

August 26, 2016 Press Release: The University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service and TREEDC Conducts Philippines Mission Trip on Renewable Energy and Municipal Best Practices



TREEDC meets with General Santos' businesses

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC), an international grassroots renewable energy organization of 101 mayors formed in 2008 by the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service (IPS), returned to the Philippines from August 5 to August 21, 2016. In 2012, the Philippines was selected as the pilot country for TREEDC to facilitate renewable energy projects through its International Exchange Program with the Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines (REAP). Representatives from the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and TREEDC visited the Bicol region, Metro Manila, Palawan and Mindanao. The objectives of this fact finding mission trip were to share Tennessee Municipal Best Practices in ordinance development, law

enforcement training and renewable energy opportunities across the Philippines. Over 2,000 Philippine citizens representing the municipal, academic and business sectors participated in the recently completed mission trip.

The delegation visited Catanduanes State University to follow up on the TREEDC scholarship program and to inspect the campus for solar developmental opportunities. The delegation also included participation in the United Nations Association of the Philippines (UNAP) 17TH International Youth Day Conference at Pasig City University. The theme of the Conference was Eradication of Poverty through Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Philippines Senators Sherwin Gatchalian and Cynthia Villar urged the audience to avail themselves of economic opportunities to help foster more innovation in the Philippines. MTAS Management Consultant Warren Nevad reviewed the TREEDC Community Outreach Program and recognized TREEDC Honorary International Affairs President Dr. April Alcazar of Pasig City University for her leadership in the TREEDC Renewable Energy Developmental Program in the Philippines.

The delegation visited Palawan State University to discuss solar and energy efficiency program planning on campus and followed up with the TREEDC Member Vis Solis Solar Array that was completed in April 2015 at Puerto Princesa City Hall. TREEDC Member Tennessee Solar Solutions Vice President Brandon Carter and John Jernigan of Northshore Renovations visited Naga Mayor John Bongat and Legazpi Mayor Noel Rosal to discuss solar opportunities for their community. They also visited with TREEDC-Philippines Ambassador Dr. Gina Basa of Technological University of the Philippines. TREEDC-Philippine Ambassadors Fred Perdon, Rosemarie Quinto-Rey and Honelet Bertis also organized various meetings with college representatives from Naga College Foundation, University of Northeastern Philippines and Southern Luzon Technological University to assess their energy management needs.

On August 16, 2016, Dr. Alcazar and Nevad presented the TREEDC International Exchange Program to University of Rizal System President Dr. Marita Canapi to share TREEDC President/Dunlap Tennessee Mayor Dwain Land's vision of implementing and integrating renewable energy facilities with student involvement. Nevad also shared IPS/MTAS training programs to

extension faculty at the University of Rizal System. The visit concluded with a tour of the school's micro-hydro construction project.

The mission trip concluded with a 3 day site visit to the Mindanao region. TREEDC-Ambassador Tom Mariano organized meetings with Mayors and officials from M'lang, Cotabato, Maitum and Alabel. A dinner reception was conducted with area businesses interested in solar development. Municipal Waste to Energy Projects completed in Tennessee were reviewed and Nevad discussed the University of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC) training programs in the Philippines. General Santos Vice-Mayor Shirlyn Banas-Nograles and Nevad also reviewed the MTAS Code of Ordinances review process and the General Santos Code of Ordinances was reviewed and discussed. The delegation also visited the Governor's staff of Sarangani Province to conduct a solar assessment. The delegates were treated to a visit with Dionesia Dapridran- Pacquiao, the mother of boxing legend and Philippines Senator Manny Pacquiao.

TREEDC will host its 3rd Annual International renewable Energy Conference on December 15-16, 2016 at TREEDC Founding Member Tennessee Tech University. TREEDC is a 501(c) 3 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. There are 101 mayors in Tennessee and the Philippines along with 38 colleges and universities. The University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson is the Chairman of TREEDC. For more information, check out www.treedc.us

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