

Manila Bay in the 3rd Millenium (Major title)
- Manila Bay, 10 Years After the 1st Emecs (Sub-title)

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This proposed oral presentation shall give an up-date on the author's personal crusade, along with his collaborators' efforts, in saving Manila Bay. The author attempted to present in 1988 EMECS such an advocacy and update since his attendance in the first EMECS in Kobe. The foundation envisioned to integrate the three sectors, namely: Academe, government and Coastal Committee, is still in the process of being incorporated. Changes in the political scenes, the complex socio and cultural factors in the four provinces surrounding the bay to include the National Capital Region had aggravated the unification efforts of the author and the initial Charter Members of the Foundation. On February 5, 1990, he filed his concerned in the people's (mail box) column of the Manila Chronicle, a daily newspaper. His concerns a printed and published had not change much. Degradation continued and efforts to address them remained protracted and uncoordinated and not integrated.

Infrastructural developments which include the reclamation projects and road developments had not considered ecological considerations in their implementation. Solid and liquid waste management systems remained fragmented. It was only recently that a Solid Waste Management Law. The previous administration of then President Joseph E. Estrada with his son Mayor Jinggoy as head of the League of Municipal Mayors, assisted by the US AID'S funded CRMP in Cebu City, called and convene the 1st Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) Conference of Local Government Executive in Manila. That was a major step of Government in the direction which us (in this advocacy of promoting the concept of EMECS) are now doing since the Seto-Inland Declaration which we all acclaimed during the closing rites in 1990 in Kobe.

Public Estates Authority (PEA), a major player in the context of establishing a meaningful CRMP in the Manila Bay area, is now assisting this author in integrating all other corporate players and government agencies. Recently this author had recruited a known leader of the Maritime Industry. Ms. Doris Magsaysay-Ho of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation , to be a Charter Member of the Foundation. The directors (head of offices) of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD) of the Department of Science and technology and the Eco-systems Research and Development Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had filed their Charter Membership and intentions to support our programs to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Our efforts, previously funded twice by the UNEP Small Grants Program, to replant Mangroves, had recently been reinforced by DZMM, a major radio station of the ABS-CBN, a major Broadcast and TV network, funding as initiated by its station manager Angelo Palmones. Total Petroleum, a new energy player, had given substantial financial support to the Foundation's efforts to bring back the Mangroves in the Bay from Bataan to Cavite (the other provinces are Bulcan and Pampanga).

Both Cavite and Bulcan had joined as Charter Members, existing ones are the General Managers of the Philippine Navy, Comandant of the Phil Coast Guard, this author, and officers and leaders of private sector groups.