

July 13, 2022

His Excellency Mr Steve Robinson AO  
Ambassador to the Philippines  
Australian Embassy  
Level 23, Tower 2 RCBC Plaza  
Ayala Avenue, Makati City



Dear Ambassador Robinson,

We hope that this finds you safe and in good health. On behalf of the Visayas State University (VSU), the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC), **we are honoured to invite you to join us in Biliran on August 11 for the planting ceremony launch of Project Tarsier**, a carbon reforestation project in the Islands of Leyte and Biliran. We hope you could prepare a 3–5-minute speech for the event.

For over 22 years, VSU and researchers now based at USC have collaborated with People's Organizations, LGUs and DENR Region 8 in a series of projects funded by the Australian Government through the Australian Centre For International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) carrying out forest research, development, and reforestation efforts in Leyte and Biliran. In 2019, the Universities proposed a carbon reforestation project to PSPC and together have progressed toward investment and implementation in 2022. The project fits within Shell's Nature Based Solutions (NBS) program to invest in natural ecosystems as part of its strategy to act on climate change, focused on addressing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by customers when using its products. Throughout this time, the parties have worked closely with the Forest Management Bureau to ensure alignment with the National Greening Program and government's plans for forest restoration.

Following the contract signing ceremonies in February and March that were graced by Undersecretary Teh, Director Parian and Forester Kabigting, the upcoming planting ceremony is a celebratory launch of the exciting journey ahead. We look forward to your favourable response.

Please find details of the event below:

Date: Thursday, August 11, 2022		Venue: Biliran (GPS coordinates to be provided)
Start	Finish	Activity
10:30 AM		Arrival
11:00 AM	12:00 NN	Planting Ceremony
12:00 NN	1:00 PM	Nursery Tour
1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Lunch and cultural show
3:00 PM		Departure

USCs project manager, Ms. Kelly Stewart, will coordinate with your team for the exact venue, she can be reached at mobile +61 416 075 092 or email [KAMurphy@usc.edu.au](mailto:KAMurphy@usc.edu.au).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Young', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**ROSS YOUNG**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
(Research and Innovation)  
University of the Sunshine Coast

**EDGARDO TULIN**  
President  
Visayas State University

**SERGIO BERNAL, JR.**  
Vice President for Corporate Relations  
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Company