

## PRESS RELEASE

### Bamboo propagation training kicks-off riverbank rehabilitation

A seven-kilometer stretch straddling the banks of the majestic Tagoloan river will soon be rehabilitated and stabilized through massive bamboo planting. This developed as STEAG State Power Inc. (SPI) and the municipal government of Tagoloan teamed-up to undertake the Tagoloan Riverbank Stabilization Project.

For this purpose, a one-day technical training on bamboo growing was held recently to jumpstart the initial propagation of at least 30,000 bamboo seedlings. About 15 local agricultural technicians, farmer leaders and local government officials attended the activity.

Recent studies commissioned by SPI disclosed the occurrence of siltation in the Macajalar Bay resulting from soil erosion brought about by, among others, the collapse in some portions of the Tagoloan riverbank. *“If unabated, the situation might lead to serious environmental hazard, endangering not only the marine life of Macajalar Bay but also the safety of communities nearby”* said SPI Safety and Pollution Control Officer Francis Libao.

*“Bamboo planting have been proven as a cost-efficient and very effective approach in riverbank stabilization, not to mention the economic and commercial benefits it might bring for local livelihood”* Libao explained.

The project is a major component of an existing 500-hectare Tagoloan Urban Forestry Program initiated two years ago by SPI and LGU-Tagoloan. It forms part of the company’s continuing commitment to help protect the environment.

SPI is currently putting-up Mindanao’s first-ever coal-fired power plant project at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental. Once operational by end of this year, the power plant will augment electricity supply in Mindanao representing about 15% of the island’s total power demand.

Aside from addressing Mindanao’s concern for a stable and reliable supply of electrical power, SPI has embarked on a comprehensive social and environmental protection programs benefiting communities in its host communities in Villanueva and Tagoloan.

- end -