



## Davao City Hosts PWPA Directors Meet

The first ever Mindanao meeting of the directors of the Board of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) was held in the evening of February 23, 2007 at the Las Terrazas Clubhouse, Philippine-Japan Highway, Davao City hosted by PWPA director Edith Alcantara of the C. Alcantara and Sons, Inc. (CASI).

Before the said meeting, the directors busied themselves with a morning tour of the wood processing plant of member Consolidated Plywood Industries, Inc. in Panabo City, Davao del Norte ending with a lunch hosted by its owner Mr. Henry



**First Mindanao Meet.** Front l-r. EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr, president Fernando Lu, treasurer-dir. Stanley Tan, forestry adviser Jose Lorenzo, LUZMATIM's Jose Valenzuela representing director Manuel Ng, director Edith Alcantara, executive director Leonardo Angeles, VP-dir. Alex Ong, LUZMATIM's Richard Ng. Back r-l. VP-directors Roberto Kua, Ramon Uy, Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., director Aristeo Puyat, VP-dir. Charlie Liu, chairman Antonio Olizon and VP-dir. Wellington Yao. Not in the picture taken at the CASI plant: directors Florio Buñag and Victor Consunji and chairman emeritus Antonio Bernas.

Wee. It was followed by an afternoon PWPA director Victor Consunji visit to the plywood plant of member hosted a welcome dinner for the CASI in Lanang, Davao City .

*(Continued on page 2)*

## PTIB Creation Pushed

The first meeting of the ad hoc committee tasked by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Angelo Reyes to coordinate the complete staff work for the creation of the Philippine Timber Industries Development Board (PTIB) was held last February 19, 2007 at the DENR office in Quezon City presided jointly by assistant secretary and head executive assistant Annette Manansala and DENR-NCR regional executive director Corazon Davis.

The committee referred to the commitment, for the DENR to spearhead the creation of the PTIB, made by secretary Reyes last January 10, 2007 - during the

oath-taking ceremonies of the incoming members of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Wood Producers Association at the EDSA Shangri-la Plaza, Mandaluyong City - as the take-off point of its task.

The draft Executive Order (EO) earlier prepared was reviewed by the committee as it agreed to have it (draft EO) to be circulated to government agencies and private sector concerned for their comments.

The draft EO contains the following features: 1) justification for creating the PTIB; 2) enumeration of the main functions of PTIB as a coordinative, integrative, facilitative, formulative, advisory, and recommendatory body on essential policies, strategic plans and programs in support

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## Davao City Hosts ...

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members of the Board of Directors on February 22, 2007 at the Marco Polo Hotel in downtown Davao City.

Started in March last year in Cebu City and hosted by member Matimco, Inc. of VP-director Charlie Liu, the out-of-Metro Manila meetings are proving to be revigorating as they are instructive to the officers and members of the Board of Directors of PWPA.

During the Davao meeting, Tagum Woodcore Industries was accepted by the Board as a new regular member of PWPA. It was also an occasion to award plaques of appreciation to deserving members for various services they have rendered to PWPA. (The photos spread here were taken during the Davao meeting.)



**In The Name of Service.** (Clockwise photos) Director Victor Consunji (left) receives the plaque of appreciation and year of the pig figurine for luck from chairman Antonio Olizon (center) and president Fernando Lu (right). Chairman Olizon (left) and president Lu (right) award plaques of appreciation and similar figurines separately to director Edith Alcantara, member Henry Wee, director-VP Charlie Liu, and director-VP Ramon Uy.

## WoodStock

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## PWPA Lauded Reyes for Protecting La Mesa Dam

**E**nvironment and Natural Resources secretary Angelo Reyes was lauded recently by the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) for decisively moving to avert an imminent water crisis in Metro Manila by his recommending the issuance of an executive order declaring the La Mesa Dam environs as a critical watershed or a protected area to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

This developed as the PWPA, the umbrella organization of the country's leading industrial tree planters and wood processors, pledged to help the government reforest the La Mesa Dam watershed to enhance its basin capacity for water.

The La Mesa Dam reservoir is Metro Manila's only major source of potable water which supports the metropolis' burgeoning population and industries.

Reyes cited pertinent decrees and laws such as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines of 1975 (PD 705), the National Integrated Protected Areas System of 1992 (RA 7586), the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 (RA 9275) and the Philippine Environmental Impact System (PD 1586) as basis for

either a presidential or congressional action to place the La Mesa Dam watershed off-limits to certain human activities that could compromise its integrity as a source of potable water for Metro Manila.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has also mobilized various government agencies to consolidate efforts to ward off any impending water crisis that could be brought about by overpopulation and pollution. (Related story below)

PWPA president Fernando Lu said PWPA, an active member of the Green Army Philippine Network Foundation that was recently organized by the private sector, the civil society, non-government organizations and environmentalists, is supporting moves to enhance the reforestation of the country's watersheds that need rehabilitation and improvement.

Lu also said that the PWPA, aside from its members' involvement in massive industrial tree planting, also shares with the DENR, under a memorandum of agreement, the goal of protecting and restoring forests. PWPA, in fact, was a major player in last year's nationwide Green Philippine Highways program by contributing close to half of its entire seedlings requirements.

## River Basin Office Created

**H**andling of water-related functions has been consolidated through an apex water body that will integrate and streamline the efforts of various government agencies without abolishing other individual agencies' water-related mandates.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the formation of this water body through Executive Order 510 signed on March 5, 2006 which created the River Basin Control Office (RBCO).

Environment and Natural Resources secretary Angelo Reyes lauded the move as he said: "It is high time for the government to come up with an office that will integrate and lead all water-related functions. For a long time, the State's water agencies have been fragmented and their actions were uncoordinated in their program formulation and implementation."

Reyes also said a River Basin Management and Development Master Plan will be drafted by the RBCO to

provide a blueprint for the sustainable use of the Philippines' major river basins.

"This plan will put together, in an integrated fashion, the fragmented efforts of various government agencies involved in water-use, flood mitigation, and other programs and activities concerning river basins. This means that there will be a single comprehensive framework that will allow greater efficiency and effectiveness in environmental conservation, planning and management," he said.

Reyes warned of a looming water crisis due to uncontrolled contamination of available water resources. "The real source of the problem lies not in the actual scarcity of water but in the improper and inadequate management of water resources," the DENR chief said.

The country has 421 river basins. Twenty (20) of these are considered major river systems located in the different parts of the country.

*Source: Manila Standard Today, Nation  
January 16, 2007*

## “Roadmap” for Better Environment

**T**he Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has drawn up a “roadmap” to better protect and manage the country’s environment and natural resources in the next ten years with the adoption of an Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Framework Plan, Secretary Angelo Reyes has said.

“The Department has a broad array of issues and problems to confront that cover air, water, soil, forest resources, land resources, mineral resources and wildlife/biodiversity resources. Because of this, there is a need to approach problems in a broad perspective – that is, in a synchronized manner, which is now made possible by the Framework Plan,” Reyes said during the recent launching of the document at the DENR Operations Center in Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

The ENR Framework Plan is a major output of the ENR Shell Programme, an umbrella project of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Started in 2002 with a budget of \$500,000, the Plan also serves as a strong support to Secretary Reyes’ 12-point agenda for environmental protection and sustainable natural resources management in the next 10 years.

The sectors covered by the plan are forest and water resources, biodiversity, coastal and marine resources, lands, minerals and geosciences and environment.

Priority activities under the framework plan includes forest development in watersheds, protected areas and other upland areas suitable for protection and industrial tree plantations, especially agro-forestry, in degraded and idle areas.

Also included are the development of medium- and large-scale mining projects and rehabilitation of abandoned and idle mines, geo-hazard mapping, land distribution, protection of the environment through enforcement activities against smoke belchers, and management of major river basins and solid waste.

Source: <http://denr.gov.ph/article/articleprint/4204/-/1/39/>  
January 30, 2007

## PWPA Attends Training on Carbon Accounting Program

**A**bout 20 participants from the DENR central office, regional offices and the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), as well as representatives from the National Power Corporation and the Philippine Wood Producers Association attended the Training on the Use of Australia’s Carbon Accounting Program on February 12-13, 2007 at FMB Bldg., Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Forester Maila Vasquez, environment and forestry coordinator, represented the Philippine Wood Producers Association in the training program.

The trainors are experts from Ensis, a joint venture between Australia’s CSIRO and New Zealand’s SCION (previously New Zealand Forest Research) led by Dr. Trevor

Booth and Dr. Keryn Paul, among others. full accounting as well as exercises on how NCAS can be used.

The training aims to make the Philippines fully aware of the potential for carbon offset or carbon trading as a vehicle to improve rural living standards by increasing investment in afforestation and to provide capacity building in carbon accounting necessary to realize economic benefits from carbon credits.

Dr. Booth introduced the project, it’s objectives and the importance of trees in sequestering carbon while Dr. Paul made the presentation about the Australian National Carbon Accounting System (NCAS) and the factors to be considered in carbon accounting, from sequestration to emission, from the forest biomass to the products. She also demonstrated different models of carbon accounting, whether partial or

The NCAS is the only carbon accounting toolbox that considers the relationship between forest/plantation growth as modified by climate and soil nutrition, mixed species and age, density and partitioning options in one hand and carbon sequestration on the other.

According to Dr. Paul, NCAS can model plants, debris, soil and products by integrating several existing models (mass balance) and component models can be switched on or off depending on requirements. NCAS can link and integrate remote sensing, climate, site and management information. It can also operate both spatially and temporally between land uses .

## Illegal Logging Costing Nations Billions

**I**llegal logging is threatening the livelihoods of millions of the world's poor, robbing governments of billions of dollars in revenue and undermining legitimate logging businesses, the World Bank has reported during the IMF-World Bank meetings in Singapore.

In developing countries, illegal logging in public lands alone causes losses in assets and revenue estimated in excess of \$10 billion a year, the Bank report stated.

A further \$5 billion in revenue is being lost each year through tax evasion and loss in timber royalties.

Katherine Sierra, the Bank's vice president for sustainable development, said nearly a fifth of humanity was dependent on forests for some part of their livelihoods.

"Forests are a global public good, and their degradation imposes global costs such as climate change and species loss," she said.

The report includes estimates of illegal logging rates as a percentage of total production in 17 countries, from Bolivia to Myanmar and Vietnam.

Approximately two-thirds of those countries have illegal logging rates of at least 50 percent. In Indonesia, between 70 and 80 percent of all logging was illegal, in Bolivia it was 80 percent, while in Cambodia it was estimated at 90 percent.

Law enforcement in Indonesia, where large areas of tropical forests are being destroyed each year, was a particular problem, the report said.

The report also highlighted China's huge appetite for timber, with

imports rising from US\$6 billion in 1996 to US\$16 billion in 2005.

"It is feared that the Chinese demand, which does not currently distinguish between legally and illegally produced timber for imports, is escalating the problem of illegal logging," the report said.

China has denied it is plundering the world's forests but many conservation groups dispute this.

While the fate of the world's forests looks bleak, the Bank said that in recent years, illegal logging had shifted from an almost taboo subject to now being part of an open dialogue between governments.

*Source: Abridged from an article that appeared in the Manila Bulletin, Environment & Nature on October 3, 2006*

## NAECTAF Confiscates Hot Logs

**G**overnment's intensified drive against illegal logging in Mindanao made a big score recently after elements of the National Anti-Environment Crime Task Force (NAECTAF) intercepted some P9.2 million worth of suspected illegally-cut timber in Agusan del Sur.

In a report to Environment and Natural Resources secretary Angelo Reyes, NAECTAF deputy head and DENR undersecretary Roy Kyamko said the contraband, which consisted of 6,588 round logs and 2,816 fitches, were awaiting to be towed along the Adgawan river for delivery to sawmills in Butuan City when discovered.

According to Kyamko, the month-long operation was based on an information fed to his office that illegal logging activities were taking place inside the 51,000-hectare ancestral land awarded by the DENR to a Manobo community in La Paz, Agusan del Sur with a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) granted in 1998.

Adgawan river is a major waterway artery that snakes through from Agusan del Sur to Butuan City in Agusan del Norte. The river, whose width can reach up to 20 meters

wide, is the traditional transport route of logs, for processing at sawmills in Butuan City.

It was learned that the contraband were going to be mixed with documented timber products that were bidded out by DENR's Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC) to private firms in the province to evade detection by DENR checkpoints manning the Adgawan river.

"The timber products which were illegally cut by enterprising individuals within the area covered by CADC No. 132 were being passed off as coming from bidded forest products by NRDC," Kyamko noted in his report.

Locally called "sabit" or "kabit," the practice of mixing documented logs with illegally-cut logs has been a major complaint by legitimate wood producers in the province, prompting the DENR officers in the CARAGA to heighten their campaign against the practice of timber poaching, sometimes resulting in the abduction and killing even of DENR officers by suspected illegal loggers.

*Source: <http://denr.gov.ph/article/articleprint/4231/-/1/39/> February 20, 2007*

## PGMA Simplifies Business Licensing

**P**resident Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has created the Philippine Business Registry (PBR), a project that aims to facilitate “a seamless transactional environment” by removing unnecessary bottlenecks in business registration in the country.

In Executive Order 587, President Arroyo has appointed Trade Secretary Peter Favila as head of the PBR.

“The PBR system will facilitate a seamless transactional environment for business registration and development across the application systems of various government agencies.”

The President said a harmonized system of business registration will help remove bottlenecks, particularly those that hinder the process of obtaining necessary permits in starting up a business.

“The PBR will evolve into a business facilitation platform that is envisioned to increase commercial activities within and outside the country,” Mrs. Arroyo said.

Favila will have eight consultants for the business registry project, namely the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Internal Revenue commissioner, the president of the Social Security System, the National Statistics Office administrator, the president of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp., the Interior secretary and the president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

“For this purpose, the secretary of trade may call on any agency, corporation or organization, whether public or private, to participate and assist in the preparation and implementation of the program. Technical Working

Groups may also be created to address specific issues and concerns,” the President said.

Mrs. Arroyo said the PBR can tap existing funds within the DTI for its operations.

Earlier, the President also signed EO 557 establishing an Anti-Red Tape Task Force that will monitor and implement government policies on reducing the time and cost it takes to make a business transaction in the country.

Members of the task force include representatives from the Presidential Management Staff, the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, the DTI, the Export Development Council Secretariat, and the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

The PCCI, has been invited to become the private sector representative of the task force.

*Source: A news article by Joyce Pañares of Standard Today, December 27, 2006*

## PWPA Joins Forestry Sector Negotiation Skills Workshop

**T**wenty four participants from the government’s environment and natural resources agencies, the local government unit, NGOs, POs, the private sector and donor agencies (FAO & PTFC) attended the Negotiation Skills Training/Workshop for the Forestry Sector on January 22-23, 2007 in Angeles City.

Forester Maila Vasquez, environment and forestry coordinator, represented the Philippine Wood Producers Association in this workshop.

The general objective of the workshop is to highlight the challenges in negotiation, be it in the field of economics, conflict management, international relations, or international, bilateral/multilateral negotiations. The

immediate goal is to help participants shape an effective strategy to overcome challenges posed to the forestry sector.

The workshop was conducted through a combination of lecture (concepts and tools) and direct application (preparatory work and simulation exercises).

The trainers stressed the importance of knowing the key domains (relation, process and substance) and tensions (empathy/assertiveness, cooperation/competition and principal/agent) so that one maybe able to handle negotiations effectively.

The trainers also provided the seven elements of negotiation (relationship, communication, interests, options, criteria of legitimacy, alterna-

tives & commitment) which are very important in measuring the success of the negotiation.

In negotiating the process, there are five (5) Ps which are very important, purpose, people, process, planning and product. These 5 Ps are very important especially in the preparation for the negotiation. These will lay down all the elements needed by the party for the negotiation process.

It was stressed that in the process of negotiation, one must be prepared; he must know his opponent (which necessarily is not really an enemy but maybe an ally), his strengths and weaknesses, his mandate, his options and alternatives. And during the negotiation, he must be aware of the relationship, the process and the substance.

*On Meetings, PTIB, Carbon Trading and Others*

*“We make a living by what we get,  
we make a life by what we give.”*

*- Sir Winston Churchill*

We wish to thank our members who, on January 5, 2007 donated either plywood or lumber to families affected by typhoons “Milenyo” and “Reming” in Guinobatan, Albay. Your contribution certainly helped in alleviating the miseries of the victims.

xxx

Senator Pia Cayetano, during the meeting of PWPA officers with her, committed to champion the cause of the wood industry in the Senate. We hope that she retains her position as Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Natural Resources in the next Congress. After our meeting, she introduced her brother, Congressman Alan Peter Cayetano who is running for senator. He also expressed support to the industry.

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We congratulate Ambassador Thaug Tun and the people of Myanmar on the occasion of the 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their Independence. The event was marked by a dinner last January 8, 2007 at the Manila Polo Club where PWPA officers were also invited. The ambassador has really considered us as his friends.

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The oath-taking rites of the PWPA board at the Shangri-La EDSA Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong City was a very good venue for the association to present its long standing recommendation espouses the creation of a Philippine Timber Industries Board (PTIB). Secretary Angelo Reyes, who swore the board into office, was very receptive to the proposal of the association. He immediately instructed NCR Regional Executive Director Cora Davis and Assistant Secretary Annette Manansala to spearhead the deliberations leading to the creation of the industry board.

**By Ferdie Lu**

A draft Executive Order has been prepared and sent to different government and private agencies for review. Personally, this writer proposes the inclusion of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples in the PTIB as well as the expansion of the private sector's membership in the board to cover every aspect of the wood industry.

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The second out-of-town PWPA Board of Directors meeting was very successfully held in Davao City last February 23, 2007. We wish to thank Director Edith Alcantara for the superb arrangements and the warm hospitality she and her staff extended to the group.

xxx

**The Global Forestry Services, an international**

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

	<b>Before</b> (February 19, 2007)	<b>Now</b> (March 19, 2007)		<b>Before</b> (February 19, 2007)	<b>Now</b> (March 19, 2007)
	(in Pesos/piece)			(in Pesos/piece)	
3mm (1/8) plywood	226	218	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	736	748
4 mm (3/16) plywood	267	262	1/8 lawanit	160	185
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	288	285	3/16 lawanit	241	223
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	339	331	1/4 Hardiflex	353	348
10 mm (1/2) plywood	495	460			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	821	810			

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

## a Q &amp; A guide: Tropical Sustainable Forest Management

**T**he increasing U.S. market for imported hardwoods has led some to question the impacts of this trade on tropical forest management. Ninety percent of the 1.2 billion people who live in “extreme poverty depend on forests to satisfy their livelihoods. The more value brought to these developing countries through international trade, the more incentive there will be in sustainable management.

### What impact am I causing on tropical forests by using imported wood products?

**A:** Positive! Creating economic incentives encourages communities to manage their forests and leads to their long-term conservation, preventing them from being turned into farms and ranches.

In a publication by the U.N. Environment Program, World Conservation, “buying tropical veneers and other valuable tropical hardwood products

that have been produced sustainably would encourage maintenance and even improvement of selective wood extraction.”<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Thomas Lovejoy, Counselor for Biodiversity and Economic Affairs at the Smithsonian Institution states, “the key component in preserving and maintaining the tropical forests is to ensure these resources maintain their economic value.”<sup>2</sup>

### How can I help “save” tropical forests?

**A:** In addition to using imported wood products, you can support organizations working for their sustainable management and development. The Tropical Forest Foundation ([www.tropicalforestfoundation.org](http://www.tropicalforestfoundation.org)) is one example of an on-the-ground collaborative effort by industry and environmental organizations to use reduced impact logging techniques for sustainable forest management.

### What are foreign governments doing to enforce their

### illegal logging laws and sustainably manage their forests?

**A:** Each country has different laws and regulations, and in many cases they are stricter than in the U.S. For example, in Brazil you must have an approved forest management plan prior to harvest, whereas in the U.S. this is not a requirement.

The U.S. government, through the President’s Initiative Against Illegal Logging, is working with countries in Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia on capacity building to help them increasingly crack down and enforce their laws and regulations in efforts to expand sustainable forest management.

<sup>1</sup> “Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living,” International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources/United Nations Environment Program/World Wide Fund for Nature, Gland, Switzerland, 1991

<sup>2</sup> Smithsonian Institution. 1990 “Tropical Forestry Workshop.”

Source: <http://www.iwpawood.org/> “Q&A Guides” on key issue areas of importance to trade

## a Q &amp; A guide: Illegal Logging

**S**ome illegal logging occurs both domestically and internationally. This is an unfortunate reality, but so are the many misconceptions and myths about illegal logging.

### Is the timber trade a main cause of deforestation and illegal logging?

**A:** No, the need for food and shelter has led many to clear or burn forests to plant crops, provide wood fuel or build housing. *The Economist* recently noted, “Illegal logging is not the cause of all deforestation. Some trees are cut down to make way for plantations or

ranching or to provide farmland or firewood for the poor.”<sup>1</sup>

*Mongabay.com*, one of the most popular environmental science sites on the Web, states that 60 to 70 percent of deforestation in the Amazon results from cattle ranches while the rest mostly results from small-scale subsistence agriculture.<sup>2</sup>

### Do imported wood products enter the U.S. from illegally logged sources?

**A:** A collaborative report by Seneca Creek Associates and Wood Resources International states, “Most illegally produced timber is used domestically [in foreign country where

harvest occurred] and does not enter international trade.” The report further found that, “The suspicious volume of roundwood that enters international trade represents on the order of just 1 percent of global production for both softwood and hardwood.”<sup>3</sup>

### How do we know that your products are legal?

**A:** Imported woods are accompanied by the necessary permits, documents, and paperwork that allow them to be traded legally and sustainably under international and national laws and regulations. This trade has been approved by government officials from

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## PTIB Creation...

(Continued from page 1)

for the continuing development of the timber industries; 3) the composition of the Board and its secretariat; and 4) the funding of PTIB.

The PTIB is patterned after the Malaysian Timber Industries Board (MTIB). Unlike MTIB, the PTIB has no regulatory powers and functions which shall remain vested in pertinent agencies and instrumentalities of the government.

The development of the wood industry in the Philippines has remained, for a long time, in the doldrums. From a net importer of

timber and timber products - and one of the pillars of the economy - it has skidded to become embarrassingly a net importer and an insignificant player in the overall economy of the country.

The goals of PTIB, if established, are to achieve for the wood industry self-sufficiency in raw materials, global competitiveness of wood products and palpable contribution to the socio-economic progress of the country.

The PTIB will be composed of the secretaries of environment and natural resources, trade and industry,

finance, economic development, and the head of the union of local governments, as well as heads of wood and furniture industries, and the academic, professional and consumer groups.

Chair Antonio Olizon and president Fernando Lu led the PWPA representatives in the said multi-agency ad hoc committee meeting.

The committee will have its next meeting as soon as it receives the results of the review of the draft EO from said agencies and sectors concerned.

## On Meetings, PTIB...

(Continued from page 7)

**consulting firm engaged in assisting wood industry firms secure timber certification have also presented to the board the mechanics of Carbon Accounting and Trading. We look forward to having the first Philippine company be the first beneficiary of Carbon Funds in the Asean Region. A potentially good candidate is Director Vic Consunji's Sirawai Plywood**

**and Lumber Company.**

xxx

Congratulations to Chairman Tony Olizon for receiving the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award, the highest honor given by the Rotary International. You really deserve it.

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**The PWPA also welcomes the reappointment of Forester**

**Romy Acosta as Director of the Forest Management Bureau. This will once again give him the opportunity to exhibit his mettle as an effective partner of the wood industry.**

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Former Undersecretary Renato de Rueda is the newly elected President of the Society of Filipino Foresters (SFF). Our best wishes to you Rene!

## a Q & A guide: Illegal Logging

(Continued from page 8)

both the country of export and the country of import.

**Does boycotting products from certain countries help combat illegal logging?**

**A:** No, bans and boycotts could actually exacerbate the problem because this approach removes any financial incentive to grow and sustainably manage the forest, resulting only in destructive land conversion to agricul-

ture and other uses.

A publication by the U.N. Environment Program, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and World Wide Fund for Nature agrees, "Blanket boycotts of tropical timber are likely to favour forest clearance for low-grade shifting cultivation, because they remove economic incentives to keep even modified forests."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Special Report: Down in the woods - The logging trade," *The Economist*, March 25, 2006

<sup>2</sup>"Why is the Brazilian Amazon being Destroyed?" Mongabay.com (link at <http://www.mongabay.com/brazil.html>)

<sup>3</sup>"Illegal' Logging and Global Wood Markets: The Competitive Impacts on the U.S. Wood Products Industry," Seneca Creek Associates, LLC, November, 2004

<sup>4</sup>"Caring for the Earth: A Strategy for Sustainable Living," International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources/United Nations Environment Program/World Wide Fund for Nature, Gland, Switzerland, 1991

Source: <http://www.iwpawood.org/>  
"Q&A Guides" on key issue areas of importance to trade

## Forester Acosta Returns as FMB Director



When others are being replaced, forester Romeo Acosta, was requested to return to assume his post, again, as the director of the Forest Management Bureau (FMB).

Forester Acosta was FMB director from June 2001 to May 2005 and subsequently appointed as Head of the Policy and Planning Services of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources before he retired in July 2006.

A professional forester by training, director Acosta's expertise encompasses forest management; forest resources assessment; monitoring and reporting; forest biometry; environmental economics; environmental laws and administration; and international forestry; governance and trade.

A recipient of various awards in the field of forestry, he has frequently represented the Philippines in International Tropical

Timber Organization gatherings, the UN Forum on Forests and other international forums and lectures.

Forester Acosta holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Forestry from the Gregorio Araneta University, now La Salle Araneta University and now pursuing his Ph.D degree in Public Administration at the same University. He also attended a course on Environmental and Natural Resources Economics in 1993 at the Institute for International Development, Harvard University in Massachusetts, USA and also completed a course on Monitoring and Evaluation organized by World Bank at the International Legal Institute, Washington DC, USA in 1998.

Forester Acosta is married to Anita Acosta nee Verbo with whom he has three children: Annemarie, Vincent and Allan Ray.

## Forester de Rueda, New SFF President



Forester Renato de Rueda, former International Forestry Research and Oriented Development Consultants, Inc., among others. He is also an active Couples for Christ member being the National Coordinator of the OIKOS Society.

Forester de Rueda is a team leader, effective manager, and skilled integrated forestry specialist with 36 years of experience implementing integrated and community-based natural resource governance programs in the Philippines.

He has an extensive experience in forestry as he worked in the private sector and the government service, in various capacities, from private company forester to DENR undersecretary for field operations. When he left the government service, he served as consultant to Ford Foundation, USAID-funded projects, the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, Center for

In 1990, he received the UPLB College of Forestry Outstanding Alumnus in Government Service award, and in 2003, the Professional Regulation Commission recognized him as the Outstanding Professional in the field of Forestry.

He earned his degree in Bachelor of Science in Forestry at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños in 1966 and Master in Management (with honors) at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Q.C.

Forester de Rueda is married to Pilar de Rueda nee Magale with whom he has three children: Rene Jonas, Rene Jason and Renee Janessa.

## Forester Amaro, Jr. Heads ERDB

Forester Marcial Amaro, Jr., was designated by DENR secretary Angelo Reyes as the director of the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) by virtue of DENR Special Order No. 2007-70 dated January 13, 2007.

Before he was assigned as ERDB director, forester Amaro was the director of the Forest Management Bureau and later OIC-assistant

secretary for forestry .

Forester Amaro holds a BS degree in Forestry (1981) from UP Los Baños; graduate diploma in Agricultural Economics (1989) from the University of New England, Australia; and Master in Public Management with honors (1999) from the Development Academy of the Philippines.

Forester Amaro received the

DENR's Distinguished Service Award in 1997. He placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1981 Foresters Board Examination and in the Career Executive Board Management Aptitude Test Battery in 1997.

Forester Amaro was earlier featured in the Woodstock Volume 4, No. 4, September -October 2006 issue. Ed.



FLASH!!!

# PWPA Chair Olizon, Paul Harris Fellow Awardee

The highest honor that the Rotary International can bestow to a person, the Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) Award, was given to Philippine Wood Producers Association chairman Antonio Olizon on March 22, 2007, on the occasion of the regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Alabang in Alabang Country Club, Muntinlupa City.

Chair Olizon was surprised and

humbled by the award and said in his acceptance speech that what he did for the Rotary is a service that anyone can do. He thanked everyone for the rare award consisting of the PHF medallion, a lapel pin and a certificate.

The PHF award recognizes the recipient's outstanding contributions that exemplify the highest ideal in Rotary, i.e. in placing **"SERVICE ABOVE SELF."**

The beautiful medallion is attached to a blue and gold ribbon in order that it can actually be presented around the neck of the recipient. The lapel pin when worn distinguishes the position of the recipient among peers.



**Service Above Self.** PWPA Chair Antonio Olizon was awarded with the Paul Harris Certificate by Rotary of Alabang President Ed Afzelius (upper photo) and the Paul Harris pin by Fr. Rocky Evangelista, President of Tuloy sa Don Bosco Foundation, also a Rotarian (lower photo).



**Rotary's Award.** (Right) Shown is the PHF certificate and the medallion on blue and gold ribbon and the lapel pin given to all PHF awardees to show that receiving them is of special significance.

# Patawaran Completes Global Trade eLearning Program

Mr. Ricardo M. Patawaran, Industry Coordinator of the Philippine Wood Producers Association, has successfully completed the core courses of the Global Trade eLearning Program (Philippines) which is an 8-Module Program on International Trade Law and Policy.

The program is a project of the Department of Trade and Industry in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Earth Council Geneva and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

Meant to serve as a capacity building program on International trade law and policy, the program began with a course on the impact of international trade on the Philippine economy and followed by a series of core courses on the basic principles of international trade law and policy.

In between, the participants were made to select two or more of the elective courses: on trade in agriculture, trade in services, trade facilitation, tele-

communications/ financial services and Philippine laws on international trade.

Overall, this was capped by an integrating course on the Doha Round and the prospects for the future with particular emphasis on regional trade agreements.



**Global Trade eLearning.** Mr. Ricardo Patawaran (above photo) received a Certificate of Completion (left) for having completed core courses of the Philippine Global Trade eLearning Program.

**05 January 2007**

Legaspi, Albay Trip with DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes  
Guinobatan & Legaspi City, Albay

**08 January 2007**

59th Anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar  
Manila Polo Club, Makati City

**09 January 2007**

Meeting with Senator Pia Cayetano  
Hotel InterCon, Makati City

**10 January 2007**

PWPA Board Meeting cum Oath Taking  
EDSA Plaza Shangrila, Mandaluyong City

**12 January 2007**

General Assembly, Earthday Network National Convenors Group  
Blue Ridge, Quezon City

**22 January 2007**

Press Conference on La Mesa Watershed  
DENR, Quezon City

**22-26 January 2007**

Training/Workshop on Forestry Sector Negotiation Skills  
Oasis Hotel, Angeles City

The Philippine Wood Producers Association  
3/F LTA Condominium Building  
118 Perea Street, Legaspi Village,  
Makati City 1229

**04 February 2007**

Parangal kay Howard Delton, CEO Unilever  
Blue Ridge, Quezon City

**06 February 2007**

UPLBCFNR Consultative Workshop  
Traders Hotel, Manila

**08 February 2007**

Launching of Earth Day Network Phil 2007  
Herbal Garden, QMC, Quezon City

**12 February 2007**

Meeting with GFS re: Carbon Forestry  
PWPA Boardroom, Makati City

**12-13 February 2007**

Australia's National Carbon Accounting Training  
FMB Conference Room, Quezon City

**23 February 2007**

PWPA Board Meeting  
Las Terrazas Clubhouse, Davao City

**26 February 2007**

Puno-in ang Muntinlupa  
Sunken Garden, NBP Reservation, Muntinlupa City

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