



## PWPA Directors Held Workshop To Be More Responsive to Members and Stakeholders

The Board of Directors of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), in a whole-day workshop held on July 7, 2007 at the serene setting of the Palms Country Club in Muntinlupa City, has drawn-up

a strategic framework of policy and programs designed to match PWPA's "best effort intentions with performance."

The workshop discussed ways to raise the financial resources of the PWPA in ways acceptable to its

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**Keeping up with Times.** The directors of the Board of PWPA at the Workshop on July 7, 2007 at the Palms Country Club, Muntinlupa City. From left: executive director L. D. Angeles, directors R. W. Kua, E. M. Narvaez, Jr., C. H. Liu, R. Y. Uy, director V. A. Consunji, and A. C. Keh, Jr., chairman A. C. Olizon and president F. A. Lu, directors E. I. Alcantara, A. P. Ong, M. A. Ng, S. Q. Tan, W. C. Yao and F. M. Buñag.

## ATIENZA, New Environment & Natural Resources Secretary

*"I accept the challenge because I know that in our environment and our God-given natural resources lie the future of our people's welfare and our nation,"* Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) secretary Jose L. Atienza, Jr. said in his acceptance speech during the turn-over ceremonies at the ENR department on August 1, 2007 in Quezon City.

Secretary Jose Livioko Atienza, Jr., or simply Lito Atienza, is the former mayor of the City of Manila. He was born in 1941 in San Andres Bukid, Manila, four months before the outbreak of World War II.



His father was a distinguished public servant to three Philippine presidents.

He stepped down as mayor of Manila last June 30, 2007, after serving a consecutive three-year three-term limit for local government executives. His administration could be best described as the phase of urban renewal for the Philippines' capital.

He took up his primary and secondary education at the Ateneo de Manila University and completed a bachelor's degree in Architecture at the University of Sto. Thomas. His interest and degree served as

useful in renewing the City of Manila, which has fallen to

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PWPA Directors Held ...

(Continued from page 1)

members and the kinds of "basic and bonding-related" services to its members and image-enhancing activities. Additionally, the workshop revisited the capability and capacity of the PWPA juxtaposed with the prevailing situation and the anticipated changes in the environment (SWOT); and also attuned its vision and missions with the dynamics of the influencing environment.

The workshop attained a near perfect attendance because they agreed beforehand to impose stiff fines to any absent and/or tardy directors.

Following the directions set by the steering committee composed of chair VP-director Charlie Liu and members VP-directors Stanley Tan, Ramon Uy and Wellington Yao, the workshop participants divided themselves into two groups to tackle similar issues and tasks; i.e. revisit the vision and missions of the Association, make SWOT analysis, and identify flagship programs and review revenue and expenditures template.

After the workshop, the participants presented and collated their outputs to be handled by various committees:

1. A committee chaired by director Edith Alcantara to review the PWPA's vision and missions;
2. A committee chaired by Treasurer-director Tan to handle a further review of the agreements on the revised revenue and expenditure template.
3. Other committees to take charge and develop the details of the different identified flagship programs.

PWPA Plan 777

The directors called the flagship program as the Plan 777 consisting of objectives, strategies, time frame and members of the committees.

The committees will detail the strategies how each programs will be implemented.

ATIENZA, New Environment...

(Continued from page 1)

decay over years of unmanaged growth in population and the lack of a directed urban planning and community development.

Atienza started his political career in 1968 when he organized the Democratic Youth Movement and was a survivor of the tragic Plaza Miranda bombing in 1971.

During the Martial Law rule, Atienza was arrested twice for exposing human rights abuses under the dictatorship regime of President Ferdinand Marcos. He remained with the opposition even at the cost of constant threat to his life for opposing Marcos.

Atienza was first elected as a member of Parliament representing the then at-large congressional district of Manila (consisting of Paco, Pandacan, San Andres Bukid, Sta. Ana and Sta. Mesa) until the People Power Revolution of 1986.

President Corazon Aquino appointed Atienza as the general manager of the National Housing Authority in 1988 where he promoted low-cost housing for teachers and policemen, among others.

With the then former Manila police general Alfredo Lim running for mayor and Atienza for vice-mayor in Manila, the tandem won the election. The duo was re-elected in 1995. When Lim ran for president of the Philippines in 1998, Atienza was

elected mayor of Manila and was re-elected in 2001 and again, finally in 2004.

Atienza's leadership style can be described into three aspects: (1) social and community development – where he focused on improving the welfare of senior citizens and of children, especially the abandoned; (2) better living conditions by improving government services and facilities; and (3) simplifying the bureaucracy in the City of Manila.

In his almost forty years of political career, Atienza has (1) established in 1976 social development projects such as the "Mahal Ko si Lolo, Mahal Ko si Lola" (I Love My Grandfather, I Love My Grandmother) Foundation, a model for today's Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA); (2) founded in 1984 the "Kababaihan ng Maynila," (The Women of Manila), a women's livelihood organization; established in 1992 the "Home for the Angels," a child care center for abandoned and abused infants; and (3) implemented the "Buhayin ang Maynila" (Revive Manila) program, renovating most of Manila's decaying public facilities such as lighting and improving the sidewalk by the Manila Bay along Roxas Boulevard, among others.

Atienza is married to the lovely Ma. Evelina Atienza nee Ilagan. They are proud parents of socially-conscious and -active children who are professionals.

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## DENR endorsed Creation of PTIDB

**D**epartment of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Angelo Reyes endorsed to Malacañang on July 2007 the proposed Executive Order for the creation of the Philippine Timber Industries Development Board (PTIDB).

The Board is to be a multi-sectoral, recommendatory body composed of government and private stakeholders concerned with the development of the timber-based industries. It would recommend an integrated policy framework and long-term strategies to promote the development of said industries.

With the guidance of the Board, the timber-based industries - the timber-processing, furniture-making, and other downstream wood industries - would be able to fulfill the intentions of, and public welfare expectations from, the provisions of the Constitution that: (1) the State shall provide for the promotion of industrialization and full employment through industries that will make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and (2) the State recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector, encourages private enterprise, and provides incentives to needed investments.



**Partners in Development.** PWPA chair Antonio Olizon (second from right) receives from DENR secretary Angelo Reyes (second from left) a copy of the proposed executive order creating the PTIDB endorsed to the Office of the President as DENR undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio and FMB director Romeo Acosta flank them.

The Board's creation was first proposed in a Resolution of the Philippine Forestry Development Forum held last June 2-3, 2005 at the Asian Development Bank. The Resolution was

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## Update on Threatened Species

**T**he Philippine Plant Conservation Committee (PPCC) convened a special meeting on July 11, 2007 to update stakeholders on the proposed amendments to Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2007-01 and the preparation for a national forum wherein a policy paper on the economic value and pricing of commercially important plant species would be presented.

It maybe recalled that DAO 2007-01 otherwise known as "Establishing the Habitat List of Threatened Philippine Plants and Their Categories," has alarmed the wood industry because most of the important commercial tree species being utilized by it has been listed as critically endangered, endangered and/or vulnerable and presuma-

bly are being banned from cutting or harvesting.

Dr. Antonio Manila informed the meeting that his office, the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), has drafted an amendment to the said DAO. He also said that the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) has met with PAWB director Mundita Lim and it was also informed about the said amendment.

Executive director L. D. Angeles, who also represented the PWPA together with forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez, explained to the meeting the apprehension of the PWPA and its reasons for the need to amend the DAO as contained in its petition letter to DENR secretary Angelo Reyes and its subsequent audience with him and director Lim.

PAWB assistant director Manuel

Bravo, acting chair of the meeting, summarized the agreements reached:

- the amendment to the DAO, to be endorsed for the approval of the Secretary, will be the deletion of Section 7 and the exemption from the cutting ban of holders of permits or agreements;
- the review and revision of the list of threatened plants will be made without waiting for the prescribed three-year period; and
- the expansion of the membership of the Committee to include other stakeholders.

DAO 2007-01 was formulated by the PPCC created by a DENR Special Order No. 2003-32 in relation to RA No. 9147 otherwise known as the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001."



## PWPA Commits 4 M Seedlings for Trees For Life Project

**F**ollowing the symbolic launching of the Trees for Life: 20 million Seedlings for Planting Project, spearheaded by the Department Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Green Army Foundation (GAF) last June 5, 2007 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay City, was the

Tree Adoption Ceremonies graced by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on July 18, 2007 at the La Mesa Dam Eco Park. President Arroyo and DENR secretary Angelo Reyes accepted the commitments of various groups and individuals to plant and nurture tree seedlings in designated areas throughout the country. "Adoption papers" for the number of seedlings/saplings were handed by the adopters to President Arroyo.

to Fr. Satur Neri, Audie Angchangco, and other green martyrs who gave their lives to protect.

The Project aims to initiate a massive reforestation of denuded watersheds, depleted mangrove areas, and logged-over upland forest areas all over the Philippines. It will require a massive cooperative efforts of local communities, environmentalists, the youth, religious and academic groups, and the business sector working side-by-side with the DENR's regional, provincial, and community environmental officers.

With chair Olizon during the symbolic launching were EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr. and executive director L. D. Angeles and at the La Mesa Dam ceremonies were chair Olizon, president Fernando Lu, directors Manuel Ng, Stanley Tan and Ramon Uy, executive director L. D. Angeles, office manager Regino Serafico, forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez, office staffs Aurea Mira, Benjamin Bereña and Floren Andres as well as Richard Ng of LUZMATIM.



**Support for Trees for Life Project.** PWPA chair Antonio Olizon (right) submits to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (second from right) the PWPA's declaration of support to the Trees for Life Project as DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes (second from left) and GAF chairman Francis Chua (extreme left) looks on.

Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) chair Antonio Olizon handed to the President the document of the Association's support committing to plant and nurture 3.5 million seedlings in the respective TLA and IFMA areas of its members and to donate 1/2 million seedlings more to surrounding communities, or a total of 4 million seedlings to this year's activity of the program. These are over and on top of the seedlings planted or to be planted under their reforestation obligation during the period.

The program included a tribute

## Tribute to President Ramon Magsaysay

**T**he Green Army Foundation (GAF) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with the Mother Earth Philippines and Artists for the Environment commemorated the centenary birth of President Ramon Magsaysay on August 20, 2007 at Blue Ridge A, Quezon City with Magsaysay's children, former Senator Ramon Jr. and Milagros Magsaysay-Valenzuela as special guests, by the symbolic launching for the planting of 100,000 tree seedlings.

Accordingly, GAF has gathered about 100,000 persons first-named

"Ramons" to plant 100,000 saplings in different parts of the country beginning on August 31, 2007, Magsaysay's birthday and will end on March 17, 2008, the 51st anniversary of Magsaysay's death.

The trees, to be named Ramon Magsaysay Centennial Trees, will be planted across the country, particularly in Mount Pinatubo and Mount Manunggal, places that held some significance for Magsaysay.

Mt. Pinatubo was the name of the presidential plane that crashed on Mt. Manunggal in Cebu on March 17, 1957, in which Magsaysay and 25 others were killed.

"The planet is in bad shape. And only people participation can help heal it. I don't know of any public servant better associated with love of people than Ramon Magsaysay," Odette Alcantara of Mother Earth said, explaining the idea of paying tribute to Magsaysay, among all the Philippine presidents.

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), through its president, Fernando Lu, joined the tree planting activities at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on August 31, 2007. PWPA also contributed fire tree seedlings used during the tree planting activities.

## DENR Endorsed...

*(Continued from page 3)*

adopted by Malacañang on June 25, 2007 to form part of the basis for the undertakings of the Government through the DENR, for the forest and the forestry sector.

At present, the government policies, programs and plans that impact on the timber-based industries span the separate mandates of various government agencies, such as those concerning environment and natural resources management, trade and industry, finance and taxation, investments promotion, science and technology.

The proposed Executive Order was the output of the multi-sectoral body that included representatives from the gov-

ernment agencies, pertinent timber industries, and other stakeholders.

Under the proposed Executive Order, the membership of the Board will be composed of the secretary of Environment and Natural Resources who will take the lead role together with the secretaries of the departments of Trade and Industry, Finance, Science and Technology, Local Government, the director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority, the presidents of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, the Society of Filipino Foresters and the Phil. Forestry Education Network, Inc., the chairmen of the Philippine Wood Producers Association, the Chamber of Furniture Industry of the Philippines, the National Consumer

Affairs Council and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the director of the Forest Development Center at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños.

The multi-sectoral nature of the Board will ensure the proper coordination of all government policies, plans, and programs on the timber industries, specifically in addressing the basic requirements of the industries: namely, raw material sustainability and security, manufacturing efficiency and value-adding, and market competitiveness enabling them to effectively contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

(The proposed executive order could be accessed at [www.pwpa.org.ph](http://www.pwpa.org.ph))

## Private Sector in Sustainable Upland Development

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued last July 30, 2007 Executive Order No. 606, otherwise known as, "Pursuing Sustainable Upland Development (SUD) Anchoring on Food, Wood and Non-Wood Security and Economic Productivity and Providing the Mechanisms for its Implementation."

The executive order emphasizes the need for a sustainable approach to the development of the natural environment through effective governance and improved delivery of basic services and to pursue a paradigm shift or refocus to ensure sustainable development and livelihood in the countryside.

Though adopting the community-based forest management strategy, the operationalization of the SUD is anchored and guided by the principles of co-management, convergence and participatory governance.

The executive order and its implementing regulations open the door of opportunity for the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), a key stakeholders, to pursue its role in helping the

development and management of uplands through the principles of co-management and convergence.

PWPA could assist in the identification and recommendation of policy reforms and initiatives for strengthening the programs in the uplands.

Together with the national government agencies, local government units, communities and other stakeholders, PWPA can also assist in the enhancement and coordination of activities with private sector groups, donor agencies and other relevant external bodies.

The PWPA, through its members concerned, would be able to participate in enhancing the productivity of the forestland through industrial tree plantation and the protection and conservation of its resources.

The PWPA members concerned, being experts in the establishment of tree plantations, could share their expertise and experiences on the establishment and development of the same with other interested stakeholders.

A DA, DAR, DENR, DILG and LMP joint memorandum circular 2007-02

released on August 30, 2007 provides the rules and guidelines for implementing EO 606.

(Executive Order No. 606 could be accessed at [www.pwpa.org.ph](http://www.pwpa.org.ph))



**Planning for the Upland.** Sustainable development of natural resources and livelihood for the people are the goals.

## Welcoming DENR Secretary Atienza, Thanking Erstwhile DENR Secretary Reyes, Tribute to Former President Ramon Magsaysay and Others

By **Ferdie Lu**

**“It is a mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time.”**

- *Sir Winston Churchill*

The PWPA warmly welcomes former Manila Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr. as the new Secretary of the DENR effective August 1, 2007. Secretary Atienza is the 16th DENR secretary and the sixth under the Arroyo Administration.

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During the turnover, Secretary Lito Atienza declared that he intends to stay on up to the end of PGMA's term. That was very encouraging to hear, considering that except for the term of former Secretary Factoran, the average tenure of a DENR secretary was only 18 months.

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Over the years, there were changes in policies every time there was a change of leadership at the DENR. It would really be a boon to the environment and the natural resources sector to have a DENR head who can be in office for as long as the term of the president of the country.

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The term of erstwhile DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes albeit short, was highlighted by remarkable accomplishments. There was last year's Green Philippine Highways Project where people from all walks of life were mobilized to conduct simultaneous planting of more than 700,000 seedlings along about 4,000 kilometers of highway from Aparri to Jolo. Not only did the project bring

together multi-sectoral groups to work for the environment but it also made it to the Guinness Book of World Records.

And there is this year's Trees for Life Program, which was launched on Environment Day last June 5. It's just too bad that on July 18, 2007, the very day that various groups and individuals signified their intention to plant and nurture 20 million seedlings at a Tree Adoption ceremony at La Mesa Eco Park attended by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself, a cabinet revamp was announced moving Secretary Reyes to the Department of Energy.

The various non-government groups and other tree adoptors now doubt whether the program can still be undertaken with the same intensity and fervor now that Secretary Reyes is no longer with the DENR.

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Another landmark achievement during the term of Secretary Reyes is the endorsement by the DENR of the creation of the Philippine Timber Industries Development Board (PTIB) to Malacañang. It may be recalled that the establishment of the PTIB was one of the resolutions of the Philippine Forestry Development Forum held in June 3, 2005. This was finally adopted by Malacañang on June 25, 2007 as a major government thrust in the forestry sector.

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During the term of Secretary Reyes, he saw to it that the DENR policies were tuned to protect the businesses of legitimate wood producers. Thus, the PWPA held a very personal and sentimental testimonial dinner for him. Secretary Angie is among the handful of former DENR leaders feted by our association.

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As a tribute to mark the 100th birth anniversary of former President Ramon

Magsaysay, the Green Army Foundation together with the Mother Earth Philippines, the DENR and Artists for the Environment launched the planting of 100,000 centennial saplings by an equal number of personalities named "Ramons" in various places across the Philippines that are significant to the late president.

The program was kicked-off at 5 o'clock A.M. on August 31, 2007 at Camp Aguinaldo with former Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr. as guest of honor. The PWPA is assisting this project with donations of planting materials.

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We congratulate Directors Charlie Liu, Stanley Tan, Wellington Yao and Ramon Uy for organizing the very successful whole day planning workshop of the PWPA at the Palms Country Club last July 7, 2007. The output, dubbed as Plan 777, aims to strengthen the PWPA and make it more responsive to its members and stakeholders.

To mark the importance of the activity, Secretary Reyes, accompanied by Usec Manny Gerochi and FMB Director Romy Acosta, joined the directors of the Board after the workshop to discuss important issues concerning the wood industry.

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Please offer a moment of prayer for the eternal repose of the souls of Mrs. Amparo Lorenzo and Mrs. Mary Anne Sy-Kap, wife and grandmother of Joe Lorenzo and Charlie Liu, respectively. Let us also thank the Lord for saving Forester Rene de Rueda from a tragic vehicular accident. Although terribly shaken, Rene was unscathed when a truck hit the pick-up he was driving. The vehicle, owned by Chairman Tony Olizon, was a total wreck.



**PWPA Joined FPI's 16th Annual General Assembly**

**I**n celebration of the 16th Annual General Assembly of the Federation of Philippine Industries, Inc. (FPI), held on August 13, 2007 at the Intercon Hotel, Makati City, the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), a bonafide member of the FPI, sent a delegate to join and witness its annual gathering.

In this year's gathering, FPI conveyed the message that Philippine-made products are world class in quality, price affordable and prompt availability, and affirmative role of FPI in the fulfillment of its partnership with the government in strengthening the economy of the nation.

Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is the guest of honor and keynote speaker of the affair, commended FPI in its relentless drive in cooperation with the government, against smuggling. She acknowledged FPI as the champion of the Industry giving efforts to its anti-smuggling activity, which complements the government's policy agenda on: a) tax collection and revenue generation; b) survival and sustainability of domestic industries; and c) the protection of labor in context to employment generation.

The assembly was attended by about 450 delegates of top executives representing local manufacturers/producers composed of 37 industry association and 70 corporate members. The members of the PWPA delegation were chair Antonio Olizon, president Fernando Lu, VP-directors Evaristo Narvaez, Jr. and Ramon Uy, executive director L. D. Angeles and LUZMATIM's Richard and Raymond Ng.

**Regulations on Lumber Trading Assessed**

**P**hilippine Wood Producer Association's (PWPA) VP for Lumber and director Ramon Uy with executive director L. D. Angeles attended a consultative meeting last August 30, 2007 at the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, regarding the enforcement of regulations on lumber trading.

The meeting was called by the FMB due to a complaint referred to it by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) about the purported undersized lumber being sold in the market.

The meeting arrived at a conclusion that the issue on purported undersized lumber might have been caused by the familiarity of user/consumer with the English System of measurement of lumber when manufacturers, at least many of them, now use the Metric System of measurement in sizing lumber.

The Metrification Law or PS No. 187 was issued in 1973 and its national deadline for full implementation was January 1, 1983.

The meeting was of the consensus that labeling/sizing and invoicing of lumber should follow the metric system. Another consultation-meeting will be called among DENR, DTI, PWPA, Forest Products Research and Development Institute, Chamber of Furniture Industry of the Philippines, and the consumer group to work on the mechanics of standardizing sizes of lumber using the metric system of measurement.

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

	<b>Before</b> (July 16, 2007) (in Pesos/piece)	<b>Now</b> (August 27, 2007)		<b>Before</b> (July 16, 2007) (in Pesos/piece)	<b>Now</b> (August 27, 2007) (in Pesos/piece)
3mm (1/8) plywood	228	218	18 mm (3/4) plywood	749	734
4 mm (3/16) plywood	267	265	1/8 lawanit	172	160
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	282	282	3/16 lawanit	250	243
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	334	331	1/4 Hardiflex	363	349
10 mm (1/2) plywood	476	530			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	790	808			

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

# PWPA Directors Held...

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## Meeting with DENR

After the workshop, the directors met with DENR secretary Angelo Reyes together with undersecretary Manuel Gerochi and FMB director Romy Acosta and discussed the following concerns:

- Early establishment of the Philippine Timber Industries Development Board (PTIB);
- Implications of DAO 2007-01 (Threatened Plant Species) to the industry and the need to amend it;
- Develop more industrial tree plantation areas like in the Timber Corridor and to move forward possible New Zealand investment in ITP and transit wood processing in the Philippines;
- Need to rationalize establishment of new wood processing mills (instead of the lifting of the moratorium of new wood processing plants); and
- Strengthening the PWPA.



**The directors of the Board at work during the workshop on July 7, 2007 at the Palms Country Club, Muntinlupa City.**



## PWPA Committees Met

**A**fter the successful Workshop of the directors of the Board last July 7, 2007 at the Palms Country Club, Muntinlupa City, the members of the Finance Committee chaired by director-treasurer Stanley Tan met at the PWPA office on July 23, 2007 to revisit/review the workshop's discussions and agreements-in-principle pertaining to the PWPA's financial status, membership and assessment rates, budget and control, among others.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors the following:

1. Loan from the directors is not necessary because the projected cash flow can still cover the operational expenses, in particular;
2. Impose the current Board-approved and membership-ratified dues and fees assessment (BOD Resolution 2006-12) to all members concerned, including IFMA holders with annual allowable cut in natural and plantation forests;
3. Rescind BOD Resolution dated January 12, 2000 on "mills on same compound" category and subject such additional mills under the proposed rates of dues and/or assessment but at a lower amount;

4. Members share for donations/contributions on issues affecting the industry as follows:

If national issue:

IFMA/TLA 70%

Plywood 20%

Sawmill 10%

If regional issue all members in the region shall be responsible

5. Invite/accept qualified applicants for membership in PWPA (and "police" them afterwards, like all members).

The meeting was also attended by directors Alfonso Keh, Jr., Manuel Ng, Ramon Uy, executive director L. D. Angeles, office manager Regino Serafico and forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez.

**S**imilarly, the members of the Steering Committee for the PWPA 56th Annual General Assembly met at the PWPA office on August 22, 2007 together with Chair Antonio Olizon to discuss the preparation for the annual meeting of the Association.

The committee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors the following:

1. Theme: PWPA Your Partners in the Environment and Economy;
2. Venue is Manila Polo or Manila Golf Club;

3. Objectives will be threefold - a) generate members' cooperation in attaining the organizations membership's goals and camaraderie; b) enhance the PWPA relationship with the government, especially the DENR; and c) generate additional income for the organization's operations;

4. Tentative dates: October 19, 25 or 26, 2007;

5. Guest speaker will be DENR secretary Jose L. Atienza, Jr.;

6. Time starts at 4:00 – 8:00 PM.

The Committee also will recommend that there will be sponsorship: a presenter of the event, major and minor sponsors. Aside from this, tickets, at least two per member-company, will be considered as sold. Entertainment during dinner was also considered.

The committee agreed that invitations and solicitation letter will be sent out once schedule of the guest speaker, Secretary Atienza, is confirmed.

The meeting was also attended by co-chairs directors Charlie Liu, Ramon Uy, Tan, executive director L. D. Angeles, office manager Regino Serafico and forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez.



**The Events Master Planners and Financial Wizards of PWPA.** (left - right) Directors Charlie Liu, Stanley Tan, Mon Uy, Willy Yao, Manoy Ng, Jun Keh and Alex Ong. May PWPA prosper!

## A Testimonial Dinner for an Outgoing DENR Secretary

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) led by its chairman and president, Antonio Olizon and Fernando Lu, respectively, hosted a testimonial dinner to outgoing Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Angelo Reyes last August 16, 2007 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Chair Olizon, in behalf of the PWPA directors, officers and staff, de-

livered a message thanking secretary Reyes for being one of the strengths and pillars of the wood industry. He said that in his administration, the industry were able to see an ally who will protect the interests of legitimate wood producers. He also said that he [Reyes] made it possible that the industry can stand and talk with the local government units and other agencies with pride and honor. Ending his message, he said that the staff has prepared something for him, not professionally done but a labor of love.

A video presentation showing the different interactions of the PWPA with him, from the first time PWPA met with him, the different programs and activities shared and joined by both parties, up to his turn-over ceremonies to incoming DENR secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. was shown to him with his favorite song "what a wonderful world" as a background.

Secretary Reyes was awed and speechless when he was requested to make a response. He

said that his wife should have seen the moment because it really shows that he still has friends even after he left DENR. He said that in most cases, there are many friends who came when you enter an organization but will be gone when you left it. He said, further, that it is his job to put things in order and that is what he did when he sat as the DENR chief.

In closing, he rendered two songs including his favorite "what a wonderful world" and requested some of PWPA directors to also sing. Director Victor Consunji and Forester Rene de Rueda submitted to his request.

The testimonial dinner was attended by chairman emeritus Antonio Bernas, VP-directors Evaristo Narvaez Jr., Robert Kua, Alex Ong and Ramon Uy, directors Victor Consunji, Manuel Ng and Aristeo Puyat, executive director Ding Angeles, DENR undersecretary Tessam Castillo, Ms. Priscilla Arias, Prime Beruna, Major Raul Fernandez, For. Renato de Rueda, PWPA secretariat was also present during the dinner.

Reyes was appointed as the new secretary of the Department of Energy.



**Gratitude from PWPA.** PWPA chair Antonio Olizon (left) and president Fernando Lu (right) presents to erstwhile DENR and now DOE Secretary Angelo Reyes a framed newspaper ad signed by different environment groups thanking him for his exceptional service.



**Photo files** - (clockwise): Secretary A. Reyes flanked by PWPA chair A. Olizon and president F. Lu, DENR Usec T. Castillo and VP-director R. Kua; Chair Olizon delivering PWPA's message; Secretary Reyes giving his response; president Lu also giving his message for the secretary; Secretary Reyes rendering his favorite song "what a wonderful world"; director V. Consunji rendering his song version of "Impossible dream"; and executive director L. Angeles welcoming Secretary Reyes.

## Fast Drying Method for Gmelina Wood Developed

**I**t is now possible to kiln-dry 25-millimeter thick gmelina (*Gmelina arborea*) wood in 10 days instead of the usual 75 to 150 days. Likewise, one can now dry 50-mm gmelina lumber in 24 days instead of 119 to 198 days.

The drying time for the hard-to-dry gmelina has been considerably shortened by a furnace-type lumber dryer (FTLD) developed by the Los Banos-based Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI), an agency under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

In drying experiments conducted by FPRDI, a 25-mm gmelina (a furniture species

also known as yemane) with initial moisture content (MC) of 73.8 to 96.9 percent and 25 to 43 percent can be dried to final MCs of 11.9 and 6 to 7 percent, respectively, in just 10 days. Also, a 50-mm gmelina lumber with 88 percent and 90 percent MC can be dried to 9.26 to 15.7 percent and 9 to 12.5 percent, respectively, in 24 days.

The drying technology has been adopted by the Northlandia Enterprise in Santiago City, Isabela, the Tiber Woodcraft in Butuan City, and many gmelina furniture makers catering to the local and export foreign markets.

*"Gmelina wood promises to be an ideal raw material for the country's wood-using industries that we have given it priority attention"*

said FPRDI Director Dr. Florence P. Soriano. *"Gmelina is used for the manufacture of furniture, handicraft, telecommunication poles, packaging materials, pallets, wood wool cement boards, resin-bonded particleboards, veneer, carvings moldings, toys, and musical instruments."*

FPRDI offers regular training course and renders technical assistance on the Gmelina drying technology. For details and request for FPRDI technical services, you may contact Dr. Florence P. Soriano, Director, FPRDI, College, Laguna at telefax 049-536-3630.

Source: For. Felix Tamolang, Chief, Technical Services  
FPRDI

## Movements

### Paje Chairs DENR Transition Committee

**I**n his memorandum dated August 24, 2007, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. appointed undersecretary Ramon JP Paje as chairman of his transition committee .

The transition committee shall have the responsibility of reviewing the DENR organization and the structure and evaluating all documents/communications for signature/action of the secretary.

The members of the committee are Atty. Lucille Sering, Mr. Eleazar Quinto, Atty. Juan Miguel Chua and Mr. Ricardo Isip.

Mon as Paje is fondly called by friends, is a Bachelor of Science in Forestry graduate of the University of the Philippines at Los

Baños, College, Laguna. He finished his M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning and Doctor of Public Administration at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. He has a Certificate on Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis from the Harvard University in Massachusetts, USA.

In 1996, Mon received the following awards: Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) from Philippine Jaycees, Outstanding Professional of the Philippines from the Professional Regulation Commission, and the Outstanding Alumnus in Government Service from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños. In 1999, He was the Dr. Jose Rizal Huwarang Pilipino Awardee for Public Service given by the Parangal ng Bayan Awards Foundation.

He has been with the government service particularly the environment and natural resources sector for more than 22 years and rose from the ranks serving the sector in various capacities including undersecretary for field operations, undersecretary for policy and technical services, undersecretary for environment and programs development, assistant secretary for management services, director for human resources development, among others.

Prior his designation as chair of the transition committee, he is working as a presidential assistant on Mining in Malacañang and executive director of Minerals Development Council.

Mon is married to Joseliza Santos with whom he is blessed with two children.

## Condolences

*With sincerest condolences to the bereaved families of:*

- + Amparo Lorenzo, wife of PWPA forestry and environment adviser Jose Lorenzo, who passed away last July 18, 2007; and*
- + Mary Anne Sy-Kap, grandmother of PWPA VP-director Charlie Liu, who passed away last July 28, 2007.*



**05 July 2007**

Meeting re: Clarification on the Coverage of DAO 2007-01  
FMB, Quezon City

**07 July 2007**

Director's Workshop/Meeting with DENR Sec. Angelo Reyes  
Palms Country Club, Muntinlupa City

**09 July 2007**

Green Army Board of Trustees Meeting  
AFPRESKOM, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

**11 July 2007**

Special Meeting of the Philippine Plant Conservation Committee  
Visitor Center, PAWB, Quezon City

**18 July 2007**

Launching of Trees for Life  
La Mesa Dam, Quezon City

**20 July 2007**

PWPA-FPRDI Dialogue  
FPRDI, College, Los Banos, Laguna

**23 July 2007**

PWPA Finance Committee Meeting  
PWPA Boardroom, Makati City

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

**01 August 2007**

Turn-over Ceremonies  
DENR, Quezon City

**08 August 2007**

PWPA Board of Directors Meeting  
PWPA Boardroom, Makati City

**13 August 2007**

FPI 16th Annual General Assembly  
Hotel Intercon Ballroom, Makati City

**16 August 2007**

Testimonial Dinner for Secretary Angelo Reyes  
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City

**22 August 2007**

56th PWPA Annual General Assembly Steering Committee Meeting  
PWPA Boardroom, Makati City

**30 August 2007**

Consultation Meeting re: Monitoring & Enforcement of Lumber Standards  
DENR-NCR, Quezon City

**31 August 2007**

100,000 Trees for Ramon Magsaysay in his 100th Birth Anniversary  
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

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