MAP Forum
19 August 2014
Biodegradable Multipurpose Plastic Made from Nata de Coco
By Mr. Amin Hataman and Mr. Gokturk Karabulut

Preliminaries

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30am in keeping with being punctual.
2. The Philippine and Finland national anthems and flags were honored.
3. The Chairman welcomed everyone to this 32nd meeting of the foundation for this year, 2014. But with some frustration the Chairman mentioned that with the transfer of technologies to the countryside which we have been doing for almost 10 years now, the poverty situation in the country has not really improved. Using US $2/day, some 40 million Filipinos live below the poverty line and using US $1/day, some 28 million Filipinos live below the poverty line.
4. Special mention was made about the project of MFI and PAP MPC called Sulong Sulu with the slogan From Armalites to IPad. PAP MPC is situated in Panamao, a conflict area in Jolo and Sulu. It has been agreed that if it succeeds here, it will anywhere.
5. The Chairman shared that in the most famous book, Capital in the 21st Century, poverty alleviation will come about through the flow of information and the development of useful skills.

A. Attendance

Go around

a. Ed Rojas is from MFI which is the CSR of the oldest investment house in the country. He shared that with plastic use being cut, a problem with the paper bag is that often it could not hold heavier stuff like groceries.

b. Bert Mabilangan comes from Berma which is an engineering company that does processing of coconuts, etc.

c. Feliciano Calora Jr. is a Forester who is with PCAARRD. It is his first time to attend a foundation forum here. It is studying an alternative to paper bag in the form of abaca.

d. Edmar Laguardia is with Avon’s Project Management handling packing of cosmetics and personal care products.

e. Mahdi Lynn Casedo is also with Avon in Packaging Engineering. She shared that it has a global mandate to phase out PVC and use greener alternative.

f. Roi Lance Baon is also with Avon’s Packaging.

g. Jayson Percil was sent by Avon and he is interested about the cost and benefit of the plastics from nata de coco.

h. Sitti Djalia Hataman is a Representative of Partylist, Anak Mindanao. It is doing Saling Galing to maximize resources for economics and food security. But she is here today as a stage mom to Amin.

i. Toto Barcelona is with Harbest Agri and is looking at the cost to make plastic from nata de coco. He believes there is a lot of possible application. His firm even imports a lot.

j. Merve Kirikkanat is a journalist from Turkey.

k. Rose de la Cruz is OIC from Fountain International School.
l. **Beytullah Karatas** is the supervisor of our teen guest speakers who accompanied them to Georgia, Turkey, etc.

m. **Juerg Casserini** is doing trading and was with the Swiss Embassy before.

n. **Ma. Teresa Tumbali** is from Cocofinance; interested in livelihood for coconut farmers.

o. **Stuart Bloom** has been in the country for decades running a toy factory. He is a Scientist looking at oil and water, food security and genetics. He commended PCAARRD for in the past, it said that the coconut scale insect can be fought properly by biological agents and not by chemical means which was what was recommended lately. Since CSI is spread by air, he thinks they were only blown away by typhoon Glenda but will still wreak havoc to the country’s coco industry. Since it was caused by an Indonesian insect, he would see it as a military attack.

p. **Julius Labrador** is in real estate and offered his 26 hectare property in Olongapo for lease at 10 times the land tax price.

q. **Robert Yupangco** is with the Yupangco group that is in various businesses such as Music, hotels, car rentals, remittance, finance, real estate. It also has 6 parks which he invites everyone to for free. The attractions include: plants, animals, vegetables. The vision is to see the country as 1 big resort park. The 6 parks register 1 million visitors a year. The 5 R’s are practiced in the parks. (the traditional 3 R’s plus refuse and respect.)

r. **Elsie David** is from JG Summit Petrochem. It is self sufficient in polyethylene and polypropylene. She is also with the Bureau of Products Standard and the Asian Carbon Footprint Network. For now plastic biodegradability refers to current fossil fuel based integration. She is thrilled to be here.

s. **Deanne Hernandez** explained how she was appointed in the Social Reform forum here with Sec. Rocamora that she calls by its positive rather than negative name of Abundance Prosperity Commission instead of National Anti Poverty Commission. It is doing the Bahay Kubo for the centerpiece project of NAPC. Since she was the angel of banking, telecoms, call center and VCO, she invited all to the forthcoming Moringa Congress on 31 August. Malunggay has also been proposed to be legislated as the national vegetable of the Philippines.

t. **Patrick Young** represents Global Foodsolutions that supplies nata de coco. He will take up with his father, Philip Young, if it has another use for plastics that is biodegradable.

u. **Hector Quesada** used to be Chairman of the foundation; he was surprised to see many in attendance this session as he thought there might be few interested attendees. He inquired about who is knowledgeable about the making of nata de coco by fermentation from coconut water.

v. **Erwin Po** is looking at waste to energy initiatives; he had been our resource person about 2010.

w. **Antonio Senador Jr.** is also with JG Summit Petrochem as R&D Manager. Prior, he was with the academe.

x. **Ricky Salonga** was invited by Erwin Po to accompany him.

y. **Fe Gagno, Del De Jesus, May Gamir** dropped by. Fe is also with PAP MPC while Del and May are with Robert’s Zoonanity.

z. **Princess Lalalah** is the Chair of PAP MPC that is a special partner of the foundation. She was glad to announce that JICA will provide a coffee processing plant in Sulu which became prominent because of the Sulong Sulu undertaken by PAP MPC and MFI as a result of the latter’s attending weekly forum for about 5 years now. This is the reason why she has been busy going to Davao as a Coordinator to attend meetings. Rep. Hataman of Anak Mindanao has also provided scholarships to college for many youth. PAP MPC will concentrate on coffee, fishing, and chicken raising as presently, chickens and eggs are imported from Cebu and Zamboanga. Coffee roasting and grinding machines have also been given already. She believes there is a public private partnership.