



## PWPA Makes Courtesy Call to DENR Secretary Atienza Emphasizes PGMA's Forestry Program

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) led by Chair Fernando Lu and President Antonio Olizon made its traditional New Year's courtesy call to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary on January 21, 2009.

Secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. greeted the directors and officers of the PWPA as he informed them of the forestry sector program of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

He said there is an available fund (PhP 2.5B) for reforestation and livelihood projects under the Upland Development Program, the target beneficiaries of which are upland dwellers. Agroforestry, one of its components, will be used so they not only will plant fruit trees and harvest their produce but they will also maintain and not cut down the trees.

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**Traditional New Year Call.** Secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. (4th from left) explains President GMA's forestry program with PWPA. Flanking him (l-r) Directors R. W. Kua and R. Y. Uy, Chair F. A. Lu, President A. C. Olizon and Director A. P. Ong.

## PWPA Holds Board Meeting in Semirara Island Semirara Mining Corp. is Gracious Host



**In the Stillness of an Island.** The PWPA Board of Directors discusses issues facing the wood industry in Semirara Island. (Clockwise) Directors A. G. Puyat, V. A. Consunji, Forestry and Environment (FEC) Adviser J. A. Lorenzo, Directors E. M. Narvaez, Jr., A. C. Keh, Jr., Chair F. A. Lu and FEC M. R. Vasquez.

The Board of Directors of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) had its out-of-town meeting in Semirara Island, Caluya, Antique last February 21, 2009. The meeting was hosted by PWPA Director Victor Consunji, who is the President of the Semirara Mining Corp. (SMC) operating a coal mine in the island.

The members of the Board led by Chair Fernando Lu and President Antonio Olizon left Manila at around 7:30 am on board the SMC plane. Director Consunji welcomed them in the island.

After a very sumptuous breakfast, a briefing about the SMC's mining operations and social and environmental programs were made by its resident manager and vice president, Engr. George San Pedro and its community relations officer, Mr. Timoteo Biene. It was followed by an educating tour of the sites of its mining operations and thriving communities.

Semirara Island is located in the island-town of Caluya, Antique. It has three coal mine reserves: Panian;

**PWPA Joins UDP Consultation**

**Olizon shares views & experiences of private sector**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hosted a consultation meeting on the implementation of its Upland Development Program (UDP) on February 19, 2009 at the Social Hall, DENR, Quezon City.

The UDP is anchored to the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Economic Resiliency Plan, the Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program and other equally important presidential directives on

hunger mitigation, poverty alleviation and climate change adaptation.

DENR Undersecretary Tessam Castillo thanked the presence of the participants and explained the nature of the consultation.

Forest Management Bureau Director Marlo Mendoza gave the overview and the mechanics of the UDP such as the selection and characterization of priority areas, the process of implementing about 52,000 family contracts, the scopes of activities involved and the monitoring and evaluation of the

*(Continued on page 6)*

**PWPA Holds...**

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Himlian; and Unong. At present, SMC is operating the Panian-coal area using modern, costly and efficient mining equipment and machineries that allow the company to supply on time and in bulk its clients nationwide and abroad. Its coal-fired power plant supplies all its and that of the communities' requirement for electricity .

SMC's social corporate responsibility is embodied in its 5-E's of Development (electrification, education, employment, economics and environmental protection). SMC subsidizes the electricity need of the island communities; builds schools and provides free transport to students and teachers; and upgrades through seminars and trainings the skills of teachers. It employs about 1,600 workers and provides livelihood assistance to the communities such as in fishing, livestock raising, farming, and dressmaking.

Through taxes, SMC contributes hugely to the income of the local government units and the national government. It does its share in the environment through its inland and mangrove reforestation, the protection of the 530-hectare marine sanctuary and fish-seeding of the Unong Lake (once a mining pit).

The directors were brought also to its modern-looking port and to its brick factory (bricks are made from mine overburden) that produces construction materials for staff housing , schools and churches.

During the Board meeting, after a delicious lunch, the PWPA donated pangasius fish fingerlings which were seeded in the lake, and wall clocks for the schools.

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**PWPA Makes Courtesy...**

*(Continued from page 1)*

He also said that with the global financial crisis that could affect the country, the President wanted him to give as much as possible his full support to the wood industry because it means jobs to people.

Secretary Atienza said that if there are problems the PWPA and its members are encountering, his attention could be directly called; if not, through Ms. Maricar Esquela, his head executive assistant.

The PWPA informed him there are some permits, such as CDMPs and OPs, which are still with the DENR and are taking a long time before being acted upon. Their approval means immediate jobs in the countryside, the PWPA emphasized.

Secretary Atienza assured the PWPA he will look into the matter as he asked for the list of its company-members who have pending papers at the DENR.

Secretary Atienza also said that 2009 is a DENR "enforcement year", which means, he will seriously run after executives and employees of the DENR who are involved in illegal logging, one of the serious problems the DENR is trying to curb.

The PWPA informed Secretary Atienza about the bad effect of illegal logging on the wood industry. It cannot compete with the low prices of illegally-source wood products in the market.

With Chair Lu and President Olizon during the courtesy call were Directors Alfonso Keh, Jr., Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., Robert Kua, Manuel Ng, Alex Ong and Ramon Uy, and Mssrs. Stephen Q. Tan of Philippine Softwood Products, Inc. and James Garcia of Sirawai Plywood and Lumber Corp. as well as executive director Leonardo Angeles, forestry and environment adviser Jose Lorenzo, manager Regino Serafico, forestry and environment Coordinator Maila Vasquez.

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## Atienza Suspends Issuance of Env't Permits in Region X

**D**epartment of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Lito Atienza, in his memorandum dated January 19, 2009, ordered the suspension in the issuance of environmental clearance certificates (ECCs) to small- and large-scale mining and logging projects in Region X in Northern Mindanao as he directed his senior officials at the DENR to conduct a thorough study on the causes of flooding in Cagayan de Oro City.

"I have ordered my senior officials, including the National Mapping and Resources

Information Authority (NAMRIA), to immediately conduct a comprehensive study on the causes of massive flooding in Cagayan de Oro City. While climate change is now a reality, we still have to look at the possibility that illegal activities such as illegal logging and illegal mining may be the main factors for such incidences," Atienza said.

"The allegation that there are 780 small-scale mining operations in Region 10 is very alarming. Until the study is completed, there will be no addition of ECCs in the region."

Atienza said that while the local government is responsible for the issuance of small-

scale mining permits, the DENR, through EMB and its regional offices, grants ECCs to small scale mining projects.

"Our job here at the DENR is very important. We take care of the people's safety from natural calamities; we take care of the future of our economy, so we have to be very careful about our responsibilities and authorities. We have to answer for our official decisions because of the magnitude of our responsibilities. We cannot just exercise our authority without accountability," Atienza said.

Main Source: [www.denr.gov.ph](http://www.denr.gov.ph)

## PWPA Attends Consultation on ENR Framework for Aurora Province

**T**he Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region III invited the Philippine Wood Producers Association members and other stakeholders in Aurora Province for a dialogue-consultation on the DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2008-03, otherwise known as the ENR Framework for Aurora Province, last February 4, 2009 in San Fernando City, Pampanga.

DENR Region III RED Antonio Principe welcomed the participants as he gave the objective of the consultation. He said he has received complaints from stakeholders in Aurora Province that Circular 2008-03, if implemented, would have serious implications on their activities and businesses.

RTD Sofio Quintana presented the contentious provisions of the Circular:

- Section 4.A.2. (A part of the Guiding Principles) that reads: "**Commercial cutting of trees in natural forests shall be prohibited;**" and
- Section 9. (A part of Transitory Provisions) that reads: "**Annual work plans currently in effect before the issuance of this Circular if not consistent with or contradictory to the provisions of this Circular and of the Strategic ENR Framework Plan, shall continue to be valid and operational within their planned duration.**"

The following comments/issues were

raised, especially by the PWPA:

*On the regularity of the issuance of the MC:*

- No public hearing was conducted of stakeholders, contrary to EO No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987);
- No observation of the protection clauses (non-impairment) of contracts of which IFMAs are, and due process of notifying affected parties as provided for in the IFMAs; and
- No publication of the Circular was made in the official gazette or two newspapers of general circulation and copying thereof the UP Law Center.

*On Section 4.A.2, "Commercial cutting of trees in natural forests shall be prohibited;" may invariably mean:*

- Uselessness of the natural timber resource (which is abundant in Aurora, it having the second highest forest cover in the country) as a socio-economic engine for the development of the Province, contrary to the Circular's Sec. 1 (Statement of Policy), Sec. 2 (Objectives), and particularly provision in Sec. 4(Guiding Principles) that states, "*As the standing policy framework, multiple-use forest or production forest is to be developed, managed and utilized also for the production of wood to serve the need for wood of the country.*"

Forest tree plantation, as pointed out, is practically insufficient in commercial volume

in Aurora and can not fulfill the role for the intended wood processing center therein.

- Banning access to natural forest could create economic dislocation, substantial reduction of provincial revenues, termination of community services and make the natural forest vulnerable to illegal logging and other forms of forest destruction.

The following agreements were made by the consultation:

- To recommend to higher authorities at the DENR to qualify the said Sec. 4.A.2, so as to read: "Commercial cutting of trees in the protection forest shall be prohibited;"
- To submit a position paper to higher authorities at the DENR to consider suspending the implementation of the Circular while further study on the doable implementation of the Circular is being conducted; and
- Aside from the DENR, to approach "key proponents" of the Circular to consider favorably the preceding recommendations.

With RED Principe and RTD Quintana were the PENRO and CENROs of Aurora Province and Forest Management Bureau Foresters Roberto Oliveros and Genesis Francisco. Representatives of stakeholders where from PWPA member PATECO, private companies such as CKY, IDC, RCC, San Roque Sawmill, Inc., Benson Lumber, Inc. and Green Circle Dev't Corp. The PWPA was led by executive director Leonardo Angeles.

## DENR to create 111,536 'green' jobs

**M**ANILA, Philippines - Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza said yesterday the DENR is budgeting P2.5 billion to create 111,536 "green collar" jobs as its contribution to President Arroyo's Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program or CLEEP.

In a press conference, Atienza said that the DENR would allot P1.5 billion to hire 51,000 families in upland areas as part of its reforestation and upland development program.

Another P1 billion would be allotted for a "Bantay Gubat" project that would employ 110,000 families who would guard against "kaingin" practices and cutting of trees.

The two programs, Atienza said, would be focused in 11 impoverished provinces. "The Upland Development Program (UDP) and the Bantay Gubat (BG) Project," Atienza explained, "form part of President Arroyo's endeavor to provide green collar jobs to society's most vulnerable sectors by giving them access to short-term employ-

ment opportunities, which in turn, will give them economic resiliency to respond to the anticipated adverse impacts of the ongoing worldwide economic downturn."

Under the UDP component, Atienza said, around 52,425 upland farmers would be hired as workers to plant forest and fruit tree seedlings, including high-value cash crops.

"Under the UDP component, we have set aside 49,318 hectares of upland areas and around 2,000 hectares of mangrove areas, where reforestation and agroforestry activities would be undertaken by upland families."

Under the BG component, on the other hand, Atienza said 59,111 qualified upland residents would be hired as forest guards, with a monthly pay of P3,000.

"The task of the Bantay Gubat would be to conduct foot patrol to detect timber poaching while monitoring for any sign of forest fire. They would also be tapped in collecting seeds while on patrol," Atienza said.

Each BG would be allotted an area of 342 hectares to monitor,

bringing to a total of 6.2 million hectares of forest lands placed under the BG project.

Atienza explained the DENR-CLEEP is a four-pronged approach to creating emergency work in the uplands as it addresses forest protection and rehabilitation of watersheds and mangrove areas, while opening up job opportunities for income generation and food and crop production.

For its UDP's agroforestry scheme, each farmer will be given a hectare to develop for a fee of P3,270 per month to plant cash crops.

Projected earnings are expected to reach around P23,270 per year from the sale of their produce.

Participants to UDP's reforestation scheme would be awarded a hectare each to plant and maintain trees suitable to the area. Each worker would get as much as P19,400 to defray the cost and services for seedling production (P8,500) and planting and maintenance (P10,900).

*Main Source: Article by Marianne Go  
The Philippine Star, Business  
February 20, 2009*

## German-funded project to mitigate impact of climate change

**E**nvironment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza announced the approval of the PhP182.5 million-grant from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) of the Federal Government of Germany to fund a three-year project that would develop adaptation strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change in the country.

During the recent soft launching of the project at the DENR office in Quezon City, Atienza expressed appreciation for the grant, saying that the project would be an essential help to the Philippine government's efforts to address climate change.

Atienza said that among the strategies that will be developed under the project will include information and education campaign to raise people's awareness on the effects of climate change, reforestation, and biodiversity conservation measures, among others.

"Since the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the strategies that will be developed under the project are expected to increase the communities' resilience to natural disasters, thus preventing huge loss of lives and properties," Atienza added.

GTZ officials present during the soft launch include Dr. Uwe Scholz, program adviser; Dr. Walter Salzer, program manager; and Pit Heltman, counselor.

President Arroyo last January 19, 2009 signed Executive Order No. 774 reorganizing the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change (PTFCC) in an effort to strengthen the government's effort to mitigate the impact climate change on the country's environment.

Under the reorganized PTFCC, President Arroyo serves as chair, with her Cabinet as members of the task force.

Atienza also said he has already formed a project steering committee and a technical working group to ensure effective implementation of the German-funded project.

*Main Source: www.denr.gov.ph*

## Atienza's crack team nets P2.9M worth of undocumented wood products

**B**arely a month into the job, the Environmental Law Enforcement Task Force (ELEFTF), a composite team of environmental law enforcers, which Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Lito Atienza formed in January 2009, seized some P2.9 million worth of suspected illegally cut narra and assorted lumber products at a lumberyard in Meycauayan, Bulacan on January 21.

"The big catch like this only means trees are still illegally cut, and that's not good news. What we want to happen is for the cutting to stop, to catch these criminals even before they set out to do their nefarious act," Atienza stressed.

Atienza said members of the ELEFTF headed by Executive Director (Ret) Gen. Pedro Bulaong, swooped down on the Oriental Wood Processing Corp. (OWPC), where some 1,541 pieces of narra wood valued at P1.7 million (14,298 board feet) including 2,734 pieces of mixed construction wood, consisting of white lauan and tanguile, worth around P1.19 million (35,080 board feet), for a total of 49,378 board feet were discovered and the corresponding apprehension receipts issued to OWPC. The confiscated products can fill three 10-wheeler trucks.

Wood products sold by OWPC should only be bought from legitimate wood suppliers as stated in their permits issued by the DENR. The firm is a holder of lumber dealer permit which is to expire on September 10, 2009 but

its environmental compliance certificate for its kiln drying plant expired on March 19, 2004.

Meantime, the government's campaign to protect the country's natural wealth gets further boost with the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) providing for the deputation of active PNP officers as special environment and natural resources officers.

The agreement was signed by DENR Secretary Lito Atienza and Police Deputy Director General Gerry Barias, in behalf of PNP chief Police Director General Jesus A. Verzosa, on the occasion of the 18th founding anniversary of the PNP Maritime Group at Camp Crame in Quezon City on Feb. 23, 2009.

According to Atienza, the agreement was very timely as the DENR pursues a more vigorous campaign against environmental law violations. Atienza has earlier declared 2009 as a law enforcement year.

Under the MOA, the DENR will deputize active PNP officers and personnel as environment and natural resources officers as provided for under DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2008-22, and increase the law enforcement capability of the PNP regarding environment and natural resources such as forest resources, coastal and marine, mineral resources, wildlife and cultural properties laws, rules and regulations.

Main Source: [www.denr.gov.ph](http://www.denr.gov.ph)

## Atienza: Multi-sectoral Group to Protect Sierra Madre

**E**nvironment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza calls for a sense of urgency to all stakeholders to protect the Sierra Madre mountain range during a stakeholders' meeting held on February 4, 2009 at the DENR in Quezon City to immediately form a multi-sectoral coordinating body, together with the DENR, that will formulate a strategic action plan to effectively protect the mountain range.

"In the face of the challenges of the world economic slump, countries with rich natural resources shall prevail. We just have to work together, not only to protect the remaining natural wealth of Sierra Madre mountain range, but hopefully also to bring it back to its former status," Atienza said.

Atienza made a pronouncement of a paradigm shift in environmental governance in the department. "We are not allowed anymore to act like "business as usual" in illegal activities regarding our forest and other resources. We are changing that paradigm into making our people responsible primarily for whatever degradation and destruction of our forest."

The Sierra Madre mountain range is one of the last remaining forest cover in Luzon where 25% of the primary forest in the country is located in its so called Sierra Madre corridor. Its area is about 2.8 million in hectares covering the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Quezon and parts of Rizal. Its virgin forest is estimated at 320,000 hectares and recognized for its richness in biodiversity and in endemic species but also has the highest number of threatened species.

"Our forest need our help for protection, in return we need our forest to protect us from natural calamities. Kailangan lang na magtiwala tayo sa isa't-isa, tayo'y magtulungan na pangalagaan ang ating mga kabundukan hindi lang para sa henerasyong ito , kundi para rin sa mga susunod pa," Atienza concluded.

Main Source: [www.denr.gov.ph](http://www.denr.gov.ph)



*Photo News*



**Mother Earth Philippines in Muntinlupa Nursery.** Mother Earth Philippines Ms. Odette Alcantara visited the Muntinlupa Nursery at the National Bilibid Prison (NBP) compound, Muntinlupa City which is jointly managed by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), DENR-NCR, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Committee and the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) . She and PWPA President Antonio Olizon met with BuCor chief superintendent Ramon Reyes who informed her that the nursery is a good project because it provides seedlings to those who are involved in planting programs like the nearby schools and local governments. President Olizon explains to Ms. Alcantara the nursery also helps the living-out prisoners to gain training and experience in nursery work that will prepare them to join the outside world when they finished their prison term. He said the prisoners are given allowances by PWPA for their work and certificate of completion of nursery work proficiency. Above photo shows some of the prisoners holding their certificates that Ms. Alcantara handed out to them. Flanking her are PWPA President Olizon and executive director Leonardo Angeles.

***PWPA Holds...***

*(Continued from page 2)*  
 Chair Lu and President Olizon and Directors Consunji, Angeles, manager Regino Serafico, forestry and environment (FEC) coordinator Maila Vasquez, FEC adviser Jose Alfonso Keh, Jr., Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., Manuel Ng represented by sons Richmond and Richard Ng, Aristeo Lorenzo, and Rudy Cabuay of SPLC attended the meeting. Puyat and Ramon Uy, executive director Leonardo

***PWPA Joins UDP...***

*(Continued from page 2)*  
 program. He said the program will be funded by the P2.5 billion forestry and reforestation fund additionally allotted by the President.

Mendoza added that priority areas of the program are 20 major river basins and 172 critical watersheds wherein a combination of agroforestry and reforestation will be undertaken. He said that aside from the families who will directly implement the program, it will also employ about 60,000 bantay gubat (forest guards) who will be monitoring activities in the areas.

He said the program is a challenge as he appealed to the stakeholders to support it. Experiences in the upland development were shared by the participants.

On the part of the private sector, PWPA President

Antonio Olizon talked about the myth and the reality of forest operations, reforestation, and forest protection obtaining on the ground as well as legal and illegal logging issue. He said the interest of the private sector on good forestry practices is to perpetuate the forest that sustains the wood industry and satisfies the need of the country for wood.

With Usec Castillo and director Mendoza and his staff were PAWB Director Mundita Lim and DENR-R4A RED Nilo Tamera. Participants of the consultation were DAR USEC Rose Bistoyong, Ms. R. Buquirin of Conservation Internationale, Ms. Odette Alcantara of the Earth Day Network Philippines, UPLBCFNR Dean Rex Victor Cruz, the SFF represented by former DENR USEC Ricardo Umali, and the private sector, including the PWPA led by President Antonio Olizon.

## *Of Sustainable Forest Management, Upland Development Program and Logging Moratorium*

*by Tony Olizon*

**Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Bill.** The lower house is almost done with the passage of the sustainable forest management bill. We are confident that before the EASTER week, we shall have the bill finally approved and eventually forwarded to the SENATE.

With just a few months before election fever, and considering the SENATORS involved (present committee chair is SEN. JAMBY MADRIGAL, past chair is SEN. PIA CAYETANO) are up for reelection, I guess we will have a slim chance of having the bill past into a law.

The House of Representatives, during the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Congresses, approved the SFM bill and submitted the same to the SENATE but the SENATE failed to pass a counterpart bill and so the effect was the non-passage of the SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT LAW.

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**Upland Development Program.** The P2.5 Billion budget for the Upland Development Program of the DENR-FMB has attracted the attention of various sectors. Environmentalists; NGOs; academe; local government units; anti-poverty advocates and traditional politicians are excited on this DENR-FMB program. As for PWPA, we wish and pray for the success of the program. We have informed the DENR-FMB in so many occasions of our willingness and availability to be of help to the program. We have shared and will continue to share our field experiences on reforestation and forest protection.

We see the immaculate objectives of the program. We just hope that the implementation will not be distorted. We hope to see this Upland Development Program as the legacy of Secretary Atienza.

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**Difficult Times.** Most, if not all, of the plywood manufacturers are feeling the pinch on the present economic slowdown. Plywood plants, who are not PWPA members, and who are KNOWN to have cheap and abundant but not necessarily legally sourced logs, are also complaining about the market situation. But I guess their only complain is that their profit margin is not as high as before.

Even importers of lumber (sawn timber) are affected. Records would show the big drop in lumber importation for

the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Considering the favorable PESO/Dollar rate for importers (P47-48/USD) our lumber dealer members are very much affected by the low demand plus competition from cheap/questionable sourced lumber supply.

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**International Cooperation.** Our local cement industry suffered unfair competition from suppliers of substandard/cheap cement principally from China for quite some time. We heard however that the cement industry board is meeting with their counterparts from China to stop this unfair trade practice of dumping and selling substandard cement at cheaper prices.

We should also try this cooperative agreement with plywood industry leaders of China, Malaysia and Indonesia. The only difficulty that I see is that compared to the manufacturers of cement here and abroad, they only have few players whereas there are just too many plywood plants, big and small, too many dealers/importers that cooperation similar to this would be extremely difficult to implement.

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**Logging Moratorium, Here We Go Again...**Region X particularly Cagayan de Oro was very much affected by the floods last January. On January 19, 2009, Secretary Atienza suspended the issuance of Environmental Compliance Certificate and Other Related Permits Pertaining to Timber Harvesting (accepting/processing timber harvesting/cutting permits, hauling of plantation logs, etc.).

The suspension affected the operations of our members, who are legitimate wood processing companies. There was a substantial shortfall of raw materials (timber) which, when continued, may caused work stoppage and expected displacement of employees. More so, the suppliers of these raw materials are tree farmers whose source of livelihood comes from planted trees.

Investigations, verifications, studies were conducted as to the cause of the floods. We understand that findings showed that there was no legitimate logging operation in Cagayan de Oro; that the floods were not caused by logging operations. Up to this writing, no lifting of the suspension even for plantation species has been made by DENR. The only exemption to this ban is for Bukidnon Forest Inc., a government-owned corporation.

**UN-REDD Ready for Action**

by Peter Holmgren

**T**he UN-Collaborative Partnership for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) is a joint effort between FAO, UNDP and UNEP to combat climate change through the creation of a technical and financial mechanism to reverse unsustainable practices of natural resource management. The UN-REDD program encourages coordinated and collaborative UN support to countries.

The UN-REDD program has two components: (i) assisting developing countries to prepare and implement national REDD strategies and mechanisms; and (ii) supporting the development of standardized solutions and approaches based on sound science for a REDD instrument linked with the UNFCCC. The program helps empower countries to manage their REDD processes and facilitate access to financial and technical assistance tailored to their specific needs.

This program will seek and promote the active involvement of local communities, relevant stakeholders and institutions in the design and implementation of REDD plans. Nine pilot countries have been identified for the implementation of UN-REDD: Bolivia, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia.

**Features of UN-REDD**

UN-REDD will have an impact at the international and national levels. The program will provide and improve guidance on monitoring, assessment, reporting and verification approaches, with specific actions on remote sensing applications at the country level and training including assessment of forest cover change and forest degradation.

**Challenges and key considerations**

One of the fundamental challenges for the implementation of UN-REDD is the need to ensure full national ownership of the process. National programs will take account of information needs, capacity building requirements, infrastructure and impact(s) on national laws and policies. Local practices for sustainable forest and natural resources management will be promoted.

The active participation of stakeholders (e.g. governments, private sector, NGO's, research and academics) during the establishment of implementation parameters, assessments of emissions, adoption of technologies for the

appropriate management of natural resources, and continuous monitoring requires a permanent facilitation process.

UN-REDD will face challenges of estimating CO2 emissions and sinks, as well as in monitoring and verifying these at the national level. UN-REDD will also deal with other forest/climate change parameters that have not been well covered in scientific literature, including forest degradation, biodiversity estimations, food security, poverty alleviation and co-benefits. These parameters should also be regularly evaluated, monitored, reported on and verified at the national level.

Transparency in reporting systems will be fundamental, as buyers of reduced emissions will request accurate information, accountability, and verification of their investments.

Political commitment and motivation at the highest level for the implementation of REDD in countries is critical to guarantee sustainability. This implies financing mechanisms, provision of human resources, official recognition in accountability systems, legislative mandate, adequate institutional arrangements, public awareness of the process, as well as good communication and information mechanisms.

**The program helps empower countries to manage their REDD processes and facilitate access to financial and technical assistance tailored to their specific needs.**

The following key considerations need to be addressed by UN-REDD:

- Basic accounting parameters for REDD are not known, e.g. how forest degradation is to be incorporated;
- The economic potential for REDD credits is not known. Nor are possible premiums arising from higher quality/accuracy in accounting, which in turn will determine appropriate levels of investments in monitoring systems;
- Technological and methodological options should be kept open with respect to accuracy, precision, periodicity and other aspects that will determine the level of investment required;
- Within-country implementation of REDD may lead to still unknown requirements for monitoring and reporting at local levels; and
- The role of co-benefits within the REDD mechanism, and the monitoring needs that may be associated with them, is not known.

*(Continued on page 11)*



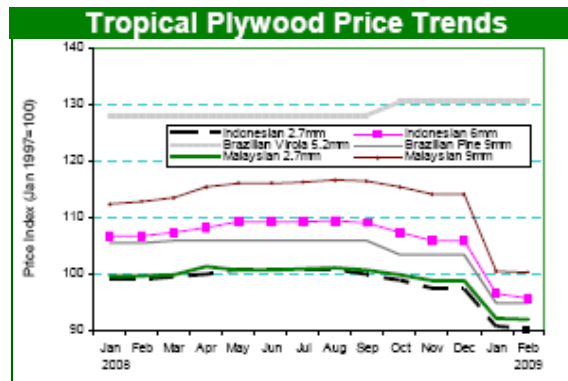
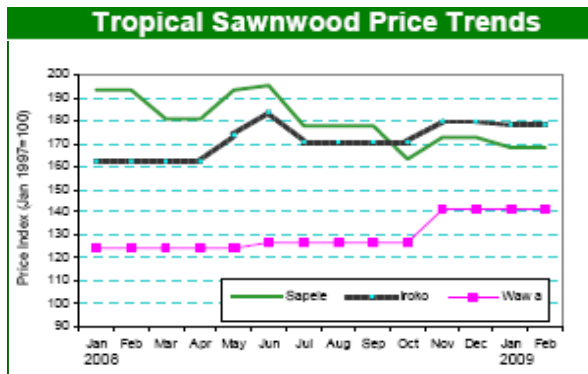
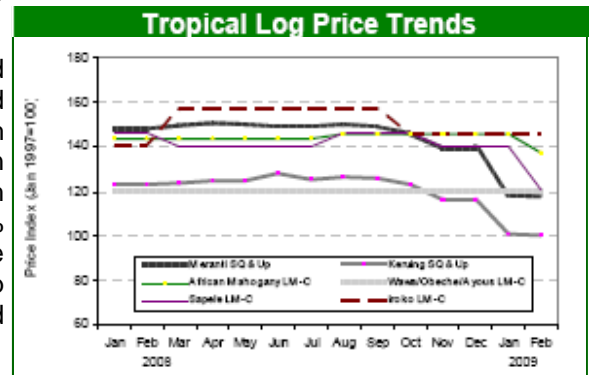
*Snapshot of the Tropical Timber Market*



As a result of deteriorating economic conditions, there has been no turnaround in the tropical timber market during the last fortnight. Given the state of the global economy, further layoffs in the timber sector were expected to hit parts of Africa, Malaysia, China and Brazil. ASEAN members were working hard to counter the effects of the economic slowdown, including by creating a fund for member countries, to assist with economic recovery.

Many traders were speculating on how the new US economic stimulus package would affect the trade in the coming months. For now, trade continues to be low in all producer and consumer regions. For instance, the uncertainty of the global economic situation and the volatility of exchange rates have led EU traders to do little forward buying for tropical hardwood sawn lumber. To compensate for low trading conditions, prices were up in some exporting countries. In Guyana, average roundwood export prices jumped 66% from the corresponding fortnight in 2008.

Despite the closure of 7,000 furniture enterprises in China and drops in production values during calendar year 2008, China reported an overall expansion (27%) in the amount of furniture exports through Guangdong Province. On the other hand, Brazil's Alta Floresta region reported falling exports of wood products by 34% in year 2008, with overall wood products exports from the country falling by over 51% during the same period in 2008. Peru reported marginal gains in the value of wood products exports during 2008, but experienced a steep decline in exports after October. Japan's plywood imports also slipped nearly 11% in 2008 compared to 2007.



Source: Tropical Timber Market Report  
Volume 14, Number 4, February 16-28, 2009

**Average Plywood and Substitute Prices Survey in NCR**

	Before (Feb. 18, 2009)	Now (March 16, 2009)		Before (Feb. 18, 2009)	Now (March 16, 2009)
	(in Pesos/piece)			(in Pesos/piece)	
3mm (1/8) plywood	196	205	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	761	749
4 mm (3/16) plywood	255	266	1/8 lawanit	203	191
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	300	289	3/16 lawanit	250	253
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	348	327	1/4 Hardiflex	361	361
10 mm (1/2) plywood	540	513			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	852	824			

Note: all pick-up prices inclusive of VAT retail prices

**Atienza Lauds Law Making Environment Part of Curriculum**

**S**aying that “starting them young” is the best way to instill environmental awareness among the next generations of Filipinos, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza lauded President Arroyo’s signing into law Republic Act 9512 which will now require all public and private schools to integrate environmental education in their curricula at all levels.

“This law may yet turn out to be one of this administration’s deepest

and long-lasting legacies to the people in Philippine environmentalism. RA 9512 is a quantum leap towards environmental awareness,” Atienza said.

The environment chief said that the DENR has been engaged in getting schools to incorporate environment-related subjects and activities into their curricula since the 1990’s to mainstream environmental awareness and education in the country’s educational systems.

“Until the enactment of this law, it was all voluntary on the part of the schools. All that has been changed

and we can now look forward to seeing a whole new generation of Filipinos more vigilant and enlightened about the environment than ever before,” Atienza explained.

Atienza also expressed optimism that the law would impact on efforts to save the country’s remaining forests. Growing and caring for trees, he said, is recognized as one of the most effective ways to counter newly emerging environmental threats like global warming arising from climate change.

*Main Source: www.denr.gov.ph*

**Events in Photo**



**PWPA & PLMA with DENR-NCR & Cong. Antonio Cerilles**



**PWPA & PLMA meet DENR-NCR**



**Dialogue between Aurora Province Stakeholders and DENR-Region III.**



**PWPA Director R. Y. Uy plants his birthday tree.**



**PWPA in Semirara Island, Antique**



## Mendoza, New Forestry Bureau Chief



**D**epartment of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. designated Forester Marlo Mendoza as OIC, Director of the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) per DENR Special Order No. 2009-92 dated February 10, 2009.

Mendoza holds a BS Forestry (1985) from UP Los Baños and Master in Development Management (1993) from the Asian Institute of Management submitting a management research paper entitled “A Strategic Intervention to Deal with Forest Encroachment: The Case of the Forest Migrants in the Makiling Forest Reserve.

Prior his designation as OIC, Director, FMB, he was assistant professor at the UPLB CFNR handling undergraduate courses in social forestry and forest conservation.

He was also project director of the Bantay Kalikasan Program (Environment Watch Program) of the ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc. and country coordinator for the Blacksmith Institute of New York.

As the project director of the Bantay Kalikasan Program, he supervised the “Save the La Mesa Watershed and Eco-Park Development Project,” “Clean Air Advocacy Campaign,” “Bantay Usok,” “Solid Waste Management for M.M.,” among others.

He has received the Special Achievement Award from the UPLB CFNR Alumni Association in April 2000 and also the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UP Los Baños Alumni Association in October 2000.

## UN-REDD ready...

*(Continued from page 8)*

### Current status and prospects

Norway has committed \$35 million to UN-REDD and it is anticipated that other donors will also become involved. Country missions were being planned or taking place in each of the nine selected countries in the last quarter of 2008.

Representatives from the UN-REDD collaborative partnership, un agencies in countries, donor agencies, national authorities and local REDD actors will jointly evaluate the status of the country in relation to forest management; information services and needs; legal parameters;

and capacity building and training requests. These missions will prepare reports incorporating national UN-REDD objectives and expectations.

With the participation of all stakeholders and the requisite political will, UN-REDD may play a significant role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, capable of yielding significant sustainable development benefits and of generating new financing streams for sustainable forest management in developing countries.

*Source: Tropical Forest Update, 18 No. 3 2008 as abridged  
The author, Peter Holmgren, is the Director, Environment, Climate Change and Bioenergy Division, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) peter.holmgren@fao.org*

## PWPA in Events

Date	Meetings/Events	PWPA Representatives
January 6	Senior Foresters Meeting FMB, Quezon City	ED Leonardo Angeles
12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Earth Day Network Convenors Meeting OSEC Conf. Rm., Quezon city	President Antonio Olizon and FEC Maila Vasquez
15	PPSQF Board Meeting DTI Conf. Rm., Makati City	ED Angeles and IC Ricardo Patawaran
20	PWPA Board Meeting Makati City	PWPA directors and officers
21	Courtesy Call with DENR Sec. Jose Atienza, Jr. DENR OSEC VIP Lounge, Quezon City	Chair Fernando Lu, President Olizon, Directors Keh, Jr., Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., Aristeo Puyat, Ramon Uy, Alex Ong, Manuel Ng, Robert Kua, ED Angeles, FEA Jose Lorenzo, Manager Regino Serafico, FEC Vasquez, Mssrs. Stephen Tan of PSPI and James Garcia of SPLC.
22	Plywood Council Meeting Gloria Maris, Pasay City	Director and Plywood Council President Keh, Jr. and members. Host: VICMAR
31	Meeting with UPLBCFNR former dean Dr. Ramon Razal, PWPA Office, Makati City	ED Angeles



Date	Meetings/Events	PWPA Representatives
February 3	Earth Hour 2009 Weekly Meeting DOE Board Rm., Taguig City	President Olizon and FEC Vasquez
4	Consultative Meeting on DENR MC 2008-03, San Fernando, Pampanga  Scoping Meeting on Mitigation and Technology Transfer re: Climate Change Linden Suites, Pasig City  Sierra Madre Stakeholders' Meeting on Illegal Logging, Quezon City	ED Angeles, FEC Vasquez and Forester Dennis Mendoza of PATECO  Manager Serafico  Chair Lu, ED Angeles, FEC Vasquez and Forester Mendoza of PATECO
6	Meeting with DTI Usec Merly Cruz, New Solid Bldg., Makati City	Director and Plywood Council President Alfonso Keh, Jr., PWPA President Olizon, Director Edith Alcantara and IC Ricardo Patawaran
11	BOC Nursery Visit, NBP Compound, Muntinlupa City  Meeting with RoviFloors, Inc. (a potential member) Cabuyao, Laguna	President Olizon, ED Angeles, Manager Serafico and FEC Vasquez with Ms. Odette Alcantara of Mother Earth and Earth Day Network Philippines  President Olizon, Manager Serafico and FEC Vasquez

Note: EVP – Executive VP; VP – Vice President; ED – Executive Director; Mgr.– Manager; FEC – Forestry & Environment Coordinator; IC – Industry Coordinator; FEA – Forestry & Environment Adviser; SA – Systems Analyst; PC - Plywood Council; SC - Steering Committee

The Philippine Wood Producers Association  
3/F LTA Condominium Building  
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