

**Remarks by Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr.  
Plant Visit of the Biomass-fired Co-Generation Project  
of Solutions Using Renewable Energy (SURE)  
December 17, 2010  
PepsiCo North Luzon Office, Rosario La Union**

Distinguished guests;  
Ladies and gentlemen:

*Magandang umaga!*

*Salamat sa inyong pagtanggap sa amin dito sa Rosario, La Union.*

It is always a pleasure meeting people who tirelessly work for the development of the Philippines.

And speaking about the people who offered their lives to make the country what it is today, I learned that a revolutionary leader named Diego Silang was born here in La Union on December 16 many years ago. Diego was a revolutionary leader who fought the Spanish rule 135 years before Aguinaldo. He was a man ahead of his time.

Also ahead of its time is the project we see today. Let me explain what this project means by using the word “PEPSI”. You know, we can spell it out as -Partnerships and Energy Para Sa Inyo – “PEPSI”.

Indeed, the most important energy we have here is the team spirit that you all have. The biomass plant that you are building here - and other similar renewable energy infrastructure – are very important. As you know, these projects will not happen without the government and the private sector working hand in hand.

This is a good example of what you call, “*bayanihan*.”

As such, I am glad to say that we are also part of this “*bayanihan*”. Through USAID’s Private Financing Advisory Network, we have worked with SURE to prepare the project business plan and to bring project financing to a closure.

Clean energy development is our priority. President Obama had said in several occasions that investments in clean energy will not only lead to reductions in overall energy consumption, but also create jobs and help businesses develop new technologies that could lead to even greater efficiencies.

I am happy to know that more than 700 farmers will benefit from the project by providing the feedstock that the biomass plant requires. This means that the farmers will have additional income from selling rice husks that otherwise would have been burned or just thrown away. It is these kinds of ecologically and economically relevant projects that the U.S. Government loves to support.

On behalf of the American people, we wish you success in the project you are undertaking today. I look forward to a “greener” Pepsi, hopefully a year from now, when the biomass plant will go online and in full operation.

Thank you and *Maligayang Pasko!*