

Prime Infra unit plans world's largest solar farm

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

NEW WEATHER FORCES GROUP INC.
26/F THE ENTERPRISE CENTER TOWER 2, 6786 AYALA AVE., SAN LORENZO, MAKATI CITY
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CHINESE CUSTOMER OFFICER
CHINESE GENERAL OPERATIONS MANAGER
CHINESE CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
FOREIGN CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

QUALIFICATION & DESCRIPTION

- Must be Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Excellent in speaking, reading, and writing in Chinese and other foreign languages
- With background in any related position
- Willing to work under pressure with supervision
- Flexible, honest, trustworthy and can multi-task
- Can handle customer by resolving issues and concerns to meet customer satisfaction

JOB VACANCIES

100

- MANDARIN HR AND ADMIN OFFICER
- MANDARIN HR OFFICER
- MANDARIN ADMIN OFFICER
- MANDARIN SITE TECHNICAL OFFICER
- MANDARIN FIELD MARKETING OFFICER
- MANDARIN CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST
- BILINGUAL CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER
- BILINGUAL FIELD MARKETING OFFICER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Knowledgeable in computer application
- Must be proficient in speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin
- With background in any related position
- Flexible, honest, trustworthy and willing to work under pressure
- With good oral and written communication skills

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JOB OPENING

1 KOREAN SALES MANAGER

- University/College Graduate
- At least 1yr of professional relevant work experience
- Able to speak Korean and English (or Filipino) fluently
- Able to read and write Korean and English with clarity

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WISLAND SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY, INC.
38/F Techway Centre, Corp. 38/Banilla Ave., San Antonio, Makati City

NO. OF VACANCY 100

Job Position Includes:

- CHINESE LANGUAGE CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF
- CHINESE LANGUAGE MARKETING STAFF
- CHINESE LANGUAGE RESEARCH ANALYST
- CHINESE LANGUAGE TECHNICAL SUPPORT
- CHINESE LANGUAGE COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
- VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF
- VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE MARKETING STAFF
- INDONESIAN LANGUAGE CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF
- INDONESIAN LANGUAGE MARKETING STAFF
- THAI LANGUAGE CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF
- THAI LANGUAGE MARKETING STAFF
- BURMESE LANGUAGE CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF
- BURMESE LANGUAGE MARKETING STAFF
- BILINGUAL CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF
- BILINGUAL MARKETING STAFF

Applicant Must Be:

Excellent in written and communication skills, passionate, detail-oriented and has ability to Multi-task. At least 6 months work experience in a related position.

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MANDARIN HR OFFICER
MANDARIN SITE TECHNICAL OFFICER
MANDARIN FIELD MARKETING OFFICER
BILINGUAL CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

Qualification & Job Description:

- Must be Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Proficient in speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin and Bilingual languages, preferably w/ 6 months to 1 year experience in a related position
- Willing to work under pressure with minimal supervision, detailed-oriented and has ability to multi-task
- Can resolve issues and concerns in a courteous and professional manner via phone, email, mail or social media to ensure customer satisfaction
- Must have good problem solving, analytical skills and keen attention to details

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- BILINGUAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT
- BILINGUAL SOFTWARE DEVELOPER
- BILINGUAL CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
- BILINGUAL MARKETING SPECIALIST
- MANDARIN FINANCIAL SPECIALIST
- MANDARIN HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER
- MANDARIN CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
- MANDARIN MARKETING SPECIALIST

QUALIFICATION

- Must be Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Proficient in speaking, reading and writing in Mandarin and Bilingual Languages
- With significant background in a related position
- Amenable to work on holidays, weekend and shifting schedule
- Professional, enthusiastic and customer service-oriented

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Can resolve issues and concerns in a courteous and professional manner via phone, email, mail or social media to ensure customer satisfaction
- Can perform tasks based on established procedures
- Provide excellent customer service by addressing general inquiries related to billing, accounts, service maintenance and other products/service including up-selling
- Must have good problem solving, analytical skills and keen attention to details

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

JOB POSITION: 20

CHINESE CUISINE SPECIALIST
CHINESE MENU DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Applicant must be:

- Must be Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- High school/College level are welcome to apply
- Excellent in speaking, reading and writing in Chinese
- With background in a related position
- Flexible, honest, trustworthy and can multitask
- Willing to work under pressure with supervision

Duties and Responsibilities

- Assist the Head Chef and oversee stock ingredients from China
- Develop recipes and portion specification for Chinese culinary
- Utilize and adopt Chinese cooking techniques to achieve the desired recipes

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RAZON-LED Prime Infrastructure Holdings, Inc. (Prime Infra) plans to build what it claims to be the world's largest solar power facility with a capacity of up 3,500 megawatts (MW) plus a battery energy storage system that can hold up to 4,500 MW hours.

"Prime Infra finds a sweet spot to pursue solar as we take advantage of the steep decline in installation costs over the past decade and the improved battery energy storage system technology that allows us to build an economically critical and socially relevant infrastructure at a scale the world has never seen before," said Guillaume Lucci, president and chief executive officer of Prime Infra, in a media release on Wednesday.

Prime Infra said the project is to be led by Terra Solar Philippines, Inc., which is a unit Terra Renewables Holdings, Inc., the renewable energy subsidiary of Enrique K. Razon, Jr.'s infrastructure firm that partnered with Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings, Inc.

Terra Solar will supply 850 MW to Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) from power generated by the proposed facility.

Terra Solar late last year submitted an unsolicited offer to supply Meralco's supply requirements, for which the distribution utility sought challengers



PIXABAY

through a competitive selection process. Two entities challenged the bid but failed to submit, paving the way for the forging of a power supply agreement with Meralco.

Earlier this year, Meralco said that the competitive bidding was in compliance with the Department of Energy's policy on renewable portfolio standards (RPS). It said the power supply forms part of its efforts to source up to 1,500 MW of renewable energy (RE).

The RPS program requires power distribution utilities, including electric cooperatives and retail electricity sup-

pliers, to source or produce a fraction of their requirements from eligible RE resources.

Mr. Lucci said the "record-breaking" project highlights solar power's contribution to boost the country's energy security, adding that "solar, which is normally looked at for peaking, is now being made available by Terra Solar to answer Meralco's mid-merit requirement, thereby addressing both the need for additional capacity and compliance with RPS."

Mid-merit power plants operate to fill the gap between baseload generation capacity and peak generation capacity.

Prime Infra described the project as "a model of dependable renewable energy, which represents a stable price not subject to fuel imports volatility for the rest of its 20-year contract."

It cited Terra Solar's projection that the 850-MW supply can displace a yearly usage of around 1.4 million tons of coal or 930,000 liters of oil.

"This means reduction in both greenhouse gas emissions and import dependency for the country from 2026 to 2046," it added.

The company said that of the power supply contracted with Meralco, 600 MW will be available by 2026, while 250 MW more will be delivered in 2027. Meralco previously said that the mid-merit power it bid out was for 20 years.

Prime Infra did not say where the facility will be built, but Meralco earlier said that Terra Solar had proposed its solar power plants with an energy storage system in Batangas, Cavite, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and Zambales.

Meralco's controlling stakeholder, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT, Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Victor V. Saulon**

Viber launches free monthly 30-minute calls to mobile, landline in PHL

By **Brontë H. Lacsamana**
Reporter

MESSAGING PLATFORM Viber is launching a free 30-minute call per user every month to any local mobile line or landline, starting this week. The Philippines is the first country in the world to enjoy this service, being one of the app's focus markets in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region. The country saw an increase of over 50% in Viber voice calls in 2021.

"We see that, in some parts depending on infrastructure, people just use mobile or landline... and sometimes you may be calling a part of the Philippines

that may not have internet infrastructure at all," said David Tse, Rakuten Viber's senior director for APAC, in an interview with *BusinessWorld*.

"Thinking that everyone should have a smartphone — that's not true. You can't force everyone [to have one]. Whatever phone they're using, they just want a simple call," he added.

The calls will be available to any line and are limited to only 30 minutes. The initiative is a direct response to Filipino users' needs to contact loved ones across the country.

Because of significant growth in content consumption in different categories like food, entertainment, sports, and even travel, the platform is also working on continuously improving

itself as a companion app for businesses, content creators, and merchants.

Mr. Tse explained: "We believe the quality of interaction is more important than the number of features that you have. We will continue to roll out features, but we'll focus on listening to our users in different categories and how we're enhancing their benefits."

In 2021, Viber recorded 33% growth in monthly active users, with an increase of about 54% in business messages.

The Food PH bot, one of Viber's fastest growing channels, reflects the strength of the app as a helpful tool for brands and businesses, according to Mr. Tse. Meanwhile, Backstage Pass, a project that lets Filipino music artists engage with users in a safe, exclusive

channel, shows how the platform can be a very positive space.

"We're not a food or entertainment company, but at the end of the day, we have a clean and positive environment so that a lot of content creators find us a good companion app where they interact directly with their consumers," he said.

With the Philippines being a top market, Viber continues to enhance both system and human moderation to ensure there's no inappropriate content. Two-step authentication and end-to-end encryption are also there to ensure privacy and safety.

"By understanding customers, I'd say we're getting closer to being more effective in content consumption rather than just being a communication platform," said Mr. Tse.

Banks to enter the metaverse

By **Patricia B. Mirasol**
Reporter

CUSTOMERS expect instant gratification from services, be it in finance or other sectors. Because service delivery mechanisms are changing, finance is moving towards a 24/7 model, and the metaverse is going to be a part of it, said an expert at IBM's "The Future of Finance" forum.

"People expect an intuitive and seamless integration of their lives... Whether it's the storefront or the web, you're expected as a company to deliver service across all experiences," said Tuhina Singh, CEO and co-founder of Propine, a Singapore-based licensed digital asset custodian.

"Metaverse is going to change the financial industry, but it will also change everything. Imagine this entire physical world, and then [imagine] a digital world, and you being able to transcend [both worlds] seamlessly," she said.

Banks in countries launching digital currencies will be able to tap the metaverse "a lot quicker," said Balagopal Ravibalan, senior principal for solution consulting at SunTec Business Solutions, a relationship-based pricing and billing company headquartered in Kerala.

About 100 countries are actively evaluating central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), the International Monetary Fund said in February. CBDCs are electronic cash that create a direct connection between consumers and a central bank and are pegged to a country's currency.

Countries where CBDCs have already been launched include the Bahamas and Nigeria. Meanwhile, countries that are already developing CBDCs include the United States and India.

"The options are limited for now, but... in the future, as we see more of an impetus in that direction, banking in the metaverse is going to be a reality," he said. "Not today, but by 2030 or beyond that."

Banks are "obviously cautiously optimistic" when they talk to media, but in a March 2021 World Economic Forum attended by banks from all over the world, Ms. Singh said what was discussed was the ongoing digitization of every aspect of our lives.

"The question on the table was, 'What are the different models to go from point A to point B?'... This was every single bank in the world," she told the participants of the roundtable discussion. "It's very instructive for us to know where we are all headed."

The metaverse is another channel that can facilitate interactions between people at a different level, said Juan Madera, the financial services sector leader for ASEAN at International Business Machines (IBM) Consulting.

"It can be a very interesting proposition for non-tangible assets like art or music," he told *BusinessWorld* in a separate interview.

"We are not constrained by any channel," added Mr. Madera. "Our clients tend to be ubiquitous, and therefore we have to support them in that aspect."

Mark Zuckerberg, whose company Meta is building the metaverse, is betting that this virtual environment where users can work, socialize and play, will be the successor to the internet.

French smartphone brand Wiko now in the Philippines

FRENCH smartphone brand Wiko Mobile is now in the Philippines and last week launched the Wiko T50 to mark its entry into the market.

The T50, priced at P11,999, is the latest release from its T-series line and has a design "based on elegant French aesthetics, and innovative advanced display, camera and performance features into the hands of its young users," Wiko said in a statement last week.

"Wiko wants to make smartphone technology accessible to all. Our users all around the world tell us that they love the French design aesthetic of our phones which help them make a personal statement about their aspirations for simplicity, elegance, comfort, innovation, freedom, and enthusiasm," said Violetta Jovanovic, global marketing director of Wiko Mobile.

"I am sure that the new generations in Southeast Asia who love gaming and photography, sharing their lives and experiences on social media will enjoy this device," added Ms. Jovanovic.

The T50 offers a "superlative" photography experience as it features triple AI cameras. The rear array is made up of the main 64-megapixel (MP) high resolution camera, an 8-MP ultra-wide angle lens, and a 2-MP macro camera.

The main camera has an aperture of f/1.9 and a 1/1.7-inch sensor that can produce photos with dimensions as high as 9216 x 6912 pixels, while the wide-angle lens has a 120-degree field of view. Meanwhile, the macro camera has an aperture of f/2.4.

As for its front camera, the T50 has a 16-MP selfie lens that can also use AI to

enhance portraits and shoot wide-angle shots.

The phone has an edgeless 6.6-inch LCD display with an FHD+ 2400 x 1080-pixel resolution.

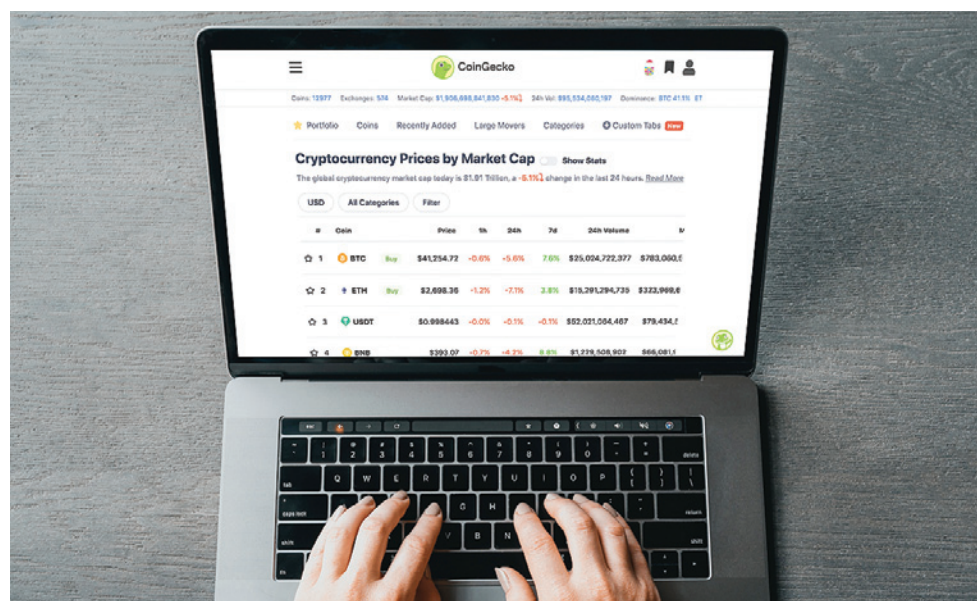
"The slim 20:9 aspect ratio makes it comfortable to hold when making calls, taking photos and videos, and typing messages. The bezels around the Wiko T50's display are so narrow that the screen appears edgeless, with an incredibly high screen ratio of more than 94%," Wiko said.

The T50 also supports 40-watt fast charging, with its battery having a capacity of 4,000mAh.

The phone runs on Android 11 and has a storage capacity of 128GB. The Wiko T50 is available in three colors: Aqua Green, Lively Pink, and Midnight Black. It is now available on Wiko's official Shopee and Lazada stores.

Wiko was founded in 2011 in France. The company said its strength lies in its "deep understanding of its target audience — combining the latest technologies and sense of lifestyle, packaged in an easy-to-use form that is trendy yet designed to look sensuous and appealing at the same time."

"Having positioned itself to target the Gen Z market segment, Wiko continues to invest in R&D to offer best-in-class quality smartphones. With a DNA of high performance and long-lasting batteries, Wiko has gained the recognition of more than 30 million users in 35 markets, emerging as one of the top smartphone brands in the European market and now arriving to Latin America," the company said.



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