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PHILIPPINE WOOD EXP 2016

Wood: A Strong Climate Change Solution

Special Feature

Inside!

PWPA Holds the 1st Philippine Wood Expo &
Forum, PWPA Visits New DENR
Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza and More...

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PWPA Visits New DENR Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza

Philippine Wood Producers Association Vice Chair Ramon Uy and Executive Director Maila Vasquez paid a visit to the new Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Marlo Mendoza last August 23, 2016. Uy congratulated him on his appointment, saying that he was the right man for the job, as he is a forester with experiences both in the field and the academe.

They discussed several points of concern and interest to the wood industry.

Mendoza informed them that as DENR Secretary Gina Lopez' core principle is social justice, she is willing to support the wood industry, and business should help the people as well. Zoning of production and protection areas was also discussed.

He also apprised them of the priorities of the current administration, which include the devolution of harvesting permit approvals in the regions, increasing the local government unit's awareness of planted and natural or residual species, proper and correct implementation of policies, and the legality of source.



DENR Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza in deep discussion with PWPA Vice Chair Ramon Uy and Executive Director Maila Vasquez.

It was also mentioned that the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) will be continuing their research into alternative species for exotic or fast growing species; and that all Industrial Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) areas will be reviewed.

He said that they are considering an aggressive plantation development of different modality. Hence the need to review policies that will encourage investors and communities to plant. Holistic approach will be adopted which will consider site, species and market matching so that economic, environment and social aspects of development will be considered.

SFFI Meets With New DENR Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza

The Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI) led by its National Council President Tommy Valdez met with the new Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Marlo Mendoza on August 12, 2016 at Mario's Restaurant in Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

They spoke about the direction the current administration has with regards to the sector.

Mendoza said that the current DENR administration adheres to social justice as its core principle.

He mentioned that they will be implementing the Enhanced National Greening Program which targets local

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DENR-FMB Holds Seminar-Workshop on The Forestry Investment Road Map (FIRM)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Forest Management Bureau (FMB) held the National Consultation Seminar-Workshop on the Forestry Investment Road Map (FIRM) last November 29, 2016 at the Sulo Riviera Hotel in Quezon City.

The seminar-workshop began with DENR- FMB Assistant Director Mayumi Quintos-Natividad welcoming and thanking the participants who attended the event stressing that stakeholders' opinions and inputs are important in drafting an effective road map for the industry. She added that the government hopes that the forestry industry would be restored to what it was before, encouraging all participants to share their inputs and experiences to have a fruitful and productive seminar-workshop.

Forester Jesus Javier, FMB Forest Investment Development Division Chief, presented the rationale of the seminar workshop which are to present and discuss the proposed FIRM and request the stakeholders' feedback, inputs and recommendations which will be used to improve the draft FIRM.

Forester Len Bugayong then presented the highlights of the draft road map.

Afterwards, an open forum took place where representatives of various stakeholders - government agencies; banking institutions; the private sector, which included the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and other businesses – provided their inputs through their opinions, issues and concerns, and recommendations.

Forester Luminada Rotol presented the way forward of program and informed the participants they hoped to

finalize the road map in 2017 and will be implemented until 2028.

DENR Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza, who was not able to attend the opening program, nevertheless gave his message during the closing program.

He said a road map is very important and is long overdue, especially as they had already been talking about it during his tenure as the FMB Director. He talked about how both natural and plantation forest covers are going down, and wondered why investors are not encouraged enough to invest in forest development.

He then called upon the private sector, as their help and investments are much needed in the production zone, especially when it comes to plantation development. He also mentioned that the government should try harder in promoting such investments. As of the moment, the government has delegated the signing authority, and is currently searching for other ways to solve issues such as the duration of tenure and production sharing, among others.

Mendoza then insinuated that the government must try to come up with the right package for the private sector as the Community Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) cannot meet the wood target and requirement of the country. According to him, a portfolio approach investment is one as this will reduce transaction cost. Furthermore, proper zoning should also be considered.

He then ended his speech by thanking everyone who attended the seminar-workshop and for giving their insights, which will help them out in creating a better road map for the forestry industry.

Philippine Forest Certification System's National Governing Board Holds Second Meeting

The Philippine Forest Certification System's (PFCS) National Governing Board (NGB) had their second meeting last September 2, 2016 at the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) in Quezon City.

It was chaired by Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI) national council president Tommy Valdez, and co-chaired by FMB director Ricardo Calderon.

Valdez shared with the board the results of the Policy Forum on the Forest Certification System held last August 25, 2016. He said that Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Marlo Mendoza shared that forest certification is one of the priorities of new DENR Secretary Gina Lopez.

Another highlight of the forum was the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on technical assistance for the Capacity Building on the Establishment of Forest Certification by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI).

During the meeting, it was agreed that an executive order and a joint department administrative order from the DENR and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) be prepared for the implementation of the PFCS.

The different collaborative projects were presented to the board which included, among others, the different project proposals that will be submitted to financial institutions to fund the implementation of the different projects related to forest certification.

Some of the collaborative projects that were identified were Capacity Building on the Forest Certification Scheme and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM); Facilitation on the establishment of the Institutional Framework of PFCS; Technical Assistance for the Development of Standards



PCEPSDI Executive Director June Alvarez presents the different collaborative projects and proposals to the members of the board.

and Procedures for the PFCS; a pilot project for group forest certification.

The different proposals that will be submitted to the Food and Agriculture Organization, and other funding institutions are as follows: Capacity Building for Philippine Wood Producers Association's (PWPA) small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) on implementing Forest Certification and its Legality Framework; Capacity Building for CARAGA SME's and Tree Growers for Timber Legality and Forestry Certification; Technical Infrastructure Support for the Implementation of the National Chain of Custody through PFCS; and Capacity Building for DTI (Philippine Accreditation Bureau and Bureau of Product Standards) on Forest Certification and for the National Governing Board on Developing National Standards and Certification.

It was also agreed that PCEPSDI will help in drafting the proposals.

Project timelines and budgets were also discussed with most of the projects having a time frame of twelve months, and estimated project costs totaled up to Php. 3.7 million.

PWPA Holds the 1st Philippine Wood Expo and Forum

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) held the 1st Philippine Wood Expo and Forum (PWEF) last October 25 and 26, 2016 at the Manila Hotel.

The event, being the first business-to-business expo and forum held by the PWPA, aimed to promote the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA); to correct the public's misconception of wood producers and manufacturers; to attract and to expand business reach by meeting relevant partners; and to highlight the latest industry trends, technologies, and products.

With the theme "Wood: A Strong Climate Change Solution", the event had a strong number of participants and attendees. Ten (10) local and seven (7) international exhibitors representing different sectors of the wood industry, such as the wood production sector; the construction and furniture design sector; the industrial automation sector; and the technical education sector. A total of four hundred and seventy five (475) guests representing two hundred eight (208) companies attended the two-day event alongside high profile dignitaries from the government, consultants, chief executive officers and other decision makers in the wood and construction industries.

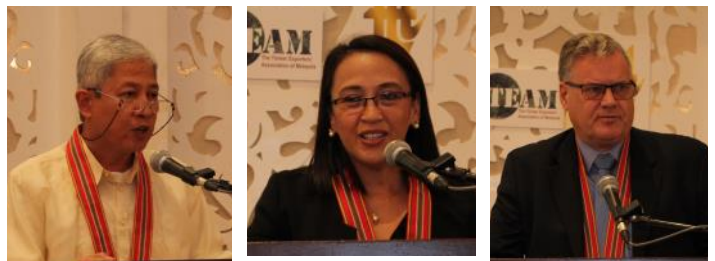
Break-out sessions includes topics on the programs and policies on wood industry and forestry, wood importance vis-à-vis climate change, certification trends, timber building technology and local and international

architectural designs delivered by experts in their own field.

The event opened with a "Wood Morning" address by PWPA Chairman

Charlie Liu, where he welcomed and thanked all of the guests and participants for attending the event. He then commented how the event's theme was very timely as he believes that wood, although an often misunderstood material, is a sustainable material which the government can take advantage of through the business sector by promoting tree farms in the country. He then added that responsible forestry management, if approached without the usual stigma in the wood industry, granting sovereign guarantee on tree plantation would not only increase investments in the economy, but would also add in providing job opportunities, and mitigate climate change.

He then informed them of what to expect during the two-day event, the exhibition, and the break-out sessions. He added that sustainability and progress need not clash, as wood, a humble material that Mother Earth offers, can sustain and promote growth.



Keynote Speakers: DENR Usec Marlo Mendoza, DTI Director Evariste Catagan and PEFC Consultant Michael Buckley

Other keynote speakers during the opening program included Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Marlo Mendoza, Department of Trade and Industry's Board of Investment's (DTI-BOI) Manufacturing Industries Services Director Evariste Cagatan, and Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Consultant Michael Buckley.



PWPA Chairman Charlie Liu

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PWPA Holds...

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Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo also gave a short video message to the event.

Instead of a ribbon cutting, a cake (molded as piles of lumber) cutting ceremony was done to open the event, followed by a festive dance of Ati-Atihan



VP Leni Robredo

exhibitors and guests. Raffle prizes were also given away during the night.

PWPA Vice Chair Ramon Uy gave the closing



PWPA Vice Chairman Ramon Uy

remarks to cap off the event. He said that the event was a

“record achievement of the PWPA”, and congratulated Chairman Liu and the PWPA members for organizing the event.

He added that the event had been about sharing proven solutions and strategies, and showing how progress and sustainability can go together with sustainable wood. He also said that he appreciated everyone’s support for the vision of three ‘I’s – a more innovative, more inclusive and more integrated Wood Industry.

Together with Chair Liu, Vice Chair Uy acknowledged all their partners by giving them a small token of appreciation after which the event was closed by a La Jota dance number by the Folklorico Dance Co.



PWPA Chair Liu and DENR Usec Mendoza with the PWPA Board of Trustees & advisers, other keynote and breakout session speakers and invited guests led the cake cutting ceremony.

guests were entertained by Saxophonist Vince Lajora during the Fellowship Night sponsored by the Mayapa CBK Industry Inc. The fellowship night served as a venue for networking and interaction between the members, the



Ati-atihan dancers guides the guest around the exhibition area.

PWPA Chair Liu and Vice Chair Uy together with the Board of Trustees and the sponsors of the PWEF 2016.



La Jota dance number to close the PWEF 2016.



Guests looking around the exhibition area.

New Foresters Welcomed at Oath Taking Ceremony

The Board for Foresters of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI) welcomed new professional foresters in an oath taking ceremony held last October 15, 2016 at Century Park Hotel in Manila.

With the theme “Foresters: The Challenges and Opportunities of R.A. 10690 in Your Successful Professional Practice,” the program began with a procession of the top ten foresters, SFFI officials led by National President Tommy Valdez, the PRC Board for Foresters led by Chair Neria Andin, Philippine Forestry Education Network (PFEN) President Willie Abasalo, and , Forest Management Bureau (FMB) Director Ricardo Calderon, who gave the keynote speech in behalf of Department of Environment & Natural Resources Undersecretary Jonas Leones.

Forester Gerardo T. Cabrerros, a member of the board, welcomed the new foresters and everyone in attendance followed by the recognition of the top ten examinees and of the top performing schools for the year. PRC Board for Foresters Chair Neria Andin administered the oath of profession followed by her message.

For this year, the board exam’s topnotcher came from

Caraga State University. The University of the Philippines Los Banos College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB CFNR) was recognized as the only top performing school with more than fifty examinees, and a passing percentage rate of eighty percent.

SFFI President Valdez, FMB Director Calderon, and PFEN President and UPLB CFNR Dean Willie Abasalo gave their inspirational messages where they shared their experiences and gave tips about the profession to the new foresters.

Calderon, on behalf of Undersecretary Leones, read Leones’ keynote speech which imparted additional guidance on how the newly minted foresters could reach their goals.

About a third of the 633 new foresters took their oath of membership, and were welcomed into the roster of the SFFI.

Another oath taking ceremony will be held in Davao City at a later date for new foresters who are for Visayas and Mindanao areas.

There are 1,370 forestry graduates who have taken their licensure examination last September 2016. Out of the examinees, only 633 pass the exam.

FAO Representatives Meet PWPA on Renewed FAO FLEGT Programme

United Nations’ (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) consultants Gualberto Tortoza and Diosdado Paler met with the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) last November 9, 2016 at the association’s Executive Room in Makati City to discuss the renewed Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and

Trade (FLEGT) Program for the Philippines.

Tortoza and Paler both mentioned that the results of the European Union’s (EU) recent FLEGT Action Plan showed that there is a need to encourage the private sector to be involved in the different sectoral strategies to achieve legality and sustainability in forest production and

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Iloilo Hosts SFFI's 68th Anniversary and National Conference

The 68th Anniversary and National Conference and Seminar of the Society of Filipino Foresters Inc. (SFFI) was held on September 19-21, 2016 at the Iloilo Convention Center in Iloilo City. The theme of the year's conference was "Embracing Sustainable Forest Management towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aims to provide information to fellow foresters efforts of the country in achieving said goals.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Forester Jonas Leones represented DENR Secretary Gina Lopez who extended her congratulations to the Society. Undersecretary Leones then made a presentation on the efforts being done by the DENR to achieve SDGs.

Topics for the conference was grouped into three modules, namely: 1) SDGs and Policy Advocacies; 2) SDG Implementation Mechanisms; and 3) SDG Opportunities for the Forestry Profession.

The different presentations discussed how sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, mining rehabilitation through forestry and the carbon neutral program could be responsive approaches towards the current state of the forests areas and its role in enhancing the environment thereby contributing to the achievement of the UN-adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goals #1 (Ending Poverty), #7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), #12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), #13 (Climate Action), #15 (Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems), and #17 (Partnership for the Goals) as country commitment.

PWPA Executive Director Maila Vasquez made a presentation on "Wood: Green Solution to Poverty and Climate Change" as part of the SDG Implementation Mechanisms topic.

The SFFI Iloilo Declaration which provides for the recommendations on how to move forward was crafted based on the different paper presentations and discussions.

During the business meeting, National Council President Tommy Valdez presented the updates on the Laoag declaration and the role of the SFFI in achieving SDGs. Professional Regulatory Commission Professional Regulatory Board for Foresters Chair Neria Andin made an update on the New Forestry Profession Law and the Forester's Continuing Professional Development. Forester Joey Austria presented the agendum on membership; Forester Manny Escasura on constitutional amendments; Forester Noel Umali on the MOWEL fund; Forester Vasquez the treasurer's report; and finally, Mr. Oscar Carrasco gave updates on the Hackathon Project.

The program also included forestry games which tested the foresters' knowledge on the different subject matters and activities done during their college days.

A tour around Iloilo City and its vicinities marked the end of the event.

The SFFI officers and members congratulated Region VI Chapter President, Forester Livino Duran, and its members for a successful holding of the event.

Forest Development Center Holds Policy Forum on Promoting Sustainable Forest Management

The Forestry Development Center (FDC) held a policy forum on “Promoting Sustainable Forest Management through Forest Certification System” last August 25, 2016 at the Nicolas Lansigan Auditorium, College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), University of the Philippines at Los Banos (UPLB), College, Laguna.

The policy forum aimed to present, discuss and promote the proposed National Forest Certification and its standards; and to come up with recommendations or interventions from the different stakeholders on its adoption.

The forum was attended by representatives from government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society, the private sector including the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and students of the UPLB CFNR.

UPLB CFNR Dean Willie Abasalo welcomed and thanked all who are present in the forum and encouraged everyone to participate in the discussion to make the forum productive and interactive. Forest Management Bureau (FMB) director Ricardo Calderon made a presentation on the rationale and status of the Forest Certification in the Philippines followed by FDC director Priscila Dolom who presented the study including its processes conducted by their office.

Integrated Forest Management Association of the Philippines (IFMAP) Vice President Anton Antonio; Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI) National Council President, Tommy Valdez; Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) representative Richard Laity; and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza shared their observations and recommendations based on the proposed

certification system from the points of view of the private sector, the professional organization sector, the international environmental sector, and the government .

Mendoza, in his paper, said that forest certification is one of the priorities of the DENR. He then suggested that certification system should be done in transition as tenure, a basic feature in certification is still a work in progress, and that access and control should be determined. He talked about the need for transition policies and the promotion of entrepreneurship as market is important to ensure sustainability.

He also recommended that for certification, legality of source, chain of custody, and different criteria for controlled wood should be considered as priorities.

He also stated that the DENR will be working on the certification system considering the areas of policy predictability, social justice and ecosystem integrity.

Open forum ensued where stakeholders asked questions, shared opinions and insights and recommendations to make the certification system adoptable in the country.

FDC director Dolom gave the synthesis of the forum and thanked all participants for their participation .

As a post forum event, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for a collaborative project on technical assistance for the Capacity Building on the Establishment of Forest Certification was signed by and between the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI) and the PEFC. The signing was witnessed by DENR Undersecretary Mendoza, DENR FMB director Calderon, SFFI National Council President Valdez, FDC director Dolom and PWPA Executive Director Maila Vasquez.

SFFI Meets with New...

(Continued from page 3)

planters and harvesters including the private sector. Harvesters and planters should be informed that what they are doing is a business, hence species, site and market matching should be considered, he added.

He then shared his hopes that planting should alleviate poverty, and told them that the program will be following the Finland Model of forest plantation. He also told them that planters should be encouraged to plant cash crops and fruit and forest trees.

He then talked about area management, a river-basin approach, which will cut across political boundaries. This is an holistic approach that covers economical, political, and institutional aspects.

He also shared that the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) were advised to identify

indigenous species with similar properties and economic viability comparable to exotic species. He said that these species should be tested and should already be acceptable to the market before the exotic species are phased out. It was suggested that alternative species comparable to dipterocarp species should also be identified.

Mendoza then told them that indigenous species should be planted in protected forest areas, while exotic species should be planted in plantations. However, the kind of species to be used in plantation is always a business decision.

Lastly, Mendoza stated that they are simplifying the bureaucratic processes by decentralizing approval of permits to the region.

FAO Representatives Meet PWPA...

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To achieve that, they said there was a proposal that the country's own FLEGT program should develop a strategy that will engage the private sector, particularly the local small and medium forest enterprises (SFMEs). It was also emphasized that the strategy should also include ways in which the entire forestry industry can participate.

Tortoza said the new engagement program will be done in three phases with situational analysis as the first phase, followed by a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue or workshop, and will conclude with a country roadmap which will include areas that will be identified as priority areas for support.

Tortoza said the meeting is a part of the first step where the program needs to know about the different stakeholders, where PWPA is one, its concerns, issues and challenges being faced and its recommendations. He added that a two-day multi-stakeholder forum is being scheduled

in December 2016 to share lessons learned on the Guidebook on Requirements of Chain of custody and the Building Capacity for Training and Auditing Chain of Custody and the validation of the situational analysis conducted. He said that invitation will be sent once the date has been confirmed.

PWPA Executive Director Maila Vasquez welcomed Tortoza and Paller and said that PWPA always support their projects especially that it considers way on how to improve the plight of the industry.

Vasquez also said there are many efforts that are being done for the forestry sector and the industry and it would be more effective if these efforts are consolidated so that it can harmonize all activities and the issues and concerns can be tackled collectively. This will also ensure that overlaps and conflicts will be minimized, if not totally avoided.

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In Memoriam: Forester Ricardo M. Umali

October 31, 1951 - November 3, 2016



For. Ricardo “Ric” Umali has extensive international and local experiences for 38 years in the private, government, and academic sectors on forestry, natural resources, and environmental management and related fields.

For the last 15 years, after his early retirement from government service, he managed about 88 development projects in Asia/Pacific. He served as International Team

Leader/Consultant/Project Manager to 48 environment, natural resources and related projects funded by multilateral and bilateral organizations like the WB, UN, ADB, ITTO, FAO, UNDP, ESCAP, CIDA, FINNIDA, East-West Center and others in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Rome, Hawaii, New York, Japan, Brazil, and some parts of Africa.

The wood industry will always remember him for his passion for the development of the forestry sector.

God speed, Ric!

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