MEMORANDUM TO:

OIC, Office of the Asst. Schools Division Superintendent  
Chief Education Supervisors, CID and SGOD  
Elementary and Secondary School Heads  
Officers-in-Charge  
Public and Private Schools

BLUE CARBON STRATEGY WORKSHOP

Attached is DepEd NCR Advisory No. 251, s. 2019 dated October 18, 2019, re: invitation to teacher-coordinators of programs or projects related to Blue Carbon to attend the above-mentioned activity on October 28-29, 2019, in Quezon City, content of which is self-explanatory.

Participation of 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 Enagned Time-on-Task ad Ensuring Compliance Therewith, and the **No-Collection Policy** as stated in Section 3 of Republic Act No. 5546, An Act Prohibiting the sale of Tickets and/or the Collection of Contribution for Whatever Project or Purpose from Students and Teachers of Public and Private Schools, Colleges and Universities (Ganzon Law).

This is issued for information purpose only and not an endorsement of the activity.

SHERYLL T. GAYOLA  
Education Program Supervisor  
Officer-in-Charge  
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent
DEPED NCR ADVISORY NO. 25 | s. 2019
October 18, 2019
In compliance with DepEd Order 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.

"BLUE CARBON STRATEGY WORKSHOP"

The University of the Philippines – Diliman, Department of Geodetic Engineering will hold the Blue Carbon Strategy Workshop on October 28-29, 2019 in Quezon City. The activity aims to develop a blue carbon strategy as an effective scheme to mitigate climate change and enhance local efforts to conserve the coastal ecosystems.

Invited to attend are teacher-coordinators of programs or projects related to Blue Carbon.

Participation of 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 and the No-Collection Policy as stated in Section 3 of Republic Act No. 5546, An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Tickets and/or the Collection of Contributions for Whatever Project or Purpose from Students and Teachers of Public and Private Schools, Colleges and Universities (Ganzon Law).

For more information, contact:
Engr. Joy Jamilla
Department of Geodetic Engineering
University of the Philippines – Diliman
Mobile no.: 0996-5619476
Email Address: gayamabelle@gmail.com

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09 October 2019

Mr. Wilfredo E. Cabral
Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Regional Director
Department of Education
Quezon City

Subject: Invitation to the Blue Carbon Strategy Workshop

Dear Mr. Cabral,

Good day!

The JICA-JST-funded project, BlueCARES (Comprehensive Assessment and Conservation of Blue Carbon Ecosystems and their Services in the Coral Triangle), aims to develop a blue carbon strategy as an effective scheme to mitigate climate change and enhance local efforts to conserve the coastal ecosystems. In line with this, we are holding the Blue Carbon Strategy Workshop to determine the actions necessary in our pursuit of a sustainable and climate-resilient economy. In this regard, we are happy to invite you and other leaders and coordinators or representatives of programs or projects that are related to Blue Carbon to participate in the workshop, "Blue Carbon: What Everyone needs to know and do about it".

Tentatively, it will be held on 28-29 October, 2019 in Quezon City. The Strategic Objectives of the workshop are:

1. to provide a focused forum to identify and subsequently adopt opportunities for improvement in our collaborative effort to mitigate climate change;
2. to work collaboratively on key issues/thematic areas;
3. identify ways to improve organizational performance and maintenance of critical partnerships;
4. improve transparency and accountability; and
5. align resources and make informed budget decisions.

Please find attached, the Provisional Agenda of the workshop. Please confirm participation or non-participation not later than 18 October 2019, by contacting Ms. Amabelle Go or Engr. Joy Jamilla (gayamabelle@gmail.com; +63 966 561 9476).

We look forward to having you in this event. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DR. ARIEL C. BLANCO
BlueCARES Project Director
Associate Professor, Department of Geodetic Engineering
University of the Philippines - Diliman
Quezon City 1101
INTRODUCTION

A. What is the Blue Carbon workshop?

Given the Strategic Objectives (goals) below, the workshop is determining actions to achieve the goals and mobilizing resources to execute the actions. It is describing how the ends (goals) will be achieved by the means (resources). Putting it in a proper perspective, the holding of the workshop is driven by the following major pronouncements:

1. The Philippines is most vulnerable to climate change due to its location and geo-physical features; it can virtually derail the country’s growth and economic development;
2. The Philippines is largely unprepared to cope with climate change but has natural means to mitigate its impacts;
3. The Philippines is losing a natural resource that remains largely untapped to mitigate climate change - the Blue Carbon Ecosystems (seagrass beds and mangroves);
4. “...when healthy, mangrove forests, saltwater marshlands and seagrass meadows are extremely effective (up to 100 times faster and more permanently than terrestrial forests) at storing atmospheric CO₂, thereby mitigating climate change” - UNEP-IUCN 2009;
5. Together, we need to help develop and implement an effective strategy focused on nature-based mitigation measure in our pursuit of a sustainable and climate-resilient economy.

B. Strategic Objectives (goals) of the workshop

1. Providing a focused forum to identify and subsequently adopt opportunities for improvement in our effort to mitigate climate change.
2. Helping organizations work collaboratively. The workshop should compel us to talk about key issues/thematic areas that we need to collaborate on.
3. Identifying ways to improve organizational performance and maintenance of critical partnerships.
4. Improving transparency and accountability.
5. Aligning resources and making informed budget decisions.

C. Main sources of support:

a. Data and information - Outputs and outcomes of the BlueCARES and CECAM and related projects and other relevant data and information to assess and improve progress on a number of priorities to achieve local and national strategic objectives applying blue carbon; timely and accurate inputs from the participants;

b. Administrative – Financial support from the BMB-DENR, JICA, JST, UP.
WORKSHOP PROPER

A. Action agenda

The focus of the workshop is on making strategic decisions, not having discussions, under an atmosphere of trust and collaboration. We chose the topics below because they are with real value to the workshop and they answer the following questions: Why are we having this workshop? What do we need to have accomplished when we are done? What are the key issues we should cover?

a. Highlights of the major CC-related projects and programs (10 min presentation for each affiliation/organization)

b. Some critical topics for discussion (Previously identified from lessons learned; break-up teams to focus on their policy implications, recommendations and supporting immediate and/or long-term actions; select a Team Leader and a Rapporteur)

i. How does blue carbon link local efforts in coastal ecosystem conservation and climate change mitigation?

ii. What is the current status of the blue carbon ecosystems (seagrasses and mangroves, BCE) and the key drivers of their degradation or improvement?

iii. How do we predict or project future status of the BCE under changing environmental conditions e.g. intensified typhoons?

iv. How do we mobilize society (e.g. business and industry) to appreciate the importance of blue carbon and elicit the required actions?

v. How do we sustain a regular periodic monitoring of the status of the BCE? It’s output is key to coastal community mitigation and adaptation to environmental uncertainties.

vi. What is the most effective way to conserve and/or restore degraded or destroyed BCEs?

vii. How do we link blue carbon to national or regional thrusts to mitigate climate change impacts? (i.e., Nationally Determined Contribution, carbon financing, etc.)

B. Sharing of outputs

Each team to share the highlights of its discussion through a 5-min PowerPoint presentation of the most important aspects of its task. Reserve ample time for feedback from the audience.

C. Plenary Session

Participants will be encouraged to air their views, opinions, or comments in ways that are not necessarily related to a specific style of presentation or deliberative process.

D. Closing and follow-up