



DENR Secretary Reyes Visits Operations of PWPA Members SPLC, UPC and Isabela as Initial Sites

Sirawai Lumber and Plywood Corp. (SPLC), Zamboanga del Norte MOU for Program: Green Philippines Signed

On May 14, DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes and his party visited the operations of the Sirawai Lumber and Plywood Corp. (SPLC) in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte. The Secretary saw for himself, from the air and on land, the difference between a company-managed natural and plantation forests with prosperous communities dependent thereon, on one hand, and the open-access forest in a severe state of degradation, on the other. In the rubber tree plantation and rubber processing plant, he saw how latex was collected and made into raw rubber, respectively.



Making of Rubber. Left: DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes checks the latex being collected from a rubber tree as SPLC owner-President Victor Consunji and other members of the Secretary's party look on; Right: The Secretary observes how the latex is being processed into rubber in the SPLC plant.

The Secretary and his party were welcomed by PWPA Director and SPLC President Victor A. Consunji and people in the communities of Sirawai. PWPA Chair Antonio Olizon, President Fernando



Birth of the Program: Green Philippines. DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes and PWPA President Ferdie Lu sign the MOU on the Program: Green Philippines with PWPA Chairman Tony Olizon and USEC Ramon Paje as witnesses.

Lu, VP-director Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., Executive Director Leonardo Angeles and Adviser Jose Lorenzo were present to give support to SPLC President Consunji.

The DENR party included USEC for Field Operations Tessam Castillo, USEC for Environment and Forestry Ramon JP. Paje, ASEC for Field Operations Leonilo Lariosa, Public Affairs Office's Philip Suzara, RED Ernesto Adobo, Jr. of DENR Region IX,

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Program: Green Philippines ...

MOVING FORWARD

After the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the Program: Green Philippines last May 19, 2006, the PWPA, in a workshop of its directors on June 10, 2006, started planning and strategizing on how the Program maybe successfully implemented.

The Urban Greening project will have its initial activity on June 30, 2006 with tree planting in Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila. The Watershed Rehabilitation project will be started on July 15, 2006 in Tanauan City with tree

planting of the shore of Taal Lake. The Community Forestry project in Morong, Bataan and Industrial Tree Plantation in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte have been slated to begin on July 30, 2006 and August 15, 2006, respectively, subject to the approval by the DENR of their respective agreements.

The following officers and staff have been made responsible for the following projects: for Urban Greening - Chair Antonio C. Olizon and For. Maila R. Vasquez; for Watershed Rehab - EVP Alfonso C. Keh, Jr. and also For.

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DENR Secretary Reyes Visits Operations of PWPA Members

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among others.

One of the highlights of the visit was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the DENR and the PWPA re: Program: Green Philippines. The MOU has the objective of instilling in every sector of society the full appreciation of multifarious values of the forests and involving society in national forest restoration through reforestation.

Union Plywood Corp. (UPC), Cagayan de Oro

On June 1, in his visit to DENR Region X, DENR Secretary Reyes saw, for the first time, an actual operation of a veneer-plywood mill in Union Plywood Corporation in Cagayan de Oro City. UPC General Manager Johnny Huan welcomed the Secretary and his party in the plant. UPC President and PWPA Chair Antonio C. Olizon conducted the briefing about UPC and led the guests to a tour of the



Veneer and plywood making. UPC General Manager Johnny Huan briefs Secretary Reyes how plywood is made while QC Supervisor Berlita Pacalioga and Operations Manager Artemio Delagan look on.

mill. PWPA VP-director Robert W. Kua, who operates a plywood mill in nearby Tagaloan, was present at UPC to show support to Chair Olizon.

The DENR party included USEC for Field Operations Tessam Castillo, USEC for Legal Affairs Office Arnie Jane Borje, ASEC Leonilo Lariosa, Public Affairs Office's Philip Suzara, RED Maximo Dichoso of DENR Region X, among others.

The Secretary promised to see other operations of other wood processing plants in the future.

Philippine Timber Export Corp. (PATECO) and Luzon Mahogany Timber Corp. (LUZMATIM), Isabela and Aurora Provinces

On June 16, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conducted the joint meeting of the cabinet and Regional Development Councils of Northern and Central Luzon in Cauayan, Isabela as she inspected some infrastructure projects therein.

The visit gave an opportunity for the signing of the MOU between the DENR (represented by Secretary Angelo T. Reyes), PWPA (President Fernando A. Lu), DepEd (Supt. Orlando Gundayao) and Aksyon Makamasa Foundation of Congressman Anthony Miranda of Isabela. The MOU calls for PWPA members in southern Isabela to provide seeds and planting materials to students of different schools and pay them (students) for the seedlings once grown to plantable sizes. The seedlings in turn will be distributed to beneficiar-

ies who will do the planting in DENR designated areas. The Foundation will serve as the coordinating secretariat.

Also present during the MOU signing event were PWPA Chair Antonio C. Olizon and PWPA director Manuel A. Ng. The DENR party, on the other hand, included Regional Executive Directors Clarence Baguilat and Regidor de Leon of Regions 2 & 3, respectively, and other government officials and staff.

Secretary Reyes' fly-over to the PATECO and closeby areas was re-scheduled to another date.



Another green partnership. DENR Secretary Reyes (center) and (from left, seated) representatives of Isabela DepEd and Isabela State University and PWPA President Lu sign the MOU being witnessed by PWPA Chair Olizon (seated right) as DENR officials look on. **Program: Green Philippines Partners.** Below from left: PWPA Chair Olizon and Director Ng, DENR-R3 RED Regidor de Leon, DENR Secretary Reyes, PWPA President Lu and DENR-R2 RED Clarence Baguilat.



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Updates on Issues Raised by the PWPA to the DENR

On the processing of the IFMA and related tenurial instruments application

The PWPA has proposed to DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes the lifting of the suspension order on the processing of application for the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) and related tenurial instruments.

The order of suspension issued by then DENR Secretary Michael Defensor has stopped the processing of application for IFMA, Socialized Integrated Forest Management Agreement and Community-based Forest Management Agreement already in the pipeline of DENR field offices and Forest Management Bureau (FMB).

Secretary Reyes has yet to act on the recommendation of FMB to lift the suspension order; however, it seems the position of the DENR not to lift it but to treat the application for the IFMA in particular on a company-to-company case basis.

On the conversion of expired TLAs into IFMAs

PWPA President Fernando A. Lu, in his meeting with the FMB/DENR technical team

headed by FMB Asst. Director N. Andin, reported that there seems to be a meeting of the mind, as it were, on the following issues on the conversion of a TLA into IFMA: 1) recent performance evaluation shall be accepted in lieu of another performance evaluation; 2) the current ECC shall be accepted; and 3) the share between the government and the agree-

ment holder shall be negotiated on a case-to-case basis but unlike in mining, the sharing must consider the renewability/sustainability of the forest resources, among others.

Time seems needed by new DENR management to be familiar with industry issues before it can act on them.

On the reconfirmation of the ban on the establishment of new wood processing plants

The PWPA was informed that whatever regulatory ban there now exists shall hold (read: no need for Secretary Reyes to reconfirm the ban as requested by the PWPA).

On the road transport of wood products to outside Isabela and Aurora

The DENR followed the recommendation of FMB and has ordered to conduct a public hearing on the PWPA request to lift the ban on the road transport of wood products coming from Isabela and Aurora.

PWPA Complains of Declining Wood Prices

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) recently alerted both the regional executive directors of DENR-NCR and DENR Region IV-A about the dramatic decline of the prices of lumber in their areas of jurisdiction.

The PWPA contended that the price dive could only be caused by the entry into the NCR of a huge volume of semi-finished and finished lumber products manufactured from lumber, that in turn, sawn out of illegal logs cut elsewhere in Luzon.

Unlike lumber, semi-finished and finished lumber products such as kiln-dried furniture components and parts, windows and door jambs, etc., do not require chain of custody documents from the DENR.

No effort nor way of tracing the origin of these wood products is a gap in the DENR regulations which is being taken advantage by illegal loggers who convert logs into lumber and lumber into semi-finished and finished products that are invariably kiln-dried and transported sans certificates of origin. These cheap manu-

factured products are sold to furniture and similar shops, perforce, underselling legitimately sourced lumber of similar volume.

In an attempt to fill or close the gap in the regulations, the DENR-NCR and PWPA met with no less NCR RED Corazon Davis presiding. The meeting revealed that wood furniture plants or shops with wood processing plants and independent dry-kiln plants are not subject to the DENR regulations.

A number of independent dry-kiln plants, for example, known to have been installed and are in operations are ultimate sources of illegally sourced lumber products that compete with legitimately sourced lumber.

The meeting has agreed to come up with policy recommendations to the DENR secretary to correct the unfair if not anomalous situation and to even the playing field of competition.

Preponderance of illegally sourced timber: the cause of declining wood product prices

Program: Green Philippines ...

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Vasquez; for Community Forestry - President Fernando A. Lu and For. Edward D. Dalangin and for the Industrial Tree Plantation - VP-director Evaristo M. Narvaez, Jr. and For. Jose A. Lorenzo, PWPA adviser. Executive Director Leonardo

D. Angeles will supervise the technical staff who will support each other in the implementation of the Program. Director Edith I. Alcantara will regularly monitor the performance and accomplishments of each responsible project officers and staff.

DENR GREENING INITIATIVES

DENR LAUNCHES KABALIKAT SA KALIKASAN (KsK)

To get the collective support of concerned stakeholders in the protection and sustainable management of the country's natural resources; hence, making all stakeholders partners towards national progress is the objective of the DENR-led Kabalikat sa Kalikasan (KsK) launched on June 9, 2006 simultaneously with the celebration of the DENR Foundation Day.

The affair was attended by more than a hundred representatives from NGOs, POs, academe, civic and religious groups and private sector such as the Haribon Foundation, Mirriam College, National Union of Philippine Indigenous Cultural Communities, University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Dela Salle-Araneta University, Couples for Christ, Rotary Club International, Agri-Kalikasan Network, United Nations Development Program and the Philippine Wood Producers Association.

Preceded by the presentation of the results of the May 17, 2006 KsK workshop, the program proper began with the blessing of the newly

refurbished 3rd and 4th floors of the DENR building and the KsK Lounge. After the cultural presentations by Tuklas Katutubo and the children of OIKOS Society, the signing of documents of various partnerships and/or reading of statements of support to KsK ensued.

Secretary Reyes gave the keynote message stressing that the responsibility of this generation is to ensure a better future for the next generations through the sustainable development of the resources and environment as he invited all stakeholders to sign the covenant "Statement of Support to the Kabalikat sa Kalikasan."

Most of the stakeholders present signed the covenant, except representatives of Mirriam College and Haribon Foundation who seemed to have interpreted the DENR policy on mining as being part of the covenant – which is not.

Despite the very clear explanation of Secretary Reyes – distinguishing between the DENR policies and the covenant's objec-

tives – said representatives walked out just the same.

The PWPA was represented by Chair A. C. Olizon, President F. A. Lu, Executive Director L. D. Angeles and Forestry & Environment Coordinator M. R. Vasquez.



Counterclockwise: DENR Sec. Angelo T Reyes hands money tree seedling to PWWA Chairman Antonio C. Olizon and President Fernando A. Lu; The signing of the covenant "Statement of Support to the KsK"; President Fernando A. Lu reads the PWWA commitment of support to the KsK.

GREENING THE PAN-PHILIPPINE AND OTHER NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

With the belief that environmental protection is not a monopoly of the DENR but rather a responsibility of every member of the society and to strengthen public concern toward environment protection, the DENR has adopted a new philosophy on shared responsibility through social mobilization. To highlight it, the greening of the Pan-Philippine Highway and main thoroughfares of the country will be done as the initial project.

The project targets the 2,176 km Pan-Philippine highway, the 439 km Manila North Road, the 824 km West Nautical Highway and other major highways and thoroughfares.

The greening project shall be undertaken and implemented in cooperation with various sectors/stakeholders constituting the so-called GREEN ARMY emphasizing the spirit of social mobilization thru the "ADOPT-A-STREET/PARK PROJECT" concept. The whole stretch of highways shall be divided into multiple sections, each to be awarded to would-be-adoptors (LGU, NGO, community, government agencies, civic/religious organizations, private sector, etc.) for the planting of trees and their care and maintenance for a minimum period of three (3) years. A Memorandum of Agreement with each adoptor shall be signed to ensure sustainability of development of the assigned section.

The PWPA's participation in the Project is as member of its National Steering Committee and a member of the Technical and Research Committee and the Executive Committee. PWPA commitments are: 1) assist in rendering technical and research advise to the project; 2) assist in sourcing plantable seedlings for the project; 3) assist in the distribution of plantable seedlings in certain areas along the highways with such activities to form as a part of PWPA commitment under MOU signed between it and the DENR on May 19, 2006.

Project launching is scheduled on August 25, 2006.

Update on Program: Green Philippines

Smokey Mountain Urban Greening Project

Urban Greening Project of the Program: Green Philippines took off last June 30, 2006 at the Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila.

This was after the ceremonial tree planting made by the DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes during the Earthday Celebration last April 22, 2006 attended no less than by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales.

A simple program followed by a tree planting activity signaled the beginning of the beautification of the Smokey Mountain area. Together with DENR NCR, the National Housing Authority, the Knights of Columbus, the Oikos Society, the Parish of the Church of the Risen Christ and the Smokey Mountain Community Association, the Philippine Wood Producers Association directors, officers and staff planted about 85 narra saplings along the riverbank and the road and tree guards installed. To guarantee their survival, a good amount of garden soil was mixed in the sandy soil of the area.

Future tree planting around the church - once it is constructed - and



Let's start Planting. Above: PWPA Chairman Olizon and President Lu with Fr. Mike Lindstrom and Mr. Don Abarientos of the Oikos Society, planting narra sapling along the riverbank of the Smokey Mountain. Below. Some members of the partner community in Smokey Mountain now called Paradise Heights.



along tenement housing will be done in coordination by PWPA with DENR-NCR, NHA, Smokey Mountain Association, Parish, Gawad Kalinga and Oikos.

Chair Olizon and President Lu headed the PWPA delegation.

Other articles on Smokey Mountain are on pages 8 and 9 of this issue.

Tanauan City's Watershed Rehabilitation Project

Site verification has been done, stakeholders' roles were already identified. All necessary arrangements were made for the launching of the component on July 15, 2006 at the Ambulong Fishery School in Tanauan City.

Five Barangays, namely Barangays Wawa, Boot, Gonzales, Bañadero and Ambulong were identified as the planting areas. Students of the different Barangay schools will do the planting on site. An incentive program shall be designed to reward the schools who maintained and developed the area.

Coordination with the different stakeholders and preparation for the launching of the component is being undertaken. The partners for this components are the DENR, PWPA, City Government of Tanauan, Department of Education in Tanauan City, Rotary Club of Alabang and Makati Bel-air and the I Do Club Foundation.

Morong Community Forestry Project

The Association has already submitted its letter of intent for the application of an 800 hectare area in Morong, Bataan to be developed as its community forestry component of the Program. Close coordination with the DENR field offices is being done to facilitate the endorsement of the proposal to the Office of the DENR Secretary. Launching is slated to be on the 30th of July 2006 however, final schedule still depends on the approval of the project by the DENR.

Sirawai's Industrial Tree Plantation Project

The application and proposal for the implementation of the 10,000 hectare IFMA area in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte was already submitted to the DENR-CENRO. Close coordination with the DENR field offices is being done to facilitate the endorsement of the proposal to the Office of the DENR Secretary. Launching is initially scheduled on the 15th of August 2006 however, final schedule still depends on the approval of the project by the DENR.



This is only a start. PWPA President Fernando A. Lu speaks before the participants giving the Association's message of support and inform them that there will be future activities in their area.

On the visit of DENR Secretary to operations of PWPA members and launching of Green Philippines Projects

By **Ferdie Lu**

Dr. Agus Setyarso of the ASEAN Council visited the PWPA office on May 5th to solicit the Philippine Wood Industry's views on forestry and wood trade integration in the ASEAN region. Members of the Excom were on hand to give the association's position on the matter.

A PWPA party composed of Chairman Tony Olizon, Vice President Jun Narvaez, Executive Director Ding Angeles, Forestry Consultant Joe Lorenzo and this writer joined Secretary Angelo T. Reyes and top DENR officers and members of the media on a trip to visit the area of Sirawai Plywood & Lumber Co., Inc. (SPLC) in Zamboanga del Norte last May 13th.

An important highlight of the trip was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the DENR and the PWPA formalizing our association's participation in the reforestation program of Secretary Reyes by way of Program: Green Philippines.

The trip was capped by a vocal rendition of the Secretary and the discovery of a new singing talent... our very own Director Vic Consunji. Yes, he was prevailed upon by the Secretary to do a very rare performance to the delight of SPLC employees and dependents. Thereafter, he confessed that it's easier to plant trees than sing in public.

For the first time, Secretary Reyes witnessed the operation of a plywood plant. He was on an inspection trip in Northern Mindanao on June 1 and PWPA invited him to visit any of the three wood processing plants in the

area. The Secretary chose to see Chairman Tony Olizon's Union Plywood Corporation (UPC) in the outskirts of Cagayan de Oro. Chairman Tony gave a presentation of his company together with a plant tour of the UPC plant. Thereafter, Bukidnon Forests Inc. (BFI) Manager, Engineer Manny Casiño briefed the Secretary about BFI before an actual flyover.

The newest singing sensation of Cagayan de Oro, our very own Chairman Tony Olizon also rendered a musical number after Secretary Reyes' songs in a gathering with DENR Regional officials and staff.

On June 4, upon the request of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the PWPA officers Chairman Tony Olizon, EVP Jun Keh and Vice Presidents Jun Narvaez and Robert Kua played golf with Myanmar's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Kyaw Thu and Ambassador Thaug Tun at the Midlands Golf Club. It was a reciprocation to the hospitality

extended by the Myanmar government to a delegation of businessmen in the natural resources sector headed by then DENR Secretary Michael T. Defensor. Chairman Tony headed the PWPA contingent last year.

During its 19th anniversary on June 9, the DENR launched Kabalikatan sa Kalikasan (KSK) wherein all stake-

holders were requested to pledge their commitment to the protection of the environment. The idea of Secretary Angelo Reyes was for every sector of

society not to be part of the problem but rather part of the solution. The affair was held at the newly declared KSK lounge where environment stakeholders are free to use as venue for meetings or just simply to hang out in.

Unfortunately, the noble event was marred by some NGO sectors' refusal to sign the joint commitment for the environment because of their aversion to the inclusion of the development of mining in the twelve point agenda of the DENR. Instead of heading the Secretary's call to join hands on the issues that can unite, the minority group hostile to the idea walked out. Nevertheless, many other groups, including the PWPA, enthusiastically signed the declaration of the KSK.

The Excom and the Technical Staff of PWPA had a whole day workshop on June 10, Saturday at the Manila Polo Club tackling two major undertaking of the association, namely: a study on the economical impact of forest development activities, i.e. industrial tree plantation (ITP) and the groundwork and parameters of Program: Green Philippines (PGP).

In the first part, former DENR USEC Rene de Rueda and former FMB Director Romy Acosta, assisted by Forester Joey Austria briefed the body on the ITP issue. Thereafter, media friends Ben Tangco and Mike Marasigan helped the group formulate the framework of PGP.

To highlight the importance of the tasks, birthday celebrator Chairman Tony was present for the entire duration of the session.

Along with different stakeholders and government agencies, we were invited by Secretary Reyes on June 15 to a meeting for the greening of the major national highways. The idea is to have a one-day simultaneous planting of

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On the visits of DENR Secretary ...

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the trees along the whole stretch of the Pan-Philippine and West Nautical Highways from Northern Luzon to Southern Mindanao to raise the environmental consciousness of the Filipino people. Aside from the aesthetic value, the trees will sequester the carbon emissions of the vehicles plying the highways. This is set at 10:00 AM of August 25.

Another meeting, organizing the National Steering Committee (NSC) was held on June 21. Apart from being a member of the NSC, PWPA was also named as a member of the Technical Sub-Committee. The five-hour organizational meeting ended close to 11 o'clock.

As part of the Program: Green Philippines, we are undertaking project wherein students will be tapped in the production of seedlings. PWPA through the members in southern Isabela, will supply seeds and plastic bags. The local DENR will assist in the technical aspect while DepEd and Isabela State University officials will mobilize and organize the teachers and students to establish mini nurseries in the different schools. The Aksyon Makamasa Foundation of Cong. Anthony Miranda of the 4th district of Isabela, serves as the coordinating secretariat. PWPA will then pay P 1.50 for every plantable seedling.

The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement was timed to coincide with

the joint meeting of the Cabinet and the Regional Development Councils of Northern and Central Luzon in Cauayan, Isabela on June 16.

In the effort to save funds for the association, the Board decided that from June onwards, monthly board meetings would be sponsored by the birthday celebrators of the particular month. Thus, Chairman Tony Olizon, Treasurer Stanley Tan and Director Charlie Liu jointly paid for the lunch during the meeting last June 21.

Again, we wish Chairman Tony, Stanley and Charlie the best on their birthdays. And Gentlemen, thanks for the lunch.

In line with Program: Green Philippines, tree-planting activities were held at the Baseco Compound on June 25 and at the Smokey Mountain on June 30. These activities are part of the celebration of Environmental Month. The latter event was even picked up by the Singapore Strait Times.

IN MEMORIAM: The officialdom of PWPA condoles with the bereaved families of the late Hudson Chua as well as our office staff member, the late Reginarose Cipres. Please join us in prayers for the eternal repose of their souls.



Tree Planting in BASECO. (Above) Despite the rains last June 25, 2006, DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, PWPA Chairman Antonio C. Olizon and DENR-NCR RED Cora Davis planted some areas along the BASECO compound. PWPA will help in the establishment of park in the area. (Left) Dela Salle students volunteers to provide informal education program to the children in the area.

Average Plywood and Substitute Prices Survey in NCR

	Before (May 8, 2006)	Now (June 5, 2006)		Before (May 8, 2006)	Now (June 5, 2006)
	(in Pesos/piece)			(in Pesos)	
3mm (1/8) plywood	215	210	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	687	700
4 mm (3/16) plywood	266	264	1/8 lawanit	153	170
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	286	285	3/16 lawanit	237	222
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	333	334	1/4 Hardiflex	343	325
10 mm (1/2) plywood	495	509			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	792	791			

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

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN: FROM GARBAGE PARK TO GREENBELT PARK

Smokey Mountain greenbelt

By Alejandro R. Roces

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Philippine Wood Producers Association have signed a joint agreement to convert Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila into a city forest. That is a project that is most welcomed and that could turn Manila into a greener city. Right now, Manila has only Arroceros Forest as its only forested area. It would be great if Smokey Mountain were converted into its second forest.

Before the war, Manila had its Jardin Botanico which was later expanded into a zoo. We recall that as a child, we would often visit the zoo to see an elephant named Goyo. The elephant was donated by my father and for a while it was kept in our home that was located in the corner of Oroquieta and Zurbaran streets. The rumor quickly spread that there was an elephant in our garden and literally hundreds of people came daily to see the elephant. When first told that there was an elephant in one of the resi-

dences, the public's initial reaction was to say, "Goyo!" That is how the elephant got its name.

We are very happy that Manila will have its second forested area in Smokey Mountain. We understand that durable trees like mahogany and acacia will be planted in the area. We hope that they will plant some large trees because it takes time for trees to grow. The problem, of course, is that it costs a lot of money to move full-grown trees from the rural to the urban area.

We believe that other cities in Metro Manila should follow Manila's reforestation project. It would be great, for instance, if Makati would now convert the area along the railroad tracks that were occupied by squatters into a forest area. The railroad track is located in a major highway and if it were turned into a forest, it would be the major forest in all of Metro Manila. Trees absorb polluted air and give off fresh oxygen. So one way of dealing

with pollution and making the environment cooler is by planting trees.

We hope that Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay seriously considers the forestation of the area along the railway tracks as the next step after successfully moving the squatters to Laguna. We would also like to praise that move because the squatters were not just thrown out of the area; they were provided with a suitable place to stay and provided with a lot of help. It was a win-win situation.

Metro Manila could certainly use more trees. What we suggest is that every city in Metro Manila should have a tree-planting project and that it should be at a barangay level. No other Asia Pacific country was deforested as extensively as the Philippines after World War II. And Joyce Kilmer was right. Only God can create a tree. But we can all plant and propagate them.

Source: *Philippine Star*, 20 June 2006

Smokey Mountain site of urban reforestation project

Tree planting, watershed rehab in the works

By Blanche Rivera

A green belt in Smokey Mountain.

The former mountain of trash has been selected as one of five reforestation sites in Metro Manila for the Green Philippines project to be launched by the government.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) have signed an agreement to jointly develop the area in Tondo, Manila, as a site for an urban greening project.

PWPA chair Tony Olizon said the group would plant mahogany, acacia and other durable trees around the tenement houses and the nature-

inspired ecological church being built by the Parish of the Risen Christ.

"Imagine Greenbelt in Makati. We want to create something like that around the church but bigger," Olizon said.

The PWPA has talked with residents of Smokey Mountain to encourage them to help in the reforestation efforts and to clean up a creek near the tenement buildings for planting.

"We saw that there were a lot of poor people residing in the area and it was too hot precisely because there were no trees. We want to improve the living conditions of people in our own small way," Olizon said in a phone interview.

Five Metro Manila sites and three provinces were chosen as centers for urban greening, watershed rehabilitation, community forestry and industrial tree plantation under Green Philippines. The four other Metro sites, however, had not yet been identified.

New chapter

"This heralds a new chapter of the PWPA's presence in the country's wood industry because this undertaking puts the association at the forefront of the government's reforestation program," Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a statement.

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Smokey Mountain site of urban reforestation project

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The PWPA, which has bucked proposals by environmental groups for a total log ban because of their wood requirement, will launch the project later this month.

The PWPA will also reforest the shoreline of Taal Lake and the tributaries of the San Juan River running through towns in Batangas and Bataan. It will establish a tree plantation in Morong, Bataan for fuel wood, fruit trees and other species that can serve as a livelihood source for the community.

Another model tree plantation will be put up in Sibuco, Zamboanga as a pilot area for a 10,000-hectare tree plantation project to be developed by Sirawal Plywood and Lumber Co.

"This is just going to be a model, we'll ask different cities and municipalities to identify areas for other green belts," Olizon said, referring to its greening of Smokey Mountain.

A dump often used as a symbol of urban decay and poverty in the past decades, Smokey Mountain was closed down on orders of then Presi-

dent Ramos in 1994.

A year later, an initial batch of 88 families were resettled in the area, living in temporary homes made of concrete, plywood and galvanized iron roofs. A plan to build high-rise living quarters to replace temporary homes for the community, largely made of scavengers who sell scrap and trash for recycling, was later suspended because of changes in the original agreement between the government and the building contractor.

Source: *Philippine Daily Inquirer, Metro Section*, 17 June 2006

Manila's Infamous Dump Will Get Green Revamp

Smokey Mountain will be planted with trees as part of plans to clear the environment

Manila's notorious Smokey Mountain is getting a make-over. The massive pile of garbage, which for decades was a symbol of the poverty of slum dwellers in the Philippine capital, is being forested.

The project, in the heart of the Tondo slum district near Manila's docks, will initially involve trees being planted in a large cleared area of Smokey Mountain. The area was closed in 1994, after serving as the capital's main dump site for four decades.

To inaugurate the green project, saplings were planted along the banks of a creek over-looking a shanty settlement yesterday. The Urban Forestry Division wants to lower the temperature in the area during hot dry spells.

Residents say the forestation programme will offer welcome shade and brighten a drab area.

"It will give the children somewhere to play and help get rid of

the bad air," said Mrs. Moe Anne del Rosario, a teacher at the New Hope Learning Centre. She had just finished a gym class on a sweltering morning with three-to five-year olds on a vacant building lot at the foot of Smokey Mountain.

Although the dump has not been used for years, a strong breeze still brings out the rank smell of thousands of tonnes of compacted rubbish. Residents say the stench is particularly bad after heavy rains.

Mr. Fernando Lu, president of the Philippine Wood Producers Association, which is helping to sponsor the programme, said trials will be conducted on planting trees in the area.

"We're experimenting on this," said Mr. Lu. "One possibility is to bore holes into the garbage and fill them with garden soil so that the trees can grow. It would obviously be too costly to spread a thick layer of soil over the entire site."

A thin pelt of grass and the occasional tree cover Smokey Mountain, which got its name from the smoke from fires when it was in use.

By Alistair McIndoe*

Mr. Carlos Gubat, who heads the Urban Forestry Division, said only indigenous trees, such as narra and caballero, will be used in the forestry programme. "These are durable trees which will adapt well to the surroundings, and they also flower."

Some of the thousands of scavengers who scrapped a living from Manila's rubbish still living under Smokey Mountain in tenement housing – re-named Paradise Heights, apparently without a hint of irony, according to residents.

Greening Smokey Mountain is part of wider effort to improve the environment of one of South-east Asia's most polluted cities by planting more trees in open areas. The banks of the Pasig River, which cuts through Manila, are also earmarked for the programme.

Source: *The Straits Times, Singapore* July 3, 2006

*Mr. Alistair McIndoe is Philippines Correspondent of The Strait Times, Singapore in Manila

Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests

PWPA participated in Forest Land Restoration (FLR) workshop, sponsored by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) with DENR and the World Conservation Union held on May 5-12, 2006 in Bagac, Bataan.

Attended by 19 selected participants from the different sectors of the society like the banking institutions, civic groups, NGOs, Peoples Organizations, private sectors and other government agencies, the workshop aims to learn about the FLR concepts, its current status in the country, and the understanding and applicability of the FLR guidelines and manual in the Philippine setting.

The FLR is a process that aims to regain the ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded forest landscapes. It is akin to multiple-use forestry, the only difference is that: both 1) the elements of landscape functionality (stability, landscape flexibility and ecological integrity) and 2) the stakeholders' participation (through a negotiation process and the different trade-offs i.e. the best opportunities to optimise the flow of goods and services and the appreciation that land-use and ecosystems invariably change over time) are being considered in FLR.

Five workshop topics-sessions were undertaken namely: 1) stakeholder and problem analysis of the forestry sector; 2) FLR analysis and feedback on the guidelines and manual; 3) applicability of FLR guidelines and manual in the Philippine setting; 4) consideration of adopting a Philippine FLR manual (outline only, possible test/model sites and support needed from ITTO (aside from funding); and 5) action plan on how to go about with the FLR implementation in the Philippines.

On the applicability of the ITTO FLR guidelines and its manual to the Philippine setting, all groups in the workshop agreed that a separate FLR manual for the Philippines should be prepared so that it can be easily understood by the field implementers as similar other approaches being presently done be possibly consulted or integrated in the Philippine manual.

Also, in the workshop, the participants were made to analyze an area with different land uses (reforestation, SIFMA and cultivated area), and were asked to predict what the landscape would likely be 5 years and 20 years hence with and without intervention. With no intervention, the area might be an industrial park with adjoining resorts and vacations homes because of the few big houses now present therein. But with current land use practices

continuing on (aside from the logging during the war and the days of Bataan logging) poverty could have a great impact in the continuous degradation of the area.

The last day of the workshop, done in a plenary, the action plan for the implementation of FLR in the Philippines adopted by the participants clearly defined that in the restoration process, not only the ecological integrity of the area or the environment should be considered but also the enhancement of human being. The proper process of restoration might not bring the original state of the forest back but as long as it provides the goods and services, within the unstressed capacity of the landscape, restoration is acceptable as a concept and as a process.



FLR Partners. Clockwise: Participants of the FLR Workshop; the participants working in the field, a reforestation area established by the Provincial Government of Bataan; In deep discussion with the international facilitator, Mr. Sandeep Sengupta (center).



PWPA hosts Golf Game

On June 4, 2006, Chairman Antonio C. Olizon, EVP Alfonso C. Keh, Jr., VP-director Evaristo M. Narvaez, Jr. and VP-director Robert W. Kua joined the Myanmar's Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu and its Ambassador U Thaug Tun in a friendly golf game at Midlands Golf Club in Tagaytay City.

Deputy Foreign Minister Thu and other Myanmar delegation were in the Philippines on a two-day meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs re: Philippines-Myanmar Policy Consultation held last June 3-4, 2006 at Hyatt Hotel, Manila. The consultations aims to discuss possible areas of economic and trade partnership between the two ASEAN countries.

Possible Trade Partnerships

ASEAN-commissioned study on roadmap for the integration of wood-based products trade in ASEAN

Dr. Agus Setyarso from the ASEAN Council visited PWPA office last May 5, 2006 to assess the preparation being done or progress already attained by the Philippines on the integration of wood-based products trade in the ASEAN region.

The wood industry, through the PWPA, expressed its unawareness of the move toward the preparation of the so-called roadmap as the national government has not coordinated the matter with PWPA. However, PWPA, made suggestions on effecting a workable roadmap, particularly along tariff and non-tariff matters.

Opportunities in West Africa & RP-China Partnership


Mr. Remy Mukongo, Officer-in-Charge of Statistics and Documentation Services of the African Timber Organization in Gabon, Africa visited PWPA office last June 13, 2006. He is interested in marketing his region's wood products and looking for possible investment in wood processing in tropical west Africa.

Meantime, the forum on RP-China Economic Partnership held on June 5-6, 2006 at the Manila Hotel opens possible investment opportunity in ITP development in the Philippines. For the last decade, China is the world's top tropical log and sawn-timber importer.

Interested to buy?

April 22, 2006

FERNANDO LU
Chairman of the Board
Philippine Wood Producers Association
3rd Floor, LTA Bldg.
118 Perea St. Legaspi Village
Makati

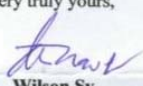


Dear Mr. Lu,

I have planted twelve thousand (12,000) Gmelina and Mahogany trees in Sariaya, Quezon, which is 120 kms south of Manila. About 4000 Gmelina trees are already for harvest, with diameter sizes of 10-20 inches. The tree farm is only 3 kms. from the municipio and along the road. I started planting in 1996.

If you have interested buyers, either in the form of lumber or logs, please let me know. My tree farms are registered with the DENR, copies furnished. We can negotiate on the price.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Wilson Sy
Tel. No. 242-9687

Annual Meeting Steering Committee

The members of the Board of Directors appointed/designated VP-Director R. Y. Uy to head the Steering Committee to handle the forth-coming 55th Annual Meeting of Members. With him as members are Chair A. C. Olizon, President F. A. Lu, EVP A. C. Keh, Jr., VP Charlie H. Liu, Treasurer S. Q. Tan and Directors E. I. Alcantara and A. G. Puyat.

The tentative schedule of the Annual meeting is September 1, 2006 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City, Metro Manila.

Congratulations!

PWPA congratulates MATIMCO, manufacturer of Matwood and Weatherwood, for having been officially recognized by the Technischer Ubervachungs Verein (TUV) and Quality Management System as the first and only ISO 9001-2000 Certified Wood Processing and Treatment Company in the Philippines.

As an ISO certified firm, it is now ready to compete in the global marketplace.

Condolences

With sincerest condolences to the bereaved family of Mr. Hudson Chua who passed away last May 13, 2006

PWPA Condoles with Family of Ms. Reginarose Cipres



PWPA expresses condolences to the family of Rose who will always be remembered by her colleagues as someone who was always full of energy, enthusiasm and love.

She had been with the Association for more than ten years.

Reginarose Cipres, Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) electronic data processing (EDP) programmer, succumbed to cancer last June 9. She had fought the

PWPA directors, members and staff went to her wake at her residence in Blk. 10 Lot 30 Green Valley Subd. San Nicolas III, Bacoor, Cavite prior to her interment last June 18.

Death of a friend, that alone can bring the peace his treasures cannot purchase, and remove the pain his physicians cannot cure. ~ Mortimer Collins

05-12 May 2006

Forest Landscape Restoration Workshop
Bagac, Bataan

10 May 2006

Regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors
PWPA Office, Makati City

13 May 2006

DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes trip to Zamboanga del Norte
Program: Green Philippines MOU signing
Sirawai Plywood and Lumber Co., Zambo del Norte

01 June 2006

DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes trip to Cagayan de Oro
Union Plywood Corp., Cagayan de Oro

04 June 2006

Golf Game with Myanmar Dep Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Ambassador at Midlands Golf Club, Tagaytay City

05-06 June 2006

Philippine China Economic Partnership
Manila Hotel

07 June 2006

Partnership and Governance on Oceans, Coasts and Islands
Hotel Philippine Plaza, Manila

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

09 June 2006

Launching of Kabalikat sa Kalikasan (KsK) and DENR Foundation
Day

DENR, Quezon City

10 June 2006

PWPA Workshop on Program: Green Philippines
Manila Polo Club, Makati City

15 June 2006

Greening of the Philippine Highways
DENR, Quezon City

16 June 2006

Signing of Memorandum of Agreement by and between the PWPA,
DepEd, DENR and Aksyon Makamasa Foundation
Isabela, Cagayan

21 June 2006

Regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors
PWPA Office, Makati City

30 June 2006

Launching of Urban Greening at Smokey Mountain
Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila

Stamp

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