



WOODSTOCK

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For the Promotion of Sustainable Forest & Wood Industry

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House Committee Approves SFM Act



Natural Resources Committee Chair. Cong. Ignacio "Iggy" T. Arroyo

The Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives chaired by Congressman Ignacio Arroyo approved the bill on Sustainable Forest Management Act (SFMA) of 2007 during its public hearing held on November 28, 2007 at the Batasan Pambansa, Quezon City.

Congressman Rufus Rodriguez, the principal author of the said bill, made an eloquent sponsorship of it. He said the resulting law when

properly implemented would redound to the rational allocation of the forestlands; protect existing natural forests; conserve biodiversity, soil and water; and develop denuded areas into forest plantations; thus, increasing the productivity of resources, services and benefits derived from forestlands.

He added that the management, development and use of the forestlands shall be done by multi-sectoral participation where the security of tenure of stakeholders is assured and services to be rendered by forest agencies will be highly professional.

To encourage the involvement of the private sector, valid and existing

tenurial instruments shall continue until their expiry, but before then they may be converted into tenurial instruments allowed under the Constitution as the forest-based industries shall be given incentives for them to grow and become engines for the socio-economic development of the country, Rodriguez said.

The unanimous endorsement for the approval of



SFMA Author. Cong. Rufus Rodriguez

(Continued on page 2)

Senator Cayetano and Secretary Atienza, Jr. Graced PWPA 56th Annual General Assembly

Senator Compañera Pia Cayetano, chairperson of the Senate's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources were guest speakers at the 56th Annual General Assembly

of Members of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) held last November 22, 2007 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

In her speech, Cayetano said her committee has prioritized three bills, namely: 1) the sustainable forest management; 2) the national land use; and 3) the land administration. She said it is her strong desire to pass them into laws before her last term as a senator ends as the laws would be significant legacies to future generations. She said the support and involvement of all stakeholders would be important to make them "working laws" rather than mere "paper laws."



Environment and wood industry stalwarts. (l-r) PWPA EVP A. Keh, Jr., FPI chairman M. Carlos, Jr., PWPA president F. Lu, DENR secretary J. Atienza, Jr., PWPA director E. Alcantara, Senator P. Cayetano, PWPA chairman A. Olizon and PWPA director V. Consunji.

Secretary Atienza said the opportunity to protect the environment is the biggest challenge in his political and government career for protecting it, as countries and leaders all over the world do, is a universal concern for the survival of humanity.

(Continued on page 6)

House Committee...

(Continued from page 1)

the bill by the resource persons representing the national and local governments, the academic community, the forestry professional organization, the NGO's and the private sector, including the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), persuaded Rodriguez to graciously withdraw the bill on the Total Logging Ban Act he also authored.

Chair Arroyo explained that the approval of the bill at his committee level is but the first step to a proverbial journey of a thousand miles before it becomes a law. It may be referred to other appropriate committees before a report is made and calendared for a plenary second reading - the period of debate and amendment. After its third and final reading, the bill would be sent to the Senate wherein a parallel bill might also be under its consideration. Differences between the House and Senate bills, if any, would be threshed out in the Bicameral Conference Committee to arrive at a common bill that will be ratified by each chambers of the 14th Congress. Thereafter, the President of the Philippines would sign it into law (or, veto it).

The PWPA is following up the bill with the technical working groups of the House of Representatives, the Senate of the Philippines and the DENR so that the far-reaching interests of the wood industry are amply included in it. The bill on SFMA has been in the legislative mill since the 9th Congress.

Courtesy Call on DENR Secretary Made by PWPA

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) made a courtesy call on secretary Jose Atienza, Jr. of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on November 20, 2007 at his office in Diliman, Quezon City.

Atienza said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo instructed him to help all natural resources industries, because by helping them, they also help the country in many socio-economic ways as the urged the wood industry to confine its practices within existing laws.

Chair Antonio Olizon said the PWPA and its members have always been working closely with the DENR and their practices have always been within the bounds of laws and regulations. He said uncontrolled illegal practices done by non-PWPA members have been putting the entire industry in a bad light, if not "killing" it.

Olizon invited the secretary to visit forest areas and mill sites for him to observe best practices being done by PWPA members and to which invitation Atienza accepted.

President Fernando Lu informed Atienza about the plan of establishing the Philippine Timber Industry Development Board – the draft EO earlier submitted to Malacañang Palace was returned by it to the DENR for its further comments. Atienza said he will study the matter.

The courtesy call also enabled the PWPA to introduce itself as an Association to the new secretary; to find common grounds for cooperation; and to thank him for his accepting the invitation as guest of honor and speaker during its 56th Annual General Assembly on November 22, 2007.

With Atienza during the courtesy call were his undersecretaries Tessam Castillo and Mary Ann Lucille Sering. Aside from chair Olizon and president Lu, PWPA was represented by executive vice president Alfonso C. Keh, Jr., vice president Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., director Victor Consunji, executive director L. D. Angeles and forestry and environment coordinator M. R. Vasquez.



PWPA Pays Traditional Courtesy Call. (L-r) Undersecretary Tessam Castillo, Undersecretary Mary Ann Lucille Sering, EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr., President Fernando Lu, Secretary Jose Atienza, Jr., Chair Antonio Olizon, VP-director Evaristo Narvaez, Jr. and Director Victor Consunji.

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DENR Hosted NCIP and Stakeholders Dialogue

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hosted a dialogue between the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), on one hand, and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP) and the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), on the other, last December 18, 2007 at the KsK Lounge, DENR Bldg., Quezon City.

The dialogue was aimed at addressing issues arising from the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 and its implementing rules and regulations (see opposite table and related story in Here Comes the Eagle on pp. 7 and 10).

The dialogue resulted in the following agreements: a) NCIP shall provide stakeholders with the available ethnographic map; and b) representatives from the wood and mining industries shall be included in the technical working group on the harmonization of DENR and NCIP guidelines and/or regulations.

NCIP chair Eugene Insigne also encouraged the mining and wood industry members to meet with him on specific concerns or issues he will personally attend to.

DENR undersecretaries Tessam Castillo and Manny Gerochi acted as dialogue moderators. The NCIP was represented by chair Insigne with his other commissioners and staff members; DAR, by undersecretary Rosalina Bistoyong and staff members; CMP, by executive vice-president Nelia Halcon; and PWPA, by president Fernando Lu, executive director L. D. Angeles, adviser J. A. Lorenzo, forestry & environment coordinator M. R. Vasquez and representatives of some PWPA company members.

Issues and Recommendations Highlights	
Issues	Recommendations/Actions
<p>CMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some NCIP regional offices and a number of IPs still believe mineral resources in IP areas belong to them. Up to this time, the NCIP has not come up with an ethnographic map delineating IP areas. Old mining areas under patent are now being claimed by migrant IPs. FPIC granted by some IP groups is not respected by NCIP. Demands by some field-based investigation teams are sometimes beyond normal requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the regional office on said issue. Tentative map or list of areas will be provided by NCIP but the detailed map is still under preparation with WB fund support. For study by NCIP. Follow the NCIP's usual procedures and guidelines. Report to the regional or head office of NCIP.
<p>PWPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the ancestral lands (AD) within forestlands not yet known. Sharing agreements between IPs and tenure holders to be doable and practical. Conducting FBI and FPIC is time-consuming and variably costly. Stability of the tenurial instruments inside IP areas is unsure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use ethnographic map as basis whether or not NCIP intervention is needed. Joint circular governing realistic agreements between IPs/NCIP and DENR is needed. Reformulation of guidelines to shorten the process and make reasonable rates of cost of FBI and FPIC need. Joint circular between DENR and NCIP is needed to protect the investment of stakeholders.
<p>DAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicting processes and approval of survey plans that could lead to double titling of property. Land distributed under CARP overlapped by NCIP ancestral domain delineation. Jurisdiction of NCIP and DAR over the ancestral domain that have been covered under CARP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ancestral land and ancestral domain surveys used in CALTs and CADTs should undergo the DENR-LMS verification and approval processes before titles are registered. Review policy issuances inconsistent with the land registration laws.

Senate Held Hearing on National Land Use Policy

The Senate's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, chaired by Senator Pia Cayetano, held a public hearing on December 19, 2007 to get further inputs from stakeholders on the four bills on the national land use policy presented during the first public hearing last August 29, 2007.

As in the first hearing, most resource persons indicated their support for the enactment of the said policy with

a few of them advancing some amendments for the consideration of the Committee.

Dr. Renato Solidum of PHILVOCS said the bill, once passed into law, will be a very important tool in disaster management. He said proper land use may somehow mitigate the effects of volcanic eruption, earthquake, flooding and landslides. Solidum said the toll on human lives and properties caused by floods and landslides has been usu-

(Continued on page 5)

BIR Requests Sellers of Timber to Pay Advance VAT

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is requiring owners and sellers of naturally-grown or planted timber to pay their value added tax (VAT) dues before the products are transported from their place of production or concession.

Timber, whether naturally-grown or cultivated, is one of the country's most valuable wood products. As such, the BIR is working to ensure that appropriate taxes are paid for the sale of such wood products, whether naturally grown or cultivated.

In a recently issued revenue regulation, the BIR said owners or traders of naturally-grown or planted timber products must pay an advance VAT on the transport of these products.

The regulation covers owners and sellers who hold permits or agreements issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Naturally-grown or planted timber products that are harvested from industrial tree plantations are also covered by the regulation and are therefore subject to advance VAT payments.

The advance VAT is imposed at the rate of twelve percent of the value per cubic meter of a particular kind of timber product.

The BIR regulation provides a schedule of values for the various types of timber products.

"Advance VAT payments made may be credited against an owner's or seller's output VAT on the actual gross selling price of the timber products," the BIR said in its announcement yesterday.

However, in the case of the advance three percent percentage tax, the advance payment will be credited to the monthly or quarterly percentage tax return of the owner or seller, the BIR also said.

The appropriate forms for the filing and payment of the advance VAT, as well as further details on the new regulation may be obtained from the BIR's various revenue district offices.

The BIR, the government's main revenue earner, is tasked to collect P765 billion this year and P854 billion in 2008.

The agency is under heavy pressure from Malacañang and multilateral lenders to meet its revenue goals and allow the government to have more funds for social services and infrastructure spending.

Data showed that the agency's collections increased by only 8.6 percent to P510.7 billion from P480.8 billion from January to September.

This is P45 billion short of the P566.9 billion target but officials said the agency is stepping up efforts to meet its revenue goals.

*Source: Iris C. Gonzales.
Business Section. The Philippine Star
December 12, 2007*

Innovative Forestry Financing Mechanisms

The final stakeholders workshop on innovative forestry financing mechanisms was held last December 7, 2007 at DENR, Quezon City.

Dr. Tonie Balangue, the consultant in-charge of the project, presented the action plan on sourcing forestry fund facilities and on how they should be managed. Internally-sourced facilities, accordingly, would be handled by the government and externally-sourced facilities, for example, from multilateral institutions, by the private sector.

Both fund facilities, when set-up, can be loaned to stakeholders for developing forestlands.

However, there are some concerns that need to be addressed for the financing mechanisms to be implemented, such as: a) marketing the concept to the government who would provide the enabling law or regulations for tapping funds for the government-managed facilities and to the multilateral institutions who would provide funds for the private-managed facilities; b) the amount and limit of loans to various types of forest projects and their repayment; c) monitoring and

evaluation mechanisms to keep track of the project performance, a key to make sustainable the facilities; and d) the overall impact of priority forest projects to the socio-economy of the country.

The meeting, hosted by the DENR, was attended by participants from other government agencies, NGOs and private sector including the Philippine Wood Producers Association represented by Forestry & Environment Coordinator M. R. Vasquez.

DENR Program Presented at Salugnayan Para sa Kalikasan

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was host of a forum attended by the different government agencies, non-government organizations, and the private sector, including the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), on November 26, 2007.

The forum called "SALUGNAYAN" or Salu-salo at Ugnayan para sa Kalikasan was aimed at broadening and strengthening the partnership between the DENR and the stakeholders concerned in the management of the environment and natural resources.

Undersecretary Tessam Castillo welcomed the participants as she gave the rationale and objectives of the forum.

Secretary Jose Atienza, Jr., who was introduced by undersecretary Mary Ann Lucille Sering, said that he was very glad the DENR has numerous partners in the management of the environment and natural resources.

He stressed that as long as everyone follows or abides by the rules and guidelines, he will be around to support everyone. He said problems always arise when one don't follow the rules.

Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio presented the DENR strategic thrusts and directions for CY 2008-2010 focusing on the following: a) poverty reduction and hunger mitigation; b) socio-economic development; c) biodiversity conservation; and d) climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Director Julian Amador presented the DENR's recommended mitigation and adaptation options to climate change.

He said mitigation options consists of: a) reforestation; b) management of air quality in urban areas; c) reduce air pollution through strict monitoring and prevention of open burning; among others.

Adaptation options, on the other hand, include the following: a) determine areas and ecosystems/species most vulnerable to natural hazards; b) strengthen protection of vulnerable areas by establishing critical ecosystems and species, expanding capacities of river basins and strictly regulate utilization and protecting water aquifer thru strict regulation or banning of ground-water extraction; among others.

During the open forum, Atienza and undersecretaries Ignacio and Manuel Gerochi alternately answered questions raised by the participants.

On the issue of JPEPA, that accordingly, will give equal rights to the Japanese to fish in the Philippine waters Atienza said that is not true. However, he requested that the JPEPA issue be discussed in other time and forum.

A plenary workshop on ENR thematic programs and identification of prospective program champions/advocates was scheduled but due to limited time, the DENR informed the participants that documents will be emailed to them for submission of comments and suggestions.

Of Tree Planting...

(Continued from page 7)

Both major natural resources stakeholders ventilated their complaints as well as made their recommendations. Currently, the processing of all documents relative to permits, grants and the like, are held in abeyance at the DENR pending the presentation of the Certification Precondition and FPIC from the NCIP.

Nearly all timber and mining companies are experiencing problems in securing the FPIC. The DENR correctly pointed out that for business, delays arising from such problems can lead to tremendous losses of the natural resources enterprises.

The NCIP, through its Chairman, Atty. Eugenio A. Insigne, assured representatives of both industries that their office is doing everything to streamline the process. He also promised to help in any case brought to his attention.

Both the PWPA and the CMP requested to be consulted on appurtenant matters and to be a part of any inter-agency technical working group.

Senate Held...

(Continued from page 3)

ally attributed to deforestation when the facts say improper land use, poor location of human settlements and extreme rainfall, for example, 100-150 mm a day, are main causes therefor; trees can only help so much.

Ms Jane Ortega of the League of Cities said that laws are good but the problem is lack of the funds for capacity building of local people.

Forest Management Bureau (FMB) assistant director Neria Andin said her bureau has already drafted guidelines on the delineation of forest boundaries.

Senator Cayetano requested the resource persons to be present in the next meeting for their comprehensive comments on each of the bills.

Senator Cayetano and Secretary Atienza...

(Continued from page 1)

He also said his marching order from the President is to help the economy by way of helping the different natural resource-based industries to succeed. He pledged to balance the requirements of conservation, restoration and preservation of the environment, at one hand, and providing opportunities for the growth and development of industries, on the other.

Atienza expressed his support to the wood industry that generates job and livelihood opportunities, particularly in the countryside as he called on the members of PWPA to be responsible in managing their forest areas.

Atienza and Cayetano distributed the certificates of recognition to company-members of PWPA assisted by its chairman Antonio Olizon, president Fernando Lu, and Federation of Philippine Industries chairman Mineleo Carlos, Jr.

Atienza also administered the oath-taking of the elected directors of the Board, witnessed by Cayetano and Carlos, Jr.

Before the program, the PWPA conducted its business meeting by updating members about the different activities and projects it has implemented and the financial status of the Association. It also held the election of the directors of the Board.

The re-elected directors of the Board were Edith Alcantara, Victor Consunji, Alfonso Keh, Jr., Robert Kua, Charlie Liu, Fernando Lu, Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., Manuel Ng, Antonio Olizon, Alex Ong, Aristeo Puyat, Stanley Tan, and Ramon Uy while the newly elected directors were Domingo Tan and Johnny Young. (See photos below)

The theme of this year's General Assembly, PWPA: Your Partner in the Environment and the Economy, was

aimed at: a) enhancing the relationship of the PWPA with the government, especially with the DENR, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Congress and other major stakeholders; and b) engendering a close cooperation among its members in order to attain the vision, missions, plans and programs of PWPA.

The General Assembly, which was presented by David M. Consunji, Inc. (DMCI) with the PWPA, and sponsored by RI Chemicals Corp., Maynilad Water Services, Inc. and Surigao Development Corporation (SUDECOR) among others, was a huge success. It generated close to a million pesos in income.

The time, efforts and skills provided by the Steering Committee co-chaired by directors Charlie Liu, Stanley Tan and Ramon Uy were roundly acknowledged by the PWPA members.

NOON-NOON 4:30-5:00 PM 6:00-6:30 PM 7:00-7:30 PM 8:00-8:30 PM



Antonio C. Olizon



Fernando A. Lu



Alfonso C. Keh, Jr.



Evaristo M. Narvaez, Jr.



Edith A. Alcantara



Victor A. Consunji



Robert W. Kua



Charlie H. Liu



Manuel A. Ng



Alex P. Ong



Aristeo G. Puyat



Stanley Q. Tan



Ramon Y. Uy



Domingo L. Tan



Johnny M. Young

*Of Tree Planting, Courtesy Call, Annual General Assembly and Dialogues***By Ferdie Lu**

“*One needs to be slow to form convictions, but once formed, they must be defended against the heaviest odds.”*

- Mahatma Gandhi

Tens of thousands of volunteers from Citigroup across the world participated in the company's annual "Global Community Day" on November 17. It is an annual initiative of the company to have employees, along with their families and friends, come together as a global volunteer team to work on that day on various projects specific to community needs including literacy, housing, environmental protection, nutrition and health care.

In Metro Manila, employees and families of the Philippine branch of the leading global financial services company, in collaboration with the Green Army and with the support of the DENR and the City Government of Marikina, conducted a major tree planting activity in various areas of the city.

In a short program preceding the activity, Mr. Sanjiv Vohra, Citi Country Officer, highlighted Citigroup's concern for the communities and the environment. This was warmly recognized and appreciated by DENR Secretary Lito Atienza and Green Army's Ms. Odette Alcantara.

As the Citi family desired to experience the complete process of tree planting, only the trees intended for the ceremonial planting had pre-bored holes. The volunteers wanted to dig the holes where their trees were planted. This writer, a trustee of the Green Army, was invited to talk on the importance of trees and how to properly plant them.

This writer took advantage of the opportunity to make a pitch for the sustainable use of wood by citing researches concluding that wood is the most environmentally friendly of all materials. Experts made their hypothesis after performing studies using the Life Cycle Assessment, one of the most comprehensive tools for measuring environmental impact of products during their entire life cycle.

Wood has been found to be the most environmentally friendly as it is renewable and recyclable and can be used for different end products.

It is also a source of renewable energy and needs only 4% of energy to convert it to useful products. The Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations promotes, among others, the

responsible use of wood as an environmentally friendly raw material.

xxx

On November 20th, the PWPA was finally able to pay a courtesy call on Secretary Lito Atienza after several postponements due to the Secretary's very tight schedule. The association's initial meeting with the Secretary was very cordial and candid. He vowed to help the wood industry as long as no laws are violated. He conveyed the President's mandate to promote business in order to pursue economic growth. Your officers reminded the Secretary of his attendance to the forthcoming annual meeting of the PWPA.

xxx

The PWPA's 56th Annual General Assembly at the Manila Polo Club on November 22nd was a total success. We were very fortunate to have two equally distinguished guests of honor in the persons of Senator Pia Cayetano and Secretary Lito Atienza. Both reiterated their steady support for the legitimate stakeholders of the industry.

We congratulate the Assembly's steering committee co-chaired by Directors Mon Uy, Charlie Liu and Stanley Tan for the superb preparations for the event. We also thank the various supporters, headed by DMCI and Manila Water, RI Chemicals and SUDECOR who made the yearly get-together a successful affair.

xxx

A Salugnayan (short for Salo-Salo at Ugnayan Para sa Kalikasan) was held at the DENR Social Hall on November 26 upon the invitation of the DENR to various NGO partners of the department. It was initiated by Secretary Atienza to strengthen the cooperation of the various stakeholders of the department.

xxx

The PWPA and the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP) were invited to a dialogue with officials of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the DENR. The meeting held at the KsK Lounge of the DENR aimed at addressing the issues besetting the timber and mining industries relative to the issuance of Certification Precondition following the granting of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC).

(Continued on page 5)

Environmental and Energy Balances of Wood Products and Substitutes

Part two/continuation of the results of the study funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Comparison between sheds made of wood (nail plate structure), steel and concrete (shell only)

Similar to the previous example, two cases are analysed, Case A: Total energy consumption and Case B: Net energy consumption.

Case A: Total energy consumption

The energy input amounts to 5,328 GJ, 6,577 GJ and 8 003 GJ for the sheds from wood, steel and concrete, respectively. The thermal utilization of waste wood is not taken into consideration. The results obtained show that:

- compared with other sheds, the wood shed is the most favourable building due to the low emissions and the resulting impact potentials;
- steel and concrete sheds are placed second and third/last;
- for the three buildings, the operation phase of 20 years requires most of the energy consumed. Furthermore, the differences between the three shed types are relatively small, e.g. the global warming potential (GWP) of the wood shed is 7 percent smaller than that of the steel shed and 12 percent smaller than that of the concrete shed; and
- major differences are found in the production phase of the sheds concerned.

Case B: Net energy consumption

After the operation phase of 20 years the waste wood is utilized as fuel and at least 3 400 GJ of energy are produced. Thus, for the wood shed the energy consumption and the relating environmental impact potentials are reduced. For the other shed types, however, there is no reduction of energy input and the corresponding environmental impact potentials.

The comparison between sheds made of different building materials (wood, steel and concrete) was carried out on the basis of the sum of the net energy consumption for production, transport, operation and demolition. The results

obtained for the environmental impact potentials are much more in favour of wood as building material.

Window frames

The window frames have a lifetime of 30 years and are made of three different materials: wood, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and aluminium.

The results achieved lead to the following conclusions:

- For all impact categories concerned the environmental burden of wooden windows is the lowest.
- Regarding the wooden window, waste wood can replace fossil fuel so that the environmental impact is reduced.
- Acidification potential (AP) of the wooden window is only from 40 percent to 47 percent of that of aluminium and PVC windows.
- Concerning the eutrophication potential (EP) and the photochemical ozone creation potential (POCP), the results for the wooden window are around two-thirds of that for other windows.

The following are differences in the impact potentials for various modules.

- Concerning the global warming, the lifetime impact of windows is significantly high and due to the periodical treatment with paint, lacquer or other chemicals, the wooden window results in having the highest impact followed by PVC and aluminium. However, when the entire life cycle is considered, the wooden window is the most favourable product and the PVC and aluminium windows are placed second and third, respectively.
- With regards to AP and EP, the effect resulting from window transport is almost the same for aluminium and PVC as frame material and considerably higher than for the wooden window. In the case of POCP, the transport effect is again for the wooden window the lowest followed by aluminium and PVC windows.
- From the viewpoint of frame material, the wooden window shows the lowest AP, EP and POCP. Aluminium and PVC are alternately placed second and third.

- Concerning the environmental impact of lifetime, AP, EP and POCP are for the three window types almost the same. However, the wooden window shows a slightly higher potentials than the other window types.

Flooring materials

The analysis of flooring materials includes the ecological comparison between wood, PVC and linoleum as well as the comparison between three parquet types.

Comparison between wood, PVC and linoleum flooring

The methods applied by Åsa Jönsson (1995) to carry out the initial study on flooring materials differ from the LCA method. Therefore, the original study provided the data for LCI while the impact assessment was conducted according to ISO 14042 within the framework of this study.

The analysis includes the importance of wood as substitute for fossil fuels as well as the environmental impacts of different flooring materials. The results obtained lead to the following conclusions:

- Pinewood as flooring material consumes the lowest amount of energy (electricity and fossil) followed by linoleum and PVC.
- Burning wood at the end of life cycle has no negative effects because the CO₂ released was removed from the atmosphere by photosynthesis.
- Non-renewable materials as components of linoleum and PVC cause negative effects due to the additional CO₂ released to the atmosphere.
- Besides the CO₂-neutrality, the renewable waste can substitute equivalent amount of fossil fuels leading to the reduction of CO₂ in the surrounding atmosphere.
- PVC shows the highest GWP (4.2 kg/m²) which is 2.5 times more than that of linoleum (1.6 kg/m²), while the effect of wood is very small (0.42 kg/m²) and can be more or less neglected.
- With regard to AP, PVC again shows the worst record followed by wood and linoleum,

(Continued on page 9)

Environmental and Energy Balances...

(Continued from page 8)

and the fact that wood shows higher potential than linoleum might be related to the incineration process.

- The ecologically most unfavourable result for wood flooring is the relatively high EP, whereas PVC flooring shows the lowest EP. Concerning POCP, however, wood as flooring material is the best, whereas PVC and linoleum are placed second and last, respectively.

Comparison between parquets of different types

The parquet types investigated are "mosaic solid parquet, glued", "two-layer prefabricated parquet, glued" and "three-layer prefabricated parquet, glued". The results show:

- As expected, the increasing energy consumption leads to the increase of impact potentials. The mosaic solid parquet is specified as the most environmentally sound flooring.
- Increase of renewable energy results in an over proportional reduction of environmental impacts.
- For the two-layer and three-layer prefabricated parquet, the consumption of non-renewable energy and the resulting impact potentials are almost the same. These can be reduced by increasing renewable and decreasing non-renewable energy.
- Attention should also be paid to the environmental effects caused by renewable energy. Between mosaic solid parquet and two-layer prefabricated parquet the differences of GWP, AP and EP are smaller than between the two-layer and three-layer prefabricated parquet.

- Regarding POCP the renewable energy is less favourable than non-renewable energy. However, the absolute values are too small and might not have a serious effect.

Main reasons for wood substitution

Despite the favourable environmental aspects, wood is still facing strong substitution by synthetics and other materials. For example, for production of certain products (windows, coating materials for furniture) synthetics are dominating. The reasons for this phenomenon are:

- Regulations and standards often direct the decision in a certain way. This can hardly be influenced by the customer. Examples for such an obstacle are the fire hazard regulations in many countries, which prohibit or restrict the use of wood in many building types.

Necessary measures: Work towards wood friendly building codes, wherever this is necessary and reasonable.

- Technical superiority is very important when it comes to decision-making. Customers tend to choose the technically best and most durable solution whenever the costs for this solution are still reasonable.

Necessary measures: Design wood products and product systems technically sound so that their duration is longer. Low durability and high maintenance will negatively affect the image of wood and the customers' perception in the long term.

- Wood products and product systems must be cost-effective and competitive. Higher prices for wood products compared to competing products can only be justified if there are other features, such as very positive image,

aesthetics, technical superiority (e.g. better insulation properties), which are rated high by the customers.

Necessary measures: Produce cost-effective wood products in order to be competitive.

- The knowledge on the advantages of using wood in constructions is rather limited. This is not only the case for architects, also the end users often do not know enough about wood. This limited knowledge often leads to the wrong utilization of wood and consequently to problems which negatively affect the image of wood.

Necessary measures: Provide easy to use and clear technical information to architects and end users. Advertise the advantages of wood in an appropriate way.

- Many environmentalists still believe that trees should stay in the forest in order to preserve nature. Certainly, environmental preservation is an important task, but there are environmentally sound forest management systems which secure sustainable utilization of forests without endangering nature.

Necessary measures: Inform the general public, environmentalists and politicians about environmentally sound forest management systems and possibilities for sustainable utilization of renewable resources.

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.

Average Plywood and Substitute Prices Survey in NCR

	Before (October 22, 2007)	Now (December 10, 2007)		Before (October 22, 2007)	Now (December 10, 2007)
(in Pesos/piece)			(in Pesos/piece)		
3mm (1/8) plywood	216	221	18 mm (3/4) plywood	738	740
4 mm (3/16) plywood	263	266	1/8 lawanit	160	157
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	286	287	3/16 lawanit	235	234
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	331	336	1/4 Hardiflex	346	341
10 mm (1/2) plywood	501	503			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	816	813			

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

“Heroes of the Environment”

Time Magazine’s special issue dated October 29, 2007 featured men and women who are called “Heroes of the Environment.”

They are: 1) Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union; 2) David Attenborough of the United Kingdom; 3) Lee Myung Bak of South Korea; 4) Al Gore of the United States; 5) Janine Benyus of the United States; 6) Tommy Remengesau, Jr. of Palau; 7) Jose Goldemberg of the United States; 8) Prince Charles of United Kingdom; 9) James Lovelock of United Kingdom; 10) Robert Redford of the United States; 11) David Suzuki of Canada; 12) Angela Merkel of Germany; 13) Frederic Hauge of Norway; 14) Wang Canfa of China; 15) Olga Tsepilova of Russia; 16) Wangari Maathai of Kenya; 17) Christine Loh of China; 18) Benjamin Kahn of Israel;

19) Karl Ammann of Switzerland; 20) Hammer Simwinga of Zambia; 21) Tim Flannery of Australia; 22) Theo Colborn of the United States; 23) Chip Giller of the United States; 24) James Hansen of the United States; 25) D. P. Dobhal of India; 26) Norman Myers of the United Kingdom; 27) Paul Crutzen of the Netherlands; 28) Abul Hussam of Bangladesh; 29) George Schaller of Africa; 30) Tulsi Tanti of India; 31) Kazutoshi Sakurai and Takeshi Kobayashi of Japan; 32) Jeffrey Immelt of the United States; 33) Amory B. Lovins of the United States; 34) Ray Anderson of the United States; 35) Richard Sandor of the United States; 36) William McDonough of the United States and Michael Braungart of Germany; 37) Shi Zhengrong of China; 38) Ahmet Lokurlu of Turkey; 39) Richard Branson of the United States; 40) Kristine Pearson and Rory Stear of South Africa.



Tree Planting. Ilocos Norte PWWA Chapter conducted its tree planting together with DENR-PENRO on October 16, 2007. Left photo shows chapter president Rita Alcid, fourth from the left, meeting with DENR provincial officials. Right photo shows the members in action.



End Year Board Meeting and Christmas Party. (left to right) Directors Johnny Young, Alex Ong, Edith Alcantara and Aristeo Puyat, Richard and Richmond Ng of LUZMATIM, Directors Charlie Liu, Ramon Uy, Alfonso Keh, Jr., and Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., Chair Antonio Olizon, President Fernando Lu and Adviser Jose Lorenzo during the PWWA Board meeting cum Christmas Party last December 13, 2007 at the Good Earth Cuisine, The Fort, Taguig, Metro Manila.



Condolences

*With sincerest condolences to the bereaved family of:
+ Leogarda Alvaro de Rueda, mother of For. Rene de Rueda, former DENR Undersecretary, who passed away last November 19, 2007.*

06 November 2007

Public Hearing on National Land Use Policy
Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City

14 November 2007

PWPA Board Meeting
PWPA Board Room, Makati City

20 November 2007

Courtesy Call on DENR Secretary Jose L. Atienza, Jr.
DENR, Quezon City

22 November 2007

PWPA 56th Annual General Assembly of Members
Manila Polo Club, Makati City

26 November 2007

Salo-salo at Ugnayan para sa Kalikasan
Social Hall, Quezon City

27 November 2007

1st CBNE Forum 2007
Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City

28 November 2007

Meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources re: SFM
Batasan Pambansa, Quezon City

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

03 December 2007

Earth Day Network, Inc. Organizational Meeting
Cravings Restaurant, Quezon City

07 December 2007

Final Stakeholders Workshop on Innovative Financing Mechanisms
DENR, Quezon City

11 December 2007

PPSQF Regular Meeting
DTI Bldg., Makati City

12 December 2007

Pre-FBI Conference
NCIP Provincial Office, Balanga, Bataan

13 December 2007

PWPA Board Meeting
Good Earth Oriental Cuising, Taguig, Metro Manila

18 December 2007

NCIP-DENR-DAR-CMP-PWPA Dialogue
DENR, Quezon City

19 December 2007

Public Hearing on National Land Use Policy
Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City

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