



Program: Green Philippines

A Joint Reforestation Program of DENR & PWPA

As an offshoot of the March 4, 2006 initial meeting with DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, the PWPA presented to him on April 8, 2006 the Program: Green Philippines.

Aimed at increasing the forest cover of the country, aside from what its members are doing in their respective forest areas, PWPA proposes the program as a way to drum up support for national reforestation. PWPA and DENR will demonstrate in model areas various types of reforestation, namely: urban greening, watershed rehabilitation, community forestry and large-scale ITP, and later embark on investment roadshows. A media campaign would cover the Program.

For these models, specific areas were already identified: a) Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila for Urban Greening wherein a mini-forest will be established around the church which will be constructed while greenbelts along tenement housing and estero will be established; b) Tanauan City, Batangas and Roosevelt



Explaining the Program: Green Philippines. Left to right: DENR Sec. A.T. Reyes, USEC R. JP Paje, PWPA Chair A. C. Olizon, Pres. F.A. Lu, Dir. E.M. Narvaez, Jr., Exec. Dir. L. D. Angeles, Dir. R. W. Kua, Dir. V. A. Consunji, EVP A. C. Keh, Jr., and forestry & environment adviser J. A. Lorenzo. Not shown at the opposite side were other DENR officials.

National Park in Bataan for Watershed Rehab/Eco-tourism wherein the planting of trees along the shoreline of Taal

(Continued on page 2)

PWPA Meets New DENR Secretary

Following the tradition of introducing the new DENR Secretary to the members of the industry's support to his administration, PWPA Directors and officers of the Asso-

(Continued on page 2)



Courtesy Call on New DENR Secretary. Sec. A. T. Reyes flanked by Pres. F. A. Lu (leftmost) and Chair A. C. Olizon (right), and in the left photo clockwise: USEC R. JP Paje, Exec. Dir. L. D. Angeles, Dir. A. G. Puyat, Dir. S. Q. Tan, Dir. W. C. Yao, Dir. M. A. Ng and in the right photo from Pres. Lu, counterclockwise: Dir. E. M. Narvaez, Jr., EVP A. C. Keh, Jr., Dir. Ng, Dir. Yao, Dir. Tan, Dir. Puyat, Dir. R. W. Kua and Dir. A. P. Ong.

PWPA Goes to Cebu

The first ever out-of-town meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Cebu City on March 10, 2006. The meeting was preceded by a day-long plant visits to Matimco, Inc. in Mandaue City and Maitland-Smith, Inc. in Lapu-Lapu City. The plant visits gave everyone insights into a large-scale furniture making and downstream wood processing. PWPA Director-VP Charlie H. Liu of MATIMCO arranged and

hosted the entire day sojourn of the directors and officers of the Association in Cebu areas.

Before the evening meeting of the Board of Directors at Casa Español in Cebu City, Chairman Antonio C. Olizon, President Fernando A. Lu and Director Ramon Y. Uy presented to Director-VP Liu a Golden Eagle figurine as a token of appreciation of the Association for his arranging the plant visits and hosting the

(Continued on page 3)

Program: Green Philippines

(Continued from page 1)

Lake, creeks and gullies, including the San Juan River - in partnership with LLDA and private companies - and the reforestation of upland Roosevelt Park will be done; c) Morong, Bataan for Community Forestry wherein plantations of fuelwood, fruit trees and other tree species will be established

under a SIFMA. Adjoining the Subic Watershed and Mount Natib Park, the site can also be an area for research or tourist destination; and d) Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte wherein a 10,000 hectare area being applied for by the Sirawai Plywood and Lumber Co. (SPLC) for an IFMA will serve as the

To formalize the Program: Green Philippines, the Secretary recommended for a Memorandum of Agreement between the PWPA and the DENR...

model area for Commercial/Industrial Tree Plantation.

To formalize the Program: Green Philippines, the DENR Secretary recommended for a Memorandum of Agreement between the PWPA and the DENR which may be signed during his visit to the SPLC area in mid-May.

A DENR-PWPA task force would be created to facilitate the implementation of the Program. The PWPA has already submitted its nominees for the task force: VP-Dir. Evaristo M. Narvaez, Jr. as the team leader, and as members, EVP Alfonso C. Keh, Jr. and VP-Dir. Ramon Y. Uy, with Chair Antonio C. Olizon and President



Greening at Smokey Mountain. DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes plants the first tree to start the urban greening at the Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila, a part of Program: Green Philippines

Fernando A. Lu as alternates as well as four support/technical staff. The DENR is still finalizing its team composition.

PWPA Meets New DENR Secretary

(Continued from page 1)

directors, officers and staff made a courtesy call on Secretary Angelo T. Reyes on April 6, 2006 at his office in Q.C.

Led by its Chairman A. C. Olizon and President F. A. Lu, PWPA directors introduced themselves to the Secretary, the respective position they hold in PWPA, the company they represent and their affiliation with other organizations.

The Secretary shared his observations, when he attended a biodiversity conference in Brazil, about the local minister ordering

the planting of about 250,000 seedlings during the conference to sequester CO₂ emitted by the people who attended the conference.

The Secretary said private companies should also share in environmental protection and social responsibilities.

Chair Olizon informed the Secretary that the Association plans to initiate together with the DENR a national reforestation program dubbed as Green Philippines showcasing it with model reforestation projects. President Lu added that the PWPA has already

identified initial areas for various types of reforestation models.

The Secretary expressed his appreciation to PWPA for being a partner of the Department as he gave assurances of his support to the wood industry.

Chair Olizon said the PWPA has always been a partner of the DENR and its members have been implementing their operations responsibly. The Secretary accepted the invitation to visit areas of operations of some members of PWPA.

Beside Chair Olizon and President Lu, EVP A. C. Keh,

Jr., Dir.-Treas. S. Q. Tan, VP-Dir. E. M. Narvaez, Jr., VP-Dir. W. C. Yao, VP-Dir. A. P. Ong, VP-Dir. F. M. Buñag, VP-Dir. R. W. Kua, Dir. A. G. Puyat, Dir. M. A. Ng, Exec Dir. L. D. Angeles, Forestry & Environment Adviser J. A. Lorenzo, Forestry & Environment Coord. M. R. Vasquez, Office Manager R. M. Serafico and LUZMATIM J. Valenzuela were present during the Call. Directors E. I. Alcantara and V. A. Consunji had to leave early due to prior appointments. Joining DENR Secretary Reyes were USECs Ramon JP Paje and Arnie Jane Borje.

WoodStock

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AREAS FOR MODEL REFORESTATION PROJECTS UNDER THE PROGRAM: GREEN PHILIPPINES

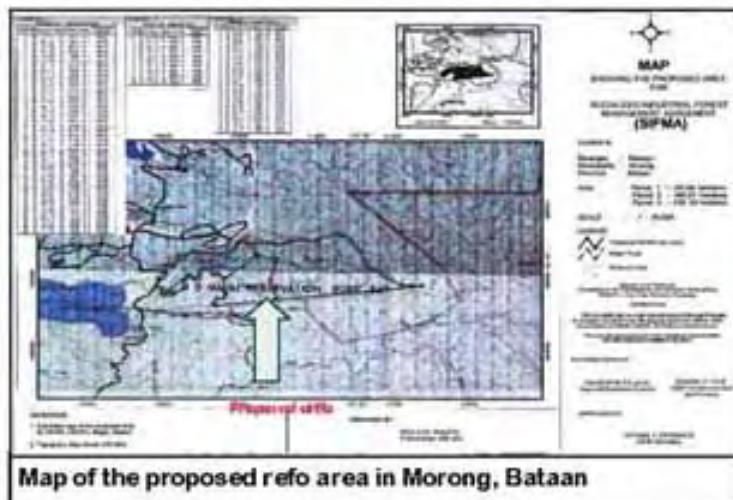
To ensure that the areas will be appropriate as demonstration/model projects for various types of reforestation under the Program: Green Philippines, proposed sites were visited and assessed by a PWPA Team.

On April 3, 2006, PWPA President Fernando A. Lu together with Exec. Dir. Leonardo D. Angeles and Forestry & Environment Coordinator Maila R. Vasquez, met with RED Regidor de Leon of Region III in San Fernando, Pampanga to brief him about the Program: Green Philippines. The visit to the SIFMA area in Morong, Bataan and the Roosevelt National Park in Dinalupihan Bataan is to assess them as possible areas for the Program. The PWPA Team was accompanied by Region III FRCD Chief Fred Sadueste and For. Conigunda Plurad in validating said areas.



Proposed refo area in the Roosevelt Park

The upper areas on both sides of the now being constructed Subic Road inside the Roosevelt Park were identified as one of the model projects for watershed rehabilitation through reforestation.



Map of the proposed refo area in Morong, Bataan

The 750-hectare SIFMA area in Morong, Bataan was found to be feasible for the project on community forestry.

On April 4, 2006, PWPA Exec. Dir. Angeles, Forestry & Environment Coordinator Vasquez and DENR Region IV-A RTD for Forestry, Danilo Morales made a visit to the City of Tanauan, Batangas to site-validate the proposed area for watershed rehabilitation/eco-tourism.



Huddle on Green Philippines in Tanauan City Batangas L-R: Mr. Ben Carandang, Exec. Dir. L. D. Angeles, City gov't planning officer Nieves Borja, DENR R-IV-A RTD Danilo Morales and Mr. Rodolfo Glan of the Office of the City Mayor. Right photo. Map of the City of Tanauan showing the proposed refo areas.

The team was assisted by Mr. Ben Carandang, Atty. Leonor Ynfante and other staff of the City government. The Tanauan foreshore of Taal Lake, identified as an eco-tourism area under the comprehensive land use plan of the City was proposed by the City authorities for reforestation under the Program: Green Philippines. The rehabilitation of the upper Sabang River and streambanks of San Juan River (under the jurisdiction by LLDA) was also proposed by Mr. Ben Carandang, who offered one to two hectares of his private property as a nursery for raising planting materials for the Program.

(Continued on page 8)



Planning Urban Greening at Smokey Mountain. The area where the church will be constructed and the mini-forest to be established. Center photo, Exec. Dir. Angeles and Ms. Odette Alcantara of the Earth Day Network Philippines, viewing the site for mini-forest, Picture of the proposed church.

PWPA Joins Earth Day Celebration in Smokey Mountain

Earthlings renew their love and consciousness about the only planet where humans can live as the world celebrates Earth Day on April 22, 2006.

The modern environmental movement was started in 1970 by Gaylord Nelson, then a US Senator from Wisconsin, who proposed the first nationwide environmental protest "to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda."

The first Earth Day in 1970 led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts.

In 1990, 200 million people in 141 countries were mobilized to lift the status of environmental issues on to the world stage. Earth Day 1990 helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

This year, organized by Earth Day Network Philippines 2006 led by Ms. Odette Alcantara, on this date, different sectors of society including the PWPA joined the 7:00 am Liturgy on the Integrity of Integration at Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila, with the theme: Mea Culpa: A Call for Repentance and Atonement. The pontifical mass was celebrated by His Eminence

The PWPA has committed to create a mini-forest surround the church to be erected in, and greenbelts around tenement houses and along the estero of, Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila as a part of the urban greening under the Program: Green Philippines.



"A penitential rite with emphasis on asking forgiveness for the sins of omission and commission against God's wonderful creation"

mission against God's wonderful creation; reading of prayer for general intercessions in different dialects; offertory which include the offerings of different sectors like the million trees certificate by dela Salle University Alumni Association and the certificate of commitment of PWPA to undertake nationwide reforestation. An ecumenical prayer and blessing of the earth by different Pastors and Imams before the closing prayer and final blessing was made.

The PWPA committed to undertake and pursue a national reforestation program: Green Philippines, a part of which is urban greening, starting with the establishment of a mini-forest surrounding the church to be erected in, and the establishment of greenbelts around tenement houses and along the estero of, the Smokey Mountain, Tondo, City of Manila. The Program: Green Philippines is in addition to what its members are extensively doing in their respective forest areas.

PWPA was represented by Chair Antonio C. Olizon, President Fernando A. Lu, EVP Alfonso C. Keh, Jr., Treasurer-Director Stanley Q. Tan, VP-Director Evaristo M. Narvaez, Jr., VP-Director Ramon Y. Uy, Executive Director Leonardo D. Angeles, LUZMATIM representatives Msrs. Joe Valenzuela and Richmond Ng, Forestry & Environment Adviser Joe Lorenzo, Forestry & Environment Coordinator Maila R. Vasquez, Office Manager Regino M. Serafico, office secretary Aurea Mira and service coordinator Benjamin Bereña.



PWPA Commitment to Mother Earth. PWPA president F. A. Lu (right) holding the seedling as offering to symbolize the commitment of PWPA to establish a mini-forest in the grounds of the proposed church in Smokey Mountain.

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, D.D.

Highlights of the celebration was the attendance of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes, the tribal dance depicting the "sins" of humanity against God's creation and how repentance and atonement is necessary in regaining lost paradise; a penitential rite with emphasis on asking forgiveness for the sins of omission and com-

PLYWOOD MATTERS

Retention of Plywood in the Sensitive (Exclusion) List

During the Tariff Commission hearing last April 18, 2006 at its office in National Heart Center, Quezon City, the PWWA reiterated its position to retain plywood in the sensitive or exclusion list under the WTO Non-Agriculture Market Access (NAMA) trade negotiations.

Justifications for the request for retentive are as follows: a) plywood is locally produced, b) plywood requires a high degree of processing, c) the plywood industry is under intense competition from imports, d) the plywood industry is strategically important, e) the plywood industry can be a winning industry given support.

Plywood is locally produced – Plywood is produced by over 30 factories operating mostly in rural areas. It provides jobs directly to an estimated 15,000 families and further provides indirect employment to about 20,000 more families. It has installed a capital investment of about PhP 7 Billion and established mills are actively retooling and improving processing efficiency to be more competitive.

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Plywood requires a high degree of processing – the manufacture of plywood is both labor and equipment intensive. It is an "Engineered Wood Panel" with properties superior to MDF and particleboard. Plywood manufacturing is more "Eco" friendly, using less energy and chemicals to produce than other substitutes and up to 80% of raw wood materials are sourced from tree plantations, which are renewable and carbon sequestering.

The plywood industry is under intense competition from imports – with HS code 4412 taken as a whole, the Philippines is officially a net exporter by 6% of total trade in plywood; however, in reality, it is a net importer because of many undocumented and undervalued imports. The country is facing cheap plywood imports from China, which do not meet local safety and quality standards and imports from China are unfairly traded and priced.

The plywood industry is strategically important – it supports the wood material requirements of the furniture (total employment is 1.4 million in 15,000 companies mostly SMEs) and construction/housing industries. It is the prime consumer/customer of wood from the industrial tree plantations (a BOI investment priority with bright potential for the country's sufficiency in wood and environmental protection) and it is an industry with economic relevance and social impact through importation avoidance (Forex savings); tax revenue generation and job/livelihood opportunity in rural areas.

The plywood industry can be a winning industry given support – availability of lower cost raw materials through investments in forestry plantations will make the industry more

The plywood industry can be a winning industry given support through the availability of lower cost raw materials will make the industry more competitive in the future...retooling to recoup the substantial investments...phase out supportive policies... (quotas for log export, subsidies for fuel and power, export taxes on raw materials, tax incentives for exports, very low labor rates, etc)...provide for better competition.

competitive in the future since at present, a substantial part of material is imported.

While members are continuously retooling to maintain competitiveness, time is needed to recoup the substantial investments, being hi-tech is not cheap. Other exporting countries, e.g Indonesia and China, are starting to phase out their supportive policies (quotas for log export, subsidies for fuel and power, export taxes on raw materials, tax incentives for exports, very low labor rates, etc) which will provide the Philippines better competition.

The Real Story Behind...

Rationalization of Plywood Mills

by Ricardo M. Patawaran
Industry Coordinator

In the regular meeting of the Plywood Council on June 25, 2002, its 23 members present (out of 27) unanimously voted not to accept new applications for membership of plywood plants as they (members) decided to request the PWPA to urge the DENR not to process new applications for plywood and other wood processing plants until the wood rationalization study is completed and implemented.

The decision of the Council was made due to the proliferation of simple pressing plants or mothballed veneer-plywood mills, both cheaply purchased abroad, which have caused not only the over-production of substandard plywood being offered at depressed prices but also one of the alleged reasons why illegal logging and timber pouching are rampant occurring.

Spurred by the request of PWPA, the DENR issued Memorandum Circular 2003-14 on July 22, 2003 declaring a moratorium on the establishment of new wood processing plants, including veneer and plywood mills, except

for applications which have already been granted the permits, *provided*, that field officers concerned shall physically verify the existence and adequacy of sustainable raw material sources.

Again, upon request of PWPA to the new DENR Sec-

retary, a Memorandum from the Secretary dated January 20, 2005 has even ordered the closure of wood processing plants, including veneer and plywood mills without identified sources of logs or log supply contracts.

On May 10, 2005, by majority vote (80%), the members of the Plywood Council present reiterated its June 25, 2002 position - that was supported by the PWPA Board of Directors - not to accept new applications for membership both in the Council and in the PWPA.

The standing position not to accept new membership is in accord with the majority desire and wishes of members of the Council and the PWPA, in general, until the government's program of wood industry rationalization is completed and implemented.

**On June 25, 2002,
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Average Plywood and Substitute Prices Survey in NCR

Before (March 6, 2006) (in Pesos/piece)		Now (April 3, 2006)	Before (March 6, 2006) (in Pesos/piece)		Now (April 3, 2006)
3mm (1/8) plywood	217	228	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	691	701
4 mm (3/16) plywood	264	268	1/8 lawanit	164	167
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	285	287	3/16 lawanit	222	220
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	330	336	1/4 Hardiflex	348	336
10 mm (1/2) plywood	496	470	Note: all pick-up prices inclusive of VAT retail prices		
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	792	804			

Of Meetings with New DENR Secretary, Out of Town Meeting of the Board of Directors, Earth Day and Green Philippines

By Ferdie Lu

Barely a month after his appointment to the DENR, Secretary Angelo T. Reyes met with top PWPA officials for the first time at the Manila Polo Club early on March 4, 2006, a Saturday. In the private meeting, the PWPA made a presentation about the association, highlighting on various issues affecting the wood industry together with some recommendations addressing the raw material supply situation. Secretary Reyes was pleased and asked the PWPA to help him in his mission to reforest the entire country with a promise that he will reciprocate by helping the industry. Incoming Undersecretary for Operations Tessam Castillo and industry friend Ruben Tangco accompanied the Secretary. A follow-up meeting was set a month thereafter.

The PWPA Board had its first ever out-of-town meeting in Cebu City. On March 10, 2006, the Directors and officers were given a plant tour of Director Charlie Liu's MATIMCO in the morning. We were then treated to a sumptuous buffet lunch at Mactan Shangri-La's Tides restaurant. After which, we experienced the rare opportunity to visit the big factory of internationally renowned fine furniture and decorative objects designer and maker Maitland-Smith. The day was highlighted that evening by the Board Meeting at Casino Español where an opulent dinner of Cebuano lechon and other delicious dishes were served.

Again, we express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Charlie Liu for hosting us in Cebu as well as all the superb physical arrangements. Chairman Emeritus Antonio G. Bernas is already excited about the next out-of-town board meeting which he suggested to be held in Davao.

In preparation for the next scheduled meeting with Secretary Reyes, the PWPA Executive Committee met on

March 15, 2006 to formulate the association's response to the earlier appeal of Secretary Reyes. Three more successive weekly meetings were held wherein the association's reforestation program was formulated. Upon the suggestion of our friend and media consultant Joey Avellana, the plan was dubbed as Green Philippines. The program has the following components, each having an officer as point person for efficient implementation, namely:

Corporate/Large Scale Tree Plantation – VP Jun Narvaez

Community Forestry – Pres. Ferdie Lu
Rehabilitation Plantations (watersheds & lakes) – EVP Jun Keh

Urban Greening – Chairman Tony Olizon

Members of the PWPA's steering committee for Green Philippines also visited several sites in Bataan and Batangas as well as Smokey Mountain prior to finalizing the presentation for Secretary Reyes on April 8th. Photos, videos and maps were made ready and included in the final PowerPoint presentation.

Director Vic Consunji has agreed that his application for an additional IFMA area, adjacent to his Sirawai Plywood & Lumber Co., Inc. (SPLC) in Zamboanga del Norte, will serve as the banner project for the Corporate Reforestation aspect of Green Philippines. Processing of the application was put on hold when then Secretary Mike Defensor issued an order suspending all applications for IFMA and similar instruments.

Well-known ecological Artist Odette Alcantara of Mother Earth invited Chairman Tony Olizon to participate in the planning and organization of the Earth Day Network celebration of Earth Day. Capping the weeklong commemoration, a concelebrated mass entitled "Mea

Culpa" at Smokey Mountain will be led by His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales. PWPA committed to shoulder the costs of 300 T-shirts and the charter of five buses to ferry various participants to the site for the event.

On April 6th, PWPA directors and officers made a courtesy call on Secretary Angelo T. Reyes at his new office at the DENR. This was the traditional official call of the Board on a newly designated Secretary. Secretary Reyes showed us around his office including the refreshing view from his window. He remarked that he wants his office to be visitor-friendly and not look like any typical government office. Apart from the basic introductions, no official business was tackled. Nevertheless, we took the opportunity to invite the Secretary to visit areas managed by our members, particularly the IFMA of SPLC and the processing plant of Alsons. Without hesitation, Secretary Reyes accepted the invitation. He also reminded us of the working meeting scheduled on Saturday morning, April 8th.

Taking advantage of the presence of the directors after the visit to the DENR, the scheduled board meeting for April was immediately held at Annabel's along T. Morato. The Green Philippines program was presented to the Board for confirmation. The PowerPoint presentation prepared for Secretary Reyes was also given a final review.

We met Secretary Reyes for the second working meeting on April 8th. The Secretary treated us to a hearty breakfast at 8:30 a.m. during which time Usec Mon Paje made a presentation about "Returning Revenues from the Forests to the Forests." Thereafter, the FMB showed DENR's responses to the PWPA concerns conveyed in the March

(Continued on page 11)

PWPA Goes to Cebu

(Continued from page 1)

lunch and dinner of the directors, officers and some members of PWPA. The formal meeting started at 6:35 pm and discussed important concerns about PWPA and the wood industry.

Chair Emeritus A. G. Bernas, Chair Olizon, President Lu, EVP A. C. Keh, Jr. VP-director F. M. Buñag, VP-director Uy, VP-director Liu, VP-director A. P. Ong, VP-director W. C. Yao, Executive Director L. D. Angeles, Adviser J. A. Lorenzo and LUZMATIM's Mssrs. Richard & Richmond Ng and Forester A. Pascua attended the Cebu meeting of PWPA.



Thank you. Chair A.C. Olizon, Pres. F. A. Lu, VP-Director Y. Uy, and Exec. Dir. L. D. Angeles presenting a Golden Eagle figurine to VP-Director C. H. Liu as a token of PWPA appreciation for hosting in Cebu City the PWPA Makati delegation. Also in the photo: Chair Emeritus A. G. Bernas and VP-Director F. M. Buñag.



PWPA Board in Cebu, A First. Left to right: Pres. F. A. Lu, Chair A. C. Olizon, Mrs. M. A. T. Lu, VP-Director C. H. Liu, Chair Emeritus A. G. Bernas, VP-Director W. C. Yao, Exec. Dir. L. D. Angeles and Adviser Jose A. Lorenzo.

Model Reforestation Areas...

(Continued from page 3)

On April 5, 2006, same PWPA team with Ms. Odette Alcantara, a leading trustee of the Earth Day Network Philippines, visited Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila to inspect the area where the urban greening project of the Program will be established. The plan is to put up a mini-forest around the church, which is yet to be erected, and greenbelts around tenement houses and along the estero in the area.

The SPLC is applying for a 10,000 hectare IFMA area in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte, close to its existing IFMA area in Sirawai in the same province. The area is

Map Showing the Zamboanga Peninsulas



For replication. Clockwise: map showing the location of the proposed IFMA area SPLC will develop under the Program: Green Philippines; gmelina, mango and rubber plantations already developed in SPLC area.

proposed for the model it will be a replica of SPLC's large-scale industrial tree developed IFMA area in plantation. Once completed, Sirawai.

Construction and Building Materials Standardization

A call for a workshop on harmonizing the building and construction materials was recommended by representatives from different industries during the meeting regarding construction and building materials standardization held last March 9, 2006 at the DTI Bureau of Product Standards.

The recommendation for a workshop came about after the discussion of issues and concerns which affect the building and construction materials industry, such as the insufficiency of information dissemination and the schools still using English system instead of the metric system. To address said issues, harmonization of building and construction materials is recommended.

The objectives of the workshop are: a) to come up with a master plan on standardization of building and construction materials in preparation for ASEAN integration program of building and construction industry; b) to enhance competitiveness of building and construction industry; c) to strengthen linkages among different stakeholders for the improvement of the building and construction industry; and d) to promote utilization of locally manufactured building and construction products including indigenous materials.

Key stakeholders shall be invited to participate in the said workshop.

New Forestry Treaty Agreed

A NEW TREATY has been agreed that will reinforce work to bring tropical forests under sustainable management and increase the role of the tropical timber trade in sustainable development. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), which was created in 1983, aims to both conserve tropical forests and assist countries to develop economically. The treaty under which it operates - the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) - is renegotiated periodically because of a built-in expiry clause and to take into account changes in global forest policies and the world timber trade.

More than 180 negotiators from governments and international organisations met for two weeks early this year to finalise the agreement. It contains several changes that are likely to lead to significant improvements in the Organization's work.

The Organization's longstanding philosophy of using tropical forests in a sustainable way for economic development is stated explicitly in the new agreement. The two key objectives are:

"to promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests and to promote the sustainable

management of tropical timber producing forests ..."

Related to the first objective, the Organization will, among other things, help improve the competitiveness of wood products relative to other materials, boost the marketing of tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested sources, and share information on certification and other aspects of the international timber market.

The agreement under which ITTO operates is re-negotiated, with some new features added

In pursuit of the second key objective, the Organization will help countries to improve forest law enforcement and governance, address illegal logging and related trade in tropical timber, and undertake sustainable forest management and forest restoration. It will also strengthen the capacity of countries to gather and report data on the tropical timber trade and forest management.

The agreement acknowledges the role of ITTO in assisting countries to pursue sustainable development and alleviate poverty and encourages forest-dependent indigenous and local communities

to achieve sustainable forest management.

ITTO relies for much of its work on funds contributed on a voluntary basis, up to now mostly by the governments of Japan, Switzerland and the United States. To help boost such contributions the new agreement creates a sub-account for thematic sub-programs, which, some donors say, will lead to greatly increased funding for specific areas of work to be funded 80% by consumer member countries and 20% by producers to a maximum of one-third the general administrative budget.

ITTO's Executive Director, Dr Manoel Sobral Filho, said that the new agreement will help ITTO build on its past sustainable development successes.

"People want neither poverty nor environmental degradation," he said. "ITTO believes that natural tropical forests can be both conserved for future generations and put to economic use to alleviate poverty and contribute to national development."

Dr. Sobral said that many people think the conservation of tropical forests and the development of the tropical timber trade are mutually exclusive.

"On the contrary, the one is essential for the other," he said. "Without conservation there can be no long-term trade. Without trade, the forests will be cleared for agriculture

because, one way or another, the people living in tropical countries will continue to demand economic development.

"ITTO's role has been, and will continue to be, to help governments, companies and communities to improve the management of their forests and the marketing of their products."

The independent environmental news service the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) reported the negotiations from start to finish and was upbeat about the outcome.

According to the ENB, many activist environmental groups may not be willing to concede legitimacy to an organization with overriding objectives that include promoting the expansion of the international trade in tropical timber.

"Yet the fact that the ITTO keeps chugging away, together with the increased potential that the new agreement brings to its work, may eventually make ITTO one of the most effective international organizations in pursuing the goals of both ending tropical deforestation and increasing the well-being of the people and communities that depend upon tropical forests."

The ITTA, 2006, is expected to come into force in 2008 and will operate for ten years, with the possibility of extensions of up to eight years. ITTO will continue to function under the ITTA, 1994, until the new Agreement is ratified.

ITTO Tropical Forest Update 15/4 2005

"Forest in the Heart of the City"

"The Philippine trees have long been known worldwide to produce great quality timber, which our forefathers had used not only to build houses but also boats and even ships, as well as in making paper and perfumes."

However, many of the people have not seen how these trees look like and how important these tree species are. That's why on April 19 to 23, Indigenous & Endemic Trees Expo 2006 was held at Garden Area G-02, between Harbest and the Coffee Experience, at SM City North Edsa in Quezon City.

"If garden shows thrill plant enthusiasts, more excitement awaits them and the general public because unlike garden shows where the public can only see miniature gardens, the Trees Expo will give them a close encounter with many of the country's indigenous tree species, some of which are already endangered," said the Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Angelo T. Reyes.

The Expo displayed about 50 trees species of endemic and indigenous to the country which include the national tree Narra, Dao, Mangkono, Ilang-ilang, and Kamagong.

A number of local trees also known to possess

medicinal values and are capable of reducing air pollution, aside from providing aesthetic value to the place, are also displayed.

Apart from the Tree Expo, lectures on varied topics were also conducted by resource persons from non-government organizations, and private and government institutions.

The various partners in the event are Shoemart, Philippine Wood Producers Association, Nestle Philippines, Haribon Foundation, Manila Seedling Bank Foundation, Earth's Right, People's Right, the National Commission

for Culture and Arts, the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples and the Commission on Higher Education. (Source: DENR website www.denr.gov.ph)



DENR's Indigenous & Endemic Trees Expo 2006. A partial view of the exhibit at the Garden Area G-02 at SM City North Edsa, Quezon City.

PWPA Officers, Honorary Members of the UPLBCFNRAA

PWPA Chair Antonio C. Olizon and President Fernando A. Lu were admitted as honorary members of the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources Alumni Association (UPLBCFNRAA) on April 28, 2006 during its annual homecoming and reunion on the occasion of the 96th foundation day of the College at Los Baños, Laguna.

UPLBCFNRAA acknowledged Messrs. Olizon and Lu as the present generation of leaders of the wood industry entrusted to safeguard the rich history and to continue the great traditions of the past generation for the emulation of the future generation of wood industry leaders.



Chair Olizon, invariably president or chair of PWPA - from the time of DENR Secretaries Fulgencio S. Factoran, Jr. and Victor O. Ramos (Aquino and Ramos administrations) and again during the time of DENR Secretaries Elisea G. Gozun, Michael T. Defensor and now Angelo T. Reyes (Macapagal-Arroyo administration) - has consistently supported in various ways, through the PWPA, the UPLBCFNRAA and its subsidiaries, including the UPLBCFNRAA.

President Lu, also invariably president or chair of PWPA - from the time of DENR Secretaries Victor O. Ramos (Ramos administration), Antonio H. Cerilles (Estrada admini-



stration), Heherson T. Alvarez, Elisea G. Gozun, Michael T. Defensor and now Angelo T. Reyes (Macapagal-Arroyo administration) - has generously opened up his forest concession in Aurora and Isabela to various types of forestry studies and likewise, through the PWPA, has supported UPLBCFNRAA and its subsidiaries, including the UPLBCFNRAA.

Through their leadership, the PWPA has been consistently honored by the UPLB community, including the UPLBCFNRAA, with various awards and recognitions.

The collective vision, performance and achievements of PWPA are but reflections of the sum total of the distinctive and rare characters of its entire members that are expressed through its chairman and president.

These officers are usually in the forefront to make the case for sustainable development of forests and the wood industry as well as for the support of the institutions of parallel philosophy and programs.

The UPLBCFNRAA, recognizing the long efforts, performances and achievements of both Messrs. Olizon and Lu in forestry and wood industry, was proud and honored to have them admitted as its honorary members.

Of Meetings with New DENR Secretary, Earth Day, Green Philippines...

(Continued from page 7)

4th meeting. This was prepared at the instance of Usec Tessam Castillo. Finally, VP Jun Narvaez explained the Green Philippines project which noticeably pleased the Secretary. He commented that PWPA communications effort should be in harmony with that of the DENR. Two other Under-secretaries were also present, namely former Generals Roy Kyamko and Francisco Bravo. The meeting lasted till 1:30 pm when the Secretary joked that all the participants would have to take care of their own lunch.

The Green Philippines steering committee surveyed Smokey Mountain on April 19th in preparation for the culminating event the coming Saturday. While there, the team met the assistant stage director who informed that during the Mass cum program, the stage would be occupied by about 20 people at a given time. We noticed that the makeshift stage was precarious to accommodate many people at the same time, as it was only used plywood placed on top of church pews and drums. Thus, when we met Fr. Ben Beltran, parish priest of area, we immediately committed to have the stage reconstructed due to safety considerations. Ms. Odette Alcantara was also notified at once and she instantly expressed her appreciation. She also informed us that the President would grace the occasion.

Immediately, Chairman Olizon summoned a contractor to join us for lunch. As soon as the bill of materials was prepared, plywood and lumber as

well as hardware materials were immediately ordered and delivered the next day. Workers were also mobilized; and on the following day, construction began. The crew did not stop until the new stage was finished and painted.

Cardinal Rosales and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo were at Smokey Mountain very early on Saturday, April 22nd. Thus, at 6:30 am, the PWPA contingent proceeded to the venue after assembling at Manila Hotel. During the offertory, several groups presented pledges on how to preserve and/or rehabilitate Mother Earth. PWPA, together with the Alumni Association of Dela Salle were the first to convey their respective pledges. This writer, representing the association, presented a symbolic mahogany seedling to the Archbishop together with a commitment to plant trees around the proposed church of the Parish of the Resurrection as well as along the bank of the river adjacent to it as part of PWPA's Urban Greening activities. This is in addition to what the members of PWPA have been doing in their respective areas.

During the offering, Fr. Ben Beltran who stood beside the Cardinal informed him that it was our group who constructed the new stage for the event. His Eminence acknowledged this with a warm smile.

Secretary Reyes was the final presenter. We replaced the minuscule seedling prepared by his staff with a much taller and more fitting mahogany seedling.

Obviously in high spirits, Secretary Reyes, after jointly planting his tree with officers of PWPA, invited the group to the adjoining NHA office for breakfast. He assured everyone that the food was not recycled. He again commented that just DENR and PWPA together as partners will certainly be enough to succeed in greening the country. Ms. Odette Alcantara, in the presence of Secre-

tary Reyes and other guests including former Secretary Benito Gozun, again expressed her delight with PWPA. On the other hand, she remarked that the Chamber of Mines, which many times offered to partner with her group, will never make it to 'first base'.

Finally, the PWPA once again extend its best wishes to Secretary Reyes on the occa-

Forester L. D. Angeles, UBLBCFNRAA Hall of Fame Awardee

PWPA executive director L. D. Angeles was elevated to the Forestry Hall of Fame during the 96th foundation day of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR) and its Alumni Association homecoming and reunion on April 28, 2006.

Angeles was cited for "his lifetime of dedicated, unselfish and exemplary service to the country as forestry professional; for his outstanding performance and contributions as a member of different government agencies and private organizations; for his unwavering commitment to sustainable forestry that includes forest-based industry as an integral and indispensable component; and for all the accolades he received in recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions in forestry."

Also elevated with him to the Forestry Hall of Fame were two former deans of the UPLB-CFNR – Dr. Romulo del Castillo and Dr. Juan Adolfo Revilla; the former FPRDI director and DOST undersecretary, Dr. Florentino Tesoro and a former FAO/UN forestry officer, Professor Napoleon Vergara.

Angeles, at different times, served the academe as a professor, lecturer, and fellow at UPLBCF and as chair of forestry education, TPAE, CHED; the research community as research division chief of Reforestation Admini-

stration, charter member of the board of trustees of the Forest Research Institute and national team leader of PCARRD (he is now a member of its Governing Council); the policy area as deputy executive director of the PCWID and consultant to Office of the Minister of Natural Resources; and the private sector as executive forester of PICOP, vice president of Felipe Ysmael, Jr. Co. and executive director of PWPA – which he represented in various committees of government agencies and private organizations and in the regional federations of wood industry associations, as secretary-general of the then SEALPA and APPF.

On various scholarships, Angeles was educated at UP, Cornell University (USA), Universität Göttingen (Germany) and International University Foundation (Metro Manila) and is a holder of FRC, BSF, MS, MBA and MIM degrees and a Ph.D. candidate (lacks dissertation) at La Salle-Araneta University.

Angeles is the recipient of: Most Outstanding Forestry Alumnus of UPLBCF in 1977 and Outstanding Professional in the Field of Forestry in 1997 from the Professional Regulation Commission, among others.

Angeles is wedded to Adelina Gundran Molina with whom he has three college-educated now-married children who are with the US military service, including the youngest, a girl.

04 March 2006

Meeting with DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes
Manila Polo Club, Makati City

07 March 2006

Regular meeting of Plywood Council

9 March 2006

Multi-sectoral Meeting re: Construction & Building Materials
Standardization
DTI Conference Room, Makati City

9-11 March 2006

Regular monthly meeting of the PWPA Board of Directors
Cebu City

21 March 2006

Meeting re: Tanauan, Batangas Site
Palms Country Club, Alabang

28 March 2006

Earth Day Celebration Meeting
Chateau 1771, Ortigas Center

03 April 2006

Field visit in Bataan

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

04 April 2006

Field visit in Tanauan, Batangas
Regular meeting of Plywood Council

05 April 2006

Field visit in Smokey Mountain Tondo, Manila

06 April 2006

Courtesy Call meeting with DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes
Office of the Secretary, DENR, Quezon City

Regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors
Annabel's Restaurant, Quezon City

08 April 2006

Follow-up Meeting with Secretary Angelo T. Reyes
OSEC Conf. Rm., DENR, Quezon City

18 April 2006

Tariff Commission Public Hearing
Phil. Heart Center, Quezon City

22 April 2006

Earth Day Celebration
Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila

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