



## PRESS RELEASE

### **TREEDC Returns to the Philippines**

The Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) delegation returned to the Philippines from June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 7, 2013 to provide an update to its International Exchange program with its Philippine members and to schedule 4 community educational forums at various colleges in the Metro Manila, Central Luzon, and Bicol Regions from September 25 to October 4, 2013. The purpose of these upcoming forums is to promote awareness of Tennessee best practices in renewable energy and to connect renewable energy educational opportunities and jobs for both Philippines and Tennessee entities through outreach, business networking, student career development and collaborative projects.

TREEDC President/Ducktown, Tennessee Mayor James Talley, TREEDC Director Warren Nevad also participated in the sister city signing celebration on July 6 between Mabalacat City and Ducktown, Tennessee. Mayor Talley stated that it was an honor and unique experience to observe and participate in the Filipino traditions and culture with Mayor Marino “Boking” Morales, Vice Mayor Christian Halili and over 30 citizens of the Mabalacat community. Director Nevad also stated that TREEDC was very excited to open a TREEDC office at the Mabalacat City Hall. “We are extremely grateful for Mayor Morales for his generous offer to allow TREEDC to be headquartered in Clark Enterprise Zone Pampanga to promote its mission. TREEDC International Consultant Douglas Jackson and Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines (REAP) President Oly Serafica will provide a frequent presence there. TREEDC has committed to partner with REAP to address rural community energy needs and educational awareness throughout the Philippines.

During the trip, Mayor Talley spoke at the League of Corporate Social Responsibility Conference in Manila about the International Exchange program. TREEDC also participated in the Asian Development Bank’s Clean Energy Forum and met with officials from Phillips, Philippine Chevron, Ayala, Cemex and the Global News Network to update their work and activities. TREEDC Consultant Jackson stated that we are very excited to help the colleges and Mabalacat to address their renewable energy needs. TREEDC plans to initially assist Mabalacat with the formation of a Sustainability Task Force, and to work with the city to develop strategies to bring waste to energy technologies to the community.

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 Central Bicol State University, Central Philippines University, University of Philippines Los Baños (Laguna), Philippine Electronics and Communication Institute of Technology, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Systems Plus College Foundation and Technological University of the Philippines. 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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