

FAO eyes farm entrepreneurship projects with indigenous peoples

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said it is seeking to collaborate with more farm cooperatives and associations for its agri-entrepreneurship program in the Philippines, with a particular focus on involving indigenous peoples and the youth.

“What we would like to explore is the possibility to work with indigenous peoples and also the possibility to work with youth,” FAO Country Representative to the Philippines Lionel Henri Valentin Dabbadie told *BusinessWorld*.

The FAO is also hoping to improve the agricultural economy in the

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

He said that FAO started its agri-entrepreneurial program to address farmer groups affected by the conflicts in BARMM. These included Christian and Muslim farmer communities.

“We are expanding to new regions, and we are also trying in the same region to diversify the beneficiaries,” Mr. Dabbadie added.

He said that the FAO typically works with community-based organizations through capacity-building and training exercises for local producers.

“We try to build the capacity of the cooperative. They are the one who serve as a relay between the farmers, and we teach the cooperative how to make cost recovery and how to serve their members better,” he added.

Mr. Dabbadie said that the FAO also tries not to resort to subsidies but favors a skills-improvement approach.

“We provide this capacity, and we provide it as part of a collective approach. So most of the time it’s with cooperatives sometimes what we do also is collective training (through) the farmer field school,” he added.

He said that the FAO also provides equipment and technical assistance to help producers tap broader markets.

“The entry point is really the market and increasing the capacity of the producers to reach those markets... there is a huge market for *pasalubong* (souvenir) products,” Mr. Dabbadie added.

Among the souvenir products produced by the FAO’s project with the BARMM were banana chips and donuts.

“I would say that you can sell any kind of product, but you need to provide value addition. (That is why) we very seldom encourage the people to sell raw products,” he said. — **Adrian H. Halili**

Russia cuts wheat exports in move to contain inflation

MOSCOW — Russia, the world’s largest wheat exporter, cut its 2025 export quota by two-thirds, hiked wheat-export duties and abandoned import quotas for some staple foods on Friday as the government moved to curb inflation.

The Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) Council said Russia’s export quotas for the second part of the export season from Feb. 15 to June 30, 2025, will be 11 million metric tons, down from 29 million tons in the same period this year.

The EEU comprises Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia and coordinates the customs and tariff policy of its members.

In a separate announcement, Russia’s agriculture ministry hiked the wheat-export duty by over 18% from Dec. 4.

“We are strengthening control over the export of agricultural products to prioritize the supply of the domestic market. These measures should stabilize the price situation,” said Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Patrushev.

Mr. Patrushev said the government encouraged retailers to set long-term contracts with producers of potatoes and vegetables while regional authorities were working with retailers to stabilize prices for butter, sugar and bread.

The government is working to increase food imports from “friendly” countries, Mr. Patrushev said, while the EEU Council said it introduced duty-free quotas for imports of potatoes, carrots, apples and butter.

Russia allows grain exports quota-free from July to January, the first half of the export season, and then implements quotas among about 260 domestic traders authorized to sell grain internationally from Feb. 15 to June 30.

Analysts expected the export-quota cut, which resulted from the high export pace in recent months and a worse-than-expected

harvest due to bad weather in most Russian wheat-producing regions.

“The decision will help smooth out fluctuations in consumer prices caused by the depletion of domestic production stocks and the need to supply the domestic market through imports, and will contribute to curbing inflation,” Russia’s economy ministry said in a statement.

The measures will be closely watched by Russia’s biggest wheat buyers, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

Moscow has been looking to curb exports of staple foods and boost imports as it fights inflation at 8.5%. Price growth for butter, bread, dairy products and potatoes caused particular concern.

Butter prices were up 32% this year while prices for potatoes were up almost 80% and prices for bread climbed 13%, according to official statistics.

Russia introduced wheat-export quotas in 2020 to protect the domestic market.

The Russian Grain Exporters and Producers Union expects wheat exports in 2024/2025 of 47 million to 52 million tons, which it says will be enough for Russia to remain the top wheat exporter.

“However, the food security of the people in the countries to which we supply Russian wheat and other grain products is much more important to us,” said the union’s head Eduard Zernin.

At the start of 2024, the original quota of 24 million tons was increased a further 5 million tons against the backdrop of the previous season’s record grain exports, estimated at no less than 72 million tons.

The EEU Council statement said the quota for the same period of 2024 included corn and barley, which were excluded from the quota in the coming season. — **Reuters**

India’s floating solar plans run into opposition from fishing communities

MUMBAI — Early each morning, fisherman Nitin Birute casts his net into the backwaters of Jayakwadi Dam in western India, catching enough fish to feed his family and make a modest living.

But he fears his livelihood could evaporate if plans to install a huge floating solar farm on the Nathsagar reservoir go ahead.

The government is considering a project to blanket about 7,500 hectares of the 350-sq. km reservoir near the town of Paithan in Maharashtra state with floating photovoltaics, part of an ambitious push to create 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030 — enough to power hundreds of millions of homes in the world’s most populous nation.

Details on the Jayakwadi project, which is in the early stages of planning, are not publicly available, and THDC India Limited, the state power company behind it, did not respond to requests for information about the floating solar farm’s capacity, cost or when construction might begin.

Floating photovoltaics, installed on reservoirs, lakes and offshore waters, are an emerging technology that is particularly appealing to countries with limited land resources.

But their impact on nature is a topic of debate, and environmentalists have warned that they may adversely affect people who depend on fishing and agriculture.

“We depend on this water for our food and our livelihood,” said Mr. Birute, who belongs to the local Kahar community. “If they cover the water with solar panels, what will happen to the fish?”

... If there are no fish, we will have nothing left.”

About 25,000 families earn their living from the reservoir.

Earlier this year, hundreds of fisherfolk and their families protested against the planned solar farm, and one group is pursuing a legal challenge to stop construction.

India targets net zero emissions by 2070, a priority for a country that ranks among the world’s most vulnerable to the extreme weather caused by climate change. The government also wants to reduce the reliance on costly fossil-fuel imports to sustain economic growth and development. — **Thomson Reuters Foundation**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link
tinyurl.com/2d76urcd

Landowners along Subic-Clark rail line get TCTs

THE Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has distributed transfer certificates of title (TCTs) to the landowners affected by the implementation of the Subic-Clark-Manila-Batangas (SCMB) railway project.

In a statement issued over the weekend, BCDA said that it has distributed a total of 68 TCTs to at least 43 landowners in Pampanga.

“One of the biggest challenges of the government is securing right-of-way;

that is why it is really a big help that the (landowners) are willing to cooperate for the quick realization of this project,” BCDA Senior Vice-President Richard Brian M. Cepe said.

According to Mr. Cepe, the SCMB railway project will connect the port in Subic to the airport in Clark and to the ports in Manila and Batangas.

“This will be a big help to speed up commerce and the flow of products and services. In this way, we will at-

tract more investors into the country,” he added.

Pampanga Vice Governor Lilia G. Pineda said that with the turnover of the certificates, “we recognize the challenges that our lot owners have faced, and we acknowledge the patience and resilience they have shown.”

“We also recognize the importance of this project in driving economic growth and development in our province,” she added.

According to the BCDA, the landowners who received the TCTs have been paid based on the land assessment and valuation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue or fair market value by independent real property valuers.

It said landowners were given “just compensation” as provided for by the Right of Way Act.

The distribution of the TCTs signifies that the property is now ready for the project. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

New URC flour mill in Quezon seen improving supply, Agri dep’t says

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Sunday that the opening of Universal Robina Corp.’s (URC) flour milling factory in Quezon province is expected to improve the availability of flour.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said that the facility will ensure the availability of “high-quality flour, a vital ingredient in many staple food products like bread, pasta, cereals, and crackers.”

The facility, in Sariaya, Quezon, has a daily production capacity of 1,320 metric tons (MT).

URC’s new flour milling facility has an annual production capacity of 297,000 MT of flour and 99,000 MT of bran and polard, byproducts of the milling process used in animal feed.

“Flour is integral to our economy, from family dining tables to large-scale food production,” Mr. Laurel added.

The P5.4-billion mill is set to start commercial operations by January, directly employing 102 workers.

The DA said that the plant is expected to “play a key role in ensuring a stable and affordable supply of products.”

“It features a fully automated milling technology that will streamline flour production, storage, and packaging processes,” it added.

According to a report from the US Department of Agriculture, the Philippines is expected to import 7 million MT of wheat next year amid the rise in demand for both milling and animal-feed quality grain. — **Adrian H. Halili**

IPOPHL targets completion of IP valuation model by next year

THE Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) said it hopes to complete an intellectual property (IP) valuation model next year to help creators access financing.

“We are going to study the different models of valuation around the world, and then we will determine which is best fitting for the Philippines,” IPOPHL Director General Rowel S. Barba told reporters late Thursday.

“This is already part of the budget next year ... We hope launch it by the middle of next year,” he added.

According to Mr. Barba, IP valuation and commercialization are among the immediate priorities of the IPOPHL under its Philippine IP Strategy (PHIPS) 2025-2030.

“Our most immediate priority is to capacitate IPOPHL on how to value IP. Then next is IP financing so we can talk to the banks to fund the IP creations and accept the valuation as collateral,” he said.

“After that, (the creation) will be financed and commercialized so that the creator can earn money,” he added.

He said that the issue of getting financing for IP creations is a recurring problem with banks not universally accepting IPs as collateral.

“In the first place, (banks) also do not have the capacity to value, unlike land, which has zonal values and market values,” he said.

“So far, jurisdictions with advanced models in valuation are Japan, South Korea, and Canada. And the advantage of Japan and South Korea is that their state banks support IPs,” he added.

He said game developers first asked the IPOPHL how to value their games when selling at an overseas fair.

“In the case of *lagundi* (a plant with medicinal properties with applications in asthma and cough treatments), which was discovered by UP Manila, because they did not know the value, they just enter into a technology transfer agreement or a license agreement with a pharmaceutical company,” he added.

He said using this route, creators get a smaller share of revenue — about 35% of gross sales. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

JOB OPENING
Senior Japanese Speaking Customer Support
Qualifications:

- Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Excellent communication skills and be able to provide detailed information about services
- Should be able to resolve issues with precision and efficiency
- Can Supervise staff, manage customer records, analyze trends, and prepare reports on customer service issues

HIVE PRO SOLUTIONS INC.
W-06 23/F Tower 6789 Ayala Avenue, Brgy. Bel-air, Makati City
Send your resume to rosa@hivevl.com

Comfac Corporation is looking for a CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Qualification & Job Description

- Must have a bachelor's degree, Masteral Degree is an advantage
- At least 5 years of experience in a technical role with in Infrastructure as a Service or Cloud Industry
- Must be proficient in speaking, reading and writing in Bulgarian

Our office address is **19F The World Centre Building 330 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City**

Kindly send your CV/Resume to **kkatigbak@comfacgroup.com**

JOB HIRING

5 Marketing Assistant
1 International Marketing Manager

- College Graduate
- At least 1 Year experience
- Able to read, write and speak (KOREAN)
- Fluent in English
- Advance working knowledge in graphic design, spreadsheets, troubleshooting

2 Administrative Staff

- Graduate of BS Management/ Accounting
- At least 1 Year Experience
- Advance knowledge in Microsoft Excel
- Good communication skills

PHILGEULIN GROUP INC.
3rd Floor Silver Tree Building, No. 3 San Miguel Avenue, Brgy. San Antonio, Pasig City
Contact#: (02)8404.7524/+63.947.247.4578
Email: philgeulin.admn@gmail.com
Look for: Ms. Irene D. Lorenzo

JOB OPENING

Company: Caggemini Philippines Corp.
Location: McKinley West, Taguig City
Contact Person: Jun Mark Cagais
Contact No.: +63 2 8667 6000 ext. 76000
Email: fsphilippinestalentacquisition.ph@caggemini.com

Position: Service Desk Analyst Level 1 (French) – (10)
Role: Technical Helpdesk Analyst

Role Overview:

- Troubleshoots via the phone hardware, software, and network operating problems and involves technical resources to ensure resolution.
- Applies understanding and knowledge of information systems products and services to assist users.
- Identifies, investigates and researches user questions and problems as well as isolating and resolving information systems problems.
- Coordinates referrals to appropriate technical, professional, or service personnel.
- Receives and prioritizes issues and forwards using appropriate escalation procedures.
- All other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- 1 – 2 years working experience in a Technical Help Desk Environment providing 1st level phone support to a large customer base.
- 1 - 2 years' work experience in customer services support or having equivalent kind of skills experience, soft skills a must.
- 1 - 2 years' experience supporting the following hardware and software: Hardware: PC, Macintosh, iPhone, Printers. MS-Outlook, Windows 7, 10 OS, MS-Office 2013 and 2016 (Office 365).
- French speaking
- Must be able to work independently.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Strong analytical skills.
- Strong customer service skills.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.
- Strong English (verbal and written) skills.
- Typing skills essential

JOB VACANCY

Company: Caggemini Philippines Corp.
Location: McKinley West, Taguig City
Contact Person: Jun Mark Cagais
Contact No.: +63 2 8667 6000 ext. 76000
Email: fsphilippinestalentacquisition.ph@caggemini.com

Position: Senior Manager
Role: Permanent/Full-Time

Role Overview:

- Responsible for determining the general direction of the technical solution for the enterprise application implementation.
- Reduced cost to the business by leading multiple concurrent projects.
- Utilized CloudWatch, Cloud Trail, SQS, Redis and Elasticsearch for message queuing and log aggregation, used Splunk for real-time log analysis, distributed alerts with SNS topics, and stored the reports in AWS S2 buckets.
- Oversaw the design of cloud infrastructure and created detailed architecture models for customers to host test, development, and production environments.
- Develop and execute activities related to end-to-end project management, including project plans and estimates, scoping and requirements through implementation and deployment. Proactively monitor, manage, and report on execution of deliverables
- Responsible for Analysis process, as agreed at the time of stake holder discussion.
- Co-ordinate with Customer Success activities like Project Governance and working with different domain Team, drive Pilot projects and define success criteria. Communication Skills
- Adept and ability to network, communicate, engage and influence colleagues' and stakeholders' at different levels, both technical and Business across levels
- Can effectively articulate across all facets of project management

Qualifications:

- 16+ years of experience in Retail Banking with an emphasis in strategy, product development, management and marketing 15+ years of experience in IT industry Highly accomplished Cloud Architect with extensive experience in conducting Cloud Readiness Assessments, creating cloud service maps, and overseeing security considerations as part of wider Cloud Adoption Framework. Proficient knowledge of cloud computing technologies and current computing trends. Accomplished in managing large teams right from requirements through design, implementation & deployment. Excellent analytical, organizational, planning skills with demonstrated abilities in training & mentoring teams towards achieving organizational goals.

JOB OPENING

Company Name
American Power Conversion Corporation (A.P.C.) B.V.
Contact details of the Company
Ann Virgil ARANEL <annvirgil.aranel@se.com>

Available Job Vacancy **Purchasing Support Specialist**

Job Description

- Providing guidance, support, and mentorship to team members in executing procurement activities.
- Overseeing the procurement process, monitor open Purchase Requisitions, clear related issues, and convert to Purchase Order on a timely manner.
- Place PO to vendor, secure order acknowledgement and ensure vendor's delivery commitment is aligned with the customer requested delivery date.
- Monitor status of vendor's PO, conduct regular follow up to ensure delivery per commitment, fix issues on delays and provide updates to key stakeholders.
- Support required documentation on shipping, custom clearing and other related documents.
- Assist Team Manager in any issue in first instance and escalate the problem when necessary.
- Assist in resolving service order discrepancies
- Escalate any issue which was not solved in 24 hrs or needs manager help to be solved
- Ensure that the end-to-end process is completely fulfilled
- Availability to cover order entry team members from other regions
- Other duties as assigned

Basic Qualification

- Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Sciences or Business Admin.
- Experience in order management or logistics an advantage
- Knowledge in ERP system such as SAP, Oracle, BAAN
- Familiarity with computers and related software
- Strong verbal and written communication skills with the ability to work independently and handle multiple tasks at the same time
- Flexibility and willingness to work additional hours during high peak volume times during each quarter
- Organizational and problem-solving skills with attention to detail is highly desired.
- Fluency in English, both verbal and written, is require.

Salary
40k monthly salary + 55k Language Premium allowance