

realme 10 Pro series set for PHL launch next week

SMARTPHONE brand realme is set to launch in the Philippines on Feb. 14 its 10 Pro Series devices, the 10 Pro 5G and the 10 Pro+ 5G.

“For every generation of the Number Series, realme has brought leap-forward innovation more accessible to its consumers. From the first ever Quad Camera setup to hit the country with the realme 5, to the revolutionizing 65-watt fast charging with the realme 7 Pro, to the Sony IMX766 sensor backed realme 9 Pro+, we can really see the brand’s commitment to provide at least one key aspect to its Number Series,” Austine Huang, realme Philippines’

vice-president for marketing, was quoted as saying in a statement.

“This time around, realme is focusing on display with the introduction of the 120Hz Large Flagship Tier Displays for its realme 10 Pro Series. We hope that this feature will #DisplayNewVision to our users,” Ms. Huang said.

More details about the phones will be announced during the launch event on Feb. 14, 12pm, that will be streamed on realme’s official Facebook page.

The company said the realme 10 Pro series phones have “flagship-level” displays at a mid-range price point.

The realme 10 Pro+ 5G features a 120Hz AMOLED screen with a 6.7-inch curved display made with 0.65mm double-reinforced glass. It has a FHD+ resolution at 2412x1080, a 100% DCI-P3 Color Gamut with a refresh rate of 120Hz, a touch sampling rate of 360Hz, and brightness of up to 950 Nits.

Meanwhile, the realme 10 Pro 5G has a 120Hz Boundless display that the brand said is “nearly bezel-less” with a 6.72-inch FHD+ LCD and a screen-to-body ratio of 93.76%.

“Alongside these features include a refresh rate of 120Hz, a touch sampling rate of 240Hz, support for 6 Levels Refresh Rates

and lastly, a 680 Nits brightness level even under direct sunlight. The realme 10 Pro 5G also makes use of Double-Reinforced Glass for added durability,” it said.

“Additionally, both smartphones are awarded with a TÜV Rheinland Low Blue Light Certification which means that users are guaranteed reduced blue light emission without the compromise for visual image quality,” realme added.

The two devices have 5G capable processors, with the 10 Pro powered by a Qualcomm Snapdragon 695 5G processor and the realme 10 Pro+ 5G coming with a MediaTek Dimensity 920 5G.

“The 5G capabilities of both smartphones means it can seamlessly keep up with its users’ day-to-day smartphone activities, may it be for productivity, or leisure,” realme said.

The phones also offer large storage options with RAM expansion technology. The realme 10 Pro+ 5G will come in 8GB+128GB and 12GB+256GB storage variants, while the realme 10 Pro 5G will have a 8GB+256GB version.

“They will also both have a more enhanced realme UI, based on Android 13, which elevates several features including better stability, power efficiency, as

well as security, and more optimal performance,” the company said.

The realme 10 Pro Series 5G phones come with 5,000mAh batteries that support fast charging.

Both feature the 108-megapixel ProLight Camera that has a Samsung HM6 Sensor for high resolution shots, and come with realme UI’s ProLight Imaging Technology with a new feature called HyperShot Imaging Architecture that improves image processing, clarity, and night shots. The cameras also have new features such as One Shot, Super Group Portrait and AI Video Tracking. — **BVR**

Six supply chain trends to watch out for in 2023

By Soham Chokshi

TECHNOLOGY and internet proliferation have made e-commerce an integral part of people’s lives. The Philippines’ own e-commerce boom in recent years has been nothing short of remarkable.

According to Mordor Intelligence, e-commerce in the country is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 14.1% from 2023 to 2028. Meanwhile, International Trade Association forecasts that the industry’s sales will reach \$24 billion by 2025. For companies, ensuring deliveries reach their customers safely and as quickly as possible is critical to success. But this hinges on ensuring that supply chains are equipped to navigate evolving needs, bottlenecks, and the regulatory landscape. Here are six forecasts to look out for in 2023 as retailers look to make their supply chains leaner, leverage technology, and take advantage of growing consumer appetite:

• Greater focus on end-customer experiences

Customers have always been the drivers of competition. Be it a retailer, delivery service provider, or e-commerce platform, investing in technologies aimed at improving customer experience is now critical. Ensuring delivery scalability, uberization of consignment delivery estimated times of arrival, live map view of parcels and driving payment flexibility and convenience are all vital to customer experience. Smart logistics manage-

ment platforms enable businesses to do just this. Moreover, they allow customers to reschedule deliveries for the most convenient time. When key logistics stakeholders are aware of delivery progress, it helps boost the first-attempt delivery success rate and lower the return to origin (RTO) instances.

• Overcoming fragmentation via a platform-based approach

Siloed processes challenge internal business operations and result in diminutive outcomes. It can be attributed as one of the top reasons holding back the sector from realizing its full potential. A platform approach can have a game-changing impact in improving collaboration, streamlining processes, and overall supply chain management and hence will see more adoption. Platformization ensures seamless coordination with teams, gives a consolidated view of container movement, shares real-time updates, and actively tracks incidental charges through a unified platform.

• More adoption of blockchain

With blockchain breaking new ground in mitigating risks in cross-border trade, Southeast Asia’s steady adoption of it will likely grow further this year. Furthermore, Southeast Asia’s continued appetite for trade reform will make businesses demand simplified processes that ensure transparency. So, expect more local businesses to turn to blockchain to leverage ledger immutability and supply chain auditability with added efficiency and greater visibility. The tech also allows for easier cross-border

financing and smart contract-based payment capabilities.

• Predictive intelligence, artificial intelligence, machine learning and process efficiencies to surge in popularity

Supply chain resilience rests on adaptability and agility in increasingly complex disruptive forces. According to a Gartner report, 75% of commercial supply chain management applications will embed advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and data science by 2025. Meanwhile, the report also found that 28% of respondents are contemplating or already taking the first steps to leverage AI to unlock new efficiencies in logistics processes. Deploying AI and machine learning can close productivity gaps and optimize internal processes. It enables companies to build self-governing supply chains and reduce costs.

Furthermore, predictive and prescriptive analytics will also become critical in addressing logistics challenges. For instance, the systems will not only be able to accurately predict if something can go wrong but also guide the user on how it can be rectified. Let’s say the system automatically re-assigns a delivery to another driver upon learning that it will be missed by the first one.

• Greater reliance on multiple logistics providers

Fostering relationships with multiple logistics service providers will become a new norm. Such an approach helps ensure delivery reliability, expand serviceability, fasten delivery times, and helps cost-effectively manage elastic de-

mand. No doubt, a majority of big-wigs turn to third-party logistics companies (3PLs) for their needs.

With the Philippines’ robust e-commerce sector set to continue on the momentum of recent years, expect demand for third-party logistics to grow substantially. Having said that, solutions that help retailers and manufacturers simplify orchestration between their own fleets and multiple 3PLs will see growth.

• Economic benefits of sustainability to come to the fore

Amid growing investor and customer pressure to improve supply chain sustainability, businesses must find ways to keep up with these demands while ensuring profitability. So “going green” being a net good for business will continue to ring true.

Companies globally are making significant cost savings via intelligent route planning, dynamic order batching, advanced territory optimization, and prioritizing eco-friendly delivery methods like electric vehicles and bicycles. Technological tools that equip businesses to hit their sustainability and bottom-line targets will gain traction.

Advanced logistics management technologies are enablers of operational excellence, great customer experience, and rapid business growth. Embracing such tools set businesses on the path to profitability and help them reap the benefits of the above trends.

Soham Chokshi is the Shipy chief executive officer and co-founder.

Baidu to finish testing ChatGPT-style project ‘Ernie Bot’ in March

BEIJING — China’s Baidu, Inc. said on Tuesday it would complete internal testing of a ChatGPT-style project called “Ernie Bot” in March, as interest in generative artificial intelligence (AI) gathers steam.

The search engine giant’s Hong Kong-listed shares closed up 15.3% on Tuesday, while its US shares climbed 11.2% in morning trade.

A flurry of Chinese AI stocks also rallied, as the global frenzy around the Microsoft-backed chatbot sensation ChatGPT spurred speculative bets on the new technology.

Just two months after its launch, ChatGPT — which can generate articles, essays, jokes and even poetry in response to prompts — has been rated the fastest-growing consumer app in history.

It has prompted many tech firms to double down on the heavily hyped generative AI technology, which until recently existed more in the background than as a solid contributor to the bottom line.

Google owner Alphabet, Inc. said on Monday it would launch a chatbot service and more AI for its search engine, while Microsoft plans its own AI reveal on Tuesday, underscoring growing rivalry to lead a new wave of computing.

Baidu, China’s answer to Google, joined the frenzy on Tuesday.

It said Ernie, or “Enhanced Representation through Knowledge

Integration,” is a large AI-powered language model introduced in 2019, and has gradually grown to be able to perform tasks including language understanding, language generation, and text-to-image generation.

A person familiar with the matter told Reuters last week that Baidu was planning to launch such a service in March.

The person said Baidu aims to make the service available as a standalone application and gradually merge it into its search engine by incorporating chatbot-generated results when users make search requests.

ChatGPT and key Google services are not available in China, although some users have found workarounds to access such tools.

Beijing-based Baidu has been a first mover in China on other tech trends.

In late 2021, when the metaverse became a new buzzword, the company launched “XiRang” which it described as China’s first metaverse platform.

The platform however was widely panned for not offering a high-level, immersive experience and Baidu said it was a work in progress.

The company has been investing heavily in AI technology, including in cloud services, chips and autonomous driving, as it looks to diversify its revenue sources. — **Reuters**

Infrawatch PH says registration of SIM cards progressing slowly

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Transportation
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
East Avenue, Quezon City

Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a Shuttle Service.

MERCY G. BADILLO, 14126 CASE NO. 2022-
Applicant/s

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant request approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a SHUTTLE Service for exclusive transportation of employees, staff and employees of **FURUKUWA AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS LIMA PHILIPPINES INC** located at Lima Technology Center Lipa City, Batangas and **ZILOG ELECTRONIC PHILIPPINES INC.** located at 2ND Floor Cirtex Electronics Corp Building 3, 116 East Avenue PH V SEZ Laguna, Technopark Inc. Binan, Laguna from said place to their designated pick up and drop off points and vice versa with the use of **TEN (10)** units.

CABUYAO/ FUJITSU DIE-TECH CORP OF THE PHILIPPINES-PLATE NOS. NAT8920, NAS6760		
TRIPS	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
INCOMING	6:00 AM	5:15 AM
OUTGOING	5:00 PM	5:30 PM
MAYAPA/ NIDEC PRECISION PHILIPPINES CORPORATION-PLATE NO. NAS6747		
TRIPS	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
INCOMING	6:00 AM	5:15 AM
OUTGOING	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
MAYAPA/ NIDEC PRECISION PHILIPPINES CORPORATION-PLATE NO. NAS6748		
TRIPS	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
INCOMING	6:00 AM	5:30 AM
OUTGOING	6:00 AM	6:30 PM
TAGUIG/ FUJITSU DIE-TECH CORP OF THE PHILIPPINES PLATE NOS. NAS6761, NAS6759, NAS6751.		
TRIPS	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
INCOMING	4:00 AM	3:30 AM
OUTGOING	7:00 AM	7:15 AM
TAGUIG/ FUJITSU DIE-TECH CORP OF THE PHILIPPINES MV FILE 130103, PLATE NOS. NFG9019, NAS6752		
TRIPS	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
INCOMING	4:00 AM	3:30 AM
OUTGOING	7:00 PM	7:15 PM

NOTICE is hereby given that this application will be heard by this Board on February 20, 2023, at 1:00 P.M. at its Office through online hearing. The Zoom hearing link will be sent to the applicant’s provided email address.

At least five (5) days prior to the above date, applicant/s shall publish this Notice once in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in Luzon.

Pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 2021-043 in relation to No. 2020-069 (re: Guidelines in conduct of on-line hearing during community quarantine), the Formal Order of Evidence (FOE) must be submitted at least five (5) working days prior to the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written oppositions supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so, desire appear on said date and time.

This application will be acted upon by this Board on the basis of its records and documentary evidence submitted by the parties, unless the Board deems it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

Witness the Honorable ATTY. TEOFILO E. GUADIZ III, CESO V, Chairman this February 6, 2023

Atty. **RANPH A. BAGUIO**
Attorney III
Hearing Officer

PUBLIC policy think tank Infrawatch PH has expressed concern over the slow progress in the registration of subscriber identity module (SIM) cards, saying the current pace might result in only around 69.52% of the total number of subscribers getting registered.

“In other words, this means the removal of at least 51.5 million subscribers by the April [26,] 2023 deadline,” Infrawatch PH Convenor Terry L. Ridon said in a letter sent to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) dated Feb. 7.

With the “deeply concerning” pace, Mr. Ridon said telecommunication companies might push for changes in the implementing rules and regulations to hasten registration. He said the government should not allow shortcuts in the registration as defined by Republic Act. No. 11934.

“Allowing changes in registration procedure and requirements will

defeat the purpose of the SIM Card Registration Act, particularly the wisdom of Congress to fight online scams and spams, and other malevolent activities undertaken through digital means,” said Mr. Ridon.

On Wednesday, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) announced that it recorded 30.1 million SIM registrations, which is only 17.76% of the 168.98 million subscribers nationwide. The SIM card registration process started on Dec. 27, 2022.

“We are seeing good progress in terms of the registered subscribers, and we look forward to how this will translate to a safer and more secure digital communications in the coming days,” DICT Secretary Ivan John E. Uy said in a press release.

According to the DICT, Smart Communications, Inc. reported a total of 15.48 million SIMs regis-

tered, which represents 22.76% of its total subscribers, while Globe Telecom, Inc. recorded 12.2 million SIMs registered or 13.89% of its total subscribers.

Meanwhile, DITO Telecommunity Corp. reported a total of 2.33 million SIMs registered which represents 17.79% of its total subscribers.

The DICT said it will be rolling out more registration booths this week, while its Davao unit tied up with the NTC to help people register in the remote areas of Laak town in Davao de Oro.

“The SIM registration in remote areas is intended to ensure that we are reaching out in areas with limited telecommunication or internet access to assist them in registering their SIMs. The DICT’s Free Wi-Fi sites will serve as the hubs for SIM registration in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas,” DICT Spokes-

person and Undersecretary Anna Mae Yu Lamentillo said.

In a separate press release, Globe announced that it will be supporting the government-led SIM registration assistance by deploying booths in 15 areas this week.

Starting Feb. 8, Globe and the DICT will roll out SIM card registration booths in Cotabato, La Union, Isabela, Pampanga, Batangas, Camarines Sur, Leyte, Misamis Oriental, Agusan del Sur, Mountain Province, Antique, Cebu and Davao del Sur.

“We are committed to ensuring that every customer can access SIM registration support whether they prefer to do it online or offline. We’re working hand-in-hand with the government to provide on-ground assistance in areas where our customers need us most,” said Cleo Santos, head of Globe’s channel management group. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Global Ferronickel acquires control over port operator

NICKEL ore producer Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc. (FNI) has acquired an additional 24% shares in its unit Mariveles Harbor Corp. (MHC), it announced on Wednesday.

In a statement, FNI said its board of directors had authorized the acquisition of more shares “to have more control over the operations of the port.”

In 2019, the parent firm acquired a 40% stake in MHC or 1.67 million shares for P450 million for easier access to port services.

The latest acquisition brings the listed firm’s share in the port operator increased to 64.03%.

MHC, formerly known as Seasia Nectar Port Services, Inc., operates shipments of dry bulk cargoes such as coal, clinker, silica sand, cement raw materials, steel, and fertilizer.

In October, FNI acquired a 20% stake in China-based ore processor Guangdong Century Tsingshan Nickel Industry Co., Ltd. to boost their synergy and profitability.

FNI is a holding firm with business interests in nickel ore mining, logistics, cement and steel production, and port operations.

On Wednesday, shares in the company rose by 1.17% or 3 centavos to close at P2.59 each. — **Sheldene Joy Talavera**

NCIP grants consent to MacroAsia’s mining unit

MacroAsia Corp. said its mining subsidiary secured certification for complying with the process required by indigenous communities for a mining project in Palawan province.

In a stock exchange disclosure on Wednesday, MacroAsia said its unit MacroAsia Mining Corp. received a copy of the “Certi-

fication Precondition” from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

It said the mining area covers 1,113.98 hectares within the ancestral domain of the Palawan indigenous cultural communities or indigenous peoples. — **Sheldene Joy Talavera**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code
<https://bit.ly/3YrJ6w4>