

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,827.92

▲ 20.10 PTS.

▲ 0.29%

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P720.00 +P5.00 +0.7%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.23 -P0.01 -0.24%	AEO Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P46.00 ---	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P11.60 -P0.08 -0.68%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P34.85 +P0.30 +0.87%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P152.40 +P1.60 +1.06%	BLOOM Blossom Resorts Corp. P11.74 +P0.04 +0.34%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P113.50 -P1.10 -0.96%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P35.60 +P0.15 +0.42%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P10.12 +P0.42 +4.33%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P11.40 +P0.30 +2.7%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.50 -P0.05 -0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,739.00 +P9.00 +0.52%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P700.00 +P5.00 +0.72%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P272.00 -P2.00 -0.73%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P258.00 +P0.40 +0.16%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P39.00 +P0.35 +0.91%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.63 +P0.03 +0.31%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P59.00 -P0.10 -0.17%	MER Manila Electric Co. P355.60 -P4.40 -1.22%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P10.36 +P0.41 +4.12%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P4.70 +P0.05 +1.08%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P27.50 ---	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P32.60 +P0.10 +0.31%	SM SM Investments Corp. P903.00 +P3.00 +0.33%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P108.20 +P0.10 +0.09%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P34.00 ---	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,294.00 +P5.00 +0.39%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P111.70 +P1.40 +1.27%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P22.55 -P0.35 -1.53%

SteelAsia's IPO plans still in the pipeline — CEO

STEELMAKER SteelAsia Manufacturing Corp. said that conducting an initial public offering (IPO) is still under consideration and remains part of the company's strategic plans for the future.

The company's IPO could happen in the next five years, SteelAsia Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Benjamin O. Yao told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of a launch event in Makati City last week.

"Right now, it's at the back of our mind. But we're focused now on expansion first," he said.

"We are not saying that we are not pushing for the IPO. It's just that our priority now is on the execution of our projects. We are still open to it," he added.

In 2019, SteelAsia announced that it was aiming to go public within the next two years to generate funds for the company's expansion efforts.

"I think everybody is waiting for the (interest) rates to go down. I think that will recover. It's a matter of time," Mr. Yao said.

Mr. Yao said that SteelAsia is aiming to achieve over 10% revenue growth this year, led by the company's infrastructure projects.

He said that the company's performance was "good" in 2023 but "almost the same as in 2022" due to the effect of the pandemic.

"We are busy with infrastructure projects like the subway and railway... We have many expansions like I-beam, H-beam, sheet pile... Our expansion is all for import substitution," Mr. Yao said.

"The market is there but it is just waiting for us to make it happen in the next two to three years," he added.

He also said that the company's industrial-scale melt shop in Lemery, Batangas, has

experienced delays and is now expected to commence operations in early 2025.

SteelAsia had previously announced that the 600,000-ton melt shop was scheduled to start operations this year.

"It will now be early 2025. The delay is due to the usual permits and other factors, including the availability of high-voltage power, which is necessary for steel production. But

these issues have already been addressed," Mr. Yao said.

The company's melt shop will utilize local scrap metal to produce high-grade billets, which serve as raw materials for constructing buildings, ports, and ships.

SteelAsia has six plants in the country, two of which are in Bulacan, and one each in Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Cebu, and Batangas. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

A Brown gets PSE nod for P1.5-billion share offering

LISTED A Brown Co., Inc. (ABCI) has received approval from the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE) for its P1.5-billion preferred shares offering.

In a statement on Tuesday, ABCI said the offering consists of 10 million preferred shares, comprising Series B and C, priced at P100 apiece, with an oversubscription option for an additional five million shares.

The proceeds will be used for developing the company's residential projects in Luzon and Mindanao, land banking initiatives, as well as other general corporate purposes.

The offer period began on Feb. 12 and will end on Feb. 16, with the listing date set for Feb. 23.

"We are delighted to have received the PSE's approval for our preferred shares offering. This marks an important milestone for ABCI as we continue to pursue our vision of creating sustainable and thriving communities," ABCI Chief Executive Officer Robertino E. Pizarro said.



ABROWN.PH

ABCI tapped PNB Capital and Investment Corp. as the lone issue manager, lead underwriter, and sole bookrunner for the offering.

For the first nine months, A Brown logged a 21% jump in its net income to P484.5 million as its revenue rose 24% to P1.1 billion.

The completion of the company's electron beam (e-beam) and cold storage facility in Rizal is slated next month, with anticipated earnings contributions this year. E-beam technology is an economical option

for commercial and sterilization methods, and is used in various agricultural products and medical devices.

ABCI is a Mindanao-based property developer that has a diversified portfolio comprising of residential and commercial real estate projects. The company also has business interests in power generation, public utilities, and agribusiness.

On Tuesday, shares of ABCI fell by three centavos or 4.55% to 63 centavos apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Maynilad gears up to tap two Cavite rivers for treatment plants, ties up with DENR, Imus gov't

MAYNILAD WATER Services, Inc. announced on Tuesday a partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Environmental Management Bureau and the city government of Imus to harmonize projects related to the rehabilitation and management of two rivers in Cavite.

Maynilad is tapping the Julian and Imus rivers as raw water sources for its two modular treatment plants (ModTPs), the company said in a statement.

"Once fully operational, both plants can serve the water requirements of around 132,000 customers in the area," the company said.

The partnership aims to conduct periodic community waterway cleanups and mangrove planting, provide cleaning ma-



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terials for the river rangers, and implement community development projects, it noted.

Last year, the company said it set aside P3.2 billion for building four ModTPs in Cavite. These plants

are expected to produce a total of 47 million liters of water every day.

ModTPs are part of Maynilad's service enhancement program, which aims to tackle water security challenges.

Maynilad serves Manila, except for parts of San Andres and Sta. Ana.

It also operates in Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, and Malabon. Additionally, it supplies water to the cities of Cavite, Bacor, and Imus, as well as the towns of Kawit, Noveleta, and Rosario, all located in Cavite province.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

SPNEC expects increase in investor interest after MSCI index inclusion

SP New Energy Corp. (SPNEC) is seeing increased interest in its stocks after being included in the MSCI Philippines Small Cap Index.

"Amid the MSCI Philippines Small Cap Index inclusion, investors gobbled the stock, with shares rising by 6.03% as of mid-day Feb. 13," the company said in a statement on Tuesday.

Shares of SPNEC closed at P1.16 per share on Monday, the company said.

"The positive development for SPNEC is expected to further stimulate interest in the stock," it said.

SPNEC has replaced MRE-IT, Inc. on the roster.

The MSCI Global Cap Indexes announced the changes on Monday, and these changes are scheduled to be implemented at the end of the trading day on Feb. 29.

The index is "designed to measure the performance of the small-cap segment of the Philippines market," the MSCI said.

"With 20 constituents, it represents approximately 14% of the free-float adjusted market capitalization of the Philippines equity universe."

MSCI rebalances its indices semiannually and quarterly.

"New York-listed MSCI has helped investors build and manage portfolios using its research-based tools and insights on risks and performance," SPNEC said.

MGreen Renewable Energy, Inc. (MGreen) recently raised its stake in SPNEC, acquiring 2.17 billion shares from Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings, Inc. for P2.5 billion, representing 4.34%.

The latest acquisition increases MGreen's and its affiliates' stake in SPNEC to 55.96% from 50.53% previously.

MGreen is the renewable energy arm of Meralco PowerGen Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Manila Electric Co. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

IMI taps Lou Hughes for CEO role

THE BOARD of Ayala-led Integrated Micro-Electronics, Inc. (IMI) has nominated Lou Hughes as the company's new chief executive officer (CEO).

Mr. Hughes, a professional with extensive global C-suite experience in sales, engineering, sourcing, and operations, is slated to succeed Arthur R. Tan as CEO of IMI, the listed company said in a filing.

IMI noted that Mr. Hughes previously held senior roles at General Electric, served as chief operating officer of Nasdaq-listed electronics manufacturing services company Universal Electronics, and was CEO of Singapore-based contract manufacturer Beyonics.

His appointment as CEO, subject to approval by the IMI board, is expected to be effective on May 1.

The IMI board approved the company's CEO transition plan during a meeting on Feb. 13 and identified and vetted Mr. Hughes as a candidate for the position.

Mr. Tan, who has led IMI for the past 22 years, is set to conclude his term on April 25.

"IMI's board of directors is confident that Mr. Hughes will lead IMI with the same level of dedication, innovation, and excellence that is expected by our customers and stakeholders and assures its stakeholders of IMI's commitment to maintaining operational continuity and delivering value during this transition period," the company said.

"IMI will continue to uphold the highest standards of corporate governance and transparency throughout this process," it added.

IMI, the manufacturing arm of AC Industrial Technology Holdings, Inc., is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ayala Corp. The company produces electronics for various markets such as automotive, industrial electronics, and aerospace.

On Tuesday, IMI shares ended unchanged at P2.43 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

RE firm to study viability of micro-hydropower in 20 sites

RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) company BPE Corp. (BPEC) is gearing up to conduct feasibility studies for micro-hydropower systems at 20 potential sites across Bulacan, Davao, and Pangasinan provinces, the company's president said on Tuesday.

"We're going to start our [feasibility studies] this month in Pangasinan..., Bulacan, and in several irrigation systems in Davao," BPEC President Frits T. Delgado told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of a water investment forum.

BPEC is a renewable energy company based in Pasig backed by BlueCap Hydro Group of Hague, Netherlands.

Mr. Delgado said that the micro-hydro systems have a projected investment of P25 million per site, with an estimated total capacity of 1.4 to 2 megawatts.

Micro-hydro power plants are compact systems, usually ranging from 1 to 100 kilowatts (kW) in capacity, that generate electricity by using the natural movement of water.

"Of course, when you streamline the mobilization, that will decrease by a lot so it's all about planning because these are projects separate from each other," he said.

The company still needs to pitch the projects to the National Irrigation Administration

(NIA) if it intends to proceed with the construction of the micro-hydro projects, with an estimated construction timeline of two to three years.

Mr. Delgado said that feasibility studies are in addition to the pilot installation of a micro-hydro power system at the weir of the Angat-Maasim River System in the municipality of Angat, Bulacan, in partnership with the NIA.

These 20 sites will be the start of a real feasibility study that will now bring in investor interest while we deal with the oft-take," he said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**