

July 14, 2022

HON. MA. ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Dear Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga,

Our warm congratulations on your appointment as DENR Secretary! We hope 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 would be honored if you would 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 CO₂ 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, FMB Director Parian and FMB Forester Kabigting, the upcoming planting ceremony is a celebratory launch of the exciting journey ahead. We look forward to your favorable 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

Shell's NBS Manager for the Philippines, Ms. Randee Latonio, will coordinate with your team for the exact venue. She can be reached at mobile 0917-8552935 or email randee.latonio@shell.com.

Sincerely,

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 Corporation

Cc: Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change, DENR
For. Tirso Parian Jr., Director, DENR FMB
For. Ma. Teresa G. Aquino, Division Chief of Forest Resources Conservation Division, DENR FMB
For. Ray Thomas Kabigting, Chief – Environmental Forestry Section, DENR FMB