

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,585.20

▲ 5.08 PTS.

▲ 0.07%

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P685.00 -P15.00 -2.14%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P7.15 -P0.10 -1.38%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P54.10 +P0.10 +0.19%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P10.10 +P0.10 +1.00%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P29.10 -P0.10 -0.34%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P33.70 -P0.10 -0.30%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P110.70 +P3.20 +2.98%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P99.10 +P0.60 +0.61%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P15.20 -P0.80 -5.00%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.35 ---
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,150.00 -P10.00 -0.46%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P431.00 -P7.00 -1.60%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P201.00 -P2.00 -0.99%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P242.00 +P5.20 +2.20%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P48.85 +P2.35 +5.05%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.91 +P0.03 +0.34%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P55.00 ---	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.24 -P0.02 -0.88%	MER Manila Electric Co. P278.40 -P1.60 -0.57%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P11.10 -P0.14 -1.25%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.42 -P0.05 -1.44%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P33.25 +P0.40 +1.22%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P15.88 -P0.12 -0.75%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P33.20 ---	SM SM Investments Corp. P936.00 +P6.00 +0.65%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P94.90 -P0.10 -0.11%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P34.70 ---	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,668.00 -P62.00 -3.58%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P137.00 +P0.40 +0.29%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P30.60 -P1.20 -3.77%

Globe transfers ownership of 750 towers for P9.5B

GLOBE Telecom, Inc. announced on Monday the transfer of its 750 towers to independent tower company Frontier Tower Associates Philippines, Inc. or Frontier Towers for P9.5 billion.

"These tower assets are composed of 81% ground-based towers and 19% roof-top towers," Globe said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

"With this latest closing, a total of 1,550 out of the 3,529 towers have been transferred to Frontier Towers," the telco added.

The company noted that it has already achieved 32% closing of its tower deal with the transfer of ownership of 2,251 out of 7,059 towers for P28 billion.

"The first closing was attained last Sept. 23 with the transfer of 800 towers to Frontier Towers for a cash consideration of P10 billion and another 701 towers to MIESCOR Infrastructure Development Corp. (MIDC) worth P8.4 billion last Oct. 14," Globe said.

The proceeds will be used to fund debt and capital expenditures to support the company's network expansion.

According to Globe, it expects the final closing to take place next year.

"We are happy that we have successfully completed 32% of this record-breaking initiative giving us much leeway to cover for our 2023 debt servicing requirements amidst the backdrop of rising interest rates," Globe Chief Finance Officer Rizza Maniego-Eala said.

"This tower deal will also help us meet the changing consumer demand while ensuring that our network expansion is done in a sustainable and responsible way," she added.

For the nine months ended Sept. 30, Globe saw its attributable total comprehensive income increase 37% to P24.9 billion from P18.2 billion previously.

Total revenues for the period went up 3% to P130.2 billion from P126.4 billion in 2021.

The growth was "led by corporate data and mobile services, supplemented by the sustained growth from non-telco services," Globe said in a statement.

The company saw its total data revenues as a percentage of total service revenues increase to 81% from 79% in 2021.

Globe shares closed 0.46% lower at P2,150 apiece on Monday. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

D&L Industries expects 2023 to be better than this year

D&L INDUSTRIES, Inc. is expecting another record year in 2023 after achieving record net income this year despite the pandemic restrictions during the first quarter, its top official said.

"Next year should be better [since] this year we lost January because of Omicron," D&L President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Alvin D. Lao said in a media briefing on Monday.

"Just based on the thought that 10% of the year was really bad and we are still going to hit record profit, implies next year should be better than this year *kasi mukhang wala ng* lockdown (because I think there will be no more lockdowns)," he added.

The company is also set to open its Batangas expansion plants in the sec-

ond quarter of 2023 which Mr. Lao said will help in increasing sales as these will upsize D&L's manufacturing capacities.

The new plant is also expected to help in ramping up its exports, which currently account for 33% of D&L's total revenues.

In relation to this, Mr. Lao said that the company will also benefit from China's move to ease coronavirus-related restrictions.

"China is one big market. The reopening should be good for all companies, including us," he said.

D&L delivers food and chemical products to China, which market comprises 5% of the company's overseas sales, said Mr. Lao.

On Monday, D&L celebrated the 10th anniversary of its maiden listing at the

Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). Mr. Lao said that the company's market capitalization rose to P56 billion from P15 billion in 2012.

Mr. Lao noted that the initial public offering has helped in increasing D&L's foreign ownership to 14% from zero in 2012.

"We look forward to the next decade with excitement and optimism especially as our Batangas plant is set to commence commercial operations by the middle of next year," Mr. Lao said.

"This plant represents the next leg of growth for the company and our aspiration to be recognized globally as a world-class Filipino manufacturing company," he added.

In nine months to September, D&L posted a record-high income of P2.54 billion, up by 17.4% from P2.16 billion in 2021.

The company's top line rose by 57.5% to P33.9 billion for the period from P21.53 billion in 2021.

"I am confident that this net income growth trajectory will not only be maintained but will be surpassed in the coming years as the company's new P10.2 billion facility in Batangas becomes operational next year, 2023," PSE President and CEO Ramon S. Monzon said.

"It is my sincere wish and hope that the D&L narrative is one that can be emulated by those planning to take their company public," Mr. Monzon added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

BRIEFS

Filinvest group co-founder passes away at 94

MERCEDES T. GOTIANUN, chairperson emerita of the Filinvest group of companies, passed away on Dec. 11, 2022, leaving behind a business enterprise in which she has been regarded as the perfect complement to its visionary leader, her late husband.

Chita, 94, is said to be the "tireless implementor" of Andrew Gotianun, Sr., the founder of Filinvest Development Corp. (FDC).

"Widely admired for her work ethic, she was known to be organized, determined, and energetic. She persevered to accomplish her goals extraordinarily," the Filinvest group said in a statement on Monday.

It said Andrew and Chita's "harmonious synergy created a fruitful conglomerate," which is now known as FDC and has interests in land development, universal banking, sugar milling and refining, hotels, utilities, and infrastructure.

The Filinvest group said that even as a young student, Chita was a hardworking achiever — graduating valedictorian in elementary and high school, maintaining her status as a university scholar before graduating magna cum laude with a B.S. Pharmacy degree from the University of the Philippines.

It added that the admired business leader will be remembered as the first woman president of a Philippine universal bank, having co-founded and led in the '70s and '80s Family Bank and Trust Co., the precursor to BPI Family Savings Bank.

She was the eldest among eight siblings, "often described as a fierce protector of the family showing her maternal side even during the early years of her life," it said.

Aboitiz InfraCapital, partner explore desalination projects

ABOITIZ InfraCapital, Inc. has partnered with Keppel Infrastructure Fund Management Pte. Ltd. to explore desalination projects in the Philippines.

"Aboitiz InfraCapital is eager to bring to Cebu this leading technology and world-class expertise to help address the city's huge demand for clean, safe and sustainable drinking water," Aboitiz InfraCapital, Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer Cosette V. Canilao said in a statement on Monday.

Aboitiz InfraCapital has proposed to supply the Metro Cebu Water District (MWCD) with 30 million liters per day of desalinated bulk water.

The company has tapped Keppel Infrastructure to build and operate a desalination plant. Keppel will treat raw saltwater by using emerging water treatment technology to produce potable water.

"Aboitiz InfraCapital intends to help MCWD address its current water challenges by offering them a reliable and alternative water source that can provide sustainable, safe, and clean drinking water to more Cebuanos," the company said.

Aboitiz InfraCapital is the infrastructure arm of the Aboitiz group.

On Monday, shares in Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. closed 0.19% higher to end at P54.10 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

SEC considers accreditation for service agents

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is considering the accreditation of service providers and agents that assist the public in processing transactions with the commission.

On Monday, the SEC released its proposed rules on the accreditation of company service providers (CSP) and company service agents (CSA). The practice, which the regulator said is observed in Singapore, seeks to limit and regulate a smaller filing group that will be responsible for the overall compliance of businesses. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

FULL STORY



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<https://bit.ly/3UQKFLP>

Leechuu sees office demand to maintain its growth next year

THE Philippine office demand is likely to keep its growth next year after surpassing the combined office demand reached the past two years in 2022.

In a Leechuu Property Consultants (LPC) study, Philippine office demand reached 975,000 square meters (sq.m.) by mid-December.

"Up to mid-2022, it was difficult to visualize year-end demand hitting close to the 1 million sq.m. mark," LPC Chief Executive Officer David Leechuu said in a statement.

"The results have exceeded expectations but we can't put our guard down just yet," he added.

During the first quarter, LPC recorded 124,000 sq.m. of office demand, while it recorded a peak during the third quarter at 313,000 sq.m.

Take-up leveled off in the last quarter at 283,000 sq.m. but the property consultant said it is likely to grow in 2023 due to a notable live requirement of 352,000 sq.m., which pertains to office transactions in various stages of completion.

Meanwhile, LPC Director for Commercial Leasing Mikko Barranda expects office demand from the information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) industry of 210,000 sq.m. or 44%.

"We can thus expect office demand from this sector to

continue growing, more so because IT-BPM industry studies estimate that 1.1 million more full-time employees will be hired in the next six years," Mr. Barranda said.

"This could mean, at the least, an additional annual 476,000 sq.m. of office space requirement up to 2028," he added.

From 2021 to 2022, office demand from the sector increased by 68% with only some of the employees returning on-site for work.

However, Mr. Barranda expects IT-BPM firms to continue operating on-site in the next few years to maintain efficiencies.

Around 120,000 employees were recruited annually from 2021 to 2022 with 265,000 employees hired by the IT-BPM sector in the past three pandemic years.

The sector registered a cumulative net demand of 628,000 sq.m. in the past three years, which marked an 8% increase in the sector's 7.5 million-sq.m. footprint.

"The IT-BPM sector continues to stabilize and anchor the economy — not only in Metro Manila but also in other key cities of the country. With traditional office occupiers now also enjoying recovery, real estate is likely to surpass its remaining obstacles in 2023," Mr. Leechuu said. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

EDC launches geothermal-powered EVs

LOPEZ-LED Energy Development Corp. (EDC) launched a new electric vehicle (EV) powered by geothermal energy as part of the company's decarbonization and sustainability efforts.

"Our long-term goal is to roll out this project in all EDC sites across the country. After all, what we want is to continuously be true and consistent with our mission to have a decarbonized future," Gloria Amboy, EDC's supply chain head for indirect category and program manager for EV projects, said in a media release on Monday.

EDC said its new EV will be powered by Geo 24/7, the company's brand of baseload geothermal energy.

The EV will be powered by steam energy from a charging station located at Tongonan geothermal power plant in Kananga, Leyte, the company's geothermal plant facility.

EDC said that it is also planning to launch two more EVs powered by Geo 24/7 in 2023 through its partnership with Hong Equipment

and Development Corp. Currently, there are three Geo 24/7-powered vehicles in Leyte.

The diversified renewable energy firm said the first three EVs are from Hong Equipment and Development Corp. and will be tested for six months first to determine additional units for its other facilities in the country.

"More than just an electric vehicle, what makes it special is it is powered by geothermal, which makes it a 100% renewable energy-powered vehicle. Others are powered by electricity that usually comes from carbon-intensive coal. This EV is the vehicle of the future," William Hong, vice-president for business development at Hong Equipment and Development.

Data from EDC's website showed that the company has installed a renewable energy capacity of 1,476.59 megawatts (MW). Geothermal energy capacity is its major source of power with an installed capacity of 1,181.8 MW, which it said accounts for 61.3% of the country's total. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

MPIC recognized at Asian excellence awards

METRO PACIFIC Investments Corp. (MPIC) has been recognized at the 12th Asian Excellence Awards 2022 of Corporate Governance Asia for its work in corporate governance, investor relations, and corporate social responsibility.

The firm received accolades, including Asia's Best CEO (Investor Relations) for Manuel V. Pangilinan, Asia's Best CFO (Investor Relations) for Chaye Cabal-Revilla, Best Investors Relations Professional for MPIC Vice-President for Investor Relations Maricris Aldover-Ysmael, Best Investor Relations Company (Philippines), Best Environmental Responsibility, and Asia's Best CSR.

"MPIC was established with the goal of achieving synthesis between global governance standards and Asian values and practices. We regard this award as a responsibility to set a higher standard for here in the Philippines, as well as in Asia," said Mr. Pangilinan, MPIC chairman, president, and CEO, in a statement.

MPIC said it "remained unwavering in fulfilling its purpose of service continuity for the benefit of all its stakeholders, primarily its employees, investors, beneficiary communities, and ultimately, the environment."

It said the corporation's contribution to reigniting Asia in a post-pandemic economy was to fulfill the role of a dependable government partner towards national



development and to work hand-in-hand with them to serve the interests of the Filipino people.

Since 2011, the Asian Excellence Awards of Corporate Governance Asia have honored individuals and companies with titles such as Best CEO, Best CFO, Best Corporate Social Responsibility, Best Environmental Practices, Best Investor Relations Company, and Best Investor Relations Professionals.