



## Offspring of the EPIF in the Philippines

**T**he APO's Eco-products International Fairs (EPIFs) encourage long-term Green Productivity (GP) initiatives in the hosts. Examples include International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN) counterparts in Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia; and national/regional environmental exhibitions in Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines, such as the Suppliers' Forum on Green Public Procurement (GPP) in the Philippines held on 15 August at SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, Metro Manila, site of the fifth EPIF in March 2009. Forum organizers were the Development Academy of the Philippines' (DAP) collaborative partner Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI), Department of Budget and Management-Procurement Service, and Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), with support from the DAP and local IGPN counterpart the Green Purchasing Alliance Movement. The DTI is receiving assistance from the EU Switch-Asian project (2012–2016) in implementing its sustainable production and consumption policies.

Even before hosting the 2009 EPIF with its 82,000 visitors and 128 exhibitors, the Philippines enacted Executive Order 301 of 29 March 2004 mandating GPP by the executive branch of government. The Suppliers' Forum on Green Public Procurement in the Philippines, held concurrently with the Green Philippines 2013 exhibition, was attended by Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection and concurrent PCEPSDI Chair J.R. Nereus O. Acosta, and numerous government and industry leaders. A message from President Benigno S.C. Aquino was read by DTI Undersecretary Nora K. Terrado. Although 150 attendees were expected, some 260 filled the audience. During the forum, 10 eco-products from seven companies were

awarded the Green Choice Philippines Seal of Approval.

Among invited speakers, APO Secretariat Industry Department Director Setsuko Miyakawa detailed government's crucial role in encouraging GPP, describing "the chain reaction in which the 2nd World Conference on GP in Manila led to forming the GP Advisory Committee, recognition of the importance of public-private partnerships, and then the EPIFs." "The Philippine government remains proactive in GP and is an example to all," she added. According to DAP President and CEO Antonio D. Kalaw, Jr., "Profitability, while still an ultimate goal of continuing improvement in business productivity, must be achieved without undue cost to the environment and the communities it shelters." President of the Philippine Plastics Industry Association, Inc. Peter T. Quintana acknowledged, "Practicing a green way of life is a very big challenge, but if we begin in our small way today, we will surely see a cleaner, greener future." That future appears brighter as the EPIFs continue to spawn GP efforts in APO members. 



*L-R: DAP President Kalaw; DTI Undersecretary Terrado; Vice President Benjie Yap, Foods and Home Care of Unilever Philippines Inc.; Vice President Engr. Ramon Gil Macapagal, Corporate Affairs; Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection and concurrent PCEPSDI Chair Acosta; and Industry Department Director Miyakawa.*