Merry Christmas & a Prosperous New Year!

PHILSUTECH NEWSLETTER

PHILSUTECH Bldg., Magsaysay Avenue, Bacolod City, Philippines | July - December 2018 Vol. XX • No. 17

"Mechanize, use P2B SIDA funds"

Sen. Villar urges delegates at 65th Philsutech Annual National Convention

Sen. Cynthia Villar delivers her keynote address during the 65th Philsutech Annual National Convention at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City last August 16.

"When we talk of change and improvement, farm mechanization plays a big part. Mechanization and how the industry can use it to be competitive in the global market should always be a priority. It will help solve many of the problems encountered by the industry brought about by low production, lack of manual labor, and outdated farming practices."

Thus said Sen. Cynthia Villar in her keynote address last August 16 during the 65th Philsutech Annual National Convention with the theme "PHILSUTECH: Celebrating 65 Years of Service to the Sugarcane Industry" at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City.

She cited that the country started mechanization efforts only five years ago, while other Asian countries started in the 1970s. The country's level of mechanization is at 1.23 horsepower per hectare (hp/ha). Japan is at 18.87 hp/ha, Korea at 9.38, and Thailand at 4.20 hp/ha.

"We hope to bring the country's mechanization level to 3 or 3.5 hp/ha. Mechanization can significantly bring down the cost of labor," said Villar, who chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food.

"Don't fear that you will lose your jobs if the industry mechanizes. That's a wrong way of thinking. Those equipment and mechanized procedures/process will increase your production and help you become more competitive and profitable," she emphasized.

The reelectionist senator also encouraged the delegates and concerned government agencies to fully utilize the benefits for the industry under the Sugar

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Declaration of Convention Opening

Wilfredo B. Visenio

Overall Convention Chairman

VP & Dir. Wilfredo Visenio
Overall Convention Chairman

Sixty-five years! During these 65 years, the sugarcane industry has endured a lot of major challenges… from adapting to more sustainable farming techniques, or development and distribution of high yielding varieties of sugarcane, to the more recent challenges, like the threat of substitute sweeteners.

The sugarcane industry has prevailed on most of these challenges, of course, with the guidance from some of our pillars in the industry, most of whom are here with us right now. Thank you. There are still major challenges, like climate change and scarcity of harvesting capability but has been proven in the past, the sugarcane industry will endure all these challenges.

Thus, the Board of Directors decided to adopt this year's theme "PHILSUTECH: Celebrating 65 Years of Service to the Sugarcane Industry". As this year's theme suggests, you can expect all the days of the convention to be a great mix of celebration of great service to the industry, and continual service for this year and the years to come.

There will be plenary sessions later this afternoon. We have more than 120 product and service exhibits strategically located around this venue. We have 40 technical presentations scheduled for tomorrow. All of these will provide us with significant information and update us with the current technologies applicable to the sugarcane industry. These activities were carefully selected by the Board to support the industry to be more sustainable.

There will also be times to celebrate. Yesterday, we recognized our business partners who have supported the industry for many years. We will also acknowledge deserving individuals giving service to the industry. And of course, we will give honor to the industry leaders who have guided Philsutech all these years.

By virtue of the power vested in me, I hereby declare the 65th Philsutech Annual National Convention open!

PHILSUTECH NEWSLETTER

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Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019

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The PHILSUTECH NEWSLETTER is a semi-annual publication published by:
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Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri

Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri on challenges in the sugar industry

My job is to introduce this fascinating person but, before I do that, you should know what had happened to us in the Senate in the last year. Challenges on the sugar industry were one of its toughest last year. We almost lost our industry to the unabated importation of high fructose corn syrup. I want you all to know that this person who chairs the Committee on Agriculture, Senator Cynthia Villar gave us the political venue to fight the heavy importation of HFCS.

When my father, together with the Sugar Alliance, visited the President and made an appeal to stop the importation of HFCS, our beloved President there and then instructed the former SRA Administrator to come up with Sugar Order No. 3 to restrict the importation of HFCS. We had won that battle!

But we're fighting a war. We're fighting small, little battles but we have not yet won the war, because there are challenges to come for the sugar industry.

The next battle was in the passage of the TRAIN Law. That was the most crucial battle! There was a move to put HFCS at par with Philippine made sugar. There was one crucial vote done on the floor, wherein one Senate member proposed to lower the excise tax of sugar-based products to P3.00, but the plan was to also lower HFCS excise tax to P3.00.

Sabi ko, malabo yon. If we did that, many of us will be out of business because, if that happens, alam naman po natin, napakamura ng HFCS, at par pa with sugar, then we will be flooded with HFCS.

We fought that proposal, and I want you to know who the senators are who really supported us here. First of all, one of them is one of us today… Sen. Cynthia Villar! It was a very crucial vote because we were actually tied. Those who voted with us were Senators Sonny Angara, chairman of the Ways & Means Committee. Also, Senator JV Ejercito. Since his mother is from Negros, he is also very supportive of the sugar industry.

Sen. Nancy Binay was also a supporter of the group, as well as Sen. Win Gatchalian, who owns this hotel. Our appreciation goes also to Sen. Joel Villanueva, who is from Bulacan and lives in proximity to sugar-producing areas of Central Luzon. It was tied at 6-6, but we gained the upper hand when the Presiding Officer, Sen. Coco Pimentel, voted with us. So let us not forget Sen. Coco Pimentel for supporting the sugar industry.

And that was just one battle, until we ended up in the bicam. Even in the bicam, we had to fend off again the proposals from the House of Representatives to make HFCS at par with sugar.

We had to stand our ground. We had several meetings with the members of the Sugar Alliance, the millers and the SRA to devise a strategy in talking to the members of the bicam, so that they will accede to support the sugar industry. I'm glad to say that we did not back down and we won that fight.

That's why today, the sugar industry has been enjoying a bit of respite from low prices. Noon, masyado mababa ang prices. Ngayon, sobra na kataas, kag ang problema naton naga complain na ang mga consumers. But that's another story for another time. My point is, you have supporters in the Senate when it comes to the fight for the survival of the sugar industry.

We still have challenges but I'll not take long, because the real star here is our Chair of the Committee on Agriculture. Some of the challenges are the suspension and implementation of the Biofuels Law. We cannot agree to that because, instead of moving forward, we are moving backward. So again, you can count on the support of Migz Zubiri and Cynthia Villar for that.

The others is TRAIN 2, TRAIN 3, TRAIN 4. We have to watch out for these TRAINs. All of us agree to lower the corporate income tax from 30% to 25%. Waay gid ta ya debate dira. We are fully supportive of that.

But when it comes to the removal of incentives, because even cooperatives might be affected, because they want to rationalize incentives... Under the Cooperative Code, you all have incentives, because almost 90% of you here are already cooperatives. So we have to make sure na ara kami da gabantay, to keep protecting your coops from losing their incentives!

Speech of Senator Cynthia Villar

65th PHILSUTECH Annual National Convention

Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City (August 16, 2018)

The sugarcane industry has a soft spot in my heart. Among my very first legislative accomplishments, as a senator and chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Food, is the passage of the Sugar Industry Development Act (RA No. 10659), "an act promoting and supporting the competitiveness of the sugarcane industry and for other purposes".

Until now, I am monitoring its efficient implementation to ensure that its provisions are really benefitting the intended beneficiaries— the sugarcane farmers, workers, millers, suppliers and other industry players.

Even in the past, as chairperson of the agriculture committee, it has always been my priority to set the industry right, hasten its growth and development, ultimately help sugarcane stakeholders and other industry players, including sugar technologists like yourselves.

Moreover, even in the past, I have often emphasized that the sugar industry is one of the most orderly industries in the agriculture sector. I always proudly mention that in the events and hearings I attend. I hope this has not changed.

When we talk of change and improvement, farm mechanization really plays a big part. Mechanization and how the industry can use it to be competitive in the global market should always be a priority. It will help solve many of the problems encountered by the industry brought about by low production, lack of manual labor, and outdated farming practices.

I am a staunch supporter of incorporating research and development (R&D) in the agriculture sector, which will also help improve agricultural mechanization efforts, especially since I learned that two of the barriers confronting farmers, fisherfolks and agricultural workers are lack of technical expertise and mechanization.

Together with various government departments/ agencies and organizations, we should focus on working together towards breaking down those barriers.

We started late in our mechanization efforts, only five years ago, while our Asian neighbors started mechanizing their farms in the 1970s. We have a lot of catching up to do. Data show that the Philippines lags behind its regional neighbors in farm mechanization.

According to the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), the country's level of mechanization is at 1.23 horsepower per hectare (hp/ha). Japan was at 18.87 hp/ha, Korea at 9.38, and Thailand at 4.20 hp/ha. The DA and PhilMech are hoping to bring the country's mechanization level to 3 or 3.5 hp/ha. Mechanization can significantly bring down the cost of labor.

Don't fear that you will lose your jobs if the industry mechanizes. That's a wrong way of thinking. Those equipment and mechanized procedures/ process will increase your production and help you become more competitive and profitable.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Mechanization

Law or AFMECH helps promote the development and adoption of modern, appropriate, cost-effective and environmentally safe agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment to enhance farm productivity and efficiency to achieve food security and increase farmers' income.

Under the SIDA' Farm Mechanization Program, "planters/farmers of sugarcane farms, including block farms and farms of agrarian reform beneficiaries, shall be encouraged and trained to utilize appropriate agricultural machineries and equipment necessary for the efficient planting, cultivation, care and maintenance, harvesting and handling of sugarcane".

What's important beyond the purchase of machineries is that the famers should know how to operate them. The law mandates SRA to conduct R&D, as well as extension program for sugarcane farm mechanization and engineering.

Those provisions are clear in the SIDA. We have also included a socialized credit facility for the farm mechanization program that is managed by Land Bank. Fifteen percent (15%) of the PhP2 billion allocated for the sugar industry development is for socialized credit, under the farm support and farm mechanization programs.

Besides lack of mechanization and technical expertise, lack of access to cheap or socialized credit is another barrier blocking the competitiveness of Filipino farmers.

The SRA and Land Bank, in compliance with SIDA provisions, have signed a MOA to implement the Socialized Credit Facility (SCF) for SRA-registered sugarcane farmers, block farms, and planters' cooperatives, associations, federations, and Common Service Providers. It will be used for the acquisition of production inputs, farm machineries, and implements necessary for the continuous production of sugarcane.

One thing more I want to emphasize about SIDA is the PhP2 billion allocation under the law. Make sure that you are utilizing the full amount. Don't underspend, or else the Department of Budget and Management might reduce your allocation in the coming years. Use it to further develop the industry; there are plenty of things where you can allocate the funds.

We in government are doing everything for the good of the sugar industry, more so for the benefit of the sugarcane farmers. We are helping you, so that you can also help our countrymen, particularly the consumers. Many consumers are complaining about the increase in prices of sugar and related products.

On your end, we expect all of you to cooperate and be united in taking care of the industry you belong to. If necessary, police your own ranks. I also entrust the SRA to strictly implement its mandate and/or policies, because we have heard that there is a cartel in the sugar industry. In the end, it will be disadvantageous to you all.

My priority has always been to uphold the welfare of farmers, who remain one of the poorest sectors in our country. This includes protecting them from unscrupulous traders and cartel.

Let us also not lose sight of our main goal—to boost the growth and development of the Philippine agriculture sector and, above all, improve the plight of farmers. Those have always been my key objectives in all the legislations I have pursued and passed, including the SIDA. These laws are for you, farmers. You should utilize the benefits of these laws so that you will become successful and you can get out of poverty.

Our concerted efforts and collaboration are crucial in ensuring the further growth and development of the sugarcane industry. I am glad that PHILSUTECH is very participative in ensuring the sustainability and competitiveness of the industry. Let us continue working together to realize our shared goals for our country and countrymen.

SRA Administrator Hermenegildo R. Serafica's Report

65th Philsutech National Convention (Cebu City, August 15, 2018)

SRA Administrator Engr. Hermenegildo R. Serafica

This crop year is quite a challenging one. First challenge is the drop in production, brought about by unfavorable weather conditions. Continuous rain occurred all over the country towards the end of the season and we are confronted with the shortage of manual labor, thus delaying harvests.

Since there was so much delay in harvesting, the mills were running inefficiently due to poor cane quality and erratic cane deliveries that resulted to low sugar recoveries. Also, there was shrinkage in sugarcane planted area due to modernization and shift to other more lucrative crops.

These resulted to an overall drop of our sugar production by 16.7%. As of Aug 14, 2018 weekending report, our sugar production is only 2.08 million metric tons compared to 2.5 million mt of the same period last year. It is most unfortunate that 25 out of the 27 operating sugar mills recorded a decline in sugar production.

On the demand side, it seems that fate has turned the industry upside down. Last season, we produced 2.5 million mt of sugar, which was more than what our local market could absorb.

Unexpectedly, due to the effect of the TRAIN law to sugar sweetened beverages, the demand for bottler's grade sugar had spiked. One bottlers' company shipped out all their pre-contracted HFCS, while another had to apply for re-classification of their expired HFCS shipment to have it destroyed. With HFCS now unattractive to the bottlers, there is a clamor for local refined sugar and a surge in sugar prices.

The farmgate prices of sugar started at a composite price of P1,271 / LKG in September 2017. Towards the end of 2017, it dropped to an unprofitable level of P1,173/LKG in November 2017. This July 2018, we ended at P1,954/LKG.

Although the average composite prices of CY 2017-18 and CY 2016-17 are comparable at P1,488/LKG and P1,430/LKG, respectively, the price this season did not benefit majority of the planters, especially the small ones, because the spike in prices occurred at the end of the season, where only a small volume of sugar was being traded.

To mitigate the rising price of sugar and to augment the sugar supply, the Sugar Board issued Sugar Order No. 9, which allowed for 56,000 Metric tons of "D" sugar conversion to "B" sugar to make more sugar available to the domestic market.

The Sugar Board also approved Sugar Order No. 10 providing for a sugar import program to cover the gap in the

shortfall in production and to arrest rising domestic prices. This importation is only until August 31, 2018, since by September 1, 2018 we shall commence with another milling season, CY 2018-19.

Under the program, a maximum importation of 200,000 mt was allowed, broken down into 100,000 mt for bottlers' grade, 50,000 mt for standard grade and 50,000 raw sugar. As of August 15, 2018, the total volume imported are: 59,000 mt bottlers' grade, 23,000 mt of standard grade and 27,000 mt raw sugar.

On the bioethanol program, which uses molasses and sugarcane as feedstocks, we have an additional bioethanol distillery running this year with an annual rated capacity of 66 million liters, giving us a total annual rated capacity of 348 million liters from 11 bioethanol facilities.

Three of them are registered and designed to use sugarcane as feedstock, namely the San Carlos Bioenergy, which is the pioneer among the fuel ethanol distilleries, the Green Future Innovations of Isabela, and the Balayan distillery of Progreen Agricorp, which has the largest rated capacity among the eleven distilleries.

Eight of our sugar mills and two bioethanol distilleries were registered with the Department of Energy as biomass-based power generators, with a total installed capacity of 264 MW. At least six of them are currently selling power to the grid.

Currently, our bioethanol program is being challenged. There are talks of suspending the program. Let us support the bioethanol sector, because they are part of our industry, our family. I was born and raised in this industry, I consider you all my family. Rest assured that SRA will do its part in protecting the stakeholders of this industry.

Under the Sugarcane Industry Development Act of 2015, we have five mandated programs with mandated appropriations of at least P2 billion pesos annually, namely block farm, socialized credit, scholarship, infrastructure and research, development and extension programs. All these programs are geared towards increasing productivity while reducing cost of production.

There are 4,722 enrollees of the block farm program under SIDA, consolidated into 163 block farms and covering around 6,700 hectares, and still more block farms are being organized. These block farms can avail of start-up capital for fertilizers, canepoints, land preparation and cultivation. They are also prioritized for farm to mill road projects.

SRA has transferred P324 million to Landbank for the socialized credit program. Small farmers can avail of the lowest interest of 2% per annum for sugarcane production inputs, while common service providers can avail of 6.5% interest per annum.

I urge planters associations, coops and MDDCs to become service providers for your members so you can help your members to be more productive. Farm mechanization is the only way to go, especially with the scarcity of farm workers. We have to be innovative to lower our cost of production to ensure profitability that is fair to consumers.

From 2016 to 2018, we have a total of 128 farm-to-mill road projects with a total of 133 kilometers. Our FMRs are 12 inches thick and a minimum of 5 meters wide.

For the scholarship program, we have of 526 scholars taking up degrees relevant to the sugarcane industry, such as Agriculture, Engineering, Chemistry, Sugar Technology, Microbiology and Biotechnology. We have also conducted TESDA skills training for 2,204 beneficiaries.

The RDE program provides funding for researches that would be of significance to the sugarcane industry, such as HYVs. The 99-1793 is a very good ratooner, as in the case of Lopez MDDC which is now on its 9th ratoon and still produces 80 tons per hectare!

SRA exerted efforts on establishing a more accurate crop modeling system, which is a major agenda that Agriculture Sec. Manny Piñol supported, so that we can have a more accurate figure that is the basis for Sugar Order No. 1 – our production allocation policy.

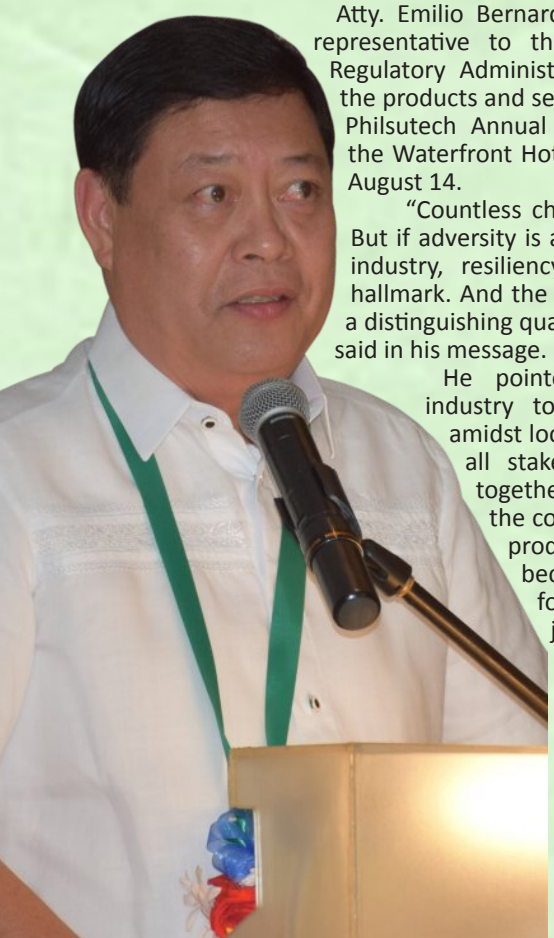
SRA is now looking for aerial surveyors to do the high resolution imaging of our plantations, so that we can establish the exact hectarage planted with sugarcane. Combined with weather forecasts, ground validations and, most especially your inputs, hopefully SRA will have accurate sugar production figures for CY 2018-2019 allocation.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize the role of the MDDC in organizing stakeholders and availing of government funding under SIDA. The MDDC is recognized by SIDA as the conduit for extension services, and grants MDDCs the authority to endorse projects and programs for their mill district.

The sugarcane industry is touted as the most organized agricultural industry in the country. We have weathered many storms and challenges. It is my fervent hope that we can continue to stand together as one, and work towards further strengthening our industry. Together, let us all move towards greater productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of the Philippine sugarcane industry.

SRA Board Member Atty. Emilio Bernardino Yulo III (3rd from left) leads the formal opening of the product exhibits last August 14 for the 65th Philsutech Annual National Assembly at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City. Assisting him in the ribbon-cutting rites are (L-R) Philsutech President Dean L. Guevarra, Overall Convention Chairman Wilfred B. Visenio, Pearly G. Guevarra, Friene C. Jugno and Chairman of the Board Danilo B. Jugno.

SRA Board Member Yulo opens Philsutech products exhibit



Atty. Emilio Bernardino L. Yulo III, planters representative to the Board of the Sugar Regulatory Administration, formally opened the products and services exhibit of the 65th Philsutech Annual National Convention at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City last August 14.

"Countless challenges we have faced. But if adversity is a trademark of the sugar industry, resiliency is its most enduring hallmark. And the ability to bounce back is a distinguishing quality of the industry," Yulo said in his message.

He pointed out that, for the industry to be more competitive amidst local and global challenges, all stakeholders have to work together, for Philsutech to act as the conduit to enable both the producers and the millers to become more efficient, and for all the stakeholders to join hands to ensure more favorable government policies.

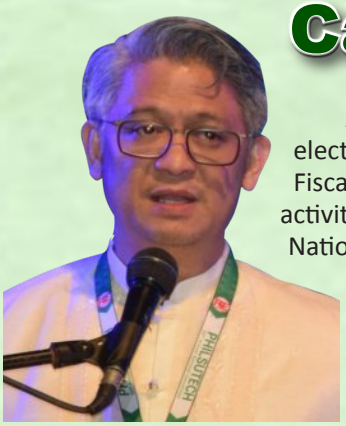
"These we need to do, not only for the thousands of sugar farmers but, more importantly, for the millions of Filipinos whose lives depend upon the sugar industry," Yulo stressed.

With the theme "PHILSUTECH: Celebrating 65 Years of Service to the Sugarcane Industry", the yearly event regularly features an exhibit of the latest and most innovative products and services which can benefit the various stakeholders of the sugarcane industry.

More than 120 exhibitors, both locally and from other sugar-producing countries, participated in the exhibit. The products ranged from tractors, farm equipment and machineries, fertilizer and other farm inputs, as well as mill and distillery equipment and machineries.

SRA Board Member Atty. Dino Yulo receives the plaque and token of appreciation as guest speaker during the opening of exhibits from Overall Convention Chairman Wilfredo Visenio, Board Chairman Danilo Jugno (left) and President Dean Guevarra.

Carranza is new Philsutech prexy



Atty. Domingo Lazaro Caranza was elected as the Philsutech president fof Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 during the closing activity of the 65th Philsutech Annual National Convention at Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City last August 17.

He is the Human Resource Director of URC Sugar and Renewables Group. Before enlisting with the URC group, he has worked with multinational corporations, such as DOLE, Del Monte, Nestle and Coca-Cola.

He admitted that he is a newbie to the industry, having joined the sugar industry and having attended the Philsutech convention for only three years. He asked for the help of his fellow officers and other seasoned officers and members in making his term a success, in terms of contributing to the growth of Philsutech.

The other elected officers for FY 2018-19 are Directors Damaso T. Agudelo, Jr. (Bio-energy & Environmental Management), Joseph A. Penuela (Factory Engineering), Gigi F. Hofileña (Process), Neil Andrew C. Cortez (Management) and John Joseph G. Ledesma (Agriculture & Farm Engineering).

Serving their second year as Vice-President and Director are Ramil A. Paig (Factory Engineering), Karl Joseph B. Gibe (Agriculture & Farm Engineering), Ferdinand B. Masi (Bio-energy & Environmental Management) and Emma A. Abueva (Process).

Immediate Past President Dean L. Guevarra assumes as Chairman of the Board of Directors, while Danilo G. Villanueva and Haydee V. Rivera are still the Treasurer and Corporate Secretary & Administrative Manager, respectively.

Chairman of the Board Danilo Jugno

President Dean Guevarra

Overall Convention Chairman Wilfredo Visenio

Committee on Academe Chair Gina Cuenca

Trust Fund Committee Chairman PP Terrence Uygongco

Nomination and Election Committee Member PP Primitivo Rivera

Board of Canvasser Giovanni Kilayko

Best Tech Paper Award Committee Chair Jocelyn Sorrilla

BOD FY 2017-2018

Corp. Sec. & Admin Manager Haydee V. Rivera facilitates the meeting of the new set of officers.

The new set of officers takes their oath of office administered by PP Mario Palma.

Entrance of Philsutech Officers, Past Pre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UNIFED President Manuel R. Lamata


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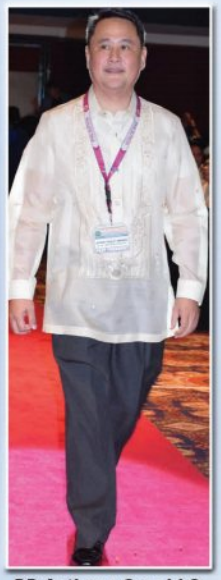
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VP & Dir. Gerardo G. Lopez


Vice Chairperson Susan C. Urbanozo


Atty. Emilio Bernardino L. Yulo III, BOD Chair Mario G. Palma and Board Member Atty. Roland Beltran


PP. Danilo B. Jugno


VP & Dir & Overall Convention Chairman Wilfredo B. Visenio & Board Member Miguel Antonio Magpale


President Dean L. Guevarra

Development of Sustainable Sugarcane Cultivation System in the Philippines

Toshihiko Anzai1), Shinkichi Goto2), Shotaro Ando2), Arlene C. Matti3), Ma Lourdes I. Dormido3), Atty Ignacio S. Santillana3)

1) Japan International Research Center for agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
2) Tropical Agricultural Research Front (TARF), JIRCAS
3) Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)

Introduction

Nitrogen fertilizer is essential to achieve a high yield of sugarcane. However, inappropriate management of nitrogen fertilizer leads to nitrogen fertilizer loss by nitrogen leaching and subsequent nitrogen pollution of groundwater. In rural areas of Negros Island, the public water supply has been inadequate, and residents sometimes use groundwater as a source of drinking water.

Rural houses and wells are surrounded by sugarcane fields. There is a significant likelihood that groundwater is contaminated with nitrogen leached from sugarcane fields. In addition, excessive application of nitrogen fertilizer leads to increase in emission of N2O gas from farmlands. N2O gas is 200 to 300 times more effective in trapping heat than CO2.

Anzai et al. (2017a) conducted a survey of sugarcane farmers on Negros Island to determine the actual state of nitrogen fertilizer application. The result showed that the application rate during the cultivation period at many farms exceeded the maximum standard rate developed by the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA).

A relationship between the nitrogen application rate during the cultivation period and the sugarcane yield in new planting was not observed. Therefore, more nitrogen application rate did not lead to higher yield of sugarcane.

Many farmers applied an excessive amount of nitrogen during the early growth stage of sugarcane. A relationship between the nitrogen applied during the early growth stage of sugarcane and the yield in new planting was not observed.

Anzai et al. (2017b) estimated the nitrogen use efficiency of chemical fertilizer applied as first application to sugarcane immediately after planting and nitrogen leaching during the early growth stage by the 15N tracer technique and observations on leaching in a farmer's field using typical fertilization practices.

The results show fertilizer use efficiency of nitrogen of the first application was 3.8% at three months after planting, but the yield was not significantly different from average yield on Negros Island.

High concentration of nitrate nitrogen from fertilizer was observed, not only in the surface soil layer, where the sugarcane root developed, but also in deeper soil layers, where sugarcane could not absorb the nutrient sufficiently during early growth stage.

A lower amount of nitrate nitrogen remained in the cultivation soil from nine to 10 weeks after fertilizer application. Most of the nitrogen applied in the early growth stage was not absorbed by sugarcane, and nitrogen leached to the deeper soil layer in the early growth stage under the current fertilization timing.

To decrease the nitrogen load to groundwater from sugarcane cultivation fields, it is necessary to develop an appropriate fertilizer application management system that results in a reduced loss of nitrogen fertilizer and increased fertilizer use efficiency.

Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) and SRA have started the collaborative project "Development of the Sustainable Sugarcane Cultivation System in the Philippines" in 2016. In the project, we focused on nitrogen application rate and nitrogen application timing of the first application, cultivation experiments, environmental assessment, and simulation by models have been conducted.

Materials and Methods

The experiments have been carried out since July 2016. Plain areas were selected as experiment field, and we set two experiment fields in a farmer's field in Bago City (Field A) and Sagay City (Field B), Negros Occidental, Philippines. The soil type was loam and clay at Field A and B, respectively. The recommendation rate of nitrogen in both fields was 174 kg ha-1, which was based on SRA soil analysis.

We conducted a cultivation experiment under different fertilizer application management during the initial growth stage of new planting, and observed leaching of fertilizer using dielectric moisture and salinity sensors. Six treatments (T1 to T6) and four treatments (T7 to T10) were arranged at Field A and B, respectively. The sugarcane variety used at both fields was PHIL99-1793.

Nitrogen was applied immediately after planting in T1, 30 days after planting in T2, T4, T7, and T8, and 60 days after planting in T3. Nitrogen application rate at first application timing reduced to half and zero in T4 and T8, and T5 and T9, respectively. The recommendation rate of phosphorus and potassium was applied in all treatments. The replication was four and the plots were set as randomized block design.

Yield monitoring was conducted in July 2017. Analysis of sugar purity was conducted by SRA La Granja Agriculture Research and Extension Center. To observe the leaching of nutrient derived from fertilizer, dielectric moisture sensors (GS3, Meter Group, Inc.) were installed at five depths (5, 15, 25, 40, 60 cm from surface) in T1, T2, T4, and T6.

Yield of sugarcane in new planting year

In new planting, there was no significant difference in sugarcane yield and sugar content among treatment in each field. Reduction of nitrogen application rate and change of application timing did not lead to yield reduction and low sugar content in new planting.

The results show that sugarcane yield became high in the case of reduction of nitrogen application rate (zero nitrogen in the first application (T5 and T9)) and half of nitrogen in the first application (T4 and T8)). However, there are possibilities that reduction of nitrogen application affects sugarcane growth and yield in ratoon cultivation. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the sustainable fertilizer application not only in new plant but likewise its effect on ratoon cane yield.

Leaching observation by G3 sensors

In T1, leaching of nutrient from surface layer to 40cm depth was observed, as follows:

1) As water content at 5 cm depth increased, EC at 5 cm depth sharply increased from 29 July due to leaching of nutrient, which was derived from fertilizer, from surface soil layer with downward water flow after rainfall.
2) As EC at 5 cm depth sharply decreased from 6 August, EC at 15 cm depth significantly increased. These results were considered that nutrient existing at 5 cm depth moved to 15 cm depth due to leaching with downward water flow after rainfall.
3) After increasing of EC at 15 cm, EC at 25 cm began to increase. While increase and decrease of EC occurred at 5 and 15 cm depth until early September, EC at 25 cm depth kept increasing moderately. These results showed that nutrient leaching from surface soil layer to 25 cm depth occurred with rainfall.
4) EC at 5 and 15 cm depth began to decrease at first. Then, as EC at 25 cm decreased, EC at 40 cm depth increased. Finally, EC at 5, 15, and 25 cm depth decreased up to same degree as EC values before fertilizer application. Although increase of EC at 60 cm depth was not observed, leaching of nutrient from surface soil layer due to

Competitiveness and Opportunity of Thai Sugar Industry

By Dr. Pipat Weerathaworn,
Thai Society of Sugar and Cane Technologists

Thailand is the fourth top sugarcane producer in the world, producing a record-breaking 135 million tons cane in Crop Year 2017-2018.

However, higher cane supply translates to lower cane price, as the price dropped from β1,050 (PhP1,665) per ton in CY 2016-17 (when cane production stood at only 93 million tons) to only β880 (PhP1,396) per ton in CY 2017-18.

As of 2017, Thailand's cane area spanned 1.76 million hectares, mostly in the north-east, north and central parts of the country. The industry targets cane production of 180 million tons by 2026.

While the industry has strong potentials, it is reliant on exports, which amounted to 74% of sugar production in CY 2015-16. In CY 2016-17, it exported 7.5 million tons of sugar, making it the world's second largest exporter next to Brazil with 28.5 million tons.

In Asia, Thailand is the biggest exporter of centrifugal sugar. Its biggest buyer is Indonesia, which imported 1.8 million tons of Thai sugar in 2013 and up to 2.5 million tons in 2016. Other major countries which buy Thai sugar are Cambodia, Japan, China, Taiwan, South Korea and Malaysia.

In terms of total cane production and area planted with canes, Thailand trails Brazil by a large margin but, in terms of yield in tons cane per hectare, Thailand enjoys a slight edge over Brazil and is just slightly behind Australia.

The Thai sugar industry also faces challenges, such as the proposed sugar tax to discourage sugar consumption. Studies show that 16 million Thais (4.7 million males and 11.3 million females) are overweight.

Moreover, the industry is going on a new direction. From its diversification into power and steam, ethanol, fertilizers and animal feeds, the industry is aiming to expand into bio-plastic, bio-chemical, yeast, yeast specialties, food and feed additive, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

The Thai government is taking steps to attract investments in targeted industries. Under the First S-Curve, the priorities were next generation automotive, smart electronics, affluent medial and wellness tourism, agriculture and biotechnology, and food self-sufficiency.

The New S-Curve levels up towards robotics, medical hub, aviation logistics, digital technology and biofuels / bio-chemicals.

A group called the D5 was formed to develop superclusters and the New S-Curve industries, together with the First S-Curve industries. The D5 group's objective is to develop the 10 key industries in the First S-Curve and the New S-Curve into Thailand's new growth engine.

The strategy towards developing the bio-economy value chain is to employ smart farming technologies, which will be assisted by the Bio-One-Stop Facilitation Service. The agricultural products will undergo value-added processing in the integrated bio-refinery industrial estate, which will also be supported by the Bio-economy Research and Development Center.

Thailand's bio-based industry will be centered in Nakhon Sawan Province (Sugar Biocomplex producing ethanol, electricity, lactic acid and bio-succinic acid), Kaphaeng Phet Province (Bioeconomy Complex producing electricity, functional sugar, yeast extract and beta-glucan), and Khon Kaen Province (smart farming, integrated biorefinery industrial estate, bioeconomy R&D center, NE-EC one-stop facilitation service, and center).

Another center for the bio-based industry is the Eastern Economic Corridor in Chunburi Province (Palm Biocomplex producing biodiesel / glycerin, surfactants (APG) and vitamins) and in Rayong Province (PLA & PBS, dialysis solution and EECi).

The sugar diversification efforts will focus on biofuels and bio-chemicals and materials, as well as food ingredient, animal feeds and biomedicine.

In biofuels, molasses comprises more than 60% of the overall feedstock for ethanol and gasohol production. Cassava comprises around 30%, with sugarcane juice comprising just a small fraction. Considering that the domestic consumption of gasohol is steadily increasing, there is plenty of room for expansion of sugarcane juice as feedstock.

The industry can also expand into bioplastics production, which is presently spearheaded by the Plastics Insitute of Thailand. The institute has designed biodegradable ice cream spoons, food trays, knives and spoon cases. It has also designed products for agricultural use, such as biodegradable nursery bags, plant pots and bags, and seed trays.

Looking forward, the Thai agriculture and agro-industry in general need to improve productivity and minimize cost of production. More focus should be given to upgraded processing and ingredients, as well as to more judicious cost-efficient management of the logistics and supply chain.

Moreover, the industry should emphasize adding value to its products, instead of relying solely on the primary products.

Thailand welcomes all bio-based businesses in identified sectors and locations in the country.

Development of Sustainable...from page 12

downward water flow after rainfall was established.

The fertilizer leached into deeper soil layers, and the soil solution concentration decreased to levels as low as before the first application one month before the second application. Results indicate that immediate application of fertilizer after planting (T1) might lead to leaching of nutrients into the soil, and a shortage of nutrients before the second application.

Conclusions

To determine the effect of different nitrogen fertilizer application on sugarcane yield and on leaching of nutrient during the early growth stage, sugarcane yield, sugar contents, and observations on leaching by using GS3 sensors in famer's field were conducted. The following results were obtained:

1) Reduction of nitrogen application rate and change of application timing did not lead yield reduction and low sugar content in new planting of sugarcane.
2) Leaching of soil solution from ground surface occurred immediately after fertilizer application when sugarcane was in initial growth stage.
3) Concentration of soil solution at surface soil layer decreased before second fertilizer application, when capability of nutrient absorption by sugarcane was expected to be high.

It is the first step toward sustainable fertilizer application to determine the actual state of fertilizer application by farmers in the whole county. It is required that SRA should determine the actual state of fertilizer application by farmers and take a collaborative approach with farmers to reduce nitrogen application rate and to apply nitrogen at an appropriate timing, considering characteristics of sugarcane growth.

The most important is that modified standard fertilization management can be actually used by farmers. SRA-JIRCAS collaborative research aims to develop sustainable fertilizer application to sugarcane.
(Note: For the full text of the study, please contact the PHILSUTECH Secretariat.)

After 135 Tons Cane in Thailand Sugar Industry

By Kitti Choonhawong, Thailand Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (TSSCT)

The LMC Sugar and Sweeteners Market Report estimated that, for the second year in a row, world sugar supply will outpace demand, with production at 194.2 million metric tons and consumption at 186.6 million mt for Crop Year 2018-19.

Thailand, the world's second largest sugar exporter next to Brazil and the fourth largest sugar producer, produced a record-setting 135 million mt canes and almost 15 million mt sugar for CY 2017-18. The country's previous largest cane output was 106 million mt in CY 2014-15, which dropped to 94 million mt and 93 million mt canes in CY 2015-16 and CY 2016-17, respectively.

The industry is composed of 364,708 growers' families, 33 cane growers associations and three millers associations. It employs 1.5 million workers in related businesses and industries, and generates US$6 billion yearly from local sales and export.

Sugarcane is farmed in only 7% of the country's agricultural land. Forty-seven percent is devoted to rice, 13% to rubber, 6% to cassava, 4% to corn, 3% to palm and 20% to other crops.

In terms of revenue per hectare, sugarcane is the third highest earning crop at US$2,114, followed by palm at US$2,422 and rubber at US$2,649 per hectare.

The Thailand sugar industry operates on a quota system, where the domestic price is fixed. The domestic price includes an add-on subsidy of β5 (PhP8) per kilo of sugar, which goes to the Sugar Fund, which the government uses to support the cane price.

Under the Sugarcane and Sugar Act, the Office of the Cane and Sugar Board, which is composed of government, growers and millers representatives, fixes the cane price. The fixed price includes the add-on subsidy. Proceeds from sugar and molasses are shared on a 70:30 ratio between the growers and the millers.

However, there are calls to change the old system. Under the proposed changes, the domestic price will no longer be fixed but will be governed by market forces. The domestic price will be benchmarked on the London No. 5 and Thai premium price, and the add-on subsidy will be abolished.

Aside from price volatility, the Thai sugar industry is also facing challenges on climate change and changing government policies. There are proposals to allow the production of ethanol from sugarcane juice, and this will necessitate the inclusion of ethanol with sugar and molasses in the profit-sharing.

To ensure sustainability, it has to increase cane production by supporting the growers with loan, irrigation and technology, improving cane varieties, and engaging in smart farming practices. The industry needs to diversify its products towards zero-waste, and create more value for its products, particularly in bio-based by-products.

Another problem is the large number of small growers who lack the capacity to mechanize and who often end up becoming workers of middle and large growers. While most small growers have high quality canes and high production, they are limited by lack of labor, transport, farm management skills, financing and crop competition from other food crops.

Government should support the small growers by providing them with small cane harvesters, farm machineries and equipment suited for their small landholdings. They should also be provided with a transloading station for ease of cane delivery to the mills. Moreover, they need soft crop loans, farm management training and, since income from their cane farms are not enough for their family needs, a secondary source of income.

Government should also increase the land area for cane by converting rice land into cane farms. The stable cane price at β1,000 (PhP1,586) per ton should encourage the small growers to increase the size of their cane farms, and the mills should buy every ton of cane produced by the small growers. Moreover, the Thailand Sugarcane Breeding Center should produce improved varieties for the small growers.

For 2017, Thailand's cane area stood at 1.57 million hectares, which produced 93 million mt canes and 10 million mt sugar, from an average yield of 59 tons per hectare. Under the sugar road map, the industry targets for 2024 an area of 2.88 million hectares, cane output of 210 million mt, sugar production of 21 million tons, and an average yield of 73 tons per hectare.

Average daily ethanol consumption has been increasing by an average of 6.33% annually since 2011. The industry is also diversifying from simple sugar to power and steam, ethanol and animal feeds in the second stage of improvement. For the third stage, the industry targets diversification into bio-plastics, bio-chemicals, yeast, food and feed additives, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics products.

65TH PHILSUTECH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
Golf Tournament Winners (Cebu Country Club - August 14, 2018)

Overall Champion (Lowest Gross) - MAX JAVELLONA (VIMACA Farmer's Assn)
Overall Champion (Lowest Net) - ROY QUIMA (Victorias Milling Company)

DIVISION A

Champion	PAOLO LOBREGAT - Crystal Sugar Company, Inc.
1st Runner-up	RONNIE LAUREL - EESI Material & Controls Corporation
2nd Runner-up	RAY ZAMORA - Spectrum Scientific Corporation

DIVISION B

Champion	MARLOWE LUGADOR - Victorias Milling Company, Inc.
1st Runner-up	RONNIE ALIDO - Gram Industrial
2nd Runner-up	LEE CHONG LEONG - Schneider Electric Asia Pte Ltd

DIVISION C

Champion	ARNEL AMPARO - URC - SURE
1st Runner-up	MAR IGNACIO - EESI Material & Controls Corporation
2nd Runner-up	CRIS CAPILI - Spectrum Scientific Corporation

DIVISION C

Champion	ARNEL AMPARO - URC - SURE
1st Runner-up	MAR IGNACIO - EESI Material & Controls Corporation
2nd Runner-up	CRIS CAPILI - Spectrum Scientific Corporation

Special Prizes:
Nearest the Pin Hole #3 - LEE CHONG LEONG (Schneider Electric Asia)
Longest Drive Hole #8 - RONNIE LAUREL
Accurate Drive Hole #16 - FERNANDO CUIZON (Fema Industrial)

Sen. Villar urges delegates ...from page 1

Industry Development Act (SIDA), one of the first landmark laws for agriculture which she sponsored.

"One thing more I want to emphasize about SIDA is the PhP2 billion allocation under the law. Make sure that you are utilizing the full amount. Don't underspend, or else the Department of Budget and Management might reduce your allocation in the coming years. Use it to further develop the industry," Villar said.

Villar was introduced by Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, the staunchest champion of the sugarcane industry in the Senate. He recounted the battle that industry stakeholders had to fight at the Senate and the bi-cameral committee in ensuring that, under the TRAIN Law, HFCS will get a much higher excise tax than domestically-produced sugar.

He asked the delegates to remember and support the senators who helped the industry in winning this battle. Zubiri revealed that these senators were Cynthia Villar, Sonny Angara, JV Ejercito, Win Gatchalian, Joel Villanueva and Koko Pimentel.

Considered as the most-awaited event in the entire Philippine sugarcane industry, the convention gathers

Philsutech officers and sugar industry leaders pose with Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri and Cynthia Villar with SRA Adm. Herminigildo Serafica.

DCL Award Committee Chairman PP Ramon Picornell confers the 2018 DCL Award to Mrs. Cresenciana L. Morales, who is accompanied by her husband.

2018 DCL Awardee Cresenciana L. Morales with Philsutech Past Presidents

Mrs. Cresensiana L. Morales 2018 Don Carlos Locsin Awardee

2018 DCL Awardee Cresenciana L. Morales with her family and the DCL Award Committee

2018 DCL Awardee Cresenciana L. Morales and her family with Philsutech officers

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Sen. Villar urges delegates ...from page 15

all industry stakeholders in the country to learn about the latest technical advances and updates.

The event formally opened on August 15, with Sen. Juan Edgardo 'Sonny' Angara delivering a video-recorded message. Sugar Regulatory Administrator Herminigildo Serafica also addressed the assembly and reported on the status of the industry.

More than 1,000 delegates and more than 120 product and service exhibitors participated in the confab, which also attracted guests and exhibitors from other sugar-producing countries.

PP Miguel Gaspar, on behalf of the other Past Presidents, thank the Association for honoring them during the 65th Annual National Convention.

Outstanding Philsutech Member Pastor Esmeris of Lopez Sugar

Outstanding Philsutech Member Ireneo Tongon, Jr. of Busco

Phisutech officers and organizers prepare for their dance during the gala night.

Past presidents, officers delegates display their dancing skills.

Songbird Vina Morales serenades PP Miguel Gaspar and Carlos Tupas

President Dean Guevarra and Ms. E. Concepcion join songbird Vina Morales in a song.

Philsutech Grand Raffle Draw Winners

Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City (August 17, 2018)

Prize	Winner	Solicitor
Grand Prize (Php 500,000.00)	**ROMMEL "ATI" HULLEZA** c/o Transport Dep't, Sagay Central	**Miss Collada** Transport Dep't, Sagay Central
Second Prize (Php 100,000.00)	**IRISH MAY PINGOY** Montebello, Kananga, Leyte	**Alan Neis** Hisumco
Third Prize (Php 50,000.00)	**JED INIGO CARDENAS** Victorias City	**J. Cardenas**

Consolation Prize of Php 3,000.00 Each

Roberto T. Gamana
243 Roosevelt Ave. Quezon City
Solicitor: Rosanna Galanza

Nicklaus Sales Co.
Malabon St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Solicitor: Pastor P. Esmeris

Lesly Joy Malanat
Salvacion Village, Malita, Davao Occ.
Solicitor: Melanie L. Zapanta

Charity P. Paclibar
Passi City, Iloilo
Solicitor: Je Cunada

Armando A. Tarayao
Scion Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro
Solicitor: Marissa Palma

Philsutech officers and organizers wow the delegates with their dance moves.

Aside from keynote messages, the convention also featured plenary presentations on “Development of Sustainable Sugarcane Cultivation System in the Philippines”, “Competitiveness and Opportunity of Thei Sugar Industry”, “Thai Sugar Status and New Policy”, and “De-thrashing Experiment on Billeted and Whole Cane Stalks”.

Moreover, the conference included technical papers and product presentations, in smaller break-up sessions, in the Agriculture & Farm Engineering, Bioenergy & Environmental Management, Process, Management and Engineering Divisions.

Another highlight of the convention was the conferment of the 2018 Don Carlos Locsin (DCL) Award to an industry stakeholder who has made exemplary contributions to the industry, and the Philsutech Member Award for outstanding members in their respective fields of expertise.

This year’s DCL Awardee was Cresenciana I. Morales and the Micropropagation Team in recognition

Philsutech Past Presidents with songbird Vina Morales

Philsutech convention organizers and secretariat with songbird Vina Morales

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Sen. Villar urges delegates ...from page 17

Blessing of the BOD and Officers during Thanksgiving Mass.

of her outstanding achievements as Team Leader and Implementor in the fast adaption of Micropropagation Technology that contributed to the rapid development of new High-Yielding cane varieties, such as the PHIL 56-226, that had proven to effectively benefit the Philippine Sugar Industry.

For the Outstanding Member Awards, Philsutech honored Ireneo Tangon, Jr. and Pastor Esmeris for their contributions in the field of Factory Engineering and Management, respectively.

The annual confab was not only all about technical matters, as members and exhibitors also have the chance to enjoy themselves in the friendly golf tournament at the Cebu Country Club and the denims and glitters-themed Exhibitors' Night last August 14 and the Gala Night on August 16.

In behalf of the governor, Cebu Board Member Miguel Antonio Magpale welcomes the delegates to the province.

Philsutech officers with SRA Board Members Attys. Rolando Beltran and Dino Yulo (seated left and right, respectively)

Philsutech Past Presidents with Corp. Sec. & Admin Manager Haydee V. Rivera

Though he was unable to attend the formal opening, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña personally relayed his welcome and well-wishes to the Philsutech officers.

Philsutech Past Presidents and Officers lead the singing of the Philsutech Hymn.

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LOPEZ SUGAR CORPORATION

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EXIBITORS' LOYALTY AWARDEES

YOKOGAWA PHILIPPINES, INC.

JAN DALE ENTERPRISES CORPORATION

FABCON PHILIPPINES, INC.

ASSISTCO ENERGY & INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

SIEMENS, INC.

UNITED BEARING INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

SKF PHILIPPINES, INC.

GUILL-BERN CORPORATION

PRAJ INDUSTRIES LIMITED

REDCELL CORPORATION

A talent competition spiced up the Exhibitors Night, with First Pilipinas Power and Automation bringing home the top prize. NSK International (Singapore) grabbed the second place, followed by Sagrex Corporation at third place and Pix Power Transmission (UBIC) at fourth place.

Exhibitors Night's Best Dressed Male and Female Delegates were also awarded.

PIX POWER TRANSMISSION

FIRST PILIPINAS

SAGREX CORP

NSK ASEAN AND OCEANIA PTD, LTD. PHIL. REP

Chair. D. Jugno, Conv. Chair W. Visenio & Pres. Dean Guevarra awarding of winners for Best in attire

VP & Dir. G. Lopez Best in attire - Male (Denims & Diamonds)

Best in attire - Female (Denims & Diamonds

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During the Gala Night, Philsutech honored its past presidents for steering the association through all the challenges in the industry towards achieving this year's 65th anniversary milestone. A token of appreciation and a commemorative Philsutech pin was awarded by Administrative Officer & Corporate Secretary Haydee Rivera & Overall Convention Chairman Wilfredo Visenio.

On August 17, the convention was capped by the general assembly and the oath-taking of the new set of Philsutech officers headed by Atty. Domingo Lazaro Caranza.

PP Anthony Marañon with wife Ana

PP Linley Retirado with wife Juvy

PP Mario Palma

PP Terrence Uygongco

PP Rafael Francisco

PP Arnel Amparo with wife Gina

PP Nilo Florcruz with wife Rosalinda

PP Primitivo Rivera with wife Haydee

PP Eduardo Concepcion with wife Emma

PP Conrad Bandolon and wife Beth

PP Ramon Picornell with wife Margie

PP Miguel Gaspar

PP Virgilio Lopez

PP Carlos Tupaz, Jr.