



POWER HOTLINE

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NPC hosts Vietnam utility mission



President Froilan Tampinco (seated, third from left) led other NPC officials in welcoming the EVN mission to the NPC Head Office in Diliman. The 11-man delegation was headed by EVN Vice President Dinh Quang Tri (seated, fourth from left).

The National Power Corporation played host to an 11-man mission from Vietnam Electricity (EVN) that was in Manila recently to study the Philippine experience in restructuring its power industry.

Led by EVN Vice President Dinh Quang Tri, the Vietnamese delegation stayed in the country from January 19 to 23, and met with officials of the different government agencies that were at the forefront in the implementation of key reforms in the power sector.

The Department of Energy, for instance, gave the EVN mission an overview of the Philippine power sector, including energy sufficiency and power reforms. While at the DOE, the group also paid a courtesy call to Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes.

Meanwhile, the Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management

Corporation briefed the group on the government's power sector privatization program, while the Philippine Electricity Marketing Corporation discussed the topic of power market development. The Energy Regulatory Commission gave a briefing on power sector regulation, while NPC and the National Transmission Corporation discussed their respective roles and support to the privatization program.

EVN, which is in the first stages of privatization, originally wrote to President Froilan A. Tampinco last month to request assistance from NPC. "EVN is planning to set up GENCOs (Power Generation Companies) as part of our restructuring process," Mr. Dinh wrote in a letter dated December 23. "Our wish is to learn practical experiences and lessons from utilities and agencies

operating in the power sector who have been successful in establishing and operating GENCOs."

Created in 1995, EVN is the biggest power company in Vietnam, with total assets of US\$10.8 billion and energy sales of 65.93 billion kilowatt-hours. In 2007, EVN ranked third among Vietnam's Top 100 Corporations, according to a United Nations Development Program report.

In terms of generation, EVN has an installed capacity of 10,700 megawatts, accounting for roughly 68 percent of Vietnam's total capacity. It also controls all of Vietnam's power transmission grids, and is responsible for the distribution of electricity throughout the country, particularly in the remote areas.

As of 2008, EVN had an estimated 8 million customers and 93,000 employees.

(Elizabeth I. Perez)



TMS Vice President Danilo S. Sedilla (standing) congratulates the TMS managers following the ISO audit.

TMS hurdles 3rd ISO surveillance audit

For the third consecutive time, the Technical & Maintenance Services Group - the engineering arm of the National Power Corporation - passed the surveillance audit of its ISO 9001 certification with flying colors.

The thumbs-up was given to TMS by Certification International Philippines, Inc. (CIPI) – the same independent ISO-certifying body that conferred an ISO 9001 certification for Quality Management System (QMS) to TMS in July 2008.

During the surveillance audit conducted last Wednesday, January 27, CIPI auditors Romeo Ramirez and Arnel Guevara jointly recommended TMS' continued ISO registration after it successfully complied with the requirements of the ISO 9001:2008, which is the latest version of the ISO 9001 certification. The two auditors likewise did not find any major or minor non-conformities as far as TMS' implementation of its QMS was concerned.

Among other accomplishments, CIPI commended TMS for its effective implementation of its QMS not only in the NPC Head Office in Diliman but also in the San Jose Substation Project in Mindoro, which is under the Project Management Department of TMS. Furthermore, the agency noted the strong commitment and reaffirmation of TMS' top management to the functional group's Quality Policy, as evidenced by the management reviews and internal audits that were earlier carried out by TMS, and that were verified to be comprehensive and broad in coverage. Finally, CIPI reported that there were marked improvements in the monitoring processes of TMS activities and in the attainment of the group's targets and objectives.

TMS Vice President Danilo S. Sedilla commended TMS for hurdling the latest surveillance audit, saying: "This is the result of teamwork, synergy and the harmonious working relationship that has been integrally spawned among the different departments that comprise TMS, enabling them to plan ahead and move forward together as one."

TMS is made up of five departments, namely, Design and Development Department, Project Management Department, Environmental Management Department, Energy Services Department, and Major Repair and Maintenance Department. *(Abner Nolan Cunanan)*

Tiwi Watershed Team spreads Xmas cheer in Brgy. Malolos

Members of the Tiwi Watershed Area Team shared their blessings last Christmas with residents of Barangay Malolos in Malinao, Albay by holding a gift-giving activity in the said area.

Last December 22, the team distributed gift packs to 100 families in Brgy. Malolos, considered as one of the more indigent barangays in Malinao. The gift packs contained rice, assorted canned goods, instant noodles, and toiletries like bath soap and toothpaste.

It was the fifth straight year that the Tiwi Watershed Area Team conducted a gift-giving activity for one of the communities living near the Tiwi Watershed. The Yuletide outreach, which the team started in 2004, has become a part of the group's traditional Christmas celebration.

The distribution of gift packs was led by Mr. Cesario Israel B. Bandong, Section Chief of the Tiwi Watershed Area Team. Mr. Nardito Carpina, Barangay Captain of Barangay Malolos, thanked the team on behalf of the beneficiary-residents.

To show their appreciation for the Tiwi Watershed Area Team's generosity, children of the beneficiary-families, as well as some senior citizens, sang and performed dance numbers for the group. The beneficiary families were identified by the local office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The Tiwi Watershed, which is one of the seven watersheds where the National Power Corporation exercises complete jurisdiction and control, covers a total land area of 17,661 hectares, as stipulated under Presidential Proclamation No. 739. Of this figure, the Municipality of Tiwi accounts for about 66 percent (11,628 has.) of the total land area, while the other 34 percent (6,033 has.) is occupied by the Municipality of Malinao.

The Tiwi Watershed lies at the northernmost tip of Albay, approximately 587 kilometers from Manila and just five kms. away from the town of Tabaco, which is considered to be the leading commercial center of the province.

The most powerful agent of growth and transformation is something much more basic than any technique: a change of heart...

John Welwood