

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

7,223.83

▼ 37.51 PTS.

▼ 0.51%

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P853.00 -P3.00 -0.35%	ACEN AC Energy Corp. P9.50 ---	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P60.10 +P0.10 +0.17%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.50 +P0.24 +1.96%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P35.70 -P0.50 -1.38%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P30.90 ---	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P127.20 -P2.30 -1.78%	BLOOM Bloomberg Resorts Corp. P6.38 +P0.06 +0.95%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P94.70 -P0.20 -0.21%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P31.15 -P0.10 -0.32%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P3,280.00 -P16.00 -0.49%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P556.00 -P9.00 -1.59%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P203.00 +P4.50 +2.27%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P225.00 -P4.00 -1.75%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P58.00 -P2.00 -3.33%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.93 -P0.06 -0.60%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P57.50 -P0.30 -0.52%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P3.17 -P0.03 -0.94%	MER Manila Electric Co. P309.40 +P2.60 +0.85%	MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.90 -P0.04 -1.02%
PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P37.50 +P0.20 +0.54%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P19.12 +P0.04 +0.21%	RRHI Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc. P58.20 -P0.05 -0.09%	SECB Security Bank Corp. P111.00 -P1.00 -0.89%	SM SM Investments Corp. P950.00 +P3.00 +0.32%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P112.00 +P1.70 +1.54%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P34.15 -P0.15 -0.44%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,860.00 -P37.00 -1.95%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P126.50 -P3.00 -2.32%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P28.55 +P0.05 +0.18%

Philex considers life for Padcal mine beyond 2024

PHILEX MINING Corp. said it is considering prolonging further the operation of its underground Padcal mine in Tuba, Benguet province beyond its original retirement of 2024.

In its statement on Monday, the copper and gold producer said the extension depends on a variety of factors.

"The extension of Padcal's operation will be dependent on the study of the remaining mineable reserve, favorable price of copper and gold, as well as cost of producing the metals moving

forward and obtaining the required government permits. If prices hold on to the levels where they are now, which we consider high, then there is a possibility of extension," said Philex President and Chief Executive Officer Eulalio B. Austin, Jr.

The Padcal mine has been in operation since 1958 and was scheduled to cease operation by the end of 2024.

If the extension is approved, it will potentially overlap with the 2025 start of commercial production of Philex's Silangan

copper-gold project in Surigao del Norte.

"[Silangan] will start commercial operation by early 2025, limiting any major impact to Philex's income flow even if Padcal ceases operation as scheduled in 2024," the company said in a statement. "An overlap in Padcal and Silangan's operation could further bolster Philex income stream."

The Silangan mine will need an initial investment of \$224 million. It is expected produce around 2,000 metric tons (MT) of ore per day. By the twelfth year,

this will be ramped up to 12,000 MT a day or 4 million MT a year.

Over its 28-year mine life, the mine's estimated total investment will reach \$1.5 billion.

"It is expected to generate thousands of jobs, particularly in Surigao del Norte towns of Placer, Tubod, Tagana-an, and Sison, and contribute billions of pesos in taxes to both the LGUs and the national government," Philex added.

Last week, Philex said the first-phase deposit in its Silangan project could yield close to \$7 billion

in sales of metallic mineral over 28 years.

"The numbers for the Silangan Project are very compelling, pushing us to pursue the mine development even without a strategic partner or major investors as we originally envisioned," said Philex Chief Finance Officer Romeo B. Bachoco said in a stock exchange disclosure last Thursday.

As of the third quarter of last year, Philex's net income more than doubled to P1.88 billion from P918.26 million in the same period in 2020.

On Monday, Philex shares rose by two centavos or 0.37% to P5.45 per share.

Philex is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and PLDT, Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsos**

Manila Water signs bulk water supply project for Pangasinan

MANILA Water Co., Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary Manila Water Philippine Ventures, Inc. signed a concession agreement with the provincial government of Pangasinan for a bulk water supply project to help meet the water requirements of the province.

In a disclosure on Monday, Manila Water said the project has an estimated capital expenditure of P8 billion over a 25-year contract period. It is estimated

to deliver a billed volume of 200 million liters per day by the final year.

It will provide water to approximately 1.4 million residents across 14 cities and municipalities in Pangasinan, including Villasis, Urdaneta, Malasiqui, Dagupan, Mangaldan, Sta. Barbara, Calasiao, Mapandan, Manaog, San Carlos, Binmaley, Lingayen, San Jacinto, and San Fabian.

The project will create an infrastructure that will source water from Agno

River using the riverbank filtration technology to increase water supply in the province.

It is also the first bulk water supply project in the province and in the region.

"This is an investment for the more than 3 million Pangasinenses and that apart from water supply, it will generate jobs and more economic avenues for the province," said Pangasinan Governor Amado I. Espino III in a statement.

Manila Water brings water and wastewater services to the east zone of Metro Manila and Rizal province. Its subsidiary Manila Water Philippine Ventures serves key metropolitan areas in Batangas, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga, Boracay, Iloilo, and Samar.

On Monday, Manila Water shares increased by 1.17% or 30 centavos to close at P25.90 apiece. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsos**



COMPLETED CentralHub in Tarlac

CentralHub completes 6.2-hectare industrial warehouse in Tarlac

CENTRALHUB Industrial Centers, Inc., the joint venture between DoubleDragon Corp. and Jollibee Foods Corp., has expanded its industrial warehouse portfolio with the completion of its 6.2-hectare industrial warehouse complex in Tarlac.

"We are currently ramping up the simultaneous construction of various CentralHub industrial complexes across the country as the demand for modern industrial warehouses continues to grow," DoubleDragon Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Edgar "Injap" J. Sia II said in a statement on Monday.

"We aim to establish a strong foothold in this sunrise property sector as we aim to make DoubleDragon become one of the largest landlords of industrial warehouse space in the Philippines," he added.

DoubleDragon said CentralHub has to date 43.8 hectares of industrial assets, and that it continues to ramp up construction of its industrial warehouse portfolio after it recently completed its equity joint venture with Jollibee.

The joint venture, which is aimed to be the country's first industrial real estate investment

trust (REIT), is worth P24.8 billion of industrial leasing portfolio and is geared for its initial public offering in the second half of 2022.

CentralHub's industrial warehouse complexes are fit for use as a warehouse, commissary, cold storage facility, and logistics distribution center.

The completed CentralHub assets are in Capiz, Tarlac, Pasig, and Laguna, while three more hubs are expected to rise in Iloilo, Davao, and Cebu.

Mr. Sia said the pandemic "will put property companies in a situation where it is not the current size of the company's current leasable square meter portfolio that will be important, but the composition of the portfolio that will matter the most going forward."

DoubleDragon said it had "significantly strengthened" its debt-to-equity ratio during the pandemic to become one of the "lowest and healthiest" ratios among listed companies in the Philippines.

On Monday, shares in DoubleDragon dipped by 0.28% or two centavos to close at P7.18 each at the stock exchange. — **Marielle C. Lucenio**

Italpinas launches green building project in uptown Cagayan de Oro

ITALPINAS Development Corp. (IDC) announced a joint venture agreement with a landowner to develop a low-rise property project in Cagayan de Oro City.

The new project will consist of walk-up, four-story green buildings for both residential and commercial use, according to its disclosure on Monday. The agreement was executed on Jan. 14, 2021.

The site is a 11,327-square meter property in the uptown area of the city. It is near IDC's existing developments, Primavera Residences and Primavera City, enabling the company to "leverage its well-established knowledge of the local area and its dynamic market conditions."

The joint venture partner under the agreement is a landowner of the project site.

"The chosen format will accentuate the precinct's community-centered character, while simultaneously delivering contemporary Italian Design, open spaces, and modern conveniences," the disclosure read.

"The architectural design will be in keeping with the Italian-Filipino company's philosophy of bringing cutting-edge, sustainable design to dynamic, emerging Philippine cities," it added.

In the stock exchange on Monday, IDC shares dropped by 1.75% or two centavos to finish at P1.12 each. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsos**

PAL seeking approval for Manila-Tel Aviv flights

DEPARTMENT of Transportation (DoTr) Secretary Arthur P. Tugade met with Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines Ilan Fluss on Monday to discuss ways to push for the Philippine Airlines' (PAL) Manila-Tel Aviv-Manila flights.

"Secretary Tugade committed the DoTr's full support, to ensure that the plan for flights going to and from Israel will soon be a reality," the DoTr said in a statement.

The Transportation chief also requested PAL to coordinate with the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) on the requirements for the plan.

In April 2021, PAL announced that it was eyeing twice weekly nonstop flights to Tel Aviv's Gurion International Airport using its Airbus A350 aircraft.

PAL said that its president and chief operating officer, Gilbert F. Santa Maria, had been in talks with Israel

Ministry of Tourism Director General Amir Halevi on the possible Manila-Tel Aviv-Mania flights.

"The Philippines is a strong source of potential travelers to Israel, which welcomes Filipinos without requiring a visa," PAL Senior Vice-President for Strategy Dexter C. Lee said in a statement last year.

"Our countrymen have been longing for a direct flight to the Holy Land for spiritual pilgrimages or for a Mediterranean getaway when the travel climate allows," he added.

Mr. Tugade had already advised MIAA and CAAP "to provide the needed assistance to PAL for the seamless facilitation of the flight, within the timeline agreed amongst the DoTr, Embassy of Israel, and PAL," according to the Transportation department.

— **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Ayala property manager taps Globe for IoT solutions

GLOBE Telecom, Inc. on Monday said Ayala Property Management Corp. (APMC) had partnered with Globe Business' Intelligent Asset Management to digitize the former's manual processes.

"APMC engaged Globe Business' Intelligent Asset Management to facilitate the creation of APMC's Property Management Portal, which effectively and efficiently transitions its manual

processes to digital," Globe said in an e-mailed statement.

The goal is to "provide an overall better experience for staff and customers."

APMC faced issues such as inaccurate reporting and longer lead times prior to digitizing its processes, according to Globe.

From stock inventory to machine maintenance, Globe Business' Internet of Things (IoT) services provide a complete view of properties' needs, it added.

Michael F. Magpusao, APMC chief operating officer, said the partnership enabled the company to come up with a computerized maintenance management system (CMMS).

"Amid the pandemic, APMC and Globe Business continued the development of the CMMS to enhance productivity and come up with shorter response times, and more accurate reports," he added.

At the same time, Globe announced that it had expanded its fifth-generation (5G) roaming coverage in Europe to include Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, and France "to serve more Filipino travelers."

"Latvia, Netherlands and Austria are also expected to make the list in the coming weeks, bringing the number of Globe 5G roaming-ready countries to 40," it added. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

FEU records 4% income growth

LISTED Far Eastern University, Inc. (FEU) recorded P614.72 million in attributable net income to owners of the parent company for the September-November period of its fiscal year ending on May 31.

FEU's attributable net income increased 4.3% from P589.33 million in the same period in 2020, the private non-sectarian learning institution said in its quarterly report released on Monday.

Its total educational revenues for the September-to-November period decreased 5.6% to P1.18 billion from P1.25 billion in the same period the earlier year.

The institution's revenue from tuition fees fell 5.8% to P1.14 billion from P1.21 billion previously. Revenue from school fees decreased 1.1% to P37.83 million from P38.26 million in the same period a year earlier.

However, operating expenses declined 4.1% to P629.46 million from P656.27 million previously.

Its tax expense dropped 83.7% to P8.11 million from P49.89 million.

The institution's year-to-date attributable net income (June to November) rose 30.4% to P574.36 million from P440.53 million previously.

Educational revenues for the period increased 2.6% to P1.57 billion from P1.53 billion in the same period in 2020. The institution said this is mainly due to the 14% uptake in enrollees and earlier timing of first semester classes for the school year (SY) 2021-2022.

"The group's first half results showed significant improvement compared to the same period last year, as the FEU schools move toward the completion of the first semester/trimester of the current SY," it noted.

"The FEU Group of schools continues to capitalize on its track record and proven capability to adapt to a remote learning environment; however, management remains cautious and continues to operate with prudence and due diligence," the institution added.

Despite the rising number of coronavirus cases, the group remains optimistic about the possibility of resuming face-to-face classes, given the intensified vaccination program and efforts to gradually open the economy. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**