

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEI 6700 6300 6190 6020 5850 91.07 HYS. 1.43% VOL.: 0.264 B VAL(P): 3.929 B 30 DAYS TO JULY 3, 2024	JULY 3, 2024 CLOSURE NET % JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 40,580.76 ▲ 506.07 1.26 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 17,978.57 ▲ 209.43 1.18 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 23,172.43 ▲ 293.06 1.28 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,294.04 ▲ 5.46 0.42 S. KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,794.01 ▲ 13.15 0.47 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,408.88 ▲ 40.98 1.22 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARYS) 7,739.90 ▲ 21.70 0.28 MALAYSIA (KLCSE COMPOSITE) 1,615.32 ▲ 17.36 1.09	JULY 2, 2024 CLOSURE NET DOW JONES 39,331,850 ▲ 162,330 NASDAQ 18,028,763 ▲ 149,463 S&P 500 5,509,010 ▲ 33,920 FTSE 100 8,121,200 ▼ -45,560 Euro Stoxx50 4,490,740 ▼ -17,180	FX 57.00 56.13 56.46 56.79 56.12 56.45 7.00 CTVS 30 DAYS TO JULY 3, 2024 OPEN P58.770 HIGH P58.725 LOW P58.830 CLOSE P58.725 W.AVE. P58.786 VOL. \$779.72 M SOURCE : BAP	JULY 3, 2024 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 161.800 ▼ 7.814 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.812 ▼ 7.814 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 32.659 ▼ 32.638 THAILAND (BAHT) 36.770 ▼ 36.830 S. KOREA (WON) 1,388.920 ▼ 1,388.590 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.356 ▼ 1.358 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,365 ▼ 16,390 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.718 ▼ 4.717	JULY 3, 2024 CLOSURE PREVIOUS US\$/UK POUND 1.2694 ▲ 1.2628 US\$/EURO 1.0759 ▲ 1.0713 US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6675 ▲ 0.6647 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3677 ▼ 1.3730 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9031 ▼ 0.9041	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$87.09/BBL 88.00 86.00 84.00 82.00 80.00 78.00 77.00 30 DAYS TO JULY 2, 2024 ▲ \$1.29

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JULY 3, 2024 (PSEI snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

ICT	P359.800	ALI	P29.000	JFC	P230.200	BDO	P133.900	MBT	P65.350	SMPH	P28.450	AC	P572.500	BPI	P116.700	HOUSE	P9.400	GLO	P2,120.000
Value	P475,330,700	Value	P356,561,740	Value	P265,711,868	Value	P258,948,617	Value	P205,378,807	Value	P162,972,980	Value	P144,651,195	Value	P101,155,080	Value	P100,767,765	Value	P100,323,640
P7.800 ▲	2.216%	P0.500 ▲	1.754%	P4.000 ▲	1.768%	P5.400 ▲	4.202%	P0.350 ▲	0.538%	P0.350 ▲	1.246%	P7.500 ▲	1.327%	-P0.100 ▼	-0.086%	P0.010 ▲	0.106%	P40.000 ▲	1.923%

House eyes budget approval by Sept.

PHL could reap P2.6T annually from AI — Balisacan

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY could gain P2.6 trillion annually if domestic businesses adopt artificial intelligence (AI), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said.

"The technology is estimated to contribute \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, with the Philippines potentially gaining P2.6 trillion annually if businesses adopt AI-powered solutions," NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said during the launch of the National AI Strategy Roadmap 2.0 and Center for AI Research (CAIR) on Wednesday.

"Sectors such as retail, logistics, manufacturing, and financial services can revolutionize operations and enhance performance through the use of AI," he added.

The AI roadmap and the CAIR were launched by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Asian Development Bank on Wednesday. The center is tasked to "transform the Philippines into a premier destination for AI-driven innovation and investments."

"This upgraded roadmap incorporates the latest technologies, recalibrates our strategic actions, and addresses emerging concerns such as ethics and governance," Trade Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual said at the event.

The roadmap, which is targeted to be finalized next month, will focus on strategic imperatives such as building a networked environment, improving data access, transforming education and nurturing future AI talents, upskilling and reskilling the workforce, building an AI ecosystem "conscience," pushing the boundaries of AI, and accelerating innovation.

In terms of immediate priorities, Mr. Pascual said that the DTI is targeting to increase the country's gross expenditure on research and development, which is only 0.3% of the gross domestic product (GDP), to meet UNESCO's recommended target of 1%.

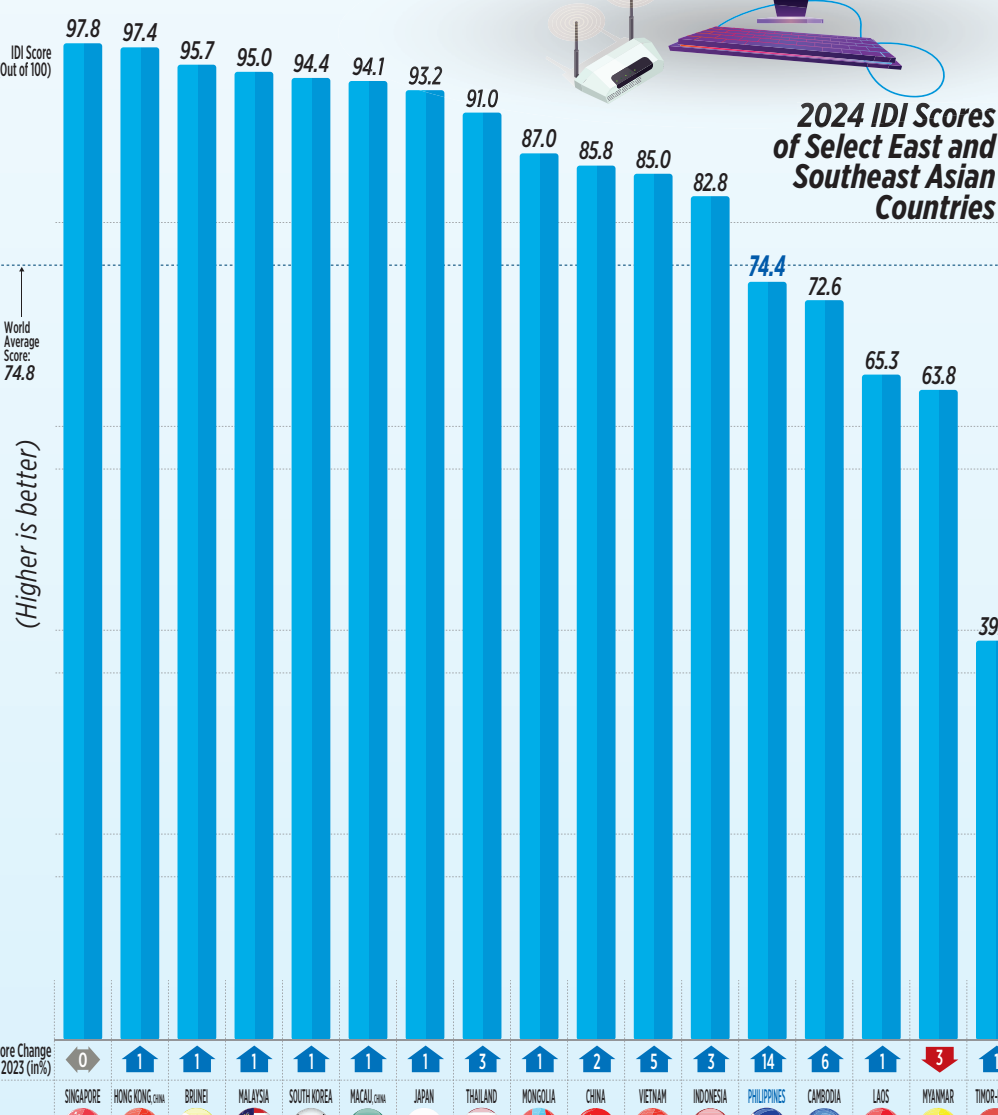
"Another immediate priority is the upskilling and reskilling of our current workforce. Concurrently, increasing the number of AI and data science graduates is crucial and a compelling priority," he said.

Mr. Balisacan said the roadmap would help ensure a fair transition to the adoption of AI by supporting displaced workers through upskilling, reskilling, and training.

AI, S1/3

PHILIPPINES' SCORE IMPROVES THE MOST AMONG ITS PEERS IN ICT INDEX (But remains one of the laggards in the region)

The Philippines scored 74.4 out of 100 in the 2024 edition of the ICT Development Index (IDI) of United Nations (UN) specialized agency International Telecommunication Union. The index assesses the progress of information and communication technology (ICT) in 170 economies by measuring the level of universal and meaningful connectivity. The country's score jumped by 14% year on year, but remained below the world average score of 74.8 and was the fifth-lowest in the East and Southeast Asia region.



Philippines' Profile (2024)

Universal Connectivity Pillar	Score
Individuals using the internet (%)	79.2
Households with internet access at home (%)	81.0
Mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	41.6
Meaningful Connectivity Pillar	Score
3G and 4G/LTE Network Coverage	86.4
Mobile-broadband internet traffic per subscription (GB)	74.2
Fixed-broadband internet traffic per subscription (GB)	-
Mobile data and voice high-consumption basket price (as % of GNI per capita)	93.5
Fixed-broadband internet basket price (as % of GNI per capita)	68.2
Individuals who own a mobile phone (%)	84.9

Top 5				Bottom 5			
Economy	IDI Score (Out of 100)	Universal Connectivity Pillar	Meaningful Connectivity Pillar	Economy	IDI Score (Out of 100)	Universal Connectivity Pillar	Meaningful Connectivity Pillar
Kuwait	100.0	100.0	99.9	Chad	21.3	6.7	35.9
Finland	98.1	99.3	96.9	Burundi	24.4	12.6	36.1
Estonia	97.9	98.6	97.3	Somalia	28.7	15.1	42.3
Qatar	97.8	100.0	95.6	Madagascar	29.9	18.0	41.8
Singapore	97.8	100.0	95.6	Burkina Faso	30.1	25.5	34.7

Source: International Telecommunication Union's ICT Development Index 2024 (https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/idi2024/)
BusinessWorld Research: Lourdes O. Pilar BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin

PHL fiber broadband adoption 'extremely challenging'

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson Reporter

THE WIDER ADOPTION of fiber broadband in the Philippines remains "extremely challenging" but that may soon improve if the government successfully implements a project to roll out fiber-optic infrastructure in last-mile

areas, Fitch Solutions' unit BMI said. In a report, BMI said the Philippine Digital Infrastructure Project (PDIP), which was recently approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board, will "catalyze further foreign investment in the Philippines' wider information and communications technology (ICT) ecosystem."

"Adoption of fiber broadband at the household level remains extremely challenging in the Philippines, and the PDIP may only provide marginal upsides to our outlook," it said. BMI forecasts expect over 1.83 million FTTx (Fiber to the x) subscriptions in 2033, for a penetration rate of 1.4 every 100 people. This is higher than its 2024 FTTx forecast of 1.58 million subscrip-

ers with a penetration rate of 1.3 per 100 people. "We believe that obstacles to consistent and widespread fiber uptake remain the prices of packages in last-mile areas, particularly stemming from the elevated costs of rollout that are further increased by the Philippines' archipelagic configuration," it said.

Broadband, S1/3

THE HOUSE of Representatives is looking to approve the proposed P6.352-trillion national budget for 2025 before Congress goes on a break in September, House Speaker and Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez said on Wednesday.

"Aside from our commitment in approving the few remaining LEDAC (Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council) priority measures agreed upon during the June 25 council hearing, the House will again work doubly hard to pass the proposed P6.352-trillion 2025 General Appropriations Bill before we go on break this end of September 2024," Mr. Romualdez said in a statement.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee last week proposed a P6.352-trillion budget for 2025, a 10% increase from this year's P5.768-trillion budget.

Budget Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman last week said the proposed National Expenditure Program for 2025 will be submitted to the House on July 29, one week after Congress reopens on July 22.

"The National Expenditure Program will undergo rigorous scrutiny to ensure that every peso allocated is judiciously spent and aligned with our national priorities," Party-list Rep. Elizaldy S. Co, who heads the House Appropriations Committee, said in a separate statement.

Mr. Romualdez said the House will conduct budget hearings but also deliberate on the LEDAC priority measures.

These include amendments to a law that privatized the power industry and a proposal to extend the lease period for foreign invest-

tors. Other pending measures include amendments to the agrarian reform law and bills seeking to modernize public budgeting and national defense.

Analysts said the higher allocation for next year's budget could drive economic growth. Economic managers are targeting 6.5-7.5% gross domestic product growth in 2025.

"The growth of more than +10% in the 2025 national budget... would bode well for faster economic and GDP (gross domestic product) growth. The largest allocation for education, infrastructure, social services, among others, would help expedite economic growth and development," Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said in a Viber message.

The government should ensure that its budget is efficiently spent to reap the economic benefits, Leonardo A. Lanzona, an economics professor at the Ateneo de Manila University told BusinessWorld in a Facebook Messenger chat.

"The huge budget does not guarantee any improvement in the Philippine economy. A lot will depend on how efficiently it will be used and distributed," he said.

Mr. Lanzona said economic managers should look at reducing the country's "high debt-to-GDP ratio" to meet sustained economic growth.

The debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 60.2% as of the first quarter. This year, the government's debt-to-GDP ratio target was set at 60.3%, slightly higher than the 60% threshold considered by multilateral lenders to be manageable for developing economies.

Budget, S1/3

Monetary Board has two vacancies after departures

THE PHILIPPINE central bank's rate-setting body has two vacancies after President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. accepted the resignations of two board members.

The presidential office has informed Monetary Board members V. Bruce J. Tolentino and Anita Linda R. Aquino and the central bank last week that their resignations have been accepted effective June 30, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said in an e-mail reply to a query.

The vacancies occur as the Southeast Asian nation is facing

its highest borrowing cost in 17 years and a currency that's near record low.

Mr. Tolentino and Ms. Aquino resigned as the central bank probed a report that several of their staffers were receiving salaries but were not reporting for work. Incoming officials will serve their unfinished terms which end July 2026.

The central bank's charter requires all decisions of the Monetary Board to have the concurrence of at least four members.

— Bloomberg

Cementing a sustainable future together

GREEN & GOOD platform with Holcim and Geocycle.

George Yang's McDonald's Philippines recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Holcim Philippines for waste management efforts under its Green and Good platform. With Holcim, a sustainable waste management initiative through Geocycle, will convert qualified materials into alternative fuels and raw materials in cement production. The MOA signing held last June 26 at McDonald's McKinley West was attended by (L-R) Jack Divinagracia, Director for Restaurant Operations, Solutions and Equipment - McDonald's Philippines; Adi Hernandez, Assistant Vice-President for Corporate Relations & Impact - McDonald's Philippines; Horia Adrian, President & CEO, Holcim Philippines; and Samuel Manlosa, Jr., Senior Vice-President and Chief Sustainability Officer, Holcim Philippines; with McDonald's Chief Happiness Officer, Ronald McDonald.