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A Successful Philippine Biofuels Mission

Report Categories:

Bio-Fuels

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Report Highlights:

FAS/USDA organized a Philippine Biofuels mission to visit U.S. biofuels research facilities in Denver, CO en route to Washington, DC for briefings by USDA and the Department of Energy. The delegation also attended the Advanced Biofuels Leadership Conference prior to participating in business-to-business meetings held at the Philippine Embassy also in Washington, DC. The Philippine delegation regarded all components of the U.S. Biofuels visit as very informative and a resounding success.

General Information:

FAS/Manila working closely with the Philippine Department of Agriculture supported a Philippine Biofuels delegation to the United States, April 21-30, 2010. The visiting delegation was composed of eight key private sector representatives and high-level Philippine government officials. Accompanying the delegation was FAS/Manila staff.

Having established a Biofuels Law, which mandates the sale and use of biofuel-blended gasoline and diesel, the Philippines is a South East Asia's regional leader when it comes to biofuels. The country, however, is experiencing difficulty in fully implementing the Law.

The first part of the visit involved a tour of U.S. biofuel research facilities including academia in Denver, CO. This was followed by meetings at the USDA headquarters in Washington, DC. Speakers from FAS/USDA, ARS/USDA as well as the US Department of Energy made presentations.

From April 27-29, the visiting delegation participated in the Advanced Biofuels Leadership Conference (ABLC) also held in Washington, DC. The 3-day event featured roundtable discussions and presentations by key and high-level U.S. biofuels industry stakeholders.

Shortly after the closing of the ABLC, the visiting delegation and representatives of select U.S. biofuel companies proceeded to the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC where a special program was held. Philippine Ambassador to the United States H.E. Willy Gaa gave welcome remarks to the group after which break-out sessions for business-to-business meetings were held. Ambassador Gaa also hosted dinner for the delegation and select members of USDA.

The Philippine delegation regarded all components of the U.S. Biofuels visit as very informative and a resounding success. The exposure tour in Denver impressed upon them the importance of biofuels research and development while the USDA meetings provided the group ideas helpful for policy formulation and organization. Key biofuel industry variables and current global trends revealed during the ABLC were helpful during the following business-to-business meetings at the Philippine Embassy, which played a key role in organizing the Mission. The meetings not only provided the valuable introduction to the U.S. biofuels industry but also were the appropriate starting point for the possible strategic alliances with U.S. biofuel companies.