

## TREEDC-Philippines Report: October 2013



Delegates of the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) returned to the Philippines on September 21<sup>st</sup> through October 5<sup>th</sup> to conduct its initial international renewable energy forums as part of the TREEDC International Exchange Program. TREEDC has partnered with the Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines (REAP) to enroll Philippine colleges and universities, municipalities and chambers of commerce as honorary members of TREEDC, a statewide Tennessee renewable energy network of 92 mayors, 30 universities and businesses. The mission of the TREEDC pilot International Exchange program is to create more renewable energy awareness, marketing opportunities and jobs for both Philippine and Tennessee entities through educational forums, business networking and collaborative projects while increasing clean energy solutions in the Philippines.

### Outcomes:

- 1) TREEDC and REAP conducted three (3) educational forums at Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), Central Bicol State University (CBSUA) and Technological University of the Philippines (TUP). A total of 610 Philippine students, faculty, business leaders and mayors were introduced to Tennessee renewable energy related businesses and research along with Philippine projects throughout the country. TREEDC discussed preliminary plans for a scholar program for renewable energy. Tennessee Technological University and Mississippi State University became sister colleges to PUP and CBSUA respectively

- 2) Mayors of Sorsogon, Naga, and Daet provided intents to join TREEDC as members. Initial plans were developed to create a renewable energy task force comprised of Bicol area mayors, university presidents and chambers of commerce to identify energy audit related issues and to provide technical assistance to an approved 18 MW waste to energy plant which would use various municipal waste feedstocks from communities within the Bicol region. A live press conference was conducted by GNN News Network with representatives from TREEDC and REAP prior to the Central Bicol State University Forum.
- 3) The TREEDC delegation visited Mabalacat, Philippines Mayor and Council to provided details of an upcoming delegation tour to Tennessee in December 2013. The Mabalacat Mayor and Council plans to send 2 separate delegations to learn more about the renewable energy projects ongoing in Tennessee. TREEDC which also has an office in Mabalacat is also providing technical assistance with the city's green initiatives.
- 4) TREEDC, REAP and the Philippine Electronics and Communication Institute of Technology (PECIT) will co-sponsor a 3 day renewable energy conference in Butuan City (Mindanao) in February 2014. A major theme of the conference will be renewable energy opportunities for women in the Philippines. TREEDC and REAP are working with PECIT to avail pico hydro projects for needy families in the region.
- 5) TREEDC gave a presentation about the University of Tennessee Biofuels Initiative to 4000 attendees at the PUP International Research Conference in Higher Education at the historic Manila Hotel. Several college representatives showed interest in joining the TREEDC network in the Philippines and to seek more information about the Biofuels Initiative.
- 6) TREEDC, Tennessee Tech Representative Dennis Tennant and TREEDC Founding Member Vis Solis met with the Commerce Section of the US Embassy to share results of the exchange program with the federal government. The Commercial Section provided information about a recent visit by U.S clean energy firms. Vis Solis is working on several large scale solar projects in the Philippines. TREEDC and REAP also met with the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy at the CBSUA forum to assess the potential of waste to energy projects in the Philippines.
- 7) TREEDC and REAP participated in the Philippine PowerTrends Conference in Manila which included exhibits by Alstom Power and German solar firms. TREEDC provided information from some of its business members. Information about compressed natural gas was also shared.





The TREEDC Delegation consisted of the following representatives:

- 1) Ducktown Mayor/TREEDC President James Talley;
- 2) REAP President Oly Serafica;
- 3) REAP Assistant President Erwin Serafica;
- 4) The University of Tennessee MTAS Consultant/TREEDC Director Warren Nevad;
- 5) TREEDC International Consultant Douglas Jackson;
- 6) TREEDC Secretary Alyssa Clemente;
- 7) Tennessee Technological University Director of External Relations Dennis Tennant; and
- 8) Vis Solis Managing Partner Tim Hayes.



The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council is a nonprofit grassroots organization of 92 mayors promoting the economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy for Tennessee communities. TREEDC was formed by four (4) mayors and the University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson in 2008. For more information, visit [www.treedc.us](http://www.treedc.us).

