



Abad signs up as key expert for EU TRTA Project 2

Anthony Abad has been appointed last July as Key Expert on trade policy for the Trade Related Technical Assistance Project 2 (TRTA 2), a joint project of the European Union and the Republic of the Philippines. TRTA 2 aims to enhance the capacity of selected government agencies and other stakeholders in the Philippines to implement better integration into international trade systems. It has the overall objective of supporting sustainable poverty reduction in the country as a result of deeper international trade integration and increased exports.

TRTA 2, launched by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the European Commission (EC) earlier this year, consists of four components: (1) trade policy and export development; (2) standards harmonization and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) conformity; (3) trade facilitation; and (4) rapid response facility. Implementing agencies of the project are the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Mr. Abad, who brings with him years of experience in technical assistance on matters of international trade and competition policy, is the key expert assigned for Component 1, covering trade policy and export development. Activities under the component will include training and research that will develop the capacity of concerned government agencies for trade negotiation and policy analysis, intra- and inter-agency project coordination, as well as improve the country's service exports such as those in medical tourism and information and communications technology (ICT).

The first TRTA project (TRTA 1) accomplished the establishment of a WTO-TBT (World Trade Organization-Technical Barriers to Trade) enquiry point and notification portal, which allows for more timely response to enquiries on product standards. TRTA 1 has also helped increase the number of Philippine companies accredited to export fishery products to the EU through enhancing food safety awareness and improving EU market access.

APEC holds Legal Services Initiative workshop

A Legal Services Initiative Workshop was held in Singapore as part of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's 2009 meetings. The workshop brought together legal profession regulators, legal representative bodies and trans-national legal service providers to share experiences, approaches and concerns on the regulation of foreign lawyers within APEC economies. The activity aimed to identify the needs of these economies and the barriers they face in relation to the provision of legal services. Another goal

was to develop best practice principles and a framework for sharing information.

TA Advisory Services and TA nuñez law participated in the workshop by providing information on the rules on licensing and regulation of foreign lawyers providing foreign and international law services in the Philippines and of foreign lawyers working in association with Philippine lawyers. TA Advisory specializes in international trade and competition law.

APEC celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

CaFiS visits Smith Bell mini-hydro project



CaFiS, Inc. Managing Director Alan Silayan, Operations and Quality Manager Leslie Gopalan, and CDM Technical Advisor Jewella Vinson recently visited Smith Bell Mini-Hydro Corp.'s (SBMHC) power plant project to perform an ocular inspection of its site. The Commonal-Uddiawan Mini-Hydro Power Project is SBMHC's first mini-hydro project, located in Brgy. Commonal, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. It involves the development of a 1.8-

MW power plant that will utilize the Bintawan River to generate electricity, of which benefits include the reduction of CO2 emissions associated with fossil fuels and more reliable power supply for the area. CaFiS currently serves as Smith Bell's CDM consultant for the project. The inspection was done in preparation for the writing of the Project Design Document, one of several clean development services offered by CaFiS.



NEWS BITS

WTO SPS Measures workshop in Bangkok

The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), in cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), recently conducted a Workshop on WTO SPS Measures in Bangkok.

TA Advisory Services contributed two presentations on "WTO SPS Agreement and Transparency Equivalence," and likewise provided a panel discussion moderator. TA Advisory is also delivering the executive summary of the workshop proceedings, as it has done in a previous WTO SPS workshop in Japan.

The workshop focused on acquiring in-depth knowledge and practical techniques on: (1) WTO SPS measures applicable to trade in agricultural products; (2) application of international standards on plants, animals and processed products for actual trade; and (3) WTO dispute settlement procedures and their cases involving food safety.

Silayan talks CDM at REAP, PBE events

Alan Silayan of CDM services provider CaFiS, Inc. was a speaker at two recent events in Manila focusing on clean development. He delivered a presentation on emission reduction certificates, its mechanisms, processes, economics and financing issues at a conference organized by the Resource and Environmental Economics Foundation of the Philippines Inc. (REAP), held on 9-10 July. The conference was titled "Recent Developments on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in the Philippines."

On 22 August, he served as a speaker on "Waste management practices in CDM" for the training of Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) officers on CDM. The training session was organized by the group Philippine Business for Environment (PBE).

ASEA One, CaFiS hold consultations for biomass projects

CaFiS, Inc. recently assisted its client ASEA One Power Corp. (AOPC) in conducting stakeholder consultations in four different project sites in Panay. AOPC is developing four biomass power plants with a total capacity of 30MW, which will utilize biomass feedstock like rice husk, rice straw and coconut husk. The plants will be built in the following municipalities: Banga, Aklan; Sibalom, Antique; Dingle, Iloilo; and Jordan, Guimaras. The consultations were done with the provincial governments, representatives of the municipalities and barangays, and NGOs in attendance. CaFiS provided guidelines and coaching in the presentation of the project technology, CDM and the sustainable development benefits of the projects for the local communities.

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