

Actions to Enhance Citizen Science and Community-Based Environmental Management Systems (CBMS)

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor and the opportunity to speak,

I am Lemuel Manalo, an Environmental Planner and Program Coordinator of Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) Inc., an environmental non-government (NGO) based in the Philippines.

The UNEA resolution lists horizon scanning and information sharing as principal functions, as well listed among the principal functions of the Science Policy Panel (SPP). However, According to the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), “scientific publications on chemical hazards for health and environment are often not publicly available”. This is also a concern in the Philippines. Communities with Citizen Science practices and data are often neglected or without coordination with Government environmental monitoring systems.

We recommend these actions to be specified in the panel, (i) The adaption of the Government to Communities’ science data, (ii) Provision of technical capacity building which prioritize grass-roots development, and (iii) Funding and hazard security support for citizen scientists or community personnel.

As one of the keys in *horizon scanning* and *information sharing*, it is the **right time for the future Science Policy Panel to take community science and monitoring in a higher level of priority.**

I thank you Madame Chair.

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