ReForm Plastic uses tech to upcycle single-use plastics

By Edg Adrian A. Eva

REFORM PLASTIC, a social enterprise under EverGreen Labs, is equipping local sectors with technology to upcycle single-use plastic into plastic boards for various industries.

"It is a collaborative effort to reduce the number of low-value plastics (single-use plastics) in places that we don't want them to be," Isidro Luis "Chino" Borromeo, operations coordinator at ReForm Plastic said in an interview.

This is while giving people economic opportunity by make something out of plastics, he added.

Under their franchising model, ReForm Plastic offers franchises tailor-fitted machinery, technologies, and programs catered to the type and volume of waste collected in their areas.

"We try to make sense of the community situation... so that's the value of having our franchise model here, instead of just being a machine distributor," Mr. Borromeo said.

Items produced by the franchises include plastic boards that are water- and termite-resistant, self-extinguishing and resilient material made from 100% post-consumer waste, Mr. Borromeo said.

It can replace traditional construction materials like plywood, cement, and high-density polyethylene. It can be cut, screwed, and modified for a wide range of applications, such as furniture, hardware, construction, and more.

"Some franchises are creating chairs for schools, trash bins and flooring," Mr. Borromeo said, adding that the possibilities are endless.

The company started its operations in Vietnam and identified an opportunity to expand into the Philippines, where single-used plastics are also a big problem.

"No one seems to be tackling low-value plastic, such as flexible plastic, plastic bags, sachets, and multilayered packaging," he said. "These plastics are often going straight to landfills or even worse, straight to our bodies of water."

The Philippines' "sachet economy" has led to alarming levels of plastics being dumped in bodies of water, according to the World Bank.

It is estimated that the Philippines generates 2.7 million tons of plastic waste yearly, with 20% ending up in the ocean.

ReForm Plastic aims to address the problem of single-use plastics by turning them into a profitable venture for communities, governments, organizations, and businesses.

"Through our different projects, we try to bring value all across the waste value chain," Mr. Borromeo said. "We're talking about how these recycling centers can bring value all the way to collectors."

The company has 14 franchises across Africa and Asia. In the Philippines, they are targeting at least three operational franchises by yearend.

Pinoy makes 'green' aviation sealant from lowly pili tree

By Almira Louise S. Martinez

JAMES DYSON FOUNDATION YOU TUBE CHANNEL

A FILIPINO inventor from Batangas province has created the first locally made aviation sealant from the spent resin of pili trees.

PiliSeal from the indigenous Philippine tree, which is also used in industries like food and perfume, is environment-friendly and safe, Mark Kennedy E. Bantugon, president and chief executive officer at Pili AdheSeal, Inc., said in an interview.

CFP PILI RESIN AND NUTS

"The smell of sealant in aviation can irritate our respiratory organs," he told *BusinessWorld* in Filipino. Unlike the unpleasant smell of other sealants, PiliSeal has a fragrant and "essential oil" smell, he pointed out.

In contrast, the usual aviation sealants are toxic and have a rubber-like smell.

Mr. Bantugon, a licensed aeronautical engineer who also trained under an aircraft maintenance company, said only 10% of extracted raw Pili resin is used as a component in known perfume brands, while the rest goes to trash.

He said 155.39 million kilos of plant waste are produced in the country yearly. About 89 million kilos come from pili, according to the Department of Science and Technology.

Mr. Bantugon, who supports the circular economy, made PiliSeal to combat the health risks of commercial sealants, while making good use of discarded materials.

Pili resin is very sticky, which he found ideal as the key ingredient of his invention.

He added that PiliSeal's resistance to extreme temperature sets it apart from the others, which either melt or get deformed.

"When you expose PiliSeal to higher temperatures, it only hardens, which is a good characteristic," Mr. Bantugon said.

Pili farmers will play a vital role in the success of his venture, he said. He seeks to give about 15,000 local farmers a new income stream through his business.

"We have local farming communities who depend on us and believe that we can unleash many opportunities from pili," he said.

Before discovering pili, Mr. Bantugon tested several types of resin from other trees, like the Antipolo tree.

Drawing inspiration from his childhood experiences during the rainy season, Mr. Bantugon first created a roof sealant from Antipolo tree resin in high school.

"During those times, our parents forced us to chew bubblegum to cover the leaks in our roof," he said in Filipino.

Mr. Bantugon said he got about P20 million by participating in dozens of local and global competitions, which he used to develop his creation.

PiliSeal was the first Filipino invention to receive the World Intellectual Property Organization National Award for Inventors. He was also recognized by the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Economy.

PiliSeal will undergo pilot testing in Australia and Singapore in the last quarter or the first quarter of 2025. Its estimated retail price is P330 to P350 for a 295-ml tube.

Aboitiz Power Corp. says renewable energy needs baseload for reliability

RENEWABLE ENERGY should be integrated with reliable baseload power to address its intermittency and ensure the country's power needs are met during the energy transition, according to an official from Aboitiz Power Corp. (AboitizPower).

"We need reliable and reasonably priced baseload power to address the inherent intermittency of renewable energy and the geographical challenges of injecting these intermittent capacities to our present grid," Ronaldo Ramos, AboitizPower's chief operating officer for thermal operated assets, said during the Coaltrans Asia 2024 in Bali, Indonesia.

Citing data from the Philippine Energy Plan, the company said that the country needs around $550.2 billion to reach the goal of increasing the share of renewable energy in the power mix to 50% by 2040.

"We all want a future that is powered by abundant renewable energy. The costs of solar panels and battery storage technologies going down are encouraging," Mr. Ramos said. "But we must be mindful of the present realities of the Philippines."

AboitizPower said that "a careful and phased approach" is needed for a just energy transition that accounts for "the current realities of the socio-economic needs" of the country.

The company said that coal, as a baseload energy source, can "fill in the gaps of more intermittent renewable energy," stabilizing the power grid.

AboitizPower is a leading player in the Philippine power industry, involved in electricity generation and distribution, with a diverse portfolio of renewable and non-renewable power plants. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Zobel matriarch Doña Beatriz, 88

DOÑA Beatriz Zobel de Ayala, the matriarch of the Zobel de Ayala family, passed away at the age of 88 on Monday, Sept. 23.

"We confirm the passing of Doña Beatriz Zobel de Ayala, the wife of Ayala Corp. Chairman Emeritus Jaime Zobel de Ayala," the conglomerate said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The family requests privacy during this most difficult time," it added.

Ayala Corp. did not provide additional details about the passing of Ms. Zobel.

Born on Feb. 29, 1936, in Madrid, Spain, Ms. Zobel was the mother of Ayala Corp. Chairman Jaime Augusto, as well as Fernando, Bea Jr., Patsy, Cristina, Monica, and Sofia.

A memorial service for Ms. Zobel will be held on the morning of Sept. 27 at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

JAIME AUGUSTO ZOBEL DE AYALA VIA FB / PHILSTAR.COM ARTWORK

DOÑA BEATRIZ ZOBEL DE AYALA

In lieu of flowers, Ayala Corp. said that the Ayala family requests donations in Doña Bea's memory to her favored causes, including the Friends of Elsie Gaches and the Tuloy Foundation. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

KKR and GIC hire banks to sell stakes in $3.2-B Metro Pacific Health Corp., according to sources

SINGAPORE — KKR & Co. and Singaporean sovereign wealth fund GIC have appointed Bank of America, Jefferies, and UBS to sell their majority stake in the Philippines' Metro Pacific Health Corp. in a deal that could value the company at $3.2 billion, three people with knowledge of the matter said.

A sale process could start as early as the fourth quarter of this year, or the first quarter of 2025, one of the people said.

Global investment firm KKR and GIC together hold 80% stake in Metro Pacific Health, the Philippines' largest private healthcare group, the source said.

The Philippines' infrastructure group Metro Pacific Investments Corp. owns the remaining 20% stake in Metro Pacific Health, according to the former company's website.

Bank of America, UBS, GIC, and KKR declined to comment. Jefferies, Metro Pacific Health, and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. did not respond to immediate requests for comment.

Founded in 2007, Metro Pacific Health runs 24 hospitals including Makati Medical Center and Davao Doctors Hospital, according to its website.

It also has 31 outpatient care centers, six cancer care centers, two allied health colleges and a centralized laboratory, its website showed.

KKR and GIC first invested in Metro Pacific Health in 2019 for a total of $680 million, according to statements at that time. — ***Reuters***

Makati Medical Center Marks 13 Years of JCI Accreditation at IHF Congress

Makati Medical Center (MakatiMed) commemorates 13 years of continuous compliance with the globally renowned Joint Commission International (JCI) quality and safety standards, having first been accredited in 2011, followed by three more successful re-accreditations. This achievement was celebrated during JCI's 25th Anniversary, where institutions worldwide were honored for their sustained dedication to healthcare excellence. MakatiMed is recognized alongside other top hospitals from Europe and the Middle East for maintaining an exceptional record of 13 years of JCI accreditation.

The recognition was conferred during the 47th International Hospital Federation (IHF) World Hospital Congress, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Representing Makati Medical Center to receive the plaque were Interim Co-President & CEO and Medical Director, Saturnino P. Javier, MD and Pharmacy and Therapeutics Division Head Hazel Faye R. Docuyanan. The award was presented by JCI officials, led by Jonathan B. Perlin, MD, President and CEO of The Joint Commission and Joint Commission International.

MakatiMed's journey to becoming a JCI-accredited institution began under the leadership of former President & CEO Rose R. Montenegro and former Medical Director Benjamin N. Alimurung, MD. Since then, the hospital's unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest standards of healthcare has been spearheaded by the Hospital Compliance, Licensing, and Accreditation Division Head, Mary Milagros D. Uy, MD.

Reflecting on the honor, Dr. Javier emphasized, "The JCI Accreditation of Makati Medical Center embodies the singular commitment of the entire [MakatiMed] community to render safe and top-quality healthcare services to all."

Palay,
from S1/1

Fermin D. Adriano, a former Agriculture undersecretary, said in a Viber message that palay production would likely drop to between 19.3 million MT and 19.5 million MT this year.

"With El Niño and then recent flooding in rice growing areas of Central Luzon, I don't know whether DA will get 1% to 2% growth rate (for agricultural production)," Mr. Adriano said in a Viber message.

The DA had set a 1-2% growth target for agricultural production this year, taking into account the impact of the El Niño and La Niña weather events.

"The possibility of an increase in output for 2024 is bleak, given the 500,000 (MT) drop in palay harvests in the first semester, plus the potential impact of La Niña on standing crops in the coming months," Federation of Free Farmers National Manager Raul Q. Montemayor said in a Viber message.

Mr. Montemayor said that the projected drop in palay production may be attributed to delayed planting by rice farmers. This would push back the palay harvest to the fourth quarter, he added.

PAGASA has so far logged nine tropical cyclones which have entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility this year.

Farm damage from weather disturbances was estimated at P23.19 billion from January to Sept. 4, according to the DA. This includes the effects of the El Niño, shearline, Southwest Monsoon, Typhoon Aghon, Typhoon Carina, and the Severe Tropical Depression Enteng.

The estimated volume loss for rice was at 373,000 MT, during the nine-month period. The DA projects an average of 500,000 MT to 600,000 MT in rice losses every year.

"The damage reports don't sound so bad, I'm not surprised if we hit 20 million MT (this year)," Roehlano M. Briones, a senior research fellow with the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said in a Viber message.

Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) Executive Director Jayson H. Cainglet said that the country's rice supply would remain sufficient given the increase in rice imports.

"Those damaged by Habagat (Southwest Monsoon) and heavy rain, farmers just need to be assisted immediately to replant," he said in a Viber message.

FULL STORY
Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link
<tinyurl.com/27gdy6tc>