

A Million Tree Challenge Program in 2018

The successful launch of the A Million Tree Challenge (AMTC) Program in 2017 took off to a good start as 1.2 million trees were planted through the unified efforts of the participating agencies. This 2018 is not a bad year either as 987,317 million trees planted were already accounted for as of latest count. On 27 July 2018, a Recognition and Pledging Day for the AMTC participants was organized by MWSS-CO to recognize the efforts of current participants and invite more agencies to join.

On Pledging Day, DepEd Undersecretary Alain Del Pascua stated during his keynote speech that they were planning to involve 25 million students all over the Philippines, each to plant a tree every year in schools, communities, and other designated areas such as key watersheds in line with DepEd's Makakalikasan Core Value. Congressman Leopoldo N. Bataoil (2nd District of Pangasinan), an ylang-ylang advocate, also joined the Recognition Day and even led the planting of ylang-ylang saplings near the Carriedo fountain in the MWSS compound.

The current participating agencies are MWSS-CO, MWSS-RO, DENR Regions III, IV-A & NCR, Manila Water, Maynilad, Bantay Kalikasan, WWF, PWWA and U.P. Mountaineers. Added to this year's list were JCI Senate Philippines, Rotary Club District 3780, U.P Beta Sigma (BS National Assembly, LGUs of General Nakar and Laguna Lake Development Authority.

MWSS-CO also worked closely with the Ipo Watershed People's Organization, Inc. - hired through public bidding- to help achieve its 100,000 commitment for 2018.

MWSS is optimistic that the AMTC program will evolve into an institution that will exist beyond five years it was originally set to exist and that it contributes to the President's call to protect our environment.

Below is the status of commitments and trees planted for CY 2018:

Agency	Commitment in 2018	Planted for 2018
MWSS Corporate Office	100,000	9,850
MWSS Regulatory Office	21,000	21,000
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (Region III)	350,000	539,377
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (Region IV-A)	200,000	17,900
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (National Capital Region)	100,000	107,391
Manila Water Company Inc.	100,000	40,000
ALFKI Bantay Kalikasan (ABS-CBN	32,000	32,000

Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Inc.)		
Maynilad Water Services Inc.	100,000	130,150
World Wide Fund Philippines	50,000	50,000
UP Mountaineers	1,000	1,224
Philippine Water Works Association	10,000	1,000
Department of Education	500,000	-
Angat Hydropower	100,000	-
JCI Senate Philippines	1,000	3,000
Rotary Club District 3780	5,000	-
U.P Beta Sigma (BS National Assembly)	5,000	-
LGU – General Nakar	-	11,835
Laguna Lake Development Authority	-	22,590
Total	1,665,000	987,317

