

NMP trainees join International Coastal Clean Up

Tacloban City - As early as five o'clock in the morning on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, trainees at the National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP) Tacloban Training Complex gathered at the Boat Davit Area to join the coastal clean up in celebration of the International Coastal Clean Up Day.

An annual global event, it is observed every third Saturday of September but was rescheduled according to Ms. Melba L. Esquibel designated Trainees Affairs Officer and NMP focal person. The local celebration is spearheaded by the Philippine Ports Authority Regional Office.



The objective of the activity is to raise awareness about the seriousness of marine debris and to inspire people to make a difference.

Asked what he felt after the clean up drive, Deck Officer Noel B. Mercado from Cagayan de Oro City quickly answered, *“I find it very fulfilling! Especially for us in the maritime sector, we should be involved in making our marine environment free from garbage and toxic elements. It is also important that we be fully aware of the consequences of throwing garbage anywhere and understand proper garbage disposal”*.

There were 35 volunteers comprising NMP trainees and employees who participated in the early morning clean up along the shorelines and vicinity of San Juanico Strait. The collected debris was put in six black garbage bags and was fetched by the Tacloban City garbage truck for disposal.

Aside from PPA and NMP, 18 more government agencies such as PCG, MARINA, NTC, Environmental Management Bureau of DENR and the LGU Tacloban pledged support in the clean up drive. *(Maria Sandra M. Gallardo)*

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