

Philippines, Marilao, Meycauayan and Obando River System: Cleaning up with zeolite and probiotics filtering systems

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A major hub for aquaculture, the Marilao, Meycauayan and Obando River System is also badly contaminated by untreated wastewater from used car battery recycling, precious metal refining shops, tanneries and more. Water samples reveal worrying levels of cadmium, copper and lead. A four-year project sponsored by HSBC and carried out by Blacksmith Institute for a Pure Earth is testing innovative water filtering in fishponds, enhancing monitoring of water quality, providing comprehensive training to the fishermen, and expanding education, advocacy and public outreach.

Location	Marilao, Meycauayan and Obando River System - Philippines
Pollutant	Heavy metals
Source	Untreated waste water discharged by a range of registered and unregistered local industries
Population affected	161,000
Health and environmental impacts	Extensive aquaculture industry affected by the water pollution, with risk to fishing communities and to the health of hundreds of thousands of consumers
Intervention	Testing filtration technologies to improve water quality in fishponds; Monitoring water quality and developing a database; Training and capacity building for the fishing communities to engage them in rehabilitation projects; Education and public outreach for the different stakeholders.
Outcome	Ongoing project: the first part of the remediation experiment has recently been completed; other project components are underway.
Partners	HSBC Water Programme

