In line with its thrust to provide relevant information about geologic hazards, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. 8 initiated the conduct of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign regarding rain-induced landslide and flood and other geohazards to some schools in Leyte.

While it is not a part of the regular target of the Office, the conduct of said activity underscored the importance of relaying the same to academic institutions, acknowledging the significant role of students and teachers in information dissemination about geologic hazards.

Participants who were mostly Senior High students, Classroom presidents and secretaries, SSG Officers, DRR Officers, ECO Friendly Officers and WASH Officers and some teachers and advisers were engaged into lectures and discussions which will improve their awareness and preparedness specifically in times of natural and man-made calamities as a result of geological processes referred to as geohazards such as flood, landslide, ground subsidence and coastal hazards.

The presentations mainly emphasized the important aspects of hazard as well as the different manifestations of geohazards. Among the geohazards discussed and explained are the characteristics of natural hazards like landslide, flooding and earthquake.

Geologist Rodrigo Jay Miralles emphasized in his lectures that the awareness and preparedness of each one on climate change adaptation and mitigation is important in response to the zero casualty goal when disasters happen. He added that when a disaster happens, the time to prepare has already lapsed, hence, the best time to prepare for it must always be ahead of time.

The schools, through the principals, expressed gratitude for the conduct of the IEC campaign stating that nowadays, basic knowledge on disaster preparedness and response must be imperative not just among teachers but students as well. Likewise, the schools vowed to incorporate the activity in their DRR-CCA module/curriculum as a solid manifestation of their commitment and support to increase public awareness and response on geohazards.

The IEC team likewise distributed materials such as leaflets on geohazards which the participants can share and disseminate amongst their friends, families and respective communities.
In response to the need of an intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign for the awareness and preparedness of the public on climate change adaptation and mitigation, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office 8 has begun its IEC series to 291 barangays within Leyte and Southern Leyte last April 17 - May 10, 2017.

Participants who were mostly Barangay Chairpersons, Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee members of the respective barangays and some Municipal Local Government Officers, were engaged into lectures and discussions which will improve their awareness and preparedness specifically in times of natural and man-made calamities as a result of geological processes referred to as geohazards such as flood, landslide, ground subsidence and coastal hazards.

The IEC series was spearheaded by the agency’s Geosciences Division thru its Geologists. The presentations mainly emphasized the important aspects of hazard as well as the different manifestations of geohazards. Among the geohazards discussed and explained are the characteristics of natural hazards like landslide, flooding and earthquake.

Geologist Rodrigo Jay Miralles emphasized the importance of the geohazard map to the local leaders in the prevention of any untoward incidents in their respective jurisdiction. They reiterated the importance of map in the identification of relocation sites and/or evacuation areas. During the Map Reading lecture, participants were taught of the different legends concerning flood and landslide susceptibility of barangays concerned.

In the said IEC, all concerned leaders were advised to activate their Municipal/Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management Committee and identify volunteers as well. The IEC team likewise distributed materials such as posters and leaflets on geohazards which the participants can help disseminate in their areas of concern. As of to date MGB-8 is fast tracking the geohazard map distribution to all barangays within the region.

The conduct of IEC campaigns to 1,400 barangays for the region was incorporated in its annual work program by the MGB-8.
MGB-8 conducts intensified apprehension of illegal transport of SAG materials

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau RO-8 is bent on curbing illegal transport of Sand and Gravel (SAG) materials in the region through its intensified apprehension activities.

In its field operations on June 16 and 17, 2017 within the municipality of Palo, this province, the Task Force on Illegal Mining apprehended seven (7) dump trucks illegally transporting sand and gravel/quarry materials whose drivers failed to present the prescribed delivery receipts (i.e. DR issued by MGB and Province of Leyte), as provided under Section 117 of DAO 2010-21 or the revised implementing rules and regulations of R.A. 7942, otherwise known as the “Philippine Mining Act of 1995.”

Seizure Receipts were then issued on the seized trucks and its load of SAG materials and were temporarily deposited at the MGB-08 compound for safekeeping pending further administrative hearing/proceedings.

Engr. Romulo Babatugon, head of the Task Force on Illegal Mining, noted that most of the apprehended dump trucks were from retailers which were neither accredited with MGB nor with the LGU-Province of Leyte. The Task Force team has likewise emphasized to the owners the need to secure a Certificate of Accreditation with MGB or Province of Leyte. The seized dump trucks were released after payment of corresponding penalties with stern warning that stricter/graver penalties will be imposed and/or charges may be filed against them for committing the same offense.
MGB-8 Participates in Environment Month Activities

Tree planting at Salvacion, Palo, Leyte. Participated by various agencies such as DENR, EMB, MGB, CENRO Palo, DAR, DEPED, AFP, BFP, DOH, LGU-Salvacion, Palo, LGU-Palo, Leyte and private companies such as Pepsi Cola Bottlers Inc. and Sigma Alpha Epsilon Tacloban Chapter

Eco-Tour at Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) and Olot River in Paranas, Samar

The tour included an orientation about the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) in Paranas, Samar, tree-planting at SINP and torpedo extreme boat ride at Olot River
The employees of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Office No. 8 continued to be oriented on ISO 9001-2015 Certification facilitated by the AGF Consulting Group in a series of its seminar/trainings on June 14, 2017.

The recent Internal Audit Training, which is an intensive training, was participated by the MGB-8 Core Group and the designated lead Auditor and Division Auditors. It was intended for the appointed Internal Quality Auditors to: 1. understand and define the activities of audit and its requirements (according to ISO 9001 Auditing Guidelines); 2. learn how to plan, perform and monitor audits and, 3. identify roles and benefits of internal audit in a management system. In the said training, the Office likewise conducted its internal audit in preparation to the mock audit and assessment which will be conducted by the Consultant, together with the internal Auditors, to ensure that all the key components of the system have been fully aligned and successfully implemented based on the standards required. At its final stage, there will be a corrective and preventive Action/Certifying Body Audit.

In gearing up to be ISO-certified, MGB-8 considers it a big leap in its commitment to provide excellent service to its stakeholders.
The designated Mines and Geosciences Bureau Acting Director Atty. Wilfredo G. Moncano (present Regional Director of MGB-12) visited MGB Regional Office No. 8 and was briefed on the operations of the Regional Office by RD Raul Laput and other MGB-8 top officials.

Director Moncano shared that one of the major programs of the government under the Duterte administration is to revitalize the processing/smelting plants particularly the extraction of iron mineral deposits in the country. He asked for the potential iron mineral deposits in the region and expressed hope that mining companies with processing plants could upgrade its plants’ efficiency so that it could meet the metallic demands of the country. He emphasized that the country is in need of 9M tons of iron every year and therefore, seeks the help of regional offices in order to find mineralized areas that could cater to such need that would help boost the mining industry in the Philippines and make it self-sustaining.

In photo (seated, L-R): Director Wilfredo Moncano, MGB-8 RD Raul Laput, standing (L-R) Chief Geologist Valentin Narido, Engr. Romulo Babatugon (seated at the center) and Engr. Salvador Anagap
PDEA Drug Awareness Campaign Seminar

Participants were informed about the different prohibited drugs, its effects, symptoms of a drug user and what the government is doing to address drug abuse including at the workplace.

Opening DENR-8 Mini Park and Tropical Garden

Cutting of the ribbon to officially open the mini park and the exhibit to the public. In photo (LR): ARD Carlito Tuballa, Atty. Lea Fuentes-Apdo (representative of Cong. Yedda Marie Romualdez), RD Sibabalucu, RD Raul Laput of MGB-8 and Ms. Maribel Monsayac of EMB-8

Opening of DENR Exhibit

DENR-8 RD Sibabalucu shows to Atty. Apdo, representative of Cong. Yedda Romualdez the diorama on typical open pit mining operations among the exhibits by MGB-8

MGB-8 top officials led by RD Laput, together with Division Chiefs Engrs. Romulo Babatugon and Salvador Anagap and Chief Geologist Valentin Narido, viewing on the Exhibits
Minerals have various uses in our daily lives. Practically, all the things that we see around us have some mineral components in them, hence, the adage “ Anything that is not grown is mined.” Minerals are found in the very basic things that we use everyday, such as toothpaste, cosmetics, food and pharmaceutical products, lubricants, paints, fertilizers, photographic and drawing materials, coatings, machineries and equipment, and chemicals. The transportation, communication and construction industries are also heavily dependent on minerals. However, despite these benefits, minerals are grossly underrated because of the lack of information as to their significance to society.

The Philippines is blessed with abundant mineral resources. This may be attributed to its strategic location, being situated along the “Pacific Ring of Fire”. The country is geologically endowed with copper, gold, nickel and chromite. The country is also significant producer of these minerals, in addition to iron and other industrial minerals.

The development of the country’s mineral wealth rests on the government and its partners in the private sector. Together, they play an important role in ensuring that the benefits derived from these minerals are optimized for the ultimate benefit of the country in general, and the people in particular with emphasis on environmental protection.