



# PHILSUTECH

## NEWSLETTER

PHILSUTECH Bldg., Magsaysay Avenue, Bacolod City, Philippines

January - June 2020 Vol. XXI • No. 20

## General Membership Meeting scheduled on August 28; 67th Philsutech Annual National Convention cancelled

Due to the emergence and unresolved national emergency and crisis brought about by the New Corona Virus Disease-2019 (COVID-19), the Philsutech Board of Directors unanimously decided to cancel the holding of the 67th Philsutech Annual National Convention scheduled in August of this year.

However, the Annual General Membership Meeting will be held on August 28, 2020, 9:30 AM at the Philsutech Building, Bacolod City, in compliance with the SEC requirement. The meeting will be conducted virtually. Moreover, members can register their attendance via proxy.

"The Annual General Membership Assembly meeting of the Corporation, which is provided for in the By-Laws (Article 8 section 2) and is scheduled August of each year, be held on August 28, 2020.

The incumbent elected officers shall hold and will remain in office and discharge their respective functions in a holdover capacity / authority, until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified."

For more details, please see the Philsutech President's

Excerpts from Resolution No. 008, Series of 2020, Message in Page 3.  
state:

## Twenty-one participants join Farm Tour 2020



*Farm workers load sugarcane at Belmayor Farms, San Carlos City.*

Twenty-one participants joined this year's edition of the Philsutech Farm Tour in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental last February 6.

Traditionally, the annual farm tour attracts about 100 participants. However, due to the eruption of Taal volcano which affected several sugar-producing provinces in Luzon and the recent scare from the corona

virus disease, this year's farm tour has lesser participants.

After an hour and a half trip from Bacolod, the participants were welcomed by Armando Valmayor at Belmayor Farms. Valmayor narrated how he trimmed down his family's sugarcane area from 400 hectares to 82 hectares, by choosing and concentrating only on the most productive areas.

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Fiscal Year 2019-2020



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Chairman of the Board



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President



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Factory Engineering Division



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**GIGI F. HOFIENÑA**  
VP & Director  
Process Division

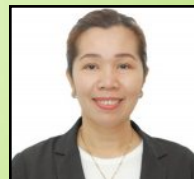
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**SHERRYL ANN R. JARDER**  
Director  
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Management Division

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Director  
Process Division



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**JOSE MA. R. VALMAYOR**  
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**HAYDEE V. RIVERA**  
Corporate Secretary & Administrative Officer

Agriculture & Farm Eng'g Div.  
Bio-Energy & Env'tal Mgmt Div.  
Factory Engineering Division  
Management Division  
Process Division

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Telefax : (63-34) 434-3013; 4348127 • Email: [philsutech@gmail.com](mailto:philsutech@gmail.com) • Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PHILSUTECH](https://www.facebook.com/PHILSUTECH)  
Tel. No. (63-34) 434-1591 • Website: [www.philsutech.com](http://www.philsutech.com) • Twitter: [twitter.com/philsutech](https://twitter.com/philsutech)





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the Members, Product Exhibitors, and Friends of the Philippine Sugar Technologists Association, Inc.:

I pray this message finds you in good health during this challenging time. I would like to give an update on several recent decisions made by the PHILSUTECH Board of Directors (BoD) regarding the activities of our Association for the rest of 2020, in light of the present Covid-19 pandemic.

The PHILSUTECH Board of Directors has been engaged in multiple discussions regarding our Association's response to the pandemic.

A few months ago, the Board decided that it was in PHILSUTECH's best interest to cancel all scheduled activities except our National Convention. It was early in the pandemic, and we had hoped that the virus would be quickly contained and our lives resume their normal patterns.

Now as we all enter the month of June, we recognize that this pandemic will be with us for much longer.

This pandemic has touched all our lives—causing illness, fear and anxiety, and social and economic hardships. And yet, we have also seen this crisis give rise to the best of us.

We laud the efforts of our frontliners who have given their time, effort, and for some, even their lives, in service of their fellow countrymen. We also want to commend our many PHILSUTECH members who have and continue to contribute their expertise, finances, and products to the lives of the local communities and to the nation.

On the matter of our 2020 Convention, the PHILSUTECH BoD, in consultation with Convention Chairman and Past President Linley Retirado, has unanimously agreed to cancel it.

We had been excited to finally fulfill the request from our membership to bring the convention to other areas of the country. We were also planning to further implement new and innovative ways in conduct our convention. Of course, the safety of our PHILSUTECH members and guests must come first. Thus, our difficult decision to cancel.

I would like to thank Past President Linley Retirado and the management of Victorias Milling Company for their enthusiastic support for the Convention. I am also grateful to our ever-eager committee chairpersons and team members who were ready to jump into action. I am thankful for our many industry suppliers and guests who had already committed early on to attend and participate in this year's convention.

Decisions regarding the 2021 convention have yet to be made and will be announced at a later date.

On the matter of our Annual General Membership Meeting, we have consulted with the Securities and Exchange Commission and legal counsel regarding our options.

Presently, we have decided to hold our Annual General Membership Meeting on August 28, 2020 at the Philsutech Building, Bacolod City. The meeting will be conducted virtually. Moreover, members will be allowed to register their attendance via proxy.

For the meantime, all BoD officers will stay on their present positions in a hold-over capacity, until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Know that we in the Board, under the guidance of Chairman Larry Carranza and our past presidents, are fully committed to continue serving PHILSUTECH to the best of our ability. The PHILSUTECH office, ably managed by our Corporate Secretary Mrs. Haydee Rivera, continues to be available for your inquiries and requirements.

Our industry continues to face multiple challenges and disruptions. Echoing the theme of last year's convention, our present circumstances truly demand that we skillfully leverage changes in our world for the benefit our industry and society.

At the same time, this crisis has shown that our industry is not fragile. Our farmers and planters continue to plant. Our mills and factories continue to operate. Our industry continues to contribute to physical and economic wellbeing of our nation. It is not easy, but I am confident that we are resilient.

Sincerely,

**DR. NEIL ANDREW CORTEZ**



## Chemical control seminar attracts 40 participants



Forty participants joined the Chemical Control Seminar conducted last March 13 at Luxur Place, Bacolod City.

Forty participants finished the Chemical Control Seminar conducted last March 13 at Luxur Place, Bacolod City.

Spearheaded by the Philsutech Process Division under Vice-Pres. & Dir. Gigi F. Hofileña and Marlowe A. Lugador, the seminar discussed Good Laboratory Practices, Cane Quality & Factors that Affect Quality, Planters' Concerns (LKg/TC, Trash & Weight) and How They are Computed, Factors Affecting Milling and Boiling House Efficiency, Computation, etc., Stock Taking and Product Quality.

Philsutech Committee on Academe Chairperson

Jinah Cuenca and Member Aurora Porras served as the resource speakers.

URC-SURE sent the most number of participants, with six coming from URC-SURE Passi and another six from URC-SURE Sonedco.

Vicmico and First Farmers sent four delegates each, while OPTION MPC, Lopez Sugar Central and Kooll Company sent three participants each.

HPCo, CACI, AALCPI, KABILOG Planter Association and Panay Agro Industrial Research sent two participants each, while San Carlos Bio-energy, Inc. also sent a participant.



Philsutech Committee on Academe Chairperson Jinah Cuenca served as one of the resource speakers.



Philsutech Committee on Academe Member Aurora Porras was the other resource speaker.



## Philsutech works with DepEd, TESDA to include sugartech subjects in senior high curriculum

The Philippine Sugar Technologists Association, Inc. (PHILSUTECH) is collaborating with the Department of Education in Negros Oriental for the inclusion of sugar technology subjects in the curriculum for senior high school students.

Clifford O. Ignacio, principal of Tara Provincial Community High School in Mabinay, Negros Oriental, initially contacted Philsutech last January to seek its expertise in the preparation of the competency-based curriculum.

Philsutech Committee on Academe Chairperson Jinah T. Cuenca, Member Aurora Porras (retired Lab Head of CACI) and Colegio de San Agustin – Bacolod professor Leo Diopenes, supported by the Philsutech Secretariat, formed a technical working group with DepEd - Negros Oriental officials and TESDA personnel to craft the curriculum.

The sugartech subjects are divided into four modules, which correspond to one subject per semester for Grade 11 and Grade 12 students.

Sugar Processing I (1st Semester - Grade 11) provides an overview of the global sugarcane industry, particularly the history and origin of sugarcane, sugarcane-producing countries in the world and sugarcane practices in different countries.

Sugar Processing II (2nd Semester - Grade 11) covers cultivation methods, sugarcane products and by-products, farm machineries and equipment used from land preparation to harvesting and hauling



*The Technical Working Group, composed of DepEd – Negros Oriental personnel, TESDA officials and Philsutech Corporate Secretary Haydee V. Rivera, Committee on Academe Member Aurora Porras and Chairperson Jinah T. Cuenca (6th, 7th & 8th from left), meets at the Philsutech Office in Bacolod City to finalize the curriculum for sugar technology courses.*

of sugarcane, and management of farm machineries and equipment.

Sugar Processing III (1st Semester - Grade 12) provides an overview of the sugar manufacturing process, from juice preparation, extraction of sugar and the shipment of bulk sugar.

Sugar Processing IV (2nd Semester - Grade 12) covers a more detailed discussion of the sugar manufacturing process, with emphasis on industry standards and guidelines.

Upon completion of the course, the students will be credited with Level II National Competency Certificate in Technical-Vocational Livelihood Tract in

Sugar Processing.

The course is expected to spur the students' interest in the sugar industry, the major driver of Negros Island's economy. Negros Island is home to 12 of the country's sugar mills, three of which are located in Negros Oriental.

Last February 18, the curriculum was forwarded for approval to Education Secretary Leonor M. Briones, thru DepEd Region VII Director Salustiano T. Jimenez. Once approved, the course is expected to be introduced in Negros Oriental as the pilot site, and later introduced to other parts of the country.

The PHILSUTECH Committee on Chemical Handbook Revision, headed by Committee Chairperson Emma Abueva (center), is preparing an updated version of Philsutech's Chemical Handbook to reflect the latest developments in the industry. Other members present are (L-R) Lani Martin, Jocelyn Sorrilla, Jean Sumagaysay, Emelyn Manalo, Jinah Cuenca, Jane Ignao and Ruby Teves. Noli Segovia, who is not in the picture, is also an active member of the Committee. Upon completion, this will be the third edition of the Chemistry Handbook. The first edition was published in 1979, while the second edition was printed in 1992.





## Nominations are now open for Board of Directors, DCL Award, and Outstanding Members Awards

The nominations for the Board of Directors, as well as the recipients of the Don Carlos L. Locsin Award and the Philsutech Outstanding Members Awards, are still open.

Named in honor of Don Carlos L. Locsin, the co-founder and first president of Philsutech, the award was started in FY 1991-92.

It is conferred on persons who have distinguished themselves through outstanding achievements in sugar business management, sugar economics, education, scientific and technical research, development and innovation in sugar processing technology, and other very significant contribution towards the promotion of the interest and general well-being of the Philippine Sugar Industry.

On the other hand, the Outstanding Member Award aims to recognize members who have made exceptional contributions in their specific fields of expertise in the sugar industry.

Such fields of expertise should be in the five Philsutech technical divisions, namely:

1. Agriculture and Farm Engineering
2. Factory Engineering
3. Process
4. Bio-Energy and Environmental Management
5. Management

Every year, one awardee will be chosen for each of the five divisions.

The general criteria for the nominees are:

1. Should be an active Philsutech member (at least three consecutive years) from the date of nomination
2. Has served as lecturer, trainor or speaker on any

sugar industry-related topics

3. Has demonstrated a broad knowledge of his field and enhanced the same through various research and innovations
4. With excellent contribution to the sugar industry in his field of expertise
5. Has developed and introduced new method or process that protects the workers' condition and the environment (except for Management Division)

Each division has a separate set of specific criteria, a copy of which can be secured from the Philsutech Secretariat.

Companies and organizations in the industry can submit at least one nominee, from among their employees or members, for each of the five divisions.

For your nominations and/or further information, please contact the PHILSUTECH SECRETARIAT at Telefax (034) 434-3013 / 4348127, Tel. No. (034) 434-1591 or email [philsutech@gmail.com](mailto:philsutech@gmail.com).

### OBITUARY (+)

The Philsutech Board of Directors and Officers offer our deepest condolences and sincere prayers to the family of the late Philsutech Past President Ricardo Leon Echaus, former Resident Manager of First Farmers Holding, who passed away last February 18, 2020.

We also offer our sympathy and prayers to the family of former Philsutech Vice-President & Director Mario Oliveros, former manager of Biscom, who recently passed away in the US.

### ANNOUNCEMENT



LINLEY A. RETIRADO, Philsutech Past President in FY 2012-2013 and presently the Chief Manufacturing Officer of Victorias Milling Company, was appointed as the Overall Convention Chairman of the 67th PHILSUTECH Annual National Convention.

However, due to the cancellation of this year's convention, Retirado will still serve as Convention Chairman for the Philsutech Annual National Convention next year, 2021.

The Philsutech Board of Directors thanks Victorias Milling Company, for throwing its full support behind Retirado's chairmanship and for the convention.

### NOTICE OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To All PHILSUTECH Members:

Notice is hereby given that the General Membership Meeting of the Philippine Sugar Technologists Association (PHILSUTECH), Inc. will be held on August 28, 2020, 9:30 am, at the Philsutech Building, Bacolod City, Philippines to transact PHILSUTECH business matters.

The meeting will be conducted virtually. Moreover, members can register their attendance via proxy.

**HAYDEE VILLANUEVA – RIVERA**  
Corporate Secretary



**Twenty-one participants ...from page 1**

He shared that, due to lack of manpower, they needed to mechanize some of their operations, and he also emphasized the need for soil analysis to rationalize and maximize the use of fertilizer.

Next stop was at San Jose Sugar Development Corporation, where Joemarie R. Valmayor expounded on the advantages of using a cultivator for deeper penetration and for prevention of the growth of weeds.

The afternoon's activity started with a presentation by Atty. Ignacio Santillana of the Sugar Regulatory Administration on updates on the implementation of the Sugarcane Industry Development Act, particularly on the block farming program.

The group then proceeded to Menchaca Farms,

where the farm overseer shared cultural practices, such as trash farming, ratooning and proper application of fertilizer.

Capping the day was a presentation by Ms .Haydee Villariez of the Philippine Sugarcane Research Institute on "Ratooning Capability of Recently Released Philsurin HYVs".

On the way back to Bacolod on February 7, the group stopped for a sight-seeing tour at the Lion's Viewing Deck in Don Salvador Benedicto.

The Farm Tour is a project of the Philsutech Agriculture & Farm Engineering Division headed by Vice-Pres. & Dir. Joseph John G. Ledesma and Dir. Joemarie R. Valmayor.



*Armando Valmayor narrates how he trimmed down his family's sugarcane farm by choosing and concentrating only on the most productive areas.*



*The Valmayor Family's private chapel served as lecture room for the participants.*



## Twenty-one participants ...from page 7



Miss Haydee Villariez of the Philippine Sugarcane Research Institute (Philsurin) reports on the "Ratooning Capability of Recently Released Philsurin HYVs".



The overseer of Menchaca Farms (standing left), with farm owner and former Calatrava Mayor Alfonso "Boy" Baguio, shares cultural practices, such as trash farming, ratooning and proper application of fertilizer.



Atty. Ignacio Santillana of the Sugar Regulatory Administration gives updates on the implementation of the Sugarcane Industry Development Act projects.



Joemarie Valmayor, Director for Agriculture & Farm Engineering Division and manager of San Jose Sugar Development Corporation, expounds on the advantages of using a cultivator for deeper penetration and for prevention of the growth of weeds.



On the way back to Bacolod, the group stopped for a sight-seeing tour at the Lion's Viewing Deck in Don Salvador Benedicto.



Philsutech Agriculture & Farm Engineering Division Vice-Pres. & Dir. Joseph John G. Ledesma (front, 4th from left) is flanked by Bukidnon Independent Planters Assn. manager Reneto Maestre (left) and president Rodolfo T. Celestial, together with their other association members and Philsutech staff Rosanna Galanza (back row, left).