

PwC opens office in BGC, plans to hire 2,000 workers

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS (PwC) has invested around P1 billion in an Acceleration Center in Bonifacio Global City (BGC), Taguig.

On Wednesday, PwC inaugurated its 2,500-square-meter Acceleration Center in BGC, which aims to hire 2,000 Filipinos over the next two to three years.

“If you look at this wonderful office, it will give you a hint that this development is probably about close to a billion pesos,” PwC Philippines Chairman and Senior Partner Roderick Danao said on the sidelines of the inauguration.

“Not only the facilities, but the technology component that you cannot actually see visibly, is very expensive,” Mr. Danao added.

He said that PwC’s investment extends beyond the facility to workforce development.

“[Our] investment here is not just the facility. It’s a combination of the development of the real estate piece and, of course, the people development, which is more expensive because we are going to hire thousands of people,” he said.

The new office will initially focus on high-demand areas such as Guidewire, SAP, and Oracle, aligning with businesses’ needs in navigating the evolving technological landscape.

PwC Acceleration Centers Leader Hari Kumar said the firm chose to expand in the Philippines due to the quality of its workforce.

“Generally because of high-quality skills. But the other components that I will add to this are the fact that they (Filipinos) are committed, honest, and they work hard. And most

importantly, they are good humans,” Mr. Kumar said.

“Building the skills is one part of it, but the human part of it was very significant for us. And that’s one of the reasons I’ll tell you that the Philippines and Manila have been a huge commitment for us, and we will expand further in the Philippines as well,” he added.

The Acceleration Center will focus on jobs in high-end technology and innovation, including artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

“But we are not expecting everybody to come in with all the talent. But the idea is for us to train and build the skills along with everything,” Mr. Kumar said.

PwC Acceleration Center Manila General Manager and Partner Nilesh Sharma highlighted Filipinos’ strong customer-centric approach as a key factor in PwC’s success in the country.

“Nothing is too hard for them. The resilience they exhibit every single day is why we’ve been so successful in the last 15 or so years here and 100 years beyond that. And that is the basis and the foundation on which we want to build and pivot into these amazing new areas,” he added.

PwC has around 6,400 employees in the Philippines, with 2,900 serving local clients and 3,500 serving global clients. It has offices in Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, and Pasig, as well as a practice firm in Makati City.

The new facility currently serves PwC clients from 26 countries, including the US, Australia, and New Zealand. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

STI says P950-M Alabang campus to open by 2026

TANCO-LED STI Education Services Group, Inc. is expanding its school network with a planned P950-million campus in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, set to be operational in 2026.

The eight-story campus, situated on a 3,266-square-meter property in South Park District, broke ground on Feb. 11, STI said in a regulatory filing on Thursday.

According to STI, the campus will offer senior high school programs and bachelor’s degree programs in Information Technology, Business and Manage-

ment, Hospitality Management, and Tourism Management.

The Alabang campus will accommodate up to 10,000 senior high school and college students. It will feature air-conditioned classrooms with flat-screen TVs, student activity centers with internet connectivity, industry-grade laboratories, and recreational spaces such as a basketball court.

“For years, we have been expanding and improving our facilities to keep up with the demands and challenges of the modern

world. This new campus in Alabang reflects our commitment to creating a conducive learning environment that empowers students with relevant skills, knowledge, and character,” STI President and Chief Operating Officer Peter K. Fernandez said.

The Alabang campus joins STI’s nationwide network of academic centers, which includes locations in Legazpi, Pasay-EDSA, Sta. Mesa, San Jose del Monte, Lipa, Batangas City, Las Piñas, Calamba, Cubao, Lucena, Calo-

oan, Ortigas-Cainta, Novaliches, Fairview, Naga, and Global City.

For the first quarter of its fiscal year ending June, STI reported a net income of P263.2 million, up from P19.75 million the previous year, as total revenue surged by 60% to P1 billion.

Enrollment reached a record-high 138,060 students for the 2024-2025 school year.

STI shares rose 2.13% or three centavos to P1.44 apiece on Thursday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Philippine Airlines launches Cebu–Ho Chi Minh flights

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES is expanding its Cebu hub with the launch of new direct flights from Cebu to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam, the flag carrier said.

In a media release on Thursday, Philippine Airlines, operated by PAL Holdings, Inc., announced that it will begin flights from Cebu to Ho Chi Minh City on May 2.

The soon-to-be-launched Cebu–Ho Chi Minh flights will operate three times a week — every

Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday — while the return service to Cebu will depart from Ho Chi Minh City every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.

“We look forward to boosting tourism, strengthening Cebu’s position as the nation’s emerging business and leisure gateway, and building on the strong and friendly relations between Vietnam and the Philippines,” Philippine Airlines President and Chief Operating Officer Stanley K. Ng said in a media release on Thursday.

Philippine Airlines said the new service will utilize Airbus A321 jetliners, which can accommodate up to 199 passengers and offer both Business Class and Economy Class.

The airline also announced that it is increasing its Manila–Hanoi–Manila service to daily flights as part of its expansion in Vietnam.

At the local bourse on Thursday, shares in PAL Holdings closed unchanged at P4.84 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Damosa Land, Thai firm sign deal for P772-M coconut facility

REAL ESTATE developer Damosa Land, Inc. (DLI) has secured a 430-million-Thai-baht (around P771.87 million) investment to establish a coconut milk production facility within the Anflo Industrial Estate (AIE) in Panabo City, Davao del Norte.

Thai Coconut Public Company Ltd. (COCOCO), a global player in coconut products, recently signed a memorandum of

understanding (MoU) with DLI to build the facility, slated for completion by 2026.

The MoU also covers a 25-year land lease agreement inside AIE.

“This partnership directly aligns with our mission to support local industries and stimulate sustainable economic development,” said DLI President Ricardo F. Lagdameo in an e-mail statement.

“By partnering with a global leader like COCOCO, we are creating a valuable supply chain ecosystem that provides income and employment opportunities for the local community while positioning Mindanao as a key player in the international market.”

The project is expected to boost COCOCO’s capacity to meet growing global demand for coconut milk while creating op-

portunities for Mindanao’s agro-industry.

DLI said COCOCO is also considering applying for special economic zone privileges under the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to receive tax and investment incentives.

The facility is expected to generate employment opportunities during construction and long-term operations. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

Be our partner in building New Clark City as an intelligent urban development!

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Selection of Joint Venture Partner for the Commercialization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Infrastructure in New Clark City (NCC). NCC is envisioned as a smart, green, and disaster-resilient city.

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) invites prospective bidders to submit applications to pre-qualify and bid for the financing, design, construction, repair, maintenance, and commercialization of passive ICT Infrastructure (e.g., conduits, fiber optic cables, chambers, colocation facilities, etc.) to address the urgent requirements of NCC locators.

The Project will be awarded through competitive public bidding in accordance with the BCDA Joint Venture Guidelines and other applicable Laws. The bidding will follow a 2-stage process: Stage 1 Prospective bidders shall first be pre-qualified based on legal, technical, and financial capability requirements, and Stage 2 pre-qualified bidders will be invited to submit technical and financial bids. Interested parties may participate in the bidding

process by submitting a letter of intent prior to purchasing the Instructions to Private Sector Participants (IPSP) Volume 1 – Forms and Annexures, at the BCDA Corporate Office located at 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. Second Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City starting on February 14, 2025, for a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php250,000.00), payable to BCDA in the

form of cash or Manager’s Check. The IPSP Volume 1 – Eligibility Documents shall be provided free of charge, downloadable from the BCDA website, for viewing. Prospective bidders shall also later submit a letter appointing the authorized representative to execute a Confidentiality Undertaking for the grant of access to the virtual data room for the project together with the signed Confidentiality Undertaking using the templates to be provided online (refer to QR code).

A Pre-qualification Conference shall be held on March 3, 2025, 2:00 PM at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters 6 ADB

Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Metro Manila, Philippines. The final date of submission of Eligibility Requirements shall be on April 18, 2025, 12NN also at the BCDA Corporate Office. This bidding is being administered by the BCDA Joint Venture Selection Committee (JVSC) and questions shall be addressed to the Chairperson. For additional queries, please contact the JVSC Secretariat at jvsc_ict@bcda.gov.ph, +632 8575-1765.

BCDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, modify the invitation documents and the bidding documents or any aspect

thereof anytime, and/or not award the contract for any reason without need for any explanation.



To know more about the project scan for more information.

BCDA
Bases Conversion and Development Authority

NEW CLARK CITY