



FLASH!

Wood Industry Needs Assured

Senator Cayetano and DENR Secretary Reyes Bare Help



Senator Pia Cayetano promised passage of forestry Bill in the Senate.

Senator Pia Cayetano, chair of the Senate Committee on Ecology and Natural Resources and secretary Angelo Reyes of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in their separate meetings with officers of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), gave their assurances of assistance to help the wood industry.

Led by PWPA Chair Antonio Olizon and President Fernando Lu, some members of the Board of Directors discussed with senator Cayetano on January 9, 2007 at the Manila Inter-Con Hotel in Makati City, legislative

measures that are needed to be passed by both houses of Congress in order to improve the situation of the wood industry.

Senator Cayetano and officers of the PWPA agreed that enacting into laws the two bills that have been long pending in Congress, the Land Use Policy and the Sustainable Forest Management, would be the first important step toward ensuring the sustainable development of the forest, a balanced ecology, and the continuous supply of locally-sourced raw materials to the wood industry.

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Reyes Reshuffles DENR Officials

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Angelo Reyes last December 12, 2006, issued a special order underscoring the new assignments and responsibilities of top officials of the Department for a more effective management purpose.

Secretary Reyes will himself run field operations and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the Environmental Management Bureau, assisted by assistant secretaries Jeremias Dolino and Leonilo Lariosa, respectively.

Senior undersecretary Francisco Bravo will handle the Foreign-Assisted and

Special Projects Office, the River Basin Control Office, the Operation Center, and the Technical Resource Pool.

Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio will supervise the Planning Service, the Policy Technical Working Group and the Legislative Liaison Office.

Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi shall be in charge with the staff bureaus: Land Management, Forest Management, Protected Areas and Wildlife and Ecosystems Research and Development.

Undersecretary Ramon Paje shall oversee attached agencies: Natural



For More Effective Management. DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes gave officials of the Department new assignments and responsibilities.

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PWPA Bares Needs...

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Senator Cayetano promised to facilitate approval of these (forestry) bills in the Senate.

That these laws would also provide security of tenure and investment for developing tree plantations and modernizing wood processing mills, moved Cayetano to promise an immediate review of these bills and to facilitate their approval by the Senate, even in the next Congress.

The PWPA also met with secretary Angelo Reyes on January 10, 2007 at the EDSA Plaza Shangrila Hotel in Mandaluyong City on the occasion of the oath-taking of its newly-elected directors and officers that Reyes himself administered.

The event became also an opportunity for PWPA to recommend to Reyes the urgent need to rationalize the wood industry if it were to survive a very competitive global trade environment.

The recommendation of the PWPA to create a timber industries development board, the vehicle that would carry out the intended rationalization of the wood industry, has met the approval in principle by Reyes.

Reyes instructed NCR Regional Executive Director Corazon Davis and HEA and Assistant Secretary Annette Manansala, who were also present during the meeting, to coordinate with the PWPA in preparing the necessary groundwork for the creation of the timber industries development board he would ask President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to approve by way of an executive order.

Appreciating its role as a venue for integrating and focusing specific doable policies and programs pertaining to the wood industry, Reyes said the wood industries development board should have been established a long time ago.

The creation of a timber industries development board met the approval in principle by Secretary Reyes.



Renewal of Commitments. Front l-r: DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes administering the oath of office, Chair Antonio Olizon, President Fernando Lu, VP-dir. Ramon Uy, Treasurer-dir. Stanley Tan, VP-dir. Robert Rua, Director Aristeo Puyat, Chairman Emeritus Antonio Bernas, VP-dir. Florio Buñag, Secretary-exec. dir. Leonardo Angeles. Back l-r: Director Manuel Ng, Director Victor Consunji, VP-dir. Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., VP-dir. Wellington Vao, VP-dir. Alex Ong (behind dir. Buñag), Forestry Adviser Jose Lorenzo and Executive Dir. Leonardo D. Angeles.

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PWPA Donates to Bicol Flood Victims

Officers of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) with Environment and Natural Resources secretary Angelo Reyes flew to Legaspi City on January 5, 2006 to distribute construction materials and other goods to families affected by the recent typhoons "Milenyo" and "Reming".

As early as January 3, 2006, two truckloads of lumber and plywood left Metro Manila for the Bicol Region. These materials were in addition to those donated by other PWPA members through their local dealers in Legaspi City.

Reyes turned over 8 crates of plywood and 18,000 board feet of lumber to Guinobatan Mayor Juan Garcia with the request that they be distributed to schools, day care centers and barangay halls needing reconstruction.

The following company-members of PWPA made the donations: Agusan Plywood Corp., ARTIMCO., Inc., Asia Pacific Timber and Plywood Corp., Baganga Plywood Corp., C. Alcantara & Sons, Inc., Emco Plywood Corp., Interwood, La Peña Sawmill,

M & S Co., Inc., Matimco, Inc., Mega Plywood Corp., Minrico Lumber Enterprises Co., Inc., Mt. Banahaw Wood Industries, Inc., Pacific Timber Export Corp., Panel Products Industries Corp., Premium Plywood Corp., Republic Wooden Commodities Manufacturing Corp., Richmond Plywood Corp., San Manuel Wood Products, Inc., Surigao Dev't Corp., Union Plywood Corp., United Wood Industries Corp., Vicmar Dev't Corp., Winlex Int'l Plywood Corp., and the Philippine Lumber Merchants Association, a PWPA affiliate.

Grocery items consisting of rice and canned goods as well as used clothings were also donated by PWPA and distributed to about 1,000 families affected by the typhoons. Reyes also gave assistance to the 670 DENR Region V employees who were also affected by the typhoons.

Reyes acknowledged before the assembly of typhoon-affected people the help extended by the business sector, especially the PWPA.

The PWPA officers who joined the Bicol trip were Chairman Antonio Olizon, President Fernando Lu, EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr., VP-dir. Ramon Uy and Manager Regino Serafico. With Reyes were undersecretaries Francisco Bravo, Teresita Castillo and Ramon Paje, asst. secretary Leonilo Lariosa, Mr. Philip Susara and Regional Executive Director Oscar Hamada.



Sharing One's Blessings. l-r. The wife of undersecretary F. Bravo, Evelyn and PWPA Chair A. Olizon assisting Secretary Reyes in distributing relief goods to typhoon victims in Guinobatan, Albay.

Reyes Reshuffles ...

(Continued from page 1)

Resources Development Corp., Natural Resources Mining Development Corp, Laguna Lake Development Authority, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, Philippine Forest Corp, and Bukidnon Forest, Inc.

Lawyer Armi Jane Borje serves as undersecretary for legal affairs. Lawyer Jose Ferrer, Jr. is tasked to handle the Administrative, Finance, Human Resources Development Services,

Information Systems and Technology Management Office, and the Public Affairs Office.

Retired General Roy Kyamko is the undersecretary for National Anti-Environment Crime Task Force (NAECTAF) while undersecretary Teresita Castillo shall supervise the Special Concerns Office and Social Mobilization Office. Assistant Secretary Annette Manansala is designated Head Executive Assistant.

"The nature and scope of the Department's mandate is definitely so comprehensive that it necessitates a regular review of the structure as well as the responsibilities of the officials. This way, not only do we update ourselves to meet new challenges of protecting our environment and natural resources but we also upgrade our services to ensure that our people will continue to enjoy their right to live in a quality environment," Reyes said about the reshuffle move.

Source: www.denr.gov.ph

FPI Opposes Legislated Wage Hike

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) expressed its opposition to HB 345, which provides for a P125.00 across the board daily wage increase for laborers over a three year period, that the House of Representatives recently approved in its third and final reading.

The opposition of FPI to any form of legislated wage increase is based on the following:

- Coming soon after the P25 daily wage increase during the middle of the year, the legislated wage hike will create an inflation spiral, now fortunately at its lowest in decades;
- Local industries, especially the small and medium enterprises who provide the bulk of employment, will become more uncompetitive and many might be forced to shut down;
- The efforts of both the government and private sector to attract more investors to provide jobs will be set back because Philippine competitiveness will be severely affected;

- The legislated salary increase will create distortions both in the existing practices of Collective Bargaining Agreement and current wage structures in different companies and industries; and
- The legislated wage hike does not take into consideration the differences in the cost of living standard in different regions of the country as well as the profitability levels of different industries.

All of these factors would mean that the intended beneficiaries of the legislated wage hike, namely labor, will suffer a worse fate today and in the future.

Instead, FPI appealed to Congress to uphold, support, and strengthen RA 6727, the Act Creating the National Wage and Productivity Council and the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Boards in their tasks of providing just wages for labor across the country.

FPI has also asked the support of Congress to take immediate legislative actions on high cost of power, high transport cost and rampant smuggling, the number one menace to the economy of the country.

MOA on Product Standards Signed

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Interior and Local Government, the League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines and the Philippine Product Safety and Quality Foundation have banded together and signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will help address the manpower problem of the Bureau of Product Standard (BPS), a bureau under the DTI.

The BPS is tasked in monitoring the alarming proliferation of substandard products in the market today. The MOA, signed on December 22, 2006 at the UCPB Main Office, Makati City, is particularly directed to construction materials covered by the mandatory product standard.

The joint undertaking between the government and the private sector will pave the way for the nationwide, massive launching of an aggressive education campaign on mandatory product standard. The objective is to tap

the vast manpower resources of the local government units (LGUs) particularly those involved in the issuance of building permits. By educating and enlisting their support, the LGUs will significantly solve the meager manpower and other resources of the BPS.

With this project, the government will then be armed with countless trained personnel who would be tasked in monitoring all construction materials covered by the mandatory product standard.

This will give rise to the strict implementation and adherence to the product standard and laws pertaining to standard conformance of construction materials, particularly steel bars, galvanized iron sheets, reformed bars, electrical wires and cables, ceramic tiles, plywood, cement, among others.

The signatories in the MOA are in unison that **safety and security** of the consumers must never be compromised.

(PWPA is a member of FPI and PPSQF. Ed.)

PGMA Issues National Policy on Biodiversity

The push for biodiversity conservation into the national agenda received a big boost on November 8 when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 578 establishing the national policy on biological diversity.

The executive order was the highlight of the National Biodiversity Conference held in Verde Island, Batangas City, attended by about 200 participants from government agencies, the private sector, NGOs and LGUs in Batangas and Mindoro.

Environment and Natural Resources secretary Angelo Reyes said the executive order "will pave the way for all government agencies to integrate and mainstream the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into our policies, plans and programs."

The executive order prescribes the implementation of the national biological diversity policy throughout the country, in particular in the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecosystem (SSME) and the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor (VIPMC). The latter area is believed to harbor the richest marine species in the world and is the marine counterpart to the Amazon River Basin.

The VIPMC, which is within the SSME, was declared by the President as a marine sanctuary and a national protected area. It covers the provinces of Batangas, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque and Romblon and has been identified by scientists as the "Center of the Centers of Marine Shorefish Diversity in the World."

Dr. Kent Carpenter, a marine biologist of the Global Marine Species Assessment of the World Conservation Union, along with Dr. Victor Springer of the Smithsonian

Institute announced in their report on Philippines' marine resources that the VIPMC has been found to have 1,736 overlapping marine species over a 10-kilometer by 10-kilometer area, making it the highest concentration of marine life in the world.

The executive order directs the creation of the *ad hoc* task force on the VIPMC called the Verde Task Force, chaired by the DENR with the Departments of Tourism, Science and Technology, Agriculture, Energy, Transportation and Communication, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, National Defense, Health, and Interior and Local Governments, the National Economic and Development Authority, and concerned LGUs as members, with the primary objective of ensuring the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity in the VIPMC.

Source: www.denr.gov.ph

ASEAN summit tackles environment

ENVIRONMENT ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries are scheduled to meet on November 9 at the Mactan Shangri-la Hotel in Lapu-lapu City, Cebu Province to discuss mutual concerns and regional issues ranging from biodiversity conservation to transboundary haze pollution.

Environment and Natural Resources secretary Angelo Reyes said the discussion during the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment will be critical in view of the forest fire raging in Indonesia and the resulting haze that has blanketed Singapore and some parts in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei.

In Central Kalimantan in Borneo Island alone, the forest fire covers about one million hectares of forest land. Joint cooperation measures necessary to address the problem will be tackled during the meeting.

The ministerial meeting will also discuss joint cooperation in the areas of nature conservation and biodiversity, coastal and marine environment, water resources management, environmentally sustainable cities and multilateral environmental agreements, like the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) in Los Baños, Laguna.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo recently signed, as the host country, agreement together with heads of state of ASEAN countries for the establishment of the ACB.

Reyes said the decision to locate the ACB in the Philippines is a recognition of the country's status as one of the mega diverse countries in the world.

The lofty position of the Philippines as a mega diverse country was strengthened following the disclosure of international marine scientists that the Verde Passage has the largest concentration of marine life in the world "the center of the centers of marine shore fish biodiversity in the world." (See related story above. Ed)

The ministerial meeting is a prelude to the ASEAN Summit to be hosted by President Arroyo and to be attended by heads of state of the ASEAN countries to be held in Cebu City in December. (Postponed to January, 2007. Ed)

Source: www.denr.gov.ph

FORESTS GET NEW HOPE IN TREE CLONING PROJECT

by Delmar Cariño

Efforts to save the country's endangered forests got a big boost when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) adopted tree cloning as a part of its reforestation program.

The DENR is about to operate its largest tree-cloning facility located in Pacdal, Baguio City. The P15-million state-of-the-art complex on a 7,000-square meter lot will host, among others, the seed and tissue culture laboratories.

"It is the department's biggest 'clonal forest nursery complex,'" Samuel Penafiel, DENR Cordillera regional executive director, said.

"With the mossy forests and native trees slowly disappearing in the Cordillera Region, we expect the complex to give our reforestation efforts here a big help," he added.

The complex's target is to mass-produce "clones" of the region's best formed pine trees and other endangered endemic tree species, such as sangilo and oak, and later, the cloning of native orchids, bamboos, fruit trees and other rare tree species.

Forester Nestor de Guzman, nursery in charge, said the cloning would focus on macrosomatic and microsomatic cloning, i.e. producing clones by cuttings from desired trees that will be raised by way of introducing rooting hormones and producing clones in the tissue laboratory where the species are developed in test tubes, respectively.

The complex expects to mass produce 60,000 seedlings, or cloned planting materials, called "propagules" or "meridones" every month.

The complex was built under the Itogon Integrated Watershed Management Project when Itogon town in Benguet got as a concessional assistance because of the construction of the San Roque multi-purpose dam in San Miguel, Pangasinan.

Itogon town, which is the upper watershed of San Miguel town, will be the first to receive the cloned planting materials for reforestation purposes.

SEAMEO SEARCA Biotechnology Information Center
College, Laguna 4031 PHILIPPINES
URL: <http://www.bic-seameo.com>

DENR Wins International Gold Award for Propagation of Dipterocarp Tree Species

For its successful research efforts in finding other methods of propagating dipterocarp trees, the main species of lowland tropical rainforest, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was given the prestigious International Green Apple Environment Best Practice Award by an England-based environmental body, Green Organization. The award was held Westminster Palace in London last November 20.

Secretary Angelo Reyes expressed elation for the award, saying: "We at the DENR have always worked hard to restore our degraded forest areas. This dipterocarp propagation project will certainly be instrumental in bringing back the dipterocarp forests, from where the famous 'Philippine mahogany' timber trees abound."

The Green Organization, supported by the Environmental Agency, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Chartered Institution of Waste Management and Municipal Journal, said the DENR won the Gold Award for its efforts on environmental restoration and conservation.

The DENR project, "Macro-propagation of Dipterocarps by Seedlings, Wildlings and Rooted Cuttings", is being implemented by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau. Dr. Mitzi Pollisco, its senior science research specialist, is the project leader.

The project involves the development of non-mist propagation technology using rooted cuttings or clonal technology, and the use of wildling recovery

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UPDATE ON PWPA PROGRAM: GREEN PHILIPPINES

PWPA Workshop on ITP Study

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) held a workshop on the progress of the Industrial Tree Plantation (ITP) Study on November 6, 2006 at the Manila Golf and Country Club, Makati City.

The consultants of the ITP Study briefed the PWPA that:

- Potential areas for ITP development investment in production forestland have not been specifically identified and thoroughly characterized by the government.
- The procedures of acquiring an ITP area, through an IFMA, is still in the stage where an interested developer or investor would have to

look for a suitable area for ITP himself, apply for it through IFMA, and undertake all necessary clearances, such as social acceptability of the ITP project by concerned communities and local governments and environmental impact assessment study for an ECC, and prepare the development plans therefor before he can start ITP development operations.

- Several potential sites for ITP development in the country, particularly in Mindanao, have been selected by the consultants based on the terms of reference provided by PWPA for each site, such as accessibility, good terrain, from 5,000 to 10,000 hectares in size, absence of tenurial instruments, free from potential conflict with the concerned communities and local government units.

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Green Philippines Master Plan

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) attended on December 12, 2006 a consultation/workshop aimed at strengthening the working collaboration among probable stakeholders; e.g. CBFM and agro-forestry, biofuel plantation development; and, IFMA or corporate plantation development to be involved in the implementation of the Green Philippines Master Plan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Philippine Forest Corporation (PFC), a subsidiary of DENR's Natural Resources Development Corp., presented how it would implement its program of producing jatropha seeds as raw material in the production of biodiesel. PFC emphasized the market demand for biofuel, the technology of biofuel production and the economic viability of jatropha plantation can sustain its program.

The PWPA, on the other hand, presented its Program: Green Philippines, which consists of various aspects of reforestation, namely; urban greening; watershed rehab; community forest; and industrial tree plantation to be implemented with the govern-

ment and concerned stakeholders. It also indicated that the activities of its members in sustainable management of the natural forest in their concessions and in ITP development are significant in greening the country.

The CBFM partners also presented how they implement their projects as they relayed their need for a strong support from the government and private sector partners.

Director Neria Andin of the Forest Management Bureau presented the Green Philippines Master Plan the DENR intends to implement through three "greening" strategies, namely: a) forest protection; b) CBFMA; and c) IFMA. Andin situated where the stakeholders will be in the implementation of said Master Plan.

Two important suggestions were made during the workshop: a) to request the government to provide a sovereign guarantee for sourcing the fund of the Program and b) to issue an Executive Order for the stability of the implementation of the Green Philippines Master Plan.

Philnico to Decide on Joint Venture with Jinchuan

Philnico Industrial Corp. said recently it would make a decision by January (2007) on whether to pursue a joint venture with China's state-owned Jinchuan Group Ltd. to reopen the Nonoc nickel mine in the Philippines.

Evaristo Narvaez, chairman of Philnico, said he was not giving up on China's top nickel producer but said three other companies, from China, Russia and Japan, were interested in investing in the project.

"We are not closing the door on Jinchuan," Narvaez told a news conference. "I think January is decision time."

Jinchuan, which operates China's largest nickel mine, and the Baosteel Group, China's biggest steel firm, agreed in April 2005 to invest \$1 billion to revive the Nonoc mine, which has the capacity to produce 41,000 tons of nickel a year.

Philnico is 55 percent owned by Hong-Kong based Compline Resources Co., about 30 percent by Australia's Pacific Energy Ltd. and the rest by local investors, Narvaez said.

The government wants to re-open the Nonoc nickel mine as part of plans to revive the country's once lucrative minerals sector, which would boost economic growth and improve state finances.

Nonoc Island, with a land area of 5,825 hectares, has more than 144 million tons of nickel ore reserves, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the government. The deposit at Nonoc was mined from 1975 to 1982, with annual production at between 9,600 tons and 25,000 tons of nickel. It was closed due to high energy costs.

(E.M. Narvaez, Jr. is also a director and vice president of PVP A. Ed.)

Condensed from the Article written by Mrs. Marianne Go, Business Section, The Philippine Star, December 22, 2006. www.philstar.com

PWPA Workshop...

(Continued from page 7)

The PWPFA and the consultants agreed that:

- Field assessment and validation of the selected ITP sites in Mindanao should be undertaken by the consultants;
- Each ITP site shall be packaged into a portfolio for investment so that potential investors would merely conduct due diligence on the site and would not any more bother meeting time-consuming requirements;
- The packaged portfolios will be presented to the DENR secretary and the NRDC that he also chairs for his approval for investment roadshow purposes;

The workshop participants also reviewed the progress so far achieved in the implementing the

Resolution passed during the Philippine Forestry Development Forum in June 2005 at the ADB.

The participants agreed to inform DENR secretary Angelo Reyes, through a letter, about such progress including further actions needed to be taken by the DENR and concerned agencies, including actions needed to implement EO 318 (Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in the Philippines) and the revised Master Plan for Forest Development.

The workshop was attended by Chair A. Olizon, President F. Lu, EVP A. Keh, Jr., VP-dir. E. Narvaez, VP-dir. A. Ong, Treasurer-dir. S. Tan, VP-dir. R. Uy, Exec. Dir. L. Angeles and Forestry & Environment Coordinator M. Vasquez, Foresters R. de Rueda and J. Austria of the ITP Study Team and Messrs. J. Avellana and R. Tanco of the PR Team.

Hardwood: Expressions in Decorative Woodwork

(Source: American Hardwood Export Council - Southeast Asia & Greater China)

The beauty of solid hardwood is much more than "skin deep." Neither synthetic nor engineered, it comes from the heart of nature – the simplest and most reliable of origins.

The solid hardwood flooring and furnishings in your home are made up of many pieces of wood. No tree is exactly alike and no piece of wood looks just like another, so you may notice natural variations in color. The lighter pieces were closer to the tree's bark, while the darker pieces were closer to its center. All are equally strong and impart the beauty and value that make hardwoods second to none.



The unique grain patterns in solid hardwood are related to the tree's growth rings and they vary naturally with each piece of wood. The distinctive differences come about as the wood is prepared for use in your home. Fine is why hardwood products will have subtle variations from the showroom displays or samples on which you based your selection.



All trees grow trunks, which fall to the forest floor as the tree matures. The

new growth, however, will always have a knot where those limbs once were. Parts of that tree, limbs and all, may find new life as your hardwood doors, moldings, paneling, railings,

mantels or flooring. These natural markings are part of every hardwood's nature; they have absolutely no effect on its durability and structural integrity. Knots and other characteristics are much like the marks you find in such fine natural fabrics as silk and linen; they are indicators of superior quality.



There are no artificial materials and no chemical treatments as they grow and flourish. You may see these traces in the hardwood flooring or furnishings in your home. These solid hardwoods also will expand and contract as your home's relative humidity fluctuates. These natural characteristics do not affect the quality or integrity of your hardwoods – they're an assurance that you are enjoying the authentic item, not an artificial wood imitation.

Average Plywood and Substitute Prices Survey in NCR

	Before (December 11, 2006) (₱ Pesos/piece)	Now (January 22, 2007)		Before (December 11, 2006) (₱ Pesos/piece)	Now (January 22, 2007)
3mm (1/8) plywood	220	219	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	737	737
4 mm (3/16) plywood	263	267	1/8 lawanit	260	161
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	284	289	3/16 lawanit	211	227
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	333	340	1/4 Hardiflex	366	397
10 mm (1/2) plywood	498	490			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	835	807			
			Note: all pick-up prices inclusive of VAT retail prices		

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

Non-Commercial Timber & Non-Timber Products of the Forest

Abaca: A Promising Resource

There is a lot of sense in the call of Rep. Luis Villafuerte for government to take the abaca plant more seriously. For one thing, developing the abaca industry is one good way of rehabilitating the devastated Bicol region.

When I was in Germany last year, I was told that Mercedes Benz was considering the use of abaca in its luxury cars. Germany has a strict law that requires car manufacturers to progressively increase the amount of recyclable and biodegradable materials in their car models. If Mercedes Benz is thinking abaca for some of their car components, BMW and VW should be encouraged to do so too.

Used primarily to make twines, ropes and carpets, the abaca fiber also has other applications as raw material for various functional and decorative products. The fiber is used in clothing material and handicraft like bags and baskets. The pulp is processed into tea bags, coffee filter, vacuum cleaner bags, currency notes and other specialty paper.

Abaca-based furniture and fixtures — from settees to lounge chairs, from dividers to coffee tables,

and from sofas to loveseats — are also widely recognized for their elegance in Europe and North America. Studies have likewise identified abaca enzymes for use in high-value cosmetic and dietary products.

"Abaca is definitely one of the most fascinating plants in the world. Its fiber alone has an assured future," Villafuerte pointed out. He stressed the need for improved abaca farming as well as fiber processing technologies that would raise both efficiency and product quality.

The country still covers 90 percent of global demand for abaca fiber. However, Villafuerte lamented that annual production growth had been hampered by decreasing yield per hectare, and dwindling land area devoted to cultivating the plant.

"Apart from propagating new, disease-resistant plant varieties, we have to ensure that abaca farmers, processors and exporters have ready access to adequate financial, technical, marketing assistance as well as infrastructure support," he said.

From a part of the column: Demand and Supply by Boo Chanoo Business Section, The Philippine Star, December 22, 2008.
www.philstar.com

DENR Wine...

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chamber in mass production of indigenous planting materials.

"It takes about 18 years before a dipterocarp tree flowers; after which, seed production occurs at an interval of 2-10 years. Unfortunately, however, seeds can only last for three weeks. This seeding nature of the species has prompted the DENR to pursue this non-mist propagation system to produce more planting materials," Pollisco explained.

"The dipterocarp propagation project proves to be very important now since we will be embarking on rehabilitating our major river basins using species which are indigenous to the country," Reyes said.

Source: www.denr.gov.ph

Here Comes the Eagle

PWPA President Ferdie Lu's column will be missed in this issue. Watch out for his insightful comments on environment, forestry and wood industry issues and events in the next issue of the WoodStock. Ed.

A 9-year old's Collection of Poems

Arianna Bernas, granddaughter of PWPA chairman emeritus Antonio Bernas, has authored a booklet entitled "Fairy Friends Mermaid Me, A Collection of Poems".

It contains 14 poems with her own caricatures. The poems describe her teacher, friends and about what she feels and see that is happening around her. Samples of her poems go like this:

"Ms. Disini"

*Ms. Disini is my 3rd grade teacher
So very nice
Dying for some quiet
I make her laugh and
Smile and frown*

*I even make her drawings,
here is my tip
Never idolize a noisy teacher
I tried it once it never worked
Ms. D. is not that kind of teacher
She is so nice and
sometimes strict
Do everything she say
(in class) or be?!?!?*

"Candle in the Wind"

*A very windy tangled day
At my house tonight
I'm at my room at the tippy top floor
With the candle shining bright
There the candle stands outside
Shining with all its might
Fading, fading, fading away
Poof! It's out of sight.*

She dedicates her booklet to her loving parents (Mr. AGB's youngest son, Jake and wife Lean), cute little brother Julian, titos, titas, cousins, best friends, and to her loving, forgiving God.

Arianna also plays the violin and piano, dances ballet and dabbles in taekwondo and soccer football.

Mr. AGB distributed the book to his colleagues, at PWPA and friends.



The Poet. Arianna Bernas and the cover of her booklet.

Angeles is UPLB Distinguished Alumnus

Forester Leonardo D. Angeles, executive director of the Philippine Wood Producers Association, was selected as one of the distinguished alumni of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) representing the College of Forestry and Natural Resources..

UPLB, an autonomous unit of the University of the Philippines System, consists of the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Development Communication, Economics and Management, Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology, Forestry and Natural Resources, Human Ecology, Public Affairs, Veterinary Medicine and the School of Environmental Science and Management.

UPLB Chancellor, Dr. Luis Rey Velasco, UPLB Alumni Association President, Dr. Elpidio Rosario, Dean of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Dr. Ramon Razal and the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources Alumni Association President Forester-lawyer Roberto Oliva announced the award to be given on November 18, 2006 during the Loyalty Day and the UPLB Alumni Homecoming.

Earlier, on April 28, 2006, Angeles was one of the five alumni elevated to the Forestry Hall of Fame by the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources Alumni Association.

Angeles was Outstanding Professional in the field of Forestry awarded by the Professional Regulation Commission and Most Outstanding

Alumnus of the then College of Forestry at UP Los Baños, among his other awards..



Distinguished Alumnus. PWPA L. D. Angeles, recipient of the UPLB Distinguished Alumni Award for 2006.

06 November 2006
Program: Green Philippines Workshop
Manila Golf and Country Club, Makati City

07 November 2006
ASEAN Senior Officials in Forestry
FMB Conference Rm., Quezon City

08 November 2006
PWPA Board Meeting
PWPA Board Room, Makati City

10 November 2006
PCARRD Symposium & Awards Ceremonies
Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City

10 November 2006
FPI General Membership Assembly
Executive Dining Room, UCPB, Makati City

15 November 2006
Meeting with Fr. Ben Beltran of Smokey Mountain
Manila Hotel, Manila

16 November 2006
Meeting with BPS Dir. Jesus Motoomull
DTI, Makati City

24 November 2006
Meeting on DAO 02 and 07
BTR Conference Room, DTI, Makati City

24 November 2006
Clean Air Act Implementation Review Workshop
ADB Auditorium, Mandaluyong City

29 November 2006
Meeting re: Green Philippines Master Plan
FMB Conference Room, Quezon City

30 November 2006
Phil. Greenhouse Gas Accounting and Reporting Program
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City

12 December 2006
National Consultation with Stakeholders re: Greening the Philippines
Visitor's Center, PAAWB, Quezon City

13 December 2006
PWPA Board Meeting & Christmas Party
Good Earth Cuisine, The Fort, Taguig City

21 December 2006
GAPNFI Year-end Board Meeting & Christmas Party
Gloria Maris Restaurant, Greenhills

The Philippine Wood Producers Association
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Makati City 1229

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