



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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USTDA AWARDS GRANT TO INCREASE OIL SPILL RESPONSE CAPACITY IN THE PHILIPPINES



Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Manila Judy Reinke and Petron President Kamal M. Al-Yahya shake hands following the award of a USTDA grant funding technical assistance to Petron in the development of a corporate emergency response plan for major oil spills.

MANILA, PHILIPPINES – (September 12, 2007) Strengthening oil spill emergency response capabilities to minimize and prevent environmental damage throughout the Philippine archipelago is the goal of a USTDA technical assistance grant awarded today to the Petron Corporation (Petron). The USTDA grant will be used to develop a corporate emergency response plan for major oil spills.

The \$255,646 grant was conferred during a signing ceremony held at Petron Megaplaza, Makati City, Philippines. Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Manila Judy Reinke and Petron President Kamal M. Al-Yahya signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. government and Petron, respectively.

Petron is the Philippines' largest oil refining company, supplying one-third of the country's oil requirements. Its products are transported mainly by sea from its large refinery in Bataan to 32 depots and terminals across the archipelago. Petron requested USTDA funding support to contract with a U.S. firm to review and strengthen its emergency response plans. The study supported by today's grant will include a detailed assessment of Petron's operations and facilities, and will include recommendations on appropriate equipment training and management needs.

The opportunity to provide the technical assistance to Petron will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities website at www.fbo.gov. Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions contained in the Federal Business Opportunities announcement. Petron will select the U.S. firm that will provide the USTDA-funded assistance.

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The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

-30-

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