



## Vietnam Hosts Asia-Pacific Forestry Week PWPA with Philippine Delegation

Vietnam hosted the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week last 21-26 April 2008 at its National Convention Center Me Tri, Tu Liem, Hanoi.

Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation, the event was the largest and most important forestry-related events in the Asia-Pacific region in 2008.

About 500 delegates from governments, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, regional and international networks, UN agencies and the private sector who attended the event were provided with a unique opportunity for sharing perspectives and seeking solutions to the most challenging issues facing forests and forestry today.

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Trio in Hanoi. (l-r) Dr. Florentino Tesoro, former Department of Science and Technology undersecretary, Forester Jose Lorenzo, PWPA adviser and Forester Romeo Acosta, Forest Management Bureau director and head of Philippine delegation.

## Earth Day 2008 Celebrated

### PWPA and EDNP Sponsor Pontifical Mass

In concluding the April-long Earth day celebration, the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and the Earth Day Network Philippines, Inc. (EDNP) sponsored the Pontifical Mass held last April 22, 2008 at the Manila Cathedral, City of Manila. Earth Day 2008 has the theme: "Tubig ng Buhay Atin Pagyamanin at Linisin."

The mass was celebrated by His Eminence, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and attended by representatives from different sectors of society including incumbent and former heads of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources: Jose Atienza Jr. and Angelo Reyes, Michael Defensor, Elisea Gozun and Heherson Alvarez, respectively.

PWPA chairman Antonio Olizon was one of the offerors during the mass presenting a bakauan (Rhizophora spp.) seedling, a

mangrove tree species.

PWPA donated 500 seedlings of bakauan which were distributed to the public for planting after the mass.

The Earth Day started very early that morning with a fluvial parade dubbed, "Paglalayag, Paglalakbay at Pagtitipon," with about a hundred decorated boats - half of them coming from Plaza Mexico in Manila and the other from Bacoor, Cavite - converging at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

On land, about 100 members of the DENR bicycle club, riding on the theme, "Padyak para sa Kalikasan," pedaled-off from the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center in Quezon City towards the SM Mall of Asia.

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An Offering. PWPA Chairman Antonio Olizon offered a bakauan seedling during the Pontifical Mass last April 22, 2008 at the Manila Cathedral.

## Vietnam Hosts...

*(Continued from page 1)*

Plenary sessions were focused on the three pillars of sustainable development: social, environmental, and economic.

The social agenda, "forests and poverty," highlighted the issues on resource tenure and access, decentralization, livelihood and community participation.

"Forests and climate change" topped the environment agenda that discussed the role of forestry in mitigating climate change and how forestry will adapt to climate change.

The "economic" agenda tackled the issues on trade, timber certification, forest law enforcement and governance, and forestry investment.

The Philippine delegation, headed by Forest Management Bureau director Romeo Acosta, consisted of representatives from different government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, financial institutions, and the private sector. The Philippine Wood Producers Association was represented by Forester Jose Lorenzo, its forestry and environment adviser.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week was anchored around the 22nd Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, one of six regional forestry commissions supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

## DENR - NCR Regional WPP Rationalization Plan Reviewed

In line with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order No. 2007-13 - lifting the moratorium on the issuance of new WPP permits for sawmilling purposes using only raw materials from planted species and directing all regions to prepare and submit their respective Regional Wood Processing Plan (RWPP) for approval by the Secretary - the DENR-NCR and the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and the Philippine Lumber Merchants Association (PLMA) met on April 30, 2008 to discuss or review the region's proposed WPP rationalization plan.

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**Towards Wood Processing Rationalization.** (l-r) DENR-NCR division chief Rolly Malamug, PWPA director Ramon Uy, DENR-NCR foresters Genalin Flaminiano and Diana Romero, DENR-NCR RED Cora Davis, PWPA F&E coordinator Maila Vasquez, former PWPA director/PLMA director Felix Sy, PWPA executive director Leonardo Angeles and PLMA director Aquino Lee.

## Earth Day 2008...

*(Continued from page 1)*

A clean-up along the Manila Bay shoreline near the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) complex in Pasay City was undertaken by artists and employees of the CCP.

Before the mass, a special Earth Day program entitled "Pagtitipon, Ugnayan at Pamamahayag" was held at the Music Hall of the SM Mall of

Asia, where DENR secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. delivered his Earth Day's call to action: "Hamon ng Bayan para sa Kalikasan."

"Earth Day is an opportune time for us to reflect on what we, humans, have done to our planet. Our theme, gives us the chance to correct the wrong we have done to our water, our air, and our land, so that we can con-

tribute to the healing of planet Earth," Atienza said.

Atienza also lead the re-launching of "Industrial Eco Watch Program," a public disclosure about the performance of industries as to their compliance with air and water standards.

With chair Olizon were president Fernando Lu, directors Alex Ong and Aristeo Puyat and the PWPA staff.

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## On The Sustainable Forest Management Bill

### Lower House's TWG Finalizes Review of the SFM Bill

The Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Lower House's Committee on Natural Resources conducted its 3<sup>rd</sup> and final review of the bill on Sustainable Forest Management Act (SFMA) last April 2, 2008 at the House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Quezon City.

The House's committee secretary (ComSec) said the bill has already been approved by the Committee and that the purpose of the TWG was merely to fine tune it.

Notwithstanding the statement of the ComSec, Dr. Tabaranza of the Haribon Foundation presented for the first time to the TWG the alleged posi-

tion of the civil society of banning commercial logging in the natural forest and the use of native tree species in reforestation.

In response to the Haribon's position, Forest Management Bureau director Romeo Acosta explained the evolution of the bill from total logging ban (during the 8th Congress) to today's SFM (this 14th Congress) ensuring the allocation of protection and production forestlands.

The issues raised by Haribon, according to the ComSec, may be taken up during the House plenary session when the bill shall have been presented for its second reading.

PWPA executive director L. D.

Angeles summarized the PWPA's comments and recommendations on the bill which were supported by the DENR/FMB and considered favorably by the TWG.

However, the DENR-PWPA proposal of creating the Wood Industry Board, accordingly, may have to be raised to the Committee for its consideration. Messrs. Acosta and Angeles said that if it would cause a delay in approving the bill, an executive order for the purpose could be promulgated.

The ComSec said the Committee's final draft bill will be referred to the House's Committee on Ways and Means for its own conduct of a separate public hearing on the tax and incentive provisions of the SFM bill.

### Senate's Joint TWG Initiates Review of the SFM Bill

The joint Technical Working Group (TWG) of the committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Local Government; Ways & Means; Cultural Communities; Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes & Laws; and Finance was convened last April 14, 2008 at the Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City, to fine-tune the Senate's bill on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).

The TWG was presided by Atty. Karen Sarinas of the office of senator Pia Cayetano with support from 1) Atty. DeeGee Anastacio, chief legislative officer of senator Cayetano, 2) Environment and Natural Resources Committee secretary Redia Atienza, 3) Ms. Nova Navo of the office of senator Jamby Madrigal; and 4) Ms. Desiree Guason of the office of senator Miguel Zubiri. In attendance were resource persons from the DENR/FMB, DepEd, League of Municipalities and Cities, the Haribon Foundation, Philippine Business for Environment, and the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA).

The TWG explained the format and process of fine-tuning of the bill, i.e. by its chapters.

Suggestions on the first three chapters covering the basic policies were the following:

- Increase the role of the local government;
- Apply SFM even in titled lands; and
- Use of the terms: watershed continuum, as a planning framework and watershed unit, as a management tool.

PWPA executive director Leonardo Angeles manifested the PWPA's support for the bill and informed the TWG that a PWPA position paper and comments on the bill were earlier submitted to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources secretariat and office of Senator Cayetano.

He suggested that definitions should conform with those officially approved and/or accepted by government and the international organizations as well as those found in existing laws, which the TWG noted. He also recommended the transfer of the definitions of protection and production forestlands to the substantive provision or section of the bill which was accepted by the TWG.

Nothing that there seems to be no significant differences between the Senate's and House's versions of the SFM bill the work of the Senate's TWG was facilitated by the experiences of the resource persons gained from the House TWG's.

Chapters I to III had been reviewed during the meeting, leaving chapters IV to XVI to future TWG meetings.



## Atienza's task force foils smuggling try of hot logs in Southern Mindanao

The newly formed National Task Force Kalikasan (NTFK) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently confiscated some 1,130 pieces of sawn logs along the 60-kilometer Cateel-Compostela road believed abandoned by illegal loggers operating within the adjoining provinces of Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental.

In a report to Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza, NTFK Executive Officer PSupt. Rommel Bernardo Cabagnot said the contraband were concealed with wild plants and grasses lining both sides of the 10-meter wide road. The road links the forested towns of Monte Vista and Compostela on the Compostela Valley side and the towns of Boston and Cateel in Davao Oriental.

The seized logs, valued at Php 200,000, were mostly lauan and were hidden in areas as far as 10 meters from the roadsides.

Cabagnot said NTFK operatives, backed by local DENR forestry officers in Region 11, scoured last February

the immediate vicinities on both sides of the road unescorted by soldiers despite the heightened guerrilla activity of the New People's Army (NPA) within the general area which is classified as a "hotspot."

"Only about 30 kilometers of the roadsides have thick vegetation where the hot logs were mostly concentrated. As it is, prudence dictated that we kept the retrieval operation as a purely civilian undertaking so as not to exacerbate the situation," Cabagnot added.

Last January, five soldiers and a policeman were killed by NPA rebels in two separate incidents in Cateel and Compostela towns, respectively.

The seized logs are presently impounded at a lumberyard in Barangay Ngan, Compostela for safekeeping.

Cabagnot said the logs were believed to be awaiting transport using cargo trucks loaded with copra and other agricultural products to conceal the banned cargo from forestry officers manning checkpoints.

The road, locally known as "Aliwagwag road," has been indefinitely placed under a "no transport policy" since December by DENR

Region XI Executive Director Ricardo Calderon. The order bans the transport of any kind of forest product, except rattan, along the 10-meter wide road to protect the remaining forest cover located along the boundary of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley provinces.

Calderon's move was also to protect the famous "Aliwagwag Falls," also called "Stairway to the Sky," considered as one of the rarest waterfalls in Mindanao. It sits inside the 10,491-hectare watershed area which supports the irrigation needs of some 17,000 hectares of riceland in Cateel.

Last February 6, DENR Secretary Lito Atienza issued Department Administrative Order 2008-01 directing Cabagnot's 18-man group to coordinate with all appropriate offices within and outside DENR for the enforcement of environmental laws.

NTFK is also tasked to investigate and gather evidences needed in prosecuting suspected violators, including the "immediate arrest and detention of suspected violators of environmental laws, rules and regulations."

Source: [www.denr.gov.ph](http://www.denr.gov.ph)  
March 19, 2008

## Atienza Acts on Reports of Illegal Logging in Aurora

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza today said the reported resumption of illegal logging in Dingalan, Aurora must be stopped at all costs, while those behind the nefarious activity must suffer the full force of the law.

The statement was issued by Atienza in reaction to published reports, which quoted a leader of Task Force Sierra Madre (TFSM), that illegal loggers are

again active in cutting down trees in Aurora province.

"I have personally confirmed the report from my independent sources in the area and I have found that it has sufficient basis," an enraged Atienza said.

At the same time, Atienza ordered the immediate relief of Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) Meliton Vicente, by Joselito Blanco, a former CENRO of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

"As I've always told our DENR officials that they shall be held responsible and liable for unlawful activities in their areas of responsibilities, Vicente will not only be relieved of his duties but we will also make him answerable for all these charges of illegal logging in his area of responsibility. Appropriate charges will definitely be filed against him," Atienza said.

Atienza said a combined team of legal and law enforcement agents from the DENR will be dispatched to

(Continued on page 5)

## Protests Growing Over Atienza OK of Logging

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO – An information caravan in the nine villages of Dinalungan, Aurora, started to gather support on Monday for the protest against the approval by Environment Secretary Lito Atienza of a five-year logging plan by a firm in the province.

Fr. Ceferino Valenzuela, the town's parish priest, said the caravan mounted by the Concerned Citizens of Dinalungan started at 8 a.m., holding short programs in every village it passed.

The 200 participants were expected to reach the logging areas of Industries Development Corp. (IDC) in Barangays Ditawini and Abuleg in Dinalungan, Dinadiawan in Dipaculao town, and at the Aurora-Quirino boundary before dusk.

IDC vice president Michael Ong and general manager Isaias Noveras have not replied to the Inquirer's calls and text messages since Sunday seeking reactions to the protest.

Romulo Palma, IDC chief security officer, promised to alert Noveras on the request for interview. Noveras has yet to call on Monday.

Registered with the Securities

and Exchange Commission in 1961, IDC holds two Integrated Forest Management Agreements (IFMA). IFMA No. 14 covers 9,466 hectares and IFMA No. 2001-06 spans 48,877 hectares in Dinalungan, Casiguran and Dilasag.

The areas covered by the two IFMA are more than half of the 110,228 hectares of forests in the three towns, documents showed.

Of the nine companies that have obtained IFMA for 150,774 hectares in Aurora, IDC manages a large portion of Aurora's forest.

Following the deadly landslides in the province in November and December 2004, former Environment Secretary Michael Defensor allowed IDC to harvest logs on Aug. 17, 2005, after a review team found its performance "satisfactory."

Valenzuela said he and the Concerned Citizens of Dinalungan had opposed legal and illegal logging because the town had been suffering from frequent floods and landslides since 1998.

The calamities have killed at least five people and buried or washed out about 50 houses, according to Mayor

Tito Tubigan in a phone interview on Sunday.

Tubigan said he met Atienza on April 17 to appeal for a review of the secretary's approval on the renewal of the operation plan over the 48,877-hectare area.

"I opposed it because after consultations with various sectors, the overwhelming sentiments of my constituents is that they do not want legal or illegal logging because those degrade our natural environment," he said.

Tubigan said Noveras did not inform him about the plan to renew the operation plan. "All that [Noveras] showed me were applications for mayor's permit and business permit. I refused both," he said.

"We were deprived of our right to be consulted," Tubigan said.

He said the municipal council also opposed the renewal of the operation plan.

Tubigan said Atienza promised a review.

*Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer  
Abridged from the reports from  
Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central  
Luzon; and Jocelyn Uy, in Manila  
April 30, 2008*

## Atienza Acts...

*(Continued from page 4)*

Dingalan and other areas in Central Luzon to gather more information about the illegal logging activities in the area so that necessary legal measures will be taken.

"We have seen in Dingalan four years ago the wrath of nature when landslides killed a number of townspeople and sent several thousand others homeless," Atienza said. "All steps must be taken to stop illegal logging in Dingalan and other parts of the country. To allow illegal logging to continue is like begging for a

catastrophe with epic proportions to happen," he added.

The DENR chief was also alarmed by reports that a relative of Dingalan town mayor Zenaida Padiernos was linked to the latest incidents of logging activities. "Local executives are our first line of defense in implementing environmental laws. We face a bigger problem when local executives are not part of the solution."

Atienza said community action and vigilance of people's and non-government organizations are two of the best ways to

expose the activities and bring to justice environmental criminals. Illegal logging activities in Dingalan was brought to public attention by Fr. Pete Montallana, head of the TFSM-Dingalan chapter.

"We want to strengthen partnerships with organizations like the TFSM," Atienza said. "Environmental criminals are wily. We must be one step ahead of them and organizations like TFSM are our best allies in preventing violators in carrying out their moves," he concluded.

*Source: www.denr.gov.ph  
April 27, 2008*

## Wood For Thought

by Tony Olizon

**U**nfair. Prices of almost all construction material such as steel, galvanized roofing and cement have seen almost 50% increase. Wood products, e.g. lumber and plywood, prices have however not improved as much. The increased preference for substitutes like gypsum board or hardiflex could partially account for this, as well as the preference for concrete and plastics over wood. Wood production costs have gone up tremendously. These costs, however, could not be passed on to consumers due to the supply from unfair competition from illegal wood sources who do not pay their taxes. Legitimate suppliers of lumber and plywood are about ready to give up. They are all crying! "Unfair competition," against the suppliers of illegitimate wood products.

xxx

**Judge.** Four former—plus the incumbent, secretaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) attended the Manila Cathedral Mass commemorating Earth Day. Secretaries Lito Atienza, Sonny Alvarez, Mike Defensor, Bebet Gozun and Angie Reyes were one, at least on this occasion, in celebrating Earth Day. As they bowed their heads, I asked myself, "Who among them is the best at serving the interest of the country and the industry, balancing the needs of the people, the environment and the country?" As if a bulb that lit up answered, "History will judge them—as well as the Great Judge."

It would be a sell-out if somebody could sponsor a forum inviting the past DENR secretaries and ask them to give a 15-minute talk on their tenure, focusing on developments for the wood industry during their term. And the wood industry players acting as judges, giving them frank ratings on their performance. Would my friends in the wood industry dare do this?

xxx

**Slow.** There has been a noticeable decline in the government's overall tree plantation/reforestation program. This should seriously be looked into, to assure the country of perpetual supply of wood raw materials. *Baka nakakalimutan!* Our cycle of tree production should not be broken. Our country has more than enough available lands for reforestation/industrial tree plantations and the private sector should be encouraged to venture into more industrial plantations. But, of course, it goes without saying that investors in forest plantations would need more solid guaranty, aside from the verbal and written commitment of a DENR secretary. (The average tenure of a DENR secretary is 18 months.)

Unless the present impression of investors is reversed, we could not really expect substantial investments in forest plantations.

xxx

**Action.** Looking at the wood suppliers from the Asean region, we note that the Philippines has not really moved forward on the forest products certification issue. This matter will have to be government led with the cooperation of the private sector. It is a pity because *'certified'* wood products would command a minimum of a 10% premium of prices. Immediate action will be most ideal and beneficial to everybody.

## Of Monitoring &amp; FTAs

by Jun Keh

**T**he Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standard/ Philippine Wood Producers Association (DTI/BPS-PWPA) regular monitoring team recently found in Batangas about 436 pieces of unmarked plywood although with correct thicknesses of 5mm x 4 x 8 from Hauzman Construction Supply and Ozone-Line Construction Supply hardware stores. However, in accordance with the agreement with the DTI as to the marking standards, the pieces of plywood were confiscated and DTI filed the necessary charges against these two companies.

Based on the hearings conducted by the DTI/BPS, the above-cited owners of the hardware stores were penalized P25,000.00 and P17,500 respectively for violation of DAO 2 series of 2007 re: offering for sale uncertified or unmarked products and the plywood manufacturer-supplier Li Chang Plywood Corp. was fined P35,000.00 for producing plywood without PS Mark and was ordered to put the necessary marking on its plywood before it could be able to withdraw it from the DTI holding area. Li Chang Plywood Corp. did mark the plywood in the presence of BPS and PWPA representatives.

xxx

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) was invited to a public hearing/consultation on free trade agreements (FTA) - ASEAN-China FTA; ASEAN-Korea FTA and ASEAN-India FTA - last March 04, 2008 by the Tariff Commission at its headquarters in the Philippine Heart Center, Quezon City.

Based on the consultation made, PWPA submitted the following positions with regard plywood in particular: the FTA between Asean and China, the extension of flexibility of tariff rates reduction until it would become zero (0) by year 2012; the FTA between Asean and Korea, the adoption of the position jointly taken by other Asean countries; and the FTA between Asean and India, no objection to transfer plywood products from the sensitive list to the normal track 2.

The PWPA has always been actively taking part in public hearings on tariff matters and submitting position papers because not only its members but also other players in the wood industry benefit from the exercise.

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**Photos of the elected members of the PWPA Board of Directors appeared in November-December 2007 issue of the Woodstock. Ed.**

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

	<b>Before</b> (March 10, 2008)	<b>Now</b> (April 23, 2008)		<b>Before</b> (March 10, 2008)	<b>Now</b> (April 23, 2008)
	(in Pesos/piece)			(in Pesos/piece)	
3mm (1/8) plywood	221	206	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	726	728
4 mm (3/16) plywood	267	255	1/8 lawanit	172	164
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	281	279	3/16 lawanit	220	225
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	333	331	1/4 Hardiflex	367	368
10 mm (1/2) plywood	512	486			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	824	777			

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



## On PWPA's Proposed IFMA

The NCIP provincial staff, led by Ms. Chan, some members of the Aeta indigenous community, led by Mr. Joseph Salonga, and PWPA representatives led by forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez, jointly conducted on March 31 and April 2, 2008 the field-based investigation (FBI) of the area in Morong, Bataan being applied for an IFMA by PWPA.

The FBI is meant to determine whether or not the area or portion of it is inside the ancestral domain claim of an indigenous community.

The FBI, under National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Administrative Order 06-1 known as the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidelines, is a requirement before considering the conduct of FPIC process and the award of any tenurial instrument like an IFMA.

The field investigation found no

IPs living inside the area and accordingly, the IP community would offer no objection on its development as long as it will be informed.

After the field investigation, the team went to Barangay Mabayo to request for a certification that the area is within the said barangay. However, the barangay head said he will refer it to his sanguniang members during their session on April 6, 2008 since he is still new to the position.

The team was able to get the certification on April 2, 2008 from the IP community's chieftain, Ms. Josefina Alejo, that the area is inside their ancestral domain claim.

Briefed about the nature of the project, the elders expressed no objection to the development of the area provided they will be given a copy of the indica-

tive plans (Tagalog version) they could use to explain to the members of the community.

As the IFMA area is inside the ancestral domain claim of the IP community, the pre-FPIC meeting was scheduled on May 2, 2008 at the Regional NCIP office in San Fernando, Pampanga.



**Meet the Aeta Elders of Kanawan, Morong, Bataan.** PWPA forestry & environment coordinator Maila Vasquez (center, seated) with chieftain Josefina Alejo (seated, second from right) NCIP provincial director Patricio Liborio (standing, with hat) and other elders of the IP community and NCIP provincial staff.

## On Good Harvest Agro-Forest Group Activities

Good Harvest (GH) Agro-Forest Group vice president Wilma Siason presented to the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) an effective 'carbon neutral' action an organization can adopt along its environmental corporate social responsibility (eCSR).

GH is currently undertaking a mango farming and exporting (MF&E) program in Bagac, Bataan. It is an agro-forestry model, called the GH MF&E Carbon Offset Tree Planting Program, a self-sustaining, self-liquidating and self-expanding eCSR project accepting corporate investors-partners.

Under the model, 5 to 10% of the plantings are export-variety mango trees and the rest, endemic forest trees for the client-partner's tree planting-carbon offsetting measure. The model enables companies to recover their investment through the export-type mango growing.

The GH model orchard is expandable to more or less 3,000 hectares. Intercrops such as vegetables, cutflower and other fruiting trees are also interspersed with super mango trees.

The GH area is also a resort haven with its natural-spring-water-fed swimming pool, pavilions, nipa huts and a man-made waterfall. Horseback riding is the best form moving around the area.

PWPA president Fernando Lu informed GH that PWPA has applied for an IFMA area in Morong, Bataan and may seek GH's expertise and experiences when the IFMA becomes operational. He said PWPA members will be informed about the GH program.

With president Lu were chairman Antonio Olizon, executive director Leonardo Angeles and forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez. With VP Siason were GH's sales directors Alex Eufemio and Pepito de Leon.



## Philippines Joined Earth Hour

Some 24 global cities participated in Earth Hour at 8pm on March 29, 2008. Earth Hour is the highlight of a major campaign to encourage businesses, communities and individuals to take the simple steps needed to cut their emissions on an ongoing basis. It is about simple changes that will collectively make a difference – from businesses turning off their lights when their offices are empty, to households turning off appliances rather than leaving them on standby.

Earth Hour is an international event, started in Sydney, Australia on March 31 2007, where it made a powerful statement about the greatest contributor to global warming – coal-fired electricity – by turning off its lights for an hour. Over 2.2 million Sydney residents and over 2,100 businesses switched off, leading to a 10.2% energy reduction across the city. This caught the attention of the world.

The Philippines is among those who participated in the event, with the initiative of WWF-Philippines, the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change (PTFCC), Green Army and Philips. Major support was given by the cities of Pasay, Manila, Paranaque and Makati.

On March 29th, from 8:00pm to 9:00pm, the Philippines' capital, Manila and more than 30 cities nationwide joined the world for Earth Hour. The entire stretch of Roxas Boulevard – spanning three cities – was plunged into darkness to symbolize unity in fighting climate change. Thousands flocked to the Cultural Center of the Philippines where Earth Hour Ambassadors held a heart-felt countdown ceremony.

Malls, museums, offices, households, billboards, monuments and streets were plunged into darkness. Even the Presidential Palace of Malacanang switched off.

Dozens of corporations pitched in, led by Philips Lighting Systems. The SM group – the nation's most extensive network of malls – all switched off. The Ayala group, McDonald's, Jollibee, Max's, Red Ribbon, Starbucks, Coca-Cola, HSBC, Intel, Shangri-la and Peninsula Hotels, Smart, Globe, Canon, Dell, Cemex, Colliers and Tetrapak were but a few of who took part.

The switch-off was supported by every major media network – with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Star, Business World, ABS-CBN, GMA-7, numerous stations and publications not only providing coverage, but also participating in the nation's biggest and most memorable campaign on climate change. Rarely have the Filipino people been roused to such levels.

Source: [www.earthhour.org/cities/manila](http://www.earthhour.org/cities/manila)

## Europe Moves Towards Sustainable Forest Management



**Geneva Switzerland: The ministers responsible for forestry of 38 countries met at the 5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Mcpfe) from November 5-7, 2007 in Warsaw - on the theme of 'Forests for Quality of Life'.**

A ministerial declaration and two resolutions were adopted. These contain the commitments on promotion of wood as a renewable energy carrier and the role of forest in water protection – in the context of climate change for implementation at a national level.

The Conference had before it, an assessment of the state of Europe's forests, prepared by the Mcpfe Liaison Unit with United Nations Economic Commission For Europe (Unece) and Fao. The report addresses all criteria of sustainable forest management, provides relevant information for policymakers and points to potentially unsustainable situations in some indicators for certain countries.

It was concluded that European forests are sustainably managed, with caveats in all three areas of sustainable development: economic, social and environment.

The executive secretary of Unece, Marek Belka, addressed the Conference. He pointed out the need to balance different positions and interests to find a sustainable solution, rather than having a 'winner' in a contest of political strength.

He added: "The next challenge will be to develop a rational and sustainable consensus on the role of wood in renewable energy supply, while respecting the other users of this unique material."

Mr. Belka also discussed public perceptions and communication about the forest sector, saying: "it is a sad fact that the public, indeed many decision makers, have many wrong perceptions of the status and trends of European forests. An authoritative and clear document like the Warsaw report can help dispel these misunderstandings."

He welcomed the fact that Mcpfe will cooperate with Unece, Fao, and the EU in the Pan-European Forest Week in October 2008, saying that this event will present an opportunity to demonstrate the cooperation and dynamism of the region's forest sector institutions

Source: *FDM Asia, March 2008*

## Forests & Climate Change in Asia...Some Facts & Figures

### Forests

- Total global forest cover in 2005 was around 4,000 million hectares (m ha), or 30% of total land area (FAO, 2006)
- Forests in Asia account over 500m ha, or around 12.5% of land area (FAO, 2006)

### Deforestation

- Approximately 80% of the forest that originally covered the earth have been cleared or otherwise degraded (FAO, 2006)
- Between 2000 and 2005, deforestation occurred globally at a rate of 13m ha per year (FAO, 2006)
- South and SE Asia's deforestation rate has increased from just under 2,600m ha per year between 1990 and 2000, to over 2,850m ha per year currently (FAO, 2006)
- An analysis of deforestation patterns in 152 countries suggests deforestation is due to three dominant causes: agriculture expansion, wood extraction and infrastructure extension (Geist & Lambin, 2002)

### Carbon

- An estimated 1.7 billion tons of carbon is released annually due to land use change, primarily tropical deforestation (IPCC, 2001)
- This represents 20%-25% of current global carbon emissions, which is more than that generated by the global

transport sector (IPCC, 2001)

- The world's second and third largest carbon emitters, China and Indonesia, are found in Asia (IPCC, 2001)

### Forest Fires

- Between 1995 and 2005, fires and drainage in Southeast Asia released around 1400m tones of CO<sub>2</sub> per year (Hooijer et al. 2006)
- The 1997-98 fires in Borneo, Indonesia, are estimated to have reduced the orangutan population by one-third and resulted in half of the global CO<sub>2</sub> annual growth (Herawati et al. 2006)

### Biodiversity

- Forest provided habitat for around two-thirds of all species on earth. Deforestation of tropical rainforests accounts for the loss of as many as 100 species per day (FAO, 2008)

### Livelihoods & Economy

- More than half a billion people living in extreme poverty depend on forest for their livelihood (World Bank, 2008)
- The forest product industry is a major source of economic growth and employment, with global forest products traded internationally in the order of \$US270 billion, of which developing countries account for 20% (World Bank, 2008)

Source: Center for International Forest Research

## DENR-NCR Regional WPP ...

(Continued from page 2)

In the possible revision of the said plan, the PWPA and PLMA made the following recommendations:

- The plan should not regulate but to make NCR wood processors competitive;
- The plan should consider the rationalization plans of the other regions in the country;
- The plan should include research and development so that value adding wood products can be developed;
- Other wood processing plants such as kiln drying and furniture should be registered with the DENR; and
- The capacity utilization and wood recovery efficiency of the plant should not be regulated for they are dependent on the condition of the raw materials, the value-chain of wood processing and market for wood products.

DENR-NCR regional executive director Cora Davis said the plan is not meant to regulate operations of WPP, but it is but a body of good intentions and guidelines meant to help wood processors to be competitive. She said it is a business decision on how to run a WPP.

The recommendations of PWPA and PLMA will be considered in the finalization of the NCR WPP rationalization plan, she said.

PWPA and PLMA expressed their gratitude to DENR-NCR for inviting them in the review process of the plan as they hoped other regions will also do the same.

PWPA was headed by director Ramon Uy and PLMA by director Aquino Lee. With them were former PWPA director and PLMA director Felix Sy, PWPA executive director Leonardo Angeles and forestry & environment coordinator Maila Vasquez.

*Scenes from the Earth Day Pontifical Mass*



**Inside the House of God (Manila Cathedral).** Upper photo (l-r) PWWA director Aristeo Puyat, president Fernando Lu and chair Antonio Olizon await the holding of the mass; Chair Olizon (center) having a light conversation with Mother Earth’s Odette Alcantara (left) and DOE secretary Angelo Reyes (right); DENR secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. with some members of the youth. Lower photo (l-r) His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, the Pontifical Mass celebrant; the entry of the celebrant and co-celebrants; PWWA president Lu (center) with director Puyat (right) and Sirawai’s Rudy Cabuay (left) with director Alex Ong seated at the back.

*Other Scenes*



**Upper photo:** Small group discussion during the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in Hanoi, Vietnam. **Lower photo:** Courtesy call with Brgy. Captain Cresencio Ramiro of Brgy. Mabayo, Morong, Bataan during the field-based investigation of proposed PWWA IFMA.

**Inside the House Of S&T (DOST).** (l-r) Department of Science and Technology secretary Dr. Estrella Alabastro inducting into office, as members of the Governing Council (GC) of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Natural Resources Research Development (PCARRD), agriculture consultant Dr. Feliciano Calora and PWWA executive director L. D. Angeles as PCARRD executive director Dr. Patricio Faylon witnesses them. Through PCARRD’s recommendation, Calora and Angeles were recently re-appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as GC members representing the private sector in agriculture and natural resources, respectively.



**02 March 2008**

Green Army Foundation Meeting re: Earth Hour  
PNOC Bldg., DOE, Taguig

**04 March 2008**

PPSQF Board Meeting  
DTI Bldg., Makati City

**12 March 2008**

PWPA Board Meeting  
PWPA Board Room, Makati City

**31 March 2008**

Field-based Investigation of Proposed PWPA IFMA  
Morong, Bataan

**02 April 2008**

TWG Review of SFM Bill  
House of Rep., Batasan Complex, Quezon City

**03 April 2008**

Review & Evaluation of PCARRD-GIA Funded Program ITP  
PCARRD, Los Baños, Laguna

**09 April 2008**

PWPA Board Meeting  
PWPA Board Room, Makati City

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

**10 April 2008**

315th PCARRD Governing Council  
PCARRD, Los Baños, Laguna

**11 April 2008**

EDNPI Meeting re: Earth Day 2008 Celebration  
Blue Ridge, Quezon City

**14 April 2008**

Joint TWG Meeting on SFM Bill  
Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City

**22 April 2008**

Earth Day 2008 Pontifical Mass  
Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila

**24 April 2008**

PPSQF Board Meeting  
DTI Bldg., Makati City

**25 April 2008**

98th Foundation Anniversary & Homecoming of UPLBFCNR  
Los Baños, Laguna

**30 April 2008**

DENR-NCR Wood Processing Rationalization Plan Review  
DENR-NCR, Quezon City

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