



Office of the President of the Philippines
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

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THE PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION
2017 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the administration of the President Rodrigo R. Duterte, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) is an agency focused on the mitigation of pollution and disaster risks in the Metro Manila, and determined to introduce developments that will make the river conducive for the projects of national government agencies such as, but not limited to the Build Build Build agenda.

Despite its limited resources, the PRRC was able to improve the condition of Pasig River and 14 of its 47 tributaries. To date, the Commission accomplished the following:

- Relocated 18,719 out of 35,060 identified ISFs living along the banks of the Pasig River and its tributaries;
- Dismantled 376 privately-owned structures encroaching the legal easement at no expropriation cost to the government from 2013 to the present;
- Established 37,471.68 kilometers of EPAs now being use for access, recreation, and tourism;
- Removed and diverted 21,174,012 kilograms of solid waste in the river through PRRC resettlement and clean-up program from 2012 to the present;
- Removed 2.83 million cubic meters of contaminated riverbed sediments and increased the depth of the river from an average of four meters to six meters through the Pasig River Dredging Project that was completed in 2010; and
- Revived the Pasig River Ferry Service in 2007, establishing 11 and 4 ferry stations along Pasig and Marikina Rivers, respectively.

Last year, the Commission brought a positive outlook with the following accomplishments:

- Strengthened the enforcement of laws protecting the Pasig River and Laguna de Bai systems through a memorandum of cooperation, where PRRC and LLDA expressed their commitment to help one another combat the dumping of solid



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- wastes and untreated liquid wastewater from all sources including industrial, commercial and domestic in order to further rehabilitate the Pasig River System;
- Forged of a firm commitment with water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad to include in their capital expenditure free connection to the sewer lines of household along the waterways being developed by PRRC to minimize, if not eliminate, domestic waste pollution;
- Dismantled illegal pig pens with over 800 hogs along the Pasig River in Baseco and Parola compounds that were identified as a major contributor of pollution in the river;
- Creation of an Abatement and Enforcement Division within the PRRC Project Management Office deputized by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) to patrol and conduct regular surveillance of the Pasig River and prevent illegal dumping of garbage and hazardous industrial and commercial wastes;
- Creation of a Water Hyacinth Task Force to remove water hyacinth which proliferates the river, especially during the rainy season, and becomes navigational hazards to vessels plying the river;
- Creation of Task Force Flooding to ensure that waterways are free of floating garbage and other debris that clog rivers and creeks;
- Secured 16,700 housing units from the National Housing Authority for ISFs resettlement, away from waterways' danger zones; and
- Launched the "Puso Para sa Ilog Pasig" public awareness campaign to generate strong public support to the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program.

Part of the "Puso Para sa Ilog Pasig" campaign are the following:

- Display of the very first digital billboard advertisement along EDSA highlighting PRRC's programs for the Pasig River to ensure that people of Metro Manila are aware of the government's effort to save the dying river;
- Printing and distribution of "Ang River Warrior" comics to teach children about the importance of waste segregation, care for the environment, and love for Pasig River;



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- Installed the “Pasig River Lovelock” at the Guadalupe Ferry Station to gain the support of the youth and couples in the clean-up and revitalization of the Pasig River;
- Signing an agreement with Manila Water and Maynilad to align the construction of their sanitation facilities with the establishment of the PRRC’s EPA projects along waterways; and
- Rescue of 11 individuals along Ermitaño Creek in San Juan City during the onslaught of Typhoon Maring in August 2017.

To further provide assistance to our 18,719 ISFs beneficiaries who experienced economic displacement after resettlement, we are working on a partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) which will facilitate livelihood trainings under our “Pagsasanay Panghanapbuhay Tungo sa Mariwasang Danay (PPRD) [Training for Work for Progressive Suburbs]” program.

Last year, the PRRC’s Pasig River Rehabilitation Program was chosen the first runner-up in the renowned International River Symposium’s Thies Riverprize competition. The Philippines competed against 37 entries from first-world countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States in best river basin management practices.

Overall, the PRRC’s Pasig River Rehabilitation Program can be considered a success which is solidified by the 2009 study by Carmelita Villamor of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau. The study showed that several species of fish, birds, trees and aquatic plants were now living in the river or within its left and right embankment.

With all the PRRC rehabilitation efforts, several improvements have been noted in the following:

- Nitrate concentration remained almost the same, except in 2009. From 2010-2016, nitrates have passed the Class C standard.



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- Total suspended solids are undissolved solid particles such as silt, decaying plant, animal matter, and domestic and industrial wastes, which influence the state of the water quality. All stations passed the Class C standard.
- pH level and temperature are the two parameters that are within the standard range of Class C level. These two critical parameters both dictate types of life forms, regulate DO concentration, and influence the rate of chemical toxicity and biological reactions.

To strengthen the PRRC program, the Commission is now finalizing its 15-year master plan titled “The Pasig River Integrated and Strategic Master Plan (PRISM)” which aims to harmonize the river-lake-bay restoration plans and programs of various agencies not only for the Pasig River but also for the Laguna Lake and Manila Bay. The plan is expected to be completed by 1st semester of 2018.

Our work for the restoration of Pasig River system continues but we also hope that authorities will support the efforts being undertaken by the Commission.

We have already begun a series of reforms in the agency that will enable it to graduate from cleaning up the Pasig River to a pro-active agency that does its mandate on a holistic and integrated approach for a progressive and vibrant Pasig River system.



JOSE ANTONIO E. GOITIA
Executive Director