

PRESS RELEASE

Marine group explores partnership with MisOr plant on coastal resource conservation

Villanueva, Misamis Oriental – The Marine Research and Development Center of Xavier University is exploring possible partnership with STEAG State Power Inc. (SPI) in the development and implementation of a Coastal Marine Resource Management and Protection Program along the Macajalar Bay area in Misamis Oriental. This developed as officers and members of the center comprising department heads and faculty members recently toured the facilities of the 210MW (net) Mindanao Coal-Fired Power Plant Project in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental.

XU-MRDC Research Director Dr. Hilly-Ann Quiaoit said the center is looking into the prospects of developing the Cagayan-Camiguin Protected Marine Resource Corridor which she said will require the full support and participation not only of government but also the private sector.

Dr. Quiaoit cited SPIs initiatives on marine protection as well as the power plant's state-of-the-art safety and environmental protection facilities designed to ensure its conformity with environmental standards.

“We take note of the current initiatives taken by the company in making sure that the ecological integrity is preserved and maintained” Quiaoit said. She also expressed hopes that the company will make good of its commitment to safety and environmental sustainability.

Among others, SPI has started implementing a 2,200 hectare reforestation project in Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental, a 3,000 square-meter mangrove rehabilitation project, and the Tagoloan Riverbank Stabilization Project through bamboo propagation and planting.

Moreover, the power station is using modern technologies and state-of-the-art facilities such as air cleaning devices comprising flu gas desulphurization, low-NOX burner and bag filter system, to ensure that it complies with the stringent requirements of the Philippines Air Quality Standards.

Earlier, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has cited the company for pioneering the installation of an on-line Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) to ensure real-time monitoring of the power station's emission levels. EMB 10 Regional Director Sabdullah Abubacar explained that through the CEMS, *“the public can have access to information regarding the actual levels of emission and check whether the power station is complying with the stringent requirements of the country's environmental laws”*.

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