

'Amping Up the Movement with Young Energy': PHILRECA launches AYE Leaders to empower youth in the energy sector

QUEZON CITY — A new dawn for youth-led energy advocacy is on the horizon as the Alliance of Youth Energy (AYE) Leaders, through the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA), conducted its national virtual launch on 28 June 2025 through multiple online platforms.

This landmark event gathered hundreds of youth advocates and leaders in and out of the country, officially launching the organizational vision and mission, unveiling its foundational programs, and introducing the pioneering leadership team poised to galvanize Filipino youth toward a sustainable energy future.

16-year-old Edgardo "Cube" Hernaez III shared his notable achievements and engagements in their EC, Cebu III Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CEBECO III), where his father serves as the Technical Services Department Manager.

Recognizing the potential of youth in the sector, Cube reminded everyone to always be curious, ask questions, and start small.

Electric cooperative (EC) champions graced the event with their presence and support, including PHILRECA President Jose Raul Sanieles, National Association of General Managers of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (NAGMEC) President Dr. Allan Laniba, PHILRECA Board Director Engr. Von Erwin Azagra, and PHILRECA Executive Director and General Manager Atty. Janeene Depay-Colingan.

With the theme, "IGNITE: Powering the Filipino Youth for a Sustainable Energy Future," the launch marks the commencement of AYE Leaders' ambitious "Year of Foundation, Engagement, and Skill Building," a comprehensive 12-month plan running from June 2025 to May 2026.

The initial quarter, dubbed as "Laying the Groundwork," will focus on establishing a strong organizational foundation and fostering initial engagement among its members.