

PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Embassy, Canberra

1 Moonah Place, Yarralumla, ACT 2600
www.philembassy.org.au

* Tel. No. 02-6273-2535 *



Austal on track on Cebu shipyard expansion



Austal Vice President Davyd Thomas (left) gives an update to *Chargé d'Affaires* Jim Tito San Agustin (right) of the Philippine Embassy in Canberra on the expansion of Austal shipyard in Balamban, Cebu in the Philippines.

Canberra, Australia (17 October 2018) – *Chargé d'Affaires* Jim Tito San Agustin of the Philippine Embassy in Canberra met today with Mr. Davyd Thomas, Vice President for Defense of Austal Limited, to discuss ongoing expansion of Austal's shipbuilding operations in Cebu in the Philippines.

Austal, an Australian designer and manufacturer of defense and commercial ships, has been building commercial vessels in its Balamban site in Cebu in the past six years. Austal Philippines, which includes shipbuilding and service centre, is manned by some 500 Filipinos serving as design engineers, construction managers and workers. Mr. Thomas updated CDA San Agustin of Austal's plans to hire an additional 500 workers in the next two years to support its growing market. The Balamban site of Austal currently manufactures vessels for export to Germany, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and Spain, among others.



(L-R) Philippine Defense and Armed Forces Attache Col. Dennis Godfrey Gammad, Austal Vice President Davyd Thomas and Philippine Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Jim Tito San Agustin.

CDA San Agustin welcomed this news and said that, “this development highlights Cebu as the shipbuilding capital of the Philippines. The economic activity that this will bring, in particular the jobs that it will generate, is going to be significant to the growth of the region.” Austal invested USD20 million to double the capacity of its Philippine facility.

Mr. Thomas explained that, “your people build high quality vessels. We want to build your nation’s capital.” He added that Austal is taking the long-view in recognition of the strength of its Philippine operations and the demand outlook in the market for large high speed aluminum vessels.

At the ASEAN-Australia Summit held in March this year in Sydney, Austal CEO David Singleton informed then Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Peter S. Cayetano and Secretary of Trade and Industry Ramon Lopez of Austal’s plans to expand its Cebu operations. END