



## DOST- ITDI, DOST – NCR, and Kalakal Universal Ventures Ink MOA on Solid Waste Management Technologies

On February 16, 2023, the DOST- ITDI, DOST – NCR, and Kalakal Universal Ventures signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for contract research on the DOST – ITDI-developed electric plastic densifier.



The electric plastic densifier (EPD) developed by the DOST – ITDI, specifically the Environment and Biotechnology Division (EBD), is a basic system that consists of a screw that conveys plastics through a heating zone. The plastics are melted, and alternate products may be developed from the melted plastic waste. Currently, however; the production capacity of the EPD does not meet the current needs of Kalakal Universal Ventures. Thus, a MOA was signed to upscale the production of the EPD.

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Kalakal Universal Ventures is a company under the BAIVI Group of Companies and is the current operator of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) of the City of Marikina. Kalakal Universal Ventures contacted DOST – NCR for assistance as they would want to utilize the plastics they collect and transform these into usable products.

Present during the MOA signing were Dr. Annabelle Briones, Director of DOST – ITDI, Dr. Christine Marie Montesa, Deputy Director for Research and Development, Mr. Joselito Baingan, President of the BAIVI Group of Companies, and Engr. Romelen Tresvalles, OIC of the DOST – NCR.

Dr. Briones in her welcome remarks emphasized that partnerships between the private industries and the government is important in order to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. Partnerships are also important in order for technologies developed by the ITDI not to remain in technology cabinets.

Engr. Tresvalles affirmed Dr. Briones' sentiments in her message. She added that the DOST – NCR is willing to work closely with not only DOST – ITDI but with other Research and Development Institutes (RDIs) as well as the private industries in order to not only give scientific solutions to challenges faced by communities but to continuously upgrade already developed technologies.

Mr. Baingan expressed his thanks and excitement in his response. He feels very lucky to have partnered with the DOST and is looking forward to more partnerships in not only researches but also in technology adoption.

Dr. Montesa concluded the MOA signing by giving the closing message. She also emphasized partnerships as a way to upscale the production capacity of the already existing technologies.

The MOA signing was well-received by all parties. The next steps to take were discussed, and further possible collaborations were also mentioned. (ODD-ATS)

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