Video Teleconferencing (VTC) Proceedings

Webinar Title:	**"Sustaining the PAGASA's River Basin Flood Forecasting & Warning Centers (RBFFWCs) Operational Flood Forecasting & Warning Services"**
Target Participants:	**PAGASA's River Basin Flood Forecasting & Warning Centers**
Time / Date:	**8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, 15 December 2021**

Backgrounder:

At present, PAGASA has 11 operational river basin centers covering more than half of the 18 major river basins in the country. These operational river basin centers are equipped with their own respective hydrological monitoring stations. While most of these river basin centers are still quite new, a few have already been in existence for more than 3 decades and with one almost nearing its 50 years of operation. The relatively dynamic changes in river basin situations and with the unending challenges posed by the effects of hydromet hazards not only in the major river basins but in all over the country necessitates a continuing program of capacitating and sustaining river basin centers in their proactive engagements particularly in its provision of various hydrological products and services.

The success of the previous video teleconferencing (VTC) webinar for the PAGASA's River Basin Flood Forecasting & Warning Centers (RBFFWCs) last year (2020) merits a continuation of such a program to further foster collaboration among RBFFWCs on current and future challenges in their operations.

In view of the foregoing, and still being in the pandemic state, a VTC - webinar focusing on sustaining the operational activities of the RBFFWCs have been formulated by the PRFFWC and was conducted through the guidance of the NCR-PRSD, the support of the Training Section of RDTD and the HMD. In general, the webinar mainly addressed the challenges experienced by river basin centers and pushed to engage the personnel into continuously developing their hydrological products and services in order to maintain, sustain and keep abreast with changing needs in their basin of concern.

The Event Program:

Time (estimated)	Program details	Remarks
8:50 am	Opening of Meeting Room	
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Invocation / Philippine National Anthem	TFSU, TPIS-RDTD
	Welcome Remarks	Dr. B. Pajuelas
	Acknowledgement of Attendees / Webinar photo session	NCR-PRSD
	Event Message	Dr. N. Servando
	Brief on the webinar outline	PRFFWC
9:30 am to 9:50 am	RBFFWC Data Management: Annual Hydrological Data summary	PRFFWC
9:50 am to 10:10 am	HMD Period: Promoting, supporting & sustaining the River Basin Center Activities - Operational FFW	Engr. S. Paat, HMDAS, HMD
10:10 am to 10:40 am	HMD Period: Promoting, supporting & sustaining the River Basin Center Activities - Station maintenance needs and issues	Engr. B. Mercado, HMTS, HMD
10:40 am to 11:00 am	Mindanao RBFFWC: Special Presentation on IFAS	Engr. V. Flores, OIC, CDO RBFFWC
11:00 am to 11:20 am	Improvement of Hydrological Information	PRFFWC
11:20 am to 11:40 am (was extended up to 12:30 pm)	Open Forum / Discussion: river basin center needs, issues and concerns	Moderated by PRFFWC/ NCR-PRSD
	Closing remarks	Engr. R. Badilla
	Closing Activities	NCR-PRSD/ TFSU, TPIS-RDTD

Highlights of the event:

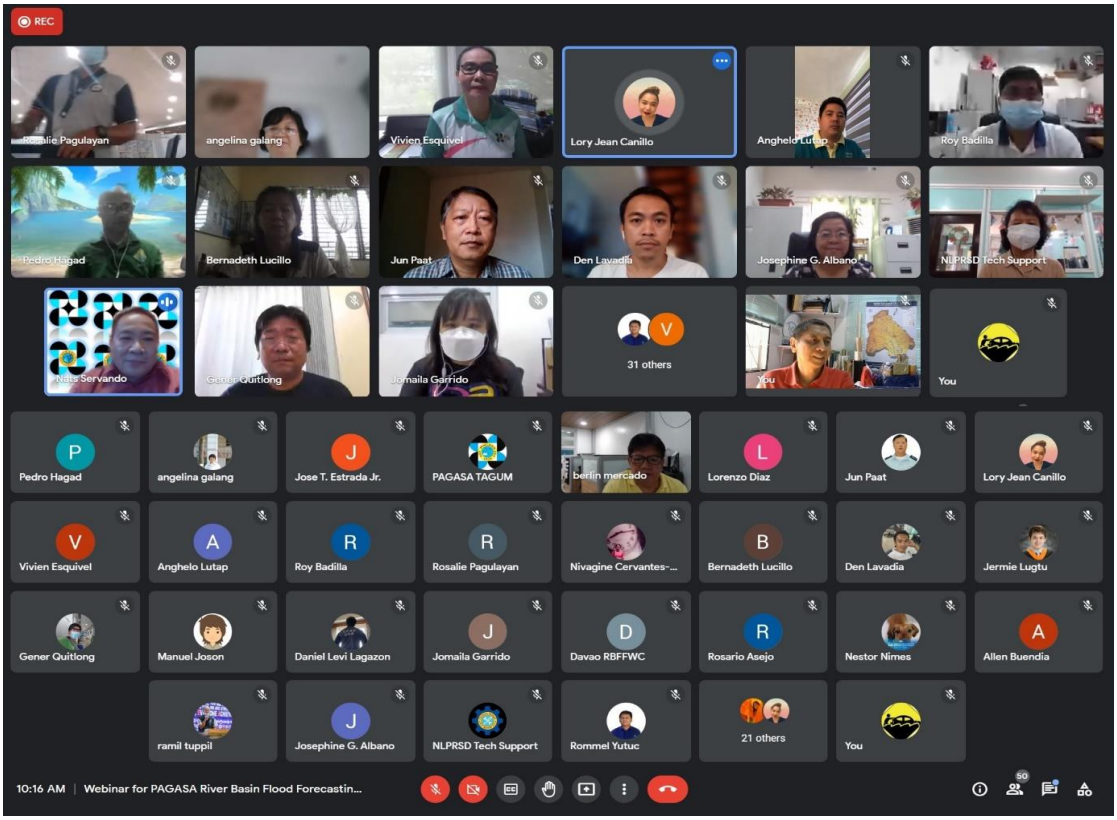
This year's PAGASA's RBFFWC event was conducted via a VTC – webinar setting which was similar to the format of the event that was held last year. It was the only activity gathering that was focused specifically to PAGASA's RBFFWCs for the year 2021.

The topics presented were focused on how to generally maintain and sustain the operational hydrological information that were being issued by the river basin centers of PAGASA. The issuance of hydrological information, especially during extreme weather events falls under the helm of the respective PAGASA River Basin Flood Forecasting & Warning Centers. Apart from this main topic, presentations on the Hydro-Met Division's activities to support and sustain the RBFFWCs in their Operational FFW and in their telemetry station needs and issues was in part an issue in the sustainability of RBFFWCs. A special presentation was also given by the Cagayan De Oro RBFFWC on the application of Integrated Flood Analysis System (IFAS) in the CDO RB. The last presentation dealt with the improvement of RBFFWCs hydrological information using infographics. The culminating part of the program was a 20-minute moderated open forum and discussion on RBFFWC issues and concern.

The whole event ran for more than 3.5 hours. Participation in the event peaked at about 55 persons as per tracked picture of the session which included some 40 personnel representing the various PAGASA RBFFWCs and the rest as either resource persons, training support staff and PAGASA key officials.

The following PAGASA key officials who joined the workshop included:

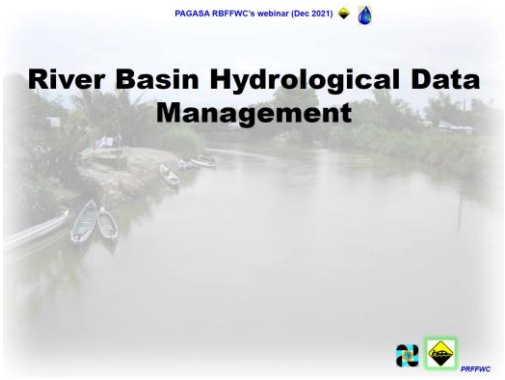
- Dr. Bonifacio G. Pajuelas, Chief, NCR-PRSD; Being the lead endorser for the event, Dr. Pajuelas gave the welcoming remarks for the event.
- Dr. Nathaniel T. Servando, Deputy Administrator for Administration & Engineering; Dr. Servando gave the Event Message in the opening ceremonies
- Engr. Roy A. Badilla, Chief, Hydro-Meteorology Division; Engr. Badilla was the one who gave the closing remarks and even partly moderated the open forum / discussion session of the event.
- Ms. Nancy T. Lance, Chief, SL-PRSD; joined in the latter part of the program and actively participated in the open forum / discussion session.



Above is a zoom platform screenshot of some of those who attended and participated in the said VTC - webinar.

Brief summary of workshop presentations:

1. RBFFWC Data Management: Annual Hydrological Data summary *(by PRFFWC as presented by H.T. Hernando, AWSC, PRFFWC; email: prffwc@gmail.com)*

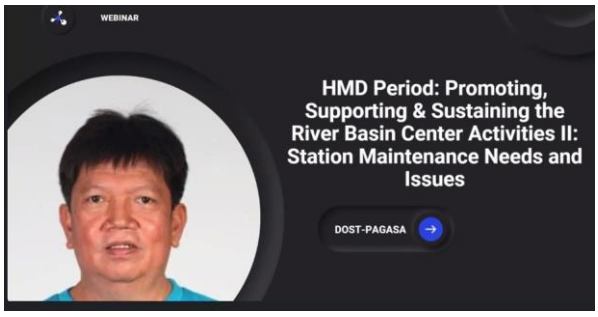


All the RBFFWCs are equipped with their own hydrological monitoring system. Rainfall and Water Level data are continuously received at the river basin center throughout the whole year. The idea behind this presentation is to engage and enjoin all RBFFWCs to come up with their own validated hydrological data information output in its regular transmission period (hourly, etc.) and be able to produce a summarized data layout covering daily, monthly and yearly formats.

2. HMD Period: Promoting, supporting & sustaining the River Basin Center Activities - Operational FFW *(Engr. Socrates F. Paat, AWSC, HMDAS; email: junpaat@gmail.com)*

The presentation focused on the various semester accomplishments of the HMD and highlighted the programs that were focused on related RBFFWCs activities, e.g. establishment of X-band Radars at several RBCs, establishment of FFWCs, etc. Further, Engr. Paat gave insights on the on-going activities related to local and foreign hydrological activities of the division.

3. HMD Period: Promoting, supporting & sustaining the River Basin Center Activities - Station maintenance needs and issues *(Engr. Berlin V. Mercado, AWSC, HMTS; email: berlinvm@yahoo.com)*



In a generalized context, Engr. Mercado gave a comprehensive review of the systematic maintenance and trouble-shooting activities that his section, HMTS, have been doing to support the continuous telemetry operations in the various RBFFWCs.

4. Mindanao RBFFWC: Special Presentation on Hydrological Modelling Initiatives for Cagayan De Oro River Basin using IFAS *(Engr. Victor B. Flores, Jr., OIC, CDO RBFFWC; email: cdorffwc.pagasa@gmail.com)*

The initial application of the Integrated Flood Analysis System (IFAS) in the Cagayan De Oro River Basin was initiated using 1 event (TC "Seniang", 2014) and was validated on the event TC "Vinta", 2017. It was eventually applied during TC "Crising", 2021. A further improvement and updating of the model application is proposed by Engr. Flores as more information and related hydrological activities are programmed to be performed within the basin.

5. Improvement of Hydrological Information *(by PRFFWC as presented by H.T. Hernando, AWSC, PRFFWC; email: prffwc@gmail.com)*

The main point of the presentation was to engage and enjoin RBFFWCs to be abreast with the present means of providing hydrological information through visual presentation (infographics) which is more direct, clear, quick, and effective. Infographics uses various techniques that utilizes artistic information composition combining shapes, colors, icons, drawings, cartoons, etc. which enhances the human visual system's ability to see patterns & trends.

Presentations mentioned above can be requested directly from the respective resource person via their email addresses.

Prepared by:

PRFFWC
December 2021