

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
<b>PSEi</b> OPEN: 7,097.18 HIGH: 7,167.02 LOW: 7,097.18 CLOSE: 7,167.02 VOL: 0.720 B VAL(P): 6.865 B 51.93pts. 0.73% 30 DAYS TO MARCH 30, 2022	<b>MARCH 30, 2022</b> JAPAN (Nikkei 225) 28,027.25 ▼ -225.17 -0.80 HONG KONG (Hang Seng) 22,232.03 ▲ 304.40 1.39 TAIWAN (Weighted) 17,740.56 ▲ 191.90 1.09 THAILAND (SET Index) 1,698.76 ▲ 9.02 0.53 S. KOREA (KSE Composite) 2,746.74 ▲ 5.67 0.21 SINGAPORE (Straits Times) 3,438.04 ▲ 4.14 0.12 SYDNEY (All Ordinaries) 7,514.50 ▲ 50.20 0.67 MALAYSIA (KLC Composite) 1,583.22 ▼ -0.20 -0.01	<b>MARCH 29, 2022</b> Dow Jones 35,294.190 ▲ 338.300 NASDAQ 14,619.636 ▲ 264.734 S&P 500 4,631.600 ▲ 56.080 FTSE 100 7,537.250 ▲ 64.110 Euro Stoxx50 3,749.250 ▲ 50.330	<b>FX</b> OPEN P52.020 HIGH P51.920 LOW P52.040 CLOSE P52.010 W.AVE. P51.960 VOL. \$1,119.50 M SOURCE: BAP 6.50 CTS 30 DAYS TO MARCH 30, 2022	<b>MARCH 30, 2022 LATEST BID (0900GMT)</b> JAPAN (YEN) 121.930 ▲ 123.630 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.827 ▲ 7.828 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 28.537 ▲ 28.783 THAILAND (BAHT) 33.300 ▲ 33.680 S. KOREA (WON) 1,208.530 ▲ 1,217.770 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.353 ▲ 1.360 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 14,340 ▲ 14,363 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.203 ▲ 4.216	<b>MARCH 30, 2022</b> US\$/UK POUND 1.3146 ▲ 1.3080 US\$/EURO 1.1155 ▲ 1.1022 \$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.7511 ▲ 0.7491 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.2480 ▲ 1.2492 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9246 ▼ 0.9364	<b>DUBAI CRUDE OIL</b> FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$108.59/BBL 30 DAYS TO MARCH 29, 2022 \$2.06

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MARCH 30, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on SI/3; article on SI/2)

SM	P898.000	CNVRG	P29.800	BDO	P133.000	SMPH	P37.900	ICT	P222.000	ALI	P35.600	URC	P119.000	MBT	P55.650	RLC	P20.500	TEL	P1,840.000
Value	P717,071,005	Value	P461,482,745	Value	P424,099,456	Value	P377,475,535	Value	P347,729,972	Value	P307,790,280	Value	P222,425,390	Value	P213,482,768	Value	P204,111,794	Value	P186,799,740
P2.000	▲ 0.223%	P0.600	▲ 2.055%	P1.000	▲ 0.758%	-P0.050	▼ -0.132%	P6.000	▲ 2.778%	P0.350	▲ 0.993%	-P2.000	▼ -1.653%	P1.250	▲ 2.298%	P0.500	▲ 2.500%	-P1.000	▼ -0.054%

# Shipping costs seen to drive inflation

## Filipinos ride NFT gold rush before the predicted bust

By Brönte H. Lacsamana  
Reporter

AJ DIMARUCOT, 46, is one of a slew of Filipinos who use so-called non-fungible tokens (NFTs) to collect and sell digital art on the internet. The Philippines ranked first out of 20 countries in terms of ownership of NFTs, which represent real-world objects such as art, music, in-game items and videos that are traded online, usually with cryptocurrency. About a third of Filipino internet users claim to own these tokens, according to a December online survey

by Australian information service provider Finder.

"Whether you're a small or big artist, you immediately have a way to monetize your efforts and work using NFTs," he said via Zoom.

Mr. Dimarucot sees a future where people, instead of providing free



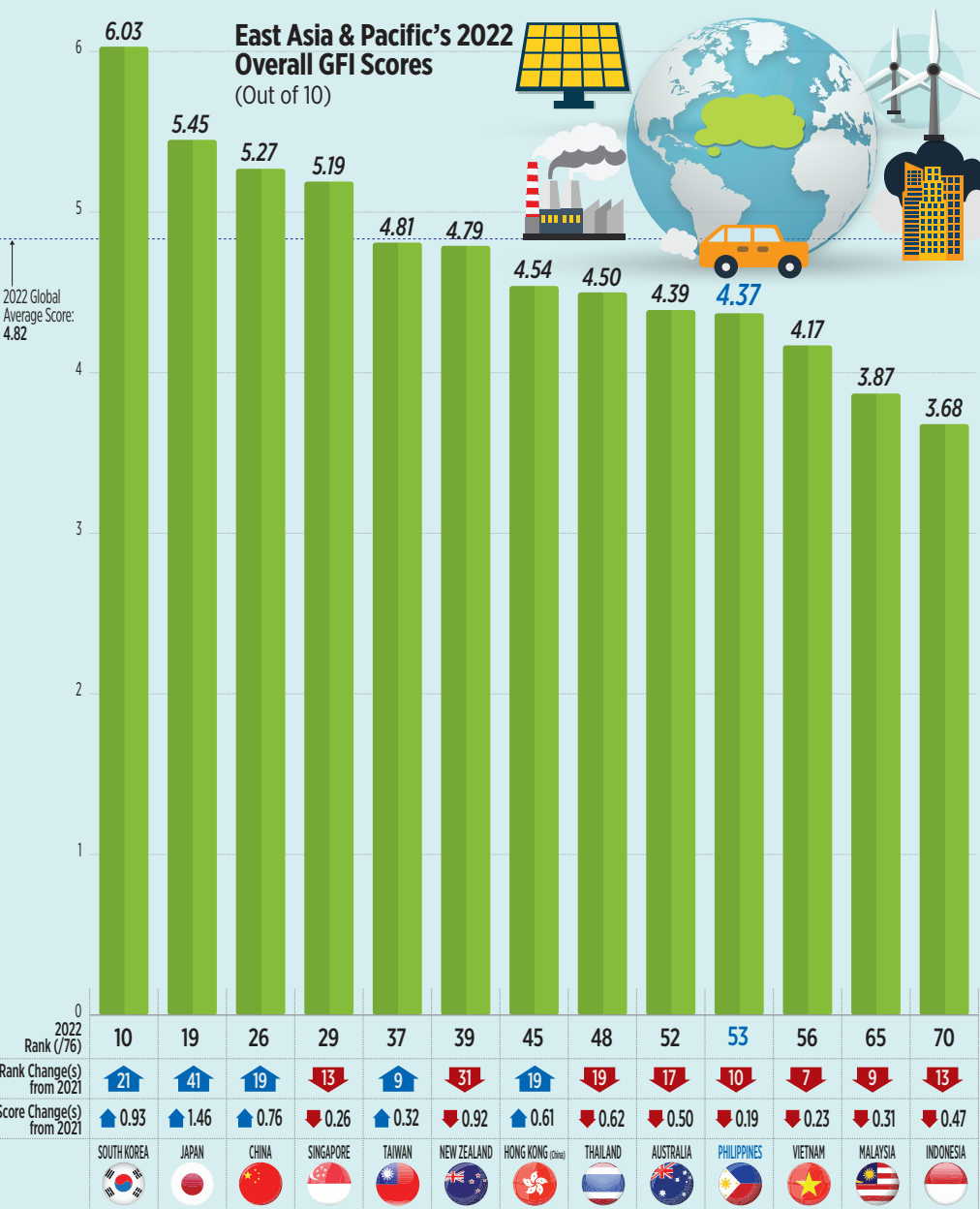
content to companies such as Facebook and Instagram in exchange for likes and followers, can monetize their creativity by getting their audience to pay \$.001 or a peso for every like.

One in three NFTs have ended up as a dead collection, with little or no trading activity after minting, blockchain analytics firm Nansen said in a March 26 report.

NFT, SI/8

## PHILIPPINES' COMMITMENT TO LOW-CARBON FUTURE DIPS

The Philippines' 2022 ranking slumped in an index that measures countries' progress and commitment towards building a low carbon future, according to the second edition of the Green Future Index (GFI) by MIT Technology Review Insights. The Philippines accumulated an overall GFI score of 4.37, slipping by 0.19 point from 4.56 garnered in 2021. It was also below the global average score of 4.82. This brought its overall rank to 53<sup>rd</sup> out of 76 economies, down by 10 notches. The Philippines was the fourth-lowest in the East Asia and Pacific region, ahead of Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia.



Top 5				Bottom 5			
2022 Rank (76)	Economy	Rank Change(s) from 2021	2022 GFI Overall Score (/10)	Score Change(s) from 2021	2022 Rank (76)	Economy	Rank Change(s) from 2021
1	Iceland	0	6.92	+0.47	76	Iran	2
2	Denmark	0	6.55	+0.11	75	Algeria	3
3	Netherlands	7	6.42	+0.80	74	Paraguay	1
4	United Kingdom	13	6.29	+0.85	73	Qatar	3
5	Norway	2	6.21	+0.01	72	Guatemala	2

### Philippines' Profile

	2022 Score (/10)	Score Change(s) from 2021
<b>GFI overall score</b>	<b>4.37</b>	<b>-0.19</b>
<b>GFI Pillars</b>		
Carbon Emissions	4.86	+0.61
Energy Transition	2.66	-0.97
Green Society	6.29	-0.28
Clean Innovation	4.55	-1.11
Climate Policy	4.05	+0.20

NOTES:  
 - The Green Future Index measures the extent to which 76 economies are moving toward a green future by reducing their carbon emissions, developing clean energy, innovating in green sectors, and preserving their environment, as well as the degree to which governments are implementing effective climate policies.  
 - The 2022 edition's research was conducted between October 2021 and January 2022.  
 - An economy's overall GFI score (with 10 being the highest score possible) is generated from 22 indicators grouped into five main pillars:  
 1. Carbon Emissions (index weight: 15%) — measures how effectively economies are curbing overall carbon dioxide emissions.  
 2. Energy Transition (15%) — assesses the contribution and growth rate of renewable energy sources (which now includes nuclear power).  
 3. Green Society (15%) — measures government, industry, and society efforts to promote green practices. It now includes share of electric vehicles to total urban population.  
 4. Clean Innovation (15%) — measures the innovation environment for building a low-carbon future.  
 5. Climate Policy (40%) — measures the ambition and effectiveness of climate policy. Latest addition is the carbon capture and sequestration readiness.

SOURCE: MIT TECHNOLOGY REVIEW INSIGHTS' THE GREEN FUTURE INDEX 2022  
 BUSINESSWORLD RESEARCH: ANA OLIVIA A. TIRONA  
 BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: BONG R. FORTIN

By Luz Wendy T. Noble  
Reporter

THE SURGE in global shipping costs will likely continue causing faster inflation in economies that are reliant on imports until the end of the year, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In a blog titled "How Soaring Shipping Costs Raise Prices Around the World," IMF analysts Yan Carrière-Swallow, Praygan Deb, Davide Furceri, Daniel Jimenez and Jonathan D. Ostry said global shipping costs that have soared during the pandemic due to supply chain disruptions are expected to remain elevated this year.

"Our results suggest the inflationary impact of shipping costs will continue to build through the end of 2022. This will create complicated trade-offs for many central bankers facing increasing inflation and still ample slack in economic activity. Moreover, the war in Ukraine is likely to cause further disruptions to supply chains, which could keep global shipping costs — and their inflationary effects — higher for longer," they said.

Using data from 143 countries over the past 30 years, the IMF analysts found shipping costs are an important driver of inflation.

"When freight rates double, inflation picks up by about 0.7 percentage point. Most importantly, the effects are quite persistent, peaking after a year and lasting up to 18 months. This implies that the increase in shipping costs observed in 2021 could increase inflation by about 1.5 percentage points in 2022," they said.

Countries that import more of what they consume will likely experience faster inflation, they said.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry President George T. Barcelon said supply chain issues, including soaring shipping costs, are expected to persist throughout 2022. He said this has affected the input cost for both exports and imports.

Mr. Barcelon noted the logistics issue began during the pandemic but is worsening due to the rising global oil prices. Firms are hopeful that the Russia-Ukraine conflict would be resolved soon, easing the pressure on crude oil prices.

"In the next two weeks, we hope fuel prices subside, but the problem on supply chain logistics and the shipping will not go away," Mr. Barcelon said in a phone call.

Shipping, SI/8

## Treasury sets P200-B borrowing plan for April

By Tobias Jared Tomas

THE NATIONAL Government is planning to raise P200 billion from the domestic market in April, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) said on Wednesday.

In an advisory, the BTr said the April auction of Treasury bills (T-bills) is targeted to generate P60 billion, while auction of Treasury bonds (T-bonds) is targeted to bring in P140 billion.

The April borrowing plan is smaller than the P250-billion programmed domestic borrowing this month. However, the government only raised less than half of the program in March.

A trader said in a Viber message that next month's borrowing plan is lower as March had five auction weeks, compared with April's four.

The weekly borrowing volume remained the same, however, as P15 billion in T-bills and P35 billion in T-bonds will be auctioned off every week.

The Treasury will offer P15 billion in short-dated T-bills — P5 billion each in 91-, 182- and 364-day bills — on April 4, 11, 18, and 25.

For the longer-term T-bonds, the Treasury will auction off P35 billion in three-year securities on April 5, P35 billion in four-year papers on April 12, P35 billion in the seven-year instruments on April 19, and the 10-year papers on April 26.

Treasury, SI/8

## Deadline for ITR filing moved to April 18 — BIR

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) moved the deadline for filing income tax returns (ITRs) to April 18, as the annual April 15 deadline falls on Good Friday this year.

In a BIR bulletin, the tax collection agency also reminded authorized agent banks (AABs) to extend their banking hours until 5 p.m., from the original cut-off time of 3 p.m. for the April 1 to 18 period.

BIR Commissioner Caesar R. Dulay also asked banks to accept payments on April 2, as two Saturdays before the tax deadline were declared as regular holidays. Araw ng Kagitingan falls on April 9, while Black Saturday is on April 16.

In a separate bulletin, Mr. Dulay reiterated the responsibilities of banks in accepting annual ITRs and payments.

Banks should accept all tax payments made by taxpayers using BIR

official printed forms or copies of system-generated filing reference numbers; photocopies of returns or electronically filled tax returns; and downloaded annual ITRs.

Banks should also stamp "Received" on attached forms of specific pages of the ITRs, and ensure portions of the ITR and deposit slips are machine validated.

They should also accept payments made through checks, provided that check tax payments are made payable to the BIR.

Banks are also reminded that they cannot impose penalties on violations committed by taxpayers, as this responsibility falls to the BIR, Mr. Dulay said.

The BIR is targeting to collect P2.4 trillion this year. For the month of April, the BIR's collection target is P256.89 billion. — Tobias Jared Tomas

## Diokno sees rate rise to 2.5%-2.75% as reasonable

PHILIPPINE CENTRAL BANK Governor Benjamin E. Diokno said raising the key policy rate to between 2.5% and 2.75% as part of an exit from pandemic-era accommodation would be "reasonable and consistent" with the nation's economic growth and inflation targets.

"We plan to start the normalization process in the second half of the year," Mr. Diokno said in a mobile-phone message on Wednesday, when asked about the plan for rate hikes. "It is not date specific, but we will continue to be data dependent," he said, adding that a 2.75% key policy rate "might be reached by next year."

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last week held interest rates steady at a record low 2%. While the authority sees inflation averaging above its 2%-4% target this year, it expects consumer-price increases to be within the goal next year. Economic planners forecast output to grow between 7% and 9% this year.

The Philippines is among many Asian nations that has so far refrained from the global rate-hiking cycle led by the US Federal Reserve, choosing to nurture economic recovery even as price pressures rise.

"This is as clear a signal as it gets that again BSP is in no rush to start hiking despite forecasting inflation

already above target this year," said Euben Paracuelles, economist at Nomura Holdings, Inc. in Singapore. It "suggests BSP will be quite gradual in the pace of normalization, in contrast to the US Fed."

The peso rose as much as 0.3% to its strongest against the dollar since March 7 in early trading on Wednesday.

Mr. Diokno on March 26 said a rate increase isn't the appropriate tool to address supply-driven price pressures, and suggested non-monetary moves to the government. BSP has kept interest rates on hold since November 2020, and is scheduled to set the benchmark rate next on May 19. — Bloomberg