



PWPA, DENR Meet To Strengthen Collaboration

As a part of its continuing program of strengthening collaboration, particularly with key government agencies, the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), led by chairman Antonio Olizon and president Fernando Lu, met with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Angelo Reyes last April 12, 2007 in his office at the Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The topic of the meeting focused on possible forestry projects the Philippines could offer for possible New Zealand (NZ) investment during the State Visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in that country on May 28-30, 2007.

The PWPA suggested projects on the establishment of industrial tree plantations and on transit wood processing in the Philippines.

Investment in the industrial tree plantations (ITP) has high promise on account of the Philippines comparative advantages such as an ideal climate that makes short rotation harvest of tree crops (trees grow twice faster in tropical than in temperate zones), vast available areas for ITP, cheap and skilled labor, and a domestic market for timber and timber products.

Investment in transit wood processing - with the Philippines as a platform for manufacturing NZ logs - likewise, has high prospect because

of the existing and established milling capacity here at hand that is underutilized for lack of raw materials, extensive manpower skills in wood processing and expertise in wood business, and most importantly, the strategic trade location of the country.

The transfer of state-of-of-the-art NZ forestry and wood processing technologies to the Philippines would further ensure the viability of investments in these projects.

Secretary Reyes was pleased with these proposed projects for possible NZ investment as he instructed DENR undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio and Forest Management Bureau director Romeo Acosta

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Tree Seedlings Nursery Inaugurated

PWPA's Contribution to Earth Day Fest

As a contribution of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) to this year's Earth Day celebrations, a tree seedling nursery located in the New Bilibid Prison area, Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), Muntinlupa City was inaugurated on April 25, 2007.

The inauguration ceremonies were led by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Angelo Reyes and former DENR secretary Fulgencio Factoran, Jr., who first opened the nursery in 1993.



Tree Seedlings for Metro Manila and Environs. DENR secretary Angelo Reyes (second from left) officiates the inauguration of the tree nursery project in Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) in Muntinlupa City, a joint project of DENR, BuCor, NHA, and the PWPA. With him are (from left) NHA-NCR dist. mgr. Dalisay Lizardo, BuCor asst. dir. Joselito Fajardo, DENR-NCR regional exec. dir. Cora Davis. Former DENR secretary Fulgencio Factoran, Jr. and PWPA chairman Antonio Olizon look on (back, center).

Now a joint project of the DENR, the BuCor, the National Housing Authority (NHA) and the PWPA, the more than a

hectare nursery is the old capable of producing at least a million seedlings a year. PWPA-BuCor nursery established in 1991 and operated until 1996. It is

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PWPA, DENR ...

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to coordinate with the PWPA and concerned government agencies arranging the State Visit so that these project proposals could be included in the agenda of the President.

President Arroyo is looking at the NZ investment in the country as a way of balancing trade, now in favor of NZ because of the huge milk and dairy products importation of the Philippines.

Aside from the forestry projects,

the meeting also took up the facilitation of the DENR-PWPA collaborative effort at pushing for the establishment of the Philippine Timber Industries Development Board - the draft Executive Order therefor is still under review by concerned agencies of the government.

The meeting also came up with agreements-in-principle concerning the expediting of the distribution of Certificates of Timber Origin/Lumber Origin; the amendment of DENR Administrative Order 2007-01 concern-

ing the list of threatened plant species; the rationalizing of the establishment of new mills; and deregulating the cutting of trees planted in private lands.

Also present during the meeting were PWPA directors Alfonso Keh, Jr., Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., exec. director L. D. Angeles, advisers Jose Lorenzo and Renato de Rueda, forestry & environment coordinator Maila Vasquez and Mr. Philip Yao of PWPA-member Panel Products, Inc. and also the president of the Philippine-NZ Business Council.

PWPA Joins Earth Day

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PWPA Chair Antonio Olizon traced the history of the project as he explained its objectives of providing tree seedlings/saplings for Metro Manila landscape beautification and training of living-out inmates in nursery work.

Reyes commended the project partners for reviving the operations of the nursery as he talked about the importance of the forest and urban greening in mitigating global warming.

The inauguration ceremonies began with the ribbon cutting and blessing of the facilities, followed by the program that included the awarding of certificates of completion in nursery work to the initial batch of 15 inmates who were trained by the DENR-NCR staff, the signing of the MOA between the DENR, BuCor, NHA and PWPA, and tree planting.

Reyes spent quality time, and took his lunch, with PWPA officers at the nursery. Present during the ceremonies were PWPA directors R.Y.Uy (director in charge of the project), A.C.Keh, Jr., S.Q.Tan, F.M.Buñag and A.P.Ong.

Army Network Foundation, Inc. have lined up.

The Ave Maria Gaia Mystica concert was held at the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta Park on April 20, 2007. The PWPA provided the huge stage whereon famous artists and singers performed the different renditions of the Ave Maria. Chair Olizon represented the PWPA in this event.

The Earth Day 2007 Formal Ceremonies were spearheaded by secretary Angelo Reyes and US Ambassador Kristie Kelly at the Quezon Memorial Park, Quezon City on April 22, 2007. Secretary Reyes talked about the state of the environment. (see related story on page 8). Directors R. Y. Uy, R. W. Kua, F. M. Buñag and executive director Angeles attended the ceremonies, which was followed by the Misa Angelorum (mass for the children) officiated by His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales at the Manila Cathedral. Exec. director Angeles, with his wife Adelina, represented the PWPA in this event.



MOA for Mother Earth. Left photo. DENR secretary Reyes (center) signs the Memorandum of Agreement for the establishment of tree nursery in Muntinlupa City with BuCor asst. director Fajardo (left) and PWPA chairman Olizon (right).

Meantime, the PWPA participated in the series of activities of the Earth Month celebration the DENR and the Green

WoodStock
Bi-monthly publication of the
Philippine Wood Producers Association

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Preparatory Trade Mission to New Zealand

The New Zealand (NZ) Embassy, in coordination with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Philippine-New Zealand Business Council (PNZBC), met with representatives from forestry, dairy, IT, animation, and energy industries last March 13, 2007 to lay the groundwork for the State Visit to NZ in May 2007 of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and to form the preparatory Philippine trade mission delegation who would preliminarily discuss with its NZ counterparts areas of mutual cooperation.

The delegation will leave on March 31, 2007 for about a week to explore trade and investment opportunities between the two countries that may be concluded during the State Visit.

NZ Ambassador David Pine made an overview of the preparatory trade mission itinerary and program. He said NZ is interested to promote forestry, dairy, IT, animation, and energy. He emphasized that the mission will require a high level business delegation.

Ambassador Donald Dee, also PCCI president, said the preparatory mission will be a way to touch base with business counterparts in NZ and a conference will be held during the visit on March 31 to April 4, 2007 to organize a joint business forum. President Arroyo will address together with NZ Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Representatives from the sectors present shared their interests in and expectations from the mission. Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) Chair Antonio Olizon said NZ investments in industrial tree plantations and transit wood processing in the Philippines may be offered to its counterpart in NZ. He indicated that at most three delegates from the forest sector would be ideal but due to time constraints, the PWPA would request Mr. Philip Yao of the Panel Products Industries, Inc., a PWPA member company, to represent the PWPA in the preparatory trade mission. Yao is also the president of the PNZBC.

The PWPA delegation during the State Visit of President Arroyo may be led by its directors Edith Alcantara and Evaristo Narvaez, Jr.

Former DENR Secretary Gozun, Champion of the Earth Awardee

Former Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources Elisea "Bebet" Gozun accepted the prestigious 2007 Champions of the Earth Award conferred by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at a gala ceremony held in Singapore on April 19, 2007.

Besides Ms. Gozun, the six other Champions of the Earth named by UNEP were His Excellency Mr. Cherif Rahmani of Algeria; former vice president Al Gore of the United States; Her Excellency Ms. Marina Silva of Brazil; His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan; Jacques Rogge of the International Olympic Committee and Viveka Bohn of Sweden.

Presenting of the global awards, UN undersecretary-general and UNEP executive director Achim Steiner said: "The seven winners honoured this evening are from different corners of the planet, drawn from different back-

grounds and experiences but share a common sense of purpose and of values, namely to reject the status quo, to persist when others may have failed and faltered and to deliberately seize the opportunities to promote more intelligent ways of managing development that balances the economic, social and environmental realities of the 21st century."

Ms. Gozun was honoured for pushing forward the environmental agenda in the Philippines by winning the trust of business leaders, non-governmental organizations and political decision-makers alike.

In her acceptance statement, she said: "The award recognizes not only the sum of my accomplishments, but of the extraordinary deeds of many other Filipinos who will probably remain nameless and will not be recognized nationally, much less globally."

She also appealed for help to catalyze another synergy - environ-



Champion of the Earth. Former DENR Secretary Elisea "Bebet" Gozun (right) accepts the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) award as one of the Champions of the Earth from UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

mental movement for poverty reduction and social justice.

The Champions of the Earth is an international environment award established in 2004 and is presented each year by UNEP to outstanding environmental leaders, who must have made an important impact at the policy level through their leadership, vision and creativity.

Source: 2007 Champions of the Earth Laureate, Environment & Nature Section, Manila Bulletin, April 24, 2007

Carbon Credit Access Program

The Global Forestry Services Carbon Credit Program (GFS CCSP) aim to ease and enable access to carbon related forestry projects. It was developed in response to the large volume of requests received from the global business community to aid in the development of carbon forestry projects to mitigate the effects of global

warming and obtain 'carbon neutral' status. The objectives of the CCSP are to: 1) provide a structure for the design, development and implementation of carbon forestry projects to generate carbon offsets and tradable credits; 2) facilitate comprehensive 'project due diligence' to ensure project viability; 3) facilitate project development between partner organizations and clients; 4) support value-added

services of existing forest management through risk analysis and strategies involving carbon offsets; and 5) support carbon forestry projects and forest management through international standards of certification. For more information on the Carbon Credit Programme, go to:

<http://www.gfsinc.biz>

Source: *Tropical and tropical. ITTO Tropical Update. Volume 7 No. 1 2007*

a Q & A guide: Carbon Forestry Projects in the Philippines

In response to the queries of Philippine Wood Producers Association, Global Forestry Services, Inc. prepared the following answers on Carbon Credit Financing for forestry projects.

1Q: Philippine forestlands are categorized tentatively into either protection or production – whether with or without forest cover (tree vegetation). Forest management in protection forestlands is concerned with conserving existing natural forest cover and rehabilitating, through afforestation/ reforestation otherwise open or barren areas. Forest management in production forestlands is concerned with sustaining the yield of existing natural forest or establishing commercial-type forest plantation in otherwise open or denuded areas. Can carbon credits apply in: 1) protection forestlands undergoing restoration/ rehabilitation thru afforestation/ reforestation? 2) production forestlands with second growth forest undergoing timber stand improvement (TSI) such as pruning, thinning and assisted natural regeneration, designed not only to attain quality timber but also basal area/volume increment? and 3) all commercial type forest plantations?

1A: Carbon credits apply in areas where the **additionality** criterion is satisfied, regardless of the designation of the land. Additionality to reiterate is project specific however in general it means that a project will not occur without the inclusion of carbon credits. For example, in the stated scenario, an area is designated as protection, however there is no investment into the area under the business-as-usual scenario. **With** the inclusion of carbon credits however, the area is now attracting investors, this then satisfies the additionality criteria. There are other barriers other than the financial barrier mentioned above which can qualify under the CDM institutional, technological, prevailing practice, local ecological conditions, social conditions, land tenure and ownership) however they are very specific and shall be assessed individually as appropriate.

Secondly, areas which are currently undergoing assisted natural regeneration can **not** qualify for carbon credits as the current management is operating under the business-as-usual scenario, and thus does **not** need the aid of carbon credits to secure the project.

2Q: What is the minimum and maximum area in hectares of a forest

plantation to qualify for a carbon credit consideration?

There is no set minimum and maximum area that can qualify for carbon credits. The Executive Board (whom govern all UNFCCC matters) established "small scale CDM" and "large scale CDM" project registration. Small-scale forest activities are used to aid local communities and have less constraints with regards to modalities, procedures and registration. Small-scale projects have a sequestration limit of a maximum of 8,000 tCO₂e per year. Any project that sequesters more carbon than this shall qualify for large-scale activities. There is currently no upper limit for large-scale activities. As long as the project developer can justify the project (meets the additionality criteria), the project can theoretically be registered.

3Q: Under the present regulations of the government (DENR), a holder of an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA), a form of license, is allowed to plant 10% of his suitable IFMA into so-called agricultural crops such as fruit trees (mango, mangosteen, etc), palms (oil, coconut, rattan, etc.) - that, in time, their boles/trunks may be

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a Q & A guide: Carbon Forestry...

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manufactured into a wood and wood-like products like fiber or particleboard-while the rest of the IFMA area, into commercial tree crops, including the regulations-allowed rubber and durian tree crops? Are all aforementioned crops qualified for carbon credit consideration? If not all, what crops are not qualified?

3A: Despite the limitations to afforestation and reforestation, Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) project activities can still be relatively diverse and cover such activities such as native forest restoration, timber plantations, agroforests/multi-purpose trees and recuperation of barren areas. The tree type must be a recognized "timber" species under the local forestry department. For example, in most countries, Oil Palm is classified under "agriculture" and not "forestry" and therefore, cannot qualify for carbon credits under the CDM. In the Philippines, proposed afforestation and reforestation projects applying for host country approval under the Clean Development Mechanism will be evaluated against the general sustainable development criteria outlined in DENR Administrative Order No. 2005-17 and the following more specific criteria (indicators for which have also been identified), prescribed by the Forest Management Bureau of the DENR acting as the lead agency of the Technical Evaluation Committee for Afforestation and Reforestation Project Activities under the Philippine Designated National Authority (DNA).

Secondly, the planted material must meet the country's definition of a forest according to the country's definition of what a forest is, which uses crown cover (>10%), area more than 0.5ha and

minimum tree height at maturity is 5 m as parameters. Lastly, there **must** be an element of sustainable development within the project. Not only is sustainable development the backbone of the Kyoto Protocol, but this aspect has far reaching effects towards developing and securing the natural resource base for the Philippines.

4Q: With whom will a forest plantation developer sell his carbon credits? Can a direct sale be made, or is there a need for intermediary and what is the his approximate % commission fee?

4A: A project developer can sell the carbon credits to whomever he wants. Carbon projects that are more secure (guaranteed delivery of credits) will receive higher prices. There are many strategies for selling the carbon credits. Some developers seek a lower price for the credits in return for upfront money while others "hedge" their credits (keep them and sell them later in the hope of getting a higher price). During the project registration, the project developer will identify the carbon credit purchaser and negotiate the carbon price. In theory there is no need for an intermediary however most project developers are not well versed in carbon project registration and therefore engage an external consultant who typically diversify their fees (man days and %) based on the project type and scale for anywhere between 10-25% of the total carbon credit value.

5Q: What are the documentary requirements and the step-by-step procedures in applying for carbon credits?

Project registration requires official documents from the relative departments as well as third party verification from an UNFCCC

accredited body. The ultimate governing body of the CDM is the Conference of the Parties/Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP). The COP/MOP is the annual meeting of the signatories to the Kyoto Protocol and is responsible for managing the CDM Executive Board and for overseeing its work. The Executive Board supervises the CDM process under the authority and guidance of the COP/MOP; it is fully accountable to the COP/MOP. The Board decides on rules for the implementation of the CDM, as well as making the final decisions about acceptance of methodologies, registration of projects and issuance of CERs. The Board is composed of 10 members and 10 alternates.

The CDM Executive Board created an A/R Working Group to specifically oversee LULUCF under the CDM. The A/R Working Group provides guidance to LULUCF project developers and, using expert reviewers, makes recommendations on acceptance or rejection of LULUCF methodologies. Designated Operational Entities, or DOEs, function as auditors for the CDM process. Designated Operational Entities are a domestic or international legal entity, accredited and designated by the Executive Board. They have two key functions: 1) to validate CDM projects prior to project implementation, and 2) to verify and certify emissions reductions after project implementation. An Applicant Entity (AE) is an entity undergoing the approval process to become a Designated Operational Entity. A list of Designated Operational Entities and Applicant Entities can be found on the UNFCCC CDM website (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/DOE>).

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On Earth Day Celebration, New Zealand State Visit & Other Meetings
By Ferdie Lu

“You don't get to choose how you're going to die or when. You can only decide how you're going to live.”

-- Joan Baez, American Folk Singer

In 1991, the PWPA together with the DENR and the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) established a tree nursery at the New Bilibid Prison Compound in Muntinlupa. The aim was to produce seedlings for greening programs in Metro Manila at the same time provide training to light security inmates with skills on seedling production and nursery operations. The inmates were then given certificates of competency to help them seek future employment upon their release and improve their lives.

The City of Manila was the main beneficiary of the tree saplings produced from the nursery for then (now re-elected) Mayor Alfredo Lim's greening program. Another major recipient of seedlings was the International School in Makati. Unfortunately, the project was discontinued after several years when the then officials of the BuCor did not renew the enabling Memorandum of Agreement anymore.

On April 25, 2007, as part of the Earth Day Celebrations, the nursery was revived by the DENR, BuCor, PWPA and the National Housing Authority which now has jurisdiction over the location of the nursery. The project is now dubbed as "Muntiang Kabuhayan."

The PWPA had active participation in the 2007 Earth Day Celebrations particularly the Ave Maria Gaia Mystica Concert at the Quirino Grandstand. Following a falling-out between the organizer Earthday Network Philippines and the stage contractor a couple of days before the event, the association led no less by Chairman Tony Olizon, stepped in and took charge of the construction of the stage. He was ably assisted by VP Mon Uy and Office Manager Reggie Serafico. After two consecutive non-stop work at the site, the elaborate stage was finished in time for the event. Job well done, Gentlemen!

Preparations are on the way for the forthcoming state visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to New Zealand in the latter part of May. Forestry is one of the topics of discussion and thus the PWPA was called to join the President's trip. Suggestions were also solicited from the association on the possible areas of cooperation between the Philippines and New Zealand.

Transit processing was one of the suggestions the Excom arrived at. The idea is to encourage plantation owners and timber producers in New Zealand to have their logs processed in the Philippines and the finished products exported from here. The country is very ideally located and we have the expertise and experience in processing radiata pine. This will be similar to the activity of Juken Sangyo in Subic except that the company also owns the plant. C. Alcantara & Sons, Inc. in Davao would be the first plant offered for this kind of undertaking.

The other area of possible New Zealand investment in the Philippines would be on tree plantation development. The PWPA has already identified potential areas for large industrial tree plantations particularly in Mindanao. However, some of our colleagues are hesitant to offer bring this matter up during the trade mission to New Zealand in view of the unstable forestry policies of the government.

DENR Department Administrative Order No. 2007-01 entitled "Establishing the National List of Threatened Philippine Plants and Their Categories, and the List of Other Wildlife Species" if not amended, will virtually impose a nationwide ban on commercial forestry. All the common species used for construction and furniture are listed as threatened and not allowed for cutting.

During a courtesy call of the PWPA officialdom, Secretary Reyes sought FMB Director Romy Acosta's comments on the controversial Administrative Order and instructed that further study be undertaken on the issue. Director Acosta recommends that DAO No. 2007-01 be applied only on protection forests while allowing continuous harvest in the production forests.

Team Factoran Still Sizzles

By Tony Olizon



One Who Started It All. Former DENR Secretary, Atty. Fulgencio Factoran, Jr., now.

It was a walk down memory lane. That was when former Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Jun Factoran got together recently with his former undersecretaries – who later became DENR secretaries, Vic Ramos and Bebet Gozun; former assistant secretaries, directors and assistant directors; other division and section chiefs and staff, to renew old ties and recall their memorable experiences at DENR 20 years ago.

I have conveniently forgotten the other attendees' names for reasons known only to me. Some of them came from as far as the South, e.g. Cotabato and Davao; and from the North e.g. Benguet. What a reunion!

The good old days of course took center stage, with speakers talking about the good and not so good happenings, unforgettable and most of the time funny incidents, embarrassing and crisis situations, etc. Fun party games spiced up the affair.

Sec. Vic R. made it his mission to fill everyone's tummy – who could resist

the whole roasted calf? Atty. Jun Factoran was a gracious host. (Although it was past his bedtime, nobody wanted to go home.) Former Sec. Bebet G--- whose famous phrase "what you see is what you get—" became the life of the party.

There were speeches galore, but mostly short ones. Long speeches were tabooed. Those who sang were given a limit of not more than two per. But it was obvious this bunch was 'TEAM FACTORAN---'a tough, solid group. Something about this group sets it apart from those of other DENR administrations. Is it because its members came right out of the EDSA "people power" revolution? Or are they just an idealistic group borne out of the emerging cause of environmentalism?

Then I had a chance to give my own short commentary. I said that this group shall henceforth be called TEAM FACTORAN. I related that yes, maybe there were things - policies, rules etc.- that TEAM FACTORAN forgot, missed or became controversial issues ...But these were outweighed by their accomplishments.

Unknown to many, big volumes of plantation timber being harvested right now were planted during TEAM FACTORAN'S time. Members of this Team realized they needed to do something different to encourage people to plant, or to provide alternative

livelihood so that illegal tree cutting could be minimized, it not totally stopped. They were genuinely concerned with the country's dwindling forest cover. They seriously imposed and implemented reforestation requirements on timber concessionaires, to the point that they organized multisectoral groups from the academe to evaluate reforestation accomplishments and compliance of timber concessionaires.

True, TEAM FACTORAN reduced the number of TLA-holders because it honestly believes that timber harvesting should be rationalized. However, the private sector was not always in agreement with some of its actions (e.g. policy on the ban of exports of raw lumber). But our relationship with TEAM FACTORAN remained professional and cordial that we even had golf tournaments (dual meets) between DENR and PWPA.

I saw how Jun F. managed the challenges faced at DENR. He would not bend rules just to accommodate friends who would like to engage in questionable activities. I saw for myself how Jun F. resisted congressional pressures if their agenda went against DENR's vision.

To TEAM FACTORAN, you are one of a kind. Stay strong and committed to your ideals!

Average Plywood and Substitute Prices Survey in NCR

	Before (April 16, 2007)	Now (May 21, 2007)		Before (April 16, 2007)	Now (May 21, 2007)
	(in Pesos/piece)			(in Pesos/piece)	
3mm (1/8) plywood	218	210	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	738	759
4 mm (3/16) plywood	264	261	1/8 lawanit	164	155
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	284	289	3/16 lawanit	222	218
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	332	338	1/4 Hardiflex	372	369
10 mm (1/2) plywood	483	495			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	793	815			

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

A Call to Preserve the Environment

I most certainly agree with the American Heritage magazine which proclaimed the founding of the earth day as one of the most remarkable events in the history of democracy. Not so much a celebration of planet earth, but a way of calling attention to the precarious state are putting our world for it.

As we celebrate earth day today, we should remember U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin who started it all in 1970. Senator Nelson was motivated for the need to put the environment into the national political agenda. This is the same mission that guides us today in the DENR: the need to put the environment into the mainstream of Philippine politics - in accordance with the constitutional mandate "to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthy ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

Air Quality

With respect to air quality - meaning the concentrations of carbon monoxide, sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxides, benzene and other pollutants in our air - you should know that key urban centers in the country, especial Makati, Manila, Pasay and Meycauayan (Bulacan), fall far short of the appropriate standards for health. The health cost, in just 4 major urban areas, of this poor air quality is estimated to be more than 400 million dollars or about 20 billion pesos.

About 70% of this air pollution is caused by the emissions of about five million vehicles nationwide. In fact, the Philippines has the dubious distinction of having the second most polluted air; in terms of suspended particulates, among eight ASEAN countries, better only than Indonesia.

* Speech delivered by DENR Secretary Reyes during the Earth day 2007 Formal Ceremony at the Quezon Memorial Circle last April 22, 2007. Slightly edited due to printing limitation. Ed.



Let's Preserve our Environment.
Secretary Angelo Reyes talks about the state of the environment and calls to preserve it during the formal ceremony of the Earth Day Celebration..

Water Quality

With respect to water quality, this is likewise in a terrible state, at least in our urban areas. Sixteen of our major rivers, five in Metro Manila, are biologically dead due to pollution. Forty-eight per cent of this water pollution is caused by household waste, compounded by the lack of an adequate sewerage system.

The world bank estimates that, in the Philippines, the economic losses caused by water pollution are about \$1.3 billion, or p62 billion per year. According to the same study, the Philippines needs to invest p25 billion pesos annually, over 10 years, for sanitation and sewerage infrastructure.

Solid Waste Quality

Solid waste remains a major contributor to our land, air, and water pollution. Metro Manila alone generates 6,169 tons of garbage everyday, and this is expected to double by 2010. Much of this tonnage would actually be eliminated if we all simply followed the guidelines of RA 9003, the Eco Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which requires the proper segregation of

by Sec. Angelo T. Reyes*

garbage into degradables and recyclables, before it is disposed of by households. As it is now, eighty-five percent of the 6,169 tons of solid waste generated daily has to be collected and it is not at all certain whether this collected garbage is even disposed properly.

The same Act also provided for the closure of all open and controlled dumpsites and the shift to sanitary landfill. But there are still 1,095 open dumpsites and only 7 sanitary landfills all over the country. Actually, the DENR has already provided the guidelines to the local government units on the proper closure of their open and controlled dumpsites and we expect these local government units to start submitting their closure plans very soon.

Forest Resource Situation

With respect to our forests, these have been reduced from about 19 million hectares, or 63% of our land area in 1920, to only 7.2 million hectares, or 24% of our land area, in 2004. Although we have managed to increase our forest cover by 700,000 hectares since 1998, the Philippines, compared to other ASEAN countries, still has the second lowest forest cover, better only than Singapore that did not have any natural forest to begin with..

The tremendous depletion of our forests is due to extensive logging in the past, both legal and illegal, to *kaingin*, and to the expansion of settlements to the uplands. As a result, our forests have lost much of their ecological contribution in terms of the ability to minimize soil erosion of fertile topsoil, ability to retain water, ability to absorb carbon dioxide (which would reduce air pollution), and the ability to provide habitat for our biological resources.

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A Call to Preserve ...

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Biodiversity Resource Situation

We might pride ourselves, justly, as being one of the most bio-diverse countries of the world. More than half of our plant and animals are unique to the Philippines and cannot be found anywhere else. We have the largest eagle in the world, the largest bat, the largest flower, the largest fish, the smallest frog (the size of a coin), the smallest primate, one of the smallest deer. Mount Makiling in Los Baños alone has more tree species than the entire United States.

Unfortunately, our country is now also ranked fifth among the world's 19 biodiversity hotspots as a consequence of habitat loss, overutilization, and poaching. Our threatened and endangered species are increasing by 9.7% annually, from 212 endangered species in 1990 to 284 in 1998.

Coastal Resource Situation

In our coastal areas, we have lost almost half of our mangrove areas. Only 5% of our coral reefs remain in excellent condition and 32% are in poor condition. These development have considerable adverse effects on 62% of the Filipinos who are living along coastal areas.

DENR 12-Point Agenda

To address the foregoing environmental challenges, we in the DENR have identified twelve strategic interventions – our published 12-point priority agenda – that we developed in line with sustainable development principles.

These strategic interventions include actions that will raise our air quality to acceptable health standards, revive and effectively manage our major river, promote garbage segregation and recycling practices to address solid waste disposal problems, intensify massive reforestation efforts particularly in watershed and protected areas,

promote agro-forestry utilizing fruit trees, jathropa and agricultural cash crops, promote only environmentally-responsible mining activities, and mobilize communities to become actively involved in the protection of our environment and the conservation of our natural resources.

Global Warming and Climate Change

Beyond our 12-point priority agenda, however, we recognize the need to devote special effort and attention to what is considered to be the biggest and most threatening environmental issue facing mankind. This is the issue of climate change and global warming.

The Philippines is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Because the Philippines is mountainous with steep slopes makes our communities very vulnerable to landslides and mud flows. Because we are archipelagic country, communities in the many low-lying areas and small islands can be destroyed by the flooding that comes with the rise in sea level. The disruptions in agriculture and fishery production and the destruction of important ecosystems can have devastating long-lasting effects on our people and our economy.

We all already know that global warming has been caused by the increase in the greenhouse gasses (like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) that man himself spews out into the atmosphere. These gases absorb and retain the solar heat which would otherwise radiate away into space.

We have been told by scientists that, since the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have risen by almost 30%, methane by 145%, and nitrous oxide by 15%, and that the average global temperature increased by 0.5 to 1 degree Fahrenheit between 1890 and 1990. We have been told by these scientists that, in the next 100 years, temperature will rise even

higher by 2 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit and, due to this temperature rise, sea level will also rise by about 18-59 centimeters by 2100.

DENR Actions To Mitigate Global Warming

Accordingly, we are implementing several measures intended to reduce and prevent greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate their effects.

To reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we are progressively implementing a bio-fuels program where extracts from agriculture sources are mixed with motor fuel to produce cleaner vehicular emissions. Some of these programs involve the manufacture of ethanol from sugar cane and the extraction of diesel oil from the jathropa plant. We have initially identified 375,000 hectares for planting jathropa to produce diesel fuel. The bio-fuels program has been given a big boost with the passage by congress and the signing into law by the president of the bio-fuels act, known as republic act no. 9637.

We are now also relentlessly enforcing emission standards for vehicles and industries. For 2005, we tested 28,517 vehicles along EDSA alone, only 21% passed the emission standard, the rest were apprehended. Last year we conducted 6,690 inspections and issued 532 notices of violation to industries not complying with emission standards.

Since garbage dumps emit significant amounts of methane into the atmosphere, we are working to finally close the 1,095 open dumpsites still in operation nationwide. As alternatives, we have so far identified 366 potential sanitary landfill sites nationwide. More significantly, we are assisting local government units in managing their waste through the segregation of all waste into degradables and recyclables.

(Continued on page 10)

A Call to Preserve...

(Continued from page 9)

To further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we are actively pursuing the shift from the use of fossil fuels, like oil and coal, to renewable sources, like wind, water, natural gas and geothermal. Presently, 58.4% of our energy needs are still obtained from fossil fuels. By 2014, we are targeting a reduction in our reliance on fossil fuels to 49.2%.

We are also active in promoting projects for carbon trading. So far, we have eight (8) projects registered with the United Nations CDM Executive Board. These will cut the emission of about 253,919 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year. In terms of the number of projects registered and accepted by the UN, the Philippines ranked 8th in the world.

To help sequester greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, we reforested 85,235 hectares in 2005 alone. In addition, last year we planted several hundred thousand seedlings along major highways throughout the country.

More urgently, we are accelerating adaptation measures to prevent or minimize the destructive effects of climate change because, according to Sir David King, the chief science adviser to the British government, even if we were to magically stop all emissions today, temperature will continue to rise for another 25 years.

Foremost among our adaptation measures is the geo-hazard mapping of the Philippines – intended to identify

and determine the areas most vulnerable to landslides – so that communities can be forewarned of potential danger areas, especially during strong typhoons. Thus far, we have completed the geo-hazard mapping of 27 provinces, mostly in the eastern seaboard, since these are the most vulnerable to typhoons.

Involvement of Society

Despite all these efforts, we must realize however that climate change cannot be stopped by the actions of government alone. We, all of us, are responsible for it and we must all cooperate to get it under control. We all need to minimize or dispense with activities that tend to use more of the sources of greenhouse gases.

There are many things every one of us can do to help stop global warming. Don't drive a smoke belcher. Don't litter. Don't throw trash into rivers and streams. Use the air conditioners less. Plant trees. Plant many trees. (I encourage everyone to participate in our green Philippines program.) Segregate your garbage. Recycle waste. Report those you see polluting or ravaging the environment to the denr, just text:

denr(space)send(space)(your report)

And send this to 5777. We will go after these environmental criminals.

Let me close by saying that it is absolutely tragic that most of our environmental problems are man-made. We DNA (the UNFCCC National Focal Point takes on this role). The purpose of the Designated National Authority is to review projects and ensure they are in line with the country's development objectives and national laws. A "host country letter of approval" from the Designated National Authority is required for project registration. Each

may be the only living creatures in the universe that are bent on destroying their own homes. What seems ironic is that we dare to call ourselves the smartest of all the animals.

No one should have to remind us that it is not only our survival that is at stake if we continue to ravage our environment. As someone wise once said, our generation did not inherit the earth; we just borrowed it from our children. We must recognize and accept the obligation to give back what we borrowed, and certainly not in worse shape than that in which we got it.

Time magazine recently announced, "by any measure, earth is at the tipping point!" let us therefore join hands to avert this tipping point. What I would like to propose to all of you today is for you to work with the government in a solidary partnership to passionately oppose what Roberto Requiao called "the forces of obscurantism, destruction, and these new vandals that attempt against civilization and this magnificent adventure of men on planet earth."

Let us join hands and – together – work to preserve our planet and our species. This is a responsibility and a sacred duty that we owe the generations of our children, their children, and their children's children.

We only have one earth and it will depend on our choices what the earth's future will hold for the generations that will come after us – one earth, our choices, their future.

a Q & A guide: Carbon Forestry...

(Continued from page 5)

Along with approval and registration by the CDM Executive Board, projects must also be approved by the country in which the project is taking place. The government of each country that is signatory of the Convention will have assigned, or be in the process of assigning, a Designated National Authority or

country may also have its own regulations that must be met to obtain a letter of approval. A list of the Designated National Authorities can be found on the UNFCCC CDM website

(<http://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/>).

(Part 2 will be printed in our May-June 2007 issue.)

Forester Vasquez Nominated to Attend International Conference on Wood-based Bioenergy



By the recommendation of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the Forest Management Bureau, has nominated to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Forester Maila Vasquez, PWPA Forestry and Environment Coordinator to attend the International Conference on Wood-based Bioenergy which on May 17-19, 2007 to be held in Hannover, Germany.

Forester Vasquez was provided with an ITTO sponsorship in recognition of her expected contribution to the conference. She finished her B. S. Forestry degree from the UPLB College of Forestry in 1990 and had extensive government experience in tropical reforestation and tree plantation development before joining PWPA.

The conference, in conjunction with LIGNA* HANNOVER 2007, aims to raise the awareness of deci-

sion makers on the technical and economic potential of utilizing logging residues and wood-processing wastes for energy generation, thereby increasing energy efficiency in tropical countries.

In this context, the Conference will address: a) the current and prospective contribution of wood residue-based energy generation in tropical countries; b) technology and economics for heat and power generation from wood residues and wastes that could be introduced to or expanded in tropical countries; c) the potential of saving energy in the supply and processing chain of forest-based industry, including the assessment of possible measures for lowering CO₂ emissions; and d) recommendations on future actions and policies that could assist tropical countries in enhancing efficiency by developing the sustainable use of wood residues and wastes for energy generation and assessing potential impacts of support measures to mitigate climate change.

WoodStock

In the Know

What is carbon footprints?

"Carbon footprint" is the amount of CO₂ released by an activity or entity.

Exact calculation of ones carbon footprint is difficult because of so many unknown things - for example, the amount of CO₂ emitted in the manufacturing of your shoes. But the basics are known, and can give a very good picture of how your choices contribute to global warming. The kind of home you live in, how much you drive, and how often you fly can account for half a person's carbon footprint.

Some statistics to think about (in a year): the average **American car emits 7 tons** of CO₂; the average American **person emits 20 tons** of CO₂; the **United States emits 7 B tons** of CO₂; and the **world emits 30 B tons** of CO₂.

The cost of overnight computing is estimated at 14.4 million metric tons of CO₂ and \$1.72B?

This is based on study of a power management software company in the United States and found out that about thirty percent of corporate computers are not switched off at night.

This study was done by a company selling power management software, to promote their software by calculating the massive energy savings that could be achieved by installing their software... up to \$75 per PC.

So next time you leave your PC open overnight, think not only the cost of money but also the amount of greenhouse gas that it emits in the environment.

Source: <http://green.yahoo.com>

Condolences

The Philippine Wood Producers Association

condoles with the family and love ones of

Mr. Henry Brimo

Chair Emeritus of the Philex Mining Corp. who passed away last March 3, 2007.

(Messrs. Gerard Brimo (son of the deceased), Artemio Disini and Benjamin Philip Romualdez of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines are close allies of the PWPA in issues of common interests. Ed.)

05 March 2007

Meeting re: Muntinlupa Nursery
DENR-NCR, Quezon City

07 March 2007

Public Hearing on the Proposed Proclamation of La Mesa
Watershed Reservation
Conference Hall, BSWM, Quezon City

09 March 2007

Meeting on the Creation of the Philippine Timber Industries
Development Board (PTIB)
FMB Conference Room, Quezon City

13 March 2007

Meeting re: PGMA State Visit to New Zealand
New Zealand Embassy Board Room, Makati City

21 March 2007

PWPA Board Meeting
PWPA Board Room, Makati City

22 March 2007

Rotary Club of Alabang Meeting (Exec. Dir. L. D. Angeles, Guest
Speaker; Chair A. C. Olizon, Paul Harris Awardee)
Alabang Country Club, Alabang

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

11 April 2007

PWPA Board Meeting
PWPA Board Room, Makati City

12 April 2007

Meeting with DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes
Office of the Secretary, DENR, Quezon City

19-20 April 2007

Nursery Skills Training
NBP Compound, Muntinlupa City

20 April 2007

Ave Maria Concert
Quirino Grandstand, Manila

22 April 2007

Earth Day Celebration
Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City

22 April 2007

Misa Angelicum
Manila Cathedral, Manila

25 April 2007

Inauguration of Muntinlupa Nursery
NBP Compound, Muntinlupa City

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