

School Hydrological Information Network (SHINe)

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School Hydrological Information Network (SHINe) is a simple school-based program that generally aims to address issues and concerns on the effects of Climate Change, in particular focusing on awareness to hydrometeorological hazards such as flood, rain-induced landslide, storm surge, drought, etc. It is one way of supporting the Department of Education's developmental program on the Climate Change enhanced curriculum. Further, it is consistent with the underlying principle that disaster awareness is anchored in schools. Alternatively, it generally supports the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) program by preparing and enabling schools to be proactive and resilient in times of impending hydrometeorological hazard events. The main idea is to strengthen the community, through the schools, in its disaster preparedness, mitigation and resiliency activities in times of inclement weather, and after disasters resulting from effects of hydrometeorological hazards. Tracking of tropical cyclones, regular monitoring of rainfall, or river water levels and the like are undertaken by a group of students based at different schools doing it at their own level and capacity. The data and information are then shared to the school populace (and administration), and to the local disaster risk reduction and management units of their community whenever possible and thus supporting them in their disaster preparedness and mitigation activities. SHINe was a program idea of the Pampanga River Basin Flood Forecasting & Warning Center (PRFFWC) more than 10 years ago and was adapted by the Provincial Government of Bulacan (PGB) being an off-shoot of another program activity of the former in the said province which was the Community-Based Flood Mitigation and Management Program (CBFMMP).

By engaging, enjoining and empowering schools, particularly its studentry, to do simple hydrological monitoring tasks can mean a lot in enhancing hazard awareness and eventually may prevent the loss of lives and reducing damage to properties.

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