



VOLUME 5 | January to December 2025 March 2026



# “URS ACT: Advocating Climate Transformation”

## 12TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT WEEK

University of Rizal System (URS), November 24, 2025 formally launched its **12th Annual University Environment Week**, at the URS Tanay Dumagat Hall, gathering students, faculty members, university officials, and invited guests gathered in a unified call for climate action. The celebration was anchored on the theme “URS Act: Advocating Climate Transformation,” reinforcing the University’s commitment to environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

The opening ceremony featured a keynote address by Assistant Professor Jonathan O. Hernandez of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). In his message, he highlighted the pressing environmental challenges facing the Philippines, including deforestation, plastic pollution, and watershed degradation. He emphasized the crucial role of higher education institutions in addressing these issues through education, research, and active community engagement.

*“Sa bansang tulad ng Pilipinas hindi sapat ang talino, hindi sapat ang degree, ang titulo mo o ang dami ng research na napublish mo or citations mo. Ang tunay na laban para sa kalikasan ay laban ng may puso, pusong marunong makinig sa hinaing ng bundok, pusong marunong makinig sa hinaing ng mga ilog, at pusong handang kumilos hindi bukas kundi ngayon. ,”* Hernandez emphasized.

Moreover, Dr. Esther C. Recla, Head of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC), underscored that the annual observance serves as a vital platform to deepen environmental awareness, strengthen sustainability initiatives, and cultivate environmental leadership among students across all URS campuses.

The launch officially marked the beginning of a weeklong series of environmental activities, designed to inspire collective action and encourage the URS community to actively contribute to building a more resilient and sustainable future.

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# Switching Off for the Planet:

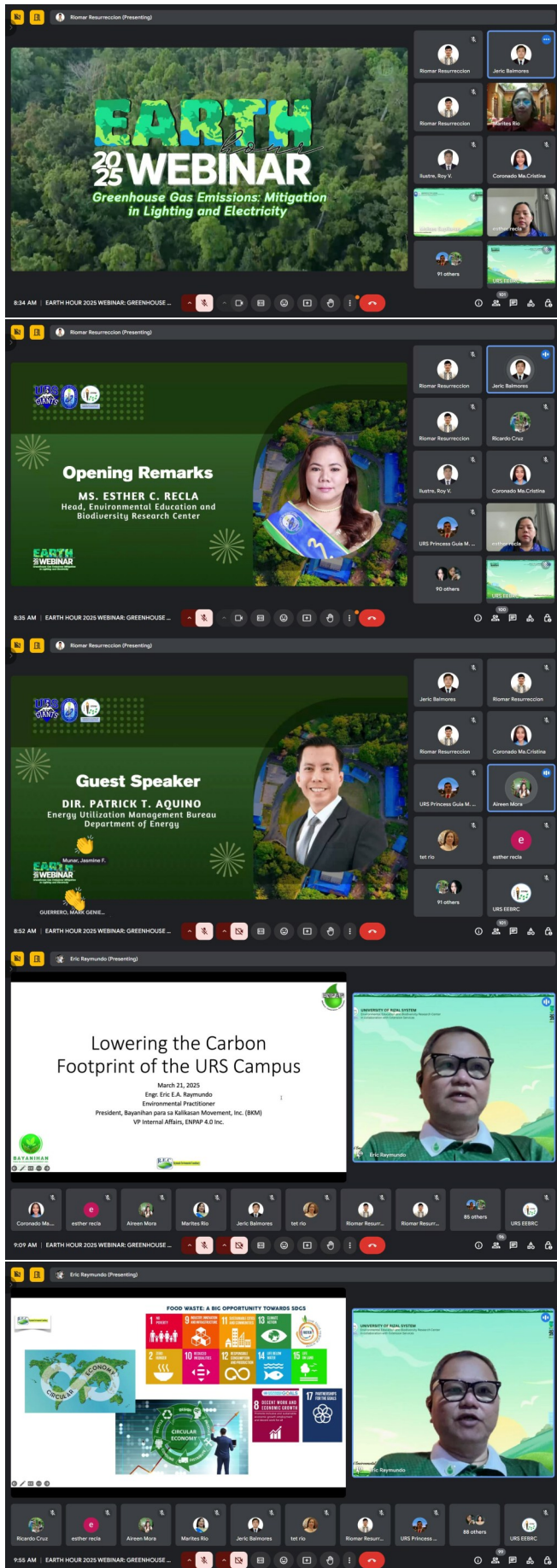
## EARTH HOUR Webinar on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigation

In support of the global **Earth Hour 2025** celebration, the University of Rizal System (URS), through the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC), successfully conducted the webinar **“Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Mitigation in Lighting and Electricity”** on **March 21, 2025**, via **Google Meet and YouTube Live**. The activity strengthened awareness on energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction, reaffirming the University’s commitment to environmental sustainability.

The webinar engaged students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders in meaningful discussions on practical and policy-driven approaches to responsible energy use, reflecting the URS community’s growing dedication to climate action and sustainable development.

The program featured **Dr. Patrick T. Aquino, CESO III**, Director of the Energy Utilization Management Bureau of the Department of Energy (DOE), who presented key DOE programs and emphasized the importance of efficient energy utilization in both institutions and households. **Engr. Eric E. A. Raymundo**, AEMAS and DOE-Certified Energy Manager and Environmental Practitioner, complemented the discussion by sharing actionable strategies aligned with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, covering energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy conservation policies, carbon footprint reduction, and green jobs development.

Taken together, the Earth Hour 2025 Webinar highlighted that small, conscious changes in daily routines can lead to significant environmental impact. As URS continues to advance its sustainability initiatives, the University community is encouraged to remain engaged and actively support future programs toward a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future.



# Empowering a Greener Future: URS Celebrates the International Day for Biological Diversity

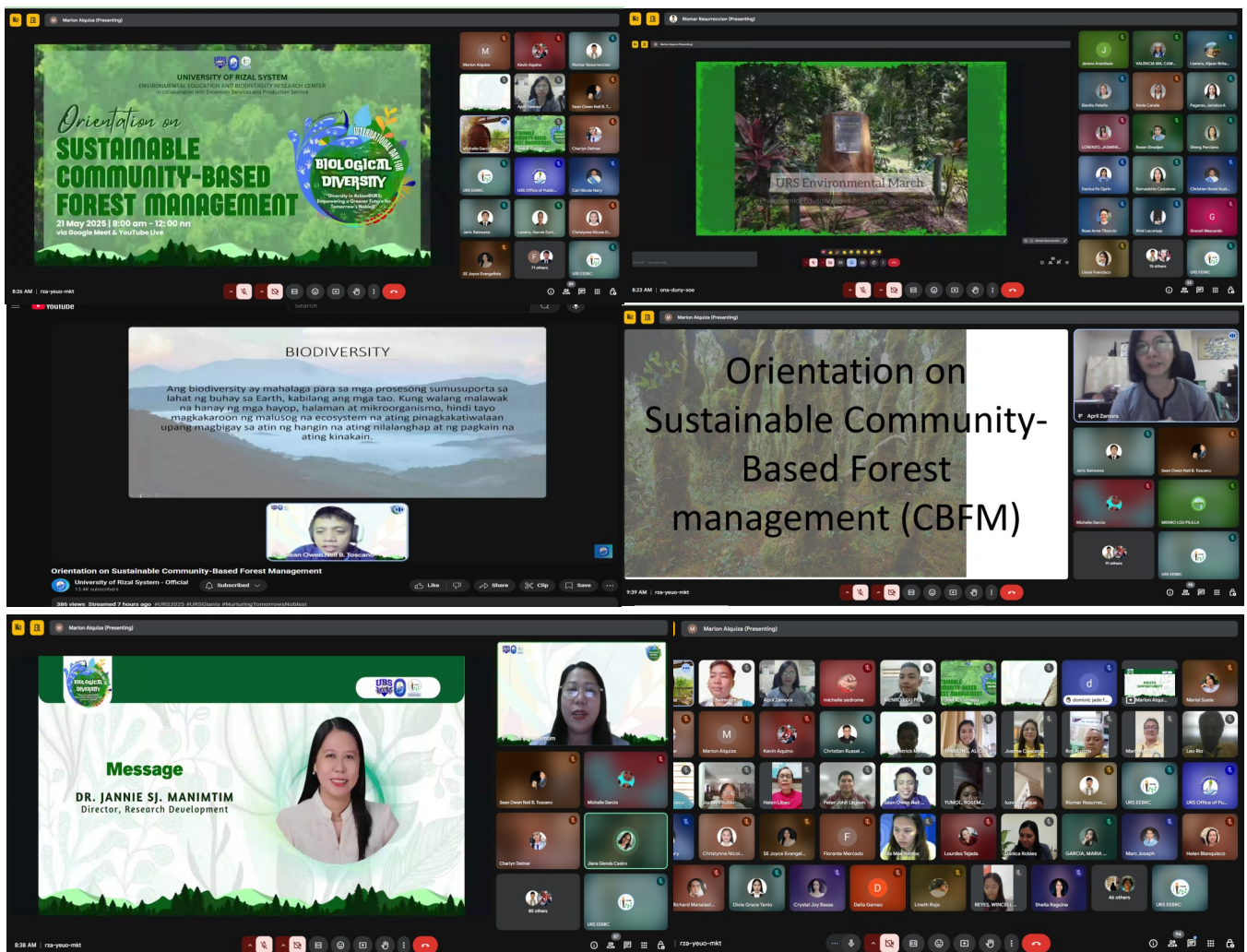
University of Rizal System (URS) successfully concluded its online webinar “Orientation on Sustainable Community-Based Forest Management” as part of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2025 celebration, May 21-22, 2025.

With the theme “Diversity in Action@URS: Empowering a Greener Future for Tomorrow’s Noblest,” the event aimed to ignite awareness, inspire action, and empower participants to protect ecosystems and promote environmental sustainability.

The webinar featured distinguished resource speakers from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Rizal, Mr. Sean Owen Neil B. Toscano, GIS Specialist/Biologist, Kaliwa River Forest Reserve, who discussed “Protecting Philippine Wildlife: An Overview of RA 9147, and , Ms. April Zamora-De Rota, LMO II and Chief of the Conservation Development Section (CDS), who presented on Sustainable Community-Based Forest Management.

The second day marked by a simultaneous clean-up drive across all ten URS campuses, demonstrating the University community’s active commitment to environmental stewardship.

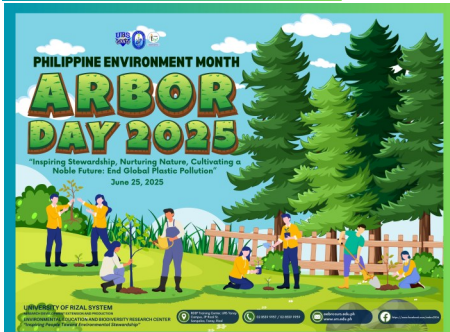
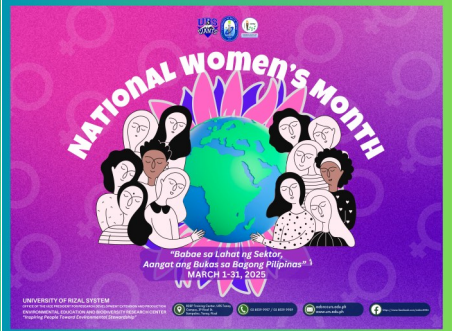
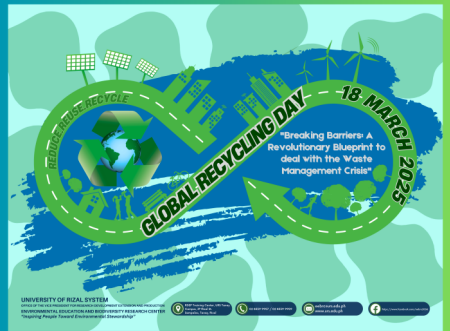
This initiative strengthened the URS community’s engagement in biodiversity conservation and paves the way toward a more sustainable and greener future.







# Promoting ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGH IEC MATERIALS



The University of Rizal System (URS), through the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC), continues to champion environmental stewardship by promoting awareness through IEC materials. These materials are designed to inform, educate, and inspire students, faculty, staff, and the community on sustainable practices, climate change, biodiversity conservation, and responsible resource management.

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY: Indigenous Tree Planting and Recycling Initiatives



Complementing this effort is EEBC's systematic collection and management of recyclable materials, which highlights the Center's dedication to responsible waste reduction practices. Recyclable materials collected from the campus are temporarily stored at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located at the URS Tanay Campus. Once accumulated, these materials are sold, and the proceeds are allocated to the campus's Income-Generating Project (IGP). This initiative not only minimizes waste sent to landfills but also transforms recyclable materials into valuable resources that support university development and sustainability programs.

Through these continuing initiatives, the EEBC actively promotes environmental responsibility, encourages community participation, and translates sustainability principles into concrete actions. By integrating environmental education, biodiversity conservation, and innovative waste management strategies, the Center continues to inspire meaningful change and contribute to the creation of a greener, more sustainable future for the university and the wider community.

Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) maintain to play a vital role in advancing environmental conservation and sustainability initiatives within the University of Rizal System and its partner communities. Through well-designed programs that address pressing environmental concerns such as climate change, waste management, and biodiversity protection, the Center reinforces the University's strong commitment to ecological stewardship and sustainable development.

Among EEBRC's notable initiatives is the propagation of indigenous fruit-bearing tree seedlings, a strategic effort aimed at supporting reforestation and biodiversity enhancement. These seedlings are carefully nurtured and distributed during tree-planting activities across various campuses and partner communities. By prioritizing native species, the initiative contributes to ecosystem restoration, improves food security, and promotes long-term environmental resilience while raising awareness on the importance of preserving local biodiversity.



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES ORIENTATION ACROSS 10 URS CAMPUSES



University of Rizal System, through the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC), successfully conducted a University-wide Orientation on the Environmental Management Guidelines across its ten campuses, reinforcing the University's stewardship to environmental protection, sustainability, and compliance with national environmental laws.

The orientation informed students, faculty, and staff about the University's policies and standards on **proper waste management, resource conservation, energy and water efficiency, environmental protection, and sustainable practices**. These guidelines are anchored on key national laws, including **Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, RA 9512 or the National Environmental Awareness and Education Act, RA 8749 or the Philippine Clean Air Act, and Executive Order No. 193**, which institutionalizes environmental management systems in government agencies.

Discussions emphasized the importance of waste segregation, recycling, and reduction of single-use plastics in compliance with RA 9003, as well as the promotion of environmental education and advocacy in support of RA 9512. The orien-

tation also highlighted measures to reduce air pollution and promote smoke-free campuses in line with RA 8749, while encouraging responsible energy and water use consistent with national sustainability policies.

The activity highlighted the University's role in protecting biodiversity and natural resources in accordance with **RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act)** and **RA 3571**, which prohibits the destruction of trees and plants along public areas. Participants were encouraged to actively support tree-growing activities, campus greening programs, and biodiversity conservation initiatives.

By promoting awareness, compliance, and shared responsibility, the orientation strengthened a **culture of sustainability** within the University community. Through the consistent implementation of the Environmental Management Guidelines, the University of Rizal System continues to align its programs with national environmental laws and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, ensuring greener, safer, and more resilient campuses across all ten URS locations.

URS CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL OZONE LAYER DAY

# OZONE FOR LIFE

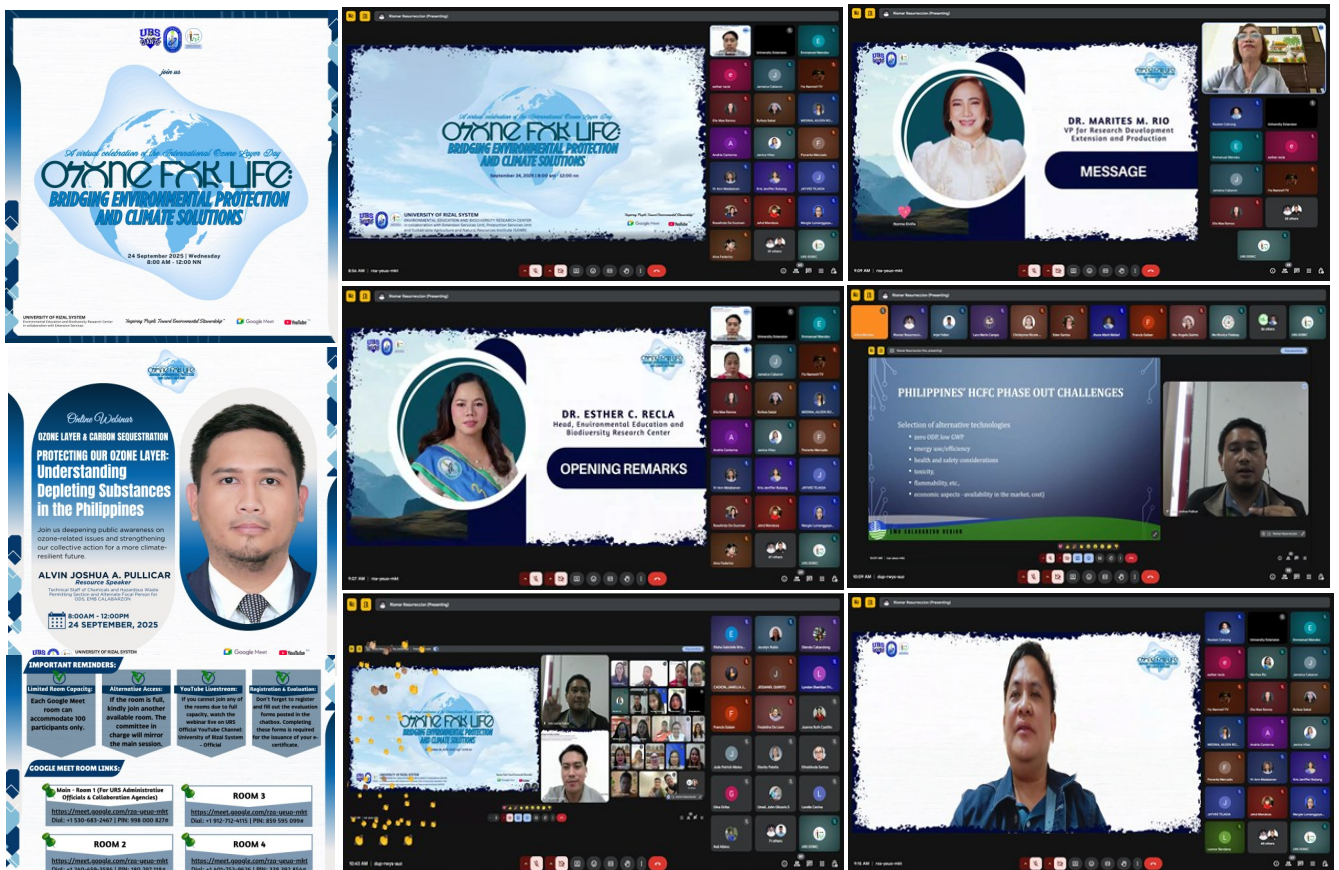
BRIDGING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

September 24, 2025, the University of Rizal System, through the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) in collaboration with the URS Extension Services Unit, URS Production Services Unit, and URS-Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Institute, successfully concluded its online webinar in celebration of International Ozone Layer Day 2025.

With the theme “Ozone for Life: Bridging Environmental Protection and Climate Solutions,” the event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the ozone layer, strengthen advocacy for environmental responsibility, and inspire collective action to address climate change challenges.

The webinar featured valuable insights from **Mr. Alvin Joshua A. Pullicar** and the EMB CALABARZON, who shared expertise on ozone layer protection and sustainable environmental practices. Participants were encouraged to adopt practical measures in daily life and contribute to solutions that support both environmental protection and climate resilience.

Through this initiative, the University of Rizal System continues to promote a culture of environmental stewardship, uniting students, faculty, and staff in collective efforts for a greener and sustainable future.



# UR-SUSTAINING RIZAL: *A Photo-Essay on Waste*

**What an incredible showcase of talent, creativity, and environmental commitment!** The “UR-Sustaining Rizal: A Photo-Essay on Waste” contest—one of the highlights of the **12th Annual University Environment Week 2025**—successfully concluded with powerful visual stories that echoed this year’s theme, “**URS ACT: Advocating Climate Transformation.**”

Organized in partnership with **DENR-PENRO Rizal**, the contest harnessed the power of photography to spotlight the pressing issue of waste management and to inspire behavioral and environmental change. Through compelling images and narratives, participants captured the realities of waste in our communities and campuses, reminding us that meaningful transformation begins with awareness and action.

All submitted photo-essays were exhibited throughout the celebration week, serving as visual reminders that every URS campus plays a vital role in protecting the environment and advancing sustainability.

Congratulations to the winners, and heartfelt thanks to all participants who answered the call to be voices for a cleaner and greener Rizal. Your photo-essays truly captured the heart of our mission—advocating climate transformation through creativity, responsibility, and collective action.



## **TRASH TALKS—** *The Petroglyphs*

*URS Angono Campus, 1st placer*

*When the tide rises in Angono, trash talks from both underwater and above. While high tides and typhoons contribute to flooding, waste from improper disposal turns a temporary issue into a recurring one.*

*At Angono Lakeside Park, children walk barefoot through dull-colored, foul-smelling water that can take up to two months to completely subside, affecting the daily lives of the locals. Beside them is a plastic bottle, a small piece of trash that contributes to a much bigger problem.*

*While some plastics clog drains and pollute the environment, others reach the hands of individuals committed to cleaning up Angono.*

*A woman at Sitio Labahan’s Son & El Materials.*

*Recovery Facility actively recycles plastic bottles to help reduce pollution while contributing to the economy.*

*Ultimately, the responsibility rests within the people. A kid disposing of a cup and a bottle in a waste management bin, might be a simple act, but it leaves a giant impact on preserving the beauty of Angono.*

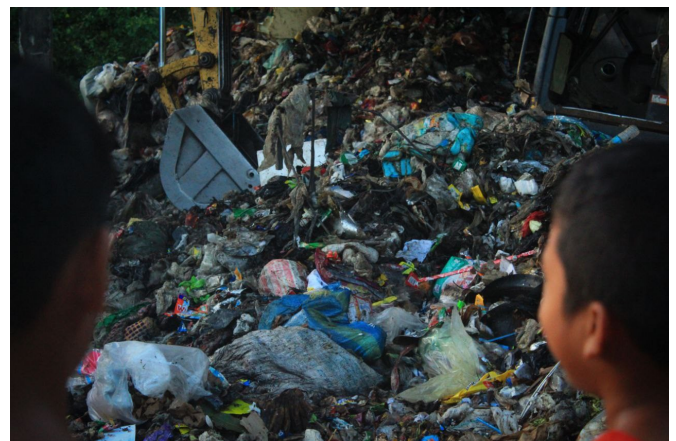
*Together, these images show that progress begins with people taking action, proving that community efforts, whether big or small, can help restore a cleaner, more vibrant Art Capital.*

**MORONG'S DISCARDED ECHOES** — *The Legacy URS Morong Campus, 2nd placer*

*In the heart of Morong, Rizal, the problem reveals itself plainly: two children stand before a sea of unsegregated waste, a stark reminder of how improper disposal spills into daily life. Their innocent presence contrasts sharply with the overwhelming pile in front of them—an urgent call to confront what is often ignored.*

*Change begins with a single action. A GSO staff member of Morong Campus carefully sorts through a bin, separating what can be reused from what must be discarded. His deliberate movements reflect a growing culture of accountability—proof that solutions are built not through grand gestures, but through consistent, mindful practice.*

*Ate Ara, a street sweeper, anchors the story, her quiet labor keeping the streets along Brgy. San Juan passable each day. Her portrait honors the often unseen people who shoulder the weight of the community's waste.*





**WASTE TO WAYS — Dampol Publication**  
 URS Pililla Campus, 3rd placer

*In the outskirts, waste has formed its own landscape: piles of plastic, decay, and neglect. The air is heavy not just with odor but with the harsh reality that the environment has been suffering from—negligence. Unsegregated waste, piled across streets, is a reflection of widespread apathy and lack of discipline, a pattern that many have sadly grown accustomed to.*

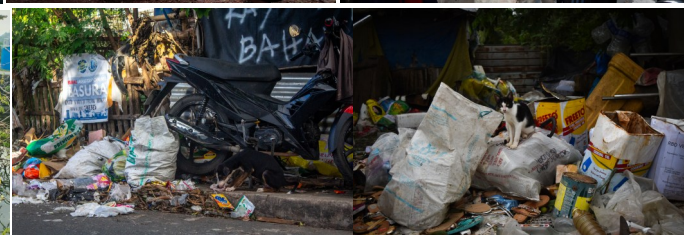
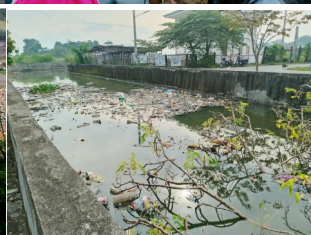


*Yet, amid the indifference, the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) brings new life to what was once ruined—from chaos to order. Here, unsorted waste breathes as it becomes properly segregated. Bottles, plastics, and paper find purpose again. In this small space in every barangay, change begins, and it all starts with a single act of care.*



*And in every act of sympathy, behind is a compassionate person. His work might often be unseen, but it bears the community's conscience. His face speaks weight, not of labor, but of responsibility.*

*But change cannot rest on individual efforts alone. It needs collective action, where every micro effort becomes a commitment towards a better environment. Because in our hands rests the power to change—one community, one environment, one act of care.*



# URS ACT VOICES SHINE IN TALUMPATING WALANG PAGHAHANDA



University of Rizal System celebrates the successful conduct of the *Talumpating Walang Paghahanda* contest held on Monday, November 24, 2025, as part of the 12th Annual University Environment Week.

Anchored on the theme “URS ACT: Advocating Climate Transformation,” the competition challenged participants to deliver impromptu speeches that expressed their insights, convictions, and dedication to climate action and environmental stewardship. Despite having no prior preparation, the contestants demonstrated remarkable confidence, clarity of thought, and genuine passion, proving that meaningful advocacy can be conveyed through informed and empowered voices.

Their compelling speeches inspired the audience and reinforced the importance of collective action toward climate transformation.

The *Talumpating Walang Paghahanda* contest served not only as a showcase of students’ oratorical excellence but also as a dynamic platform to amplify youth voices in advancing environmental awareness. As part of the 12th Annual University Environment Week, the activity reaffirmed URS’s commitment to nurturing environmentally responsible leaders who are ready to ACT for the environment, one voice and one action at a time.

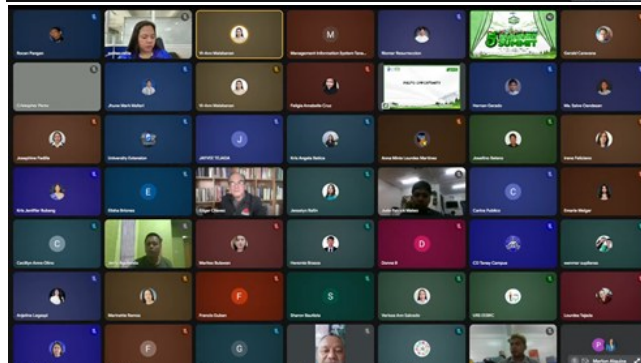
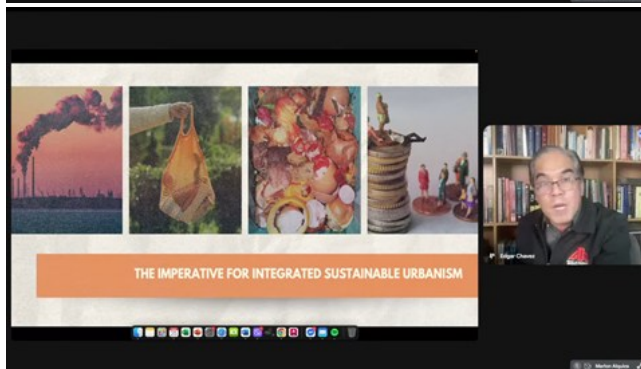
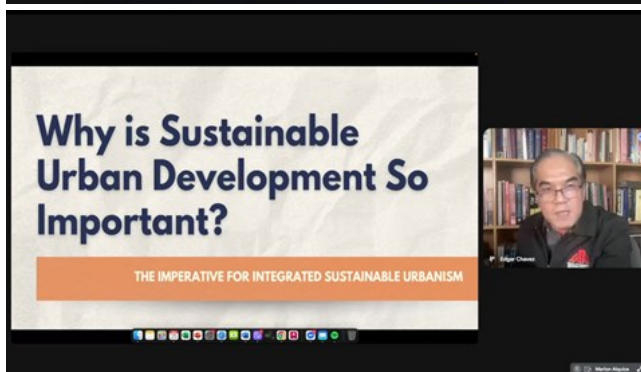
# URS Leads Climate Transformation at the 5th Environment Summit 2025

In celebration of the 12th Annual University Environment Week, the University of Rizal System successfully convened the 5th Environment Summit 2025, anchored on the theme “URS ACT: Advocating Climate Transformation.” The summit brought together students, faculty members, administrators, and environmental advocates to strengthen collective efforts toward sustainability and climate resilience.

The summit featured an insightful discussion on “*Environmental Planning for Resilient Communities and Advocating Climate Transformation: SM Supermalls’ Sustainability and Environmental Programs.*” The session highlighted the vital role of strategic environmental planning and private-sector engagement in building climate-resilient communities, showcasing how sustainability-driven initiatives and innovative environmental programs can effectively advance climate action and long-term environmental sustainability.

Participants gained valuable perspectives on climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, environmental governance, and the importance of collaborative partnerships among academic institutions, communities, and the private sector. The discussion reinforced the idea that meaningful climate transformation requires integrated planning, responsible corporate participation, and active citizen involvement.

As a key activity of the 12th Annual University Environment Week, the 5th Environment Summit 2025 reaffirmed the University of Rizal System’s commitment to environmental stewardship and climate advocacy. Through initiatives such as this, URS continues to empower its academic community to translate knowledge into action and to ACT for the environment, contributing to more resilient communities and a sustainable future for generations to come.



# URS Empowers Campuses and Communities Through Waste Management Programs

University of Rizal System (URS) implemented a comprehensive Waste Management Program across ten campuses, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. The initiative aimed to educate and engage students, faculty, and staff on proper waste management practices while promoting environmental awareness across all campuses.

Each campus hosted activities within its grounds, inviting nearby schools to participate and expand the reach of the program. Engaging sessions encouraged collaboration and community involvement, ensuring that environmental practices extend beyond the university walls.

Local government unit (LGU) resource speakers provided practical guidance on waste segregation, recycling, and community-based environmental programs. Participants gained actionable strategies that they could immediately apply to their campuses and communities, bridging knowledge and practice.

Students, faculty, and staff enthusiastically took part in discussions, demonstrations, and clean-up drives. These hands-on activities transformed awareness into meaningful action, reinforcing the importance of collective responsibility for a cleaner environment.

Through this multi-campus initiative, URS continues to ACT for the environment, empowering its academic community and partner schools to contribute to a greener, more sustainable future. The program showcased how collaboration between educational institutions, local authorities, and communities can create lasting impact and cultivate a culture of environmental stewardship.



# Sayaw para sa Kalikasan

## SHOWCASES CREATIVE CLIMATE ADVOCACY

*Sayaw para sa Kalikasan* was one of the major highlights of the 12th Annual University Environment Week 2025, showcasing how art and movement can effectively promote environmental awareness and climate action. Conducted as a video contest and online performance, the activity brought together students, faculty members, and stakeholders across the university in a shared advocacy for environmental protection and sustainability.

The creative dance performances of the participants conveyed pressing environmental issues such as climate change impacts, environmental degradation, and the importance of sustainable practices. Each entry transformed complex environmental concepts into compelling visual narratives, making climate advocacy more engaging and accessible to a wider audience.

The activity also served as a platform for knowledge-sharing and reflection, encouraging collective action toward climate transformation. The online format enabled wider participation and amplified environmental messages beyond campus boundaries.

Rodriguez Campus emerged as first place, followed by Antipolo Campus as second place and Pililla Campus as third place, in recognition of their outstanding creativity and environmental messaging.

Overall, *Sayaw para sa Kalikasan* highlighted the role of culture and creativity in inspiring environmental responsibility and strengthening the university's commitment to sustainability during the 12th Annual University Environment Week 2025.



# Advancing Climate Action: URS Successfully Conducts the 2nd Let's Talk about Nature

On November 27, 2025, the University of Rizal System (URS) successfully conducted the 2nd “Let’s Talk About Nature: Climate Change Action” as part of the 12th Annual University Environment Week. The activity provided a meaningful and impactful platform for learning, reflection, and action, bringing together students, faculty members, and environmental advocates.

More than just a discussion, the session empowered participants to engage with pressing environmental issues and explore practical, sustainable solutions toward a greener and more climate-resilient future.

The session covered key themes on sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation, equipping participants with valuable knowledge and strategies to help protect and sustain the environment. Special recognition was extended to Engr. Maribeth S. Esteva, whose expertise and insights inspired participants to actively contribute to climate action initiatives.

Featured as one of the highlights of this year’s University Environment Week, the activity was conducted in partnership with PENRO-Rizal, further strengthening collaboration between the University and environmental institutions. The event gathered diverse stakeholders united in one mission, to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.

The successful conduct of this activity reflects URS’s strong advocacy for environmental awareness and its continued efforts to empower the community to transform knowledge into meaningful action for the planet.



# EEBRC STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS

## *through Collaborative Environmental Initiatives*

Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) successfully collaborated with various university offices to advance environmental awareness, education, and sustainable practices across the University of Rizal System. These joint initiatives demonstrated the power of teamwork in addressing pressing environmental issues and promoting a culture of environmental stewardship.

Through seminars, workshops, and hybrid activities, EEBRC worked closely with faculty offices, student organizations, and administrative units to implement programs on climate change action, solid waste management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable campus practices. This collaboration allowed participants to share knowledge, exchange best practices, and take collective action toward a greener, more sustainable campus environment.

Notably, these partnerships strengthened the reach and impact of EEBRC programs, ensuring that environmental education is integrated across different offices and departments. The initiatives also provided a platform for cross-sector engagement, encouraging students, faculty, and staff to actively contribute to environmental projects and advocacy.

EEBRC's collaborative approach reflects the center's commitment to fostering synergy, inclusivity, and sustainability within the university community. By working hand-in-hand with other offices, EEBRC continues to empower stakeholders to become active participants in environmental protection and climate resilience initiatives.



**Millennium Science Educators' Society, Connect2Earth: Powering a Sustainable Future - Earth Hour Program - March 24, 2025**



**Kick-Off Activity on Sustainable Communal Garden in the Municipality of Pililla & Seminar-Workshop on Integrated Crop Management for Communal Garden—June 23, 2025**



**Training Workshop on Empowering URS Faculty Researchers in Conducting Research in Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources spearheaded by Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Institute (SANRI) – August 18 & 20, 2025**

## 6th Camp-Hike-Plant Youth EXPO Kaliwa River Forest Reserve Dalaw Turo



In celebration of Camp-Hike-Plant 2025 and the 12th URS Environmental Week, the University of Rizal System, through the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC), successfully conducted the *Kaliwa River Forest Reserve Dalaw Turo* on November 26, 2025, at the Dumagat Hall, URS Tanay Campus, Barangay Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal.

The activity featured informative exhibits and interactive learning sessions designed to promote environmental awareness, biodiversity conservation, and youth empowerment. Participants gained valuable insights on forest protection, watershed conservation, and sustainable environmental practices.

Through collaboration with various agencies and organizations, the activity provided a meaningful platform for experiential learning and knowledge-sharing. The successful conduct of the event reaffirmed URS's pursuit of environmental stewardship and youth engagement as part of the 12th URS Environmental Week.

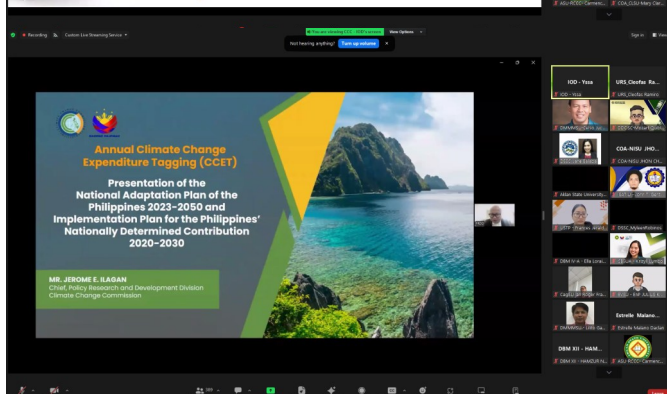
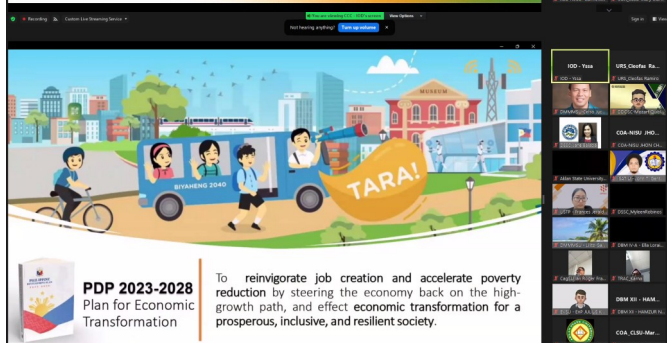
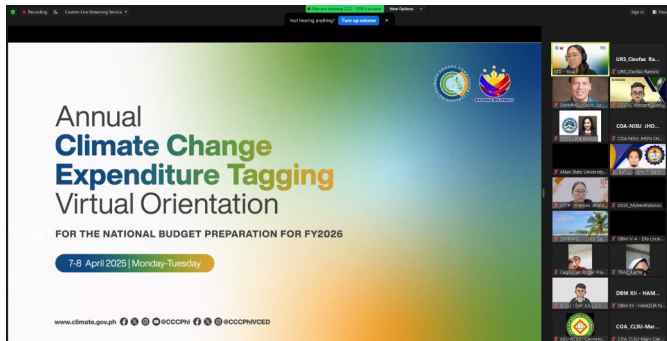
PROGRAM	
REGISTRATION	7:30 AM to 8:00 AM
PROGRAM	<p>Prayer</p> <p>National Anthem</p> <p>URS Hymn</p> <p>URS VMGO &amp; Quality Policy</p>
OPENING REMARKS	DR. NICOLE L. TRINIDAD Dean, Extension Unit, URS Tanay
INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE	DR. MARITES M. RIO Vice President for Research Development, Extension and Production
RATIONALE	MS. ESTHER C. RECLA Dean, Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center
INTRODUCTION OF RESOURCE SPEAKER	PROF. IRENE O. FELICIANO Former Extension Head, URS Dagupan
PROGRAM	
LECTURE PROPER	
<b>TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</b>	
RESOURCE SPEAKER	
<b>DR. MARCELINO U. SILADAN</b>	
Member, URS (PCAARRD) Council of Education (UORLE) Adjunct Faculty, Misamis College and Davao LaSalle University - Christianite College of Science	
OPEN FORUM	DR. NORBERTO B. NATANO Dean, URS Tanay Campus
AWARDING OF CERTIFICATE	
PHOTO OPPORTUNITY	
CLOSING REMARKS	DR. DANILO M. PASUAL Campus Director, URS Tanay
<b>MS. KRIS JENNIFER RUBANG</b> Lady of Ceremony	

**OURTREACH 4 Session 6: Technology Innovation and Environmental Sustainability spearheaded by Extension Services—August 28, 2025**

# LEARNING IN ACTION: EEBRC SEMINARS, TRAININGS, AND FORA ATTENDED

On April 8, 2025, an orientation on Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) and the Quality Assurance and Review (QAR) Approval Process was conducted in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2026 national budget. Guided by Joint Memorandum Circular 2015-01 issued by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the activity aimed to strengthen the capacity of national government agencies, state universities and colleges (SUCs), and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs).

The session emphasized aligning budget proposals with climate change adaptation and mitigation goals, while ensuring transparency, consistency, and compliance with the CCET framework. Participants were also guided on the proper preparation and submission of QAR forms, in accordance with DBM, CCC, and Commission on Audit (COA) guidelines.



In celebration of Philippine Environment Month and in observance of Philippine Arbor Day, a Provincial-Wide Arbor Day Planting Activity was conducted on June 25, 2025, at the RDC CALABARZON Forest Park, Sitio San Ysiro, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City. Spearheaded by DENR–PENRO, the activity highlighted collective efforts toward environmental sustainability and climate action.

With the theme “End Global Plastic Pollution,” the event emphasized the importance of reforestation and environmental protection while supporting the “5 Million Trees by 2028” campaign. The activity brought together Project TRANSFORM partners and stakeholders in a shared responsibility to ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

A Cluster Representatives Meeting was conducted to discuss the STAARRDEC Research, Development, and Extension Agenda and Program (SRDEAP) for 2024–2030. The meeting focused on the presentation, discussion, and alignment of the regional agenda to ensure coherence among participating institutions. The activity aimed to strengthen inter-institutional collaboration, identify priority research and extension areas, and harmonize regional initiatives with institutional goals. The discussion highlighted the importance of coordinated planning in advancing research, development, and extension programs across the region.

On August 27, 2025, the 2025 Project TRANSFORM Colloquium was conducted under the theme “From Science to Action: Local Government Units (LGUs) at the Forefront of Climate and Disaster Resilience Governance.” Designed as a high-level platform, the colloquium brought together Local Chief Executives (LCEs), Resilience Focal Points, and development partners to showcase LGUs’ multi-stakeholder collaboration, risk-informed planning, and implementation of programs, projects, and activities (PPAs).

The event emphasized the importance of a comprehensive and evidence-informed risk management approach in building resilience and protecting the environment. It provided participants with the opportunity to share best practices, learn from peer LGUs, and strengthen strategies for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction at the local level.



September 13, 2025, the Department of Agriculture – Philippine Coconut Authority (DA–PCA) conducted a **Coconut Tree Planting Activity** aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and strengthening the coconut industry. The initiative sought to increase the number of productive coconut trees, enhance environmental protection, and contribute to climate change mitigation, while also improving the livelihoods of coconut farmers. Community participation was encouraged to ensure the proper nurturing and long-term sustainability of coconut resources for future generations.

September 17, 2025, the **3rd Quarter Meeting of the Municipal Solid Waste Management Board** of MENRO LGU Tanay was convened to address key matters related to the implementation of local solid waste management programs. The meeting covered the update and revision of council executive orders, presentation of third-quarter accomplishments, finalization of the MENRO logo, and the discussion of water quality testing analysis. These discussions highlighted the importance of coordinated planning, monitoring, and policy alignment in strengthening local environmental governance.

In continuation of these environmental initiatives, MENRO LGU Tanay also spearheaded activities in observance of the **International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) Day** on September 20, 2025. Celebrated every third Saturday of September pursuant to Proclamation No. 460, s. 2003, the activity involved a cleanup drive along local lakeshores and waterways. The event reinforced community responsibility and collective action in reducing waste pollution and protecting aquatic ecosystems.





October 1, 2025, a presentation and discussion on **Research, Development, and Extension (RDE)** gaps under the Climate Resilience thematic area of STAARRDEC was conducted to support the enhancement and alignment of the STAARRDEC Regional Development and Extension Agenda and Programs (SRDEAP). The activity served as a platform to identify priority research areas, assess ongoing initiatives, and strengthen strategies for climate adaptation and resilience across the region.



Following this, from October 27 to 30, 2025, the **3rd Regional Research and Innovation Week (RRIW)** was held, with the theme “Sustaining Partnerships: Driving Collaborative Innovation for a Resilient AANR Future.” The event featured an Innovation Hub showcasing breakthroughs from the SRDEAP and a dedicated Climate Resilience booth, highlighting key research, development, and extension initiatives.



The RRIW provided opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration among researchers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and stakeholders. It showcased ongoing innovations, enhanced visibility, and fostered potential partnerships and investments, advancing the collective goal of a climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources (AANR) sector.



In its continuing efforts to promote environmental stewardship and climate resilience, several key activities were conducted from **November to December 2025**, bringing together government agencies, local communities, and academic institutions to strengthen collective action and knowledge sharing.

**November 17, 2025, DENR Region IV-A CALABARZON** conducted a **Consultation Meeting** for the formulation of the **“Malinis na Barangay Program,”** an anti-littering and anti-illegal dumping campaign. The consultation aimed to review and refine the draft criteria for evaluating participating barangays and gather valuable inputs to ensure that the campaign is effective, inclusive, and adaptable to local contexts. The presence and active participation of stakeholders were crucial in finalizing the campaign framework and strengthening implementation mechanics at the community level. Through this collaborative effort, the initiative seeks to mobilize stronger community engagement in maintaining a clean environment, promoting proper solid waste management practices, and reinforcing collective action toward a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Manila Bay.

Following this, on **December 3, 2025**, the **Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting on Solid Waste Management** was conducted in **Brgy. Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal**. The meeting provided an avenue for local officials, stakeholders, and environmental advocates to discuss ongoing waste management initiatives, identify challenges, and propose practical solutions. By strengthening coordination among various offices and community groups, the meeting emphasized the importance of harmonized strategies for effective waste reduction, segregation, and disposal at the barangay level.





**December 9, 2025, the Knowledge Exchange Forum with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) on the Localization of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of the Philippines 2023–2050** was conducted under the auspices of the **Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC)**. The forum provided a platform for SUCs to share strategies, best practices, and institutional roles in translating the national climate adaptation agenda into actionable local programs. It highlighted the critical role of higher education institutions in strengthening climate resilience, fostering collaboration, building institutional capacity, and aligning research,

academic, and extension initiatives with national climate goals. Participants were encouraged to explore innovative approaches, enhance partnerships, and promote multi-sectoral engagement in advancing sustainable and climate-resilient communities.

**December 11, 2025, the Signing for the Implementation of Project TRANSFORM in the Municipality of Tanay, Rizal** took place, uniting several key partners under a collaborative agreement. This signing signifies a unified approach to climate action at the local level, reinforcing the commitment of stakeholders to work together in implementing initiatives that advance environmental sustainability, disaster resilience, and community development.

These activities collectively demonstrate the power of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and community participation in addressing environmental challenges and climate change. By engaging local stakeholders, government agencies, academic institutions, and key partners, these initiatives not only strengthen environmental governance and adaptation strategies but also inspire collective responsibility for a cleaner, safer, and more resilient environment for future generations.



# EEBRC

*Recognized as a Research Center*

On December 16, 2025, the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center (EEBRC) was formally recognized as an official Research Center of the University of Rizal System (URS) following the approval of the URS Board of Regents during its 85th Regular Meeting. The meeting was held at the OCRDA Conference Room 2, 4th Floor of the HEDC Building along C.P. Garcia Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. This recognition was institutionalized through the issuance of Implementation Order No. 48, Series of 2025, signifying a major milestone in the University's ongoing efforts to advance environmental initiatives.

The recognition of EEBRC highlights the University of Rizal System's strengthened advocacy to environmental education, biodiversity research, and sustainable development. As an official Research Center, EEBRC is well-positioned to further expand its role in generating impactful research, promoting environmental awareness, and supporting evidence-based policies and programs that address pressing ecological challenges. This milestone affirms the University's vision of being a leading institution in environmental stewardship and sustainability-focused research and innovation.



## THE RIDGES

The Official Newsletter of the Environmental Education and Biodiversity Research Center presents the office's accomplishment report for the whole year. The name of this paper symbolizes that all accomplishment of academic institution, the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of environment must be the top priorities. Thus, this center serves as catalyst of environmental advocacies and biodiversity conservation initiatives in the University of Rizal System's service areas.

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