



## PWPA Gears Up for Its Annual Meet



**Trailblazer.** VP-director Ramon Y. Uy, chair of the Steering Committee, is asked to innovate the conduct of the Annual Membership Meeting.

its success. He said his enthusiastic involvement in the preparation for the meeting has been inspired by the strong support of his committee members who are no less

**T**he Board of Directors of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) sets September 1, 2006 for its 55th Annual Membership Meeting at the Manila Polo, Makati City.

VP-director Ramon Y. Uy, the chairman of the Steering Committee of the Annual Meeting, said an early preparation will be the key toward

than the top officers of the Association: Chair A. C. Olizon, President F. A. Lu, EVP A. C. Keh, Jr., Treasurer-director S. Q. Tan, VP-director C. H. Liu, and esteemed directors Ms. E. I. Alcantara and Mr. A. G. Puyat.

He intimated that the walking order from the Board of Directors is for the committee not only to conduct the Annual Meeting in a business or corporate manner, a departure from the guest-filled and conference-type meetings of the past, but also for the first time, to generate an income from it and to impart a sense of strong bonding and camaraderie among the members.

To face up to this challenge, the Steering Committee, according to Mr. Uy, has the blessing of the Board of Directors to effect a three-part programme of the meeting: 1) a forum on the emerging wood industry concerns that would inform the members of new wood technologies,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Green Philippines Highways Launched

### PWPA Donated 185,000 Tree Seedlings

**T**he Green Philippines Highways (GPH) project spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was launched simultaneously throughout the country last August 25, 2006 with a resounding success.

Philippine Wood Producers Association's (PWPA) donation of 185,000 tree seedlings, more than 35% of the programmed 500,000 seedlings to be planted nationwide, contributed in no insignificant measure to the success of GPH.

The Deed of Donation was signed on August 17, 2006 by DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes and PWPA President Fernando Lu during one of the regional GPH roadshows in San Fernando City, Pampanga.

At Ground Zero in Luneta Park in the City of Manila, at 10:00 a.m. of August 25, 2006, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Secretary Reyes launched the nationwide event by leading the planting of the so-called King of the Flowering Trees (*Saraca declinata*).

P W P A Chair Antonio Olizon and President Fernando Lu participated in the Ground Zero tree planting together

with cabinet members, Manila City officials, foreign dignitaries, and private sector and NGO officers.

*(Continued on page 2)*



Signing the Deed of Donation in Pampanga. (L-R) San Fernando City Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, Mrs. Teresita Reyes - wife of DENR Secretary, Secretary Angelo Reyes, PWPA President Fernando Lu and PWPA Chair Antonio Olizon.

## PWPA Gears Up...

*(Continued from page 1)*

products and market and also on the proactive position PWPA will be taking on issues the wood industry faces; 2) the presentation of the rarely-given Molawin Award to Ms. Priscilla M. Florentino, a former executive of C. Alcantara & Sons, Inc., for her invaluable services to PWPA and the wood industry; and 3) the usual business meeting and elections of directors.

According to Director Uy, the members will be in for a good surprise for aside from the many choice raffle prizes, PWPA will auction two billiard cue sticks each donated by Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante through the Puyat Sports. The Pampanga hand-carved cue sticks, embellished with their respective signatures, had won for the two cue artists world billiard contest championships.

**...a forum on the emerging wood technologies, products and market ... proactive position of PWPA on issues the wood industry faces...**

About 80 PWPA regular voting corporate-members in good standing, key officials of chapter and affiliate organizations of PWPA and representatives of sponsoring firms are expected to attend the 55th Annual Meeting of Members.

## Green Philippines Highways....

*(Continued from page 1)*

At the Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, GPH stakeholders and so-called adoptors in Metro Manila participated in the human chain formation and tree planting activity.



Green Commonwealth. PWPA VP-director Alex Ong plants a banana seedling while VP-director Ramon Uy, Exec. Dir. Leonardo Angeles, DENR-NCR For. Rollie Malamog, Treasurer-director Stanley Tan and VP-director Evaristo Narvaez, Jr. look on.

Officers, directors, and members of PWPA and the Philippine Lumber Merchants Association numbering 300 persons participated in the Commonwealth Avenue GPH activity.

Days earlier, a Memorandum of Agreement was entered into by and between the DENR-NCR and the PWPA for the latter to be the adoptor of a 400-meter stretch along the Commonwealth Avenue. As an adoptor, PWPA will be responsible for the maintenance of the planted seedlings for three years.

Members of the PWPA in other regions of the country also participated in the GPH activity.

The nationwide GPH activity covered a total of 3,440-kilometer (km) of roads; the 2,177-km Pan-Philippine Highway (Laoag City through Cagayan Valley to Davao City), 439-km Manila North Road (Laoag City to Manila City) and 824-km West Nautical Highway (Batangas City to Zamboanga Sibugay) and also major thoroughfares in the country such as those in Baguio City and CAR, in Metro Manila and east-west roads in Mindanao.

The DENR led this ambitious GPH activity together with DPWH, DILG/PNP, DepEd, DND / AFP,

NLEX/SLEX, LGUs, corporate organizations and NGOs. The feat is expected to land in the Guinness Book of Records.

**As adoptor, PWPA will maintain planted seedlings for three years.**

**WoodStock**  
Bi-monthly publication of the  
**Philippine Wood Producers Association**

**EDITORIAL BOARD**  
Antonio C. Olizon, Chairman of the Board  
Fernando A. Lu, President  
L.D. Angeles, Managing Editor  
M. R. Vasquez, Newsletter Editor

**E-mail us at :**  
[pwpa@greendot.com.ph](mailto:pwpa@greendot.com.ph) or  
[philforest@greendot.com.ph](mailto:philforest@greendot.com.ph)  
for your comments, feedback  
or letters to the Editor

**MUST READ**

## **ALERT NOTICE**

The Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standards (DTI-BPS) and the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) alert all manufacturers, importers, distributors, dealers, wholesalers of plywood products to strictly adhere to the provisions, guidelines, terms and conditions of Republic Act (RA) 7394 (Consumer Act of the Philippines), RA 4109 (Standardization Law), Executive Order (EO) No. 913, Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 01:1997, DAO 05:2001 and DAO 02:2002, and to consistently comply with the requirements of Philippine National Standard (PNS) 196:2000.

The DTI-BPS, under its Product Certification Scheme, only allows plywood that have passed the tests and inspections based on the PNS, to be sold in the market. The plywood products that have passed the requirements of the PNS bear the Philippine Standard (PS) and the Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) marks, for locally-manufactured and imported products, respectively, to ensure product reliability and safety.

Manufacturers, importers, distributors, dealers, wholesalers and retailers found to be in possession and selling substandard plywood are liable under EO 913 and RA 7394 with a maximum fine of P300,000 per violation, without prejudice to the filing of criminal or civil actions against violators.

For clarifications, call DTI-BPS at 751-3130.

*This notice is in cooperation with the  
Philippine Wood Producers Association.*

**On PWPA's Program: Green Philippines**

**Watershed Rehabilitation Project Launched**

**T**he Watershed Rehabilitation Project of PWPA's Program: Green Philippines took off last July 15, 2006 at the Taal Lake shore of Tanauan City, Batangas.

The launching of the project started with the Secretary Angelo Reyes of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and his party as well as key officials and officers of participating organizations took the boat ride from the Municipality of Talisay to Tanauan City to see the lakeshore planting being undertaken by the local students and residents of Barangays Wawa, Gonzales and Bañadero in Tanauan City.

After the lakeshore tree planting, a ceremonial tree planting was done by Secretary Reyes and officials and officers of the participating organizations (partners) at the Tanauan School of Fisheries in Brgy. Ambulong, Tanauan City. The participants were welcomed by City Mayor Sonia Torres-Aquino followed by short messages rendered by the partners.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes, PWPA President Fernando Lu, Tanauan City Mayor Sonia Torres-Aquino, DepEd District Superintendent Elenita Bathan, Rotary Club of Alabang President Edwin Afzelius and Ms. Virginia Castillo, chairperson of the Rotary Anns of Bel-Air and I Do Club Foundation president, binding themselves to

continue the greening of Tanauan City.

Secretary Reyes gave the keynote speech as he congratulated the partners for their greening initiative. The program was concluded with a rite adopting Secretary Reyes as a son of Tanauan City.



Let's Green Tanauan City. PWPA EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr., officer In-charge of the Watershed Rehab Project plants a seedling at the Tanauan School of Fisheries School compound. Looking on (from L-R) PWPA Chair Antonio Olizon, DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes, Tanauan City Mayor Sonia Torres-Aquino, past President of I Do Club Foundation and Jamaica Consul General Miguel Guerero, PWPA Vice President Evaristo Narvaez, Jr. and Batangas Congresswoman Vicky Reyes. Earlier, local students and residents planted tree seedlings on the shore of Taal Lake in Tanauan City.

**Community Forestry Project Endorsed**

**D**ENR Region 3 Regional Executive Director Regidor de Leon favorably endorsed the application of the PWPA for a Community Forestry Project in Morong, Bataan last July 2006.

The project, one of the components of the PWPA's Program: Green Philippines, aims to demonstrate ways of rehabilitating and putting added value to an otherwise marginal or submarginal forestland and at the same time to improve the welfare of the community stakeholders concerned.

The proposed Bataan project intends to convert into productive state the open and denuded forestland through a combination of appropriate land uses. A detailed forestland use plan (FLUP), based on a scientific and holistic assessment of the prevailing bio-physical, social and economic factors, will guide the development of the project area. Lessons learned and experiences gained from the project will form the protocol for initiating similar projects in other areas in the country.

Based on the FLUP, the PWPA will establish tree plantations - for the production of fuelwood, timber, bamboo, fruits and ornamentals - and farms - for the raising of agricultural crops, animals and fowls. The area will also be used for research, cross-visits and a tourist destination.

Community forestry, in the form of CBFM or Upland Agroforestry Program, not only will generate livelihood and stop illegal logging in existing forest but also will promote a heightened awareness and appreciation by community people and society at large on the importance and value of forest and the environment.



## Olizon Lauds New Foresters

Philippine Wood Producers Association Chair Antonio Olizon addressed the new registered foresters during their Oath taking Ceremonies at the Sampaguita Hall of the Manila Hotel, Rizal Park, Manila last July 7, 2006.

In his keynote speech, he lauded the foresters as a rare breed of professionals, deeply concerned not only with the conservation and sustainable development of the forest and the development of the wood industry but also with the protection of the environment and the advancement of the welfare of society.

He said Filipino foresters have brought honor and dignity to their jobs and profession as they continue to make a real difference in the physical and social world. He added the reason why we have forest today is due to the dedicated work of foresters as he challenged the new foresters to continue the legacy of service with honor.

He urged the new foresters to carry on the task of conserving and managing the forest and protecting and enhancing the environment as their calling mandates.

He concluded by saying that without forest there would not be human beings for the forest is the cradle of life itself.

The event was organized by the Professional Regulation Commission Board of Foresters chaired by Forester Monina Uriarte with Foresters Jose Lorenzo and Gerardo Cabreros as members and the Society of Filipino Foresters with Forester Ricardo Umali as the national president.



Forestry Award. The PRC Board of Foresters led by its chairperson, Forester Monina Uriarte (third from the left) and the Society of Filipino Foresters led by its president Ricardo Umali (not in photo) award the plaque of recognition to PWPA Chairman Antonio Olizon (rightmost) for his contribution to the wood industry, sustainable forest management, and to fair global wood trade while Foresters Gerardo Cabreros and Jose Lorenzo, members of the Board of Foresters look on.

The oath-taking of the new foresters was led by Forester Ryan Vita of the UPLB-College of Forestry and Natural Resources who topped the licensure examination last June 2006.

## PWPA on NBN 4's Damayan

On August 24, 2006, PWPA Chair Antonio Olizon and President Fernando Lu were guests of the Damayan program in NBN Channel 4 hosted by Mr. William Thio.

In the program, President Lu introduced the PWPA and the activities it is undertaking.



Let's Support Green Philippines Highways. Mr. William Thio (left) of NBN 4's Damayan interviews PWPA Chair Antonio Olizon (center) and President Fernando Lu (right).

He said its members are responsible for the protection, maintenance and development of the forest areas awarded to them on a long-term agreement basis by the government.

Not only do they manage the natural forest on a sustainable basis and develop industrial tree plantation as sources of wood needed by the economy but also concern themselves with the welfare of the people in operations-affected communities by providing employment, livelihood and basic services.

PWPA members who are not in the forest resources management are engaged in wood products manufacturing.

Chair Olizon, on the other hand, expounded on the Green Philippines Highways (GPH) Project

being spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources whose launching will be on August 25, 2006.

He stressed that GPH is a different planting project because each area planted has an adoptor who will care for its maintenance and protection for three years.

He said that the GPH planting activity, preceded by the formation of human chain, will be simultaneously undertaken nationwide. He said that participants will be planting about 500,000 seedlings and saplings of various tree species and about 200,000 of these were donated by the PWPA.

Chair Olizon and President Lu invited all citizens of the country to support and participate in the Green Philippines Highways Project. (See related story on page 1)

## On Program: Green Philippines, Green Tanauan City, Green Philippines Highways

By Ferdie Lu

**"Whatever you do will seem insignificant, but it is very important to do it." - Gandhi**

**T**his quote continues to inspire the PWPA to vigorously pursue its share in the improvement of the environment.

The months of July and August were indeed very hectic as your officers were involved in several such activities during the period. Apart from the planning and implementation of the other aspects of the PWPA's own Project: Green Philippines, we were also very heavily involved in the Green Philippine Highways, the brainchild program of Secretary Angelo T. Reyes.

\*\*\*\*

After several coordination meetings, PWPA's watershed rehabilitation project activity was officially launched at the shore of Taal Lake on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Dubbed as Program: Green Philippines, Green Tanauan City, the project involved the planting of trees to rehabilitate the San Juan River and the lakefront in the city's vicinity. The city government, the DENR, the Rotary Club of Alabang, the I Do Club Foundation and the Rotary Anns of Bel-Air are cooperating with PWPA in this endeavor.

Secretary Reyes, clearly demonstrating his enthusiasm, arrived at the site an hour earlier than the designated assembly time. Sailing on a fishing boat rented by the PWPA, the Secretary together with the various project proponents viewed the simultaneous planting of more than 2,000 seedlings by hundreds of high school students. This was culminated by a short program at the Tanauan School of Fisheries and a ceremonial tree planting led by Secretary Reyes. Thereafter, a hearty lunch was served courtesy of the Rotary Club of Alabang and PWPA.

The kick-off ceremony was a success. **Kudos to the PWPA Watershed Rehabilitation Project headed by EVP Jun Keh for a launching job well done!**

\*\*\*\*

The Green Philippine Highways (or GPH) project spearheaded by Secretary Reyes went on full steam during the months of July and August. Finally, at exactly 10 o'clock A.M. on August 25th, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led the country in the nationwide simultaneous tree planting on major highways by shoveling soil over one of eight Saraca trees at Kilometer 0 in Luneta. This writer and Chairman Tony Olizon joined the President's party.

Other PWPA's officers were at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Former DENR Secretary

Vic Ramos, whose group planted in the same area and DENR-NCR Forester Rollie Malamog, In-Charge of the site planting, described the PWPA delegation as the most organized in that location.

\*\*\*\*

It was reported that about 700,000 tree seedlings were planted that day and of these, nearly 200,000 were donated by PWPA. Aside from the seedlings, we also provided tree guards, markers, signages and other logistical support. The PWPA was totally committed to the project. Your officers participated in the planning sessions and orientation meetings and joined Secretary Reyes in most of his regional sorties to promote the GPH. Chairman Tony Olizon and this writer also appeared on Channel 4 to enjoin people to be involved in the GPH.

\*\*\*\*

Secretary Reyes has repeatedly stated that the DENR alone cannot effectively care and protect the environment without the participation of all sectors of the society. Thus, he encouraged the conceptualization of the Green Army as both a movement and a coalition of concerned environmental stakeholders who want to take concerted, proactive action that can significantly enhance the environment and preserve biodiversity across the entire country. It is envisioned to be a non-partisan movement of the citizenry for the responsible stewardship of the environment.

For this purpose, the Secretary convened a group of stakeholders to constitute the nucleus of the Green Army Philippines Network Foundation, Inc. (GAPNFI), a non-government organization (NGO) that can organize and mobilize the Green Army as well as generate resources for its programs and advocacies.

The incorporators of GAPNFI are from the business, academe, civic and non-government organizations. It is headed by Francis Chua of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry as Chairman and Edgar O. Chua of Pilipinas Shell as President. The council of advisers includes Messrs. Nicasio Alcantara, Chairman of Petron; Jose Leviste, Jr., Chairman of Mirant (Phil.); Edison Coseteng; Jose Concepcion Jr. and Secretary Reyes.

\*\*\*\*

Your officers met several times with representatives of the Gawad Kalinga (GK) to explore possible areas of cooperation in some of GK-assisted communities. Initially, PWPA would assist in the planting of trees in the

(Continued on page 7)

**On Program: Green Philippines...**

*(Continued from page 6)*

general area wherein the proposed church will be constructed and around the tenement buildings at Smokey Mountains cascading to the development of a proposed park at the Baseco Compound, both in Manila.

After several postponements, we finally visited the GK-assisted Burog Aeta community in San Vicente, Bamban, Tarlac. PWPA is requested to assist in the establishment of a suitable tree plantation for the indigenous people residing in the area.

\*\*\*\*

In the light of the many projects that the Association is involved with, the Executive and the Finance committees have been constantly meeting to find ways and means to be able to sustain the various PWPA's reforestation commitments.

**We invite you, our fellow members, to be involved in this noble undertaking by sharing your time and resources.**

\*\*\*\*

Chairman Tony Olizon was the Guest Speaker at the Manila Hotel on July 7, 2006 on the occasion of the Oath Taking Ceremonies of new foresters. Tony inspired them by extolling the importance of their calling and citing many other activities where they can apply the knowledge that they have acquired in school. In recent years, the number of students enrolling in forestry courses has dwindled due to the reduction in the number of companies in the wood industry that usually hire foresters.

\*\*\*\*

We wish to congratulate the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) on the occasion of the inauguration and blessing of its new office at the Atlanta Center in Greenhills last July 21, 2006.

\*\*\*\*

The Forest Products Research and Development Foundation (FPRDF) was reorganized last August 2, 2006 at the 3M Innovation Center in Makati City where **our very own Edith I. Alcantara was elected Chairperson. Congratulations Edith!**

**PWPA Holds Workshop on Program: Green Philippines**

To set a direction for each of the different projects included in its Program: Green Philippines, the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) held a whole day workshop last August 10, 2006 at Manila Golf and Country Club, Makati City. In attendance were its directors, officers and technical staff together with resource persons from the DENR/FMB, Couples for Christ and PR consultants.

Initially tackled by the workshop participants were clarifications of the various issues concerning the wood requirement of the country and the role the wood industry has to play in the wood supply chain; the availability of areas for tree

*(Continued on page 10)*



Thoughts on Program: Green Philippines. (Clockwise from lower left) VP-director Alex Ong, Exec. Dir. Ding Angeles, FMB For. Alex Cheng, Chair Tony Olizon, VP Jun Narvaez, President Ferdie Lu, For. Rene de Rueda of Couples for Christ, PR Consultant Ben Tangco and Director Edith Alcantara.

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

	<b>Before</b> (July 3, 2006)	<b>Now</b> (August 7, 2006)		<b>Before</b> (July 3, 2006)	<b>Now</b> (August 7, 2006)
	(in Pesos/piece)			(in Pesos)	
3mm (1/8) plywood	214	216	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	727	707
4 mm (3/16) plywood	261	263	1/8 lawanit	157	151
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	286	292	3/16 lawanit	218	227
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	341	336	1/4 Hardiflex	326	351
10 mm (1/2) plywood	473	496			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	800	808			

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

## Forest, a Source of Life ...A Plea for Rationality

**T**he typhoon-triggered catastrophe of floods and landslides that hit southern Aurora and northern Quezon Provinces in December 2004 shocked the nation into realizing that forests need to be conserved and sustainably managed for their services and values. Many, including NGOS, legislators and policy makers, became concerned conservationists overnight and wanted to take the radical step of completely stopping forest harvesting activities, or logging, in the entire country! At first glance, this seemed an appropriate measure; however, this typical knee-jerk reaction is devoid of rational and scientific basis and, if it were implemented, would have proved to be a "cure that will make the patient worse."

Any activity, including logging, has some negative impacts, if done in the wrong way, in the wrong place, at the wrong time, and for the wrong reason. But it is undeniable that all economic activities incur some undesired effects on the environment and on people.

The government has not stopped air transportation just because some planes crashed and killed people on board and neither shipping curtailed just because some maritime disasters sent hapless passengers to their watery graves. Highway construction has not been stopped despite the fact that earthworks worsen soil erosion and siltation of rivers and lakes. It knows that to do so would make people and goods movement difficult and paralyze vital economic activities.

The lesson is clear, the government should not, on the spur of the moment, shut down an economic activity or a particular industry seemingly linked to a disaster just to be able to contain a widespread emotional outburst coming from so-called concerned environmentalists. To do so would not solve the problem, instead it would

only bring in a host of socio-economic problems.

Common sense dictates the government should allow economic activities, like timber harvesting, to continue provided serious steps are taken to investigate interlocking causes of a disaster so that proper measures can be taken to minimize their negative impacts or prevent calamities from recurring. This approach has been done in other countries, and it can certainly be done here. The "instant environmentalists" ought to calm down and listen to forestry scientists who have the appropriate solutions that unfortunately remained unimplemented for lack of government appreciation and support.

Everyone should realize that forests, like agricultural crops, start from planting or natural re-growth and over many years grow into a community of large trees or forests. When they mature, they may be harvested like any other economic crops or they may be left standing to protect watersheds, the sources of water for irrigation, hydropower or domestic use, and conserve biodiversity.

Thus, forests found in ecologically sensitive and vulnerable areas should be **preserved in their present sound state and should be saved from any form of man-made disturbances like kaingin-making or logging.** On the other hand, forests located in production areas **should be sustainably harvested for their economic benefits.** In short, **logging ban should be complete and absolute in "protection forests" as logging ban should not be applied in "production forests."**

Regulated harvesting in production forests which involves the cutting of only mature and overmature trees leads to the sustainability of benefits.

**By The Forest Scientific Community**

Managed in that manner, the forests can yield economic goods in perpetuity. This is what is called by forestry scientists as "Sustainable Forest Management." It is akin to withdrawing from a bank account only the interest earnings but not the principal amount.

Harvested trees in log forms are brought to the wood processing mills for conversion into lumber and other value-added products such as furniture, novelty items, and handicrafts, which are then sold to both the local and export markets.

In the light of the above considerations, **we the officers of the Forests and Natural Resources Research Society of the Philippines, Inc. (FORESPI) strongly support the move of government to impose total logging ban in selected areas, such as critical watersheds, high ecological risk areas, and other protected reserves as provided for under our laws and regulations.** On the other hand, we strongly urge the government to continue to **allow regulated harvesting operations or logging in production forest areas, including forest plantations, in both public and private lands** for the following reasons.

- The local forest-based industries are among the backbones of the Philippine economy. In 2003, the furniture industry alone earned US\$278 million or PhP15.6 billion from exports, and from the local market, PhP17.87 billion and PhP19.12 billion in 1999 and 2000, respectively.

**A total logging ban would kill this particular industry, throw out jobs of about 2 million workers that could worsen unemployment and poverty in the countryside.**



## Forest, a Source of Life ...

(Continued from page 8)

- Builders' woodworks are among the wood-based housing materials that earn dollars for the country. From 1996 to 2000, exportation of these products registered a 123% increase. In 2002, builders' woodworks ranked first among the construction materials exported, with a revenue of US\$ 93.3 million.

**Total logging ban would severely constrict the raw material supply of this important dollar earning industry.**

- Utility materials like wood poles, cross-arms, railway sleepers, piles, and anchor logs are vital to electric and telecommunication, transport, and construction systems. Government is bent in undertaking massive rural electrification projects, and in rehabilitating and modernizing our national railways.

**A total log ban will seriously hamper such efforts. Already, we import poles to meet the rising local demand.**

- The main sources of raw materials of these industries are the natural second growth forest and significantly, from forest plantations. Out of the 403,263 cu m total log production in 2002, 78% (314,293 cu m) came from tree plantations and 22% (88,791 cu m) from natural-growth forests.

**A total logging ban would severely affect the wood-based industries; unfairly deprive tree plantation investors of their harvest and regain their capital; discourage private sector participation in replanting the millions of hectares of denuded public land the government cannot reforest due to budget constraints.**

- Total logging ban will cancel the licenses of forestry companies, but it will not control or stop numerous small-scale illegal loggers whose destructive activities are difficult to police.

**In fact, total logging ban could usher in a faster rate of forest destruction as observed in areas where TLAs were recently cancelled.**

- Deprived of jobs, most displaced workers of cancelled logging companies have eventually turned into *kaingin* cultivators and illegal gatherers of forest products.

**At this point, these are the things that should be urgently undertaken.**

- First, forestry experts should identify specifically the 'wrong' and the 'right' areas to log. The 'wrong' areas are the protected forests, critical watersheds, and other high-risk zones. The 'right' areas are the plantation forests and natural forests in designated production forests and appropriate private lands that provide the sources of needed raw materials of the wood-based industries. More than identifying where these areas are, the said experts should be allowed to say when and how to do proper logging in the 'right' areas. We, members of the scientific community, are willing to serve as experts.

• For the 'wrong' areas, let us provide Protection. How? Almost all the imaginable policies intended to protect our forests have been formulated and enacted. Let us review their applicability and implement them, **correctly and honestly NOW!** The forest scientific community is not averse to a complete logging ban in them.

- For the national government: let it support professional foresters as stewards of the forests and other natural resources. Provide them with the basic necessities to have a decent life so they can implement the policies correctly and honestly. Arm them with the needed moral motivation, proper incentives, physical protection and modern equipment needed in order to perform their roles and responsibilities as guardians of the forests and natural resources.

- For our leaders in the national government: let them use the issue at hand and the heightened ecological awareness of the populace, in order to find ways on how we can collectively address it. Lip service is not enough, nor would it do any good. It is high time to put our acts together and work toward a common goal.

Our final appeal: let government **IMPLEMENT THE LOGGING BAN, BUT ONLY IN AREAS LIKE VITAL WATERSHEDS, BIODIVERSITY RESERVES, AND OTHER PROTECTED FORESTS AND HIGH-RISK ZONES! LET GOVERNMENT LIKEWISE CONTINUE TO ALLOW REGULATED HARVESTING IN PRODUCTION FORESTS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS.**

This is the only way to have a **STRONG REPUBLIC** and for Filipinos to enjoy our constitutional rights to justice, social equity, and a healthy and livable environment. We believe we owe that to ourselves and the next generations of Filipinos!

*1 Slightly abridged/edited from same titled article or position paper by the Forest and Natural Resources Research Society of the Philippines with headquarters at UP Los Baños. Ed.*

## On PWPA's Program: Green Philippines

### PWPA Holds ...

*(Continued from page 7)*

plantation development and the tenurial instruments appropriate therefor; and the relevance of existing policies to the general intention of developing tree plantation and managing natural forest.

The DENR provided available maps, statistics and list of available areas as well as tenurial instruments options for tree plantation development as reference of the workshop participants.

Workshop participants were divided into four groups corresponding to the four projects, namely: 1) Urban Greening (Mon Uy, Maila Vasquez and PR consultant Mike Marasigan); 2) Watershed Rehabilitation (Jun Keh, Alex Ong and Ed Dalangin); 3) Community Forestry (Ferdie Lu, Ding Angeles and PR consultant Joey Avellana); and 4) Industrial Tree Plantation (Tony Olizon, Stanley Tan and Couples for Christ Rene de Rueda). Each group was tasked by the facilitator, PR consultant Ben Tangco, to identify: 1) policy constraints and recommendations on how they can be overcome and 2) the extent of the individual project the Association will implement, including the logistics required for the next 5 years.

PWPA directors Edith Alcantara and Jun Narvaez as well as DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations Tessam Castillo and For. Alex Cheng from the Office of the FMB Director provided important insights and inputs into the early part of proceedings of the workshop, particularly on "sizing" of and sourcing of funds, for each project of the Program.

The workshop gave a clearer dimension and direction to each of the four projects under the Program: Green Philippines.

### PWPA in BASECO Urban Greening

**P**roviding BASECO residents with an area where they can gather together and enjoy the environment of trees and greeneries, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), Gawad Kalinga (GK) and other stakeholders agreed to convert the watery garbage dump site of BASECO into a mini-park.

Last July 21, 2006, an organizational meeting was called to discuss the tasks needed, assignment of responsibilities and phasing of development activities including their target dates in order to implement the plan.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the DENR-NCR, GK, Habitat, BASECO

village associations, Manila City Mayor's Office, AFP Engineering, Clean and Green Foundation, Philippine Lumber Merchants Association (PLMA) and the PWPA.

The agreements made during the meeting focused on the DENR-NCR providing stakeholders concerned with 1) a rough sketch of the proposed park area showing the road, chapel site, mangrove, and other related information; 2) a schedule of implementing activities to guide stakeholders when respective role(s) maybe timely played; and 3) the draft Memorandum of Understanding.

The initial role of PWPA in the project, as requested by RED Corazon Davis, is to supply 10 dumptruckloads of filling materials.

### PWPA in Smokey Mountain Urban Greening Project

**A**s a follow through to the launching of the Urban Greening Project held in Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila last June 30, 2006, Senior Forestry Specialist Edward Dalangin of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) held a meeting with Environment Committee of the Sambayanang Kristyano ng Muling Pagkabuhay chairman Anacleto Collado for the purpose of scheduling the installation of tree guards and the maintenance of the trees planted in the area during the launching.

The PWPA also provided 30 Indian tree seedlings to the National Housing Authority (NHA) through Engineer Juanito B. Coronel, In-charge of the Smokey Mountain Development Rehabilitation Project. The seedlings were immediately planted around the NHA building and the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) located in Smokey Mountain.

Continuous coordination with the DENR-NCR, the Gawad Kalinga and other stakeholders in the greening of the Smokey Mountain is being done for the project therein to succeed.

## APTA Benefits

A seminar on the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) was held last August 24, 2006 at New World Hotel, Makati City. The seminar discussed the institutional arrangements, the exchange of concessions and benefits of members within APTA.

Established in 1975, the APTA, previously known as the Bangkok Agreement is Asia's oldest preferential trade agreement among Asia-Pacific developing economies. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) has served as the secretariat of the Agreement since its inception.

APTA seeks to promote regional trade through the exchange of mutually agreed concessions by member countries.

Its current members are Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. (It is AFTA or Asian Free Trade Agreement for Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Cambodia, Lao-PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. Ed.)

With some of the major economies in the region participating in APTA, it now more than ever has the potential to become a major preferential trade agreement in Asia and the Pacific.

It is the only preferential trade agreement linking East and South Asia, including the two most populous countries and fastest growing economies in the world – China and India.

Further, with membership open to all developing economies of UNESCAP, the potential for member-

ship expansion of the Agreement is clearly unequalled by any other agreement. Indeed, the framework for a region-wide trade agreement has always existed within APTA.

*The agreement could therefore develop into a mechanism to promote regional cooperation on trade issues, and perhaps also in related areas such as investment.* The intention is to develop the Agreement into a full-fledged regional trade liberalization initiative and economic cooperation, which will be a building bloc of the multilateral trading system.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Meeting of APTA will soon be held in Kolkata, India. The preliminary agreed dates are 13-14 November 2006 with an expert group meeting on 12 November 2006 wherein the Philippines is invited to participate in it.

## On PWPA's Program: Green Philippines

### PWPA Donates Tree Guards to GPH Project

Aside from the donation of seedlings and other logistical support to the Green Philippines Highways, the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) also donated 500 sets of tree guards to the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) as requested by CAR Regional Executive Director (RED) Samuel Peñafiel.

The tree guards are for installation around the seedlings/saplings to be planted along selected main thoroughfares of the CAR, including Baguio City during the Green Philippine Highways nationwide, simultaneous tree planting on August 25, 2006.

The Deed of Donation was signed by RED Samuel Peñafiel for the DENR and for PWPA, VP-director Florio M. Buñag who is also the president of the Furniture Group, Inc. whose operations are located in Apayao, CAR.

### PWPA Surveys IP Area For Community Forestry Project

Last August 17, 2006, the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) together with representatives of the Gawad Kalinga (GK) went to So. Burog, Bamban, Tarlac to visit the GK-developed village inside the indigenous people (IP) ancestral domain area.

The visit aims to observe how the PWPA, GK and the Aeta community could develop cooperation to establish a community forestry project in the area.

The tribal leaders of the community gave an informal orientation on how they were able to have a GK village, the

activities they are presently engaged in, and their desire to have a community project as a source of livelihood.

PWPA Chair Tony Olizon, President Ferdie Lu and Foresters Ding Angeles, Maila Vasquez and Ed Dalangin together with DENR Philip Suzara and GK Jose Mari Oquiñena and Pido Domondon made the visit to the community.

PWPA and GK agreed to discuss further the nature of cooperation to establish the community forestry project in the area covered by certificate of ancestral domain claim.

**04 July 2006**

Plywood Council Meeting

**07 July 2006**

Oath Taking of New Registered Foresters  
Sampaguita Hall, Manila Hotel  
Rizal Park, Manila

**11 July 2006**

Coordination Meeting on Program: Green Philippines, Green  
Tanauan City  
PWPA Office, Makati City

**12 July 2006**

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors  
PWPA Office, Makati City

**15 July 2006**

Launching of Program: Green Philippines, Green Tanauan City  
Tanauan City

**25 July 2006**

Greening Pan Philippine Highways Meeting  
Celebrity Sports Complex, Quezon City

**31 July 2006**

MOA Signing and Briefing on Green Philippine Highways (GPH)  
DENR-NCR, Quezon City

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

**02-04 August 2006**

Trip of Secretary Angelo T Reyes to Zamboanga and Butuan with  
Chair Antonio C. Olizon (Part of GPH Roadshows)

**03 August 2006**

FPRDI Foundation Organizational Meeting  
3M Innovation Center, Bangkal, Makati City

**07 August 2006**

Dinner with members of the Green Army Network Foundation  
Gloria Maris, Greenhills

**09 August 2006**

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

**10 August 2006**

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

**24 August 2006**

Interview of Chair A. C. Olizon and Pres. F. A. Lu at Damayan  
NBN-4, Quezon City

**25 August 2006**

Launching of Green Philippines Highways  
Ground Zero, Luneta Park  
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

Stamp

(Sticker Label)

**Manufacturer of:**

URES\* (Urea Formaldehyde Adhesives)  
PHENORES\* (Phenol Formaldehyde Adhesives)

Phenol Resorcinol Adhesives  
Hot Melt Adhesives  
Polyvinyl Acetate Adhesives

**Plants:**

Jasaan, Misamis Oriental: TEL. (08822) 760-227, (08822) 760-262, (08822) 760-309  
Pasig City: TEL (63 2) 671-9842 to 53; FAX. (63 2) 671-2525

**Depots:**

Sasa, Davao City: TEL. (082) 234-1243  
Recodo, Zamboanga City: TEL. (062) 991-3028

**Serving the Philippine Wood Industry Since 1958**