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1. Featured Project ~ *Center for Micro-Hydro Technology for Rural Electrification" (CeMTRE)* ~



Barangay Mataragan, Malibcong, Abra

In 2002, the College of Engineering of the De La Salle University (DLSU), Manila submitted to JICA a project proposal entitled, "Center for Micro-Hydro Technology for Rural Electrification" (CeMTRE) to help accelerate the development of micro-hydro power potential of the Philippines.

The CeMTRE in DLSU will conduct research and provide appropriate technical services in the fields of development, and operation of Micro-Hydro Power Plants to various stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors.

CeMTRE was started in 2003 and its activities were implemented through JICA's Community Empowerment Program. It was able to conduct activities that have helped Philippine government, academic institutions, NGOs and private manufacturing firms in improving the standards for the design, fabrication, and maintenance of Micro-Hydro Power Plants in the country.

CeMTRE maintains constant coordination with the Department of Energy, Affiliated Non-Conventional Energy Centers (ANECs), and other Donor assisted Renewable Energy Projects to complement their activities and contribute to the over-all development of renewable energy in the Philippines.

CeMTRE has conducted training on the Design and Fabrication of Micro-Hydro Turbines for local manufacturers, ANECs, and government personnel. The output of the

training were Micro-Hydro Turbines which were designed using a computer software and assembled using conventional machine equipment by the trainees.

CeMTRE also constructed two Demonstration Micro-Hydro Power Plants in Barangay Mataragan, Malibcong, Abra. The power plants were designed by DLSU students and constructed by the Project staff and the community. These have already been installed and are expected to generate a combined capacity of 40 kilowatts for the 98 households in Barangay Mataragan.



Residents setting-up electric post

The plants serve as CeMTRE's showcase of well-designed, efficient and easy to maintain Micro-hydro Power Plants that help promote the use of micro-hydro power in remote areas which are not yet connected to the electric power grid system.

Besides promoting Renewable Energy, the demonstration plants have helped improve the livelihood and domestic activities in Barangay Mataragan. Now, computers and televisions are being used as effective tools in educating elementary and high school students.



Crossflow turbines designed by CeMTRE

The Project will be completed by end this year. DLSU hopes to extend the cooperation with JICA for two more years for the construction of additional Demonstration Power Plants in Visayas or Mindanao and for training of other stakeholders.

2. Featured NGO ~ Tropical Agriculture and Forestry Technology Development Association (TAFTDA) ~

NGO Desk visited in October 2005 the Tropical Agriculture and Forestry Technology Development Association (TAFTDA), an NGO established by Mr. Hiroshi Takusari in 1997. Forty years ago, when Mr. Takusari was 29 years old, he came to the Philippines to be representative of his company. He was shocked to see the living condition of the people in the rural areas. His assignment in the Philippines prompted him to quit his job in Japan and establish a pulp plantation in Albay. Since then, he has been helping improve the livelihood of the people in Albay, Quezon and Batangas.

TAFTDA is promoting "Agroforestry" as a method of farming to the community. Agroforestry is a combination of agriculture and forestry wherein the land is planted with both agricultural products for immediate income generation and fruit trees for a steady income in the future. TAFTDA also promotes planting of soybeans which grows throughout the year regardless of the weather and can be harvested after a short period of time.



TAFTDA's backyard nursery

The main location of TAFTDA's agroforestry activities is in Barangay Ayusan, Tiaong, Quezon. They also have a training center in Barangay San Miguel, Santo Tomas, Batangas which has a total land area of 2,400 square meters planted with Japanese pumpkin, eggplant and carrots. Several experiments are being done to test if the climate in the Philippines is suitable for Japanese crops. Chemical fertilizer and agricultural chemicals are not used. TAFTDA uses natural agricultural chemical from the leaves of a plant known to effectively



Lettuce seedlings at TAFTDA's nursery

repel mosquitoes which are dried and boiled, which is harmless to the human body. The research activities are mostly done in the training center. TAFTDA also conducts training based on requests they receive coming not only from Luzon but also from Cebu and Mindanao. The usual duration of training is ten days and the participants learn about agroforestry and organic farming.

TAFTDA also welcomes students from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU), Rikkyo University, and Takushoku University not only to do research about farmers but also as interns, they do actual field work. Mr. Takusari said, "He wants to give the young people a chance to think about the poverty in Asia and about their own lives as well." According to people who were involved with TAFTDA, both Filipino and Japanese, they think that the activities of TAFTDA should be continued while striving for the improvement of peoples' lives.

3. Directory

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