

## 'I should've done this 10 or 20 years ago'

Written by Arlene V. Hepiga

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Employees of the Aboitiz-owned Cotabato Light and Power Company (Cotabato Light) have planted more than 900 bamboo seedlings along Tarbung-Esteros river in Cotabato City as part of its corporate social responsibility and environmental protection and promotion programs.

The activity was both successful and enjoyable. But most importantly, it was the firm's latest contribution to mankind's desire of preserving the environment.

Accompanying the power firm workers were 48 other individuals from Barangay San Isidro and members of the Cotabato City police office.

Arlene Hepiga, Cotabato Light branding and corporate communication staff, said the activity was done simultaneous with the Aboitiz group nationwide tree planting activities that made the event create bigger impact on environmental sustainability.

Cotabato Light and the Aboitiz group, as a whole, aims to plant 80,000 seedlings for this year and nine million trees nationwide by 2020.

Cotabato Light employees found the activity very satisfying as many have expressed various emotions in participating the event this year.

“Masaya ako, dahil sa isang taon man lang nakatulong ako para sa ikabubuti ng ating inang kalikasan at para na rin sa aking mga anak sa susunod na henerasyon,” said Jay Jose Timik, 37, a metering inspection personel of the firm.

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“It is with pride that I contributed in the tree planting activity. Let us make this a habit for the environmental sustainability. It's not too late, we should start now,” Juvy, 34, a billing staff of Cotabato Light said.

“I am happy that my humble contribution could help in our greening program that will eventually make our environment nice to live in,” Engr. Peprio Lubguban, 47, a Cotabato Light department supervisor, said “To date, the total number of seedlings we have planted is 8,520 since 2009.