



ANNUAL REPORT

2011



*The Board of Directors of the
Philippine Wood Producers Association,
by unanimous concurrence, submits herewith the Statement
and Annual Report of the Chairman of the Board of
Directors and the President of the Association as its
Report to the Members of the Association
for the year ended December 31, 2011.*


FERNANDO A. LU
Chairman


ANTONIO C. OLIZON
President

Vision

A strong and dynamic organization committed to the economic and environmentally sound development of the Wood Industry in the Philippines

Mission

In partnership with government and all concerned stakeholders, we shall:

- *Conserve and protect the environment through the sustainable management of natural and plantation forests;*
- *Utilize technology and best practices for the production of high quality wood products at competitive prices;*
- *Promote and encourage the use of high quality wood products;*
- *Work for appropriate legislation and good governance to ensure the sufficiency of wood resources and enhance the competitiveness of the wood industry;*
- *Contribute to the well-being of workers and communities where the wood industry operates.*

About the cover: *A veneer of Para Rubber tree (Hevea brasiliensis Müll.Arg.), a native to Brazil, but now widely planted in the tropical Asia; produces latex from living tree; recently timber found a use for furniture, now one of commercial timbers although the production is not very large.*

Executive Officers

ANTONIO C. OLIZON
President

FERNANDO A. LU
Chairman

ALFONSO C. KEH, JR.
Executive Vice-President
VP-Plywood

STANLEY Q. TAN
Treasurer

EVARISTO M. NARVAEZ, JR.
VP- Timber

LEONARDO D. ANGELES
Secretary & Executive Director

RAMON Y. UY
VP-Lumber & Related Products

MAILA R. VASQUEZ
Deputy Executive Director

CHARLIE H. LIU
VP- International Relations

JOSE A. LORENZO
Adviser- Forestry & Environment

ROBERT W. KUA
VP- Membership Relations

61st Annual General Assembly Steering Committee

DIR. RAMON Y. UY
Chairman

DIR. ALFONSO C. KEH, JR.
Co-Chair

DIR. JHONNY M. YOUNG
Co-Chair

DIR. CHARLIE H. LIU
Co-Chair

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Messages from DENR Secretaries



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 929-6626 to 29; 929-6633 to 35
926-7041 to 43; 929-6252; 929-1669
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denrgov.ph



MESSAGE

Greetings to the Philippine Wood Producers Association as it holds its 61st Annual Meeting!

The wood industry is no doubt facing various challenges, including the current moratorium on timber harvesting in the natural forests, pursuant to Executive Order No. 23 dated February 1, 2011.


The government however is highly committed to support the industry through the massive development of tree plantations that shall provide sustainable supply of timber for the industry.

Also, the DENR in particular is currently developing short-term interventions to cushion the impact of the moratorium.

We have no doubt that the wood industry, as experienced in the past, will rebound to greater heights, under a more sustainable and environment-friendly regime.

Indeed, I am optimistic that the wood industry will not only be facing a new but a much better horizon.

Mabuhay!


RAMON J.P. PAJE
Secretary



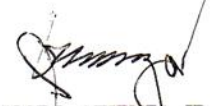
MESSAGE

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) on the occasion of your 61st Annual Meeting on October 19, 2012.

The theme of your gathering, "The Wood Industry: Facing a New Horizon", is very timely as it tackles the relevant issues pertaining to and the impact of Executive Order No. 23, or the Moratorium of Harvesting on Natural and Residual Forests, on the country's wood industry.

Our mandate then as Environment Secretary entailed striking a delicate balance between commerce and preserving our country's vast natural resources. And we are pleased that the PWPA has been a consistent and reliable partner in this endeavor. Government alone cannot address the challenges brought about by abusive wood cutting in our forests in the past. The problems have even become more serious with the impact of climate change. You have been effective in helping us in our efforts at reforesting our degraded forests as responsible wood industry leaders. I strongly believe that your continued partnership with the government will bear fruit for future generations of Filipinos.

Again, my congratulations to the PWPA for your continuing commitment to work with government in achieving lasting, sustainable development.


JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Former DENR Secretary and Manila Mayor
2007 - 2009



Former DENR Secretary
2004 - 2006

First and foremost, let me congratulate the Philippine Wood Producers Association for your steadfast commitment in upholding the integrity and social responsibility of the wood industry in nation building. Wood is one of the essential natural resource of the country needed to sustain our national economy. It is critical to the day to day lives of every Filipino and may well be the cornerstone of a strengthening economy. Unfortunately, the utilization of trees for the basic use of our people and its export, which propels the economy is also subject to many opposing views and conflicting beliefs.

As former DENR Secretary, I have been exposed not only to the empirical data on the wood industry but also actual realities on the ground of how the sustainable management of the forest can be achieved. I have also seen how other countries have successfully implemented a sustainable system of responsible management of the forest, which can well benefit the people and the nation. Models and policies both in our country and other nations have been tested and therefore there is no reason why together, the government and the private sector cannot achieve our dream of sustainably managing our forest.

It is quite sad that at this juncture, emotions more than reason have governed the policy debate on the wood sector. If only we could sit down and thresh out the issues and implement what is best for the nation then we could achieve the optimum utilization of our natural resource. After all, the use of wood has and will never stop. Cooking, building houses, construction, your tables and chair, the pencils and papers we use and many more are the continuing uses of wood. We cannot just turn our backs and say the use of wood has stopped albeit the proliferation of illegally cut trees.

In this respect, let me congratulate the PWPA for being the vanguard for the sustainable management of our forest. Your presence, through the years, amidst the chaos we have seen in the wood sector has provided calm and security for the industry. Let me also say that your fairness to punish those who have committed wrong and to steadfastly fight for policies you deem right have gained my personal respect and admiration.


Michael T. Defensor

Messages from DENR Secretaries

Office of the President of the Philippines
Malacañan Palace



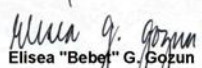
MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to greet the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) on the 61st Annual Meeting of its members.

I believe that with your theme "The Wood Industry: Facing a New Horizon", the industry is poised to meet the challenges of the difficult times you are encountering.

The effects of climate change are now a reality for everyone. It is now acknowledged that the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of unpredictable rainfall, higher temperatures, rising sea level and more extreme weather. I am therefore taking this opportunity to encourage your members to be even more active in undertaking needed mitigation and adaptation measures. As stewards of the forest, your members, working with the communities and the local governments where you operate, can significantly contribute to our country's efforts to increase our carbon sink while also building our resiliency.

The PWPA has been a long time partner of the government in sustainably managing and protecting our forest resources and in contributing to the socio-economic development of our country. Let us continue to work together to lift the poor out of poverty, improve the quality of lives of our people and build a more climate risk resilient Philippines!


Elisea "Bebet" G. Gozun
Presidential Assistant for Climate Change

Former DENR Secretary
2002 - 2004



Office of the President of the Philippines
CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

Message




A NEW HORIZON & NEW CHALLENGES

I am pleased to greet the members of the Philippine Wood Producers Association on their 61st Annual Meeting.

The PWPA has always been one of the more responsible sectors engaged in the exploitation and management of a prime natural resource, our forestlands. As your theme proclaims, the wood industry is facing a new horizon. Just beyond this horizon, I am certain that you will face immense new challenges that will tax, to the limit, both your sense of responsibility and your survival skills.

One challenge is for PWPA to expand its sustainable development program. It should respond creatively to the moratorium on harvesting natural and residual forests. Any moratorium brings enormous losses to all stakeholders – employees, companies, and government. The general public will suffer too by the consequent higher costs of timber products and the economic slowdown. Working together, the private sector and government should be able to strike a balance.

Another challenge is for the association to develop a long-term strategy that will dovetail with REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). This is a UN programme to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by using market and financial incentives. It would be to the highest interests of our community and the PWPA to study and implement opportunities under this market and dynamic mechanism and equitably distribute the benefits and protection of the environment.


HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ

Former DENR Secretary
2000 - 2002

Republic of the Philippines



REGION IX
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR

Tel No. (062)2143868; Fax No. 2142944

MESSAGE



As the **Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA)** will hold its 61st Annual Meeting of its members, I earnestly unite with you in celebrating this remarkable milestone of success and achievement, the aftermath of your undying commitment for the greater benefit of the Filipino nation. This glorious day has come because of your continued harmony and unity, that materializes your vision to be always in the service of our country and consistently attain public appreciation for the role you played in nation building.

May I therefore take this opportunity to recognize the invaluable contributions of the wood industry for having set the strongest foundations for development that has guided the other wood producers of today in pursuing those noble dreams as anchored on the theme, *The Wood Industry: Facing a New Horizon*.

Congratulations to the general membership of the Philippine Wood Producers Association headed by its Chairman FERNANDO A. LU and President ANTONIO C. OLIZON, I salute you and your members for your enduring commitment and hard work in making a difference in the lives of the Filipino people.

Long live PWPA!!

Former DENR Secretary
1998 - 2000


ATTY. ANTONIO H. CERILLES
Former DENR Secretary 2012
President, JCI Senate Philippines
Provincial Governor of Zamboanga del Sur

Messages from DENR Secretaries



MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate the leaders of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), as they prepare for their 61st Annual Meeting, for their keen stewardship of the institution through all its ups and downs. These are difficult times that require that kind of dedication from its leadership.

For your deliberations, I express the wish that the PWPA will support a new law that will replace the old decree, P. D. 705, to institute a more stable policy regime for the wood industry.

My other wish is for the PWPA to support a policy that will allow logging of natural forests only in areas that are sustainable for at least 30 years. A system of certification already allowed in E. O. 23 should be adopted to implement such a policy.

I wish you greater success in your worthy endeavors.

V. Ramos
VICTOR O. RAMOS

Former DENR Secretary (July 1, 1995-June 30, 1998)



ANGEL C. ALCALA
Former DENR Secretary
1992-1995

MESSAGE

It gives me much pleasure to greet the Philippine Wood Producers Association and its officers and members on the occasion of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association.

From my recollection of the operation of the Association when I was at the DENR in 1992-1995, you were implementing the principle of sustainable use of forest resources. Because of this, and after making a tour of sustainably managed forest areas on Mindanao, I gave full support to the Association during my three-year stint at the DENR.

At the same time, DENR waged a strong campaign against illegal logging throughout the country, especially in Regions 2 and 10 (CARAGA). The result was the confiscation of large volumes of logs and lumber and the filing of court cases against illegal loggers. Most of the confiscated materials were donated to government offices needing such materials for the construction of their buildings.

It is my belief, based on chemical and ecological principles, that the use of forest trees for projects that improve human life, can be allowed, provided the amount of carbon dioxide emitted in the process of such use is all sequestered by the trees that are continuously planted, so that in effect no net carbon dioxide is released to the atmosphere.

I firmly believe that the Association has not deviated from the practice of sustainable forestry.

However, I understand, and I am concerned, that you have been negatively affected by the implementation of Executive Order No. 23. It is my hope that your 61st annual Meeting can discuss this problem as a first step to resolving the issue to the satisfaction of the Government and the Association.

My best wishes to PWPA.

Alcala



FOR THE PWPA :

Warm greetings to my friends at the PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION.

It is my hope that the current difficulties posed by the governmental policy will not drive the most responsible loggers away from the wood industry.

The wood industry is important for the development of the economy in our country. And the responsible loggers are the best practitioners of the principles of sustainable forestry development.

To cede the wood industry to illegal and irresponsible loggers would be extremely harmful to our country's future, much in the same way that an ill-conceived policy of nationwide logging moratorium or ban sought to be implemented by ill-prepared government agencies, has been proven harmful.

Moving forward, I urge the PWPA to undertake a campaign that would call the attention of our people to the real benefits of good forestry practices the legitimate wood industry players do. I also urge the PWPA to reach out with other sectors for a more holistic understanding of each other's needs.

I wish you all the best for the future, but only you could assure yourselves that.

FULGENCIO S. FACTORAN, Jr.

F. Factoran, Jr.

Former DENR Secretary
1987 - 1992

PWPA Board of Directors 2011-2012



FERNANDO A. LU

Chairman
Pacific Timber Export Corp.



ANTONIO C. OLIZON

President
Union Plywood Corporation



ALFONSO C. KEH, JR.

Executive Vice President
EMCO Plywood Corporation



EDITH I. ALCANTARA

C. Alcantara & Sons, Inc.



VICTOR A. CONSUNJI

M & S Company, Inc. /
Sirawai Plywood & Lumber Corp.



ROBERT W. KUA

Vicmar Development Corp.



CHARLIE H. LIU

MATIMCO, Incorporated



EVARISTO M. NARVAEZ, JR.

ARTIMCO Incorporated



ARISTEO G. PUYAT

Surigao Development Corp.



STANLEY Q. TAN

Philippine Softwood Products, Inc.



RAMON Y. UY

Consolidated Wood Products Inc.



JHONNY M. YOUNG

Asia-Pacific Timber & Plywood Corp.



CALVIN T. DAVID

Worldwood Trading Corporation /
Ventura Timber Corp.

Financial Report

PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC. (A Nonstock, Non-profit Corporation)

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	December 31	
	2011	2010
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash (Note 4)	P145,698	P778,546
Receivables - net (Note 5)	2,287,717	1,408,705
Total Current Assets	2,433,415	2,187,251
Noncurrent Assets		
Property and equipment - net (Note 6)	—	—
Other noncurrent asset	9,700	9,700
Total Noncurrent Assets	9,700	9,700
TOTAL ASSETS	P2,443,115	P2,196,951
LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other current liabilities (Note 7)	P210,505	P172,592
Noncurrent Liability		
Retirement benefits liability (Note 8)	956,924	1,137,788
Total Liabilities	1,167,429	1,310,380
Members' Equity	1,275,686	886,571
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY	P2,443,115	P2,196,951

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Years Ended December 31	
	2011	2010
REVENUES		
Donations and contributions	P5,190,021	P965,200
Membership and assessment dues	4,087,547	4,853,599
Interest	3,707	2,576
Special assessment dues	2,006	11,695
Dividend income	1,588	1,226
Registration and entrance fees	—	94,800
Others	157,240	719,369
	9,442,109	6,648,465
EXPENSES		
Donations and gifts	(2,478,471)	(714,169)
Meetings and conferences	(1,137,264)	(409,354)
Salaries, wages and other employee benefits	(1,045,955)	(1,108,794)
Public relations and information	(811,763)	(359,448)
Professional fees	(711,400)	(639,460)
Rent, light and water	(602,306)	(631,549)
Transportation and travel	(476,515)	(408,856)
Retirement benefits costs (Note 8)	(419,136)	(930,486)
Representation and entertainment	(370,072)	(349,860)
Telephone, telegram and postage	(234,498)	(236,549)
Office supplies	(234,493)	(293,997)
Insurance	(110,743)	(113,897)
Repairs and maintenance	(62,266)	(39,654)
Subscription and publication	(61,240)	(48,109)
Taxes and licenses	(34,743)	(61,251)
Depreciation (Note 6)	—	(22,335)
Others	(262,129)	(468,147)
	(9,052,994)	(6,835,915)
NET INCOME (LOSS)	389,115	(187,450)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	—	—
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)	P389,115	(P187,450)

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Years Ended December 31	
	2011	2010
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income (loss)	P389,115	(P187,450)
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(3,707)	(2,576)
Dividend income	(1,588)	(1,226)
Unrealized foreign exchange loss	490	4,132
Depreciation (Note 6)	—	22,335
Operating income (loss) before working capital changes	384,310	(164,785)
Decrease (increase) in:		
Receivables	(879,012)	(32,359)
Other noncurrent asset	—	119,457
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	37,913	(68,562)
Retirement benefits liability	(180,864)	274,325
Cash generated from (used in) operations	(637,653)	128,076
Interest received	3,707	2,576
Dividend received	1,588	1,226
Net cash from (used in) operating activities	(632,358)	131,878
EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH	(490)	(4,132)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(632,848)	127,746
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	778,546	650,800
CASH AT END OF YEAR	P145,698	P778,546

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.



60th General Assembly of PWPA Members



Report to the Members

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Promises Turn Sour

The wood industry is one of the most regulated and taxed sectors in the country. Falsely maligned by some segments of society as an agent of environmental ruin and openly neglected of government's encouragement add to its seemingly hapless situation.

It was, therefore, on a note of high anticipation for new, benign changes to happen that the wood industry applauded the promises of the new Administration's new secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) when he said, "Under the leadership of President Noyonoy, I will try very hard to revive the forestry industry and make it a winning industry again".

Before the general assembly of the PWPA members on August 20, 2010, DENR Secretary Ramon Paje gave his programs of reviving the wood industry as consisting of, among others: 1) continue the government's respect for existing contracts; and 2) formulate incentives to encourage investments.

However, on the seventh month of the new Administration, on February 1, 2011, Executive Order No. 23 was promulgated, "Declaring a Moratorium on the Cutting/Harvesting of Timber in Natural and Residual Forests and Creating the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force".

EO 23 turned sour and spoiled the promises of the government of a new, benign dawn for the wood industry; it became a nightmare for the wood industry.

PWPA Bats for Log Ban Postponement Holds Press Conference

Amidst reports that President Benigno Aquino III will soon announce a total log ban, the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) invited the



PWPA directors seats as a panel ready to answer questions from the media

media to a conference on January 20, 2011, at Mario's Restaurant, Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

PWPA President Antonio Olizon explained to media members from print, radio and TV that the aim of the PWPA is to state its position on the rumored promulgation of an executive order on logging ban/moratorium.



PWPA spokesperson and VP-Director Evaristo Narvaez, Jr. said that the logging ban/moratorium will affect: 1) two million Filipinos whose jobs depend solely on the forest and on the manufacturing operations of the legitimate players of the wood industry; 2) the Php30 B in investments in the wood industry; 3) the prices of wood products that will have to be imported; and 4) the US\$1 B worth of wood export market.

He added the logging ban/moratorium will actually penalize responsible tenure holders who have continuously protected, conserved and sustainably managed their forests for more than 50 years. Inadvertently, the ban/moratorium will favor illegal logging activities.

Report to the Members

Narvaez, Jr. said most of the areas in the country that have good forest cover are those under the stewardship of PWPA Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) holder-members. The ban will make these areas open-access to illegal logging and informal settlers.

PWPA Chairman Fernando Lu said that PWPA condemns illegal logging as the Association has always supported the government's drive to curb it. He added that illegal logging also tarnishes the good image of the wood industry and sabotages businesses of its members.

Olizon said the PWPA has submitted its position paper to, as it is seeking an audience with, the President Aquino III. He also said that the Association has reiterated its pledge to continue working closely with the government to protect the forests, to enhance their productivity through sustainable management and also to promote investments in the forestry sector.

Logging Ban Inevitable: DENR Sec. Paje



DENR Secretary Paje

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) paid a courtesy call to the newly designated department of natural resources Secretary Ramon Paje last January 24, 2011.

The PWPA discussed with Paje the impending issuance of an executive order (EO) on logging ban/moratorium. The PWPA cited previous occasions where such bans or moratoriums have been imposed yet these did not lead to the increase in forest cover, in curbing illegal logging, and in preventing flooding. It was also pointed out that with a ban/moratorium, the legitimate stakeholders are the ones penalized while the illegal loggers continue unabated with their activities.

In response, Secretary Paje said the President has already decided to issue the EO because of the effects of floods that he saw in CARAGA, Bicol and Leyte. The President correlated the flooding with the depletion of the forests due to tree harvesting, whether legal or illegal, Paje said.

The PWPA requested Paje if he could assist the Association in getting an audience with the President to present its position on log ban/moratorium, to inform him of the sustainable forest management (SFM) practices the PWPA IFMA holders doing, are to offer PWPA's assistance in curbing illegal logging, and to help increase the country's forest cover.

Paje suggested that it may help if PWPA could seek the assistance of the group of Foresters Ric Umali, Rodel Lasco and Rex Cruz to present to the President the SFM strategy and how harvesting, when done sustainably, can mitigate climate change. He also said that the DENR will push for the National Greening Program.

President to Sign Logging Ban: ES Ochoa

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) Chairman Fernando Lu and President Antonio Olizon, together with other members of the Board of Directors, met with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa in Malacanang last January 31, 2011.



Executive Secretary Ochoa

The visit was to request ES Ochoa's assistance to defer the issuance of an executive order (EO) on logging ban.

The PWPA presented its position on the logging ban: its impact on the legitimate wood industry and its workers, on the economy, and especially on the forests.

Report to the Members

The results of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UPLB studies that indicated there is no direct correlation between flooding and forest depletion were also presented.

Olizon said that the total log ban will not curb illegal logging because illegal loggers do not follow rules; but it will penalize only the legitimate players because they follow the regulations lest the government will cancel their licenses.

Director Aristeo Puyat said that the areas still with good forest cover are those under the care of legitimate players who have been operating for more than 50 years on the same forest areas. He said once these players leave their areas because of the ban, they become open access that usually end in a "tragedy of commons", which means the use of the forest becomes available to everyone, but no one is accountable for its destruction.

To better appreciate how legitimate players manage their forest areas and also to observe how sustainable forest management practices work, Director Victor Consunji invited Ochoa, perhaps with President Aquino, to visit PATECO, SIRAWAI or SUDECOR.

Ochoa said he understood the industry's concern and compared it with that of a gun ban where only those without licenses continue to carry guns. He also said it was very likely the President will sign the EO but still he encouraged the PWPA to present its position to the President.

Immediately after the visit, the PWPA held a Special General Membership meeting at the Makati Sports Club to brief its members on the impending issuance of an EO declaring a ban/moratorium on logging and to call for their support to activities that will be carried out by the PWPA once the log ban is declared.

(On February 1, 2011, President Aquino III signed Executive No. 23, Declaring a Moratorium on the Cutting and Harvesting of Timber in the Natural and Residual Forests and Creating the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force. It was published in the Manila Times on February 4, 2011.)

President Aquino Declares Logging Moratorium

Last February 3, 2011, during the Maynilad Water Treatment Plant inauguration at Putatan, Muntinlupa City, President Benigno Aquino III announced he signed on February 1, 2011 Executive Order No. 23, titled: Declaring a Moratorium on the Cutting and Harvesting of Timber in the Natural and Residual Forests and Creating the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force.



President Noynoy

Through EO 23, Aquino directed the DENR to stop granting logging contracts and tree cutting permits in the natural and residual forests.

All sawmills, veneer plants, and other wood processing plants that cannot show proof of raw materials to sustain their operations in the next five years were also to be shut down.

All existing forestry contracts/agreements are to be reviewed and those whose holders are in violation thereof or continue to engage in logging in the natural or residual forest will be terminated/cancelled.

Aquino said because many of our countrymen depend on wood as their sole source of livelihood, he instructed the Department of Social Welfare and Development to include upland farmers in the National Greening Program, and to prioritize them to receive aid from the Conditional Cash Transfer Program. This was aside from allotting and providing them with quality seedlings that they can plant and be a source of income, Aquino said.

Aquino also said he knew the move will be met with great opposition, but "it is our obligation to care for our environment. We have to ensure the safety of our countrymen from the onslaughts of La Niña or El Niño, or any catastrophe." He added it is the government's obligation to protect the interests of the greater citizenry versus the interests of big businesses who caused the denudation of our forests.

Report to the Members

No amount of executive orders can address all these problems with finality, Aquino said, and the government cannot solve it alone, nor can one private company. He said the solution might be found in everyone's common efforts, such as planting trees regularly. He said cities and municipalities need to closely work together and the public and private sectors need to continually cooperate.

Highlights of EO 23

Declaring a Moratorium on the Cutting and Harvesting of Timber in the Natural and Residual Forests and Creating the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force

Section 2. Moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in the natural and residual forests...unless lifted after its effectivity:

- 2.1The DENR is prohibited from issuing logging contracts/agreements in all natural and residual forests, such as IFMA, SIFMA, CBFMA and other agreements/contracts;
- 2.2The DENR is prohibited from issuing/renewing tree cutting permits in all natural and residual forests, except for clearing of road right of way by the DPWH, site preparation for tree plantations, silvicultural treatment and similar activities, as well as tree cutting associated with cultural practices pursuant to the Indigenous Peoples Right Act (IPRA Law);
- 2.3The DENR shall review/evaluate all existing IFMAs, SIFMAs, CBFMAs and other forestry agreements/contracts and immediately terminate/cancel the agreements of those who have violated the terms and conditions of their contracts/agreements and also immediately terminate/cancel if the holders thereof engage in logging activities in any natural or residual forest or abet the commission of the same;
- 2.4The DENR shall close and not allow to operate all sawmills, veneer plants and other wood processing plants that are unable to present proof of sustainable sources of legally cut logs for a period of at least five (5) years

within one month from effectivity of this Executive Order:

Section 3. Creation of the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force - To enforce the moratorium and lead the anti-illegal logging campaign, an Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force is hereby created composed of the DENR Secretary as Chairman and the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of the Department of National Defense, the Chief of the Philippine National Police, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Section 5. Implementing guidelines - Upon its formation, the Task Force shall immediately formulate the guidelines for the implementation of the policies set forth in this Executive Order.

PWPA States its Position on EO 23

PWPA's Official Statement on Executive Order No. 23 – Logging Moratorium in Natural & Residual Forests

We, the members of the Philippine Wood Producers Association, on behalf of the wood and allied industries, issue this official statement in response to the recently signed Executive Order No. 23 - Nationwide Logging Moratorium.

We believe that a moratorium on timber harvesting in natural and residual forests will directly penalize the legitimate companies in the wood industries who have been zealously protecting and conducting sustainable practices in managing the country's remaining natural forest areas for decades. The said moratorium will also have severe consequences on the wood-using downstream industries.

Thus,

1. We appeal to the president to re-consider the imposition of a moratorium as we believe a moratorium will result in long-term negative repercussions as it will seriously affect the businesses of legitimate members of the wood-using and dependent industries such as construction industry and

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furniture manufacturing industry.

2. We agree that we should all be evaluated immediately and those found in violation of not following the rules and regulations of the government be suspended or terminated in their operation.
3. We hope the President will reconsider the position of the legitimate members of the wood industry who have been practicing sustainable forest management and allow to honor the contracts that they entered into with the government.
4. We seek audience with the President so that we may present at length that plantation forests alone will not sustain the wood requirements of the country and to show how legitimate members of our industry have been able to successfully practice sustainable forestry management.

We are one with the government in curbing illegal logging and we should all seek a long-term solution to it through sustainable programs and measures that will ultimately stop illegal logging practices in the country.

PWPA Brings EO 23 to Industry Allies

Upon the release of EO 23, the PWPA went to a round of presentation of its position to industry friends and allies on the impact of the logging moratorium.

The media (print, TV, radio and internet TV) carried PWPA's position on the EO 23 with the message that it is not against the EO but would just like the guidelines on the review/evaluation of



IFMA contracts be implemented quickly so PWPA members who passed the review would have the moratorium lifted from them.

PWPA sought the advice of former DENR secretaries Fulgencio Factoran, Jr., Angel Alcala and Elisea Gozun, Antonio Cerilles, the Society of Filipino Foresters, and the academe on the prudent courses of action the PWPA shall take in relation to the EO 23.

PWPA also briefed the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, the Foundation for Economic Freedom, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries, the Earth Day Network Philippines, and some legislators on the importance of the wood industry and how IFMA holders practice sustainable forest management (SFM) in their forest areas.



It also met with the Anti-Illegal Task Force and requested it for clear guidelines on the implementation of EO 23 including expeditious review of the IFMAs of its PWPA members.

PWPA Briefs Media on EO 23 Impacts

Since January, the PWPA has already conducted one major press conference and five press briefings as key officers have been featured in several TV interviews and talk shows.

It has also provided information materials to columnists and the press about its stand on: EO 23, on its member's sustainable forest management practices, the bane of illegal logging and

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how the moratorium paradoxically benefits it but punishes the legitimate players in the wood industry.

Recent developments seriously affecting the operations and very survival of the wood industry has necessitated the need for PWPA to increase its visibility and emphasize its role as an authoritative source of information regarding issues and events affecting the industry. Thus, the Association has amplified its efforts to be more proactive in informing its many stakeholders and the general public of industry news and updates.

Among its communication strategies is to build a stronger and more sustained relationship with media, particularly print and news online.

These engagements resulted in news about the adverse effects of EO23 on legal logging, market supply and prices of wood products, the entry of allegedly smuggled competitive wood products (such as plywood) along with other timely stories.

With the positive results from its many media engagements, PWPA has resolved to continue strengthening its relationship with this sector, and henceforth be more pro-active in its external communication initiatives.

PWPA Seeks Help of RDCs

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) appealed to the Regional Development Councils (RDCs), whose jurisdictional areas are affected by EO 23, to request DENR to immediately review/evaluate (R/E) of the IFMAs of PWPA company-members so that the logging moratorium may be lifted from those qualified.

RDC – Region III (July 5, City of San Fernando, Pampanga)

Regional Development Council (RDC), chaired by Aurora Governor Bella Angara-Castillo, agreed the IFMA companies should be immediately reviewed as they are legitimate operators and providers of raw materials of furniture makers and other wood dependent industries. She added that laying-off workers will also put pressure in the forests in the long term.

She ordered the drafting of an RDC resolution recommending for the immediate R/E with a definite time frame and for her to send it to the President.

RDC– Region IX (August 9, Zamboanga City)

Agri-Industrial Development Committee (AIDCom) was inform by the DENR representative that there is an on-going evaluation being undertaken in the region; hence RDC IX AIDCom suggested to wait for the result of the evaluation before coming up with a recommendation or resolution on the same.

RDC – Region XI (June 11, Davao City)

RDC XI Vice Chairperson and NEDA XI Director Ma. Lourdes Lim, in a letter dated June 21, 2011, informed the PWPA that the Council will include the PWPA's request for review of IFMAs in its next meeting's agenda.

Also, Lim furnished PWPA with the resolutions passed by the RDC XI relative to EO No. 23, to wit:

- a) RDC XI Resolution No. 48, Series of 2011 – Requesting the DENR to reconsider the requirement for sawmills, veneer plants and other wood processing plants to present proof of sustainable sources of legally cut logs for a period of at least 5 years provided for under the EO No. 23, series of 2011 in view of its immediate adverse impact on the Davao Region's wood industry; and
- b) RDC XI Resolution No. 50, series of 2011 – Requesting the DENR Central Office to provide the Council with pertinent guidelines and issuances governing the application of Section 2.2 of EO No. 23, series of 2011, which allows tree cutting associated with cultural practices pursuant to the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

(Other EO 23-affected RDCs written by PWPA have no response at the moment)

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PWPA Appeals Anew for Lifting of EO 23

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) recently appealed again to President Benigno Aquino III to lift EO 23, the moratorium on the harvesting of timber from the natural residual forests in the country imposed on February 1, 2011.

In its letter-appeal dated December 1, 2011, the PWPA stated it has been nearly a year that the members of the PWPA who are holders of government production-sharing contracts called Integrated Forest Management Agreements (IFMAs), have stopped operations in their forest concessions, resulting in a business vacuum and loss of jobs.

The PWPA lamented that the review and evaluation of their IFMAs by the DENR has never been carried out, despite several request letters to the DENR, that unfortunately, were not answered.

In its year-end letter, the PWPA said the President should know by now that illegal logging is the true environmental menace that must be stopped. This was evidenced by the devastating floods brought by Storm Sendong in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan which was aggravated by the flood-carried illegal logs and also evidenced by the widely reported millions of pesos worth of confiscated illegal logs in Lanao del Sur, Davao City and Cagayan Valley, that happened when the legitimate players, like the PWPA members, have already stopped their operations.

The PWPA expressed its hopes the President will now heed its appeal to lift the logging moratorium so that its members could resume their operations, which means, rehire their workers, revitalize the socio-economic life of rural, upland communities and most importantly, protect and sustainably manage their forest areas, develop tree plantations and supply the country of its need for wood products, a services the PWPA has been giving for over 60 years.

PWPA Joins Congress Hearings on SFMA

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), as a resource person/body, participated in several meetings of the technical working group (TWG) on the Sustainable Forest Management Act (SFMA) bill being discussed by the current Houses of Congress.

At the Senate TWG, the PWPA expressed its position on the SFM bill and recommended the following:

- DENR Land Classification (LC) maps that were done over the years be considered as the basis for establishing of forestland limits,
- The classification into protection and production forestlands, for forest management purposes, be retained, and,
- Congress to have a say on the imposition of the logging bans on certain endangered forests and watersheds per mandate of the Constitution.

At the Lower House TWG, the PWPA has also expressed its support to the version of the SFMA bill submitted by Congressmen Rufus Rodriguez and Maximo Rodriguez as the framework for the consolidation of other similar bills. It was already approved by the Lower House during the 14th Congress and was endorsed to the Senate.

The PWPA, has continued to participate in the TWG meetings of both Houses of Congress that aim to refine the SFMA bill. Both Houses in this 15th Congress are trying to pass the SFMA this year to manifest support to the International Year of the Forest.

House Committee Approves SFMA Bill

The SFMA bill, mainly authored by brothers Cong. Rufus Rodriguez and Cong. Maximo Rodriguez, Jr., which the wood industry supported was approved on October 4, 2011, during the Executive Session of the Joint Committees on Natural Resources and

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Reforestation co-chaired by Cong. Francisco Matugas and Cong. Victor Yu, respectively.

Cong. Max Rodriguez, Jr. relayed the good news to the resource persons of the Technical Working Group (TWG) from SFF, FMB/DENR, academe, NGO and PWPA who were at the lobby during the Executive Session, all on stand-by to render any needed technical assistance. This completed *Step 1*.

Step 2 is “cleaning” of the bill, and the preparation of the Committee Report for submission to *Step 3*, plenary deliberation (second reading – period of debate and amendments). The House approval-timeline for the SFMA is December 2011.

As a related development, the Senate counterpart of the SFMA bill, after undergoing 10 session-meetings of the TWG, was finished. It is a “clean” bill, as far as the wood industry is concerned. The report of its Joint Committees was signed by erstwhile chair, Sen. Miguel Zubiri, before he resigned his Senate seat, and is now with new chair Sen. Chiz Escudero. The resource persons of the TWG, specifically from the SFF and the academe, plan to brief Escudero on the importance of passing SFMA as the Philippine contribution to the International Year of the Forest which is being celebrated this year.

According to the newspaper accounts, the Joint Senate-House Consultative Meeting considers the SFMA as one of the 20 priority bills of the present Congress.

ASSOCIATION EVENTS

PWPA Holds Forum to Mark 60th Year

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) held a forestry forum last August 24, 2011, at Makati Shangri-la Hotel with the theme ***An Outlook: The Future of Philippine Forestry*** to mark its 60th founding anniversary.

The forum discussed the current state of Philippine forests encompassing the impact of the logging moratorium on the wood industry, the role of forests in national development and in climate change mitigation.



Exchanging views among Forum participants

FMB Director Neria Andin delivered DENR Secretary Ramon Paje's paper, with the topic “Thrust of the Department vis-a-vis Forest Resource Sustainability and Wood Industry Development”.

The Society of Filipino Foresters President Renato de Rueda covered the topic “Attuning Forestry Practices for Forest Resource Sustainability and Climate Change Adaptation”.

FAO Senior Forestry Officer Patrick Durst discussed “The Relationship between Deforestation and Flood”.

SUDECOR President Aristeo Puyat presented the paper on “The State of the Wood Industry, Concerns and Action Plans”.

UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources Dean (now UPLB Chancellor) Rex Victor Cruz served as moderator in the open forum following the presentation of papers.

PWPA's sole forum presenter, R.I. Chemical Corporation, through its Manager for Plywood Adhesives, Mr. Allen Diez, delivered a technical paper on “Regulating Formaldehyde Emission from Wood Products”.

In his opening message, PWPA Chairman Fernando Lu said, *“Now is a good time to revisit the aims and aspirations of our association. Have we been faithful to our organization's objectives? On the whole, I would say that we have... Those of us who are still here religiously practice sustainable forest management. We are still oper-*

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ating in the same forests where we started off over fifty years ago. Contrary to popular belief, the wood industry is actually environment-friendly. We deal with a renewable resource. Our industry is a mitigating agent against climate change and every aspect of our business demonstrates this."

An audio visual presentation traced the 60-year history of PWPA.

The highlight of the program was the signing of the Memorandum of Commitment, where PWPA pledged to continue to be a long-term partner in greening the country by donating, through its members, 1 million tree seedlings per year, a total of 5 million seedlings for the next five years, to the government's National Greening Program.

PWPA Vice President and Director Charlie Liu was presented with a plaque of appreciation for his outstanding role as the chairman of the PWPA's 60th Annual General Assembly.

The Business meeting and re-election of the same members of the Board of Directors for 2011, except for one, by the General Membership Assembly concluded the half-day activity.

PWPA Pledges to NGP **5 Million Tree Seedlings**

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), through Chairman Fernando Lu, and the Department of Natural Resources (DENR), through Assistant Secretary Marlo Mendoza representing Secretary Ramon Paje, jointly signed last August 24, 2011, at Makati Shangri-la Hotel a Memorandum of Commitments with the PWPA donating 1 million tree seedlings per year, or a total of 5 million for the next five years, to the Administration's National Greening Program (NGP). The total of 5 million tree seedlings substantially contributes to the 1.5 billion trees targeted by DENR to be planted in Year 2011 to Year 2016.

As lead implementing agency of E. O. No. 26, otherwise known as the National Greening Program (NGP), the DENR has called on "all



PWPA Chairman F. A. Lu and DENR Assistant Secretary M. D. Mendoza seals the MOC with a handshake.

sectors of Philippine society to support the purposes, goals and realization of the NGP."

The PWPA heeded the call and during its 60th Year anniversary event, it pledged to be DENR's partner in the NGP implementation.

Serving as witnesses to the signing of the Memorandum of Commitment were FMB Director Neria Andin for DENR and President Antonio Olizon for PWPA.

Forum Highlights Plight of the Wood Industry

Highpoints excerpted from the papers presented during the Forum, marking the 60th founding year of the PWPA celebrated at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on August 24, 2011, aptly described the plight of the wood industry.

The State of the Wood Industry and Measures to Overcome Major Concerns

By Aristeo G. Puyat, Business Executive

Of all the problems that have beset our industry, the promulgation of the EO 23 is the most serious and most alarming as it might even spell the demise of the



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legitimate operators in the industry...

While members of the PWPA have all complied with their obligations and have preserved their forest resources thru measures formulated and ordered by the government, they are on stand-by, not knowing what the future holds for them. They are apprehensive that illegal loggers and poachers would swoop down their forest areas they have zealously protected, some for more than 50 years.

Government officials should realize that the wood is a lifetime need of the people, from cradle to grave, and that the legitimate players in the wood industry can satisfy this need utilizing modern processes and following scientific measures that will ensure that our forest resources will always remain productive for the next generation.

I still believe that the President will not allow an industry like the wood industry to perish on account of the acts of those who operate outside the law...Let us always keep uppermost in our hearts that our country and our people are the reasons why we exist.

Attuning Forestry Practices for Sustainable Forest Resources Management, Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation

By Forester Renato de Rueda
President, Society of Filipino Foresters



The following issues continue to hound and negatively affect the country's forestry sector...

- Unstable implementation of forest policies
- Plantation development is not moving forward as desired
- Limited government support in the rehabilitation of watersheds
- Reduced investment in the forest-based industries sector

- Open access forest areas
- Management of forest areas covered by ancestral land titles
- Balance in forest protection and forest production areas
- Continued poaching and illegal logging...

Considering the many changes that happened in the forestry landscape since the 1986 EDSA revolution, the DENR should, by now and in partnership with the different forest managers, be less of regulatory and more of developmental.

Global Perspective on the Future for Philippine Forestry

By Patrick B. Durst
FAO Senior Forestry Officer

(After all are said and done) how has Vietnam been able to do so well in forestry? If I can list a few things:



- Supportive, stable policies in forestry
- Clear signals of support to the sector from government
- Establishment of clear and secure forest tenure
- Simplification of regulations and reduction of red tape
- Favorable tax treatments for forestry
- Emphasis on market development, including exports
- Attention to value-added processing

Active engagement of forestry officials in regional and international fora (widens perspective for purposeful development).

All of these things should offer hope and point the way toward opportunity for the Philippines.

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PWPA Sets Strategic Plans

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) had its strategic planning workshop held last November 11, 2011, at the AIM Centre in Makati City with the objective of exploring action options to improve the state of the wood industry especially with the on-going implementation of Executive Order (EO) No. 23 - the moratorium on harvesting timber in natural and residual forests.



Hurdling the Barriers. Directors and officers of PWPA and resource persons plan out strategies to move forward the wood industry.

The workshop was preceded by an executive session wherein the officers and the directors of the Board determined the critical wood industry issues the workshop has to give priority to.

The PWPA secretariat, during the workshop, began with a presentation of the different activities and initiatives undertaken to have the IFMAs of member-companies be reviewed and evaluated by the DENR toward the lifting of EO No. 23.

The different recommendations, earlier worked-out by a PWPA small group to move forward the lifting of EO 23 were presented by Executive Vice President Alfonso Keh, Jr.

Opinions and possible remedies from the legal point of view were made by Attys. Michael Lopez, John Balisnomo and Manuel Manaligod, Jr. of CVC Law Office.

Former DENR Undersecretary, Society of Filipino Foresters President Renato de Rueda, from the perspective of a former government official and practicing professional, suggested actions to be considered in dealing with the industry-government issues.

A resource person, who has intimate knowledge about the wood industry and the government, said what is happening today to the industry is a *déjà vu*, a repeat of similar executive

decisions made by past administrations. He emphasized the need to educate the public to know the environmental role the PWPA plays.

After a very intensive yet productive discussion on the most critical issues facing the industry, VP-director Charlie Liu grouped the strategy options to be considered into clusters of move-forward action plans: 1) extra-judicial such as lobbying in its ethical sense; 2) administrative, dealing with DENR and other government agencies; and 3) public relations with trade association, media and the public.

Another executive session wrapped up the planning workshop.

PWPA Meets Malaysian Timber Council Delegation

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA), headed by VP-Director Ramon Uy, meets with the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC), headed by its Director for Policy and Planning Unit, Dr. Erik K. L. Ng last November 3, 2011 at the Milky Way, Makati City. The meeting was aimed at continuing a closer working relationship between the two associations and also to invite the PWPA to the MTC Woodmart 2012 to be held in Kuala Lumpur from October 4-6, 2012.



Strengthening ties between associations

PWPA Meets Sen. Koko Pimentel

Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. welcomed the Philippine Wood Producers Association's briefing

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about the Association, the wood industry in general, and Executive Order No. 23, in particular. This was during PWPA's courtesy call last September 5, 2011, at his Senate Office in Pasay City led by Director Aristeo Puyat.



PWPA Director Putch Puyat explaining the wood industry to Senator Koko Pimentel (left)

Pimentel asked incisive and clarifying questions to further enlighten him, to which PWPA responded fully. His queries covered issues such as the establishment of forest line, extent and danger of illegal logging, the need for wood products that can only be manufactured from natural timber like furniture, the face and back of plywood, marine plywood for fishing boats, among others.

Pimentel said he will further study the presentation of PWPA and EO No. 23.

PWPA Makes Courtesy Visit to Senator Escudero

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) made its courtesy call to Senator Francis Joseph "Chiz" Escudero, the new Chairman of the Senate's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, last November 22, 2011 at his Senate Office in Pasay City.

Escudero immediately asked how the EO No. 23 has been affecting the operations of the PWPA and their workers. He said when the President was considering issuing the EO 23, his



Lending an Advice. Senator and ENR Committee Chair Chiz Escudero (left) intimates his views on industry issues with PWPA President Antonio Olizon and VP-Director Evaristo Narvaez, Jr.

(Escudero's) position was not to include areas under tenure.

The PWPA made a short presentation on the status of the wood industry.

Escudero said he is familiar with the sustainable forest management being practiced by the PWPA. He empathized with PWPA since the EO 23, to him, is not a good issuance by the President. He added that DENR Secretary Paje can not be expected to help notwithstanding the mandate of EO 23 that there be a review/evaluation of the IFMAs by the DENR as only the President can lift EO 23.

Told that the PWPA has already written the President, Escudero advised it to try to write him another letter which the Senator would hand carry himself to the President.

Escudero also advised the PWPA not to be silent on the issue of the logging moratorium, but to consider requesting columnists to write about the plight of the industry, or to advertise it as an appeal to the President himself.

With regards to the Sustainable Forest Management Act (SFMA), he said the ENR committee report was already prepared and will be submitted. He said SFMA may be the answer to the problem poised on the industry by EO 23.

PWPA Meets BOC Commissioner Biazon

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) led by President Antonio Olizon met with new Bureau of Customs (BOC) head, Commissioner Rozzano Rufino Biazon, last

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BOC Com. Ruffy Biazon

October 17, 2011, at the Port of Manila for a courtesy call and briefing on the impact of imported plywood from China.

Olizon briefed the Commissioner that the influx of imported plywood from China in the local market has gravely affected the local plywood manufacturers.

Director Alfonso Keh, Jr. also said that not only are China plywood substandard and hazardous to health, but they also endanger the livelihood of local people because for every container of Chinese plywood brought in, 16 local workers lose their jobs.

Olizon suggested to Biazon that it would help the local plywood business if the BOC would make a public statement that it will now seriously start monitoring the illegal entry of Chinese plywood.

Director Stanley Tan also raised the issue on the export tax on *Falcata* logs which used to be not collected by BOC. He said last year PWPA has informed the past BOC administration of the issue; however, the PWPA has not been updated whether or not the tax collection is being implemented or not. Tan said the export of *Falcata* logs is going on and the government might be losing substantial revenue from the non-collection of log export tax.

Biazon said he will personally push the BOC to implement the pertinent laws. He asserted that a public statement may have to be issued on the matter of plywood importation as it involves public interest or welfare. He added he will check with the BOC export division about the status of the collection of export tax on *Falcata* logs.

PWPA Dialogues with BOC Deputy Commissioner Lim

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) led by President Antonio Olizon met with new Bureau of Customs (BOC) Deputy Commissioner Danilo Lim last December 22, 2011, at his Office at the Port of Manila for a courtesy call and

a briefing on the harmful impact of imported plywood from China on the local wood industry.



Meeting the BOC Intelligence Group. PWPA delegation, headed by President A. C. Olizon (second from left), meets with BOC Deputy Commissioner Danilo Lim, (third from left).

Deputy Commissioner Lim, a retired AFP general, instructed his chief of staff, Reynaldo Ordonez, also a retired AFP general, to coordinate closely with PWPA in monitoring and surveillance of imported plywood entering the country. The meeting was a sequel to an earlier visit made by PWPA to BOC Commissioner Ruffy Biazon.

PWPA Decries Surge of China Plywood

The surge of alleged illegal imported plywood from China was among the recent market developments that the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) called the attention of the Department of Trade and Industries (DTI).

Per trade information about 300 40' container loads were reportedly brought into the country last April while an estimated 400 to 500 containers are projected to arrive last May.

Plywood is covered by mandatory standards and local manufacturers are subject to Bureau of Products Standards (BPS) monitoring, with local plywood required to be marked with the PS label. On the other hand, imports are required to obtain ICC (import commodity clearance) from DTI. Industry verification with BPS, however, revealed that almost all of the imports have not declared their products as such, nor complied with the ICC rules.

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Chinese plywood are 5-ply and of 4.5mm thickness but usually mis-represented and sold as 5mm thickness. They have external veneers that are unacceptably thin, usually no thicker than 0.25 mm. These panels are also not sanded and are rough, because they cannot bear sanding – the thin veneers will be sanded away. The glue used in these plywood has high formaldehyde emissions that also pose as a health hazard to consumers and builders as well as construction workers.

Most if not all of the imports reportedly have not paid the right taxes as the goods are either mis-declared, or worse, smuggled outright into the country. It has become common industry knowledge that container vans of plywood are being withdrawn from the international ports for a “fixed fee”, depriving our government of taxes and duties in the amount of about PhP 60M for 400 container vans. Also, an estimated 16 local workers lose their job per container van released. Through these “savings”, the imports unfairly compete and undercut the prices of local plywood manufacturers.

The PWPA sought the assistance of DTI to carry out a more active market monitoring program. A monitoring team was created and during its rounds of hardware stores in Batangas, in Cavite and in Pangasinan the team found unmarked plywood which means the items did not go through DTI-BPS for Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) issuance.

PWPA Joins DTI Monitoring Team

The Department of Trade and Industry-Regional Operations and Development Group (DTI-RODG), in response to the request of PWPA to monitor the surge in the local market of unmarked imported plywood from China, has intensified its monitoring drive to check hardware and lumber stores selling them.

Since May, an estimated 800 40-foot container vans of plywood from China reportedly entered the country. From May to date, the team has monitored 150 of such stores in the National

Capital Region (NCR), Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Quezon Province, Ilocos Norte and Pangasinan of which 123 were found selling plywood in compliance with DTI product standards while the rest found non-compliant were charged.

Local plywood, being covered by mandatory standards, are required to be marked with the PS label. On the other hand, imported plywood are required to have Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) marks obtainable from DTI. During the monitoring period, however, it was verified that almost all imported plywood carried by non-compliant stores have no ICC marks, only brand names in some. Foreign brand names without the ICC markings do not qualify under the PNS196:2000.

The monitoring team has suggested that DTI head office issue a memorandum to DTI Regional/Provincial Offices to the effect that: 1) all imported plywood must comply with ICC marking requirements, and 2) punitive actions be taken against stores selling Chinese plywood dubiously marked with local PS mark.

Through DTI's active local monitoring program, the PWPA hopes to stem the influx of sub-standard, unmarked Chinese plywood in the market that not only cause unfair competition and irreparable damage to the local plywood manufacturers but also deprive the country of employment and revenues opportunities.

PWPA Attends Workshop on Timber Legality System

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) attended the 2nd Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) last October 25-27, 2011 at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

The workshop aims to provide an overview of the policies related to timber legality and market initiatives; exchange of experiences on TLAS and Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) between ASEAN Member States; enhance the capacity of the participating countries to develop and implement TLAS through exchange of lessons learned; and

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elaborate next steps for sub-regional and/or national level processes in the Mekong region.

The participants are from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines represented by Foresters Genesis Francisco (government sector – FMB/DENR) and Maila Vasquez (private sector – PWPA), the resource persons from European Forest Institute, and observers from Finland, Vietnam and Malaysia.



Dr. Alex Hinrichs, Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Asia Regional Advisor, welcomed the participants and gave the rationale of the training workshop.

He said that with the increasing global concern to combat illegal logging and its associated timber trade malpractices, there are many initiatives being implemented like the EU Timber Regulation, the US Lacey Act and Public Procurement Policies of many countries that demand the importation of timber and timber products should be verified through a credible Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS).



The verification of the legality of timber is the main thrust of the EU FLEGT VPA where it was already concluded with Ghana, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Indonesia, and Liberia. VPA negotiations are currently underway with Malaysia and Vietnam.

RELATED EVENTS AND CSR

PWPA Attends DENR Launch of NGP

To manifest PWPA's top-level support to DENR's centerpiece program, the National Greening Program, the Philippine Wood Producers Association led by Chairman Fernando Lu and



President Noyonoy says NGP is a response to the dwindling forest cover in the country.

Directors Aristeo Puyat, Ramon Uy and Robert Kua, attended its launch last May 13, 2011 at the DENR Social Hall in Quezon City,

President Noyonoy Aquino III was special guest and keynote speaker of the affair. He said that the greening initiative is a response to the dwindling forest cover in the country. He said that 50 percent of the trees planted in five years time will be for sustainable management of forests while the other half is for crop industry and for food supply.

The day's program ended with President Noyonoy planting a narra tree at the DENR Heroes Park.

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Tree Planting Tribute to Late PWPA Chairman Emeritus

Last January 15, 2011, PWPA officers and directors of the Board trooped to Brgy. Bambang, Taguig City to plant trees as a tribute to the late Atty. Antonio Guevara Bernas, PWPA Chairman Emeritus. It would have been his 77th birthday the following day.



Mrs. Baby Bernas and her sons plant trees for their Tony

Atty. Bernas, or Tony, joined the newly-formed Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) in 1981.

Tony had been with the PWPA for close to 30 years. In 1987 he was elected PWPA president since then he was its President and/or Chairman uninterruptedly for 15 years. In 2002, he was unanimously elevated as the PWPA's Chairman Emeritus.

The trees planted that day would be PWPA's living tribute to the memory of Tony Bernas.

PWPA Supports Earth Day 2011

PWPA once again joined in celebrating Earth Day last April 24, 2011, at the Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City. This year's theme was "Earth Day, Every Day", a reminder that everyone can do something daily to help preserve, conserve and save our planet Earth.

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista and Earth Day Network Philippines Chair & President Bebet Gozun formally opened the day's program the highlights of which included educational talks and



Over 20 organizations participate in the whole-day 2011 Earth Day activity that coincides with Easter Sunday.

presentations by the various participating organizations.

The PWPA booth displayed tarpaulins depicting the PWPA's profile, vision and mission, and activities, particularly CSR, as well as overview on the role of forests and the uses of wood. CDs with information on forests, trees and wood, bookmarks, and tree seedlings were raffled off to visitors of PWPA's booth.



More than 20 organizations joined this year's Earth Day celebration.

PWPA in Internationally Supported Local Meetings

• NLBI Workshop

The Philippine Wood Producers Association joined the two-day workshop on the Non-Legally Binding Instrument (NLBI) last May 11-12, 2011, at Cloud 9 Resort, Antipolo City.

The workshop was aimed to review and update stakeholders on the NLBI goals, objectives, outcomes and the work plan of implementation of

Report to the Members

the forest instrument (FI) in the Philippines.

The NLBI, piloted in Ghana, will now be extended to the Philippines, Liberia and Nicaragua. As part of its 2011 Program, NLBI awareness raising and stakeholders' workshops; inventory and assessment of NLBI initiatives and priorities of stakeholders; regional NLBI stakeholders' workshops; and a NLBI national workshop to validate the findings and priorities from the regional workshops will be conducted this year.

There are also FMB NLBI initiatives such as assisting Congress to enact SFM/SFEM and national land use bills; updating and climate-proofing the Master Plan; piloting national forest certification; and backstopping the National Greening Program.

• EU FLEGT Seminar

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) joined the European Union (EU) Forest Land Enforcement, Government and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plane Seminar last May 11, 2011, at the Legend Villas Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

Mr. Matthieu Penot, EU attaché for Environment, Energy and Climate Change, underscored the new EU Timber Regulation on legality and traceability of timber products, to be implemented by 2013. He said the regulation aims to guarantee only timber that respects existing regulations will be traded.

Ms. Aimee Lee Abdullah, Policy Analyst of European Forest Institute's FLEGT Program said a market study showed the Philippines had a negligible share (less than 1% by value) in timber imported to the EU from SE Asia, the new timber regulation will affect the country in that while it imports from neighboring countries it can re-process these imports and export them to EU.

Mr. Vincent van den Berk, FLEGT Program Coordinator, said the EU FLEGT action plan is a result of the 2001 East Asia Bali FLEG Declaration, a response to pressure for EU to stop acting as a market for illegally harvested timber.

He said there are two ways to participate: through bilateral negotiation of FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) with the EU and through

private sector initiatives where the criteria is still being worked out.

VPA is a legally binding international treaty and among Asian countries in advance negotiations are Indonesia and Malaysia while formal negotiations are underway with the likes of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, among others.

Van den Berk also said VPA between EU and the Philippines may not be the most obvious way forward, hence Mr. Penot suggested that a round table discussion with the private sector (PWPA and CFIP) be held to discuss ideas on the private sector's way of participation.

• USAID Mission

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Philippines, together with a mission team from the United States Government (USG) Forest and Agriculture Services led by Climate Change Program Specialist Dana Moore, met with PWPA regarding a scoping study to identify areas where US partnership can be beneficial to all key stakeholders in supporting country-developed Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS).

The USG launched a climate change initiative called Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategy (EC-LEDS), as part of its commitment to the Copenhagen Agreement to mobilize fast-start financing. Through this initiative, the USG is offering to provide assistance and specialized expertise to support countries in their development efforts and implementation of low emission development and green growth strategies.

The team inquired on the participation of PWPA in the National Greening Program (NGP) and the REDD+ and asked how EO No. 23 has impacted on the operations of the members of the Association.

President Antonio Olizon said that PWPA has been very supportive of the programs of the government. However, in terms of the NGP and REDD+, it has had very limited participation but the Association is very much interested in participating in them.

To the question what would make sustainable

Report to the Members

forest management succeed, Director Aristeo Puyat said there should be stability of policies and an honest-to-goodness effort on the part of the government to implement them.

Visitors Explore Tie-Ups with PWPA

FuturaGene Vice President for Business Development Dr. Nissim Che recently visited the PWPA to explore the possibility of forging a partnership with private companies interested to use genetically engineered trees in plantations. Israel-based FuturaGene has developed a germplasm technology protocol specifically for *Eucalyptus spp.* that improves growth and yield. It is now being used by the Suzano Company, a huge *Eucalyptus* plantation in Brazil, wherein FuturaGene is in a technology partnership.

The PWPA informed Dr. Che that the local wood industry also uses plantation timber, among them is the native *Eucalyptus deglupta* called locally as *Bagras*, originally intended for pulp and paper, but is beginning to find use in veneer and plywood manufacture.

The PWPA suggested that FuturaGene considers developing protocols for *Falcata* for the manufacture of veneer and plywood and *Gmelina* for furniture. It also suggested touching base with Claveria Tree Nurseries, Inc. that clones fast growing species like *Mangium* for a possible partnership.

Meralco SME Business Group Relationship Manager Ramuel Camanay called on PWPA to introduce the benefits of Meralcos' SME Group programs and products and which PWPA members may find useful and efficient to their operations.

Mr. Camanay introduced the Time of Use (TOU) Rate Program offered to small and medium enterprise (SME) consuming 500KW and less.

TOU is an alternative pricing scheme that may be taken advantage of by using electricity when

generation rates are cheaper, i.e. during off peak hours. TOU may apply, on a registered meter-basis, to factories or manufacturing plants like sawmills, that can shift their operation more during off peak hours or effectively transfer all or most of their electrical loads during off peak hours or on Sundays.

The Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF), through Ms. Liesl Lim, met with PWPA to give a short presentation on its main program called "The Marikina Watershed Initiative" the aim of which is to protect, reforest and rehabilitate the watershed.

The PWPA said it can be a partner to PDRF initiatives through seedling production and firewood development.

The Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), through its Presidential Staff Officer Cecilia Trino and Sr. Economic Development Specialist Milva Lunod-Carinan, presented to PWPA last October 10, 2011 its "MindaNOW: Nurturing Our Waters Program" under its MinDA Riverbasin Development Plan.

The PWPA expressed support to the program with Director Aristeo Puyat noting that for any collaboration to proceed effectively the roles of parties involved should clear. President Antonio Olizon, on the other hand, suggested for MinDA to consider launching a pilot project before the bigger program. Once the pilot succeeds, MinDA can then replicate it in other areas.

Other support that PWPA can extend, according to Director Puyat, is to provide technical assistance that they may need.

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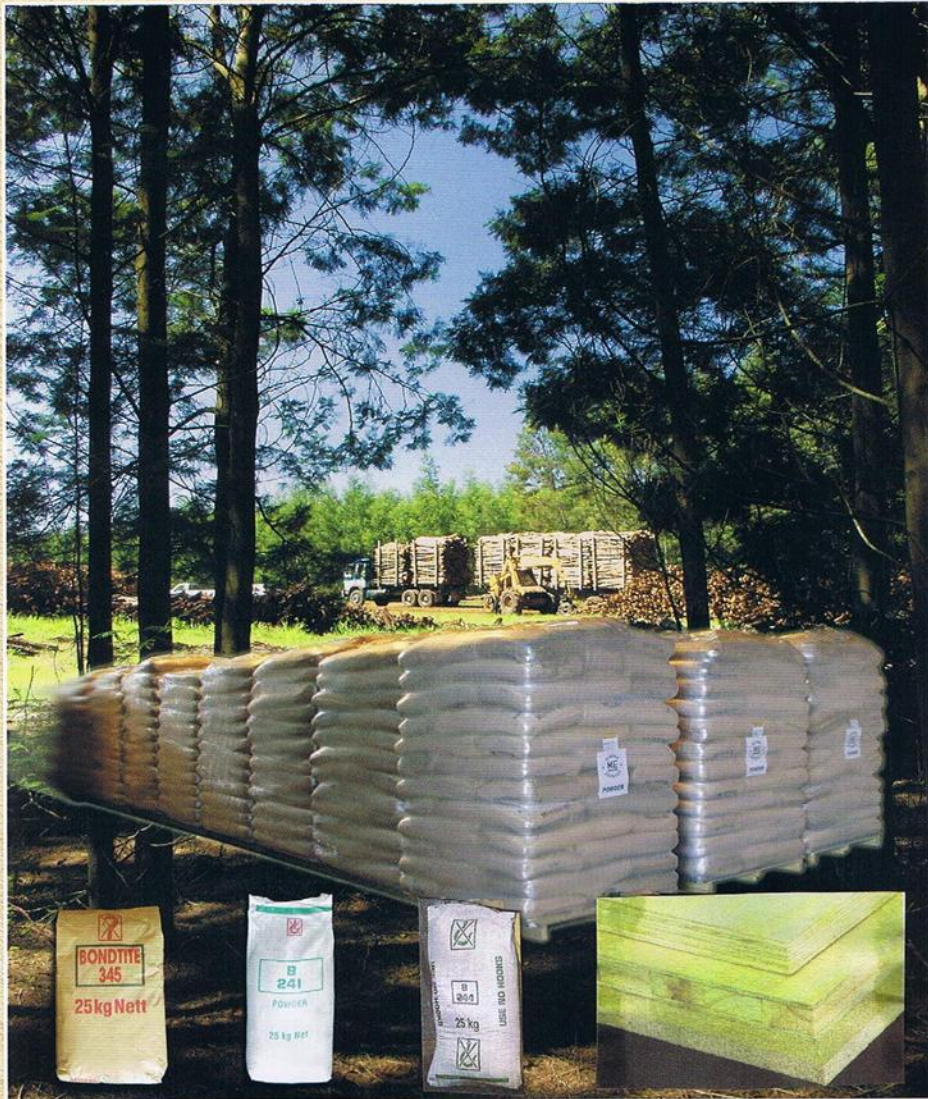
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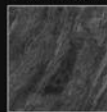
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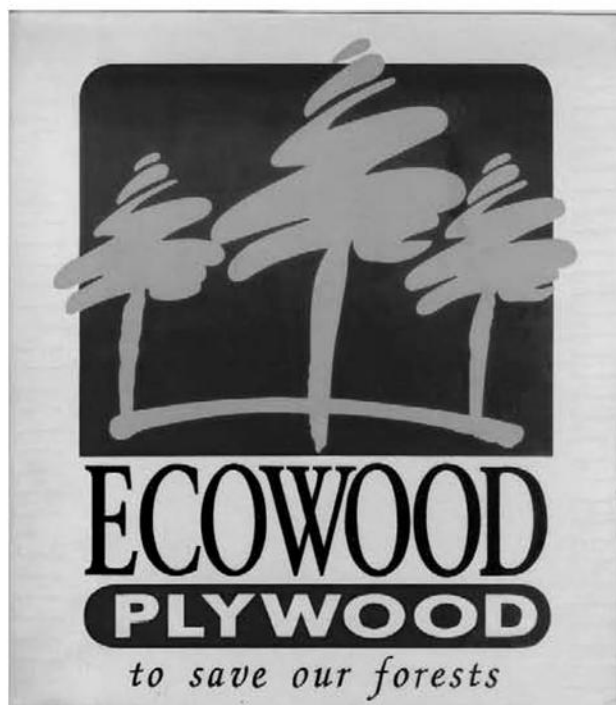
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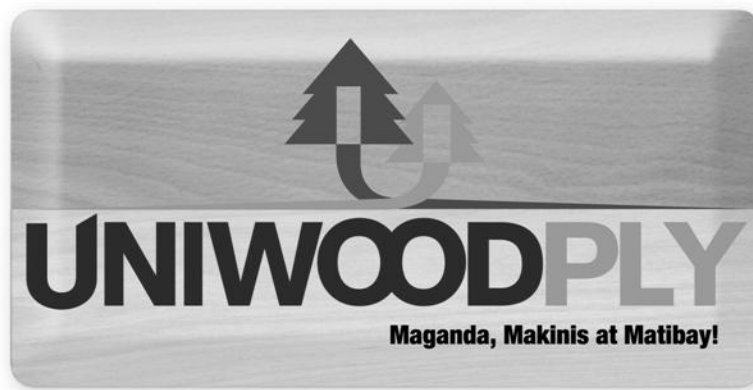
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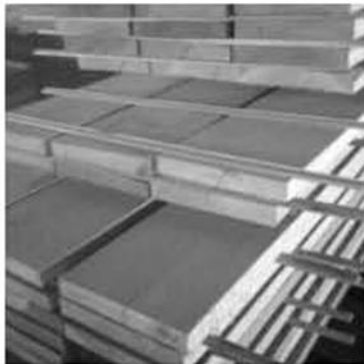
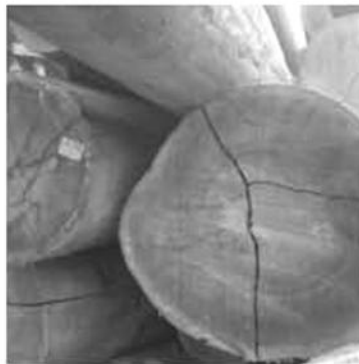
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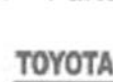
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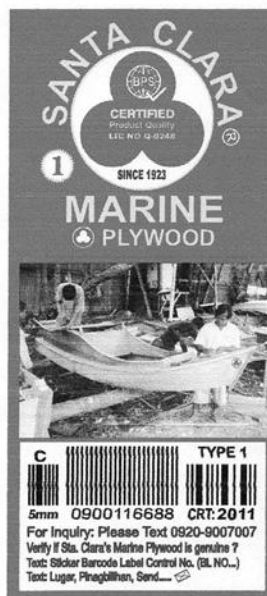
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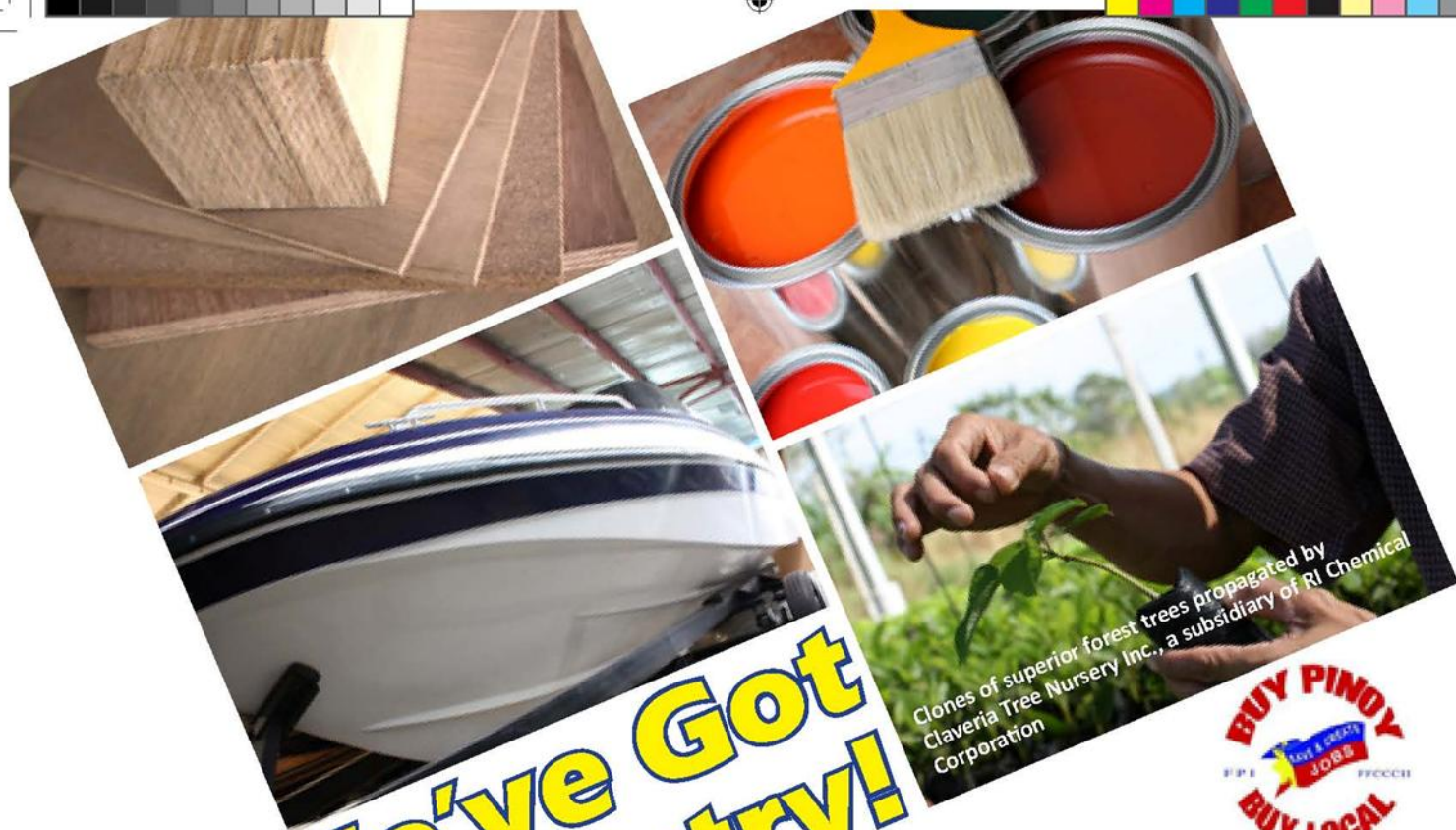
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Propagated through macrosomatic cloning technology, our seedlings grow more vigorously and yield significantly more wood volumes in less time.

Thus, our trees will greatly increase the income of forest tree growers, and contribute to poverty alleviation of



small marginalized growers.

With their more efficient capture of carbon dioxide, our trees also optimally contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

Given our seedlings and your support, our country can establish forest cover faster, thus helping achieve the objectives of our country's National Greening Program.

Yes, it's possible to fight poverty and climate change at the same time.

CTNI. The Winning Combination.



Claveria Tree Nursery Inc.

A member of Resins Inc. Group of Companies

CTNI Outlets:

Nursery Site – Gumaod, Claveria, Misamis Oriental
People's Agri-Service and Supply, National Highway,
Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City

Resins Inc. Compound – Nahalanan, Lower Jasaan,
Jasaan, Misamis Oriental

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