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US firm joins Eastern Petroleum in Southeast Asian investment foray

by Myrna Velasco
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Aligning itself as strategic technology provider, US firm Wellons Energy Solutions indicated that it will be joining the emerging power generation arm of Eastern Petroleum Corporation for its planned renewable energy (RE) investments foray in Southeast Asia.

The company noted that it only has its eyes with Eastern Renewables for now on partnership, primarily on biomass investments in the region.

“Right now, we are not looking at direct investment or partnership opportunities in the Philippine power generation industry, and we are working only with Eastern Petroleum on developing biomass power facilities in Southeast Asia,” Wellons director for international business David A. Butler has noted.

He emphasized that “Wellons will be a technology provider,” expounding that the company has established track record of being a “premium supplier of superior biomass combustion system and steam generator” for electric power production.

Quite fairly, Butler stressed “it seems clear that biomass is readily available and is not being utilized, and that there is insufficient capacity throughout much of the Philippines causing temporary power outages.”

He enthused that “Wellons has the optimum technology to help address this capacity shortfall through other means than the addition of more fossil fuel plants.”

The initial venture of Eastern Renewables in Mindanao is a 25-megawatt biomass power facility, which the project developers are intending to apply for feed-in-tariff incentives, a subsidy scheme for RE developments in the country.




Past this development, the local firm with the involvement of its foreign technology provider is also keeping its eye on energization of areas under the Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG) of the National Power Corporation.

Beyond home base, Eastern Petroleum chairman Fernando L. Martinez previously told reporters on investment opportunities for biomass and other RE technologies being explored in other countries in the region, such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Butler concurred that Southeast Asia is a gold-mine for prospective RE ventures, and that “the market generally dictates where Wellons is able to succeed.”

He further related that “Eastern Petroleum sought out Wellons when they recognized that our systems offered an opportunity to apply our technology to the problem of generating capacity in the Philippines.”

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