

Training/Workshop on Wind Energy Project Development

05 September 2012, 8:30 to 5:30 PM, National Engineering Center, UP

Summary and Notes:

The seminar was fairly well attended with around 30 participants (20 paying registrants and 10 non-paying participants from the government sector and UP). The training was introduced as the first activity of the Center for Renewable Energy Technology Institute (CERET), which UP is setting up.

There were 16 participants from the private sector, 3 are consultants, 2 are from the academe (De La Salle University) and 11 are from large local companies who have entered or are starting to enter the power generation business: DMCI, EEI (the company that is building the ADB extension building), Quezon Power Philippines. These companies do not have existing RE service contracts for wind.

From the government, present were the National Renewable Energy Board (represented by NREB chairmen Atty. Pete Maniego, who was also a resource speaker), National Power Corporation, National Transmission Corporation, PNOC, PNOC-Renewables Corporation, and the Energy Regulatory Commission. There were no participants from DOE.

There were 6 presentations:

1. Overview of the National Renewable Energy Program & RE Law of the Philippines by Atty. Pete Maniego, NREB
2. Case Study of the Puerto Galera 16 Wind Project by Felix Ople
3. Wind Resource Assessment Theory vs. Practice; lessons learned by Felix Ople
4. Wind Turbine Generator Technology by Carlos Carrion, GAMESA
5. Wind-Diesel Hybrid Power Systems by Felix Ople
6. Wind Project Siting, Interconnection, Transmission & Connectivity by Othello Baronia, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines

Since most of the participants were new to wind power, there were many questions (especially from the private sector) and discussions were lively. The participants were very interested in how wind resource assessment is done, how much it costs, and how siting is done. Other questions were related to data processing and who validates the resource assessment results. Participants from EEI were particularly interested in the transport and erection of the towers. There were also questions regarding financing of wind projects but these were not thoroughly discussed because there was no resource person on the subject.

Several questions were also directed to the NGCP representative about grid integration issues related to wind. Very valid issues were raised, particularly on the completeness of NGCP's grid integration study considering the difficulty NGCP had in securing data from the RE developers. The representative from NGCP commented that they could only work with the information that was submitted to them. This was true not only for the RE Integration Study that they are formulating but also for the RE Interconnection Guidelines that NGCP drafted and submitted to the Philippine Grid Management Committee. One participant replied that such statements are troubling. It gives developers a small "level of comfort" and raises the level of risk.

Over all, it was a good introductory seminar on wind power development and the correct audience was reached. The presence and active participation of the private sector is good indication that wind projects are being eyed as an investment option by large local corporations – even those not traditionally into power generation. There is also interest in

building technical capability on wind power development and providing support services to wind farms.