

DAVAO DEL SUR, PHILIPPINES INAUGURATES PLANT PRODUCING XYLOSE FROM COCONUT SHELL

Jesusita Marante and Edgar Bahala

On May 19 this year, the Philippines officially inaugurated its first manufacturing plant that will produce the natural sweetener “xylose” from coconut shell!

No less than the country’s Vice President Jejomar J. Binay was present in the inauguration of the \$55.1 million plant located in Darong, Sta. Cruz, Davao de Sur, describing it as a clear demonstration of foreign investors’ confidence in the Philippines.

Mr. Lee Hye Min, Korean Ambassador to the Philippines said that the venture has brought together Korean advancement in biotechnology, Japanese intensive marketing network and Davao’s ideal agricultural

and investment climate.

The manufacturing plant is operated by CJ Toyota Tsusho Philippines, Inc., a joint venture of the “Dream Team”

Xylose is a natural carbon sugar present in plant cell walls and coconut shell fiber. It is a raw material for the production of Xylitol, a five-carbon sugar alcohol. It is as sweet as sucrose and is used as a non carcinogenic sweetener and as a sugar substitute in diabetic diets. It is also a leading sweetener used in the production of gum. Its calorie and glycemic index is zero.

composed of CJ Cheiljedang Corporation of Japan and

Anflocor of Davao.

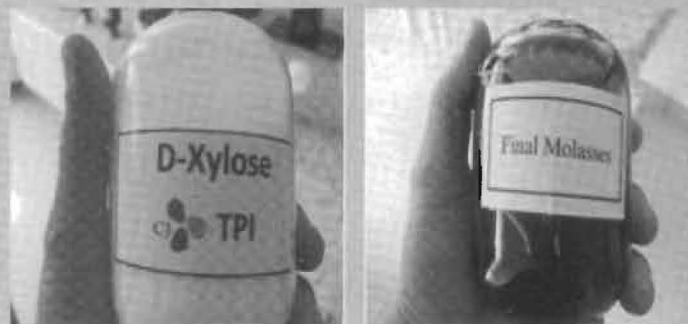
This is the first joint venture among Japanese, Korean and a Davao-based conglomerate investors. According to Vice Chairman Antonio Floirendo, Jr. CJTPI’s capacity is 15,000 metric tons of xylose every year which is exported to Korea, Japan, China, US and Europe.

The company’s Managing Director/ President Mr. Son Dae Ho also revealed that “xylose is a unique sweetener. Its calorie and glycemic index is zero! This is good news for all people who are health conscious.”

Mr. Cho Yun Hee, the company’s Chief Finance Officer said that in Korea, Xylose is already mixed with cane sugar.



Philippine Vice President-Jejomar J. Binay (Left) delivering the keynote address during the inauguration of the Xylose Plant. Korean Ambassador to the Philippines-Lee Hye Min (Right) delivering his speech.



The final product of CJTPI is D- Xylose, the by-product during the production process is Xylose Molasses. Sec. Alcala exhorted CJTPI to find ways of converting the other "waste" products such as powder husk, coir and waste activated carbon into other useful products.

According to Mr. Son, Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala recently visited the plant. The Secretary encouraged him to look into the possibility of producing other products using the "wastes" from Xylose production.

Secretary Alcala pointed to the molasses produced during the process which he believed can still be converted into complete fertilizers that can then be applied to coconut to increase its yield. "Higher yield means more coconut shells for your raw materials," the Secretary said, Mr. Son would recall.

The company plans to double its Xylose production capacity from 15,000 metric tons to

30,000 metric tons per year by 2013, needing about 100,000 metric tons of coconut shell to process the volume.

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Xylose can also be found in fibers of many fruits and vegetables like oats, mushrooms, corn and raspberries. It is toxin-free and safe for human consumption.

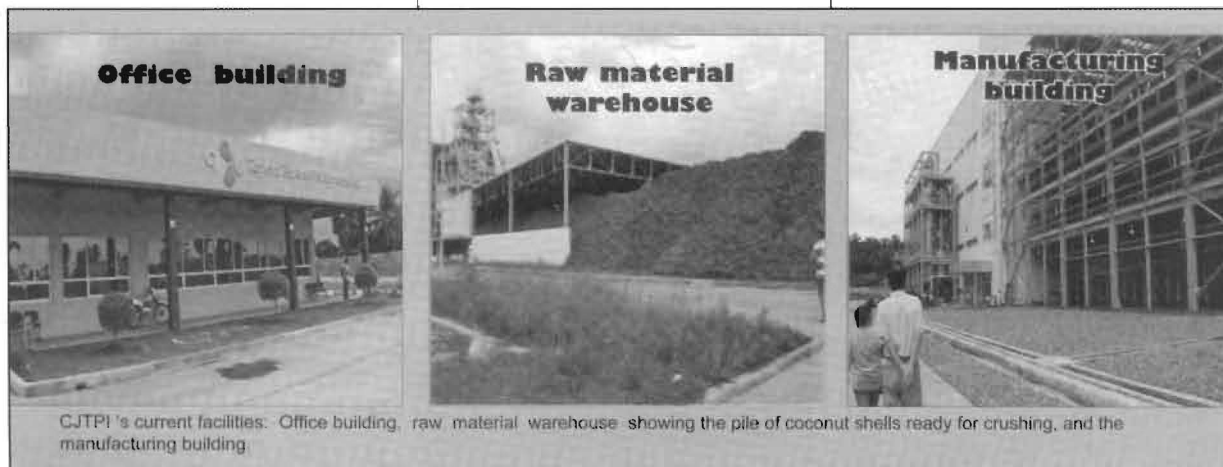
Xylitol is used in confectioneries,

oral care products and other health food products. The history of xylitol dates back to the 19th century. It was first derived from the bark of birch trees in Finland and was first popularized in Europe where studies showed that xylitol occurs naturally in berries, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, birch trees and even produced in the human body during normal metabolism.

Today, using hardwood or corn cob sources, the Danish company Danisco is the largest xylose manufacturer in the world.

Extracting xylose from the coconut shell is a Korean technology where shells undergo extraction in concentration, high temperature and high pressure.

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CJTPI's current facilities: Office building, raw material warehouse showing the pile of coconut shells ready for crushing, and the manufacturing building.