

PRESS RELEASE

28 January 2006

Power plant supports PALARAS '06

STEAG State Power Inc. is supporting this year's Palaras Gakit Festival, an annual bamboo-rafting adventure along the majestic Tagoloan River in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Aside from sponsoring the major prizes for the Best in Environmental Slogan, Most Symbolic Raft, and Most Colorful / Artistic Raft, SPI is also providing other material support for the launching of the event on 29 January 2006. Running on its 7th year, *Palaras* is an annual environmental protection awareness campaign organized by Tagoloan-based *Save the Rivers, Estuaries and Aqualife Movement, Inc.* or STREAM.

STREAM Chairman Audie Paduganan said their group has intensified a campaign to preserve the Tagoloan river by mobilizing communities and stakeholders especially those located within the banks of the river. He has also called upon those who are directly or indirectly benefiting from this major water tributary to support their programs.

"Natural resources such as the Tagoloan River are not limitless and thus have to be managed carefully" Paduganan said.

Meanwhile, SPI Communications Officer Jerome Soldevilla said the company's support to efforts and initiatives such as the *Palaras* is part of its long-term and continuing commitment to help protect the environment.

SPI is the project company of the 210MW Mindanao Coal-Fired Power Plant project now currently being built at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental. The power plant, which is scheduled to go on commercial operation by end of this year, is one of the locators of PHIVIDEC that is utilizing the Tagoloan River as source of water.

"As one of the local stakeholders, SPI has vowed to help protect and develop the Tagoloan River" Soldevilla said. SPI and the Local Government of Tagoloan is jointly implementing a 500-hectare reforestation project in the area.

SPI has is also initiating activities and projects aimed at heightening multi-sectoral involvement in sound environmental management. These include youth mobilization and capability-building interventions involving community-based peoples organizations.

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