

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,333.94 ▲ 2.38 PTS. ▲ 0.03%

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P642.00 +P2.00 +0.31%	ACEN AC Energy Corp. P7.34 +P0.04 +0.55%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P49.20 +P0.55 +1.13%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.60 +P0.29 +3.11%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P27.80 ---	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P29.35 +P0.35 +1.21%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P122.80 +P1.80 +1.49%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P93.50 -P1.30 -1.37%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P19.30 -P0.85 -4.22%	EMP Emperador, Inc. P18.00 +P0.10 +0.56%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,092.00 -P128.00 -5.77%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P484.00 +P4.00 +0.83%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P199.40 +P4.50 +2.31%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P196.00 +P4.00 +2.08%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P49.90 +P1.65 +3.42%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.02 -P0.08 -0.99%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P50.90 +P0.35 +0.69%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.28 +P0.02 +0.88%	MER Manila Electric Co. P369.40 +P4.40 +1.21%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P13.18 -P0.18 -1.35%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.62 -P0.01 -0.28%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P31.00 ---	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P17.30 +P0.20 +1.17%	SECB Security Bank Corp. P90.95 -P1.15 -1.25%	SM SM Investments Corp. P790.00 +P5.00 +0.64%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P101.90 ---	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P36.90 -P0.85 -2.25%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,830.00 -P34.00 -1.82%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P96.00 -P1.60 -1.64%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P23.45 +P0.15 +0.64%

PLDT group blocks 23M smishing SMS from entities

Text scams from individual numbers to follow

THE PLDT group was able to block millions of short message service (SMS)-based phishing attacks, or smishing, and is now working to address text scams sent through individual numbers, according to its chief information security officer.

“Dati’yung text scams ay nanggagaling sa talagang sender IDs ng mga kumpanya at pinatay na natin’yun two weeks ago (Before, text scams would come from the sender IDs of companies, and we’ve gotten rid of them two weeks ago),” PLDT, Inc. and Smart Communications, Inc.

First Vice-President and Chief Information Security Officer Angel T. Redoble told *BusinessWorld* on June 17.

“Ang nakakalusot na lang ay nanggagaling sa peer-to-peer or individual numbers, kasi unang-una hindi naman natin binabasa’yung SMS ng mga tao (Those that still get away with it are messages sent through peer-to-peer or individual numbers, because we don’t read people’s SMS),” he added.

He noted that the group is now in talks with vendors “to upgrade so that we can detect and pre-

vent” text scams coming from individual numbers.

“We’ve already initiated coordination with the PNP (Philippine National Police) anti-cyber-crime group para imbestigahan kung nakakabili sila ng SIM cards na bulto-bulto (to investigate if [some people] are able to buy SIM cards in bulk).”

PLDT and its wireless arm Smart said on Monday that they have increased efforts to prevent malicious messages from reaching their customers.

“From June 11 to 14 alone, PLDT and Smart have blocked

more than 23 million SMS that contain three URLs identified as phishing sites,” the group said in an e-mailed statement.

The group defined smishing or SMS phishing as a form of “social engineering done through text messages that deceive customers into thinking that these messages were sent by legitimate organizations such as banks, recruitment agencies, tour operators and other companies.”

“These messages often contain links to websites that lure victims into revealing their personal information,” it noted.

More than 600,000 text messages linked to smishing, hoaxes, and spamming were blocked in the first five months of the year.

At the same time, the group said it had blocked nearly 78,000 SIMs, or removable smart cards for mobile phones, related to smishing from January to May.

“PLDT and Smart have blocked more than 500 domains specifically linked to smishing while the group has further blocked more than 10,000 domains tied to phishing.”

The group invested nearly P3 billion in cybersecurity infrastructure last year.

“We are constantly upgrading our tools to stay ahead of criminals. We continue to engage our partners both in the government and private sector to keep the group updated on the latest threats and how perpetrators run their modus,” Mr. Redoble said.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Cosco, Thailand’s Siam Global partner for one-stop warehouse

COSCO Capital, Inc. has signed a joint venture agreement with Siam Global House Public Co. Ltd. to operate a one-stop home improvement warehouse.

“The consideration or contribution of Cosco Capital in the joint venture agreement is less than 10% of the company’s total book value,” the listed retail holding firm said in a disclosure on Monday.

The warehouse will hold building and construction-related materials,

home and garden decorative goods, home improvement goods, construction equipment, and tools.

For its initial capital, the joint venture will have P500 million — 55% for Siam Global and 45% for Cosco Capital. The agreement was forged on June 17 at the foreign company’s head office in Roi Et, Thailand.

Cosco Capital said the joint venture is “looking to finalize, construct and open” three to five stores in the next 12 to 18 months in the Na-

tional Capital Region, Calabarzon (Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, and Rizal) and Region 3, or Central Luzon.

Siam Global is a Thailand-based firm with 76 stores selling building materials and home decorative products.

Cosco Capital is an investment holding company with diverse interests in retail, wine and alcohol distribution, real estate, and mining. The group’s subsidiaries include Puregold

Price Club, Inc., Ellimac Prime Holdings, Inc., and Office Warehouse, Inc., among others.

In the first quarter, the company reported that its consolidated net income increased by 10.9% to P2.71 billion. Consolidated revenues were also up by 2.8% to P40.68 billion from P39.57 billion.

On Monday, Cosco Capital shares climbed by 2.36% or 10 centavos to close at P4.34 at the stock market. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Shakey’s expects Q2 earnings growth amid increased mobility

SHAKEY’S Pizza Asia Ventures, Inc.’s second-quarter performance is likely to outpace the previous quarter due to eased mobility restrictions, its top official said on Monday.

“The second quarter is going to be even better than the first, that’s what we see so far. The first quarter was still hit by the Omicron variant. People were still scared to go out,” Shakey’s President and Chief Executive Vicente L. Gregorio said during a virtual briefing.

“In the second quarter, we see the loosening of lockdowns and the recovery rate jump up. We are already benefiting from our reopening play,” he added.

In the first quarter, the firm reported that its net income after tax more than doubled to P76.23 million from P28.72 million the year prior. The profit jump came as revenues increased 25.8% to P1.61 billion from P1.28 billion.

“This was mainly driven by dine-in recovery, coupled with the integration of Potato Corner’s operations starting March,” the company said in a disclosure.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) rose 22.1% to P293 million from P240 million even as gross margins softened due to the general rise in input prices globally.

“I firmly believe we are coming in strong and we are ready for a reopening play and beyond. We have a great roster of brands, each with a role to play,” Mr. Gregorio added.

In 2019, Shakey’s acquired Peri-Peri Charcoal Chicken, a local fast-casual and full-service restaurant brand. In 2020, the company entered into a master franchise agreement with Singapore-based Koufu Group Ltd. to bring the R&B milk tea brand to the Philippines.

Last year, the company entered into an agreement to purchase assets and intellectual property relating to food kiosk brand Potato Corner.

“We are learning and beginning to see the potential of the Potato Corner brand. We are ahead of projection and this has made us very optimistic about this brand. We have drawn up plans to further expand the business domestically and internationally. In just a few months, we have seen the many synergies we can make with the business,” Mr. Gregorio said.

In a separate disclosure, Shakey’s announced that its board of directors approved the declaration of a regular cash dividend of P0.03 per share, to all stockholders of record as of July 4, payable on July 20.

At the stock exchange on Monday, Shakey’s shares declined by 3.41% or 24 centavos to close at P6.80. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Solar Philippines eyes deals for 10-GW projects

SOLAR Philippines Power Project Holdings, Inc. has offered its proposed 10 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy development to off-takers or buyers, its listed unit said on Monday.

In a disclosure, Solar Philippines Nueva Ecija Corp. (SPNEC) said its parent firm’s submitted offers “to substantially contract” are awaiting the approval of would-be off-takers and regulators.

“If approved, Solar Philippines would potentially have 9 terawatt-hours per year of contracted energy, which would serve as a critical mass of demand enabling 10 GW of developments scheduled to commence operations mostly between 2025 to 2026,” SPNEC said.

The listed company said that aside from its planned 500-megawatt (MW) solar farm in Nueva Ecija, the renewable energy projects are held by companies with shares subject to the asset-for-share swap between SPNEC and Solar Philippines.

The largest of the developments is Terra Solar Philippines, Inc., a joint venture with Razon-led Prime Infrastructure Holdings, Inc. (Prime Infra) that plans to construct 3.5 GW of solar and 4.5 GW-hours of battery storage.

Prime Infra earlier this month described the project as the world’s largest solar project. The solar farm will supply 850 MW

to Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. “on a firm basis like a conventional mid-merit power plant.”

The other entities include Solar Philippines Batangas Baseload Corp., which is developing an up to 2-GW solar project with battery storage; Solar Philippines Central Luzon Corp., a joint venture with AC Energy Corp.; Solar Philippines South Luzon Corp.; and Solar Philippines Visayas Corp.

SPNEC said these are among the Solar Philippines entities in the published list of qualified bidders for the 2,000 MW (2 GW) offered by the Department of Energy (DoE) under the government’s Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP).

The DoE is set to post the GEAP’s notice of award on or before June 24, 2022.

Solar Philippines’ earlier projects include the 63 MW operating under Solar Philippines Cagayan Corp., a joint venture with Korea Electric Power Corp.; and the 100 MW operating plus expansions under Solar Philippines Tarlac Corp. and Solar Philippines Tanauan Corp., which are also joint ventures with Prime Infra and with Meralco power supply agreements.

“Altogether, SPNEC aims to complete the development of 10 GW of solar projects by 2025, which would help address the country’s potential power shortage, and represent a significant increase from the country’s grid-

connected solar capacity of 1,127.3 MW as of December 2021,” it said, citing DoE figures.

“While we have been constrained from commenting on our projects due to ongoing contracting processes, we look forward to share more details in the coming days, and so give a better picture of what SPNEC will look like after the asset-for-share swap,” said Leandro Antonio L. Leviste, Solar Philippines founder.

FIRST AUCTION ROUND OF GEAP

Separately, the DoE said on Monday that it had conducted the first auction round of the GEAP on June 17. A total of 24 qualified bidders participated in the auction.

“Of the 24 bidders, eight were from solar, another eight were from wind, seven were from run-of-river hydro, and one was from biomass,” it said.

The competitive process will set the benchmark for future auction rounds, as the resulting green energy tariff will reflect the value of electricity, the department said.

DoE Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi described the auction as “a significant step in encouraging more power generation investments in renewable energy, while protecting the interest of Filipino consumers — a testament to the country’s commitment to developing indigenous and clean sources of energy at competitive prices.” — **Victor V. Saulon**

House of Investments buys A.T. Yuchengco Centre

HOUSE of Investments, Inc. (HI), the investment holding and management company of the Yuchengco group, has approved the purchase of A.T. Yuchengco Centre from its affiliate bank Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) for P6.07 billion.

The purchase is part of the firm’s long-term plans to consolidate the property interests of the conglomerate.

“This is part of our strategy to realign the businesses of YGC, and strengthen

the conglomerate’s position with a more holistic approach in the property development and management sector,” HI President and Chief Executive Officer Lorenzo V. Tan said in a disclosure on Monday.

Mr. Tan said that for the purchase, an investment vehicle will be incorporated to hold the asset as HI’s wholly owned subsidiary.

“This is part of HI’s plans to grow its property business segment in line with

the conglomerate’s mission to build and grow a portfolio of strategically diversified and sustainable investments,” he added.

A.T. Yuchengco Centre is a 34-storey tower in Taguig. As one of a limited number of structures accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), it gives special access to tax incentives and government assistance, and is designed especially for BPO offices.

HI is an investment holding and management company and one of the four major flagship corporations of the Yuchengco group. Its core businesses involve car dealership, construction, education and property services. Its portfolio investments are in pharmaceuticals, energy, and afterlife services.

At the stock exchange, HI shares went down by 2.29% or eight centavos to close at P3.41. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

JOB OPENING

1 ASSISTANT MANAGER
1 GENERAL MANAGER
1 DESIGN MANAGER

- College Graduate
- At least 6 months of professional relevant work experience
- Able to speak Korean and English fluently
- Able to read and write Korean and English with clarity

QISO INC.
Unit 2502-C 25/F West Tower, PSEC, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel: +(63) (099)5867-4869
Please send your resume at email address qiso2018ph@gmail.com

JOB OPENING

Company Name and Address
Schneider Electric Logistics Asia Pte Ltd – Philippine Branch
APC Admin Bldg., Lot 1 Block 5 Phase 2, PEZA, Rosario, Cavite

Contact details of the company Micaela Tan | Micaela.Tan@se.com

Available Job Vacancy French Premium & Technical Services Representative (1)

Job Description
This position will support customer’s inquiries related to product sales and post sales, service inquiries and other requests within the defined Zone or Countries. The role will require close coordination with key internal stakeholders to ensure customer inquiries, requests or complaints are managed professionally and in a timely manner.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Answer incoming “Sales Related” calls and proactively qualify sales opportunities
- Document all incoming calls using CRM tool
- Promote Schneider’s existing and new products and solutions with a unique value proposition, cross selling and up selling with innovative, alternative solutions to replace the competitor’s product
- Participate in various Technical & Customer Service & Sales Training Courses as required
- Support the sales teams with generating and assembling larger, more complex Quotations and order follow up
- Escalating problems to Technical Support team when standard troubleshooting techniques and databases cannot provide an adequate solution
- Perform assistance with all internal and external customers for all of Schneider’s products
- Dispatch a Field Service Engineer or its Service Partner for unscheduled on-site services

Basic Qualification

- Must be eloquent in English language, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Korean or Japanese
- Candidate must possess a bachelor’s degree preferably in Engineering (EE, ECE) or IT related courses or experience
- Must possess excellent skills in listening, expression and interrelationships
- Must be keen to details and be technically smart
- Must be capable in working independently and utilize sound judgement
- Ability to adjust quickly to reforming situations and express determination to achieve incessant improvement and excellent customer service
- Demonstrate ability to understand and explain technical information
- Ability to solve customer problems via telephone, chat, web and email
- Willing to work in Cavite on a rotating schedule

Salary Range PHP 80,000 – PHP 100,000