



## PWPA Holds General Assembly

### Theme: Your Partner in the Environment and Economy

**T**he Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) will hold its 56th Annual General Assembly of Members on November 22, 2007 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.



**Secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. New Guardian of the Environment.**

Senator Compañera Pia Cayetano, chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and erstwhile Manila mayor and now secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Jose Atienza, Jr. have confirmed their attendance as guests of honor and speakers as they are expected to announce some important environmental, forestry and wood industry policies during the main program.

With the theme, PWPA: Your Partner in the Environment and the Economy, the general assembly

aims to: a) enhance the PWPA relationship with the government, especially with the DENR, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Congress as well as major stakeholders; and b) engender a close cooperation among its members in order to attain PWPA's goals and programs.

PWPA Director Charlie Liu, co-chair of the steering committee, said the annual assembly will be a staging platform to encourage a more high level of commitment to said goals from the owners, ceo's and coo's of member companies.



**Senator Compañera Pia Cayetano. Champion of the Environment.**

The general assembly will start at 4:00 PM for the registration and fellowship; the business meeting at 5:00 PM for rendering the Annual Report to the members and

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Climate Change Conference Joined by PWPA

**T**he first national conference on Climate Change Adaptation Program was held on October 22, 2007 in Legazpi City with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo gracing the occasion.

The conference, spearheaded by Department of Energy (DOE) secretary Angelo Reyes, who is also the chair of the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change (PTFCC), tackled various adaptation measures designed to reverse worsening climate change or global warming.

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), through its chairman Antonio Olizon, by invitation of Reyes, attended the conference to represent the role of the wood industry in helping mitigate global warming. The efficient use of wood and the massive development of tree plantations are measures deemed by the Kyoto Protocol,

as significant in reducing carbon dioxide emissions as trees are effective in sequestering carbon.

President Arroyo issued Administrative Order No. 171 -A, creating the PTFCC and designating Reyes as its chair.

The presidential task force shall undertake strategic measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the country while fostering the use of renewable and alternative sources of energy.

The presidential task force is an inter-agency group mandated to monitor and coordinate government measures intended to mitigate the impact of climate change now sweeping the world.

AO 171-A also designated the Environment and Natural Resources secretary as task force vice chairman,

*(Continued on page 2)*

**PWPA Holds...**

*(Continued from page 1)*

the elections of directors of the Board for 2007-2008.

The main program starts at 6:00 PM, with the guests of honor and speakers staying for dinner.

The general Assembly expects to have about 200 participants coming from member-companies, chapter-members, guests and sponsors.

Each of the member-companies will be given at least 2 tickets to cover registration, dinner cum entertainment, certificate, souvenir supplement (in the Annual Report) and photo-op with guests of honor.

Proceeds of the event will be expected from three streams: sponsorship of the event, ticket sales and advertisement.

PWPA Director Victor Consunji confirmed his company, DMCI, will be the presenter of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly together with the PWPA. RI Chemicals Corp., Maynilad Water Services, Inc. and member SUDECOR are principal sponsors of this once-a-year event.

PWPA Directors Ramon Uy, Stanley Tan and Manuel Ng are co-chairpersons of the steering committee.

**Consultation on Proposed National Land Use Code**

**C**ongressman Antonio Cerilles invited the Philippine Wood Producers Association to join the consultation meeting last October 3, 2007 at Max

Restaurant, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City to review the draft bill on National Land Use Code authored by him.

The consultation, attended by different stakeholders from the government

started with Cerilles welcoming all participants as he prefaced that the bill, once passed into law by Congress, will provide security of

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Wise Use of Lands.** Congressman Antonio Cerilles (center-seated), main proponent/author of the National Land Use Code bill is surrounded by (seated l-r) Foresters M. Vasquez and L. Angeles of PWPA, DENR-9 RED E. Adobo, Jr., Commissioner M. Apostol of NCIP, DENR-NCR RED C. Davis, Atty. J. Florita of NCIP, R. Aroña of DENR-NCR and Mrs. Domingo. (second row l-r) Cris Taban, Dr. T. Raza, R. Cabuay of SPLCI, DENR-4B RED V. Paragas, DENR-R9 RTD R. Bayabos, Forester J. Lorenzo of PWPA, Atty. D. Clemente of DENR-OSEC, M. Sabater of DENR-NCR and Lorenzo Cortes.

**Climate Change...**

*(Continued from page 1)*

with the secretaries of science and technology, agriculture, defense, interior and local government and education, as well as the chair of the Commission on Higher Education and two representatives from the private sector as members.

Aside from the already proven track record of Reyes as an environmentalist (he was erstwhile

DENR secretary), the President also harped on the big part played by the energy sector, under the DOE's guidance, in minimizing air pollution and in protecting the environment against harmful industrial practices.

While at the DENR, Reyes also led the planting of more than two million trees from Aparri to Sulu, an effort worthy of a place in the Guinness Book of World Record for the most number of trees planted in one day.

*PTFCC shall undertake strategic measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while fostering the use of renewable and alternative sources of energy.*

The DOE chief will be joining the President in the forthcoming 15th APEC Leaders' Summit in Sydney, Australia, where climate change will be tackled.

**WoodStock**

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## BIR Proposes Advance Payment of VAT on Forest Products

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) of the Department of Finance invited the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), among others, to a public hearing on September 6 and 13, 2007 at the BIR Compound, Quezon City pertaining to its proposal for the imposition of an advance value-added tax (VAT) payment on timber sourced from natural or planted trees .

President Fernando Lu, who headed the PWPA to the public hearing, said that the advance VAT payment, equivalent to 12% of the forest charges, shall be collected upon payment of the forest charges and before timber is transported/sold. He said that it shall be off-setted against payment of the full input VAT.

With this scheme, the government will realize some P40M in advance revenues but what the BIR seems to

want is to be able to monitor and benchmark the volume of timber actually being produced and traded, he said.

Before the public hearing, the PWPA submitted its position paper proposing to exclude planted trees (because of RA No. 7161) and the illegal logs (otherwise, this is tantamount to tolerating illegal logging) from the VAT payment.

The public hearing was also attended by representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Forest Management Bureau, the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, House of Representatives, and the media.

With president Lu were director Florio Buñag, executive director L. D. Angeles, forestry and environment adviser Jose Lorenzo, forestry and environment Maila Vasquez, and Richmond Ng, Richard Ng and Ms. Claire Destura of LUZMATIM.

## Multisectoral Workshop on Forestry Bills Held

The House committees on Ecology and Natural Resources called a multisectoral workshop last October 8, 2007 at Sulo Hotel, Quezon City to further review the draft bills on ecology and forestry.

More than 75 participants from government agencies, research and academic community, NGOs and private sector attended the workshop. The Philippine Wood Producers Association was represented by executive director Leonardo Angeles and forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez.

Congressman Arrel Olaño, 1<sup>st</sup> District of Davao del Norte, the senior vice chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources and Congresswoman Belma Cabilao, 1<sup>st</sup> District of Zamboanga Sibugay, the chairperson of the Committee on Ecology, welcomed the participants as they said the results of the workshop will be inputs to fine-tune the bills.

Salient provisions of the following bills were made through powerpoint presentation:

1. The Ecological Policy Act by Rep. Belma Cabilao herself;
2. The Marine Pollution Act by Rep. Ma. Evita Arago of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Laguna;
3. The Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Act by Mr. Raul Terso, secretary of Natural Resources Committee; and

4. The Act Establishing Coastal Environment Program by Mr. Marlon Valencia of the House Committee Affairs Department.

The participants were divided into four groups. The SFM group, joined in by PWPA, focused the discussion on the governance, regulatory instruments, forest limits, sub-classification of forests and other issues like incentives, private sector role, and funding, the output highlights of which were:

1. Realign definition of terms with current, international usage;
2. Identify the acceptable percentage of forestlands to be under SFM, including those areas of  $\geq 1,000$ -meter elevation above sea level;
3. Consider practices of the indigenous peoples;
4. Broaden the proposed Philippine Timber Industries Development Board into a Forest-based Industries Development Board; and
5. Review of the line function of the forest management bureau;
6. The group recommended the creation of Technical Working Group to further review the SFM bill.

The secretariats of the two committees said another consultation will be called.



## DENR, Host of the Regional Workshop on Forest Law Compliance and Governance

In recognition of the country's active involvement in the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) process, the Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), hosted last September 11-13, 2007 the Regional Workshop on Improving Forest Law Compliance and Governance in Southeast Asia (SE) at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino in Manila.

With the objectives of promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue and exchange of views among SE countries on the FLEG and to come up with doable actions to meet the issues, the workshop was attended by representatives of

various stakeholder groups from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

Stakeholder groups included national forestry authorities, representatives of programs, projects and initiatives to improve forest law compliance and governance, members of civil society organizations, other international organizations, and representatives from forest industry and/or wood product traders.

With the increasing illegal activities on the forestry sector and the corresponding mechanisms employed to combat them seemingly weak, participants took stock of the successes and

failures in their respective country's initiatives, identified obstacles and recommended concrete future actions.

Launched in Bali, Indonesia in 2001, the FLEG is a central issue in the United Nations Forum on Forests will tackle from 2009 to 2015.

The workshop was jointly organized by the DENR, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

Source: <http://denr.gov.ph>  
September 11, 2007.

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) was represented by Forester Renato de Rueda. Ed.

## Consultation...

(Continued from page 2)

titles to land owners and the stability of tenure to license or agreement holders. He encouraged the participants to review and make the NLUC bill easy to implement.

To be able to discuss the bill better, a powerpoint presentation of the same was shown. Some of the comments were as follows:

1. Co-management over untenured public lands between the DENR and LGU should be defined;
2. License/agreement holders should continue to have security of tenure over their occupied areas;
3. Absolute property ownership to protect lands from squatters;
4. Small islands should be properly protected but to be opened to well identified uses, such as ecotourism; and
5. No emergency zoning unless comprehensive land use plan is approved.

Lateness of the evening noticed, Cerilles thanked the participants for a fruitful consultation as he requested for written or email comments and recommendations within two weeks from the date of the consultation.

PWPA was represented by executive director L. D. Angeles, forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez, forestry and environment advisor Jose Lorenzo and Mr. Rudy Cabuay of the workshop host, Srawai Lumber & Plywood Company.

## In China: Reforestation Put on Hold

The government has suspended a plan to convert 1.07 million hectares of farmland into forest so it can keep its pledge to maintain a minimum of 120 million hectares of arable land by 2010.

The State Council called for a halt to the ongoing reforestation project.

Earlier, it had planned to return 1.3 million hectares of farmland to forest or grassland between 2006 and 2010.

The move reflects policymakers' concerns about food security due to the decrease in farmland.

Currently, China has 122.07 million hectares of farmland, close to the warning line of 120 million hectares the country needs to ensure sufficient food supplies.

To avoid falling below the danger line, farm-

land losses must not exceed 433,333 hectares per year until 2010.

According to statistics, reforestation consumed 339,333 hectares of farmland last year, while urbanization accounted for a further 258,533 hectares.

The government launched its campaign to return farmland to forest in 2000. It has involved 124 million farmers from more than 32 million households across 25 provincial areas.

To date, more than 24 million hectares of farmland have been returned to forests, accounting for about 60 percent of all the country's new forest areas, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Farmers affected by the campaign have been granted subsidies, which account for almost 10 percent of their average annual incomes.

Source: Wu Yong. Nation. China Daily Hongkong Edition.  
September 12, 2007

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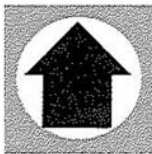
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## Environmental and Energy Balances of Wood Products and Substitutes

**F**irst of two parts of the results of the study funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

### The Study in Brief

Life cycle assessment (LCA) comparison was developed for the following product groups:

- **Single-family houses (raw construction):** Comparison between blockhouse, timber-frame house and conventional brick house (all of approximately the same k-value);

- **Simple large buildings:**

- a) comparison between two three-storey buildings, Building 1 made of 1 000 tonnes of wood and 60 tonnes of steel, Building 2 made of steel only;

- b) comparison between sheds made of wood (nailplate structure), steel and concrete structure (shell only);

- **Window frames** (lifetime 30 years): Comparison between wood, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and aluminium windows;

- **Flooring materials:** Comparison between wood flooring, PVC flooring, linoleum and parquets of different types;

- a) comparison between wood, PVC and linoleum flooring; and

- b) comparison between parquets of different types.

### Summary of results of the LCA

#### Single-family houses (raw construction)

Three different house types of approximately the same heat transition coefficient (k-value) are compared: timber-frame house, blockhouse and conventional brick house. The analysis is conducted for two cases, Case A: No thermal utilization of waste wood and Case B: Thermal utilization of waste wood.

#### Case A: No thermal utilization of waste wood

In this case, the potential of energy to be generated by thermal utilization of waste wood is neglected. The potentials of the impact categories on global warming, acidifi-

cation, eutrophication and photochemical ozone creation are calculated on the basis of energy consumed for production of building materials and construction of the single-family houses concerned. The results obtained can be summarized as follows:

- The house with the lowest share of wood-based building materials (brick house) shows the most unfavourable impact assessment results in comparison with the other two house types.
- Despite the highest amount of wood and wood-based materials, the blockhouse seems to be environmentally less favourable than the timber-frame house.

#### Case B: Thermal utilization of waste wood

At the end of life cycle, the CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral waste wood substitutes the fossil fuels as biomass for energy generation. The analysis of the environmental impact is based on the net energy consumption which is the difference between the energy input and the energy generated by the thermal utilization of renewable waste. The results obtained lead to the following conclusions:

- The real environmental impacts of the three house types are in this case notably lower than in Case A.
- The blockhouse is environmentally the most favourable family house followed by the timber-frame house and the brick house.

#### Simple large buildings

##### Comparison between two three-storey buildings

Two buildings are compared, Building 1 consisting of 1,000 tonnes of wood and 60 tonnes of steel and Building 2 only of steel. Two cases are analysed, Case A: Total energy consumption excluding the thermal utilization of waste wood and Case B: Net energy consumption including the thermal utilization of waste wood.

#### Case A: Total energy consumption

The total energy inputs for Building 1 and Building 2 are 5 460 GJ and 17 000 GJ,

respectively. Even without thermal utilization of waste wood, the wood building shows significant advantages which indicates the dominance of wood as an environmentally sound building material. The results obtained show that compared to Building 1 the environmental burdens caused by Building 2 are more than three times higher.

#### Case B: Net energy consumption

At the end of life cycle, the waste wood from Building 1 is considered as a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy source which provides an additional 7,290 GJ of energy and replaces fossil energy of the same amount. The substitution of fossil fuel results in the reduction of the corresponding amount of emissions in the atmosphere. Therefore, in Table 9, the figures for impact potentials have negative values and show the importance of timber as an environmentally sound building material. The energy input for Building 2, however, remains at the high level of 17,000 GJ.

*(to be continued in the next issue)*

**Source:** Dr. Mohammad Scharai-Rad of University of Hamburg, Department of Wood Technology & Dr. Johannes Welling of Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products, Hamburg. FAO Corporate Document Repository. Forestry Department. Rome 2002.

### Here Comes the Eagle

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



*Pagadian City Exhibit Joined by PWPA*

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) was invited by Congressman Antonio and Governor Aurora Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur to participate in the Biyahe Na I Love Philippines, Regional Tourism Exposition dubbed as the “**Biyahe Na Sa ZamboSur: ZamPen Regional Showcase 2007,**” on September 17-26, 2007 in Pagadian City.

The objective of the exposition is to promote Region IX’s (Zamboanga Peninsula’s) rich cultural heritage, best products, and tourist destinations.

The exposition was simultaneously celebrated with Zamboanga del Sur’s 55<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary last September 17, 2007 by way of the “Megayon Festival.”

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo graced the 55<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary and inaugurated the Agro-Tourism and Heritage Complex - aimed at making Zamboanga del Sur a tourism hub in southwestern Mindanao. She also unveiled the Megayon Monument – a Subanen word for unity – a way to forge a genuine and harmonious relationship among the people of Zamboanga del Sur. She also sounded the ceremonial gong that officially



**Extoling a First.** President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo speaks before the Zamboangeños during the 55th Foundation Anniversary and inauguration of the Agro-Tourism and Heritage Complex at Zamboanga del Sur as Congressman Antonio Cerilles (4th from the left) and Governor Aurora Cerilles (rightmost) listen.

declared the opening of the “Biyahe Na Sa Zambo Sur and the Megayon Festival.”

The provinces in Zamboanga Peninsula and municipalities in the second district of Zamboanga del Sur showcased their tourism attractions and products, under the One-Town, One-Product (OTOP) project of the Arroyo administration.

Except for the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP), all exhibitors came from the region.

PWPA’s exhibit consisted of photos in tarpaulins showing its activities, the importance of the forests, the flow of wood products manufacturing and the uses of wood.

PWPA also prepared a video presentation about its organization and the importance of the forests which can be shown continuously in its exhibit booth during the period.

The Sirawai Plywood and Lumber Corp., being the nearest member of PWPA in the area, displayed tree plantation products like latex-to-raw rubber manufactures and plywood and lumber.

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

	<b>Before</b> (April 16, 2007) (in Pesos/piece)	<b>Now</b> (May 21, 2007)		<b>Before</b> (April 16, 2007) (in Pesos/piece)	<b>Now</b> (May 21, 2007)
3mm (1/8) plywood	218	210	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	738	759
4 mm (3/16) plywood	264	261	1/8 lawanit	164	155
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	284	289	3/16 lawanit	222	218
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	332	338	1/4 Hardiflex	372	369
10 mm (1/2) plywood	483	495			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	793	815			

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

## Everyone Old Enough Should Now Help Stop Global Warming

Global warming, a strange eerie, awesome force, is upon us.

It brings to mind an Isaac Asimov sci-fi tale of a civilization threatened with destruction by a like force.

It happened many times in past millennia. Yet, we have scant knowledge of it besides being an abnormal rising in world temperature resulting in climate change and freaky weather conditions similar to those of geologic time millions of years ago.

Scientifically confirmed in 1990, skeptics then jeered at global warming as "the most fashionable science horror story of the time", pushing space aliens, Jurassic monsters and mutant superheroes to the sidelines, as someone joked.

Those who warned of it were often ridiculed as doomsday prophets, alarmists, or catastrophists.

Yet, the onslaught of super typhoons, drought, tornadoes, snowstorms, flood and other ultraviolet forces brought about by freaky weather leaving death and destruction on their wake, jolted heads of states and scientists to accept global warming as a threat to be contained at all cost.

No less than United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki Moon pleaded for "a more rapid and determined response" to halt global warming, his reaction to the February 2007 report by the world's foremost authority on climate change - the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

In this first of six reports, the IPCC confirmed that "fossil fuel pollution would raise temperature this century, worsen floods, droughts, hurricanes, melt polar ice, and damage the climate system for a thousand years. The report also confirmed that man is 90% to blame.

His burning of oil, coal, and natural gas in factories and industrial plants since the industrial revolution (1880s) induces the earth to heat up. These

fossil fuels release the carbon in the air, creating an invisible greenhouse that pollutes the upper atmosphere, lock the heat inside, and radiate this heat back to earth.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which accounts for 60% of the greenhouse gases in the upper atmosphere is emitted by industry, cars, agriculture, and deforestation. In its natural state, CO<sub>2</sub> is produced by volcanic eruptions, forest fires, and decaying plants.

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) or marsh gas, accounts for 20% but have a higher warming impact than CO<sub>2</sub>. It is emitted by decomposing garbage and agricultural wastes, leaks in coal mining, and natural gas production.

Nitrous oxide is emitted from nitrogen fertilizers, pesticides, biomass burning, combustion process in cars, and in producing nitric acid.

Directly manufactured by man are hydroflouorocarbons (CFCs) and perflouorocarbons used as refrigerants and coolants as well as the freon in refrigerators, and air conditioners.

CFCs are 15,000 times more efficient than CO<sub>2</sub> in warming the air.

Today's annual global emission of carbon dioxide has reached to 28 billion metric tons, a 30 percent increase since 1800's.

Scientists warned a doubling in the next 50 years could raise temperature between 1.0 and 8.0 degrees centigrade (or 33.8 - 46.4 fare4nheit).

Keith Ingram, noted American agronomist warned: "Two degrees would be a big increase while an eight degree rise may spell the end of civilization as we know it".

For the Philippines and other island nations at or near the equator, the worst case scenario could occur when seawater rises due to the melting of the polar ice caps.

Lands below sea level would be gobbled up by water resulting in loss of many lives and creating a nightmarish

environ- mental refugee problem.

**Nestor S. Atienza**

As early as four years ago, NASA scientist sounded the alarm after tracking through satellites images of melting Artic sea ice, leaving miles of open water in places normally frozen year-round.

The region's largest ice sheet also shattered after 3,000 years.

Scientists warned that warmer temperature melt sea ice and glaciers fast and thus, increase ocean heat and expand ocean water. This resulted in worldwide rise of seawater of four to ten inches in the last 100 years. A rise of six to three feet is expected in the next 100 years.

Even as this writing, Kiribati (formerly the Gilbert Islands), which sits right smack at the equator, is said to be slowly being swallowed by water. Tuvalu and other small islands within the federal States of Micronesia could be the next.

Human survival instinct however, is stronger than the vast economic and political differences among nations. Of late, 169 nations ratified the Kyoto Protocol which legally binds them to specific greenhouse gas-reduction schemes to realize a five percent drop in temperature by 2012.

The fight against global warming, however, should not be left to governments and scientists alone.

Earth has a vast citizenry of four billion people.

Everyone old enough should do his or her share.

We can just imagine for instance if everyone will cease from burning trash, follow proper waste disposal, stop using kerosene lamp, or even desist from smoking - so many things to do to help in the total effort.

Source: *Philippine Panorama*  
October 14, 2007



## Remembering the Late President Ramon Magsaysay: Tree Planting at Clark Expo

**A**s a part of the Trees for Life Program and to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the late

President Ramon Magsaysay, a tree planting activity was organized jointly by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Green Army Foundation, Clark Development Foundation and the 600th Air Base Wing on September 29, 2007 at the Clark Special Economic Zone, Angeles, Pampanga.



**PWPA in Clark.** PWPA staffs, (l-r) system analyst Floren Andres, office secretary Aurea Mira and forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez, pose with one of the Ramons, artist Ramon Orlina (extreme right), after the tree planting.

More than 100 participants attended the ceremony notwithstanding the heavy rains during that day.

A short program was prepared with Col. Alejandro Camagay, Jr. Wing, Commander of the 600th Air Base Wing welcoming the participants.

Ms. Mila Magsaysay-Valenzuela, daughter of the

late President Magsaysay delivered the keynote speech sharing her memories with her father especially when he passes by areas lined with fire trees, the president begins to

sing. She said that the family is very flattered and appreciative of the activity in his honor.

Ms. Odette Alcantara of Mother Earth Philippines, thanked everyone who attended the activity. She then invited everyone to start the tree planting.



**Trees for Ramon Magsaysay.** President Ramon Magsaysay's daughter Mrs. Mila Magsaysay-Valenzuela (left photo) led the tree planting activity in Clark, Pampanga. Ms. Odette Alcantara (right photo) also planted a tree for former president Ramon Magsaysay.

The Philippine Wood Producers Association donated 100 t-shirts to the activity and was represented by forestry and environment coordinator Maila Vasquez, office secretary Aurea Mira and system analyst Floren Andres.

## DENR Partners with Ms. Earth Foundation to Promote Environment Awareness

**C**laiming that beauty queens can make "effective communicators," Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza said the DENR will work closely with the Ms. Earth Foundation in enhancing the country's natural wealth.

"Wherever you are, stress the message on the need to protect the environment and manage our natural wealth more effectively," Atienza told the Ms. Philippines Earth winners.

Atienza cited the role of beauty queens in promoting environmental issues during a visit yesterday at the DENR office in Quezon City.

The Ms. Philippines Earth beauties were led by Ms. Philippines Earth 2007

Jeanne Harn. The title holders were accompanied by Ms. Earth Water 2006, now executive director of Ms. Earth Foundation Katherine Untalan.

"The advocacy of our generation is to save the earth, fight global warming, prevent climate change, mitigate all of these negative impacts that are the results of the failures of the past. Now we can do something better for the future," Atienza told his visitors.

Atienza said the DENR's partnership with the Ms. Earth Foundation will be an effective and exciting communication strategy in promoting awareness and education on the environment.

The Miss Earth contest, which originated in the Philippines in 2004, is a contest that projects the beauty of both the Filipina and the country's natural wealth.

The other Ms. Philippines Earth beauties who joined in the courtesy call, aside from Harn, were: Ms. Philippines EcoTourism Anna Katrina Bautista, Ms. Philippines Air Krystle Ann Dizon, Ms. Philippines Fire Sara Katrina Miñoza, and Lil Earth Angel 2007 Mikaela Abuan.

Source: <http://denr.gov.ph>  
September 3, 2007

It maybe recalled PWPA was one of the principal sponsors/hosts of the 2004 Miss Earth. The beauty participants were briefed by PWPA about Philippine forestry and wood industry at Baguio Country Club, Baguio City. Directors Antonio Olizon, Fernando Lu, Felix Sy, Alex Ong, Florio Buñag and executive director Leonardo Angeles led the PWPA delegation. Ed.

## Partnership to Reforest Northern Sierra Forged in Malacañang

A public-private sector partnership to reforest and protect the biodiversity of the Northern Sierra Madre Mountain Range in collaboration with local stakeholders has been forged last September 13, 2007 with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) among the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Conservation International (CI), Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) and the local government of Peñablanca, Cagayan.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the MOU signing in Malacañang Palace.

Under the MOU, known as the Peñablanca Reforestation Project (PRP), the four agencies have agreed to cooperate and collaborate restore and revegetate a total of 2,500 hectares of denuded forest lands within the 118,000-hectare Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape in the municipality of Peñablanca, Cagayan.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza said that the initiative epitomizes the Green Philippines Program (GPP) of the President as a path to sustainable development.

He said that the noble effort to conserve a key biodiversity corridor requires the cooperation of all stakeholders with total commitment and coherence of actions. He added that the Peñablanca reforestation "proves that humanity and nature can coexist in productive symbiosis."

Toyota Motor Corporation, which has taken up global environmental conservation as part of its corporate social responsibility, has earmarked US\$3-million in six years. The financial support is a grant to Conservation International in support of President Arroyo's Green Philippines Program.

Conservation International, an environmental NGO dedicated to terrestrial and marine biodiversity conservation, is responsible for the overall management of the reforestation project.

The DENR will provide forest management and rehabilitation plans and has adopted the project as part of its Trees for Life campaign under the GPP.

The local government of Peñablanca is providing infrastructure and social services support in public awareness, capacity building, and livelihood for the benefit of the community.

The 102,782-hectare forest of Peñablanca is a haven of endemic flora and fauna that is the richest in the world and considered as one of the country's last remaining old growth and mossy forest stands. Aside from its high biodiversity, the area is also host to more than 200 caves and pristine river systems.

Tragically, the Peñablanca forest, is also one of the most threatened by destructive farming, timber poaching, wildlife hunting, charcoal making, and slash-and-burn farming that continue to decimate the resources sustaining the people of Peñablanca and its surrounding communities.

Aiming at arresting the destruction of the Peñablanca forests and ecosystems, the PRP also has the goal of promoting forest conservation and demonstrating the compatibility among multiple uses of forests: for

biodiversity protection, watershed management, and ecosystems services, including the development of alternative sources of income and livelihood for the benefit of local communities.

Located in barangays Mangga, Sisim, San Roque, Cabasan, and Bugatay, the project involves the planting of indigenous species, agroforestry, forest protection, climate, community and biodiversity certification, and research and development.

The DENR secretary lauded Toyota Motor Corporation and Conservation International as two leading global citizens

that manifested their faith in our government's thrust on green governance. He said the Peñablanca project is a good showcase of environmentalism, sustainable development, and sustained partnership.

"Environmental conservation ought to include people as beneficiaries. The project will establish an enhanced ecosystem where humanity makes it sustainably provident and reaps prosperity and good health for environmental citizenship," Atienza emphasized.

It is expected that about two million forest and fruit trees will be planted in Peñablanca at the end of the six-year project.

Source: <http://denr.gov.ph>  
September 13, 2007

*Tragically, the Peñablanca forest, is also one of the most threatened by destructive farming, timber poaching, wildlife hunting, charcoal making, and slash-and-burn farming that continue to decimate the resources sustaining the people of Peñablanca and its surrounding communities.*

## DENR Grants P30 M to Upland Communities

**T**hey're closer than ever to getting their dream. Some 8,047 members of 35 people's organizations (POs) nationwide involved in the development and management of upland areas under the Community-Based Forest Management Program (CBFM) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will soon have much needed funds for their projects.

DENR Secretary Lito Atienza said that these people's organizations are the beneficiaries of P30 million supplemental fund, drawn from the Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF) provided under the implementing rules and regulations of Executive Order 263 that adopted the CBFM as the national strategy for the sustainable development of the country's forestlands.

The initial amount, which had been earmarked for CY 2007, is geared towards the development of two million hectares of agribusiness lands and the creation of two

million jobs that would address the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program (AHMP) of the government, said Secretary Atienza.

The amount will be used by the beneficiaries from 21 provinces with the highest incidence of hunger to support agroforestry, tree plantations and rehabilitation, livelihood and enterprise development activities of CBFM as the program also targets the upgrading of communities' socio-economic status to curb further degradation of the environment. It would have a synergistic effect as livelihood activities would pave the way for greater support to forestry activities leading in turn to the rehabilitation of the environment. This would eliminate destructive forest activities that unfortunately accompany their bid to eke out a living.

"Indeed, the socio-economic condition of the people is aggravated when the environment is compromised. You degrade the environment and poverty follows, and poverty in turn results in fur-

ther environmental degradation," stressed Atienza.

The projects are now being implemented in the AHMP priority provinces: Kalinga and Quirino in CAR; Zambales and Nueva Ecija in Region 3; Quezon, Romblon in Regions 4A and 4B, respectively; Camarines Norte in Region 5; Antique in Region 6; Negros Oriental in Region 7; Biliran and Samar in Region 8; Zamboanga Sibugay and Zamboanga del Norte in Region 9; Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental in Region 10; Davao Oriental in Region 11; Sarangani and South Cotabato in Region 12; and Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Norte in CARAGA.

In related development, the Trees for Life Project, a key activity that mobilizes various sectors in tree planting initiatives to meet the 20 million seedlings target by the end of the year, has stepped up its greening efforts in agroforestry areas. With the Green Army Foundation as main partner of the DENR in this undertaking, simulta-

neous tree planting activities are being conducted by DENR regional offices nationwide in coordination with multisectoral groups that shall serve as adoptors to ensure sustainability of planted seedlings.

Secretary Atienza announced the target of 8.76 million seedlings of indigenous species for planting nationwide that include molave, narra, rain tree as well as avocado, mango, cashew and jackfruit covering some 10,752 hectares of agroforestry areas that include tenured and untenured production forestland, farmlots and backyards as well as roadsides tree parks.

Agroforestry development is one of four thematic areas covered by the Trees for Life Project. The other three are critical watershed and other protected areas, mangroves, coastal and urban areas.

Source: <http://denr.gov.ph>  
October 23, 2007

## General Meeting of PWPA Pangasinan Chapter

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) Pangasinan Chapter held its 2nd General Membership meeting last October 19, 2007 at the Am-am Restaurant, Dagupan City.

The meeting discussed the different activities the Chapter will undertake for the coming year, including their participation for the DENR's Trees for Life Program: 20 million seedlings for Planting and Nurturing (TL:20MSPN).

The meeting was presided by its president Conrado Chua. Manuel Maceda of the local DENR, discussed the TL:20MSPN. PWPA was represented by manager Regino Serafico and coordinator Benjamin Bereña.



(L-r) PWPA manager Regino Serafico with PWPA Pangasinan Chapter treasurer, Marlin Macasieb, secretary Eva Vallejo and president Conrado Chua.

## Condolences

*With sincerest condolences to the bereaved family of:*

*+ Asucena Uy, wife of Mr. Benjamin Uy of REWOODCO, who passed away last October 11, 2007.*



**04 September 2007**

Meeting re: Forestry Outlook  
FMB Conference Room, Quezon City

**06 September 2007**

Public Hearing: Advance Payment of VAT on Transport/Sale of Forest Products  
BIR Compound, Quezon City

**12 September 2007**

56th PWPA Steering Committee Meeting  
PWPA Board Room, Makati City

**12 September 2007**

PWPA Board Meeting  
Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City

**17-28 September 2007**

Exhibit: Byahe na sa Zambo Sur: Regional Product Showcase  
Pagadian City

**21 September 2007**

FPI Int'l Trade Committee Workshop on NAMA Sensitive List  
UCPB Bldg., Makati City

**29 September 2007**

Tree Planting at Clarkfield, Pampanga

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

**03 October 2007**

Meeting-consultation of National Land Use Code  
Mac Restaurant, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

**08 October 2007**

Consultation Workshop of the House Committees on Ecology and Natural Resources  
Sulo Hotel, Quezon City

**11 October 2007**

7th Consumer Trade Fair  
Mega Trade Hall, Mandaluyong City

**17 October 2007**

PWPA Board Meeting  
PWPA Boardroom, Makati City

**19 October 2007**

2nd General Meeting of PWPA Pangasinan Chapter  
Dagupan City

**22 October 2007**

First National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation Program  
Albay Astrodome, Legazpi City

**26-28 October 2007**

GK1 World Exhibit at Mall of Asia Compound

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