



# THE FPA BULLETIN

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## FPA hosts 25th ASEAN meeting on harmonization of pesticide MRLs

The Philippines through the Department of Agriculture-Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority hosted the 25th Meeting of the Expert Working Group on the Harmonization of Maximum Residue Limits (EWG-MRLs) of Pesticides among ASEAN Countries on 24-25 May 2021.

FPA Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan, led the Philippine delegation composed of technical staff from the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA), Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), and the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

“We set MRLs to regulate the highest amount of pesticide residue expected in foods. We strive to establish an ASEAN MRL that is aligned with international standards,” Dir. Roldan said during his opening remarks, as he also served as Chairperson of the event.

“It is our responsibility to ensure compliance with a harmonized set of requirements by the farmers, retailers, distributors, and importers in our respective country for us to produce foods that are safe for consumption,” Dir. Roldan added.

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## FPA holds ground breaking ceremony for new laboratory building



**FPA Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan led the groundbreaking ceremony to officially start the Construction of Six Storey Laboratory Building of the Agency at the BAI Compound, Visayas Ave. Quezon City on April 29, 2021.**

Dir. Roldan said that the new infrastructure will provide a more dignified workplace for everyone, which will encourage greater productivity, efficiency, and innovation in performing the Agency's mandate.

"The new building will strengthen the Agency's capability to perform chemical and microbial analyses of fertilizer and pesticide samples for product registration and quality monitoring purposes through the Laboratory Services Division (LSD), Dir. Roldan added.

Based on the projection of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the new FPA building will be completed within a period of two years.

Also present during the ceremony were FPA Deputy Executive Director for Pesticide Romirose Padin, Engr. Eduardo V. Santos of the QC Second District Engineering Office, Mr. Angelo Bugarin, Chemist IV of the LSD, Bella Fe Carmona, OIC of the Pesticide Regulations Division (PRD) and Ms. Ma. Theresa Oliveros, OIC of Finance and Administrative Division. //

## Mobile photo contest culminates FPA's celebration of Women's Month 2021



**The FPA's Gender and Development Focal Point System (FPAGADFPS) continues to implement various activities to promote gender sensitivity and empowerment in the workplace.**

During the month-long celebration of the 2021 Women's Month, a Mobile Photo Contest was organized for all FPA employees from the Central and Regional Office. The activity centered on the theme 'Juana: Laban sa Pandemya: Kaya!' which aimed to highlight the role of women during the time of COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 40 entries were submitted which were judged based on relevance to the theme (30%), composition and creativity (30%), image quality (20%), photo caption (10%) and overall impact (10%).

The winners were Rowena Billig, Provincial Officer of FPA CAR (Champion); Darwin Narvadez, Laboratory Technician (1st Runner-up); Rustom Gain Tanduyan, Provincial Officer of FPA Region 11 (2nd Runner-up);

Dennis Mallari (3rd Runner-up) and Shanelle Napoles (Most Influential Social Media Award).

"My photo is about a grandmother who perseveres to sell rice cakes at the foot bridge to provide for her family. It showcased the resilience of women and their role during this pandemic," explained Billig in her winning entry.

The panel of judges were composed of Abner Go, Freelance Wedding Photographer; Michelle Omana, Freelance Photographer; Sarah Joy Villareal, Creative Artist at the UP Film Institute; Efraim Mallare, Winner of the FPA Photography Contest in 2017; and Ivan Layag, FPA's Information Officer.

The virtual awarding ceremony was held on April 7, 2021.

Other GAD activities conducted included information campaign in social media, Serbisyo Para Kay Juana, and #ToGADer Forever Season 2 held last February 14.//



## FPA, FATA ink partnership for training and accreditation programs anew



The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) and the Fertilizer and Pesticide Training Association (FATA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the renewed partnership in the conduct of training and education to support FPA's accreditation programs.

FATA is composed of the Philippine Association of Certified Pesticide Applicators (PACPA), PMCP Foundation Inc., the Philippine Association of Entomologists, Inc. (PAE), the Philippine Association of Professional Fumigators, Inc. (PAPFI) and the Kapisanan ng mga Pest Control Operators sa Pilipinas, Inc. (KAPESCOPI).

The MOU provides the specific responsibilities and functions between the two parties in conducting training and education for FPA certification and accreditation programs.

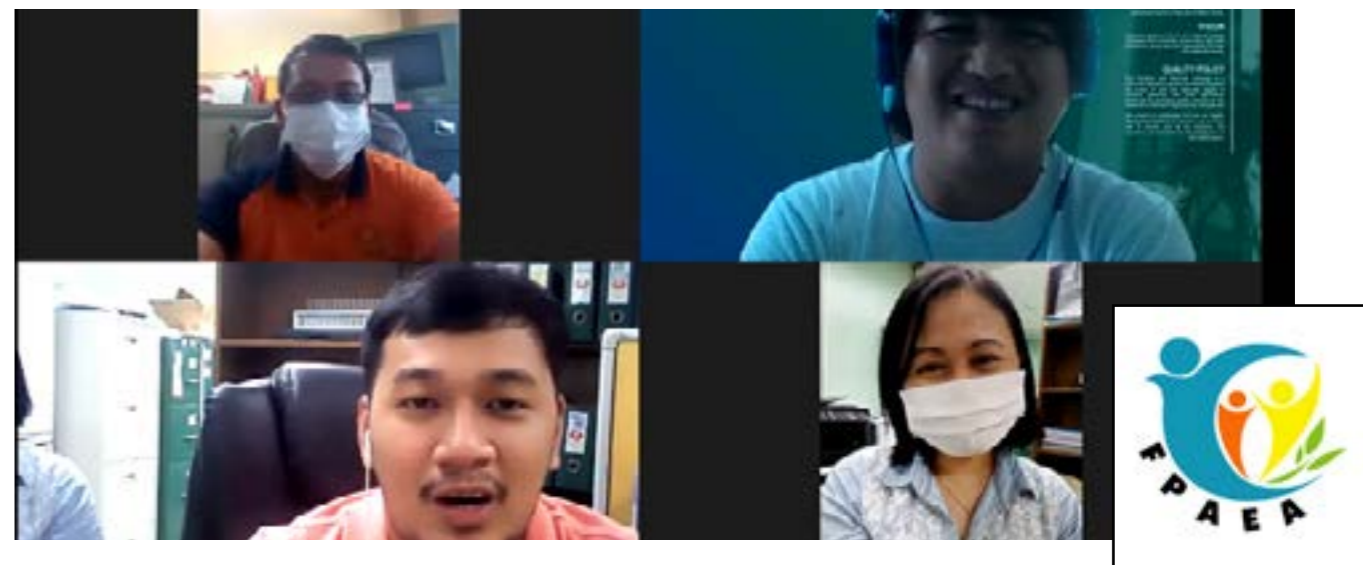
Such program covers the accreditation of Responsible Care Officers (ARCO), Certified Agricultural Pesticide Applicator (CPA) Exterminators and Fumigators and Fertilizer and Pesticide Researchers.

For the year 2020, 3,240 accreditation cards have been issued, of which, 2,205 were for ASD, 233 for ARCO, 657 for agricultural CPA and 145 for FP Researchers.

Since last year, the Agency transitioned from face-to-face conduct of trainings and symposia for accreditation programs to online-based. Individuals intending to either apply or renew their existing license should choose a schedule at <https://fpa.da.gov.ph/index.php/announcements/schedule-of-trainings>. After which, they have to coordinate with the FATA to reserve a training slot and submit necessary training requirements. //



## FPAEA elects new officers, holds logo contest



After the election held on December 6, 2020, the FPA Employees Association had a new set of officers for FY 2020-2021 who shall lead the implementation of various programs and services for the welfare of FPA employees.

The new set of FPAEA Officers composed of the following:

Angelo S. Bugarin	President
Arnulfo L. Arausa Jr.	Vice-President
Rachelle D. Almoite	Secretary
Mirasol O. Bacarisas	Treasurer
Gabriel B. Atole	Business Manager
Alex S. Paalisbo	Auditor
Leonardo A. Bangad	Public Relations Officer
Noel V. Negre	Public Relations Officer

Under their leadership, the new FPAEA Officers intends to accomplish the following plans and programs:

1. Employee's Welfare & Development
  - Facilitate availment of health card benefits
  - Conduct Employees' Day
  - Introduce program/benefits for FPAEA members
  - Coordinate with FPA Management the possible availment of LBP Salary Loan
2. Capability Buildings
  - Orient all officials and members about FPAEA Constitution and By-Laws
  - Collaborate with Human Resource Section on proposing professional development trainings
  - Organize employees' welfare trainings
3. Policies
  - Propose amendments of FPAEA Constitution and By-Laws

- Facilitate registration of FPAEA on SEC or CDA
4. Financial Stability & Income Generating Projects (IGP)
    - Propose increase of monthly dues and membership fee
    - Propose surcharge for late payment of dues
    - Propose IGPs (e.g. printing of ASD Manual, training provider on the conduct of ASD Virtual Training, etc.)

### Logo contest held

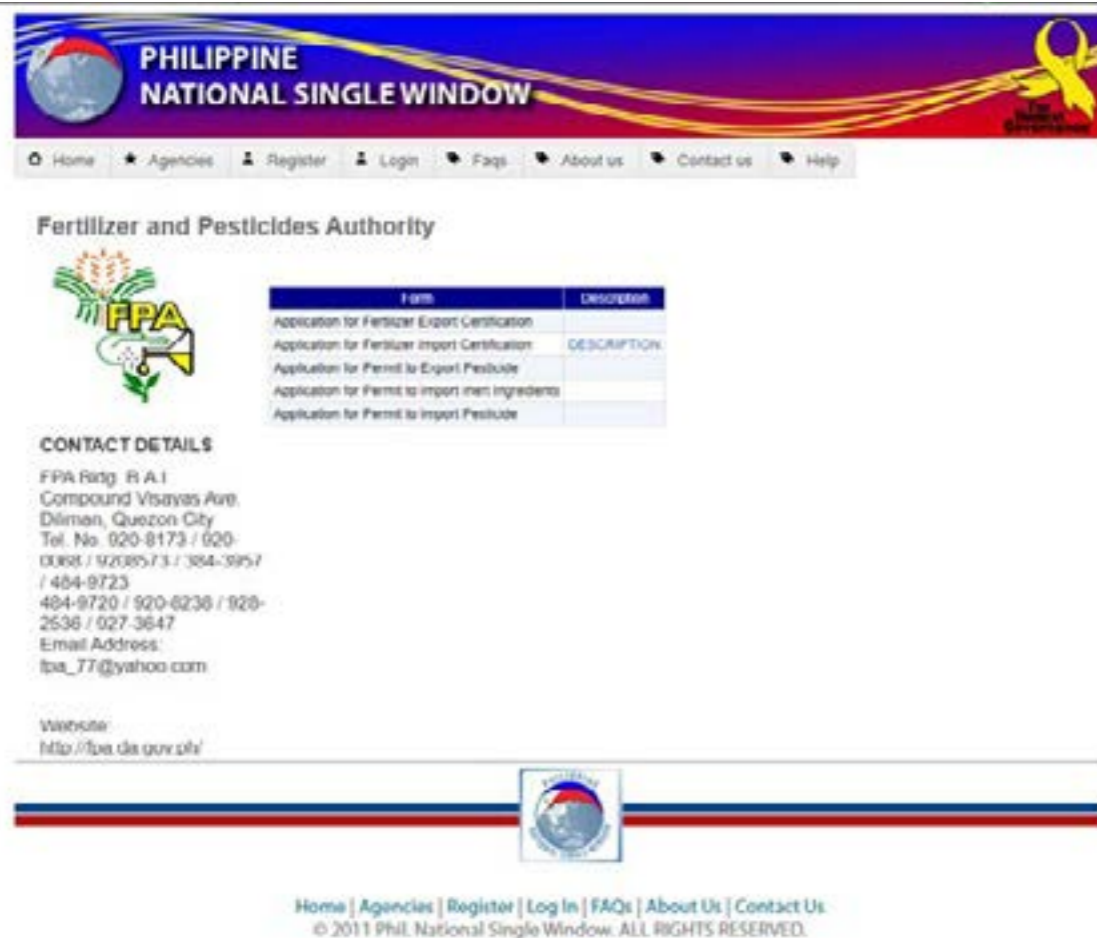
Meanwhile, in an effort to establish the brand identity of the organization, the FPEA held a logo making contest on February 9 to March 8, which was participated in by FPAEA members.

Entries were required to be aligned with the FPAEA vision to establish an "association that shall protect and defend our rights to live decently as member of a free and democratic society, and to promote harmonious relationships among its members based on justice and equality."

The entries were judged based on concept (40%), visual appeal/impact (30%) and originality (30%). Overall judging was shared by the cumulative scores of FPA Officers (50%) and members (50%).

During the Awarding Ceremony on April 7, the winners were Bernadette Guardiano, Administrative Aide VI from the PMID (Champion); Jaylord Tahilan, Information Systems Analyst II from PMID (1st Runner-Up), and Jennie Basilio, Provincial Officer from FPA Region 12.





## FPA implements National Single Window Program

To facilitate easier client transaction for the issuance of VAT Exemption Certificates and Certificate of Application for Importation of Pesticides (CAIP), the FPA has implemented the National Single Window (NSW) Program since December 2020.

NSW is a computerized internet-based system that allows parties involved in trade to lodge information and documents with a single entry point to fulfill all import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements.

“It is a timely program [especially] during this pandemic when face-to-face transactions are discouraged,” Executive Director Wilfredo C. Roldan said.

He added that fertilizer and pesticide handlers intending to avail said FPA services shall submit applications using the TradeNet portal at <http://info.tradenet.gov.ph/>

Regulatory employees under the Fertilizer Regulations Division and Pesticide Regulations Division had undergone on-boarding by the BoC for them to gain technical knowledge in using the NSW platform.

The Bureau of Customs spearheads the NSW implementation in-compliance with Executive Order 482.

The program includes government agencies that issue permits, licenses and clearances for import or export purposes.

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Moreover, Dir. Roldan expects that the meeting would allow ASEAN countries to undertake mutual cooperation and unity to strengthen the region's capacity to penetrate the international market through safe and quality agricultural exports.

Meanwhile, Dr. Amelia Tajada, FPA Consultant, will be facilitating the discussion as well as providing technical inputs during the meeting.

Also present in the virtual meeting are representatives from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), CropLife Asia, Crop Protection Association of the Philippines, Croplife Philippines.



### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Let our voices and stories be heard in this publication. This is your publication, our publication!

We invite all FPA employees to send us your stories, opinions, literary attempts and essays to be published in this publication. Also, we appreciate receiving your suggestions or feedbacks on how we could enhance its contents and design. Kindly send these to [fpacentral77@gmail.com](mailto:fpacentral77@gmail.com) or coordinate with the Information Section of the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID).

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## FPA receives Certificate of Compliance from PCOO anew

The FPA recently received a Certificate of Compliance for the implementation of the Enhanced Freedom of Information (FOI) for 2020. This is pursuant to Memo Circular No. 2020-1 issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of National Performance Monitoring, Information and Reporting System (Task Force Administrative Order 25, series of 2011).



FPA fully recognizes and supports the constitutional right of people to information on matters of public concern.

Meanwhile, the Agency through the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID) facilitated 896 responses for CY 2020. These include 667 email responses, 208 Facebook chat replies, and 21 data requests via the FOI portal.

## FPA celebrates resilient regulation of fertilizer and pesticide products in its 44th anniversary



With the theme “FPA@44: Ensuring Food Safety through Resilient Regulation of Fertilizer and Pesticide Products,” the Agency celebrated its 44th Founding Anniversary on May 24-28, 2020.

The event kicked off kick-off through the donation of goods and grocery items to the Maginhawa Community Pantry in Diliman, Quezon City on May 24.

FPA Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan said that this serves a way of giving back to the community and promoting the spirit of ‘bayanihan’ during this time of pandemic.

Accordingly, donated goods at the Maginhawa Community Pantry drop-off center will be distributed to their recipient barangays in QC.

The Annual Physical Examination of employees also served as part of the anniversary held on May 24-26. The activity includes CoViD-19 Testing through swab testing. Leads Diagnostics served as service provider.

On May 27, the FPAEA facilitated the Employees’ Day which aimed to promote mental health in the workplace through the theme “KaFPamilyas Staying Healthy in the Midst of the Pandemic.” The topics included Spotting the Warning Signs of Drug Abuse, Mental Resiliency, Should Senior Citizens be Worried about CoViD-19 Vaccines?, Senior Citizen Coping with the Pandemic, and sharing of success story by an FPA employee whose family survived CoViD-19.

During the culmination of the event on May 28, various activities were conducted which included the FPA Voice: New Normal Edition, FPA Talinuhan Season 2, What’s in the Box Challenge, 44th Attendace and 44th Comment and Show Me. Cash prizes and gift items were given to employees who won in the events.

