



PRESS RELEASE

### **TREEDC Starts Pilot International Renewable Energy Exchange Program in the Philippines**

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) has partnered with the Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines (REAP) to develop the TREEDC International Exchange Program wherein Philippine colleges and cities join and become members of the TREEDC network of 92 cities/counties and 23 colleges in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas. TREEDC has identified the Philippines as the pilot country for this initiative. The mission of this program is to connect Tennessee and Philippine renewable energy stakeholders in order to create more awareness, progress and development of renewable energy in their respective areas and establish collaborative projects/programs.

In March 2013, a TREEDC delegation consisting of President/Ducktown, Tennessee Mayor James Talley, Director Warren Nevad and International Affairs Consultant Doug Jackson along with REAP President Oly Serafica met with Chancellors, Presidents and Vice Presidents representing the Central Bicol State University, Central Philippine University, University of Philippines Los Banos, Philippine Electronics and Communication Institute of Technology, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Systems Plus College Foundation, and Technological University of the Philippines. These educational institutions all agreed in principle to become members of the TREEDC network and to be matched with a sister school from the TREEDC college/university sector for information, research and technology exchanges. TREEDC plans to invite more Philippine schools and cities during the spring and summer. The TREEDC delegation will work with REAP to organize several community outreach forums at various schools across the country in September. TREEDC also plans to replicate its renewable energy network developmental model in the Philippines.

TREEDC also met with Mayor Marino “Boking” Morales of Mabalacat City to invite him as an honorary mayor member of TREEDC. The delegation also met with CEMEX corporate officials to learn more about CEMEX’s corporate social responsibility plans on environment and clean energy awareness. TREEDC President Talley said “the purpose of this exchange program is to exchange mutually beneficial resources and strategies for the advancement

of renewable energy and related economic development in our respective countries.” REAP President Serafica stated that “TREEDC has committed to make the Philippines as the TREEDC pilot country and worldwide model for their international exchange program and that REAP is eager to work with TREEDC to make this program a success”. TREEDC International Affairs Consultant Jackson mentioned that “Tennessee and the Philippines have very similar renewable energy biomass feedstock and transportation fuel challenges that impact air quality. We believe that our International Exchange Program will foster more information and appreciation for the need to use less fossil fuels and to provide a cleaner environment for generations of people”. Jackson is a retired Tennessee Valley Authority project manager. In October last year, TREEDC Director/Founder Nevad visited the Philippines, and met with officials from various renewable energy associations and Department of Energy to gauge interest in the TREEDC International Exchange Program.

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. 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. Go to [www.treedc.us](http://www.treedc.us) for more information.

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