



Fact Sheet

“One Tree at a Time”

A Tree Planting Activity for the International Day of Biodiversity 2013 25 May 2013, Tagaytay Highlands

- The annual “One Tree at a Time” tree planting activity of Tagaytay Highlands started in 2010 when the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) partnered with the leisure destination for its first tree planting activity with a representative from the business sector. Because of this joint project, Tagaytay Highlands was recognized by ACB as a “Friend of Biodiversity”. Since then, Tagaytay Highlands has maintained its position as an agent of change on how we see business.
- Tagaytay Highlands is more than an exclusive leisure complex. Blessed with abundant natural surroundings, it is giving back to Mother Nature and doing its share on saving the environment in many ways. Primary among these efforts is the vision of its founder, Mr. Willy Ocier to plant one million trees in 50 years inside the Tagaytay Highlands. For the last 18 years, series of tree-planting activities are being conducted inside the exclusive complex for a greener Tagaytay Highlands.
- Apart from planting trees, the leisure complex also conserves energy in significant respects. During off-peak days, Tagaytay Highlands splits up the lighting of the street lights and turning on the lights only in the important areas to minimize electricity consumption. To reduce this even more, incandescent lights have been replaced by compact fluorescent ones which cuts down energy usage up to 60 percent. Likewise, the operations of heavy equipment are operated and maintained on a set schedule to minimize the electricity consumption.
- Tagaytay Highlands also promotes the use of renewable resources. The exclusive complex has its own Sewerage Treatment Plant that converts wastewater to usable water that is being used for irrigation and maintenance of Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands surrounding landscaped areas. Tagaytay Highlands is also proud of its conscious efforts in promoting its clean air campaign by means of converting its golfers’ transport vehicles to LPG power which is more economical and also pollutant-free.
- In 2012, Tagaytay Highlands’ 18th anniversary, the leisure complex and its partners including ACB and GIZ planted 200 fruit-bearing trees such as rambutan, atis, chico, duhat, lanzones, santol, star apple, and macopa near The Country Club at Tagaytay Highlands. The embassies of Cambodia, Indonesia, and Japan to the Philippines also took time off from their diplomatic duties to join the tree planting activity.

- Tagaytay Highlands and ACB will also seal their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Cooperation for joint activities during the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011-2020). The collaboration forms part of efforts to promote the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, a worldwide campaign to engage the private sector in implementing the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and preserving the natural foundations of life for future generations; and the global Green Wave

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Green Wave, and Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity

- As the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (SCBD) major partner in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity is working with various sectors on a series of biodiversity advocacy activities, including tree planting activities with the business, diplomatic and academic sectors to promote the global Green Wave.
- ACB is a leading partner of SCBD in promoting the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity in Southeast Asia.
- ACB is an intergovernmental regional centre of excellence tasked to facilitate cooperation and coordination among the members of ASEAN, and with relevant national governments, regional and international organizations, non-government organizations, private corporations and individuals on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- ACB contributes to the reduction of the current rate of loss of biodiversity by enhancing regional cooperation, building capacities of ASEAN Member States in biodiversity conservation, promoting awareness for biodiversity conservation, and promoting regional sharing of biodiversity information.

GIZ Supports Green Wave Tree Planting Campaign

- An intact biodiversity and its sustainable use pose immense opportunities for protection and adaptation to climate change and have a great developing potential for the ASEAN region. However, this tangible value to society has not yet been fully appreciated. National development strategies consider only some aspects of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development and national policy frameworks addressing climate change are still not thoroughly articulated. The ASEAN challenge is to develop adequate policies, instruments, and the capacity to tackle issues on biodiversity and climate change.
- In response to this challenge, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity are cooperating to enhance capacities of ASEAN countries to mitigate climate change through biodiversity conservation.
- The ACB-GIZ Biodiversity and Climate Change Project focuses on the elaboration and implementation of ASEAN-wide regional and national strategies to appropriately address the interface between biodiversity on one side, and sustainable development and climate change on the other side. The project targets to benefit the vulnerable population of the region who depends on the ecosystem services and biodiversity resources for subsistence.

- GIZ supports Tagaytay Highlands' and ACB's tree planting efforts. Through this effort, the leisure complex will help lessen the impact of climate change. An average tree can absorb up to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide each year and an acre of trees can take in a cumulative 26 tons of carbon dioxide, enough to counter effect a car driving 26,000 miles. Trees can indeed make a difference in emissions and may be able to slow the rapid global warming that affects the world today to the point that arctic glaciers are beginning to melt.