

PRESS RELEASE

Environmental youth camp to cap earth month commemoration

Some 50 youth leaders from Villanueva, Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City will converge on 29-30 April 2006 at the Mapawa Nature Park to cap this year's commemoration of Earth Month.

Dubbed as 2006 Mapawa Environmental Youth Camp, the two-day activity include awareness seminar on the country's environmental programs and policies, nature-appreciation workshop and eco-adventures, and action planning which will define in concrete terms the youth sector's contribution to environmental protection and sustainable development.

Jointly organized by STEAG State Power Inc. (SPI), the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-10) and the local government of Villanueva, the activity aims to enhance awareness on the importance of environmental protection and to prod them to undertake specific actions, either individually or collectively, within their respective communities.

The activity is already on its 3rd year of implementation. SPI Communications Officer Jerome Soldevilla said the Mapawa Youth Camp is part of the company's continuing commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development.

"We want to harness the idealism of the youth and inspire them to concretize such idealism into something doable and tangible within their sphere of influence" Soldevilla said.

SPI is currently putting-up Mindanao's first-ever coal-fired power plant project at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental. Expected to be operational by end of 2006, the project will address a looming power shortage in Mindanao. Aside from putting-up the power plant, SPI has also embarked on a comprehensive social development and environmental protection programs benefiting communities within the plant's surrounding areas.