

Entry-level vivo Y01 now available in PHL



SMARTPHONE brand vivo last week launched a new entry-level mobile phone, the vivo Y01, which it said is an “all-rounder” device that is “easy on the budget.”

The vivo Y01 is an addition to the brand’s entry-level Y series and is priced at just P5,299, the company said in a statement last week.

The phone features a 5000mAh battery that supports reverse charging and a larger, high-definition screen with 6.51-inch FullView display with a 1600x720-pixel resolution.

The Y01 will automatically adjust the phone’s brightness based on ambient conditions and also comes with Eye Protection Mode filters.

For a better gaming experience, its Multi-Turbo 3.0 feature “optimizes core scenes to reduce stuttering and lags.”

“When running multiple applications simultaneously, the vivo Y01 will allocate and prioritize CPU and internal storage at 32GB ROM to ensure smooth and steady performance,” vivo said.

Based on vivo’s website, the phone is powered by a Helio P35 processor and comes with 2GB

RAM and 32GB storage. Its three card slots can accommodate two SIM cards and a microSD card for memory expansion of up to 1TB.

The mobile phone has an 8-megapixel (MP) rear camera and 5MP front camera. vivo said the cameras support time lapse to face beauty modes. They also have a macro or bokeh mode.

The vivo Y01 also comes with FaceWake, a face recognition feature that can unlock the phone when picked up.

“For busy users, the iManager serves as a mobile butler than clean up space or scans issues at night to keep the phone in good shape for even better performance the next day,” vivo said.

The Y01 comes in two color variants: Elegant Black and Sapphire Blue. vivo said the Y01 is “the thinnest and lightest phone in its price range” as it weighs at just 178g.

The phone is now available at vivo stores nationwide. It is also available via vivo’s Shopee store exclusively for two weeks starting April 30. Following this, it will be released on the brand’s Lazada store. — **BVR**



Musk says Twitter may charge slight fee for commercial, government users

ELON MUSK said on Tuesday Twitter, Inc. will always be free for casual users but may charge a slight fee for commercial and government users, as the billionaire entrepreneur tries to boost the social media platform’s reach from “niche” to most Americans.

“Twitter will always be free for casual users, but maybe a slight cost for commercial/government users,” Mr. Musk said in a tweet.

Twitter declined to comment when contacted by Reuters.

Tesla chief Mr. Musk has been suggesting a raft of changes to Twitter since last month. After adding the company to his cart recently, Mr. Musk said he wanted to enhance the platform with new features, make the algorithms open source to increase trust, defeat spam bots, and authenticate all humans.

Last month, even before reaching a deal with Twitter, Mr. Musk had suggested few changes to the Twitter Blue premium subscription service, including slashing its price.

Earlier this week at the annual Met Gala in New York on Monday, Mr. Musk also said he would make Twitter transparent about how tweets are promoted or demoted and wanted its software to be publicly available for critique. — **Reuters**

Data are key to help Filipino organizations meet their sustainability goals

By Natalie Pia Azarcon

IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR that climate change is impacting not just the environment, but also society, organizations and businesses around the world.

In the recent World Economic Forum’s “Global Risks Report 2021,” the top three most likely risks to businesses in the next 10 years are extreme weather, climate action failure and human-led environmental damage.

A CLEAR CALL FOR SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Awareness of global environmental issues is changing the habits of consumers wherever they live. In a recent IBV Earth Day consumer survey, 49% of consumers said that they were willing to pay a premium for brands that are sustainable and/or environmentally responsible. Interestingly, 35% of these respondents say they have either stopped using diesel/gas/petrol/hybrid personal cars or use them less frequently due to environmental sustainability concerns.

Another 35% of respondents who recently changed employers accepted a lower salary to work for an organization they consider to be environmentally sustainable or socially responsible.

Investors also increasingly put their money with publicly traded companies that are a force for good. According to the same study, 62% of all personal investors surveyed already take environmental sustainability into account in their investment portfolios, and more than half of all respondents agree that the financial returns of investment in environmentally sustainable companies will be higher over the next 5 years.

Business and nations will need to embed sustainable practices into every



area of their operations, products, services and policies if they are to have long term economic sustainability.

In fact, the Asian Development Bank estimates that the Philippines stands to lose 6% of its GDP annually by 2100 if it disregards climate change risks.

Of course, challenges to natural resources may be extensive, but if there is one abundant resource at hand to help, it is data.

Data are at the heart of helping all organizations make progress on their net-zero goals. Available data around the use of carbon and the degree of carbon richness in our value chains are needed to see the progress of our planned carbon reduction, which is very hard to observe and act on without accurate data.

The power of data and leveraging on tools such as AI are a very fundamental part of the journey towards net zero.

EMBEDDING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES WILL BE KEY

Today, we see countries and companies rising to the challenge. IBM’s work with clients has shown that, presented with the right insights at the right time, businesses and consumers WILL act.

IBM teamed up with a European city and an energy partner to improve access to renewable energy options through real-time adjustments of cooling, heating and ventilation equipment. This flexibility of energy has resulted in reduced carbon output, and is also helping to change consumer and business behaviors around how they consume energy.

Another example is the IBM Food Trust. We developed an AI and blockchain-based food traceability solution on the cloud that can increase food safety and freshness, thereby unlocking supply chain efficiencies to help minimize waste, thereby enhancing a brand’s reputation with consumers and contribute directly to businesses’ bottom lines.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND PROFITABLE BUSINESSES TOGETHER

Weather, operational resilience and climate risk are also inextricably linked. In the Philippines, the Energy Development Corporation (EDC), the world’s largest vertically integrated geothermal energy producer, is leveraging on hourly forecast data provided by IBM’s The Weather Company to understand

the risks and decide whether or not to keep operating their geothermal plants in areas prone to landslides and typhoons. These insights also help keep EDC’s work force safe from the extreme weather events.

Access to The Weather Company also allows farmers in Nueva Ecija and Quezon province to monitor their harvests, as these areas are prone to flooding and heavy rain. Through the sponsorship of the Jollibee Group Foundation, access to The Weather Company via multiple mobile and messaging platforms allows the farmers to monitor the weather, and helps them better understand how their crops are impacted. This precise forecast at 500m x 500m resolution ultimately helps farmers improve the yield of their crops, and ensures the smooth flow of fresh vegetable produce from farms to Jollibee’s restaurants around the country.

USING TODAY’S MOST PLENTIFUL RESOURCE TO SAVE THE MOST SCARCE — DATA

All these engagements share a common thread: Data at significant scale that are critical for delivering these solutions, and data not held by any one area or in any one format. To achieve meaningful change, organizational silos that control data must be broken down and instead ought to be built on open and secure platforms, to allow insights to be delivered at speed to consumers and business alike. New ways of thinking and operating must be also uncovered in this journey.

Achieving net zero targets starts and ends with data, today’s most plentiful resource. That, coupled with new value chains, ecosystems, and technology will help to further accelerate progress toward a sustainable future for us all.

Natalie Pia Azarcon is a managing partner at IBM Consulting, IBM Philippines.

Job market, from SI/1

The Labor department’s Mr. Benavidez said that the next administration should prioritize economic recovery that “will generate more employment opportunities especially in the service sector, education, and the tourism industry.”

Trade Union Congress of the Philippines Spokesperson Alan A. Tanjusz said that the outcome of the May 9 polls and the policies of the next administration will influence the employment situation in the country.

“If those process would be positive and favorable, investments and investors will come and invest and would hopefully create quality jobs,” Mr. Tanjusz said in a text message.

JOBLESSNESS IN OLONGAPO

Meanwhile, Olongapo City logged the highest unemployment rate among highly urbanized cities (HUCs) and provinces in 2021, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said.

Olongapo City had a jobless rate of 14.4% in 2021, more than double the national average of 7.8%, according to the preliminary results of the agency’s Annual Provincial Labor Market Statistics report. This was equivalent to about 14,668 unemployed persons in Olongapo City last year.

Other HUCs and provinces that recorded double-digit unemployment rates were Camarines Norte (14.1%, equivalent to 33,188 jobless people); Marikina (12.9%, 26,247); Malabon City (12.7%, 19,946); and Taguig City (12.4%, 51,762).

Meanwhile, Agusan del Sur logged the highest underemployment rate at 51.6%, equivalent to 177,443, against the national underemployment rate of 15.9% in 2021.

The underemployment rate represents the total number of persons who want to have additional work hours or an additional job to the total employed population.

Other HUCs and provinces that saw elevated underemployment rates were Occidental Mindoro (42.3%, equivalent to 90,908); Aurora (41.6%, 39,140); Zamboanga Sibugay (40.3%, 118,053); and Apayao (38.8%, 19,206).

In terms of employment rate, Surigao del Sur had the highest at 97.7%, followed by Lanao del Norte and South Cotabato both with 97.6% and Batanes and Mountain Province both with 97.5%.

Bukidnon posted the highest labor force participation rate at 78.3%, followed by Ilocos Norte (77.6%); Agusan del Sur (76.7%), Mountain Province (75.9%); and Zamboanga del Norte (74.9%).

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort attributed the high jobless rate in Olongapo City due to the strict quarantine restrictions that affected many tourism-related businesses.

“The significant reduction in tourism largely due to the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns could have led to reduced jobs or employment opportunities in these areas,” he said in a text message.

Strict lockdowns were implemented in many parts of the Philippines to curb the surge in COVID-19 infections last year. Restrictions were only eased starting November as the country shifted to an alert level system with granular lockdowns.

Mr. Ricafort expressed optimism the labor market will recover this year.

“Further reopening of the economy towards greater normalcy, boosting foreign and local tourism, resumption of in-person schooling, among other measures to further reopen the economy could help further improve economic recovery prospects including the creation as well as recovery of some of the lost jobs in those areas,” he said. — **Keisha B. Ta-asan and Mariedel Irish U. Catilogo**

Press freedom, from SI/1

“The recent RSF ranking provides empirical basis for the existence of culture of impunity in the Philippines which certain government agencies either sweep under the rug or shamelessly deny,” Danilo Arao, who teaches journalism at the University of the Philippines, said in a Messenger chat.

The report also noted the end of supposed duopoly between ABS-CBN and rival GMA Network with the entry of another media company controlled by a firm of business tycoon and former Senate president Manuel B. Villar, who is allied with Mr. Duterte.

“Journalists working for this kind of media outlet have little editorial autonomy, self-censorship is the rule and respect for journalistic ethics is not guaranteed,” it said. “The internet and social media offer a space where many independent media can work freely but their economic viability is uncertain.”

In general, RSF said mainstream media ownership has reached greater levels of concentration than in the past, “a development accompanied by closer ties between media owning families and political barons at regional and national levels.”

It said radio and TV are the most popular media in the country, while print media continues to lose momentum with some regional newspapers struggling to continue their operations.

Still, RSF described the Philippine media as “extremely vibrant despite the government’s targeted attacks and constant harassment, since 2016, of journalists and media outlets that are too critical.”

Michael L. Ricafort, chief economist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., said global and local investors would likely consider the index in making investment decisions.

“Global investors become keener and more particular on the compliance of governments and companies that they invest into on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, as also encouraged by global regulators,” he said in a Viber message.

“Stronger institutions, rule of law, basic rights and freedom, which are part of compliance with ESG standards, are important considerations when making investment decisions.”

John Paolo R. Rivera, an economist at the Asian Institute of Management, said in a Viber message that the index would allow investors to gauge the level of political stability in the country.

“The level of media freedom determines many forms of stability — whether social, political, economic,” Mr. Rivera said.

JUNIOR MARKETING ANALYST - MANDARIN SPEAKING

Job Description:
Gather and analyze statistical data using modern and traditional methods to collect it.

Job Qualification:
Strong communication, presentation skills, and fluent in Mandarin.

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MARKETING PROMOTIONS SPECIALIST - MANDARIN SPEAKING

Job Description:
Conduct market research and analyze trends to identify new marketing opportunities.

Job Qualification:
Strong prioritization, organization, project management skills, and fluent in Mandarin.

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JOB ALERT!!!

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**10 INDONESIAN CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
5 BILINGUAL SUPERVISOR**

- Bachelor’s/College Degree with equivalent training and work experience
- Must be fluent in speaking and writing Bahasa and English

JOB OPENING

TSS Associate (Bahasa Indonesia Speaking)

The key function of this position is to attend to functional inquiries/ requests/transactions as assigned (including inquiries or requests via telephone or email) in accordance with established policies and procedures. Follows through on commitments and takes responsibility for results; effectively prioritizes assignments; identifies and reports barriers and issues to Supervisor. Identifies potential areas for process improvements and makes recommendations to Senior and Supervisor roles.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Extract and analyze open Purchase Order follow up
- Validate open Purchase Requisitions
- Convert compliant and valid Purchase Requisition to Purchase Order
- Analyze and resolve issues (parked/blocked invoices, GR/R process
- Generate procurement reporting to market
- Ensure compliance with Nestle standards and procurement practices
- Create and maintain standards routines or desktop procedures
- Train team members of Source to Pay process

Qualification:

- Bachelor’s degree graduate preferably with a degree in Finance Accounting
- Fluency in English and Bahasa Indonesia in a business setting is a must
- Experience in Procurement/Accounts Payable process is an advantage
- Highly analytical and self-motivated
- Assertive and proactive
- Resourceful and can work under pressure
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Knowledgeable in MS Office Applications
- Knowledge in SAP is an advantage
- Excellent communications skills

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