

November 21, 2012

Corporate Governance Forum held for Directors and Senior Management of First Pacific Group of Companies



The organizers of the CG Forum from First Pacific Leadership Academy (FPLA), together with (second row from left): PLDT Chief Governance Officer Atty. Ma. Lourdes Rausa-Chan, PLDT CG Executive Atty. Blue Festin, SMART CG Head Atty. Elmer Nitura, Meralco Deputy CG Head Mr. Gerardo dela Paz, and SMART CG Deputy Head Atty. Archilo Matugas. With them are (see first row): Meralco Governance Officer Ms. Lilian Umipig (leftmost), FPLA Executive Director Mr. Roy Evalle (fifth from left), CG Forum Speaker, Dr. Thomas Donaldson (fourth from right) and Meralco Chairman Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan (fifth from right).

The First Pacific Group of Companies held a Corporate Governance (CG) Forum entitled “Navigating the New World of Business” on November 19 and 20, 2012 at Meralco’s Lighthouse and Theater, respectively. The event aimed to keep these companies’ board and senior management abreast of recent developments on ethics, strategy and reputation risk.

The board and senior management who participated in the program represented DIGITEL, ePLDT, Mediaquest, MERALCO, MERALCO Subsidiaries, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), PLDT, PLDT Global, SMART and SPI GLOBAL.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Thomas Donaldson, a Mark O. Winkelman Professor and Director at the Wharton PhD Program in Ethics and Law of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Donaldson emphasized that well-established compliance systems and corporate governance processes do not preclude the possibility of companies misbehaving, contrary to the values it commits to. He enumerated the factors that contribute to misconduct despite robust corporate governance compliance systems and as well, the measures that organization leaders can implement to address such risks.

Dr. Donaldson rounded up the forum by stressing on the importance of top leaders being open to challenging questions of their employees, which can put forth other realities that may undermine gains in corporate governance. He added that unpleasant conversations must be welcomed in order to elevate issues from the bottom of the organization for proper resolution by the leaders.

Through different corporate governance activities and enhancement sessions with the likes of global thought leaders such as Dr. Donaldson, the First Pacific Group continues to build an organizational culture founded on the “DNA codes” of values-based corporate governance.