



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

64th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PWPA MEMBERS

Message of the Board



*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, 2014.*

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a trailing flourish.

RAMON Y. UY
Chairman

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, circular loop and a trailing flourish.

CHARLIE H. LIU
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.*

64th Annual General Assembly



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Executive Officers 2014-2015

RAMON Y. UY
Chairman

CHARLIE H. LIU
President

JHONNY M. YOUNG
Executive Vice President

CALVIN T. DAVID
Treasurer

EVARISTO M. NARVAEZ, JR.
VP – Timber

CALVIN T. DAVID
VP — Lumber & Related Products

JHONNY M. YOUNG
VP — Plywood & Related Products

ROBERT W. KUA
VP — Membership Relations

JOSE A. LORENZO
Adviser — Forestry & Environment

MAILA R. VASQUEZ
Executive Director

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Board of Directors



RAMON Y. UY
Chairman
Consolidated Wood Products, Inc.



CHARLIE H. LIU
President
MATIMCO, Incorporated



JHONNY M. YOUNG
Executive Vice President
Asia-Pacific Timber & Plywood Corp.



CALVIN T. DAVID
Treasurer
Worldwood Trading Corp.



ALFONSO C. KEH, JR.
Emco Plywood Corp.



FERNANDO A. LU
Pacific Timber Export Corp.



ANTONIO C. OLIZON
TIPI Wood Products Corp.



EVARISTO M. NARVAEZ, JR.
ARTIMCO Incorporated



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



STANLEY Q. TAN
Butuan-Esperanza Veneer Corp.



ROBERT W. KUA
Vicmar Development Corp.



ARISTEO G. PUYAT
Surigao Development Corp.



YUK LIAN "ATING" CO CASCARA
NJR Lumber

Wood Industry Information

RESOURCES

	2013	2014	2015p
TLA in existence, number < ¹	3	3	3
Annual allowable cut, 1000 cu m< ²	0	0	0
Forest area under TLA, 1000 ha	177	177	177
IFMAs in existence, number	140	140	140
Forest area under IFMA, 1000 ha	1,005	1,005	1,005

PRODUCTION (Volume in 1000 cu m)

	2013	2014	2015p
Logs< ³	1,166	1,102	485
Lumber	450	496	99
Plywood< ⁴	199	164	81
Veneer	60	40	27

EXPORTS (Volume in 1000 cu m or as per specified; volume in 1000 US\$, fob)

	2013		2014p	2015p
	Volume	Value	Value	Value
Logs< ⁵	1	2,495	1,165	265
Lumber< ⁶	240	74,132	79,246	36,841
Plywood	4	3,773	1,819	522
Veneer	3	3,078	629	68
Others			9,766	1,139
Other wood-based manufactured (1000 gross kilogram)	917,821	3,063,002	2,965,471	1,728,050
Furniture of wood (1000 gross kilogram)	21,098	105,373	362,730	223,706

IMPORTS (Volume in 1000 cu m or as per specified; volume in 1000 US\$, cif)

	2013		2014p		2015p	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Logs	124	22,674	51	8,381		
Lumber	240	123,074	207	108,932	12,228	60,674
Plywood	195	107,814	411	167,080	20,690	88,903
Veneer	31	12,628	15	9,518	1,489	3,814
Others						
Other wood-based manufactured (1000 gross kilogram)	30,147	27,285	36,746	39,000	nya	nya
Furniture of wood (1000 gross kilogram)	77,646	70,824	94,061	119,451	nya	nya

Wood Industry Information

Source: Data furnished by Forest Management Bureau/DENR and National Statistics Office (NSO), DTI Export Management Bureau, p-preliminary as of December 2014; July 2015; nya-not yet available; volume for 2014-2015 export info, not available

<1 – Most TLAs are in the process of conversion into IFMAs

<2 – AAC of TLAs with approved AOPs only

<3 – Natural forest and plantation forest logs, mostly of the latter

<4 – Industry figures somewhat higher than indicated

<5 – Forest plantation logs only, natural forest logs not allowed for export

<6 – Finished lumber only, raw lumber not allowed for export

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

	2013	2014	2015p
Regular Members	64	38	40
Associate Members	255	335	272
Revenue	3,317,621	3,787,006	3,247,020*
Expenses	2,817,404	2,744,310	1,205,401*
Assets	3,376,307	4,007,061	4,689,700*

* As of June 30, 2015

Financial Report

PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(A Nonstock, Non-profit Corporation)

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Years Ended December 31	
	2014	2013
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenses	₱1,042,696	₱500,217
Adjustments for:		
Retirement benefits cost (Note 8)	7,848	29,588
Depreciation (Note 6)	6,975	12,194
Interest income (Note 4)	(1,749)	(664)
Dividend income	(740)	(700)
Unrealized foreign exchange gain	—	(2,328)
Excess of revenue over expenses before working capital changes	1,055,030	538,307
Decrease (increase) in:		
Receivables	280,366	(238,394)
Prepayments	(7,412)	—
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	133,742	32,488
Retirement benefits liability	(81,118)	(85,100)
Net cash generated from operations	1,380,608	247,301
Retirement benefits paid (Note 8)	(432,027)	(50,000)
Income tax paid, including creditable withholding tax	(40,387)	—
Interest received (Note 4)	1,749	664
Net cash from operating activities	909,943	197,965
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Dividend received	740	700
Acquisition of office equipment (Note 6)	—	(10,950)
Net cash from operating activities	740	(10,250)
EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH	—	2,328
NET INCREASE IN CASH	910,683	190,043
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	355,940	165,897
CASH AT END OF YEAR (Note 4)	₱1,266,623	₱355,940

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(A Nonstock, Non-profit Corporation)

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	December 31	
	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash (Note 4)	₱1,266,623	₱355,940
Receivables (Note 5)	2,721,045	3,001,411
Prepayments	7,412	—
Total Current Assets	3,995,080	3,357,351
Noncurrent Assets		
Property and equipment (Note 6)	2,281	9,256
Other noncurrent asset	9,700	9,700
Total Noncurrent Assets	11,981	18,956
TOTAL ASSETS	₱4,007,061	₱3,376,307
LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other current liabilities (Notes 7 and 8)	₱504,724	₱346,542
Income tax payable	62,282	8,262
Security deposit (Note 9)	38,914	38,914
Total Current Liabilities	605,920	393,718
Noncurrent Liability		
Retirement benefits liability - net of current portion (Note 8)	140,525	670,262
Total Liabilities	746,445	1,063,980
Members' Equity	3,260,616	2,312,327
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY	₱4,007,061	₱3,376,307

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(A Nonstock, Non-profit Corporation)

STATEMENTS OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	Years Ended December 31	
	2014	2013
REVENUE		
Membership and assessment dues	₱2,808,629	₱2,717,336
Rental income (Note 9)	505,887	350,230
Donations and contributions	312,859	68,522
Registration and entrance fees	130,500	170,169
Dividend	740	700
Interest (Note 4)	1,749	664
Others	26,642	10,000
	3,787,006	3,317,621
EXPENSES		
Salaries, wages and other employee benefits	516,784	433,028
Provision for doubtful accounts (Note 5)	426,558	396,500
Rent, light and water	225,637	351,797
Transportation and travel	214,774	224,896
Professional fees	210,644	372,600
Representation and entertainment	177,622	187,904
Donations and gifts	164,410	84,117
Public relations and information	153,817	89,070
Telephone, telegram and postage	150,416	223,970
Office supplies	115,243	147,069
Meetings and conferences	91,903	43,038
Subscription and publication	55,687	43,826
Taxes and licenses	46,851	38,067
Insurance	35,973	46,928
Retirement benefits cost (Note 8)	7,848	29,588
Depreciation (Note 6)	6,975	12,194
Repairs and maintenance	3,384	18,731
Others	139,784	74,081
	2,744,310	2,817,404
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE INCOMETAX	1,042,696	500,217
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAX (Note 10)	94,407	25,774
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES AFTER INCOME TAX	₱948,289	₱474,443

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PROVISION FOR INCOME TAX (Note 10)	94,407	25,774
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES AFTER INCOME TAX	₱948,289	₱474,443

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

Report to the Members

The Association in 2014 & 2015

The Philippine Wood Producers Association continues to struggle to find ways on how to create opportunities for the wood industry considering the difficulties and challenges it faced for the past years. For the year 2014 and 2015, the following are the various efforts done by our Association:

Extra-Judicial

At Congress: On Sustainable Forest Management Act



photo from: congress.org.ph

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) joined the Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting of the Committees on Natural Resources and Reforestation to make a preliminary discussion on the proposed SFM bills filed/re-filed in the Congress last March 26, 2014 at the House of Representatives, Quezon City.

Congressman Teddy Baguilat, chair of the TWG, gave high hopes that the bill will be passed by this Congress and said that five bills were filed/re-filed which will be the focus of discussion. He mentioned that since majority of the items in the bills were already discussed and agreed upon during the last Congress, he believes that the harmonization of the bills will be easier.

Representatives from the government, civil society, professional group and the private sector were requested to give their thoughts about the SFM bills and all were in agreement for the need to have the SFM bill passed into law this Congress.

There was a suggestion to invite representatives from the academe and members of the defunct Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force as resource persons on the next scheduled meeting and was noted by the Committee Secretary.

On Fiscal Incentive Act



photo from: congress.org.ph

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) attended the joint Committee meeting of the Ways & Means and Trade & Industry on the Fiscal Incentive Act on May 20, 2014. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Romero Quimbo, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means.

Congressman Quimbo said that the meeting seeks the views, comments and recommendations of the different industries with regards to the proposed bills on Fiscal Incentive Act. He added that they are also evaluating the incentives given to each industries and whether said incentives should remain or be removed.

The industry representatives (jewelry, small enterprise, wood) present during the meeting gave their views and recommendations on the bills provided.

Report to the Members

PWPA gave support to the consolidation of the bills further adding that aside from a realistic and practical incentive program, businesses need stable law and policies that will provide good business-friendly environment thereby making business transactions easy.



Administrative

Attends the Bangsamoro Forum - Shares Experiences on SFM

Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) President Antonio Olizon made a presentation on the experiences of the PWPA members in implementing sustainable forest management (SFM), its challenges and recommendation during the Land and Property Rights Workshop on Bangsamoro last June 4, 2014 at the UP Law Center, Diliman, Quezon City.

Olizon was invited to react to the paper of Land Equity International Managing Director Mr. Anthony Burns re: Lessons from Other Countries. Part of Olizon's recommendations was to look into the practices and experiences of the Yayasan Sabah Group in Kota Kinabalu as the culture, climate, topography and resources are almost similar with the country.



Land and Property Rights Workshop Participants, June 4, 2014 at the UP Law Center, Diliman, Quezon City. (Photo by FEF)

Joins the EUTR Awareness Forum



The Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines in coordination with the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) hosted the Forum on European Union (EU) Timber Regulation: Awareness and Alternative Solutions last March 26, 2014 at the Oakwood Premier Joy-Nostalj Center Manila, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The forum, that aims to promote awareness on the EU Timber Regulation implemented by the EU in March 2013 and finding alternative solutions for industries in the country exporting to the EU, was attended by more than 100 participants representing government agencies, academe, furniture and wood industry sectors.

PWPA VP-Director Ramon Uy welcomed the participants to the forum and gave the rationale for having the forum. He hoped that the participants would learn about the FLEGT, VPA and EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), its impact and how to find alternative solutions to overcome challenges and difficulties. He also encouraged the participants to be open and give ideas on how the country will have a practical, economical and fitting due diligence system.

Report to the Members

Mr. Bill Maynard of Global Forestry Services discussed about the EUTR. He said that with the regulation, the EU market would not accept timber and timber products unless the legality of the source is verified. He also said that the legality verification depends on the law or regulations of the exporting country.

Maynard said EUTR requires due diligence or FLEGT licensing. He added that the legality verification would focus on the different implementation of activities such as licensing, planning, felling operations, production of timber, collection of taxes or royalties, transport, etc. Traceability of materials from the forest through production and auditing the chain of custody are some key elements of verifying legality.

He also shared some experiences of Ghana, Malaysia, Indonesia, among others on how they are developing their legality system.

FMB representative, For. Raul Briz, made a presentation about forestry permits and transport documents for forest products and timber tracking. He also made a presentation on the Philippine Criteria and Indicators System for SFM which could be used for audit or assessment procedure.

He also made a presentation on the updates of forest certification, chain of custody and timber legality assurance system.

The SGS provided an overview of the FSC COC Certification process and the different services they are offering while CFIP President Nicolaas de Lange made a situationer of the furniture industry of the country and its challenges.

An open forum follows moderated by CFIP Executive Director Salvio Valenzuela, Jr.

Attends the Forest Asia Summit



photo from: forest asia

The Philippine Wood Producers Association represented by its Deputy Executive Director Maila Vasquez, through the sponsorship of the Food and Agriculture Organization, attended the Forest Asia Summit last May 5-6, 2014 at Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Summit, organized by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and co-hosted by the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, was participated by more than 2,000 stakeholders across the Southeast Asia and globally who shared interests in sustainably managing the region's forests and landscapes.

Indonesian President, H. E. Susilo Yudhoyono, gave the keynote address during the opening program while 10 government ministers and deputy ministers from across Southeast Asia gave plenary speeches on what their respective countries are doing regarding the sustainable management of their resources and other related activities on environment. DENR Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio is the representative of the Philippines.

Report to the Members

The Summit has discussion and high-level forums that revolves along five main themes: a) Governance and legal frameworks to promote sustainable landscapes; b) Investing in landscapes for green returns; c) Climate change and low emissions development on the ground; d) Forest landscapes for food and biodiversity; and e) Changing communities, sustainable landscapes and equitable development.

The Forests Asia Summit aims at addressing a number of interesting issues such as governance and trade and investment opportunities, climate change mitigation and adaptation, livelihoods, sustainable food systems and nutrition.

Meets with SFFI on the House Approved National Land Use Act Bill



photo from: rappler.com

The House of Representatives has approved the House Bill No. 4382 known as “National Land Use and Management Act of the Philippines (NLUA)” on June 2, 2014. It was transmitted to and received by the Senate on June 4, 2014.

The NLUA bill provides for the framework for land use planning and categorized land uses as follows: a) protection land use; b) production land use; c) settlements and institutional land use; and d) infrastructure land use. It also mandates for the review and assessment of current land use system to ensure

that it reflects the actual use of the land. The result of the review shall be considered in the formulation of the planning guidelines.

The NLUA also provides for the criteria for the classification or re-classification of current land-uses and the process on how the land use planning shall be done. It gives definite time frame for the completion of base mapping program, ground delineation of permanent forest, cadastral surveys, ground delineation of land use, among others. Incentives, sanctions and penalties were also provided by the Act.

The NLUA bill categorized all existing areas within forestland containing primary and secondary forests and all existing areas within forestland containing secondary growth or residual forests of whatever type of species as protection land use.

The Society of the Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI) has apprehension with the approval of the bill as it could affect the Bill on the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Act which is, at present, in the Technical Working Group (TWG) review at the House.

During its recent SFM TWG meeting, its Chair, Congressman Teddy Baguilat expressed that the SFM bill should be consistent with the approved NLUA bill which is already submitted to the Senate.

Forester/lawyer, Atty. Willie Pollisco of SFFI said during the meeting that he made his statement regarding how SFM has been implemented in the country. He said he shared his experiences as one of those who implemented it and monitored how it was undertaken considering that he started as a tree marker in the field.

Report to the Members

He said the real SFM includes the right management of the forest and forestlands including the natural and residual forests.

With this, SFFI President Tom Valdez suggested to make a briefing, SFFI led in coordination with the Forestry Development Center and the Philippine Wood Producers Association, on how SFM works and implemented in the country including the effect of passing the NLUA bill to SFM TWG chaired by Congressman Baguilat, Congressman Rufus Rodriguez, author of one of the SFM bill filed at the House and the TWGs for the NLUA and SFM bills in the Senate.

Attends DTI Launching of the International Trade Center (ITC) Survey of Non-Tariff Measures



The Department of Trade and Industry through the Export Marketing Bureau (EMB) launched the ITC-funded Survey on Non Tariff Measures in the country on July 8, 2014 at the DTI International Bldg., Makati City.

EMB Director Senen Perlada welcomed all participants from the DTI, other government agencies, and the private sector and gave some brief background about the ITC-funded survey and hope that everyone will cooperate and participate in the survey.

Ms. Poonam Mohun, NTM Project Market Analyst of ITC, before proceeding to the presentation about national survey, gave a background about the ITC and NTMs. She said that ITC is the arm of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) that provides trade development solutions to the private sector, trade support institution and policy makers in developing countries to make business export successful.

She said that NTMs are: 1) official policy measures on export and import, other than ordinary custom tariffs, that can have potential economic affect on international trade in goods, changing quantities traded, prices or both; 2) mandatory requirements, rules or regulations legally set by the exporting, importing or transit countries; among others.

She added that the objective of the ITC program on NTMs is to increase transparency on NTMs. She said that through the survey, different types of obstacles to trade would be captured. She said that the ITC business survey would be focused on business perspective; direct empirical research through company level surveys; in-dept analysis of survey results as diagnostic of the current situation of the companies; done in close collaboration with national and international partners.

She also said that there are also surveys on-going in other parts of the world like Sri Lanka, Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Mauritius and Jamaica, among others.

In the Philippines, she said that they have trained interviewers from the Nielsen Ltd. (selected through ITC procurement process), which is their local partner, who will responsible for the implementation of the interviews. She said there will be 1,200 companies to be interviewed by phone and about 450 companies to be interviewed face to face.

She requested for the support, participation and cooperation of each stakeholders in the survey. Open forum ensued and the closing remarks was given by EMB Assistant Director Agnes Perpetua Legaspi thanking all stakeholders present for their participation and hoping for everyone's support for the success of the program.

Report to the Members

Meets with SFFI and Cong. Rufus Rodriguez: On the National Land Use Act Bill



Cong. Rufus Rodriguez, Photo from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net>

With the request of the Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI), the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and the SFFI met with Cong. Rufus Rodriguez on July 30, 2014 at the UCC Coffee Café, Burgos Circle, Forbestown Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

After a short introduction, SFFI President Tom Valdez thanked Cong. Rodriguez for the meeting and PWPA President Olizon for arranging the meeting with them.

He informed the good Congressman that they have requested to meet with him to request him (Cong. Rodriguez) to help in making the residual forest be under production forest category because the approved NLUA bill, which was endorsed to the Senate, categorized it under protection land use.

He added that this affects the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Act bill being discussed in a technical working group (TWG) as TWG Chair Cong. Teddy Baguilat said that the SFM bill should be consistent with the House approved NLUA bill.

SFFI President Valdez further added that the NLUA bill being heard in the Senate TWG has categorized the residual forest under production area.

Forester/Lawyer Atty. Pollisco of SFFI said that the NLUA bill has deviated from the Land Management Framework which they have developed when he was still with the DENR and in the framework, residual forest is categorized as a production forest.

Cong. Rodriguez was surprised learn that the NLUA bill categorized residual forest as protection forest but said that maybe he was not able to follow it due to his other function as spokesperson to China.

He said is willing to help and it will be only during the bicam. He said to make sure that the version of the Senate should categorize the residual forest as a production area; otherwise he will not be able to defend the position.

He added that during the bicam, there should already be a proposal as to what to be used in the bill.

Atty. Pollisco said that he would draft the proposed line for the bill as he clarifies what options to be used. He said that there are two options: 1) adopt the definition under the national land use framework; or 2) evaluate the secondary/residual forest area before classifying it as a protection area.

Cong. Rodriguez explicitly said to adopt the definition of the residual forest. On another note, he inquired about the status of the wood industry, of EO 23.

PWPA President Olizon said that EO 23, though only a moratorium, has already dragged on its 3rd year and half. Aside from the companies who are operating in the residual forests, many plywood mills have also stopped operations due to the influx of smuggled, substandard plywood.

Report to the Members

He said that review of the IFMA areas were not really conducted. He added that it is sad to note that areas being protected and taken cared of previously are now the subject of encroachment and illegal activities.

Issue on the National Greening Program was also touched and the accomplishments were also questioned. President Olizon said that during one of the forums, he suggested that a third party, like the UPLB, conduct monitoring of its accomplishment.

Cong. Rodriguez suggested that maybe he will make a resolution for the review and evaluation of the IFMA areas and the conduct of third party evaluation on the accomplishment of the National Greening Program.

The suggestion was acceptable to all participants of the meeting.

Cong. Rodriguez is with his Chief of Staff, Atty. Kenny Roy Dichaves; SFFI President Valdez with VP Joey Austria and Adviser Wilfrido Pollisco; and PWPA President Olizon with Deputy Executive Director Maila Vasquez.

Joins FPI General Membership Meeting



photo from: mb.com.ph

The Philippine Wood Producers Association joins the FPI General Membership Meeting on September 3, 2014 held at the Hotel InterContinental Manila, Makati City.

The meeting was opened by a welcome address from FPI Chair Jesus Lim Arranza followed by the President's Report of FPI President George Chua.

Urgent concerns and challenges of the local industries were also presented by its Committee Chairs: for power and energy by Mr. Emmanuel Go; for Environment by Mr. Peter Quintana; and

Anti-smuggling by Mr. Arranza.

The keynote speaker for the meeting is Bureau of Customs Commissioner John P. Sevilla. In his message, he shared what the Bureau has been doing to improve its services. He said that the solution to their problem should be systemic but because of some constraints such as manpower and technology (IT is backward), the process is slow.

He also made some reports on their accomplishments. He said that the Bureau's collections are doing alright, 25% higher than the first quarter and 11% higher than the third quarter of 2013. In terms of smuggling, he said that they are confident that there is a decrease of technical smuggling on certain commodities like rice, petrochemical resins and steel; decrease in outright smuggling of oil.

In terms of corruption, he said that it is not for the Bureau to say that corruption decreased because it will be a propaganda. He said that the business people are in a better position to tell if corruption is reduced.

Report to the Members

On port congestion, he said that they have not anticipated the problem which caused its slowing down but they are already doing something to solve the problem.

He said that for the Bureau to perform effectively and efficiently, it needs to be staffed and resourced properly. Hence they are now in the process of hiring people and bidding for equipment necessary for its operations.

He said that they are also in the process of coming up of a single official list of requirements for each product that are being imported.

He said that he envisions that the Customs will be a paperless Bureau where the importers will have ease of doing transactions without knowing who are assessing their records. He said that once the system is up, for a non-restrictive product, processing could be done in less than 4 hours.

He asked everyone for its cooperation so that it can move forward. He also said that they are publishing import data every month and they ask assistance on whether the valuation is right.

Other parts of the program are the induction of officers, awarding of Bayabay Media and Sustainable Development Awards. The meeting was closed by Chairman Emeritus Meneleo Carlos, Jr.

Meets with MTC, TEAM and MWIA



On September 10, 2014, PWPA President A. C. Olizon welcomed the delegates from Malaysian Timber Council (MTC), Timber Export Association of Malaysia (TEAM) and the Malaysian Wood Industry Association (MWIA) at the Metro Pacific Room, 3/F AIM Conference Center of Manila, Makati City. He introduced the PWPA members who attended the meeting.

Mr. George Tan (Seng Hoe), chair of the delegation from Malaysia thanked the PWPA for welcoming them and meeting with them. He said that the delegation is from the Malaysian Peninsula, none from Sabah or Sarawak as they know that the Philippines have more business relations with the two States of Malaysia. He informed the PWPA members of the purpose of the visit, mainly to explore business opportunities in the country and to learn how it is done in the country.

Other delegates also gave their expectations and queries on what the industry needs and the products that they could supply.

Msrs. C. H. Liu, R. Y. Uy, C. T. David, Mr. Aquino Lee and Mr. Paul Sy shared their experiences including the problems in doing business with Malaysian companies.

It was revealed that one of the reasons for having less business with Malaysian Peninsula is because of the problem on the high cost of shipping.

Fruitful and cordial exchanges follows.

Immediately after the meeting, the delegation proceeded to do the plant visit to Genmart Wood Development Corp. of Mr. Paul Sy and, instead of the Worlwood Trading Corp. of Mr. Calvin T. David, Soon Chiong Trading Corp./Ho Soon Li Trading Corp. of Mr. Meliton Sy.

Report to the Members

Meets DTI-BPS National Quality Infrastructure Quality Development Experts

Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) VP/Director R.Y. Uy welcomed Mr. Andrew Jonathan Williams and Ms. Carmencita Magno from DTI/BPS in their meeting last September 12, 2014 at the PWPA Executive Room, Makati City.



Mr. Williams, the Trade Related Technical Assistance Project short term expert thanked the PWPA for meeting with them and said that DTI is developing the National Quality Infrastructure and in the process are studying the types of services that the Bureau of Philippine Standards and the Philippine Accreditation Bureau need to provide to support the developing of existing and new markets for the Philippine business.

He said that the inputs of the study would be used as basis for the strategic establishment of services of the BPS and PAB as well as by other elements of the NQI of the country.

VP/Director Uy shared with them what is happening with the industry at present and mentioned some of the regulations that governs the product standards and in the trading of wood and wood products. He mentioned about the challenges being faced by the industry and some recommendations on how these challenges may somehow be minimized, if not resolved.

The discussion focused more on the standards of the wood and wood products and it differs from one country to another. Mr. Williams said that the leaning of the study is to align the local standards to the international standards.

Speaks before the Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.



The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) attended the 66th Anniversary National Conference and Seminar-Workshop of the Society of the Filipino Foresters, Inc. last October 2-4, 2014 at SM City Trade Hall, General Santos City. With the theme: Towards Green Philippines: Sustaining National Gains By Revitalizing Community Efforts, the PWPA was requested to present a paper entitled: The Wood Industry: Bridging the Gap on Sustainability and Community Efforts.

The convention started with a motorcade and tree planting in the morning of October 2, 2014 led by SFFI Soccsargen President Iskak Dipatuan, SFFI ARMM President Guiamel D. Abdul and SFFI National Council President Tomas Valdez with DENR Region XII Regional Director Tungko Saikol. DENR Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio and UP at Los Banos Chancellor Rex Victor Cruz also joined the tree planting at the Mindanao State University.



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At the opening program, welcome remarks were given by City Administrator Dave Areglado, in behalf of Mayor Ronnel Chua-Rivera and Secretary Hadji Kahal Kedtag of DENR-ARMM. Message of Hon. Pedro Acharon, Jr. of the 1st District of South Cotabato was delivered by his Chief of Staff, Paulo Acharon.

Special message of DENR Secretary Ramon Paje was delivered by DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations Demetrio Ignacio.

UPLB Chancellor Cruz, the event's keynote speaker, was introduced by RD Saikol.

Chancellor Cruz' message focused on who the foresters are and how can they help the country. He said that forestry is a noble profession and the success of one is the success of all; the failure of one is the failure of all. He also provided guidance on the character traits a future leader must have. He reminded all foresters present to revisit its code of ethics. He also said that many foresters before have given all they have, even their lives, in service to the country and in protecting the national patrimony. He said that they are models that could be followed. He left the foresters with a question, "will you outdo them and lead our people to a more just, inclusive, progressive and sustainable future?"

Business meeting and fellowship night followed after the opening program.

The second day is the SFFI seminar/workshop. The following papers were presented:

<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Director Ricardo Calderon Forest Management Bureau	State of the Philippine Forest
Dr. Antonio Contreras De La Salle University	Going Beyond Partnership: Multi-stakeholder Platforms as Opportunities for Social Learning in the National Greening Program
Forester Raoul Geollegue Senior Technical Consultant, Enterprise Works Wildlife Philippines	Payment for Environmental Services: A Multi-Source sustainable Funding Mechanism for Supporting Watershed Rehabilitation
Director Theresa Mundita Lim Biodiversity Management Bureau	Role of Communities in the Management of Protected Areas
Dr. Evangeline Castillo	Mycorrhiza: A Key to Enhance Ecological Stability and Boost Economic Productivity

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President Antonio Olizon

Philippine Wood Producers Association
(Delivered by Forestry & Environment
Adviser Jose Lorenzo)

The Wood Industry: Bridging the Gap
on Sustainability and Community
Efforts

National Council President Tomas Valdez
SFFI**President Paul Phutenpurekal**

Solutions Using Renewable Energy

President Michael John Ong

Industries Development Corp. (IDC)

Director Oscar Carrasco

IDC Environment and Livelihood Develop-
ment Foundation

Forests and Renewable Energy:
A Community-Bases Paradigm for
Sustaining Biomass Sources for
Power Generation and Efficient
Cooking in the Philippines

About 800 foresters attended the SFFI 66th Anniversary and National Seminar/Workshop.

Attends the Timber Legality Assurance Systems Training/Workshop

The Philippine Wood Producers Association attends the 4th Regional Training/Workshop on Timber Legality Assurance Systems on October 22-24, 2014 at the Don Chan Palace Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

The training/workshop was co-organized by The ASEAN Secretariat, the Government of Lao PDR, the GIZ ProFLEGT project and the FLEGT Facility with the following objectives: a) Enhance the capacity of ASEAN Member States (AMS), in particular the Mekong countries, to develop and implement Timber Legality

Assurance Systems based on the ASEAN framework and the FLEGT VPA initiative; b) Exchange practical experience on VPAs and timber legality assurance between AMS; c) Increase multi-stakeholder collaboration amongst AMS on forestry issues; and d) Contribute to the development of an ASEAN position on timber legality and associated trade.

The training workshop was attended by representatives from Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines; observers from EU Delegation to Lao PDR and Malaysia, GIZ-ASEAN, GIZ-Lao and CIDT; resource persons from ASEAN Secretariat, EU FLEGT Facility, UK-Indonesia, EU FLEGT Programme, a consultant and GIZ-Lao PDR.

Presentation started with the introduction of the workshop followed by presentations on the update on international activities to promote legality and good governance; approaches to timber legality assurance (TLA): its concepts and lessons learned; ASEAN update on regional initiatives on forestry and TLA; ASEAN results of the the 5th meeting on the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on FLEG;

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lessons learned in Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)/SVLK implementation in Indonesia; VPA negotiation updates of Malaysia and Vietnam; preparation for VPA negotiations of Laos and Thailand; and updates of VPA efforts of Cambodia, Myanmar and Philippines.

There were also presentations on the views of the private sectors from India, Myanmar and Indonesia.

Presentations on the introduction to the study on the possible establishment of a sub-regional (Greater Mekong Sub-region) information and intelligence sharing mechanism in support of law enforcement and the fight against illegal trade in timber and endangered wildlife and the overview on sustainable forest management in Laos were also made.

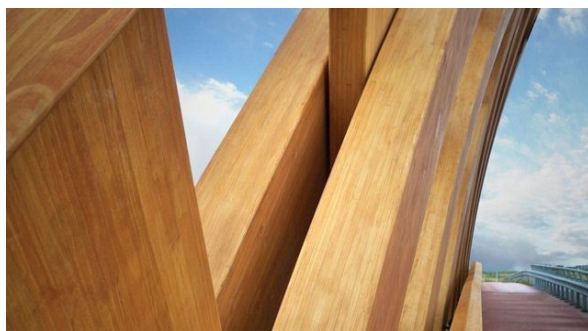
Open forum in every presentation provided for the clarification and exchanges of the participants.

The participants were grouped into four for the workshop. The groupings are as follows with the question to deal with:

- SMEs and timber legality assurance – how to ensure that SMEs can deliver legal timber?
- Timber legality assurance and imports – how to assure legality of imports (reflecting on approaches under development in AMS)?
- Communication on progress – how to address communication challenges related to illegal logging and trade?
- Civil society engagement: how to create and maintain civil society engagement in timber legality assurance processes?

A visit to a wood factory in Laos to learn about tracking system, timber processing and export was the culminating activity of the training/workshop.

Attends the National Quality Infrastructure Project Consultation Meeting



The Philippine Wood Producers Association joins the consultative meeting on the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) Project last November 11, 2014 at the DTI Trade and Industry Building, Makati City.

Mr. Valeri Krasiuk, the short term expert under the PH-EU Trade Related Technical Assistance Project III, Component III, NQI thanked everyone who attended the consultative meeting. He said he has listed some questions to assess the practices being done by the

agency concerned in having PS License Mark.

He said that based on the information he will get will be considered in the development of the development of the NQI for the country.

Among the questions were: a) the length of time before one get their license/certification; b) the requirements on safety and quality; c) willingness to have third party testing laboratories.

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The business community shared that it takes 6 months or longer before one could be certified/licensed especially if there is not enough testing centers for their products.

With regards to the requirements of safety and quality, the business community confirms that the requirements are reasonable.

In terms of testing, the business community said that there are tests that should be in-house and tests done externally; they will be amenable to have a reliable third party testing centers as it is being practiced already but there is still tests that will be done in-house.

Based on the information given, Mr. Krasiuk observed that the duration of getting a license is too long. He said that in their country and in other countries, it only takes 2-4 weeks, 4 weeks being a long time already.

In terms of the requirements of safety and quality, he observed that PS mark licensing is the most restricted. His view is that the government should have a mandatory requirement on safety while quality will be measured by another certification which could be done by accredited private sector or industry/trade associations.

He then asked who takes the responsibility if the products do not conform with the standards and former DTI USEC Ordonez said that previously, the manufacturers were charged but at present, only the retailers were charged.

Mr. Krasiuk said that the NQI is focus on standardization, certification and accreditation. The assessment of the practices and the issues and concerns in getting certified/license is necessary to make their study and recommendation feasible with the end view of making licensing simple yet efficient.

Mr. Ordonez said, in behalf of the business community, he hopes that it will be simple and processing will be faster than usual. He added that the country will learn from the experiences of other countries on how to make business easy and not making it difficult for business to grow.

Mr. Krasiuk thanked everyone and said all information were noted and will be considered.

2014 DENR-NCR Harmonization Meeting/Dialogue



The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) joins the DENR-NCR in its meeting/dialogue on the harmonization of basic law enforcement regulations relative to the protection and conservation of environment and natural resources last November 6-7, 2014 at the La Breza Hotel, Quezon City.

DENR-NCR Regional Director Lourdes Wagan opened the meeting/dialogue thanking and welcoming participants present. She said that the dialogue is a means of sharing issues and concerns of the government and the private sector and giving recommendations on how to solve/overcome said issues and concerns.

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She said, further, that she wants the government to have a good and harmonious relationship with the private sector and not to be a regulatory body that always polices the private sector. She said that with the present situation, it is an advantage to both parties to be partners in their undertakings.

DENR-NCR Regional Technical Director for Forestry Antonio Manila gave the rationale, course overview, methodology and objectives of the meeting/dialogue. He encouraged everyone to actively participate in the program and bring forth their issues and concerns so that actions may be recommended to resolve such issues and concerns.

Forester Lilia Lelina presented the agreements made during the Harmonization Meeting/Dialogue in CY 2013.

Presentations of the different DENR laws, rules and regulations were made by representatives from the Forest Management Bureau. The PWPA, Philippine Lumber Merchants Association and the PhilExport also made presentation about their organization and related regulations of the organization with DENR regulations. Open forum follows after every presentation.

Draft agreement was made showing the identified gaps and the recommended solutions for said gaps. Attached is the draft agreements sent by the DENR-NCR for reference.

63rd Annual General Assembly



The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) holds its 63rd Annual General Assembly of Members last November 14, 2014 at the MAN Multipurpose Hall, Quezon City.

With the theme: The Wood Industry: Gearing Towards Economic Integration, the meeting aims to update the members on the status of the wood industry, its different sectors including policy trends in the wood industry.

Chairman Fernando Lu gave the opening statement welcoming the members and encouraged the members to continue to be vigilant and determined in facing the challenges being faced by the industry. He also thanked the Mr. Meneleo Carlos of RI Chemical Corp. for his untiring support to the industry.

He said the meeting has been prepared to be as informative so the members will be able to be updated about the industry and its current trends. He expressed the hope that members will also share their ideas and recommendations to help the industry to move forward.

Chairman Emeritus Meneleo Carlos, Jr. of the Federation of the Philippine Industry, who is also the President of the RI Chemical Corp., the co-presenter of the General Assembly, in his message, praised the leadership of the PWPA for “staying together and banding together” through the industry’s current difficulties. He added that in the face of competitive challenges posed by the ASEAN Economic Integration which takes effect in 2015, the local wood industry “faces a good long-term future.”

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The paper of DTI ASEC Ceferino Rodolfo on ASEAN Economic Integration was read by EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr. however, the paper showed only the efforts of the government to comply with it but not necessarily answers how it will affect individual industries.

During the business meeting, President Antonio Olizon presented the efforts made by the Association for the year while Director Ramon Uy summarized the PWPA 2013 financial report prepared by SGV as he requested for the continuous support of the members to the Association.



Presentations on the updates on the log sector, lumber and the plywood sector as well as the policy trends in the wood industry were made by VP Director Ramon Uy, Director Jhonny Young and Deputy Executive Director Maila Vasquez, respectively.

President Olizon told the members that the PWPA will continue to extend its efforts to make the industry's voice be heard. We hope that together, we would face the roadblocks that would come our way and would propel us to move forward.

The General Assembly elected its officers for the year 2014-2015 and they are as follows: Ms. Ating Co-Cascara, Mssrs. Victor Consunji, Calvin Tan David, Alfonso Keh, Jr., Robert Kua, Fernando Lu, Charlie Liu, Evaristo Narvaez, Jr., Antonio Olizon, Aristeo Puyat, Stanley Tan, Ramon Uy and Jhonny Young.

The principal presenters of the General Assembly were RI Chemical Corp. and CTNi of the Resins Inc. Group of Companies.

Elects New Set of Officers



Chairman Ramon Uy



President Charlie Liu

The members of the Board of Directors for 2014-2015 have elected its new set of officers during its organizational meeting last December 4, 2014 at the Hai Shi Lou Seafood Restaurant, Makati City.

For the year 2014-2015, the elected officers are: Chairman Ramon Uy, President Charlie Liu, Executive Vice President Jhonny Young and Treasurer Calvin David.

The Vice Presidents will be elected by the officers of the Association.

The Board also appointed Deputy Executive Director Maila Vasquez as Secretary of the Board and Executive Director while Director Alfonso Keh, Jr. as Assistant Treasurer.



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News Updates

Local Plywood Mills Slows Down - China Plywood in the Market

Ten medium to big local plywood mills temporarily stopped its operations since 2012 while the rest are in partial operation resulting to the decreasing supply of *locally manufactured* plywood in the market.

However, shortage of supply is not felt by the consumer as there are more than enough plywood in the market, dominated by China plywood and surprisingly, these are cheaper than the locally manufactured ones.

The influx of plywood made in China that enters the Philippines is one of the causes of the temporary closure of plywood plants. These plywood are either outrightly smuggled or misdeclared/underdeclared. Aside from this, China plywood are substandard in specifications (in thickness, in lamination and in drying) - it is sundried; the face and back are laminated and is less than 0.2 mm and cannot be sanded because it will be easily peeled-off and it can easily delaminate when soaked with water; China plywood are inferior in quality and are a health hazard to the users, consumers and carpenters because of the glue (high formaldehyde content) used to manufacture it; and scrupulous importers do not pay the correct taxes (import duties/EVAT, etc.) or no taxes at all are being paid.

Another cause is the limited raw materials for the manufacture of the face & back and core veneers. With the issuance of the Executive Order No. 23, the Moratorium on the Cutting of Trees and Harvesting of Trees in Natural and Residual Forest and the Creation of the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force, plywood manufacturers increased the importation of raw materials for the face & back veneer. However, imports have been difficult due to the high costs of raw materials, export quota and the value-added requirement of the exporting countries. In terms of the core veneer, raw materials from local plantations are continuously on the decline due to the exportation of small diameter logs and lumber to China.

ALSONS, APTPCO, EMCO, PATECO, SUDECOR, UPC are among the plywood plants that temporarily stopped its operations. Accordingly, they will resume operations once the business environment become encouraging and favorable.

DOF Extends Application Period for Importers and Custom Brokers

The Department of Finance, through Department Order No. 033-2014 dated May 21, 2014, extended the application period for importers' and custom brokers' accreditation with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BOC) until June 30, 2014 for them to have ample time to prepare and comply with the requirements pursuant to Department Order No. 12-1014, as amended by DO 18-2014.

The Order stated that failure to file the proper application on the said date would deem the accreditation automatically cancelled effective July 1, 2014 or the date of expiration as indicated in their accreditation, whichever is earlier.

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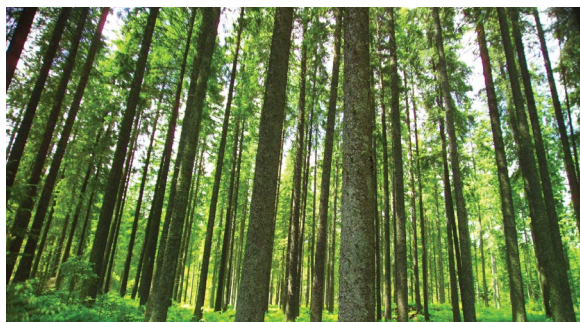


For those who filed their applications in accordance with the rules and regulations, their accreditation shall be extended until further notice from the BOC provided that the BIR has not denied their applications; otherwise it will be cancelled from the date of its denial. Hence, the BIR has been instructed to inform the BOC of the accreditation

results which will serve as basis for giving notice to the importers and customs brokers.

The BOC issued Customs Memorandum No. 11-2014, known as the Revised Guidelines for Registration of Importers And Customs Brokers With The Bureau Of Customs (BOC) Pursuant To DOF Department Order No. 33-2014, with the following objectives: a. To implement DOF Department Order No. 33 - 2014; b. To prescribe, revise and simplify rules for the accreditation of an importer or customs broker; c. To ensure the effective and proper enforcement of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines. as amended (TCCP) and all other relevant laws, rules and regulations by ensuring that only legitimate entities are accredited as importers and customs brokers; d. To guard the interest of the government against abuse of accreditation privileges; and for other purposes.

FAO Forum: SFM Important in Green Economy and Poverty reduction



During the Forest Asia Summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia on May 5-6, 2014, the Food and Agriculture Organization organized a discussion forum on equitable development – sustainable landscapes, green growth and poverty reduction that highlighted the role of forests and sustainable forest management (SFM) in the green economy and poverty reduction.

With Asia's significant progress in achieving Millennium Development Goal Targets that brought tremendous environmental and social challenges, there is an urgent need for the region to balance economic growth with social equity while reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. To achieve this, landscape approach is critically important, as the balance requires close coordination among all land-based sectors.

The following are excerpts from the different experts that shared the progress of Asia's forests towards green economy including opportunities and challenges they might face as it strives for green growth; how green investment will create incentives and benefits for concerned stakeholders; and the role of ASEAN in moving forward to green economy.

Yurdi Yasmi, Forest Policy Officer, FAO RAP, opened the discussion forum; summarized the main achievements of the forest sector towards greener forestry and sustainable landscapes. He said, "sustainable forest management (SFM) practices have a lot to offer to green-economy and sustainable development goals. Experiences from assisted natural regeneration and leasehold forestry projects, for example, demonstrate how these interventions contribute to effectively



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achieving social, economic, and environmental objectives.” He further described three key opportunities that can support green-economy objectives through forestry: promoting sustainable practices in forestry, expanding natural assets and creating forestry jobs.

Dr Hadi Susanto Pasaribu, Executive Director Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)–Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCO), shared their experience on how the sustainable landscapes approach supported by grassroots movements can benefit green growth in Asia through multi-stakeholder collaboration. He said, “South Korea’s Saemaul Undong (new community development), with its focus on land preparation and restoration, has proven successful in changing landscapes. AFoCO is supporting human capacity development and multi-stakeholder collaboration towards action-oriented and country-driven initiatives on degraded forest land linked with poverty issues in ASEAN.”

Ms Aida Greenbury, Managing Director, Sustainability for the Asia Pulp & Paper Group, discussed global trends in corporate social responsibilities aimed at implementing “zero deforestation,” changing market behavior, protecting biodiversity while creating forestry jobs, and managing conflicts through free, prior and informed consent. She said, “I believe forest management can support both green growth and poverty alleviation. Sustainable business is one that survives and thrives long-term.”

Mr Adam Grant, Manager of Investments and Operations for New Forests Asia, put the spotlight on forest landscape management in Asia and the potential for creating incentives for business and investment. He said, “the forestry sector in Asia is changing rapidly and the institutional investors are looking closely into emerging markets in South East Asia as part of their diversified portfolios.” He noted that a key challenge for private investors is how to engage effectively with smallholders, where issues of tenure and risk are greater.

Mr Bruno Cammaert, Forestry Officer FAO, made an observation based on the last presentation that there seems to be an incompatibility between private-sector and smallholder modes of operation. He said that this may pose a challenge, there is a need to ensure that smallholders can be assisted to take advantage of the opportunities provided by green growth.

Dr Doris Capistrano, Senior Advisor of the ASEAN–Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) and Senior Fellow at the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), reflected on the implications for ASEAN countries of the key points arising from the preceding discussion.

She said, “ASEAN countries individually and collectively have a unique opportunity to move towards a green economy based on sustainable, multiple-use landscapes. Transformative policies are required at all levels, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration, the re-imaging of the face of the private sector to more centrally include small and medium-sized businesses, and achieving greater equity in the distribution of benefits across the value chains. Enlightened corporate players can assist in this transformation and stand to benefit through reduced risks to investments and reputations and an improved bottom line.”

Processes and mechanisms already exist within ASEAN that can facilitate this transformation. ASEAN’s Multisectoral Framework for Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry Towards Food Security is a cross-sectoral mechanism, which although still in the early stages of development can potentially play an important role.

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The forum concluded that forestry has very big potential to contribute to green growth and green economy goals and targets in Asia. However, forestry alone won't be able to tackle the challenges (economic, social and environmental) to achieve these goals, nor can such challenges be addressed without forestry as an integral part.

To create an enabling environment for green growth, fundamental challenges such as land-tenure insecurity, conflicts, misaligned incentive structures, uneven playing fields for business enterprises, the low capacity of stakeholders, and inadequate policy frameworks should be overcome. Forest management, in particular, needs to be contextualized and reoriented in a manner that more effectively and simultaneously supports green growth and poverty reduction. The knowledge and experience that has been accumulated as a result of decades of research and experimentation with integrated rural development and the sustainable management of watersheds and forests provides a solid starting point for action. However, the realization of the vision of inclusive green growth can only be possible with strong and sustained action and commitment from all stakeholders, and committed leadership, especially from governments.

(Modified from the article written by Yurdi Yasmi, Forest Policy Officer for Asia and the Pacific, FAO and Soojin Kim, Programme Officer, Sustainable Environment and Natural Resources Management, FAO; originally posted on FAO InFO News; re-posted at Forest Asia Summit 2014.)

Forestry can be big business in the Philippines

By Jose Rene C. Gayo

FORESTRY AS a sector contributes a measly amount to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Philippines. This is understandable because production forests in the Philippines are almost non-existent. The little left of our forests is basically for watershed areas and those declared as national integrated protected areas systems (NIPAS). The latter include those areas that are important biodiversity habitats, have unique land features, or are home to endangered plant and animal species.

Fifty-three percent of land area in the country is officially classified as forest lands. However, much of it is bereft of forest and is simply grassland: I was in Bohol recently to look into the possibility of having a tie-up with a state university for the Farm Business School project of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP). On the way to their campus in Bilar, we passed inside a man-made forest. I could also see forest-covered hills and low mountains all over the area between Bilar and Carmen. I was truly amazed!



photo from: cuervopropertyadvisory.wordpress.com/

Report to the Members

I wonder why this can't be done in many parts of the Philippines. It also reminded me of an article I wrote in 2000 about forestry potentials in the country. For those interested, you may check a reprinted copy in one of the chapters in the book *4Es: Pathways Out of Poverty* published late last year.

I still believe that given the proper investment policy and programs, forestry can be a major industry in the Philippines. Such an industry can generate millions of jobs, especially for the upland dwellers who are counted as among the poorest of the poor.



The other benefit to such a program is the environmental dividends. Every summer, water becomes scarce, leading to cutbacks in the supply for irrigation, and a shortage of electricity. What is happening in Mindanao with blackouts these past few months is truly pathetic. Billions in revenue are lost and thousands of man-hours wasted due to work stoppages as a result. If our mountains are forested, springs would have continued to flow, feeding our rivers and dams with precious water.

Come the rainy seasons, the opposite happens. We have excess water flowing down the mountains causing soil erosion, flooding in the lowland areas, with lives and properties lost. If only our mountains were forested, such damage would be minimized because trees absorb water like sponges.

THREE FARMING. For decades now, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), foreign groups, and aid agencies have invested billions of pesos for greening programs. Unfortunately, little has been achieved in terms of performance. Real forest cover in the country has barely grown over the past 80 years.

The constant flip-flopping of presidents on the issue of a total log ban has discouraged private business from investing in forestry projects. Why should one sink money if there is no guarantee that one can harvest the trees when these are ready for harvest?

There is a need for a change in mindset. Forestry has to be seen as a strategic industry to address the poverty problem, environmental degradation, and climate change adaptation. Trees still have the most efficient way of capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Thus, if millions of trees are planted, several million tons of carbon credits can be traded to generate extra income for tree farmers.

TREE FARMING AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. As I mentioned earlier, forests do a dual function for conserving water. During the rainy season, they can control the amount of water flowing down the mountains. During the summer months, forests continue to feed watershed areas with the precious flow of water.

Our country is generally mountainous. So there is a big potential for impounding water during the rainy season and storing it in dams (large and small). Such a strategy can mitigate floods in lowland areas and conserve water when it's needed during the summer months. With proper planning, it can also generate several thousands of megawatts of electricity. Given current technology, power generation is possible even with small dams and small rivers.

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We don't need many of those big dams that require massive investments, but hundreds or few thousand small and mini-hydroelectric plants spread all around the country can supply our growing energy requirements.

I should commend Aboitiz Power Co. for showing us the way. Over the past few years, it has developed a number of mini-hydroelectric plants in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Doing so will give us added benefits. Our agricultural production, especially rice, will also increase because water during summer months can be made available. I learned recently that many farmers in Central Luzon cannot plant a third crop since water for irrigation from Pantabangan Dam is limited during the summer months. This simply shows that there is not enough water when it's most needed.

POLICY CHANGES. For tree farming to deliver on its promise, there is a need for policies to make it conducive for the industry to grow and contribute significantly to the country's economic development.

First, there is a need for a definitive land use policy, especially with forest lands. What is needed is to delineate conservation forests and productive forests. The first refers to forests for watersheds, sensitive biodiversity spots, and for public recreation. The latter refers to open and cogonal "forest lands" that can be used for commercial tree farming.

Second, the limit for lease-holds for production forests lands should be amended from the present 25 years to 50 years with the option for renewal for another 49 years. This is what most countries that have shown significant strides in their forestry industry have done. Since forest take years to grow, the longer time frame for private forest developers will make it an attractive investment proposition.

Third, permits to cut and to transport logs should be lifted because this is just an opportunity for graft and corruption. If government authorities suspect that the logs come from conservation forests, then the burden of proof should be on the apprehending authority. Today the presumption when one is caught transporting logs is that it is illegal.

I think that if these three policies are in place, we shall see a thriving forestry industry in years to come. A group called TREES Consortium was also formed a few years ago and to this day continues advocating tree farming as a viable vehicle for sustainable agricultural and rural development. Interested parties may join its Pinoy Tree Farmers group on Facebook.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a member of the MAP Agribusiness and Countryside Development Committee, the Project Manager for MAP's Farm Business School project, and the Dean of the MFI Farm Business School. Send feedback to mapsecretariat@gmail.com and renegayo@gmail.com. For previous articles, visit www.map.org.ph)

Source: Published at the Map Insights column of Business World on Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

Report to the Members

Selective indignation: Causes that shape our nation

By Rolando T. Dy



photo from: bworldonline.com

INDIGNATION means anger aroused by something unjust, unworthy, or mean, according to the reference source. Selective is self-explanatory.

Various interest groups have their own causes. Civil society groups, private sector organizations, church groups, and individuals want their voices to be heard.

This is welcome in a democratic society.

But what if the choices of causes can be very selective and justice is ignored? What are the examples of this?

- **Urban Bias.** The government subsidizes MRT/LRT riders to the tune of P11,000 each person per year. The subsidy eats some P12 billion of government resources each year which could be better used for the 20 million poor in the countryside. When there is a move to increase the fare, there are threatening reactions from certain groups.

Now, why are there so few reactions with regard to the meager support to the coconut farmers and workers? They received less than P1,000 per capita for the last three decades, and they are the poorest of the poor. The same can be said for the poor fisherfolk, and the indigenous peoples.

- **Rural Job Destruction.** Of the 12 million or so agriculture and rural workers, very few have full-time jobs. The rate of underemployment is massive. The rural areas cry for stable jobs.

Yet, there are causes which result to more job losses. In October 2011, insurgents burned the Taganito Mining facility in Claver, Surigao del Norte, for the company's refusal to pay revolutionary taxes, affecting thousands of workers. Mining operations and nickel ore loading was suspended because of the damage.

One day in September 2013, the *Sun Star* reported that NPA Front 72 burned the factory and warehouse of standard Rubber Development Corp. for alleged violation of workers' rights and for not paying them the right "taxes". About 150 workers lost their jobs permanently.

Then, Rappler reported that on April 10 this year, the NPA also burned at least 20 vehicles and mining equipment of Apex Mining in Maco, Compostela Valley. Lots of work hours were lost.

Where is the noise about the suffering of families who lost wages and jobs? Do we reward job creators or job destroyers? Who will invest in the countryside if this is the way existing investors are being treated? Who will pay taxes to the local governments?

- **Smuggling.** Despite incessant complaints by groups like Alyansa Agrikultura, the smuggling of onions and garlic from China, palm oil from Malaysia, and meat from various places continues. It costs hundreds of pesos to release one container out of the customs. And billions in taxes are lost from which the poor could have benefited. Where is the indignation?
- **Unstable Policies.** More than 15 years ago, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) agreed to a concession agreement with two water utilities on the water rates.

Report to the Members

Manila Water became the east zone concessionaire during its privatization on Aug. 1, 1997, with its counterpart Maynilad Water Services, Inc. as the concessionaire for the west zone.

Then, the policy changed course unilaterally which reduced water rates. Investors put in large sums of money for the long term in water projects. Certain formulas had been earlier agreed upon. The case is new for international arbitration. Is being popular the right way? Why are there very few complaints?

- *China vs. America.* Why are some groups very quiet regarding China's behavior in the West Philippine Sea, and so noisy about the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement? Who are concerned about the plight of small fishers who are losing income? And what about the poaching of endangered species? Who questions the basis of the nine-dash lines? This vague boundary was first officially published on a map by China's Nationalist government in 1947 and has been included in subsequent maps issued under Communist rule.



image from: hongkiat.com

- *Qualified and Unqualified.* The Filipinos will consult medical specialist for their ailments. They hire architects for their houses, and look for the best pre-schools for their children. Professional posts like accountants, engineers, and doctors have to pass the board before they can practice. Professors must have doctorate degrees.

Yet, Filipinos would vote for government officials with questionable qualifications. Would people ride a plane if they knew that the pilot is an automechanic? But they would vote for someone without capability and integrity to critical positions. Then, they whine about poor governance.

Filipino and foreign employers. Some groups criticize multinationals as “exploiters” of workers. And yet most graduates want to join the likes of Citibank, Nestle, Procter & Gamble, Shell and Unilever. Why? These employers treat their people better. They give great training. They are true to their corporate philosophy that people are their main assets.

Domestic and foreign investors. There is strong opposition to the entry of foreign investors in media, utilities, education, etc. yet the quality of service of many local providers is found wanting. Why are Singapore and Malaysia so welcoming to foreigners, and we are not? Why are their economies devoid of mass poverty? Where will the long-term capital for large investments come from? Who suffers in the end due to lack of jobs? It is the poor.

- *Miners: Small and Big.* Who are more destructive to the environment? The small miners, of course. They do not have a code of ethics to live by and the global stakeholders to answer to. For example, small miners have poisoned the rivers of Compostela Valley with mercury. But the big firms are the ones always maligned. Why? Is bigness a sin?

- *Honest and Dishonest Wealth.* Is there a distinction in the way we accord respect to hardworking and honest rich as against the highly questionable acquisition of wealth? Do donations to a church absolve the sinner?

The list goes on ...

Report to the Members

Justice is giving to the other party what is due to him/her. Is there evenhandedness with selective indignation? Or is selective indignation already a way of life in this country?

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is the Chair of the MAP Agribusiness and Countryside Development Committee, and the Executive Director of the Center for Food and Agribusiness of the University of Asia & the Pacific. Send feedback to mapsecretariat@gmail.com and rdyster@gmail.com. For previous articles, visit map.org.ph)

Source: Published at the MAP Insights column of Business World on Tuesday, June 3, 2014.

PPSQF conducts CIDG Awareness Program



Philippine Product Safety and Quality Foundation (PPSQF) conducts a series of orientation program to different agencies responsible for monitoring of construction materials entering the country, the latest of which is with the Criminal Investigation and Detection group (CIDG) last June 5, 2014 at the PNP Engineering Service Office, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

According to PPSQF Executive Director Ma. Victoria Unson, the CIDG was deputized by the Department of Trade and Industry on the monitoring of construction

materials and CIDG has requested them to be their partner in the education part or the briefing/orientation in terms of the product standards of each construction material.

COMP to Malacanang: Review tax scheme

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) was dismayed on the action of the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) to continue with the proposed increased tax policy without considering the comments and observations not only of the mining industry that will be directly affected by it but also by authoritative third parties.

COMP requested Malacanang for a review of the taxation scheme by MICC as it will discourage investments in the extractive sector.

The MICC imposed either a 10-percent tax on gross revenues or a tax of 55 percent on adjusted net mining revenues plus a percentage of windfall profit, whichever would give higher revenues to the government.

COMP said that the proposed tax structure cannot be considered as fair or equitable and will not attract quality investment to develop, in a responsible manner, its mineral resources.

The revenue-sharing based on actual profit is being proposed by the Miners.

Report to the Members

Key points of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro



image from: newsinfo.inquirer.net/

MANILA, Philippines -- The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is set to end four decades of armed struggle when it signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro with the government on Thursday.

Here are key facts about the peace pact:

MILF. It has about 10,000 armed followers, according to the military, which makes it easily the biggest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines.

It has long fought for an independent homeland for the nation's Muslim minority to be carved out of the southern Philippines.

It split in the 1970s from the-then main rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The MNLF had agreed to autonomy, and founding MILF leader Hashim Salamat was intent on fighting for independence. Internal rivalries were another reason for the split.

PEACE PACT. The "Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro."

The Bangsamoro refers to people who at the time of Spanish conquest and colonization were considered natives or original inhabitants of the southern Philippines. Their descendants and spouses are recognized as Bangsamoro.

Bangsa means nation. Moro derives from the term "Moors" used by Spanish colonialists to refer to Muslims.

AUTONOMY. The MILF has dropped its claims for a separate state in Mindanao and will settle for parliamentary self-rule in the Bangsamoro autonomous region. This will be established by 2016.

The Bangsamoro will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which was created through the peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front but which government says has failed.

DISARMAMENT. The MILF will "gradually" decommission its forces and put the weapons "beyond use." A local Bangsamoro police force will assume law enforcement functions from the Philippine National Police and military.

POWERS. The Philippine government will retain exclusive powers over defense, foreign policy, currency and citizenship matters.

TAXES/REVENUES. The autonomous government will receive 75 percent of all local taxes, fees and charges, 75 percent of revenues from metallic minerals and control of fishing areas up to 12 nautical miles from the coastline.

Report to the Members

ISLAMIC LAW. The region will not be an Islamic state, rather a secular government. Sharia law will apply only to Muslims and only for civil cases, not for criminal offences. All residents are guaranteed basic rights to life, movement, privacy, and freedom of religion and speech.

TERRITORY. To cover five provinces, plus two cities, six towns and 39 villages, comprising about 10 percent of the Philippines' total land area.

Wood Industry Has Good Long-Term Future – MJC



image from: ri-chem.com

RI Chem President Meneleo J. Carlos Jr. asserted that, in the face of competitive challenges posed by the ASEAN Economic Integration which takes effect in 2015, the local wood industry “faces a good long-term future,” and praised the leadership of the Philippine Wood Producers Association for “staying together and banding together” through the industry’s current difficulties.

“I know we have to go through a transition perhaps where we have to import wood for a while, but I hope in the longer term, we will be able to generate our own supply of wood and expand... I congratulate (PWPA Chairman Fernando A. Lu and President Antonio C. Olizon) for their leadership of the association,” declared MJC in his message during the 63rd Annual General Assembly of PWPA Members last November 14 at the MAN Truck and Bus Center Multi-Purpose Hall, with the theme “The Wood Industry: Gearing towards ASEAN Economic Integration.”

MJC said that while the members probably view the coming integration with “a lot of trepidation,” he assessed that the other ASEAN countries seemed to think likewise “because of the unknowns that they face.”

He presented several concerns that the wood industry must address, such as the need to harmonize product standards and continuously improve quality, the promotion of plywood as structural material to solve the low-cost needs of the homeless disaster victims, ensuring a steady supply of wood, and the entry of poor quality plywood from China that affects the image of the local wood industry.

MJC lauded the active participation of PWPA VP-Plywood Alfonso Keh Jr. in meetings on the harmonization of standards, noting that Mr. Keh’s company, Emco Plywood Corp., was “one of the pioneers” in manufacturing “very, very high quality type one plywood” with the brand name “Tuff.” He said that the making of “Tuff” has prompted RI Chem to try and develop adhesives for “5-ply” wood using thinner veneers than the “3-ply,” thus achieving more balanced construction and equal strength even if more than 10% less wood was utilized.

He said Resins was working on an adhesive that did not leave stains on the wood, and was fire-retardant and termite-resistant. With this, MJC expressed hope that “we can convince the industry to shift to marine plywood, to type one type of construction, with very, very, very minimal increase in the cost.”

Report to the Members

He lamented that the issue of wooden shelters put up for Leyte typhoon victims which easily delaminated was a blow to the local wood industry.” Yet, we have no guilt there, because that plywood was not made here,” he noted, referring to the rampant entry of substandard Chinese plywood. “That is the sad part, but the whole industry suffers... I think we have to work together against this, and together with our ASEAN neighbors... bring them in to the higher levels, to the quality that we can make out of our wood in this country. “

MJC also reiterated his observation, made in previous occasions, that plywood is the structural material needed by the government to build the 4.5 million low-cost houses needed for the poor. “When they talk of ‘low-cost’ concrete construction houses, they’re talking about 150-200,000 pesos. That’s not low cost anymore. Only wood can give them that kind of construction for an affordable cost... maybe at around P100,000.”

He added that “we should begin to introduce wood also as a structural material in low-cost homes. And we can continue to work in that direction. Because, look at the problems that the government faces... there are so many things that you and I can do together to address that problem that they have there, using our wood.”

MJC also reported on how RI Chem subsidiary Claveria Tree Nursery Inc., which grows tree seedlings through cloning technology, continued to play its role in trying to create more wood supply.

“We’re teaching people how to set up barangay nurseries and put a barangay nursery that can serve 300-500 hectares. And we would like to help you set up more barangay nurseries using the cloning technique so you can raise the varieties that are popular,” he said, adding that CTNI has successfully cloned tree species such as falcata, bagras, gmelina, and acasia mangium, and is now working on dao, teakwood, and narra.

He also suggested that the PWPA members discuss among themselves ways to bring in wood economically into the plywood centers set up by RI Chem in Butuan, Davao, Zamboanga and Metro Manila.

Earlier, Mr. Lu, in his opening statement, thanked MJC for being “untiring in (his) support for the industry.” The major sponsors of the event, as in past PWPA assemblies, were RI Chem and CTNI.

Mr. Keh also showed the members the presentation materials on the Philippines and ASEAN Economic Integration produced by the Department of Trade and Industry, which was unable to send a representative to the assembly. The DTI presentation stated that the country was 80% close to achieving integration, and that the nature of the ASEAN agreement was “more complementation” and “less of competition.”

Other speakers at the assembly were PWPA Director Jhonny Young and Deputy Executive Director Maila Vasquez. Mr. Young, in his update on the plywood industry, said that there was a 64% increase in plywood importation and underscored the “surge” of substandard plywood from China. Ms. Vasquez, for her part, noted the efforts being made by PWPA in Congress to lobby for favorable laws and policies.

Also in attendance from RI Chem were Corporate Communications Manager Bernie Bagaman, Dennis Magkasi of Sales, and Julie Canoy of HRAS.

Source: RI Chem Corporate Communication Manager Bernie Bagaman.

Report to the Members

Events in Photos



Upper left photo shows DGIN Club members with PWPA and DENR-NCR staffs while the lower photo shows the members in action.

Partners for the Environment. The Deforestation Global Issues Network (DGIN) Club of the Chinese International School of Manila (CISM) led by Ms. Serena Uy, had a joint Tree Planting Activity with the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) on March 22, 2014 in Taguig City.

Prior to the activity, PWPA Deputy Executive Director Maila Vasquez briefed the participants on the importance of planting trees and its effect on the environment while DENR-NCR Forester Joel Rosal gave them tips on how to properly plant trees. About 150 trees were planted.

Partners in Development. The Juken Sangyo Philippines is the newest associate member of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA). At their invitation, the PWPA visited their plant at Subic Bay Freeport Zone on April 23, 2014 to witness their operations and the different products they produce. Juken Sangyo, established in 1935 and incorporated in 1952, is a Japanese company with local subsidiaries in New Zealand, Shanghai, China, Hongkong and the Philippines. With forest management rights in New Zealand - where they plant, grow and harvest trees - they have a mission to pass on their limited resources to future generations by continuing to plant 2M seedlings each year.



(Right photo) Juken Sangyo Philippines led by its General Manager, Masaaki Matsumoto (3rd from the left) poses with PWPA Directors and staff led by Chairman Fernando Lu and President Antonio Olizon (7th & 8th from left, respectively).

2014 Financial Report

As of December 31, 2014, the following are the PWPA audited financial report:

The Association has a total revenue of P3.787 million compared to the P3.317 million in December 31, 2013, an increase of about 14% to the revenue last year.

Total expenses is P2.744 million vis-à-vis 2013's expenses of P2.817, an decrease of about 5% to last year's expenses.

At the year-ended December 31, 2015, the Association has a total cash flow of P1.266 million, more than 200% increase from 2013's cash flow of P0.355 million.

Report to the Members

2015 Updates

Attends Meeting on Public-Private-Community Partnership

On February 4, 2015, the Earthday Network Philippines (EDNP) held its General Assembly at the Crispin Hall (Petrolab), Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau Compound, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. The meeting, which aims to discuss the Earth Day 2015 celebration, was attended by its members who are representatives from non-government organizations, local government units, other government agencies and the private sector including the Philippine Wood Producers Association.

Attends EDNP General Assembly

On February 4, 2015, the Earthday Network Philippines (EDNP) holds its General Assembly at the Crispin Hall (Petrolab), Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau Compound, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.



The meeting, which aims to discuss the Earth Day 2015 celebration, was attended by its members who are representatives from non-government organizations, local government units, other government agencies and the private sector.

The meeting was chaired by EDNP President Isagani Serrano and thanked everyone who are present in the meeting.

EDNP Executive Director (ED) Ryan Vita made a presentation about the history of Earth Day and also reported the activities undertaken during the Earth Day 2014 celebration.

He then continued to the discussion on the Earth Day 2015 celebration with focus on the *most pressing environmental issues concerning the Philippines*.

The members made a long list of suggested slogans for the celebration of the Earth Day 2015 and has chosen "Our Future, My Responsibility" as the slogan for the Earth Day 2015 Celebration.

Activities for the celebration were also discussed which include the following:

- Annual Earth Day Celebration at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (22 April 2015)
- Sandiwang Interfaith Celebration
- Earth Day 2015 Main Event Celebration
- Earth Day 2015 Concert

ED Vita said that if the members have planned activities for the Earth Day during the month of April, they could submit the details (name of activity, where, when and time, description of activity and contact person and details) so they could include it in the list of EDNP activities.

Report to the Members

Joins the National Workshop on Forest Certification

The Philippine Wood Producers Association joins the Forestry Development Council (FDC), the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), plantation managers, other government agencies and other private sector during the National Consultation Workshop on Forest Certification last March 24, 2015 at the Ang Balai ng Alumni, UP Diliman, Quezon City. The consultation aims to further refine the standards developed through a series of regional consultation to be used in coming up with a national guidelines on national forest certification that is compliant with international standards.

At the DTI-BPS Technical Committee 35 Meeting

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) attends the DTI-BPS Technical Committee (TC) 35 on Wood Panels regular meeting last March 25, 2015 at the Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI), UPLBCFNR, College, Laguna together with representatives from DTI/BPS, FPRDI, RI Chemical Corp., Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP). The meeting discusses issues regarding wood panels especially on product standards.

Meets with Local Plywood Manufacturers



The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) meets with local plywood manufacturers and related stakeholders to discuss DTI/BPS Draft DAO on The New Rules And Regulations Concerning The Product Safety Certification Scheme Of The Bureau Of Philippine Standards (BPS) last March 30, 2015 at the Ramcar KFC Room, 3/F AIM Conference Center Manila, Benavidez cor. Trasierra Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

A position paper on the draft DAO to the DTI which was submitted to the DTI on March 31, 2015.

At the 105th CFNR Founding Anniversary and Alumni Homecoming Forum during the last April 17, 2015.

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) joins the University of the Philippine College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLBCFNR) 105th Founding Anniversary and Alumni Homecoming Forum last April 17, 2015 at the Lansigan Auditorium, UPLBCFNR, College, Laguna.

With the theme "Strengthening Alumni Collaboration in the Midst of ASEAN Economic Integration," papers on the ASEAN Economic Integration Overview and ASEAN Economic Integration: Implications for the Forestry and Natural Resources Sector were presented by Asian Institute of Management Professor Federico Macaranas and Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Roberto Oliva, respectively. PWPA Executive Director Maila Vasquez with UPLBCFNR Professor Ramon Razal responded to the main papers with PWPA focusing its paper on how to be competitive with other neighboring ASEAN countries by making FNR as a production base and to provide safety nets to local products considering that more imported goods will be flooding the local market when AEI is implemented.

Report to the Members

Attends Regional Workshop on Strengthening C&I for SFM and their use in Forest Policy and Practice in Asia

The Philippine Wood Producers Association attends the Regional Workshop on Strengthening C&I for SFM and their Use in Forest Policy and Practice in Asia last April 28-30, 2015 at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City.

The regional workshop was co-organized by DENR and FAO, and supported by ITTO, EFI-EU FLEGT Facility and EU-FAO FLEGT Programme. It aims to: 1) review the current status and major uses of C&I in Asia; 2) share experiences and lessons learned on the use of C&I as a tool for policy, monitoring, and practice; and 3) identify priority actions for the further development and enhanced use of C&I.



At the Tariff Consultative Meetings

The Philippine Wood Producers Association attends different Tariff consultative meetings called by the National Tariff Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry Board of Investments on different dates to discuss either the revision or negotiation of tariff agreements. Among the tariff agreements discussed were the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and the Philippine-European Free Trade Association.

Consultative Meeting with DENR-NCR

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) and DENR-NCR meet for a consultative meeting last May 26, 2015 at the DENR-NCR, Ecology Center, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. The meeting aims to discuss related issues and concerns of the industry and reach agreement that is welcome to both the industry and the government.

Speaks at the PLMA Wood Forum

The Philippine Lumber Merchant Association (PLMA) held its first PLMA Wood Forum on May 28, 2015 at the PLMA Office, Intramuros, Manila.

The forum, attended by members of PLMA led by President Aquino Lee, aims to update its members on the above subjects.



Report to the Members

Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) President Charlie Liu talked about the present and future trend of the wood industry and the impact of the ASEAN Economic Integration while Chairman Ramon Uy on the new DENR rules and regulations on lumber dealer and resaw permits.

Briefs Cong. Arturo Yap on SFMA



photo from: congress.org.ph

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) joins the Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI) in briefing Congressman Arturo Yap, the new chairman of the Special Committee on Reforestation, about the Sustainable Forest Management Act (SFMA) Bill last June 2, 2015 at his office at the Batasan Pambansa, Quezon City.

The briefing aims to give Cong. Yap the status of the SFMA Bill and request the honorable congressman to assist in the passage of the bill as once passed, will help boost the forestry sector.

Joins Roundtable Discussion on Environment: Advancing Sustainable Resource Management

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) joins the ADR Institute to their Roundtable Discussion on Environment: Advancing Sustainable Resource Management last July 8, 2015 at The Tower Club, Philamlife Bldg., Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The roundtable discussion, which aims to discuss challenges, approaches and innovations on sustainable development and resource management, was attended by representatives from the academe, business sector, government, civil society groups and industry associations

Attends the Inception Workshop on Building Capacity for Training and Auditing Chain-of-Custody Systems

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) attends the inception workshop of the Project on Building Capacity for Training and Auditing Chain-of-Custody (CoC) Systems last July 21, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The Project is being implemented by the IDC Environment Livelihood and Development Foundation (ELDF) with support from the European Union (EU) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the EU FAO Forest Law Enforcement, governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme.

The workshop was the start-up activity of the Project which aims to develop local capacity and expertise to assist CoC systems implementation and auditing in support of market compliance of the export-oriented segment of the timber industry hence majority of the attendees are those who will attend the classroom and field training requirement of the Project.

Report to the Members

Speaks at the GP3 Forestry Certification Seminar

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) together with representatives from the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, the Society of Filipino Foresters, the UPLB Forestry Development Center and the Philippine Green Building Council respond and give their views and suggestions to the keynote addresses of Forest Management Bureau Director Ricardo Calderon and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) International Chief Executive Officer Ben Gunneberg before the GP3 Forestry Certification Seminar last July 22, 2015 at the SMX Convention Center, SM Aura, Taguig City.



Joins the FPI General Membership Meeting

The Philippine Wood Producers Association together with other Federation of Philippine Industries members joins the FPI General Membership Meeting last August 7, 2015 at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City.

The first part of the meeting is the FPI Sustainable Development Forum where corporations and associations winners on different categories of sustainable development made a presentation on how they implemented their sustainable development efforts. The second part of the meeting is the awarding of FPI Bayabay Award.

The keynote speaker during the membership meeting is Commissioner Andres Bautista of the Commission on Election.

Attends Committee Hearing on Fiscal Incentives

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) attends the Joint Committee Hearing of the Committees of Ways & Means and Trade & Industry on Fiscal Incentives last August 12, 2015 at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City.

The hearing, attended by representatives from government agencies, academe, and different industry associations, aims to harmonize the Fiscal Incentives bills filed by Cong. Rufus Rodriguez, Mark Villar, Susan Yap and Gabriel Luis Quisumbing.

Joins the Meeting with DTI/BPS on the IRR for Marking and Labeling Requirement of DAO 2015-01

The Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) joins the local plywood manufacturers, importers and brokers during the meeting with the Department of Trade and Industry/Bureau of Product Standards (DTI/BPS) on the IRR for marking and labeling requirement of DAO 2015-01 known as the "Measures to Facilitate the Issuance of the Import Commodity Clearance" last August 20, 2015 at the DTI Trade and Industry Building, Makati City.



Report to the Members

Chaired by DTI USEC Victorio Mario Dimaguiba, the first part of the meeting discussed about the format on marking and labeling of plywood products while the second part of the meeting is on other issues on DAO 2015-01.

Attends Briefing on the Product Conformity Assessment program of the SGS

The Philippine Wood Producers Association together with other industry association attended the briefing on the Product Conformity Assessment program of the SGS last September 9, 2015 at the Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan City.

The Philippine Product Safety and Quality Foundation, Inc. organized the briefing in line with the issuance of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Department Administrative Order No. 2015-01 known as Measures to Facilitate the Issuance of the Import Commodity Clearance which delisted certain products from the mandatory certification and transferred it to mandatory labeling/marketing to ensure that the country could be protected from becoming the dumping ground of uncertified and substandard products once the regional market opens to all ASEAN member countries.

2015 News Update

Plywood, Flat Glass, Ceramic Tiles, Among Others Delisted from the List of Products Under Mandatory Certification

On July 9, 2015, Department of Trade and Industry Department Administrative Order (DTI DAO) 2015-01 known as the "Measures to Facilitate the Issuance of the Import Commodity Clearance" was published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The DAO has delisted the plywood, flatglass, ceramic tiles, among others from the list of products under Mandatory Certification and transfer said products to the Mandatory Marking and Labeling as the DAO is premised that only those products that are life threatening could be retained under Mandatory Certification.

Other premises used by the DTI/BPS in issuing the DAO are as follows:

- The significant increases on the number of ICC applications received as well as the number of test reports evaluated;
- Memorandum Order No. 15-752 issued by the Undersecretary for Consumer Protection Group directing BPS to adopt and implement stop-gap measures to facilitate ease in doing business;
- To further enhance DTI's performance in ensuring ease in doing business without compromising product safety, ICC processing time be limited to three working days

The local plywood manufacturers together with the flat glass and ceramic tiles industry associations have questioned the premises used by the DTI/BPS in issuing the DAO especially the basis on how they identified products that are life threatening.

Active Regular Members

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NCR

CONSOLIDATED WOOD PRODUCTS, INC.

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GREAT WOOD CORP.

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PREMIUM PLYWOOD CORP.

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Active Regular Members

WINLEX MARKETING CORP.

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REGION VII**BUDGET BUILDERS, INC.**

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Mr. Wilson Y. Lumakang

CENTRAL LUMBER CORP.

268 Magallanes St., Cebu City, Cebu
Tel. No. (032) 253-2622 / 255-6120 /
253-7607 / 253-2148
Fax: (032) 418-4566 / 254-5665
Mr. Jeffrey Sinco

MATIMCO, INC.

Highway Estancia, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tel. No. (032) 346-1080 to 83
Fax: (032) 346-0808
Mr. Charlie H. Liu

REGION IX**MEGA PLYWOOD CORP.**

Manila Office: Suite 272 Wellington Bldg.,
Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila,
M. Manila
Tel. No. (02) 243-3028 / 243-3078
Fax. (02) 243-4217
Mr. Alfredo Chua

SIRAWAI PLYWOOD & LUMBER CORP.

Manila Office: 4/F DACON Bldg., 2281
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Fax: (02) 816-7185 / 810-5681
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Misamis Oriental
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Ms. Yuk Lian Co Cascara

**NOVAWOOD FOREST INDUSTRIES
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Fax: (088) 521-4615
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Fax. (02) 812-7584
Mr. Robert W. Kua

VICMAR DEVELOPMENT CORP.

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Makati City
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Fax. (02) 812-7584
Mr. Robert W. Kua

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Fax: (084) 628-6827
Mr. Henry C. Wee

SMWPI WOOD PRODUCTS, INC.
Manila Office: Suite 1824 Tytana Plaza,
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Tel. No. (02) 242-5998
Fax. (02) 242-8433
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REGION XII

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Fax. (02) 812-7584
Mr. Robert W. Kua

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Fax: (064) 421-2023 / 421-1105
Ms. Yu Beng L. Chua/ Mr. Albert Chua

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Fax. 831-3489
Mr. Jacinto Ngo

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Tel. No: (02) 894-0144 / 890-3886
Fax. (02) 812-2312 / 816-7039
Mr. Evaristo M. Narvaez, Jr.

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Metro Manila
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Fax:(02) 816-2433 / 815-2666
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Manila Office: No. 7 Lopez Jaena St.,
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Fax. (02) 584-0036
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Mr. James Lim

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Fax: (02) 443-5197
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Fax. (02) 584-0036
Mr. James Lim

VENTURA PLYWOOD PHILIPPINES, INC.

Lilo, Banza, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
Tel. No. (085) 341-5556
Fax. 341-5557
Mr. Lawrence Ting

Active Associate Members

REGION I

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Agoy Hardware & Construction Supply
Allems Construction Supply
Baccarra Lumber & Hardware
Boy Construction Supply
Coral Sand Lumber & Hardware
Currimao Lumber & Hardware
Eterna Lumber & Hardware
Far Eastern Lumber & Hardware
Ladera Construction Supply
Laoag Kambal Corporation
Laoag Newton Construction Supply
North Coast Trading Corp.
Reliance Construction Supply
Triline Hardware & Construction Supply
Viloria Lumber and Hardware

La Union

A4M Construction and General Merchandise
Agoo Builders
Angeles Bauang Lumber
Arly Trading & Construction Supply
Asian Lumber & Construction (ALCCO Lbr. Corp.)
Bacnotan Bicycle Store & General Merchandise
Balaoan Hardware & Construction Supply
Bauang Ilocano Lumber
Centro Lumber & Hardware Corp.
Cindy's Lumber & Hardware
Diay Lumber & Hardware
Dyuy Lumber & Hardware
Edel's Construction
EDJ Trading
El Niña Enterprises
Florayjun Concrete Products & Construction Supply
Honey Bee Marketing
John's Construction Supply
King's Commercial Corp.

L.U. Kuliglig Merchandising
L.U. Lumber & Hardware
L.U. Maxim Enterprises
L.U. New Capital Lumber-Hardware Co., Inc.
L.U. New Central Trading
L.U. New Peoples Lumber & Hardware
L.U. R & R General Merchandise
Leiverance Enterprises
Liberty Commercial
Mabuhay Lumber & Hardware
Mika Joben Hardware & Construction Supply
Naguillian Lumber & Hardware
New Agoo Cement Center Lumber & Hardware
New Northern Union Lumber Corp.
Pench General Merchandise
Philippine Topwood Industries & Trading Corp.
Romel's Sales Center
Ryes Commercial
Shipside, Inc.
Sonson Concrete Products & Construction Supply
Talico Industrial & Construction Supply

Pangasinan

A.H. Arellano General Merchandise
Ackset Lumber & Hardware Dealer
Alarcios Trading
Alcel Construction
Anna Leizel Trading Construction Supply
Asingan Enterprises
B. Morales Trading
Balmediano Merchandising
Bisseg Trading
BNB Construction Hardware
BSK Trading
Builthouse Trading
Business Prime Ent. Inc.
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C L Sons Lumber & Hardware Corp. (Formerly NCL)
C.D. Micu Trading & Const.
Canilang Coco Lumber & General Merchandise



Active Associate Members

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Doton's Trading
East Central Pangasinan Lumber & Hardware Corp.
FJM Trading
Geca Const. Supply
Goodluck Trading
Goodnews Lumber & Construction Supply
Hard Point Construction Supply
Harry Queen Commercial
I.L. Loveranes Merchandising
Jhonzel Trading
JMW Merchandising Corp.
Kapitbahay Lumber & Hardware Corp.
KTM Trading
Lab-apol Lumber & Hardware
Leeland Enterprises
Lucky Star Lumber & Hardware
Marimar Lumber & Hardware
Martinez Trading
Masuerte Construction Supply
Morries Enterprises
Narra Commercial
Naval Construction Supply
Navasca Hardware & Const. Supply
New Antonio Lumber & Hardware
New Calasiao Lumber
New Dagupan Lumber Corp.
New Pozorrubio Merchandising
NS Castillo Trading & Construction Supply
Oriental Lumber Corp.
Pro-Bahay Lumber & Construction Supply
R.J. Buada Trading
Rafanan Trading
RHKP Uson Builders Supply
San Carlos Lumber & Hardware, Inc.
Sanchez Hardware
SHMG Lumber & Hardware
Sintong Marketing Co., Inc.
Sudin Enterprises (Formerly 3B One G Commercial)
Tamondong Furniture & General Merchandising

Top Co Lumber & Hardware
Top Lance Marketing
Top Mae Hardware
Unique Lumber
V.G. Cruz Steel Supply & General Merchandise
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REGION III

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Infinite Quality Designs Center, Inc.
Irvine Construction
MJF Builders
Ply Center Enterprise

Pampanga

American Plaque Factory, Inc.
Far East Furniture Marketing Corp.
Mecca Mfg. Philippines, Inc.

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Overgaard Subic, Inc.

REGION IV

Batangas

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Cavite

Prophile Sound Industries

Laguna

Global Luck Trading and Commercial Services
PMR Pallet Ltd. Co.
Primewood Construction & Marketing Inc.
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Active Associate Members

REGION VI

Aklan

Gormic Hardwood Corp.

REGION VII

Cebu

Cebu Oversea Hardware Co. Inc.
Cebu Universal Lumber Co. Inc.
Ecolinea Export, Inc.
Euro Forest Products Industries, Inc.
Greenwood Home Décor, Inc.
R2H Trading

REGION X

Misamis Oriental

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Mineshaft Trading

NCR

747 Lumber & Construction Supply, Inc.
Algaba Trading
Arctic-Forest Products, Inc.
ASA Lumber & Consttuction Supply
Asia Wood International Corp.
Bandini Trading
Batancoal Resources Corp.
Bekter Ventures
Benguetrade Inc.
Biancham Trading, Inc.
Biosolutions International
Blueearth Technologies
Bulacan Integrated Wood Industries Corp.
C.G. Lumber Enterprises
Cebu World Laminate Inc.
Century City Development Corp.
Copperfield Marketing
Cornersteel Systems Corp.
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Diamond Concept, Inc.
Diamond Interior Ind. Corp.
Diamond Office Furniture, Inc.
Draco Wood Marketing
EEI Corporation
Emsol Enterprises
E-Sy Corporation
Far Eastern Plywood Lamination, Inc.
Festo Enterprises
Formaply Industries, Inc.
Four Seasons Intertrade Co., Ltd.
Foxbrand, Inc.
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Goldfin Intertrade Co. Ltd.
Graceline Products, Inc.
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Hornitex Philippines, Inc.
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Indigenous Import Lumber and Supply Co., Inc.
Inter-Art Metal Wood Products, Inc.
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K.U.S. Structural Components, Inc.
Kinshen Trading
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LBE Trading Corp.
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Luxacraft Philippines Inc.
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Metro Stonerich Corp.
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Oriens Marketing, Inc.
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Power for Progress Foundation Phils. Inc.
PR Kitchens, Inc.
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Corp.
Pressboard Unlimited, Inc.
Puyat Flooring Products, Inc.
R. Dan and Co., Inc.
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Regal Legend Enterprises
Remerco Marketing Corp.
Riverbank Lumber Supply
RMD Kwikform Philippines, Inc.
RRDCM Trading
Rural Electrification Trading Corp.
San Miguel Yamamura Asia Corporation
SCG Marketing Philippines, Inc.
Seventh Hussar International Trading
Corp.
Sharp Dream General Merchandise
Shuta Plywood Trading, Inc.
Skydragon Construction Products, Inc.
South Pacific Eng. Inc.
Startrade Marketing
Steintek, Inc.
Strawberry Road Trading
Strong Lumber Enterprises
Sun Ford Trading
Target Display Co., Inc.
Top Asia Corporation
Trion Trade, Inc.
Triplex Products Corp.
Tru Link Energy Corp.
Unilox Industrial Corp.
Uniquev Industrial Corp.
United Decorative Panels Corp.
United Fancy Plywood Corp.
United Laminates Industrial Corp.
V. Roque Corp.
Visari Home Solutions, Inc.
Volero Trading

Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society of the
Philippines, Inc.
Willjim Trading
Woodbase Multi-Resources, Inc.
Woodsphere Marketing
World Class Laminate, Inc.
World Home Depot Corp.
WYS International Imex, Inc.

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8 Dragon Construction Supply, Inc.
(Midland Const. Supply)
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AC Enterprises
Addition Lumber, Inc.
AMA KD World Marketing Corp.
Anton Construction Supply
Asean Timber Corporation
Baggao Construction Supply
Banson Lumber Corp.
Banwood Construction Center
Bayview Marketing Inc.
Boston Builders Center
Brightways Commercial Inc.
Bulacan Construction Supply
C.S. Richwood Enterprise
Canada Lumber Corp.
Central Lockwood Lumber
Dallas Hardware & Construction Supply
El Calum Construction Supply
Elite Lumber & Construction Supply
Ever Lumber & Hardware Inc.
Everest Lumber Corp.
Gagalangin Lumber Sales
Genmart Wood Development Corp.
Glory Lumber
Glory Wood & Supplies Corp.
Goldentown Construction Supply Co.
Highland Lumber & Construction Supply
Co. Inc.
Ho Soon Li Trading Corporation
Iconik Construction
Infinity Wood Corp.
Inter-Island Lumber & Hardware

Active Associate Members



Jecar Trading Corporation
JM Construction Supply Corp.
K.B. Hardware Construction Supply
Keytex Lumber and Hardware
Makati Finest Lumber & Hardware
Mandaluyong Lumber
New Cosmopolitan Lumber & Hardware Corp.
New Distinct Lumber and Hardware, Inc.
New Grace Lumber & Construction Supply
New Land Lumber & Construction Supply
New Navotas Lumber & Construction Supply
New Osaka Lumber & Hardware Corp.
New Spring Lumber & Construction Supply
Newton Hardware & Lumber
P. Casal Lumber
Pan Ply Marketing Corp.
Preston Marketing
Q.C. Dapitan Lumber & Construction Supplies, Inc.
Rational Lumber & Hardware Inc.
Remont Home Builders Corp.
Reysan Enterprises
Rockwell Lumber & Hardware Inc.
Sampaloc Lumber Hardware & Construction Supply
Silangan Lumber
Soon Chiong Trading Corp.
Star Ace Lumber Corp.
Statewood Enterprises
Tableria San Juan
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