

TREEDC Holds International Renewable Energy Forum at Central Bicol State



The Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) and the Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines (REAP) held an educational forum for 100 local government, business and community leaders at Avenue Plaza Hotel in Naga City on September 30, 2013. A live press conference was conducted by Global News Network (GNN Naga TV) with representatives from TREEDC and REAP to discuss how renewable energy can help address energy concerns in the region particularly the high cost and quality of electrical power. Central Bicol State University of Agriculture (CBUSA) President Marito Bernales expressed his appreciation for REAP's and TREEDC's assistance to the university in creating more renewable energy awareness to the university and the Bicol region. REAP President Oly Serafica gave detailed presentations regarding the Philippine 2008 Renewable Energy Law and various solar lighting and pico hydro technologies in the Philippines. TREEDC President/Ducktown Mayor James Talley provided details about Ducktown, Tennessee solar and energy efficiency initiatives. The University of Tennessee Management Consultant Warren Nevad and TREEDC International Consultant Douglas Jackson gave a progress report about the TREEDC-Philippine membership base and its goal to advance and connect renewable energy with the Philippines and Tennessee.

The mayors of Sorsogon City, Sorsogon; Naga City, Camarines Sur and Daet, Camarines Norte signed their respective Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to join TREEDC as members. CBUSA also signed a MOA with TREEDC. 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-related issues such as energy efficiency, energy audit and community-based RE systems. Possible technical assistance was proposed to an

approved 18 MW waste to energy conversion plant which will use municipal solid waste from communities within the Bicol region as feedstock. Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy Daniel Ariaso gave an informative keynote presentation about recent renewable energy trends in the Philippines.

TREEDC is a non-profit network of cities, universities, and private businesses with the mission of providing leadership in promoting renewable energy and economic development for member organizations. TREEDC is affiliated with the University of Tennessee and currently includes 92 local governments, nine state and federal agencies, 23 colleges and universities, 60 commercial businesses and power utilities, and three international organizations. Philippine schools involved in the TREEDC International Exchange Program include the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture (CBSUA) in Camarines Sur, Central Philippines University (CPU) in Iloilo, University of Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna, Philippine Electronics and Communication Institute of Technology (PECIT) in Agusan, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Manila, Systems Plus College Foundation in Pampanga and Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) in Manila. TREEDC's office in the Philippines is located in Mabalacat, Pampanga. The Chairman of TREEDC is University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson. TREEDC was awarded the Governor's Excellence in Energy Leadership by the State of Tennessee in 2012. For more information, visit the TREEDC website www.treedc.us

