

PRESS RELEASE

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SPI sends team to MMT regional confab

An eight-man delegation from the Multi-Partite Monitoring Team for the 210MW Mindanao Coal-Fired Power Plant project participated in a two-day Regional Convention for all Multi-Partite Monitoring Teams (MMTs) held recently at the Lauremar Beach Resort in Opol, Misamis Oriental. About 120 participants composed mainly of representatives from local government units, regional line agencies and non-government entities, attended the convention.

Organized by Region 10's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the two-day convention aims to improve the institutional capacities of MMTs operating in the Northern Mindanao region. The MMT is a multi-sectoral body tasked to monitor and ensure strict adherence by companies and industries to environmental conditions as stipulated in the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) issued to them by DENR.

Aside from providing environmental updates and sharing of best institutional practices, the convention has provided the opportunity for participants to map out strategies and reinforce further MMTs pivotal role not only in monitoring industry compliance to environmental standards, but also in ensuring wider community and multi-sectoral participation in the overall task of environmental safety and protection.

“We view the MMT as our partner in making sure that the health and safety of the people and the quality of the environment in general is not compromised” says Francis Libao, safety and pollution control officer for the 210MW Mindanao Coal-Fired Power Plant Project now currently being constructed at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental.

The power plant project company, STEAG State Power Inc or SPI, has initiated numerous social development and community-based environmental programs and projects in partnership with national and local agencies of government.

Once fully operational by end of 2006, the power plant will provide additional electricity to Mindanao representing about 15% of the island's electricity demand.