

WELCOME MESSAGE
BSWM OIC-DIRECTOR ANGEL C. ENRIQUEZ, CESO III

Asian Soil Partnership (ASP)
Editorial Board Kick-Off Meeting for the Development of the Soil Atlas of Asia
9:30 A.M., March 13, 2018
Sequoia Hotel, Mother Ignacia St. Corner Timog Ave., Quezon City, Philippines

Welcome to the Philippines, and I hope you will have a very enjoyable time in our country.

Welcome to the editorial board kick off meeting for the Development of Soil Atlas of Asia.

But let me first greet the honourable people all around here, including all the delegates. Let me start with my good friend, our Assistant Secretary for Agri-business, Dr. Andrew B. Villacorta.

Dr. Arwyn Jones, of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC-EC);

Assistant Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative to the Philippines, Ms. Tamara Palis-Duran;

Ms. Lucrezia Caon of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), of Rome;

Distinguished representatives from the Asian Soil Partnership; and

My colleagues from the Bureau of Soils and Water Management;

Our dear guests, ladies and gentlemen;

Good morning again!

It is with great honor and pride that I stand before you today and be given this opportunity to welcome all of you to this meeting for the Development of the Soil Atlas of Asia. I know today we have started the implementation of one of the core activities of the ASP implementation plan and that is towards the compilation of Asian Soil Atlas. When I was reading what the Asian Soil Atlas is all about, I realized that this meeting is very timely because right now, we in the Philippines, are going to update the Network of Protected Areas for Agriculture, and my advocacy now is to educate our lawmakers to once and for all

value the land. Unless we protect this resource, we may not be able to attain food security in the near future.

And we would like to say thank you for allowing us to host this activity. Seeing all of you here fills my heart with delight and I would like to extend to you our deepest appreciation for accepting our invitation!

The next two days for this activity is very promising. We will have our technical meeting and alongside that, we also have allotted time for you to bond with one another, explore and experience what this part of the Philippines has to offer.

Actually, we are looking forward for a very fruitful meeting and we hope you will have a memorable and enjoyable stay in our country, our beloved Philippines.

Welcome, Mabuhay and thank you very much!