



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY MARIKINA RIVER & MANILA BAY CLEANUP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is International Volunteer Day?

International Volunteer Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. It's now a global celebration, with thousands of events held worldwide to pay tribute to the volunteer spirit. This year IVD is on Saturday December 5, 2009.

What is this year's theme for International Volunteer Day?

This year's theme for IVD is "Volunteering for our Planet". This is timely, given our recent onslaught of tropical typhoons and heightened awareness of climate change. The Philippine IVD activities concentrate on raising awareness of climate change and environmental issues, and also focusing on inspiring action.

What organizations are behind the IVD Cleanup?

The IVD Cleanup was organized by a steering committee of representatives from the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), Foreign Volunteer Organizations (such as UN Volunteers, United States Peace Corp, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, Korea Overseas Volunteers, Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development, Volunteers for International Development from Australia) and Local Volunteer Groups (such as VSO-Bahaginan).

Partnering with the IVD Steering Committee are the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the City Government of Marikina.

Why are Cleanups important?

Whether we live on the coast or near a river, or hundreds of kilometres away from water bodies, we are all connected to the ocean and our waterways. Keeping our shorelines free of marine debris is important for our quality of life and for river/coastal wildlife and its habitat.

For more information on the importance of cleanups, view the powerful video, Synthetic Sea, from the Algalita Marine Research Foundation, which explores the problem of plastic ocean debris and helps explain some of the reasons why Coastal Cleanups are so important: http://www.algalita.org/pelagic_plastic_mov.html

Why did you choose Marikina River as a Cleanup Site?

On September 26, Marikina and several other cities were battered by rains in tropical storm Ondoy. Even after two months, much damage still remains in Marikina and the clean up is ongoing. The Marikina River Cleanup is as much a celebration as it is a helping hand. After Ondoy, thousands of volunteers put their hand up to assist flood survivors. Therefore, on December 5, this activity will also give thanks to the spirit of volunteerism that is alive and well in Manila and beyond.

Why did you choose Manila Bay as a Cleanup Site?

The decision to cleanup Manila Bay was reached after consultation with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. They suggested we focus on the **Las Piñas / Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area**. This area is truly a treasure of Metro Manila, and is considered a wetland of global ecological importance. It hosts at least 80 migratory bird species and is the only wild bird breeding area in Metro Manila. It is also the last piece of relatively intact mangrove ecosystems on Manila Bay.



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What is involved in the cleanup activities?

The cleanup activities are safe, secure events to collect trash and debris that has collected on the Marikina Riverbank after Ondoy, and the Las Piñas/ Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area.

Each cleanup event will last for 1.5-2 hours, and involves participants working together in groups to collect trash. The accumulated trash collected in the clean up will be removed by the local city government.

Who are eligible to participate?

Anyone who is interested in volunteerism and helping the environment. If you are under the age of 18, you are welcome to join but you need parental permission.

How do I register to participate?

1. Complete the Registration Form.
2. If you are joining with a school or organization, please submit the registration form to your school or organization coordinator by 2nd December 2009.
3. If you are joining privately, please submit by fax (435-7999) or email to ivd2009.philippines@gmail.com

How many participants do you need?

We are hoping to target at least 300 volunteers: 200 for the Marikina River Cleanup and 100 for the Manila Bay Cleanup.

The restriction on numbers relates to sponsorship (and for Manila Bay, the fragile ecosystem)— as we are providing the cleanup materials, merienda and a volunteer information pack. Therefore, if you'd like to donate money so we can invite more participants, please get in touch with us. Email us at ivd2009.philippines@gmail.com or contact Irene on 0918 243 4542.

Where do I join on the day?

We are still finalising the assembly details, so be sure to fill in your registration form legibly and neatly so we can contact you via phone and email of the assembly point and time.

How do I get there?

Marikina River: You can catch public transport to the Marikina Cleanup Site. The exact location is still being determined, so we will submit a map outlining the location after you register.

Manila Bay: There is no public transport access to the Las Piñas/Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Site. As such, we will be assembling in Paranaque to be announced prior to the day for bus transportation to and from the cleanup site. Again, we will submit a map outlining the assembly location after you register.

For both locations we will be contacting you further in regards to the assembly location. As such, please write your contact details neatly and legibly on the form.

What Time are the Cleanups?

IVD Cleanups will be held on Saturday December 5, 2009. Marikina Cleanup is from 7.30am-10.30am. Manila Bay Cleanup is from 2pm-5pm.



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Are there any fees to participate?

As the IVD Cleanup Activities are a celebration of volunteerism, we are offering you to join this for free. However you will need to bring some of your own belongings to participate (see the below question).

Do I need to bring anything to the Cleanup?

Yes. Whilst the clean-up materials will be provided – such as the pick-sticks, trash bags, rakes etc – you will be required to bring your own:

- Sunscreen, hat
- Insect repellent
- Water bottles (we will have refilling stations on site)
- Closed toe shoes, preferably waterproof. Please DO NOT wear open slippers or sandals.
- Protective gloves (we will provide pick-sticks, so you don't have to touch the rubbish, but for added protection you may wish to bring gardening gloves or the like)
- Protective mask for your additional safety
- Rain jacket or umbrella (as we will continue our activity even in bad weather)

We will provide a light snack and juice for your enjoyment (we will then donate the used packaging for livelihood projects). Also, water stations will be available for you to refill.

What happens if it rains?

Bring along a rain jacket or umbrella, as well as change of clothes, as we will continue with the activity in inclement weather. However, the cleanup activity shall be cancelled in the event the forecasted weather conditions issued through PAGASA states there is likely to be a typhoon or very heavy rains and rough sea conditions.

Will there be comfort facilities?

There are toilet facilities nearby Marikina River. In Manila Bay we will be hiring a Porta-let for your convenience.

Did you find the answer to your questions?

If not, please send your question to ivd2009.philippines@gmail.com or call/text Cherie on 0916 202 3429 or Irene on 0918 243 4542.