NDRRMC UPDATE
SitRep No. 2 re Taal Volcano Update

Releasing Officer

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Source: DOST-PHIVOLCS and OCD Region IV–A

1. Situation Overview

Alert Level 2 is hoisted over Taal Volcano, with the interpretation that magma has been intruding towards the surface, as manifested by CO$_2$ being released in the Main Crater Lake and increase in seismic activity.

Taal Volcano’s (14.0000°N, 120.9833°E) seismic network recorded seven (7) volcanic earthquakes during the past 24 hours. Water temperature slightly increased from 30.0°C to 30.5°C. Gas measurements conducted at Taal Main Crater lake last January, February and March 2011 yielded carbon dioxide (CO$_2$) emission values of 2,250 tonnes per day (t/d), 1875 t/d and 4,467 t/d respectively. The remarkable increase in CO$_2$ concentration indicates the anomalous gas release from the magma at depth. Result of the ground deformation survey (precise levelling) conducted around the Volcano Island last 01-11 April 2011 showed that the volcano edifice is slightly inflated as compared with the 01-09 February 2011 survey.

Precautionary Measures

PHIVOLCS advises the public that the Main Crater, Daang KastilaTrail and Mt. Tabaro (1965-1977 Eruption Site) are strictly off-limits because sudden hazardous steam-driven explosions may occur and high concentrations of toxic gases may accumulate. Breathing air with high concentration of gases can be lethal to human, animals and even cause damage to vegetation.

In addition, it is reminded that entire Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ), and permanent settlement in the island is strictly not recommended.

Affected Population

Twenty three (23) families/98 persons voluntarily evacuated. Four (4) families/19 persons from Pulo Island are currently staying at the Venancio Trinidad Sr Memorial School while 19 families/79 persons opted to stay with their relatives.

2. Actions Taken

- NDRRMC-OPCEN disseminated the information to RDRRMC-OCD Region IV-A through SMS, facsimile, website and NDRRMC Twitter account for further dissemination to their respective local DRRMCs from the provincial down to the municipal level.
• DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring Taal Volcano’s activity and any new significant development will be immediately relayed to all concerned

Preparedness Activities of PDRRMC Batangas
• RDRRMC IV-A issued memorandum to Chairperson, PDRRMC Batangas and Chairpersons, MDRRMCs concerned on April 1, 2011 reiterating PHIVOLCS’ previous reminder/recommendation that the main crater should remain strictly off-limits because sudden hazardous steam-driven explosions may occur and high concentrations of toxic gases may accumulate.
• PDRRMC Batangas conducted an emergency meeting on April 9, 2011 presided by the Provincial Administrator Victor Reyes and another emergency meeting will be held at 2:00 PM today 11 April 2011 at the Batangas PACD Office to discuss further the preparedness and response plans of concerned local DRRMOs and agencies
• PDRRMC Batangas activated its Disaster Operation Center; placed PDRRMC members on standby alert and be ready with respective preparedness and response plan in case the activity of Taal Volcano escalates; and conducted inventory of resources and prepared the activation of the Incident Command System
• Six (6) lakeshore municipalities also convened their respective LDRRMCs and activated their DRRMOs
• The Provincial Engineering Office (PEO) transported a PCG rubber boat to the municipality of Talisay
• CDRRMC Tagaytay posted an advisory tourist on the Taal Volcano
• Monitoring of the status of Taal Volcano is continuous