

DA group visits ProPak Asia 2022 and conducts farm visits in Thailand

The delegation from the Department of Agriculture recently visited ProPak Asia 2022, the Premier Processing & Packaging Exhibition for Asia, held last 15 - 18 June 2022 at Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC), in Bangkok Thailand. The said event is the region's leading international trade event for Food, Drink & Pharmaceutical Processing & Packaging Technology organized by Informa Markets.

ProPak Asia aims to be a leading sustainable event under its theme, **"Sustainability in Processing and Packaging for our Better World"**, which demonstrates the advanced, innovative technology and solutions in packaging and processing that cover various vertical markets. Over a hundred local and international exhibitors joined, and more than 37,500 visitors from around the globe attended the show.

The delegation from the Department of Agriculture was led by Dr. Ruth Miclat-Sonaco from the National Livestock Program, together with Dr. Jocelyn Salvador from National Meat Inspection (NMIS), Dr. Jose Eduardo David from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), and Dr. Caro Salces from the Philippine Carabao Center. The delegation was also joined by Dr. Antonieta Arceo from Agricultural Training Institute, Ms. Cheryl Suarez of the Agriculture and Fisheries Information Division, Ms. Patrizia Camille Saturno of Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), Mr. Lennard Bryle Rosal of National Dairy Authority (NDA), Dr. Lethelle Dumlao from the Office of the Undersecretary for Livestock and Ms. Charmaine San Pedro of the National Livestock Program. Ms. Cecille Alduze-Virtucio from the Batangas Egg Producers Cooperative (BEPCO) also joined the group to represent the poultry sector in the group.

Aside from the exhibition, the delegation from the Philippines also attended various event functions such as the show opening ceremony, the Philippine Investment Forum hosted by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Executive Talk, and seminars about production and processing related to the livestock industry.

The business trip hosted by ProPak Asia also served as the preparation for the upcoming **Livestock Philippines** on **24 - 26 August 2022** at the **World Trade Center Metro Manila, Pasay City, Philippines**, which is supported by the Department of Agriculture and BEPCO. The group visited two different farms outside Bangkok to see the facilities, learn from the other experts, and share knowledge and expertise that are beneficial to the livestock and poultry sectors of both countries. "The visit is as timely as we can get considering the enhanced focus of the Department of Agriculture on modernization", Dr. Miclat-Sonaco said.

On June 14, 2022, the group went to Sa-nguan Farm, the pioneer egg farm in Thailand that raises cage-free layers, located in Nongdon district in Saraburi province. The entire delegation sat down for an insightful sharing about cage-free layer farming, and a short briefing before the farm tour with Mr. Jayasimha Nugehalli and Ms. Hannah Lum from the Global Food Partners (GFP), a Singapore-based multinational consultancy firm that provides support and expertise to food businesses, farmers and other industry stakeholders. Everyone underwent proper safety and hygienic pre-cautionary measures like wearing a full set of personal protective equipment or PPE when they visited the cage-free farm of thousands of "Thai Brown" layers that produce high-quality fresh eggs daily. The farm owner also showed their competitive egg grading and quality control facility, where all the eggs are sorted and examined under high standards of GMP, HACCP, and Q-mark to ensure their freshness and high-grade quality.

Apart from the cage-free layer farm, the group had the chance to visit Thai-Denmark Milk Land, which is run by the Dairy Farming Promotion Organization of Thailand (DPO) last June 18, 2022, in Saraburi. The delegation experienced firsthand cow feeding and milk from the cows. They also tried Thai-Denmark's very own milk products

The business trip also included a courtesy visit to the Department of Livestock Development where its officials welcomed the Philippine delegation and spearheaded the discussion about African Swine Fever (ASF). The delegation actively participated in the session that focused on Thailand's best practices and safety measures to control and prevent the swine disease from spreading within the country. The meeting ended fruitfully while the team headed by Dr. Miclat-Sonaco awarded a token of appreciation to DLD for their warm welcome and generosity in sharing their knowledge.

Following the courtesy visit to DLD, the group went back to their hotel to meet Assistant Professor Dr. Pariwat Poolperm, who gracefully led a consultation session about the African Swine Flu (ASF) across the ASEAN region in a dinner meeting hosted by VetProducts, one of the exhibitors at Livestock Philippines. The evening ended with an awarding ceremony of token of participation for each member of the Philippine delegation.

Dr. Miclat-Sonaco also added, "ProPak Asia showcases advanced processing and packaging equipment and technologies suitable for MSMEs. A worthwhile visit indeed. The appearance at ProPak Asia 2022 and farm visit in Thailand were impactful and have brought knowledge to the entire group, which they can bring back home and apply to boost the poultry and livestock sectors in the Philippines. This trip also showed the active participation of the Department of Agriculture in the team as preparation for Livestock Philippines, which will be held in August 2022.

For more information about **Livestock Philippines 2022**, please contact Ms. Jomia R. Pagkatotohan at +632 8581 1917 or email to jomia.pagkatotohan@informa.com

