



PWPA Holds 55th Annual Meet *Sets New Direction for the Wood Industry*

About 60 members of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) attended the 55th Annual Membership Meeting to chart the direction the PWPA shall be taking in order to put more stability to the wood industry.

Meeting at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City on September 1, 2006, the members agreed to support and pursue the new direction, presented by PWPA Chairman Antonio Olizon, whose main features will focus on emphasizing industry and corporate social responsibility and on taking leadership in initiating innovative, constructive wood industry policies. (see related story on page 4)

Lending their presence in the Annual Meeting were the Union of Myanmar ambassador, HE U Thaug Tun and his Counsellor Khin Sandar and Attaché Myint Myint Htay; the chairman of both the Federation of Philippine Industries and Philippines Product Safety and Quality Foundation, Mr. Carlos, Jr.; Environment and Natural Resources assistant



Charting a new Direction. (L-R) Treasurer-director Stanley Tan, Myanmar Ambassador Thaug Tun, Chair Antonio Olizon, Director Edith Alcantara, Molawin Awardee Ms. Priscilla Florentino, President Fernando Lu, EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr., Federation of Philippine Industries Chair Carlos Meneleo, Jr. and VP-director Evaristo Narvaez, Jr.

secretary, Forester Marcial Amaro, Jr.; the director of the Forest Products Research and Development Institute, Dr. Florence Soriano; and the key officers of companies that sponsored the Annual Meeting.

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Reyes Commends PWPA

Rapid response to clean Metro Manila streets of debris left by Typhoon Milenyo

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) was lauded by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Angelo Reyes for its prompt response to the call-of-the-occasion cleaning of Metro Manila streets of the trees felled and debris littered by the September 28 typhoon Milenyo.

Through his letter to VP-director Ramon Uy dated October 6, 2006, Secretary Reyes acknowledged the support and cooperation of the PWPA and its member-companies who were

directly involved in the buck-sawing and removal of typhoon-felled trees that, together with collapsed billboards, clogged the major thoroughfares of Metro Manila.

“Had it not been to these members instantaneous and unselfish efforts, the government’s resolve to clean and free Metro Manila and nearby provinces from debris and unwarranted structures that have caused enormous traffic grid locks and untold miseries to a lot of (us) could have yet remained as a dream”, Secretary Reyes wrote.

On September 29, 2006 on a call from the DENR headquarters, the PWPA, through Director Uy, immediately dispatched 7 power-chainsaw crews that spearheaded the drive to clean Metro Manila streets of fallen trees and other debris.

The chainsaw-crews came from: Consolidated Wood Products; Great Wood Sawmill; FPJJ Marketing; Atlanta Wood Works; World Wood Trading; Extensive Wood Processing; and Capitol Sawmill.

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PWPA Holds 55th ...

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The Myanmar embassy had an exhibit showing the commercial hardwoods of the country as the Ambassador made a short presentation about his country's forestry and wood processing and ecotourism industries.

A highlight of the Annual Meeting was the presentation of Molawin Award to Ms. Priscilla Florentino, erstwhile vice president for marketing of the C. Alcantara & Sons, Inc. and the prime mover of the Plywood Council. The Molawin is the most prestigious award within the gift of PWPA and is rarely bestowed since 1971 (see related story on page 5).

During the business part of the Annual Meeting, President Fernando Lu presented the 2005 PWPA Annual Report highlighting the overall performance of the global and local wood industry - both characterized as mix if not flat - and on the efforts the PWPA undertook in steering the wood industry across policy and regulatory uncertainties.

Following the report of the President, the members ratified all acts of the Board of Directors during the past year as they unanimously re-elected all incumbent directors.

Before the Annual Meeting ended, two billiard cue sticks from Filipino world champions, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, were auctioned as more than sixty (60) items, such as TVs, DVDs, radios, and other products from sponsor-companies were raffled.

The members and officers of the PWPA congratulated Director Ramon Uy, the chairman of Steering Committee, for a very successful and memorable Annual Meeting.

Reyes Commends...

(Continued from page 1)

On October 2, 2006, the PWPA was invited by Secretary Reyes to make a report on its cleaning efforts. Directors Uy and Alfonso Keh, Jr. rendered the report before the DENR officials and the officers of the Green Army Philippines Network Foundation.

The members of the Board of Directors in their meeting on October 18, 2006 passed Resolutions lauding the leadership of Director Uy and expressing gratitude to abovementioned members of the PWPA for having done a good cleaning job in Metro Manila.

PWPA Calls on DENR USEC Kyamko

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) directors and officers recently made a courtesy call to DENR undersecretary for National Anti-Environment Crime Task Force General Roy Kyamko (Ret.) to introduce themselves and the PWPA to him and also, to brief him on issues facing the wood industry and to express the PWPA's support to and cooperation with his task force in combating illegal logging.



Combating Illegal Logging. (L-R) VP-director Alex Ong, EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr., VP-treasurer Stanley Tan, Chair Antonio Olizon, Undersecretary Roy Kyamko, President Fernando Lu, VP-director Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., VP-director Robert Kua and VP-director Ramon Uy.

The PWPA apprised the undersecretary on the economic effects of illegally sourced logs/lumber.

The PWPA said the establishment of new wood processing plants with no clear supply of raw materials and in questionable locations; the repeated use (recycling) of the certificates of timber/lumber origin (CTO/CLO) are causes of continuing concern to legitimate businesses.

Usec Kyamko informed the PWPA he is very aware of these issues from his military experiences

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Glimpse during the Annual Meeting. Clockwise - Director Edith Alcantara welcomes Myanmar Ambassador Thaug Tun while Chair Antonio Olizon looks on; Some PWPA members and guests in a huddle with Treasurer-director Stanley Tan (Right); VP-director Ramon Uy explaining the auction procedures for the cue sticks once used by world billiard champions Bata Reyes and Django Bustamante; VP-director Uy and Executive Director Leonardo Angeles inspect the billiard cue sticks while Chair Olizon opens the auction; Forest Products Research and Development Institute Director Florence Soriano suggests close cooperation with PWPA in R & D; VP-director Charlie Liu relates the success story of MATIMCO, saying quality is the key growth; RI Chemical, Inc. and MATIMCO, Inc. are the major sponsors of the Meeting.

Government to Revive Caraga Industrial Timber Plantation Project

by Katherine Andraneda

The government is set to revive a "lost" billion-dollar forestry investment involving the setting up of an industrial timber plantation with a total area of 110,790 hectares in the Caraga region.

During the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki last month, President Arroyo approved the revival of the government's co-production agreement with Shannalyne Inc. and the governments of Finland and New Zealand and its launching this December, in time for the scheduled Manila visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark.

The revival of the Shannalyne project is said to be among Mrs. Arroyo's accomplishments in the Asia-Europe Meeting.

Former Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the Shannalyne project slept for around five years for "unknown reasons" from the time he signed the co-production agreement on Dec. 8, 2001 with New Zealand Ambassador Terry Baker and Finnish Ambassador Raimo Anttola signing the agreement on behalf of their respective governments, while Chew Teck Tan signed for Shannalyne.

The industrial timber plantation will

be established in public forest lands within the Caraga Forest Plantation Corridor, which was established under DENR Administrative Order No. 99-13.

Wood-processing facilities will subsequently be put up within the special economic zone to be known as the Shannalyne Technological and Environmental Park, which was created and declared as such under Proclamation No. 17 issued by Mrs. Arroyo on March 12, 2001.

Alvarez, presidential adviser on agrarian reform, said the project will involve at least \$1 billion in investments to the Philippines.

"The co-production agreement will launch a sustainable agro-forest program designed by Finland's world-famous consulting firm, Yakko Poyry, which has already undertaken millions of hectares of agro-forestry in Brazil and even in Finland," Alvarez said.

"The forest-based industry is a major contributor to the national economy, thus the development or utilization of the country's forest lands and/or forest resources is necessary to accelerate it," Alvarez said.

Under the terms and conditions of the agreement, Shannalyne would

plant only in open and denuded lands, brushlands, and in all areas with forest containing a basal area per hectare of five square meters or less.

In addition, the company is supposed to follow an annual planting schedule, as prescribed in its CDMP, and should plant its total "plantable area" in not more than 12 years.

Shannalyne is said to have an established track record recognized by the governments of New Zealand and Finland.

Alvarez recalled that when negotiations for the project began in 1997, the Finnish and New Zealand governments requested that all transactions to be above-board to ensure the project's transparency.

"The presence of these governments - both intolerant of any graft - guarantees the integrity of the contract and ensures the success of the reforestation program which will bring in much-needed investments," he said.

Abridged from the same titled article that appeared in The Philippine Star, Nation Section on November 1, 2006. www.philstar.com. Ed.

PWPA Sets New Directions

Chair Antonio Olizon, during the 55th Annual Meeting of members of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) held on September 1, 2006 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City, unveiled the new direction PWPA will pursue to put more stability to, and further enhance the image of the wood industry.

The new direction will focus and emphasize on industry and corporate social responsibility and on leadership initiatives on innovative and constructive wood industry policies.

The new direction, a paradigm shift, and aimed at making the PWPA be more pro-active than reactive in industry and social issues affecting the industry, met the unanimous approval of the PWPA members.

He said social responsibility can be done in one's operation area (the company's CSR) or in priority environment and natural resources programs (the PWPA's CSR).

As an example of the company's CSR, he enumerated what Sirawai Plywood & Lumber Co. (SPLC) and

Surigao Development Corp. (SUDECOR) where they established schools, place of worship and clinics in their areas.

Aside from these, they are also initiating skills and livelihood development with local government units (LGUs) and national government agencies (NGAs), and also provide employment opportunities to the communities in the area.

PWPA, on the other hand, is partnering with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other stakeholders to implement programs which will show

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Florentino Honored with Molawin Award

Ms. Priscilla Florentino, erstwhile vice president for marketing of the C. Alcantara & Sons, Inc. (ALSONS), was recognized by the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) with a Molawin Award.

Precy, as she is fondly called by friends and colleagues alike, has served the PWPA thru her able chairmanship of the Plywood Council for 9 years (1995-2004).

As the chairperson of the Plywood Council, she also headed the Philippine delegation to the annual meetings of the Asean Panel Products Federation (APPF).

She initiated the close working relationship with the Bureau of Products Standards, Department of Trade and Industry, as a part of the effort to stop the proliferation of sub-standard plywood in the local market.

She encouraged the active participation of the PWPA in the technical affairs of the Federation of Philippines Industries to have access to the information on the imported plywood

shipments and was appointed as the technical plywood expert in its import monitoring committee/team.

Precy joined the Alcantara Group in 1973. She started as the head of the Export & Documentation Department of the Company; then as executive assistant to the SVP/Marketing Manager and ultimately, as its Vice President for Marketing.

As an officer of the Company, she was responsible for the development of the export market - specifically to the UK, Continental Europe and USA; worked closely with a sister company, MADE, Inc., in servicing the domestic market; played a very important part in the development of the "green" product of Alcantara – **ECOWOOD**; also responsible for Alsons ISO certification and FSC Chain of Custody certification

In 1998, ALSONS was the recipient of the first Product Standards (PS) License issued under the new DTI Standards, the Alignment of a company quality system with ISO.

With her strong marketing skills, wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience from her professional work at ALSONS, the recommendation for her to chair the Plywood Council was warmly welcomed by the PWPA.

With her ability to motivate people, the Council was able to act as a single unit when the situation called for it; i.e. implement the SRP program between late 2001 and early 2002.



Molawin Awardee. Ms. Priscilla M. Florentino (second from right) receives the Molawin Award from PWPA Chairman, Antonio C. Olizon (center) while EVP Alfonso C. Keh, Jr. (extreme right), (L-R) Director Edith I. Alcantara and President Fernando A. Lu look on.

PWPA Sets...

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the Association's share in the development of our environment such as the urban greening, watershed rehab, community forestry and ITP projects.

With regards to the leadership initiatives of the Association will be closely coordinating with the DENR and other agencies in anticipating and resolving issues which affect the industry.

PWPA will also work for the creation of the forestry industry development board, the passage of the sustainable forest management bill and creating even playing field for the competitiveness of the wood industry.

As a long term policy, Chair Olizon said the Association is planning of measures of incentives for and financing of the wood industry development; ITP roadshows to attract local and foreign investors; the removal of constraints to ITP investment and development; and the implementation of PWPA's Green Philippines Program.

The PWPA leadership requested for the support, cooperation and trust of the whole membership of the Association in pursuing the new direction the PWPA will be taking in the years to come.

PWPA Calls on ...

(Continued from page 2)

and his taskforce is already coming up with solutions to these issues.

The courtesy call was attended by Chair Antonio Olizon, President Fernando Lu, EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr., VP-directors Florio Buñag, Robert Kua, Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., Alex Ong, Stanley Tan, Ramon Uy, Director Aristeo Puyat, Executive Director Leonardo Angeles, Forestry & Environment Adviser Jose Lorenzo and Forestry and Environment Coordinator Maila Vasquez as well as Forester Bernardo Sinues of SUDECOR and Mssrs. Jose Valenzuela, Richmond and Richard Ng of LUZMATIM.

Of Typhoon Milenyo, Annual Membership Meeting, Green Army, Green Philippine Highways, etc.

By Ferdie Lu

“It is time for us to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever, the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it.”

– Vince Lombardi (renowned American Football Coach)

Super Typhoon Milenyo wrought destruction upon Luzon particularly in Metro Manila last September 28th. Responding equally fast to the quick reaction of Secretary Reyes to the catastrophe, EVP Jun Keh, VP Mon Uy and Exec. Director Ding Angeles joined the emergency meeting of the Green Army Philippine Network Foundation Inc. (Green Army) called by the Secretary and immediately offered assistance from the PWPA in the affected areas. The trio represented this writer and Chairman Tony Olizon who were out-of-the country when the disaster struck.

Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, in his letter to VP for Lumber Mon Uy dated October 6th, commended the PWPA particularly its members owning wood processing plants in Metro Manila for the assistance rendered in the clearing of uprooted trees and felled branches caused by Typhoon Milenyo.

We salute you Gentlemen for a job well done! The performances of EVP Jun Keh and VP Mon Uy are clear indications that PWPA will be in good hands under future leaders.

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The entire officialdom and membership of the PWPA condole with the families of the casualties and other victims of “Milenyo”.

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VP Mon Uy did a splendid job in organizing the 55th Annual Membership Meeting last September 1st at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City. The change in the format of the Annual Meeting was well received. Members and guests were happy to go home with many raffle prizes.

We express gratitude to Resins Inc., Matimco, Inc. and the other benefactors who generously contributed to the affair. Special mention goes to Director Putch Puyat for donating the billiard cue sticks used by his prodigies Efren “Bata” Reyes and Francisco “Django” Bustamante, both world champions many times, that were auctioned off to generate funds for the Association.

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The PWPA bestowed the MOLAWIN AWARD upon Ms. Priscilla M. Florentino for her invaluable service and outstanding performance as former chairperson of the Plywood Council and permanent head of PWPA delegation to APPF. Again, congratulations Precy!

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The members of the Board of Directors was finally able to pay a courtesy call to Usec Roy V. Kyamko, Deputy Head of the National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force

(NAECTAF). The Undersecretary has been very busy in Mindanao in the past months coordinating efforts for the Green Philippine Highways project and at the same time, running after violators of DENR rules and regulations.

A presentation about the PWPA was made and a candid exchange of ideas ensued. Usec Kyamko recognized the plight of the PWPA amidst the availability of illegally sourced lumber and plywood competing with legitimate production of its members. He welcomed the comments of the Board and also made suggestions to the Association.

xxx

DENR National Capital Region headed by RED Cora Davis paid tribute to the cooperators and participants of the successful launching of Green Philippine Highways Project in Metro Manila. Unfortunately, some of the adoptors particularly smaller organizations, are not financially prepared to take on the task of maintaining or caring for the adopted trees over a period of three years.

To further ensure the success of the project, it is highly recommended that periodic audits on the survival of the planted trees be conducted especially after every occurrence of devastating typhoons, like Typhoon Milenyo.

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As one of the representatives of the Green Army, this writer joined the dialogue between the DENR and the Metro Manila Mayors League held at the Manila Hotel on October 16th. The Department’s programs on the rehabilitation of the Pasig River, the efficient collection and disposition of solid wastes and the reduction of emission were presented for adoption and support of the Metro Manila Mayors.

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Usec Kyamko recognized the plight...amidst the availability of illegally sourced lumber and plywood competing with legitimate production of its members.

Of Typhoon Milenyo, Annual Membership Meeting ...

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The dialogue meeting was marred by the accusation of the head of the hospital association alleging that personnel of the DENR extorted money from its members. And sadly, the press focused on it instead on the various worthy DENR environmental strategies.

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Representatives from the Global Forestry Services (GFS) briefed the members of the Board of Directors on wood certification and its benefit on timber trade. Timber exports to industrialized countries are given a premium once the chain of custody is established. GFS also provides arrangements and match ups for Carbon Trading. Funds from the trading of carbon credits would be a good source of financing tree plantations development.

xxx

Plans are on the way for the revival of the PWPA tree nursery at the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) grounds in Muntinlupa City. Established in 1990, the nursery utilized inmates with light sentences and trained them on nursery work in preparation for their release from prison and subsequent employment. Apart from the allowance, they were also given certificates of competence nursery operations.

Many local government units in the National Capital Region as well as civic groups and homeowner's associations were recipients of free seedlings from the PWPA nursery. The nursery was terminated when an incoming BuCor director refused to renew the memorandum of agreement covering its operations. The invitation of RED Cora Davis of the DENR-NCR for its revival is most welcomed.

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PWPA Briefed on Certification & Carbon Trading

The members of the Board of Directors, during its regular meeting on October 18, 2006, were briefed by guests from the Global Forestry Services (GFS) – Mssrs. Bill Maynard, Jean-Philippe Chavanon and Carlos Fuentespina, Jr. – on the importance of wood certification to global timber trade.

GFS offers services along wood certification and arranging CDM (carbon trading) projects.

GFS, established in 2004 by experienced teams of forest and timber industry auditors in SE Asia, aims to provide solutions to assist in the demonstration that products are responsibly sourced and traceable back to origin by giving clients clear guidance on how to address the needs of the supply chain from the forest stump to the shop floor.

GFS works with all sections of the supply chain, from forest managers, processors, manufacturers and retailers to attain the highest standards.

GFS has developed a series of tailored programs and can deliver support on all aspects of demonstrating legality of material to improving sustainable forest management. It also provides the ground based technical assistance to the forest and timber industry through full forest and chain of custody certification under FSC, MTCC, or through the WWF Global Forest and Trade Network system that allow members to demonstrate compliance to a stepwise approach to full certification.

Currently the Global Forestry Services Group consists of GFS Inc, GFS (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd, GFS Thailand Pte Ltd. There are also ongoing plans for affiliate companies in Brazil Indonesia, China and Guyana in 2005.

Interested parties may visit their website: www.gfsinc.biz

Average Plywood and Substitute Prices Survey in NCR

	Before (October 9, 2006) (in Pesos/piece)	Now (November 4, 2006)		Before (October 9, 2006) (in Pesos/piece)	Now (November 4, 2006)
3mm (1/8) plywood	206	214	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	726	746
4 mm (3/16) plywood	258	273	1/8 lawanit	161	163
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	285	287	3/16 lawanit	235	212
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	333	345	1/4 Hardiflex	334	341
10 mm (1/2) plywood	491	505			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	777	829			

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

IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

With worldwide energy demands on the rise, a predicted shortage of fossil fuels, and the continued threat of global warming, it's high time to check out the alternatives.

Number-crunching

The US Energy Information Administration estimates oil supplies will "peak" either in 2037 or 2047, depending on usage rates. The oil companies estimate that there are 40 years or so of conventional oil reserves left, and about 70 for gas.

"Oil reserves to last 40 years or so; gas, about 70 years. Alternative energy sources, however, meet less than 1% of today's world's energy needs."

In fact the total demand for energy worldwide has risen by around 15% during this century so far. So instead of trying to scrape the last dregs out of the barrel, shouldn't we be investing in alternatives?

Alternative energy sources, however, currently meet less than 1% of the world's energy needs.

Money or mouth?

Luckily, there is a growing awareness that something must be done. China has vowed to up their use of renewable energy to 10% by 2010, and President George Bush acknowledged that the US, which consumes 25% of the world's energy, has "a serious problem: we are addicted to oil".

Shell has invested \$ 1 billion in the last six years. "We have more than doubled our investment level since 2002 to help meet growing demand for

energy, diversify oil and gas supplies, reduce environmental impacts of fossil fuels, and develop alternatives," says CEO Jeroen van der Veer.

BP is investing \$ 8 billion in alternative energy over the next decade and BP's Group Executive Director Iain Conn has said: "As one of the world's leading energy companies, we fully accept our responsibility to be part of the solution and not part of the problem."

Wind energy

The European Union's goal is to capture 10% of all of its electricity from wind by 2030. Denmark pioneered the technology and currently wind energy contributes to 12% of the total electric energy generated. In northern Germany, it accounts for over 16%.

As of December 2005, US wind-power capacity was 9,149 megawatts, enough to supply energy to 2.3 million homes, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

Wind power is the fastest-growing energy source in the world, according to Worldwatch Institute, but is very dependent on weather conditions.

Solar power

This technology uses the power of the sun to generate electricity.

The solar market has grown by 30% per year since 2004.

"It's one of easiest and cleanest forms of sustainable energy to generate," says Steven Pleging, CEO of Ecostream International. "With solar panels covering an area the size of 40 foot-ball pitches, the project will generate enough electricity for 6,000 homes," he added.

Ethanol

One of many types of biofuels, ethanol is typically made from corn or sugar cane and is usually mixed and used in gasoline engines.

by Carla Sapsford

Advocates praise its clean-burning properties but critics oppose the making of ethanol from foodstuffs, and the fact it takes more energy to make the fuel than to burn it. And ethanol does seem to produce as many nitrous oxides as gasoline, although less carbon monoxide.

"From crops, clean burning but takes more energy to make it than to burn it"

However, in Brazil, ethanol has proved so effective that the country is now completely self-reliant in terms of energy as about 44% of all non-diesel fuel is ethanol.

Biodiesel

Essentially a "clean", bio-diesel can be made from plant, including soya bean and canola oil, after which it is mixed with petroleum-based diesel. A recent US study concluded that biodiesel could reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 44%.

"Biodiesel can be made from plant ... and could reduce CO emissions by 44%"

Surprisingly, biodiesel is also proving to be a winning formula on the race track. The first racing car to ever use biodiesel (in this case using Shell V-Power Diesel), came first in the 2006 Le Mans 24 Hours race.

Hydrogen

Abundant and above all, clean, hydrogen is being touted as a serious alternative to fossil fuels. To "harvest" hydrogen, a process called electrolysis split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen. In a fuel cell, the hydrogen recombines with the oxygen, a process which generates power and only has water as a by-product.

BP has joined up with General Electric to develop hydrogen power

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IT'S NOT EASY ...

plants, and to look into the potential of hydrogen cars in Australia and Europe.

Shell Hydrogen is now planning to build the world's largest hydrogen-fuelled public transportation system in Rotterdam. Country Chairman of Shell in the Netherlands, Rein Willems, explains: "We will be showcasing hydrogen as a reliable, safe and sustainable fuel which contributes to the reduction of local air pollution and strengthens economic growth." It has already built hydrogen fueling stations in Japan, China and the US. Prime obstacles to hydrogen fuel are price of the technology plus storage difficulties.

The way forward

Despite all of the options, according to the International Energy Agency, we're still thinking with our wallets. Until alternative energy becomes as price-competitive as traditional electricity sources it's not likely to catch on.

Environmental groups such as the US-based Sierra Club and Greenpeace say what would really help is to work on energy efficiency in cars, for instance, that can have a huge impact on greenhouse gases in a short period of time.

In Europe, there has been an estimated 50% reduction in vehicle emissions in the last decade.

For the long term, most industry experts as well as environmentalists agree that more government policies promoting the wider use of alternative fuels are needed. And, without effective distribution networks, producing fuels that will actually be affordable and accessible for consumers will remain literally a "pipe dream".

*****Abridged from same titled article that appeared from the October 2006 issue of Holland Herald, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines' in-flight magazine. Ed.**

Neri Eases Fears of Oil Fund Mess

(In the eye of the storm: Philippine Forestry Corp.)

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri recently rebuked the just-resigned president of the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) for hinting at an irregularity in the Malacañang request for the transfer of P500 million fund from the cash-rich corporation.

Neri said the money would be used as seed money for the creation of the Philippine Forestry Corp., which is tasked with propagation and promotion of alternative sources of fuel like jatropha (locally called tuba-tuba).

Eduardo Mañalac, who has quit as PNOC head said he told Neri that he should first provide for the legal justification for the turnover of the P500 million before the company could approve the release of the amount.

But Neri said he made the fund request based on a directive from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who is spearheading the development of locally available renewable fuel sources.

Neri, also NEDA chief said the fund would also be used for the purchase of compressed natural gas buses.

"The PNOC has plenty of money, and so we originally proposed that P1 billion be given by the company for the development of alternative fuel sources. But the President approved only P500 million," Neri told Palace newsmen.

Neri said it was wrong for Mañalac to harbor apprehension that the money will be misused.

PWPA Attends GP3 Conference

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), represented by Chairman Antonio Olizon, was among the attendees of the pioneering workshop on Green Productivity, Green Purchasing for a Green Philippines (GP3) Conference workshop held at the Hotel Dusit in Makati City on October 23 to 24, 2006.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the keynote speaker during the affair.

Clean and Green Foundation, a non-government organization, chaired by former First Lady Amelita Ramos proudly expressed that the GP3 conference "aims to share the competencies and the impetus to get the program running with the government as lead in the green productivity and green procurement." Green productivity is defined as manufacturing using environment-responsive materials and processes and is increasingly being practiced by the world's biggest manufacturers.

The two-day conference-workshop exhibit was a joint project of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and administered by the Clean and Green Foundation.

International speakers John Polak of Global Ecolabelling Network in Canada, Asia Pacific's foremost expert on Green Productivity Kun-Mon Lee and American trainer Scott Case, among others, are experts who shared their knowledge on environmentally responsive processes and practices, with former DENR Secretary Bebet Gozun who served as moderator during the workshop.

Topics discussed were market trends and pressures, product improvement through life cycle assessment and design for environment processes, green procurement and market positioning through ecolabelling.

UPDATE ON PROGRAM: GREEN PHILIPPINES

Watershed Rehab Project in Tanauan City Revisited

On September 11, 2006, PWPA met with Tanauan City representative and its Barangay Chairmen of areas covered by the Green Tanauan City Project.

PWPA extended the Association's gratitude to the City Government and the Brgy. Chairmen for the support they have given to the Program: Green Philippines, and Green Tanauan City Project. They were informed that the launching is a start of the partnership among the stakeholders and added that the project maybe expanded and may include the San Juan River which also needs rehabilitation.

He also informed them of the results of the assessment made by the PWPA and requested them to do some replanting as replacement for the dead seedlings and to plant the seedlings that remained unplanted during the launching program. He indicated where at the shore, planting should be made and there will be assessment to determine which barangay has the best planted area to which a price will be given.

The Brgy. Chairmen expressed their support to the project and reported that they have already started replanting and also planting using the seedlings left behind during the launching.

Said stakeholders agreed

on the following: a) the Brgy. Chairmen together with a representative of the Office of the Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources (OAENR) will assess the outplanted seedlings, other requirements such as organic fertilizer, garden soil, etc. and how many seedlings/species are still needed; b) they will also map out areas where additional planting can be made i.e. portion of Brgy. Maria Paz; c) the barangays will be responsible for the maintenance and protection of their respective areas; d) the OAENR shall be responsible for the disposition of seedlings from the nursery; and e) the OAENR shall also be responsible for the close coordination with the local schools.

Another schedule was set to visit the planting sites and the San Juan River for purposes of continuing/improving the present project along the shore of Lake Taal and for planning the rehabilitation of the said river.

Agriculturist Engracia Platon represented the City Government of Tanauan while Bañadero Brgy. Chair Bernardo Tapia and Gonzales Brgy. Chair Pacencio Landicho represented their respective Barangays. Foresters Leonardo Angeles, Maila Vasquez and Edward Dalangin represented the PWPA.

Re-establishing Munti Nursery

The PWPA informed the DENR-NCR about the nursery established by the PWPA between 1990-1996 and said that the PWPA will look into the invitation of DENR-NCR to re-establish the nursery at the same site to support the seedling requirements for the projects of the PWPA and the DENR.

The DENR-NCR, like other DENR regions, is tasked to provide ½ million seedlings every year for the Philippine National Highways and similar projects; thus, its interest in partnering with PWPA and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) on the nursery project if not in the same area, perhaps on other adjacent area.

A visit in the former nursery area was made like October 27, 2006 to verify the availability of the area. Observation showed that the area is

still available for nursery operations except for some structures that were already built in the area. However, per coordination of DENR with BuCor, the area can be extended to cover said areas.

After the visit, the next step to be made will be the coordination between DENR-NCR RED Corazon Davis and BuCor Director Vicente Vinarao.

The nursery will be stocked with forest tree species, fruit trees and ornamentals.

For. Ali Bari, DENR-NCR Regional Technical Director for Forestry joined the visit to the nursery area. He is accompanied by Foresters Barry Calderon, Rollie Malamug, Ed Calzeta, Rolly Acosta and Rolly Laroya. PWPA is represented by Foresters Ding Angeles and Maila Vasquez.



Go Green Tanauan City. PWPA Executive Director Leonardo Angeles (extreme left) discusses the roles of each stakeholders in the implementation of the project while (l-r) PWPA Forestry & Environment Coordinator Maila Vasquez, City Agriculturist Engracia Platon, Brgy. Gonzales chairman Pacencio Landicho and Bañadero chairman Bernardo Tapia listen.

UPDATE ON CBFM

The forum cum workshop, sponsored by the DENR, Food & Agriculture Organization in partnership with USAID, Eco Gov, German Technical Cooperation and the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources was held last September 20-22, 2006 at the Traders Hotel in Manila.

With the objectives of initiating a participatory process to develop the second decade CBFM Strategic Plan engaging key multi-sectoral stakeholders; providing a venue for sharing successful CBFM related initiatives of POs and concluding the first decade experience of the Philippine CBFM Program putting into the context the current national scenario and priorities which will be applied to the second decade CBFM Strategic Plan, the was attended by participants from the different sectors of the society such as the government (DENR, NPC, LGU), private (PWPA), financing institutions (JICA, GTZ, USAID), NGOs, academe (UPLB-CFNR, FDC) and Peoples' Organizations (POs).

The workshop presented the highlights of the accomplishments and experiences of the CBFM for the past decade and similarly with the April 20-22, 2006 CBFM Workshop at the IIRR, Silang Cavite, five themes were identified by the organizers such as a) tenure and resource use; b) livelihood and enterprise; c) conservation and protection; d) institutional linkages and partnerships; e) institutional strengthening for PO self

governance. For each theme, several discussants shared their experiences.

A Stakeholder analysis and formulation of strategies were conducted as input to the second CBFM Strategic Plan which will be developed through multi-sector consultations.

The Forum invited several reactors like former DENR Secretary and Father of CBFM, Sec. Victor Ramos, Former DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations, Usec Renato de Rueda and now DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations, Usec Tessam Castillo, among others, who gave some insights and recommendations that needs to be taken into consideration such as: a) the stabilization of policies through localizing policy decisions at the local level; b) provision of livelihood opportunities which will reduce the pressure to the forest; c) empower the POs by making them involved in all aspects of planning; and d) re-invent the DENR from being regulatory agency to a facilitator due the sector's changing needs and landscape.

DENR Secretary Reyes, also graced the occasion and in his speech during the closing program, encourage the POs to continue their efforts in the development, maintenance and protection of the forest areas for the DENR cannot manage the whole area alone. He stressed that getting together is already a start, working together, an accomplishment and staying together, a success.

Amaro is New Assistant Secretary for Forestry; Andin, New Forestry Bureau Head

Director Marcial Amaro, Jr., has been designated by DENR secretary Angelo Reyes as officer-in-charge Assistant Secretary for Forestry.



DENR Special Order No. 2006-634 dated August 1, 2006, announced Amaro's new role as Assistant Secretary for Forestry of the DENR.

Amaro holds a BS degree in Forestry (1981) from UP Los Baños; graduate diploma in Agricultural Economics (1989) from the University of New England, Australia; and Master in Public Management with honors (1999) from the Development Academy of the Philippines. He trained on Remote Sensing at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand (1983); Change Management at the Asian Management Institute, also in Thailand (2003); and cleaner technologies and practices in various institutes and companies in Sweden (2003).

Amaro received DENR's Distinguished Service Award in 1997. He placed 2nd in the 1981 Foresters Board Examination and in the Career Executive Board Management Aptitude Test Battery in 1997.

A registered professional forester, Amaro is married to Forester Maria Fe Amaro nee Bautista and has two children.



Assistant Director Neria Andin was designated In-Charge of the Forestry Management Bureau upon Director Marcial Amaro, Jr.'s designation as In-Charge of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Forestry.

Andin holds a BS degree in Forestry (1975) from Central Mindanao University; Masters in Forest Biological Science, major in Forest Entomology and minor Forest Ecology (1983) from UP Los Baños and a candidate for Ph.D., also from UP Los Baños.

Andin received DENR Outstanding Performance Award in 1998. She is the topnotcher in the 1980 Foresters Board Examination and ranked 4 as a Career Executive Service Officer in 1998.

A registered professional forester, Andin is married to Mariano Andin and has four children.

The PWPA congratulates Foresters Marcial Amaro, Jr. and Neria Andin for their much deserved promotions at the DENR!

01 September 2006

Annual Membership Meeting
Manila Polo Club, Makati City

11 September 2006

Meeting re: Green Tanauan City
City Hall, Tanauan City

19 September 2006

Courtesy Call to USEC Roy Kyamko
RED's Lounge, DENR, Quezon City
Regular meeting of Plywood Council

20-22 September 2006

National CBFM Strategic Plan Update: A Consultative Workshop
Traders Hotel, Manila

20 September 2006

Board Mtg. of GAPNF
Gloria Maris, Greenhills

02 October 2006

NDCC Meeting
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

02 October 2006

PPSQF Board Meeting
BPS Conf. Rm, Makati, City

06 October 2006

A salute to the Green Philippine Highways
Occupational & Health Safety Center, QC

06 October 2006

DTI National Coordinating Council consultative dialogue with manufacturers re: price demand & supply situation
CWTRG Hall Trade & Industry Hall, Makati City
BPS Conf. Rm, Makati, City

06 October 2006

ITP Study Meeting
PWPA Boardroom

10 October 2006

Plywood Council Meeting
Annapolis Seafood Restaurant, Annapolis Greenhills

20 October 2006

Meeting with DENR-NCR re: Muntinlupa Nursery
DENR-NCR, North Avenue, QC

23-24 October 2006

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