

PRESS RELEASE

SPI joins drive toward protecting environmental integrity

STEAG State Power Inc. joins other industries in declaring support for the Ecological Solid Waste Management Program of the Philippine government during the recently concluded Industrial Waste Exchange and Resource Recovery Conference held in Cagayan de Oro City.

Jointly organized by Eco-Forum Philippines Ltd., the Environmental Management Bureau of DENR, and the National Solid Waste Management Commission, the conference provided the venue to discuss issues affecting solid waste management in industrial settings as well as identify alternative and cost-effective systems and technologies for solid waste management and disposal.

Eco-Forum Phils Project Director Rey Raagas said the proper management and disposal of waste could be a beginning and, given a concerted and serious effort by all sectors, could make an impact towards improving environmental integrity. Raagas said the conference was the first of its kind initiated in the country and is considered a step towards the establishment of a mechanism for industrial waste exchange.

For his part, DENR-EMB Director Sabdullah Abubacar stresses the important contribution of industries in the government's campaign on waste recovery and recycling. *"The wastes of other (industries) could be a resource for others"* Abubacar says as he explains in layman's term the framework of the mechanism for industrial waste exchange and resource recovery program.

Meanwhile, SPI Safety and Pollution Control officer Francis Libao said the company is currently exploring possibilities for the utilization of the power plant's solid by-products in the process of electricity generation, principally bottom-ash and fly-ash. *"We don't actually consider these as wastes, but solid by-products which could still be utilized for other industrial use"* Libao said.

"We totally support the program inasmuch as this is in line with our current effort and commitment to attain the ideal of zero-waste goal" Libao added.

SPI is currently putting-up Mindanao's first-ever coal-fired power plant at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental. The project, which costs around US\$305 million, is expected to be completed by end of 2006 and will supply additional electricity to the Mindanao grid representing about 15% of the island's total electricity requirement. *(end)*