

Press Release

Power plant cites headways in refo project

Villanueva, Misamis Oriental – The implementation of a comprehensive reforestation project in Mapawa, Cagayan de Oro City is gaining substantial headways. Reports obtained from the Mapawa Reforestation Project (MRP) Management Committee indicate that at least 266 hectares of existing natural and plantation forest cover have been improved and maintained while 23 hectares of open areas have been replanted with trees since start of project implementation some two years ago.

The MRP is a 25-year comprehensive reforestation project undertaken by STEAG State Power Inc (SPI) in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau Region 10 (DENR-EMB) and the E. Pelaez Ranch Inc. (EPRI).

Project component include protection and maintenance of a 500-hectare of existing forest plantation, replanting and reforestation of another 500-hectare open-field areas, and Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) for an existing 200-hectare natural forest.

“The project is considered as the first and probably the biggest private sector-led reforestation project ever initiated in the country” says EPRI President Ernie Pelaez. While total target project area covers 1,200 hectares, forest maintenance and protection activities such as forest foot patrol had stretched out to cover more than 1,900 hectares.

The MRP forms part of SPIs contribution to a worldwide campaign to improve, protect and conserve the remaining forests. Aside from the MRP, the company is also implementing two (2) Urban Forestry Projects in its host towns of Villanueva and Tagoloan in Misamis Oriental covering an aggregate area of 1,000 hectares. More than 25,000 assorted fruit-bearing and industrial tree seedlings expected to cover about 40 hectares of land have been distributed to local planters.

“Our commitment goes beyond providing safe, efficient and reliable electric power to the fast-growing <?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarttags" />Mindanao economy. We are likewise committed to help conserve our fragile environment” says SPI President Andreas Rubin.

SPI is currently putting-up Mindanao's first coal-fired power plant at the PHVIDEC Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental. Expected to be fully operational by end of 2006, the power plant will supply additional electricity to Mindanao representing 15% of the island's total power demand.

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