

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,597.76

▲ 20.31 PTS.

▲ 0.30%

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P660.50 +P0.50 +0.08%	ACEN AC Energy Corp. P7.00 -P0.05 -0.71%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P47.80 +P0.90 +1.92%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P10.32 -P0.04 -0.39%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P28.30 +P0.60 +2.17%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P30.70 +P0.10 +0.33%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P122.70 -P0.80 -0.65%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P96.30 +P1.80 +1.90%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P25.50 -P0.30 -1.16%	EMP Emperador, Inc. P18.48 -P0.04 -0.22%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,544.00 +P14.00 +0.55%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P500.00 -P8.00 -1.57%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P210.60 -P3.20 -1.50%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P210.40 +P2.40 +1.15%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P51.00 +P1.00 +2.00%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.65 -P0.11 -1.26%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P51.00 +P0.90 +1.80%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.73 -P0.04 -1.44%	MER Manila Electric Co. P340.00 -P3.00 -0.87%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P15.78 -P0.14 -0.88%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.78 -P0.05 -1.31%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P32.55 +P0.35 +1.09%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P18.46 +P0.02 +0.11%	SECB Security Bank Corp. P90.00 -P1.50 -1.64%	SM SM Investments Corp. P847.00 +P17.00 +2.05%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P104.00 -P1.00 -0.95%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P37.00 -P0.70 -1.86%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,950.00 +P34.00 +1.77%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P103.70 -P0.30 -0.29%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P26.75 -P0.95 -3.43%

Rockwell expands in Visayas with two new projects

ROCKWELL Land Corp. on Wednesday said that it is developing two projects in the Visayas this year, when it also set to launch another premium tower at its flagship center in Makati City.

For its Visayan expansion, the Lopez-led property developer has lined up the 2.8-hectare Rockwell IPI in Cebu City in partnership with International Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and the 30-hectare Rockwell Center Bacolod, which will be composed of residential and retail developments, and a business park.

"To start off the Rockwell Center Bacolod community, Rockwell Business Park will offer commercial lots for investors. Residential lots will also soon launch towards the end of 2022," Rockwell Land President Nestor J. Padilla said.

Another project that is slated for launching is Edades West, a new premium residential tower at the flagship Rockwell Center in Makati City.

"The recent crisis has pushed us to explore other business strategies, expanding geographically from North

Luzon to Western Visayas. We believe the environment will continue to be uncertain and volatile, but there will always be demand for quality service and products," Chief Revenue Officer Valerie I. Soliven said.

The company said that it is "propelling forward with plans for expansion in spite of challenges faced globally."

Rockwell Land earlier reported that its net income after tax in 2021 jumped by 52% to P1.64 billion from P1.08 billion amid higher reservation sales and development revenues.

"In this environment of rising challenges, we only choose to face it head strong. We believe that it is not about getting back to the pre-pandemic scenario, but to transform and evolve," Mr. Padilla said.

Revenues last year likewise increased 14% to P12.72 billion and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) was up by 14% to P4.37 billion.

The company also reported that workspaces revenue increased and its retail operations ended strong as more customers went back to the

mall, especially during the Christmas holiday

"We believe the hybrid work setup will affect office take-up in the near term as companies tried to reduce operating costs. That has affected market rental rates, but it's encouraging to see some tenants, especially the BPO (business process outsourcing) industry [continue] to rent. Currently, our occupancy rate across office projects is at 96% as of 2021," Assistant Vice-President for Office Commercial Development Jesse S. Tan said.

Rockwell's 2.8-hectare West Block Residential Towers was the first residential development within Rockwell Center. It completed and handed over residential towers to unit owners starting 1999.

In 2013, Rockwell started to offer horizontal and mid-rise residential development projects in Cebu and Bacolod City, its annual report said.

Rockwell Land shares fell by 3.03% or P0.04 to finish at P1.28 at the stock exchange on Wednesday. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Joeson**

PSE warns firms on possible trading suspension

THE Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) announced that 11 companies are at risk of being suspended from trading due to their noncompliance with the submission of financial reports.

In a public notice, the PSE said that the 11 listed companies have not complied with the structured reportorial requirements of the exchange by failing to submit before the deadline their annual reports for the year ended Dec. 31, 2021 and quarterly reports for the period ended March 31, 2022.

The companies are 8990 Holdings, Inc., AbaCore Capital Holdings, Inc., Araneta Properties, Inc., Basic Energy Corp., Century Peak Holdings Corp., DITO CME Holdings Corp., Leisure & Resorts World Corp., Medilines Distributors, Inc., Philippine Business Bank, TKC Metals Corp. and Vantage Equities, Inc.

"The above-mentioned companies' failure to comply with the requirements of the exchange within the prescribed period will

result in the automatic suspension of the trading of their respective shares starting on June 1," the PSE said.

"The exchange will inform the trading participants and the investing public of further developments on the matter," it added.

In a separate notice, the PSE also announced companies that were still not compliant with the submission of requirements and would continue to be suspended for trading.

These are Abra Mining and Industrial Corp., Bogo-Medellin Milling Co., Inc., Filsyn Corp., Globalport 900, Inc., IP E-Game Ventures, Inc., Philab Holdings Corp., Philippine National Construction Corp., PICOP Resources, Inc., Steniel Manufacturing Corp., and Unioil Resources & Holdings Company, Inc.

"The trading of the respective shares of the above-mentioned companies will remain suspended until further notice," it added. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Joeson**

Xiaomi, Leica Camera announce partnership, to release new phone

XIAOMI Group this week announced a long-term partnership with Leica Camera AG, with their first jointly-developed imaging flagship smartphone set to be launched in July.

Xiaomi said in a May 23 statement that the company and Leica are "eager to continuously explore the optical performance and photographic experience in the mobile imaging era through extreme technological breakthroughs and aesthetic pursuits."

Lei Jun, founder, chairman and CEO of Xiaomi Group, noted that the technology brand is committed to created "the ultimate user experience" and has always wanted to push smartphone photography capabilities "to the extreme."

"Xiaomi and Leica agree with each other's pursuits and ideas and appreciate each other's advantages and industry. This cooperation will provide a strong boost to Xiaomi's imaging strategy," Mr. Lei said.

"During the cooperation, from optical design to tuning aesthetic orientations, the innovative technologies, product philosophies and imaging preferences of both parties have experienced unprecedented in-depth collision and fusion," he added.

Matthias Harsch, Leica Camera chief executive officer, said Xiaomi and Leica "have successively worked on the goal of providing customers a new era of mobile photography."

"We are convinced that the first jointly developed imaging flagship smartphone makes the pioneering progress of both companies visible. We will provide consumers in the field of mobile photography exceptional image quality, classic Leica aesthetics, unrestricted creativity, and will open a new era of mobile imaging," Mr. Harsch said.

The Xiaomi-Leica deal marked the official end of the camera brand's partnership with Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. that began in 2016. The P50 series launched last year are the last Huawei smartphones that feature Leica's imaging technology. — **BVR**

Huawei to support national digitalization policies in APAC

By Brontë H. Lacsamana Reporter

SHENZHEN-based multinational firm Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. last week shared its upcoming plans for supporting digital transformation, green and low-carbon development, and information and communications technology (ICT) advancements in Asia Pacific (APAC), both as a tech powerhouse and as a partner of governments in the region.

Simon Lin, president of Huawei in APAC, said in a digital innovation congress in Singapore on May 19 that the company will become "a key contributor to the digital economy in APAC and work with its customers and partners to build a better green digital life."

Held jointly by Huawei and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foundation, the congress gathered more than 1,500 government officials, researchers, partners, and analysts from over 10 countries across the region.

"In these diverse ICT policies, digital infrastructure has become the foundation of digital economy. Moreover, it's becoming more intelligent and green," Mr. Lin said in a speech at the event.



The 2022 ASEAN Development Outlook report found that ASEAN is currently the fifth-largest economy in the world, valued at \$3.2 trillion, and is expected to continue growing to become the fourth-largest by 2030.

To tap into and catalyze this growth, Huawei hopes to help APAC build "a leading and green infrastructure, including 5G, broadband, and data centers," Mr. Lin said.

Nearly 10,000 enterprises have benefited from partnerships with Huawei, which plans to further invest \$100 million in the Spark startup ecosystem to train local talent in digital skills. Its goal is to provide digital training to 500,000 locals within the next five years.

In the Philippines, Huawei is currently supporting ICT industry development through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs.

For one, School in a Bag provides teachers and students in remote areas with access to technology and connectivity, while the Huawei Philippines Scholarship is offered in the company's 60-plus partner universities in the country, covering over 13,000 students.

Meanwhile, Huawei's flagship CSR program Seeds for the Future benefited over 200 students over the last seven years.

Mohamed Djelid, director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regional science bureau for APAC, said in the conference during a panel on national digitalization that a gap needs to be bridged in the region.

"Despite rapid digitalization, there is still a big gap for MSMEs (micro, small, and medium enterprises) and rural areas," he said.

To move forward, governments must strengthen the following: regulatory frameworks, sustainable institutions, partnerships with the private sector, and digital literacy.

"The role of the private sector is critical in order to bridge the gap," said Mr. Djelid.

Naver's robotics ambitions challenged by 5G on-the-ground realities

SEONGNAM, South Korea — On weekdays, South Korean tech company Naver Corp.'s new headquarters near Seoul resembles a scene straight out of a science-fiction movie, with some 40 robots ambling across floors and delivering parcels and Starbucks coffee to humans.

The Rookies, as the robots are called, weave their way between people and even take a see-through elevator reserved for them to traverse the building's 28 floors. Crucially for Naver, the Rookies' brains are stored in the cloud and connected to the robots via a private superfast fifth-generation (5G) network.

While the robots seem to be doing their jobs well, senior Naver executives are cautious on the commercial future of the fledgling robot business, on which the company has already invested \$550 million, as 5G technology presents challenges.

"This will be a long-term task," Seok Sang-ok, CEO of R&D arm Naver Labs, which leads the robots project, told Reuters, declining to make any financial forecasts for the business.

Naver is South Korea's dominant search portal operator and one of its 10 most valuable listed companies with a market capitalization of \$35 billion. It has been making a push into 5G, becoming the country's first non-telecoms company to be allowed to run a locally licensed 5G network in December.

Naver's cautious outlook for the robots business underscores the challenges companies face in turning innovative ideas that 5G has promised into commercial successes.

These include regulatory hurdles involving new services like autonomous driving, patchy network rollouts and incremental upgrades in technologies.

And even in a technologically advanced country such as South Korea, Asia's 5G pioneer which launched a fifth-generation mobile network in 2019, demand for the service has remained muted and telcos have been reluctant to invest the massive sums needed to ramp up connection speeds to support services like autonomous driving.

COST ADVANTAGE?

While Naver's robots currently perform basic functions and their reliability is being tested in comparatively controlled settings, Naver executives are banking on its affordability as a unique selling proposition for wider use.

Naver declined to disclose the robots' price, but said the removal of the central processing unit and graphics processing unit from the robot and keeping its

"brain" in the cloud can reduce a unit's cost by more than \$1,500.

"5G's low latency is the key to ditching computers inside robots so it can access large computing power unlimited by robot size," said Mr. Seok.

Naver plans to increase the number of robots to 100 this year and also enable them carry out setup and maintenance work at its massive data center that will be completed in 2023. The center will span 300,000 square meters and be able to operate at least 100,000 servers, matching the scale of Microsoft or Apple's largest data centers, according to the company.

"5G is a network with many advantages, but it has to be optimized for robots instead of phones. No one can do it, but we are doing it," said Naver Labs' Won Choong-lyol in the interview. — **Reuters**

JOB OPENING

QUALITY COORDINATOR

- BS in construction management, engineering or equal, US or international education preferred
- US construction experience is a must
- International experience is a must, religious project preferred
- Experience in technical design and/or construction expertise and background in Quality
- 2-3 years of supervisory experience
- 5-8 years of applicable construction experience
- Experience in managing large teams (500+ people)
- Certification in ACI Level I, II, ACI National and ICR, RCI Roofing Inspector, Structural Steel Erector, Soils testing and mechanical/electrical/plumbing engineering

Scope of Position: Monitors all Quality activities on a project and ensures compliance with the Quality Implementation Plan (QIP). Participates in design phase activities, and document review. Understands design documents and perform preconstruction (preparatory) meetings, first work in place (initial) observations and periodic follow-up observations to ensure compliance with the design documents, submittals, manufacturer's requirements, and best practices. Promote use of materials, finishes and details with excellent long-term Quality Performance.

HASKELL COMPANY PHILIPPINES, INC.
71F Unit B, 8 Rockwell, Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center
1210 Makati City, Philippines
Email Address: Jeshthine.Lai@Haskell.com