

# RAMON J.P. PAJE: A PROFILE



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Secretary **Ramon Jesus P. Paje** is the 19th secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Prior to his appointment, he was DENR's undersecretary for field operations and executive director of the Minerals Development Council under the Office of the President in concurrent capacity.

Fresh from college, he started his government service in 1982 as a junior forester conducting field inspection of reforestation projects of then Bureau of Forest Development (now Forest Management Bureau), then rose from the ranks serving the environment and natural resources sector in various capacities, including undersecretary for environment and programs development, assistant secretary for management services, director for human resources development, among others.

Sec. Paje is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna (UPLB). He finished his M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning and Doctorate in Public Administration at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. He holds Certificates on Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis from the Harvard University in Massachusetts, USA and on Human Resources Development and Management from the Australian National University.

A top-rank Career Executive Service Officer (CESO I), Secretary Paje is a recipient of various awards, namely: Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) from the Philippine Jaycees, Outstanding Professional of the Philippines from the Professional Regulation Commission, and Outstanding Alumnus in Government Service from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, and Dr. Jose Rizal "Huwarang Pilipino Award" for public service given by the Parangal ng Bayan Awards Foundation. He was also conferred the Distinguished Alumnus Award by the Harvard Club of the Philippines.

In 2011, Secretary Paje was once again honored by UPLB with an Outstanding Alumnus Award for Government Service. In the same year, he was also conferred a Paragon Award by the Career Executive Service Board for exemplifying competence, excellence, and service, and being in the forefront of good governance in the higher civil service.

His efforts in curbing air pollution and improving environmental quality has the earned international recognition for the country. In its 2012 report, the Yale and Columbia Universities in the USA (in collaboration with the World Economic Forum in Switzerland and the Joint Research Center of the European Commission in Italy) ranked the Philippines as 42nd among 132 countries in its overall Environmental Performance Index (EPI).

Sec. Paje is married to Joseliza Santos with whom he is blessed with two admirable children.

