



Comment board



Core Consultant **Sixto A. Requena**, PEMconsult, USA.

Resource speaker, seminar on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Improving the Productivity of Irrigation Systems, 25–30 August, Sri Lanka.

“One of the seminar objectives was to enhance the participants’ understanding of the issues, challenges, and opportunities in PPPs for irrigation management. Therefore, at the seminar I

spoke about the options and challenges when using PPPs to improve irrigation system management (ISM) efficiency in Asia. I used a project cycle approach to explain the rationale of risk distribution between government and private partners in improving ISM by means of various optional PPP contracts. The seminar went well, and I was very impressed with the practical nature of the discussions, which focused on PPP options to improve ISM efficiency and irrigation service reliability. After four days of discussions including presentations of country cases, participants worked in groups to come up with action plans for their own countries. I think that the key achievement of the seminar was that it concluded with practical recommendations to prepare actions plans to use PPP contracts. The challenge is now how to prepare and undertake such action plans.”

Tourism Operational Officer II **Ma. Elenita I. Pajarillo**, Department of Tourism, Philippines.

Participant, seminar on Green and Productive Tourism with Special Focus on Green Certification, 4–8 August, Nepal.

“The seminar was greatly appreciated since it made me realize the importance of responding to calls for sustainable development. It is undeniable that the

tourism industry, especially hotels and restaurants, negatively impact the environment. It is therefore imperative for each country to promote green and productive tourism and come up with green certification schemes/programs. The course was very well timed and served as a venue for us to understand the importance of green and productive tourism and learn from Asian and European experiences in green certification. With the knowledge I gained from attending the seminar, I plan to coordinate with our Accreditation Division for the inclusion of additional environmental criteria in the present accreditation system for hotels and restaurants in collaboration with the private sector. I am very hopeful that in the next few years each participating country will be able to have its own green certification scheme.”

Energy Efficiency Expert **Ramesh Prasad Nepal**, Energy & Environment Committee, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI).

Participant, regional workshop on Biomass Utilization for Industrial Boilers, 18–23 August, Pakistan.

“Given that Nepal is an agricultural country, biomass utilization in industrial boilers is quite popular, since rice husk, straw, forest waste, jute straw, wood, etc. are common forms of fuel utilized in industrial boilers for increasing productivity in energy production and utilization. Since the majority of our industries are SMEs, the utilization of biomass in boilers for producing steam is necessary to reduce energy costs and so increase competitiveness. The objective of my participation in the workshop was to upgrade my knowledge and skills. This will allow me to increase the efficiency and energy conservation of industrial boilers by means of training and demonstration. Most of my needs were satisfactorily met by the course, since I am now planning to organize a local training program jointly with the National Productivity and Economic Development Center and FNCCI. I would suggest including more case studies in the program and utilizing the site visits for effective learning and discussion.”