 and bring tourists to the island. It has hot springs but currently, there are no restaurants or resorts on it. There is great potential for ecotourism. As long as these plans do not destroy or pollute the lake, it will help with its economic development," he ends.
As per agreement, fish pen operators had until December 31, 2017 to clear areas, and should they fail to demolish the structures, LLDA will take charge of the clearing.

LLDA GM Medina heads the demolition of illegal fish pens

LLDA put a stop on the construction of additional and illegal aquaculture structures in Laguna Lake as it strictly imposed a Moratorium on the Operation of Aquaculture Structures within the Laguna de Bay through its Board Resolution No. 518, issued last February 1, 2017.

The LLDA Board of Directors approved Board Resolution No. 518, that will impose a one year moratorium on the operation of all fish pens, fishcages and other aquaculture structures in the Laguna de Bay and that no new stocking of fingerlings on existing structures will be allowed.

Following on June 29, 2017, the Federation of Fish Pen and Fish Cage Operators Association of Laguna de Bay Inc. voluntarily dismantled fish pens in Laguna de Bay, following the marching orders of President Rodrigo Duterte.

LLDA marked the areas for clearing, while the Federation agreed to shoulder the costs of reduction. From the original ZOMAP allocated area of about 12,311 hectares of fishpen structures, around 1,783 hectares were cleared of non-operational or abandoned structures.
The one (1) year Moratorium imposed on aquaculture operations through BR 518 issued in Feb. 2017 was amended in June 2017 through BR 525 provided that the terms and conditions stipulated therein were complied with by the concerned fish pen operators i.e., payment of corresponding fees and reduction of areas in excess of 25 hectares, among others. Later, the implementing rules and regulations were approved through BR 531 issued in Oct. 2017.

LLDA continues to demolish illegal fish pens and fish cages that have reached a record-high area of 3,267 hectares.

by the LLDA. About 1,484 hectares were likewise subjected to demolition due to their violation of LLDA regulations. With this combined clean-up, clearing operations and demolition of illegal structures, an increase in the area of common fishing ground by 3,267 hectares was made possible. In terms of structures, from the original 472 units, they are now reduced to 318 units.

As per agreement, fish pen operators had until December 31, 2017 to clear areas, and should they fail to demolish the structures, LLDA will take charge of the clearing. LLDA is working closely with the Federation and other stakeholders to ensure the long-term health of the lake and to enhance a more balanced and healthful ecology.
Secretary Roy Cimatu Visits LLDA

LDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina proudly welcomed DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu to the LLDA office at the LLDA Green Building in Quezon City, last June 7, 2017. Sec. Cimatu, the former special envoy for OFW and refugees and former chief of staff of the military, was appointed last May 7, 2017, by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Sec. Cimatu has vowed to prioritize the following environmental concerns: the integrated water quality management of Laguna de Bay, Pasig River, and Manila Bay; the lowering of air pollution levels; and the implementation of the Clean Water Act.

At the Board Meeting, GM Medina presented LLDA’s action plan, addressing the most urgent concerns with regards to the waste management and development/modernization of Laguna de Bay and the neighboring regions. Sec. Cimatu commended GM Medina and LLDA’s efforts. Actions were taken as well with regards to the comments of the Board members.

Present at the board meeting were LLDA Board Members: Usec. Frisco San Juan of MMDA, ARD Marcelina Alcantara of DTI Laguna, Rowena M. Dalusong of NEDA, Atty. Maria Edsie Buado of OP, Milagros M. Trias of Province of Rizal, Anna Pamela dela Rosa from the Mayor’s League of Laguna, Atty. Reynante Vibal of the Province of Laguna, and Cesar Felix, a Private Investors’ representative.

Later, on June 28, 2017, LLDA presented to Sec. Roy Cimatu a more comprehensive program regarding the rehabilitation of Laguna Lake, Pasig River, and Manila Bay Area. Titled the “Action Plan for an Integrated Water Quality Management: Laguna de Bay-Pasig River and Manila Bay,” the presentation outlined the numerous efforts the organization will be undertaking in the next six months. The comprehensive plan focuses on the reduction of water pollution through intensified survey and monitoring of establishments, as well as stricter enforcement of legal actions. LLDA will monitor the implementation of ordinances establishing sewerage and septage management systems in LGUs. LLDA works closely with LGUs on the proper solid waste management and the physical clean-up of tributary rivers.

LLDA will work hand-in-hand with local LGUs and partners to address the most urgent environmental concerns, which include cleaning up Manila Bay, Pasig River and Laguna Lake, and the implementation of the Clean Water Act.
The first Laguna de Bay Ecosystem Health Report Card (EHRC) developed jointly by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) in collaboration with the University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute (UPMSI), University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB), University of Santo Tomas (UST), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science was launched in February 2016.

The Ecosystem Health Report Card (EHRC) is developed to provide a better understanding on the current status of the ecosystem and raise the awareness of communities within the watershed. The Ecosystem Health Report Card is measured using indicators for water quality and fisheries representing the values of the lake including the threats faced at present.

**NATURAL RESOURCE VALUES AND HUMAN ACTIVITY THREATS**

The water quality indicators consist of Nitrates (NO₃), Phosphates (PO₄), Chlorophyll ‘a’, Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) and Total Coliforms. For Fisheries, indicators such as the zooplankton ratio using Calanoid to Cyclopoid ratio, abundance of native fish species against invasive species in major catch composition and the Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) computed from the average total daily catch and the total number of fishing hours were used. The scores were calculated based on the six (6) water quality indicators and were compared to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources guidelines for Class C waters represented as a percent score for each Bay (West Bay, Central Bay, East Bay and South Bay). The Fisheries was calculated as ratio or percentage that are combined for each Bay forming a fisheries index.

**SCORE INDEX**

In 2013, the Laguna de Bay scored a passing mark of 76%, a C- in water quality and a D in Fisheries (30%). The Laguna Lake Development Authority is finalizing the second issue and expected to be launched within the first quarter of 2018. The Scorecard aims to inform the stakeholders of the Laguna de Bay Region the condition of the Lake and to encourage them to participate in programs and projects to achieve ecological integrity.
Life on the Lake

Fisherfolk from FARMC share how their livelihood is thriving in Laguna de Bay.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), created by virtue of Republic Act No. 4850, amended by Presidential Decree 813, is primarily tasked with the preservation, development and sustainability of the Laguna de Bay and its 21 major tributary rivers.

Under the leadership of General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina, the LLDA has made new rules and laws governing the legalities of fishing. It has also sought to enforce and implement their mandate, particularly in monitoring the problems of the lake and nearby rivers. In cooperation with FARMC, a local association of fisherfolk, the LLDA is able to spot and stop noxious materials and pollution excreted from factories. They have also hindered reclamation attempts of riparian settlers. But their greatest feat so far is the removal of illegal fish pens in Laguna de Bay, allowing for more space for open-fishing.

The present LLDA has demolished 3,267 hectares of fishpens and fishcages to conform with the 9,200 carrying capacity of Laguna de Bay. As a fisherman succinctly shared, the locals are now seeing that the LLDA means business; if they want to demolish, they do so without pause. The surrounding the regions of NCR, Laguna, and Rizal, the lake has around 22,000 active fishermen. Permits are required for fishing in specified areas and the problem arises when certain people go beyond the bounds of the permit, resulting in illegal fishing. The LLDA has sought to tighten the strict enforcement of their policies and permits, which was not the case before.
dismantling of illegal fish pens and reduction of fish farms is favourable to the local fisherfolk who practice ‘open fishing,’ where they can catch fish anywhere on the lake except for the fish sanctuary, which is a protected area. Cross-jurisdiction becomes an issue as certain policies are legal in some municipalities, while not legal elsewhere. For instance, in Muntinlupa, which promote natural fishing methods, there are other methods not allowed such as the suro—using mesh nets attach to boats to scour or scrub the bottom of the lake. Laguna-FARMC also has sanctuaries where they take care of fish but are penetrated by illegal fishers. Thus, LLDA needs to address enforcement and arrest of those practicing illegal fishing methods.

Aside from LGUs, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) also give them fishing gear. They are also given materials for their boats like 20 engine units with 60 horsepower that are distributed by barangays or samahans. The local fishermen would simply assemble the components.

BFAR also gives them a bottoms-up budget (BUB), although 30% is taken for charges, leaving them with P600,000. Financial problems have also been addressed through the paluwagan system, considering the fishermen have difficulties obtaining loans from banks due to lofty requirements such as SEC registration. This is also why they cannot do micro-financing. However, they have only begun to form the Federation of Marginalized Fisherfolk of Muntinlupa so that they have a legal personality to officially borrow from banks and make a loan. Through the LLDA, the fishermen have also attended seminars conducted by Landbank and DBP.

Initial dialogue has been conducted with the LLDA, who suggested forming cooperatives. However, the fishermen would rather not have cooperatives because some work hard while others do not. Another challenge faced by FARMC is the receipt of funds from the government. Some LGUs are not as supportive considering the delay in granting funds to a particular project of the fisherfolk.

For 2018, the fisherfolk of Laguna primarily wishes to work more closely and have more dialogue with the LLDA. According to them, there used to be a representative from the fisherfolk sitting with the LLDA board, and they want to continue this practice as they are affected by decisions of the LLDA. They are supportive of LLDA’s projects, such as its eco-tourism project, but they also wish to gain from such projects as they are the ones affected by it. They cite the Zoning and Management Plan (ZOMAP), which concerns them. They should at least be allowed to observe and participate.

FARMC also wishes for the implementation of the proposed livelihood projects proposed by FARMC. It has already been studied as to which are feasible. These should serve as alternative livelihood programs in case production of the lake should decrease due to natural causes. There are also good projects such as the proposed community fish landing center featuring a centralized baywalk for fishing and an open market for fresh produce.

Finally, FARMC wishes to have proper channels for communication with the LLDA where they can voice their complaints. They are also concerned with their fish pen shares, claiming they do not benefit from what should be 25% of the share. They would rather have the check be given directly to them, as well as have the capability to make direct budget requests.

Essentially, the people of Laguna de Bay seek to work together towards preserving the lake’s ecosystem and aquatic life, while also improving the livelihood of locals nearby.
In addition to several resource speakers from Manila Water and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, gracing the event were Mayor Lani Cayetano of Taguig City, who delivered the Welcome Remarks, and Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, who also chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Mayor Cayetano proudly highlighted the environmental efforts of her city. “With the help of GM Medina and the team of LLDA, we have mapped out a better development plan that assures sustainable progress, where in all – from the fisherfolk to the residents living in and around Laguna Lake – can enjoy inclusive growth.”

Taguig City has been lauded for its impressive flood water control systems, water and sewage treatment plans, and integrated, city-wide efforts to protect the environment. Taguig, in fact, has become a model city that many are patterning.

Senator Cynthia Villar, who was introduced by AGM Gener Dungo, underlined the need for government agencies, fisherfolk and other stakeholders to work together in a united front. She shares: “The country is in the midst of massive urbanization and industrialization, coupled with rapid growth in population. The various activities from the household, agriculture to industrial sector have taken its toll on Laguna Lake over the past decades in the form of pollution and environment degradation.

Later, speakers from Maynilad and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission enumerated the ongoing projects of their respective organizations, and shared as well the exciting projects and proposals aimed

“Napakaimportante na siguraduhin na malinis ang fresh water ng Laguna Lake. But the government cannot do this alone, the private sector cannot do this alone—all of us must work together and cooperate, taking part in cleaning and protecting our environment. It’s the only way we can succeed.”
to strengthen and “invigorate” the Laguna de Bay area into a thriving economic zone.

Later after the presentations, LLDA GM and the other resource speakers addressed the questions of the fisherfolk who came to raise their concerns with regards to illegal reclamation, matters concerning their livelihood, and the demolition of fishpens.

GM Medina, through LLDA, has demolished 3,267 hectares at present, following the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte and the recommendations of scientists and technical experts to cut down fishpens to 9,200 hectares. These fishpens were primarily owned by large corporations and illegal operators.

Underlining the urgency of these demolition operations, GM Medina adds: “These efforts are to protect the livelihood and rights of our smaller fishermen. Our government does not want the benefits of Laguna de Bay to go to the big corporations, not to the rich, but to the real fishermen, poor citizens living around our lake. As we define the new zoning areas in the updated ZOMAP, and remove the fishpens not within these new zones, we seek your (the fishermen’s) cooperation. Ilagay sa tama ang iyong mga operasyon para walang maabala and ituwid na natin ang maling practices.”

“Magtulong tulong tayo, wala kaming ibang intension kundi makuha ninyo ang pakinabang at mapaunlad ang buong Laguna de Bay.”

"Napakaitmportante na siguraduhin na malinis ang fresh water ng Laguna Lake. But the government cannot do this alone, the private sector cannot do this alone – all of us must work together and cooperate, taking part in cleaning and protecting our environment. It’s the only way we can succeed."

Sen. Cynthia Villar
LLDA GM Jaime Medina heads to Hungary for Possible Funding

LDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina – joined by the Department of Agriculture Sec. Manny Pinol, Environmental Regulations Department Head Engr. Emiterio C. Hernandez and other Philippine delegation- met with István Joó, Ministerial Commissioner for Water Diplomacy, Export and the Danube Region Strategy, and György Papócsi, CEO of HydroFilt, Hungary’s second biggest Water Services and Waste Water Treatment company, as well as other water management experts and environment groups in Hungary last September 22, 2017.

The recent trip was set to further discuss the offer of Hungary’s Eximbank to extend an EU510-M loan facility to finance development projects in the Philippines. LLDA GM Medina was proud to announce that Eximbank, as shared by its Deputy Chief Executive Officer Andras Puskaš, is ready to push the multi-million partnership forward as soon as the respective governments finalize the agreement. This effort is seen to greatly help LLDA’s mission of cleaning up Laguna Bay, the largest freshwater lake in the country and which provides 40% of Metro Manila’s fish requirements. Laguna Lake is also home and the source of livelihood of millions of Filipinos. Unfortunately, the health of the lake is being threatened by overfishing, pollution and siltation.

The Hungarian Water Technology Corporation (HWTC) aims to help rehabilitate Laguna Lake

Hungary is a world leader in water services and wastewater treatment technology, and it wants to share its expertise with other countries like the Philippines.
LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina and Assistant General Manager Gener Dungo met with the delegates from the Taiwan Trade Center at the Aquaculture Trade Mission last September 27, 2017. At the trade mission, GM Medina attended several meetings with Taiwanese executives, who shared the best practices and newest innovations in aquaculture technology – one of which was the new Skid Guard Stanchions.

The Skid Guard Stanchions are the successors of the standard Double-Walled Neck Stanchions and the Balanced Stanchions, which are typhoon-ready cages that are built to weather the toughest storms. These are seen to be greatly beneficial to the fisherfolk of Laguna de Bay.

Attending the meetings as well were Shanyi Hsu, Taiwan External Trade Development Council Project Manager; Patty Yen, Taiwan External Trade Development Council Deputy Executive Director; Charles Shieh-Yueh Yang, Taiwan/MagQu Co. Ltd. President; James C.F. Huang, Taitra Chairman; and Atty. Malou Remular, Laguna Lake Development Authority Enforcement Chief. Fishpen operators - Emelito Felix and husband and wife, Mutya and Jovert Aralar - also joined the afternoon discussion.

Later, as part of the itinerary of the week-long Aquaculture Trade Mission, LLDA GM Medina, AGM Generoso Dungo and LLDA Environmental Regulations Department Head Engr. Emiterio C. Hernandez joined the Taiwanese delegates on a site visit to Laguna de Bay.

The party was delighted to see and experience first-hand the thriving beauty of the freshwater lake. After touring the lake, fishpen operator Emelito Felix offered the group a glimpse on how they harvest tilapia and bangus, proudaly showing off the large-sized fish that were grown this season. During the trip, GM Medina took the opportunity to share some of LLDA’s best practices, as well as learn about new technologies developed and used in Taiwan.
Transforming Sampaloc Lake

Decades ago, Sampaloc Lake, with its calm waters and picturesque scenes, made it one of the most beautiful lakes. But over the years, most especially during the 1980s, Sampaloc Lake’s health disintegrated with the influx of establishments and residential properties that were built around the perimeter, contributing to the pollution of its waters.

Hoping to bring back the beauty and glory of Sampaloc Lake, LLDA, in partnership with Mayor Loreto “Amben” Amante, the LGUs of San Pablo City and other agencies, approved the Revised Zoning and Development Plan last July 25, 2017, now put into motion by current LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina.

The proposed plan aims to reduce the area occupied by fish pens and fish cages to 10 to 12% of the surface area (approximately 9.6 to 11.52 hectares) over the period of three years. From 98,600 square meters, the area will be further reduced by 2,600 square meters, bringing it down to 96,000 square meters as proposed in the new Memorandum Circular.

In 2011, the City Government of San Pablo first initiated the formulation of the City Tourism Master Plan that envisioned the transformation of the city as a premier eco-adventure-cum-histocultural tourist destination in the CALABARZON Region. The plan was to capitalize on the inherent and recognized potentials of the seven lakes (of which Sampaloc Lake is the biggest and most accessible) for pushing tourism forward.

Sampaloc Lake is given priority for development in order to support the City Tourism Program which hinges on the transfer of aqua-structures according to the approved plan detailed in the Memorandum Circular No. 43.

The plan – also known as the Zoning...
GM Medina is fully committed to the transformation of Sampaloc Lake, and has already ordered the process of relocating the fishpens and fish cages, which are scheduled to occur soon.

and Development Plan of Sampaloc Lake (ZODEP)- was developed over a series of consultations with the stakeholders, with LLDA working closely with the City Government of San Pablo and FARMC. It was presented on August 21, 2014.

The greater vision of the plan is to protect and sustain the ecological health of Sampaloc Lake, improve water quality of the lake by regulating aquaculture operations and other activities on the lake, control and manage all sources of pollution (both solid and liquid) and silts from the lake’s watershed and promote synergy on the multi-use of the lake resource (wherein both aquaculture and tourism operations can co-exist and wherein there is no dominant use of the lake resources).

GM Medina is fully committed to the transformation of Sampaloc Lake, and has already ordered the process of dismantling the fish pen and fish cages, which are scheduled to occur soon.
Tubig Para Sa Barangay
Project Groundbreaking

On August 16, LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina graced the groundbreaking ceremony of “Tubig Para sa Barangay Project” at the Taytay Municipal Hall Grounds, Rizal. This project - a partnership between Manila Water and the Lupang Arenda Community - will benefit the household community of Purok 7, Lupang Arenda. In attendance were Manila Water Chairman Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Cabinet Secretary Leoncio “Jun” Evasco Jr., Congressman Michael John Duavit of the first district of Rizal, Atty. Terry Ridon of Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, and officials from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and Manila Water.
LLDA SHUTS DOWN ILLEGAL DUMPSITE IN TAGUIG CITY

LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina, AGM Gener Dungo and Enforcement Division Head Atty. Malou Remular, in cooperation with Mayor Lani Cayetano and the local government of Taguig, assisted in the closure of the illegal dumpsite along C-6 Road, Barangay Hagonoy.

Messrs Matea Perez, Raul Roldan, Noel Dionisio, Constancia Cabansa and Paquito Delbo were served an Ex-Parte Cease and Desist order to shut down their operations last September 25, 2017.

This was the second violation for the dumpsite as the City Government of Taguig had previously closed down the business for operating without a business permit. The illegal dumpsite was found to have been backfilled with soil, debris, plastic and garbage, violating environmental laws.

LLDA issued CDO

As part of the crackdown, a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) was issued last June 30 to Primera Agro Development Corporation in Majayjay, Laguna, for continuously discharging pollutive wastewater.

The result of the Laboratory Analysis, conducted by LLDA’s Environmental Laboratory and Research Division, showed failure to conform with the LLDA effluent standards in most of the parameters. A Notice to the Public signboard was posted accordingly.
LLDA was welcomed by Solicitor General Jose C. Calida; Assistant Solicitor Generals Henry Angeles, Thomas Laragan, Marissa Macaraig-Guillen; State Solicitors Gilbert Medrano, Lester Fiel, Paolo Quetulio, and Gerald Sotto; and Associate Solicitors Rene Rose Galan Dennis Go, Thea Elyssa Vaga, at the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG). LLDA met with the OSG to formalize the agreement, recognizing the OSG lawyers, who will be handling all litigation work with regards to the recovery and defense of foreshore areas, including but not limited to the filing of complaints, petitions, appeals and other pleadings and papers. LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina was joined by AGM Gener Dungo and the Laguna Lake Foreshore Task Force, members Atty. John Andrew De Guzman and Marian Soriano, and legal staff.

LLDA formalized the agreement with OSG lawyers who will handle all litigation work concerning the recovery and defense of foreshore areas, including but not limited to the filing of complaints, petitions, appeals and other pleadings and papers.
LLDA joined the UN and the respective local agencies - the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the River Basin Coordinating Office (RBCO) and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) – in celebrating World Water Day, with the theme, “Water and Wastewater.”

The week-long celebration kicked off with an exhibit led by the Manila Water at the G/F New Wing, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, on March 15. The exhibit featured the photos of the Natural Sewage Treatment of LLDA’s Green Building. LLDA Information Officers were all present at the exhibit as well as partner agencies. The ribbon cutting was led by Asec. Nonita Caguioa of DENR and Fernando Busuego of Manila Water.

In line with the theme, the LLDA, organized by the Public Information Unit, led the Sta. Cruz Wastewater Facility Tour in cooperation with LLDA Project Development, Management, Evaluation, Division (LLDA-PDMED) and the staff of the Municipal Slaughter House Office of the Sta. Cruz Local Government Unit, represented by Melandre C. Talabis.

On March 18, 2017, select LLDA employees joined the Department of Environment and Natural Resources River Basin Control Office (DENR-RBCO) in the Water Craze: Kilos-Kilos Para sa Tubig at the Liwasang Aurora, Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City. The event included a fun day of fitness activities, group games, a program showcasing homegrown talents, and video presentation on various water-related issues and development efforts of DENR partner agencies including LLDA. The event was also highlighted by the Maynilad’s Sungka Tournament.

At the culminating event, on March 22, the World Water Day 2017 Water and Sustainable Development Awards—Championing Your Cause by Recognizing Your Champions, LLDA awarded the year’s Kampeon ng Lawa: Gil Abaquin, Chairman of Eco-Industrial Waste Exchange Network, Inc. (Ecoindex); Jing Iya, Team Leader of the Global Underwater Explorers (GUE); and Dr. Adelaida L. Palma, Chairman of the Inter-Agency TWG on the Containment of Knifefish Infestation.

The Kampeon ng Lawa award is given to the deserving partners of LLDA in protecting and restoring the balanced ecology of the Lake.
**LLDA GOES GREEN**

**PAKIL, LAGUNA**

As part of its efforts to build a healthier, greener and more sustainable environment, LLDA hosted a tree planting activity in Pakil, Laguna. LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina was joined by Pakil Mayor Vincent Soriano and Upsilon Sigma Beta Phi Los Banos Alumni Association President Aurelio Tayao. The three, along with their respective teams/agencies, spent the morning planting 2,000 putat, talisay and camachile seedlings in Brgy. Casinsin, Pakil, Laguna.

“This is a small effort but a worthy investment as it will benefit our children and future generations. We hope to partner with more agencies and LGUs to do more such projects,” shares GM Medina.

**PATEROS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Last June 24, 2017, a tree planting activity, with the theme: “Sariwang Hangin ay Makakamtan sa Luntiang Kapaligiran”, was held in cooperation with LLDA’s
Community Division at Pateros Elementary School, Metro Manila. LLDA’s Gold del Prado and Raquel Paje were joined by Mylene Consolacion of the Pateros Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), Dra. Jenny Alejandro of the Pateros Anti-Drug Abuse Department, Ramoncito Parian of DENR NCR, and representatives from Manila Water. Almost 170 surrenderees of Oplan Tokhang joined the team in planting 28 guyabano seedlings, 27 balitbitan seedlings, 10 bignay seedlings and 79 ornamental plants in the 500-sqm lot leading up to the school.

**MUNTINLUPA CITYWIDE TREE PLANTING**

In celebration of Environment Month and pursuant to the National Greening Program of the National Government, LLDA joined the City Government of Muntinlupa for the Citywide Tree Planting Activity held last June 30, 2017. Thousands of volunteers gathered and planted seedlings (Banaba, Knife Acacia, Camachile and Mahogany) in open spaces along the river of Muntinlupa, which crosses through 9 barangays, namely Alabang, Cupang, Buli, Sucat, Tunasan, Cuyab, Poblacion, Putatan, and Bayanan. Private companies such as Filinvest Corp., Chowking Commissary, and Maynilad - as well as said barangays - made the commitment to look after these seedlings.

As part of its efforts to build a healthier, greener and more sustainable environment, LLDA hosted numerous tree planting activities throughout the year.
On June 19, 2017, LLDA, led by General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina, attended the highly anticipated launch of Project BASIL (Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa) Program and the Distribution of Livelihood Assistance to CALABARZON fisherfolk at the Old Municipal Hall in Brgy. Baybayin, Los Baños, Laguna.

BASIL is a noted national program of Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, under the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), which aims to make food accessible to poor families living near large water sources. By seeding the country’s lakes, rivers and creeks with an estimated 200 million fingerlings of indigenous and non-invasive fish species like ayungin, biya, kanduli, tilapia and bangus, BASIL hopes to ease the pressure off the country’s coastal fishing grounds, while addressing the issue of poverty.

By seeding the country’s lakes, rivers and creeks with an estimated 200 million fingerlings, Project BASIL aims to ease the pressure off the country’s coastal fishing grounds, and make food accessible to poor families living near large water sources.

Secretary Piñol and Sen. Cynthia Villar, who is the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and Food, were joined by GM Medina during the seeding activity in Los Baños.

Laguna de Bay was chosen to be the pilot area upon the recommendation of LLDA, Local Government Units around Laguna de Bay, the National Ant-Poverty Commission (NAPC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD), the University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB), the National Agriculture & Fisheries Council (NAFC), and officers of fisherfolk groups in Laguna de Bay Region.

GM Medina offered a short message of support during the program, which was attended as well by Hon. Caesar Perez, Municipal Mayor of Los Baños, Laguna, and Eduardo Gongona, Undersecretary for Fisheries and National BFAR Director.
Lab equipment for phosphate oxygen isotope analysis will be used in the “Biodiversity-Driven Nutrient Cycling and Human Well-being in Social-Ecological System,” also called the Ecological Recycling (e-REC) project.

Last June 15, 2017, LLDA received a newly acquired set of laboratory equipment for phosphate oxygen isotope analysis worth P1.3M. This is in line with LLDA’s current partnership with the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), University of Santo Tomas, and University of the Philippines Diliman for the project, “Biodiversity-Driven Nutrient Cycling and Human Well-being in Social-Ecological System,” also called the Ecological Recycling (e-REC) project. The equipment is housed at the Environmental Laboratory and Research Division (ELRD) of LLDA.

With this new equipment, we are able to expand LLDA’s assets and capabilities as a research facility.

The official document on the transfer of the equipment was signed by LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina, together with the e-REC Project Core Team Dr. Rey Donne S. Papa of UST, Dr. Francis S. Magbanua of UP Diliman, and Adelina C. Santos-Borja of LLDA.

“With this new equipment, we are able to expand LLDA’s assets and capabilities as a research facility. In the next few years, LLDA is keen to continue on investing in state-of-the-art laboratory equipment as this will aid in LLDA’s numerous initiatives, which include becoming a premier resource for research and data. During my term, I wish to restore LLDA’s prominence as one of the key institutions in Southeast Asia with the best water quality laboratory.”

The e-REC Project, established in 2015, is fully funded by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) based in Kyoto, Japan. Its primary purpose is to facilitate cross-linkage of multi-level governance, in which governments and researchers with a systemic view intend to solve the nutrient imbalance-derived issues at the regional and global scales. The project also aims to solve social and environmental issues specific to local communities in the context of their life and livelihood.
LDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina met with the Laguna Mayors League President and Sta. Maria, Laguna Mayor Tony Carolino to further discuss the Flood Awareness and Community Empowerment (FACE) Project. The FACE project is a simple web camera technology program that helps communities in flood detection. The FACE Project was the result of experiences and lessons learned from the worst floods that occurred in the Laguna Lake Basin. These incidents highlighted the importance of community awareness and the participation needed in addressing the reduction and mitigation of risks from the impact of flood damage. Sta. Maria, Laguna was chosen to be one of the core sites as it is located upstream, making it ideal for the simple FACE web system to be installed. Helping cities to mobilize during flood and emergencies, the FACE web system works by using a camera module that captures the actual image of the river in real time. The interface box containing the smartphone then transmits the data and images to the server, which will then effectively alert the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) of coming flood.
LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina, joined the official signing of the joint resolution by the Federation of Fishpen and Fishcage Operators Association of Laguna de Bay, headed by its president Epifanio Reyes, and Association of Laguna Lake Fish Producers and Fisherfolk, Inc. during their meeting at the Premiere Guesthouse in Malacanang, on May 16, 2017.

The highlight of the joint Resolution by the Federation and the Association of Fishpen / Fishcage operators was their appeal for the reconsideration of BR 518 - which in essence was addressed/approved by the Board of Directors through its amendments (BR 525 and BR 531).

GM Medina welcomed the joint resolution as an indication of solid support for LLDA’s efforts. The joint resolution spelled out the commitment of both groups to participate in the environmental protection and promotion of ecological balance, biodiversity and ecotourism in the Laguna Lake and the Laguna de Bay region.

Also present during the activity were Undersecretary Lloyd Christopher A. Lao, and other officials of the Presidential Management Staff, and the Office of the President. LLDA AGM Generoso Dungo, Chief of Staff Adel Domingo and other LLDA Mancom members were also present to witness the affair.

The joint resolution reflected LLDA and the Federation’s commitment to participate in the environmental protection and promotion of ecological balance, biodiversity and ecotourism in the Laguna de Bay region.
LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Media was able to get the support of the local executives of the Provinces of Rizal and Laguna in the effective implementation of the LLDA Board Resolution No. 518, issued last February 1, 2017, which provides a moratorium on the operation of aquaculture structures within the Laguna de Bay.

During separate meetings with the League of Municipalities of Laguna on February 25, 2017 and with the Rizal Mayors on May 26, 2017, GM Medina clarified the provisions LLDA BR 518, as well as the actions expected from the local executives in order to implement its provisions. GM Medina will regularly coordinate with the mayors and the different agencies on the outcome of the said one year moratorium.

LLDA GM Medina was the honored speaker at the Rizal Mayors’ League Meeting, and was welcomed by the President of the Rizal Mayors’ League, Mayor Cecilio Hernandez of Rodriguez Rizal, and Mayor Elionor Pilias of Jalajala Rizal.

Gracing the event as well were Rizal Gov. Nini A. Ynares, Antipolo City Mayor Jun Ynares, Taytay Mayor Joric Gacula, Angono Mayor Gerry Calderon, Binangonan Mayor Cesar Ynares, Cardona Mayor Bernardo San Juan, Morong Mayor Armando SanJuan, Pililla Mayor Dan Masinsin, San Mateo Mayor Cristina Diaz, Tanay Mayor Rex Manuel Tanjuatco, and the League of the Municipalities-Rizal Chapter Executive Director Atty. Rolando Rivera.

At the event, GM Medina also distributed fishpen fee shares to the Province of Rizal and the Municipalities of Tanay, Morong, Baras, Pililia, Jalajala and Binangonan.
The water quality of the lake and its tributary rivers was evaluated based on the conformance with the Water Quality Guidelines for Class C Waters as provided in the DENR Administrative Order No. 2016 – 08. The following parameters were considered in the evaluation and these are: ammonia, BOD, chloride, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, oil and grease, pH, phosphate, total suspended solids and fecal coliform. All of the water samples were analyzed using the Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 21st Edition. 2005, APHA, and AWWA.

The water quality of the Laguna de Bay in 2017 was generally good and suitable for fishery. Most of the annual average of the parameters conformed not only with the Water Quality (WQ) Guidelines for Class C waters but conformed with the WQ Guidelines for Class A and B. The annual average of the BOD concentration in the nine (9) lake stations was 3.0 mg/L and conformed with the WQ Guidelines for Class A waters. The same was observed for chloride, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, pH, phosphate, total suspended solids and Fecal coliform, wherein all the annual averages conformed with the WQ Guidelines for A, B and C. For the oil and grease concentration of the lake, the annual average was 1.5 mg/L and conformed with the WQ Guidelines for Class C set at 2.0 mg/L. On the other hand, annual average concentration of ammonia was 0.055 mg/L which slightly exceeded the WQ Guidelines for Class C waters set at 0.05 mg/L. No saltwater intrusion was observed throughout the year.

For the water quality of the tributary rivers, the highly polluted stations were mostly found in the western area. The tributary river stations which obtained the highest annual average concentrations of water quality parameters in 2017 were Bagumbayan River for ammonia, Buli Creek for BOD and oil and grease, San Juan River for nitrate, Tanay River-Daranak Falls for pH, Morong River-Downstream for phosphate, and Angono River for total suspended solids. For D.O. (Dissolved Oxygen), Tunasan River-Downstream registered the lowest annual average. With these results, pollution control activities must be strengthened and intensified in these rivers.
LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY celebrated its proud history and 48th anniversary with a modest event held at LLDA headquarters. After the Mass, LLDA General Manager Jaime “Joey” Medina shared a few inspiring words and was joined by Miss Earth candidates on stage who lent their voices and support to the agency’s campaign for a greener environment.

During the short program, hosted by Mau Tolentino, GM Medina and AGM Gener Dungo presented Loyalty Awards to notable LLDA employees who have served the agency for 15, 20, 25, 35 and 40 years, respectively.

LOYALTY Awardees

15 years
Jonathan Nicolas
Arnel Molmisa

20 years
Ramon Magalonga Jr.
Felicisimo Mangahas
Adelio Rico

25 years
Joebeth Dalisay
Chona Francisco

30 years
Ven Endaya
Orlando Pamittan
Brenda Mendoza
Ronilito Pendijito

35 years
Rosanna Rustica Avenido
Elsie Mistica
Florita Moredo

35 years
Jocelyn Enriquez
Guillermo Orgil
Reena Buena

40 years
Emmanuel Moreno
Imelda Zapanta
Orlando Corpuz
Isabelita Rafer
Evangelina Baldesolo
Lilibeth Joves
Danilo Lazarito
Crispina Muan
Ireneo Bongco

40 years
Narciso Ongkiatco
Melvin Martinez
Under Section 16 of Republic Act No. 4850, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 927, the corporate powers of LLDA shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors, which shall be composed of ten (10) members, to wit: the Secretary of Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Secretary of National Economic Development Authority, the Secretary of Department of Trade and Industry, the Chairman of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority; a representative from the Office of the President, a representative of Laguna Province designated by the Provincial Board of Laguna, a representative of Rizal Province designated by the Provincial Board of Rizal, the General Manager of the Authority to be appointed by the President of the Philippines, and a representative of private investors, likewise to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among a list of recommendees to be submitted by the private investors.

The official next in rank to the above-mentioned members serve as permanent alternate members and attend meetings of the Board in the absence of their principals.
From being strictly regulatory, LLDA should function as a regulatory-developmental agency

- GM Jaime “Joey” Medina