

DepEd Regional Advisory No. 1026, s. 2021
February 1, 2021

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
This advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.
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**HURUHISGUTAY 2: PANGISDAAN HA SINIRANGAN BISAYAS OF THE LEYTE SAMAR
HERITAGE CENTER**

Attached is an emailed letter from the University of the Philippines Visayas – Tacloban College, Leyte Samar Heritage Center, dated January 21, 2021, inviting the learners and teachers to watch the *Huruhisgutay 2: Pangisdaan ha Sinirangan Bisayas* (Fisheries Production in Eastern Visayas), which is available starting January 29, 2021.

The interested viewers can refer to the attachment for more information.

Participation of both public and private schools shall be subject to the *no-disruption-of-classes policy* stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled *Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith*.

Considering that this is an Advisory, Schools Division Superintendents are given the discretion to act on this matter.

CLMD-RRT
DepEd RO8 ATA-F21 (CY2018-v03-r00)





University of the Philippines Visayas
TACLOBAN COLLEGE
Leyte Samar Heritage Center

HISGUT KALIBUNGAN

21 January 2021

Dr. RAMIR B. UYTICO, CESO IV
Regional Director
Department of Education Region VIII

Dear Dr. Uytico:

Warm greetings from the University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College.

We are pleased to invite you and your constituents to watch ***Huruhisgutay 2: Pangisdaan ha Sinirangan Bisayas (Fisheries Production in Eastern Visayas)***, the second episode in a project organized by the Leyte Samar Heritage Center entitled "***Hisgut Kalibungan: An Online Discussion Forum on Vital Environmental Issues and Concerns in Eastern Visayas.***"

Huruhisgutay 2 aims to contribute to the articulation of informed policy recommendations based on the status of fisheries production and the environmental issues and concerns affecting this sector in Region 8. This online discussion is intended for students, researchers, faculty members, professionals (e.g. licensed fisheries technologists), policymakers, and project implementers and funders in fisheries and related fields.

Huruhisgutay 2 will be available on **29 January 2021** and can be viewed any time at <https://tac.upv.edu.ph/hisgut-kalibungan/>. Viewers may participate in interactive activities on the webpage like answering a short quiz after watching the episode. Certificates of attendance will be sent to participants who will provide feedback about the online forum by filling in a post-activity evaluation form on the same webpage.

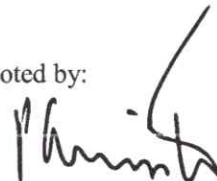
Attached is the *Huruhisgutay 2* flyer for more information about the forum, and the policy brief derived from *Huruhisgutay 1*, which is available for viewing on the same webpage.

For any question regarding this invitation, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. John O. de la Cruz at +63977-210-4805 or email us at lshc.upvisayas@up.edu.ph or jodelacruz3@up.edu.ph.

We hope that your organization will join us in cultivating awareness of environmental issues and concerns affecting fisheries production in Region 8.

Very truly yours,


STEPHEN Q. LAGARDE, PhD
Director, Leyte Samar Heritage Center

Noted by:

PATRICIA B. ARINTO, EdD
Dean, UP Visayas Tacloban College



University of the Philippines Visayas
TACLOBAN COLLEGE
Leyte Samar Heritage Center

HISGUT KALIBUNGAN

HURUHISGUTAY 2: PANGISDAAN HA SINIRANGAN BISAYAS (Fisheries Production in Eastern Visayas)

About Hisgut Kalibungan

Eastern Visayas is endowed with rich biodiversity, which serves as a primary source of food and income for local communities. However, the region's biodiversity and the quality of ecosystem services it provides are adversely affected by reckless anthropogenic activities and destructive natural hazards. The conversion of forest resources to human settlements, irresponsible waste disposal and mining activities, and unsustainable farming and fishing practices, among others, cause biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, with adverse consequences for the economy and the quality of life in local communities.

Hisgut Kalibungan, which means "environmental discussion", is an online project of the Leyte-Samar Heritage Center of UP Visayas Tacloban College that aims to contribute to the collective effort of saving the world from irreversible ecological destruction. More specifically, Hisgut Kalibungan aims to raise awareness and develop a critical understanding of urgent environmental issues and concerns in Eastern Visayas. By fostering dialogue and cooperation among concerned institutions and communities, Hisgut Kalibungan seeks to assist in the formulation of appropriate policy initiatives for environmental conservation and sustainable development in Eastern Visayas.

Huruhisgutay 2: Pangisdaan ha Sinirangan Bisayas (Fisheries Production in Eastern Visayas) focuses on environmental issues and concerns affecting the production of marine and freshwater fishery commodities in Region 8. In this episode of Hisgut Kalibungan, panelists describe the current state of fisheries production in Eastern Visayas and how it affects the livelihood and food security of local communities in Eastern Visayas. The discussion includes unsustainable fishing practices that affect fisheries production as well as local efforts to reverse fish stock depletion.

Discussion Forum

The State of Fisheries Production in Eastern Visayas

Dr. Nancy A. Dayap, MS Environmental Science Senior Lecturer
University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College

Panel Members:

Prof. Margarita T. de la Cruz
Executive Director, Guiuan Development Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Norberto T. Berida
Regional Executive Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office 8

Mrs. Nonita S. Cabacaba
Chief Science Research Specialist, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute-Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center in Guiuan

perspective. At the same time, due to lack of resources, there must be a prioritization in terms of budget allocation for programs and projects that can respond to overarching or crosscutting environmental issues.

2. **Intensify the information, education, and communication (IEC) campaign for sustainable development.** By taking advantage of existing communication technology (e.g. social media), IEC campaigns highlighting the most pressing environmental issues will help raise awareness among local stakeholders and members of the community. For example, efforts on basic ecological solid waste management education among LGUs, other stakeholders, and the community must be intensified. All must be made aware of how improper waste disposal leads to pollution (e.g. plastic pollution) that results in poor air, soil, and water quality.
3. **Revisit existing regional development plans to meet sustainable development goals.** The region must be able to demonstrate how to attain the triple bottom line of sustainable development, namely, environmental protection, economic growth, and social equity. Ensuring ecological integrity and a clean and healthy environment is part of the foundational strategies of the EVRDP to achieve sustainable development in the region. On the other hand, the goals of the existing EVRDP are to achieve robust and sustained economic growth, and reduce poverty and inequality in all dimensions. These development goals as stated sound too human-centered and can be modified by adding another pillar that will reflect the foundation strategies in EVRDP that seek to ensure the enhancement of the health of the environment.
4. **Intensify the dissemination and coordination of development plans, programs, and policies.** Some plans developed at the regional level have encountered difficulties in implementation and other plans have never taken off. To avoid such failure, sharing and coordination of overarching development plans, like the EVRDP, must be intensified by the planning agency such that it will be cascaded from the implementing LGAs down to the LGUs who are at the frontlines of implementing the specified strategies. Most importantly, the planning and development councils of each LGU (from the province to the barangays) must be well oriented and prepared for the implementation of the regional development plans, programs, and policies.
5. **Formulate development plans, programs, and policies using a bottom-up approach.** The bottom-up approach will help prevent or minimize failure in the implementation of plans, programs, and policies and at the same time ensure that strategies resolve the real environmental concerns at the grassroots level.
6. **Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementers and the implementation of plans, programs and policies.** Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the performance of implementers in terms of how they facilitate the implementation of plans, programs, and policies can be helpful in revising/amending existing policies or in creating/developing new ones. Sometimes the failure of a program or policy is due to the poor performance of the implementers rather than the program design or policy articulation. On the other hand, it is important to monitor beyond the program/project's lifetime (i.e. ex-post evaluation) to see whether the program/project has satisfactorily delivered its expected outcomes. The reactivation of local program/project monitoring committees to conduct M&E of programs and projects at the LGU level, as mandated by the Local Government Code of 1991, should be looked into.
7. **Review the functions of and strengthen coordination among the different bureaus or divisions of line government agencies to streamline the organization and harmonize program/project development and improve implementation.** This strategy will help resolve issues in the discharge of similar and overlapping functions and mandates between and among line bureaus under one department or between and among different LGAs. It will also help maximize and channel the fiscal and human resources of these agencies into comprehensive programs, projects, activities, and policies.
8. **Strengthen the enforcement capacity of concerned LGAs, stakeholders, and the community.** Though there is a proposal to strengthen the enforcement powers of the DENR, what can be done now is to intensify community empowerment in the implementation of existing environmental laws and policies. Primarily, this approach can be achieved through training programs and other capacity-building activities.
9. **Explore existing convergence models in the country to develop and implement efficient and effective implementation of environmental conservation measures and management systems in the region.** Existing models of convergence in the country can be examined to develop an appropriate strategy that will engage stakeholders in working towards the advancement of sustainable development in the region. This convergence must be led by a credible organization that has a track record of being effective and efficient in bringing together different stakeholders from various sectors (e.g. LGUs, agencies, academe). In addition, the organization should be committed to advancing participatory and community-based approaches. More inter-LGU and inter-agency alliances are needed to facilitate the efficient and effective implementation of development plans and programs as well as enforcement of environmental policies in the region.

These recommendations are being put forward for planners and decision makers to consider in their efforts to achieve economic growth and social equity while living in harmony with nature.

This policy brief has been prepared by the Leyte Samar Heritage Center of UP Visayas Tacloban College based on "Huruhisgutay 1: Setting the Directions for Environmental Conservation in Eastern Visayas", the first in the online **Hisgut Kalibungan** roundtable discussion series, which aims to provide expert analysis of the most pressing environmental issues and concerns in Eastern Visayas.