

## PLDT Enterprise's services to benefit more China entities

PLDT Enterprise, the business-to-business arm of fully integrated telecommunications provider PLDT, Inc., said it recently signed a partnership deal with edge cloud service provider BaishanCloud to enhance the global company's capabilities.

The partnership, according to PLDT Enterprise, will help BaishanCloud, an independent edge cloud service provider rooted in China, provide services to its users globally.

"Through this proposed partnership, more companies, especially Chinese

enterprises, will benefit from PLDT's services in the country," PLDT Enterprise said in an e-mailed statement.

The partnership is seen to diversify the local cloud landscape, as it expands PLDT Enterprise customers' infrastructure and service alternatives.

The company noted that BaishanCloud is providing services and solutions in over 250 cities globally.

"With VITRO as Philippines' biggest data center provider, this partnership will add diversity to our

portfolio in serving a wider range of customers, on the way to making the Philippines as Asia's next technology hub," said Victor S. Genuino II, president and chief executive officer of ePLDT, the information and communications technology arm of PLDT Enterprise.

For his part, Albert Villa-Real, PLDT Global president and chief executive officer said: "We both aim to serve the discerning digital infrastructure standards of global customers in the Philippines."

"A partnership with PLDT Enterprise will provide us with more leverage in terms of network and resource capabilities which will enable us to better serve our clients in the country," said Yuankai Guo, general manager of BaishanCloud (Singapore).

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**



## Meralco unit, Korean firms tie up for clean energy R&D

A UNIT of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) has partnered with a Korean company for a research and development (R&D) project in the Philippines on how the use of clean energy technologies can drive sustainability.

Meralco Industrial Engineering Services Corp. (Miescor) and Seochoang Electric Communication Co. Ltd. will put up an on-grid hybrid power service through a research grant from the Korea Institute of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning.

"We are honored to partner with Seochoang and other Korean companies in this initiative as we all share a common goal of bolstering the use of clean energy," said Miescor President and Chief Executive Officer Ronnie L. Aperocho in a media release on Wednesday.

The project will set up a 50-kilowatt peak solar photovoltaic (PV) system and a 300-kilowatt-hour energy storage system (ESS) that will serve a Gawad Kalinga community in Cavite. It is aimed to benefit about 200 households in Brgy. Hugo Perez, Trece Martires City.

It will power commonly used facilities such as street lights as well as the community's multi-purpose hall and development center. It will also serve as a potential energy source for electric vehicles.

"This project does not only support One Meralco Group's sustainability goals, but also, this project most importantly, contributes to a cleaner and more eco-friendly environment, provides electricity to the community, and creates livelihood opportunities," Mr. Aperocho said.

Project construction is set for September for completion in November 2022. Before full operations in the third quarter of next year, a performance evaluation and maintenance system will be in place.

The groups involved in the project aim to develop a sustainable energy network by using and optimizing used electric vehicle (EV) batteries that are suitable for local electric distribution facilities. They will also find ways to provide clean and reliable electricity service to communities.

"We, in Seochoang, are happy that Miescor partnered with us in this undertaking as we have been looking for the most appropriate and sustainable project that we can be a part of in our Asian neighbors," said Seochoang President Alikia Yoon.

"And this project in the Philippines is, in our opinion, the most deserving one," the official said, adding that the group is looking forward to expanding further to other areas in the Philippines.

Based in South Korea's Daegu, Seochoang specializes in advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and the construction of various ESSs. It has been supplying watt-hour meters to Meralco for more than 10 years.

Miescor offers engineering, procurement, and construction services across power infrastructure, renewable energy, electromechanical works, telecommunication infrastructure, and general construction projects.

Other South Korean entities PM-GROW Corp., Korea Testing Laboratory, and Korea Energy Convergence Association are also supporting the project. — **VVS**

### Manulife China Bank

Single Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts				
Fund	Unit Price			
	Current Week	June 28, 2022	Previous Week	June 21, 2022
Peso Secure Fund	1.660	1.662		
Peso Diversified Value Fund	1.786	1.794		
Peso Growth Fund	2.548	2.596		
Peso Dynamic Allocation Fund	0.936	0.947		
Peso Target Distribution Fund	0.750	0.754		
Peso Cash Fund	0.989	0.989		
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2020 Fund	0.832	0.840		
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2031 Fund	0.778	0.789		
Powerhouse Fund	0.750	0.763		
USD Assurance Fund	1.483	1.471		
USD Asia Pacific Bond Fund	1.016	1.011		
USD Global Target Income Fund	0.780	0.744		
USD ASEAN Growth Fund	1.489	1.452		
Chembank Dollar Fund Income VUL Fund	0.993	0.991		
USD Asia First Fund	1.226	1.184		
USD Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.871	0.845		
PHP Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.903	0.865		
PHP Tiger Growth Fund	0.789	0.719		
USD Tiger Growth Fund	0.666	0.631		
PHP Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.966	0.944		
USD Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.849	0.840		
PHP US Growth Fund	0.969	0.900		
USD US Growth Fund	0.844	0.794		
PHP Global Health Fund	1.030	0.959		
USD Global Health Fund	0.992	0.930		

### Manulife China Bank

Dual Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts				
Fund	Unit Bid Price			
	Current Week	June 28, 2022	Previous Week	June 21, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	1.960	1.961		
Peso Stable Fund	1.820	1.828		
Peso Equity Fund	1.782	1.795		
Peso Balanced Fund	0.949	0.960		
Peso Target Income Fund	0.763	0.768		
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	1.551	1.539		

Unit Offer Price				
Fund	Unit Offer Price			
	Current Week	June 28, 2022	Previous Week	June 21, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	1.960	1.961		
Peso Stable Fund	1.848	1.856		
Peso Equity Fund	1.789	1.822		
Peso Balanced Fund	0.963	0.975		
Peso Target Income Fund	0.775	0.780		
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	1.575	1.562		

## Jollibee group shifts to hybrid work model

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. (JFC) on Wednesday announced that it is returning to the office with a hybrid work model setup as the country remains under the most eased lockdown restriction.

"After over two years of remote work, office-based Jollibee Group employees have returned to the workplace this June under a hybrid model, where they are onsite for two days and on remote work for other days of the week," the firm said in a media release.

The setup is part of the group's back-to-office program that employs a more "human-centric approach to redesigning the new employee work-life experience."

The company said it would focus on health and well-being, enhanced collaboration, and a sense of purpose and social connection as part of its strategy to return to the workplace.

"When the pandemic started, the Jollibee Group prioritized employee health and safety even further. We adopted a remote work setup for office-based employees and strengthened our safety protocols in our stores to help protect our store teams' well-being. Putting our employees' health and safety first continues to be our priority," Chief Human Resources Officer Arsenio M. Sabado said in a statement.

"We're also nurturing productivity and collaboration to enable our employees to adapt well to the new setup and ensuring that in our offices and in our stores, the spirit of family and fun is alive daily, something that characterizes who we are as a company," he added.

The company said it is implementing employee welfare programs, including webinars on health and wellness and on management techniques.

Apart from the three-day remote work, the company said it is also launching "Focus Friday" or a no-meeting policy on Fridays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to give employees more time for focused work.

Key sites of the group's offices in the country have also been made compliant with government-issued guidelines on ventilation for workplaces to prevent and control the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The back-to-office program covers teams from Jollibee, Chowking, Mang Inasal, Greenwich, Red Ribbon, Burger King, Panda Express, PHO24, support functions, and the Jollibee Group Foundation.

At the stock exchange on Wednesday, JFC shares climbed by 1% or P2 to close at P202.00. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocoson**

## Iloilo City's More sources 20-MW renewables from First Gen's EDC

RAZON-led More Electric and Power Corp. will be sourcing 20 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy from Energy Development Corp. (EDC) starting on July 25, the parent firm of the Lopez-led company said on Wednesday.

In a statement, First Gen Corp. said the power supply deal is a result of the competitive selection process conducted by More in which its unit EDC submitted the lowest bid among three energy generators.

It added that More's move to source clean energy is part of the distribution utility's "customer welfare-driven initiatives" that aim to provide Iloilo City with stable and reliable power at fixed rates.

First Gen quoted More President and Chief Executive Officer Roel Z. Castro as saying: "We are confident that this partnership with First Gen and EDC will give us both our priorities that will benefit our consumers in the long term. Especially now that global fuel prices are, and will continue to be volatile, having renew-

able energy in our portfolio will save our consumers from high electricity costs."

"Green power is not only reliable but also affordable," he said, adding that the company's priority is affordable electricity, "then having renewable energy in our portfolio."

The five-year power supply to More will come from one of EDC's largest geothermal facilities, the Unified Leyte Geothermal Power Plant.

"We are thankful for this new partnership and we hope that this is only the beginning of a long and successful relationship," Mr. Castro said during the ceremonial contract signing on June 28.

First Gen said geothermal energy is considered the Holy Grail of renewable energy (RE) technologies because it can provide uninterrupted baseload power, or what EDC calls Geo 24/7.

It added that since geothermal energy hardly emits carbon dioxide, being powered by Geo 24/7 will also

enable More to avoid releasing to the atmosphere a minimum of 124,942 tons annually of heat-trapping carbon dioxide.

Marvin S. Bailon, EDC vice-president and head of business development, said the partnership "will not only benefit both parties but will also help our country decarbonize and meet its target to reduce its carbon emissions."

He was referring to the government's commitment under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030.

More, a subsidiary of Prime Strategic Holdings, Inc., has a 25-year franchise to provide power to Iloilo City's around 87,000 consumers.

EDC has more than 1,480 MW of installed capacity, which accounts for around 20% of the country's renewables capacity. Its geothermal portfolio at 1,185.4 MW accounts for 62% of the country's installed geothermal capacity. — **VVS**

## BDO integrates benefits of digital to branch banking via self-service technology

Local businesses are turning to self-service technologies to provide safer and more efficient ways for customers to accomplish their daily transactions.

Aside from local enterprises such as laundromats, convenience stores, and restaurants, big establishments such as banks are also adopting self-service technologies to cater to the evolving needs of their customers.

BDO Unibank is combining digital self-service solutions with person-to-person customer service to enhance the in-branch banking experience of its clients. But most importantly, these solutions are deployed so clients can do their transactions faster.

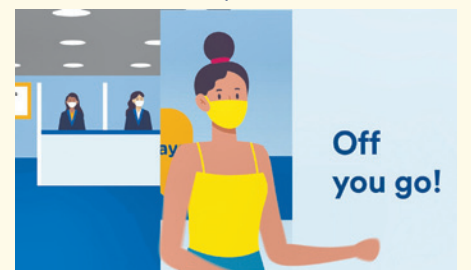
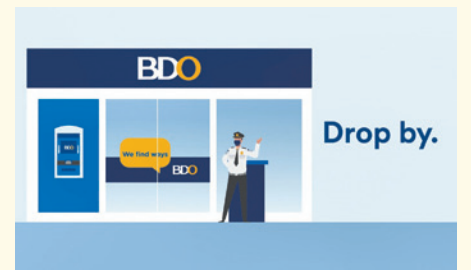
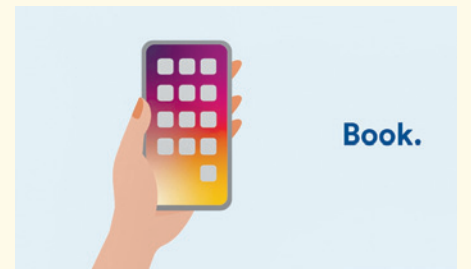
### In-branch innovations

BDO branches now offer paperless transactions processing where clients can input their transactions in a kiosk inside the branch instead of filling up forms manually. For a more seamless and safer customer experience, clients also have the option to book an appointment online for their branch visits, receive a QR code to be scanned on the QMS (queue management system) scanner once they reach the branch, and immediately fall in queue.

BDO clients who have already experienced said upgrades acknowledged convenience in the usage—giving them a level of comfort and ease, and quicker processing.

Additional self-service innovations will be rolled out in the branches such as the BDO Universal Machine that allows clients to deposit checks easily, even without the assistance of a branch personnel.

The introduction of self-service technologies in its branches is part of BDO's digital transformation efforts to make its service delivery more efficient and to promote



customer satisfaction across all its channels. Go to [www.bdo.com.ph/book-your-visit](http://www.bdo.com.ph/book-your-visit) for more details on branch visit online booking.

### How to book your branch visit

1. Use any of your devices to visit [www.bdo.com.ph/book-your-visit](http://www.bdo.com.ph/book-your-visit).
2. Select all the transactions you need.
3. Choose your preferred branch, date, and time and save the QR Code.
4. Visit your preferred branch on your scheduled appointment and proceed to Service Assist machine to scan your QR Code.
5. Get your queue number ticket and relax as you wait for your turn.