



**“We are committed to restore Guimaras and other affected areas back to its natural beauty no matter what the cost. We are ready to work at this for the next 3-5 years or longer.”**

Friday, December 29, 2006

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

**AN UPDATE ON THE SOLAR 1 OIL SPILL**  
December 12, 2006

**NEW**  
**GUIMARAS REHAB PHASE IN**  
November 20, 2006

**PETRON'S OPEN LETTER TO STAKEHOLDERS**  
November 17, 2006

**MORE AREAS CLEANED**  
As of November 8, 2006

**AN UPDATE ON THE SOLAR 1 OIL SPILL**

December 12, 2006

Four months after the Solar 1 oil spill, we are pleased to inform you that we have made substantial progress on our commitment to restore Guimaras and its people back to normalcy.

**Clean-up operations**

As of the second week of November, we had cleaned 100% of affected shorelines, collecting around 6,000 metric tons of debris. This was affirmed by the inspections made by Taskforce SOS (Solar 1 Oil Spill), a multi-agency group composed of officials from the Local Government Units, Departments of Health, Environment and Natural Resources, Social Welfare and Development, and the Philippine Coast Guard.

The clean-up has excluded mangrove areas since we were advised by experts not to touch these highly sensitive ecosystems. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in coordination with the University of the Philippines-Visayas is overseeing the clean-up of the mangrove areas. For some rocky shorelines, Taskforce SOS has recommended that these are better left to weather naturally.



Basiao Cove, Bgy. Dolores, N. Valencia



Talabahan, Bgy. San Roque, N. Valencia

**The Barge Ras incident**

On November 15, we hauled the last of the oily debris collected from the shorelines and shipped this to the Holcim cement plant in the province of Misamis Oriental in northern Mindanao. Unfortunately, the barge (Ras) sank in rough seas about 5 kilometers northeast of the town of Plaridel, Misamis Occidental on November 20, 11:10 p.m. The depth of the water at that point is estimated at more than 800 feet.

Barge Ras was owned and operated by Harbor Star, a company whose tugboats had been contracted by the insurers of Solar 1, the Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Club, to assist in the oil containment operations.

**MAP LINK**

**Location Site**  
View sinking site of M/T Solar I.



**OUR PARTNERS**

**NDCC**  
National Disaster Coordinating Council



**DSWD**  
Department of Social Welfare and Development



**Petron Corp**  
Petron Corporation



**CLEANUP OPERATIONS**



Brgy. Canhawan after clean-up



Taklong Islands after clean-up



Brgy. Igdarapdap after clean-up



Brgy. San Roque after clean-up



**Barge Ras sink site**

We immediately sent personnel and equipment to monitor the sink site for any sign of the debris or contamination of the waters around the area. In the next few days, some used sorbent booms floated to the surface and were recovered.

The bulk of the debris on board the sunken barge was mostly sand and rocks (packed in sacks) and contained only traces of oil that had been weathering for three months. In fact, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources have separately confirmed that the debris is harmless to the environment and that no oil has been seen on the water. We are nevertheless engaging a team of scientists from the nearby Mindanao State University to conduct a rapid assessment of the impact of the sunken debris on the environment. Furthermore, Dr. Angel Alcala, Director of the Silliman University - Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management (also in Mindanao) and the acknowledged "father" of the marine sanctuary in Misamis Occidental, is making a separate assessment. In a briefing to Plaridel officials on December 9, Dr. Alcala stressed that the Barge Ras sinking is different from the Guimaras oil spill. He added that if the barge sank at a depth of 300 meters, it should not have any effect on corals which are only found up to a depth of 150 meters.

The city and provincial governments in Misamis have filed resolutions "denouncing the slow response of the persons responsible for the sinking of Barge Ras owned and operated by Harbor Star." Hopefully, the assessments being conducted by Silliman and Mindanao State University will allay their concerns.

### **Alternative livelihood and rehabilitation programs**

Back in Guimaras, we are working closely with the provincial government, the departments of Social Welfare & Development and Agriculture, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the Philippine Business for Social Progress, in bringing other sources of livelihood to Guimarasnons. On-going projects include vegetable gardening, the production of resin-based gift items, and parol-making. We are likewise committed to establishing mangrove nurseries, fish cages, sea grass rehabilitation and the establishment of a fish-buying station in Guimaras.





Resin-based products from Guimaras *Parols* in Cabalagnan Brgy. Hall, N. Valencia

In partnership with the Department of Education, we are already replicating our banner educational programs on the island. We are doing a survey of Barangay Tando, Nueva Valencia to be able to draw up a firm timetable for the construction of a Petron School.



Typical Petron School

Last November 27 and 28, Petron in cooperation with the University of the Philippines-Visayas, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), the World Wildlife Fund and the Provincial Government of Guimaras conducted a scientific conference. Gathering the best scientific minds in the country, the conference integrated assessments and developed rehabilitation protocols for the oil spill. The findings from the conference will serve as a science-based and realistic roadmap towards the rehabilitation of Guimaras.

### **The sunken vessel Solar 1**

With regard to the compensation of affected families, representatives of the International Oil Compensation Fund (IOPC) met with the claimants of the various Guimaras municipalities in the last week of November to give an assessment of the claims earlier submitted. They are aiming to satisfy at least a portion of the claims by Christmas.

With regard to the retrieval of the oil remaining in Solar 1, the P&I Club has contracted Sonsub, a leading provider of sub-sea systems technology. Sonsub representatives have been in the country and are scheduled to begin work on Solar 1 between February and March. The process is expected to take 20 days

### **›SORBENT BOOMS RECOVERED FROM BARGE RAS SINKING**

November 22, 2006

### **›BARGE RAS**

November 21, 2006

### **›LETTER TO STAKEHOLDERS**

November 17, 2006

### **›OUR RESPONSE TO THE ONLINE PETITION OF GREENPEACE**

October 19, 2006

▸ **LETTER TO THE EDITOR - THE GUARDIAN**

September 29, 2006

▸ **PETRON SHIPS OUT 500 METRIC TONS OF DEBRIS FROM GUIMARAS**

September 20, 2006

▸ **THERE WAS NO OVERLOADING--Petron**

September 16, 2006

▸ **Petron disseminates factual information to its various stakeholders in connection with the Solar 1 incident**

September 11, 2006

▸ **Petron's insurer begins compensation process in Guimaras**

September 7, 2006

▸ **Chairman Nicasio Alcantara's Statement**

Senate Hearing August 28, 2006

▸ **Petron brings in Japanese salvage experts to inspect M/T Solar 1**

August 23, 2006

▸ **Petron clarifies role in Guimaras oil spill incident**

August 22, 2006

▸ **Petron Reports Vessel of Marine Hauler Carrying Fuel Oil Sunk of Guimaras Island**

August 12, 2006