

Japan trade delegation seeks out opportunities in supply-chain integration

A JAPANESE delegation has inquired about investment opportunities in integrating supply chains for Philippine industry, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said.

In a statement, the DTI said that a business and investment mission from Okayama in Western Japan visited the Philippines on Feb. 9-13.

“The delegation aimed to explore investment opportunities and bolster supply chain integration within the Philippine industrial ecosystem,” the DTI said.

“It comprised top executives from Okayama-based companies spanning manufacturing, education, software development, property management, steel processing, banking and finance, and the automotive sector,” it added.

The business mission participated in networking events and site visits to economic zones (ecozones) in Manila, Cavite, and Cebu.

“These activities provided Japanese executives with firsthand insights into the Philippine market, enabling them to assess investment prospects and connect with key stakeholders from the government and private sector,” the DTI said.

“The delegation also engaged with senior officials from the Japanese Embassy in Manila and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) for an in-depth briefing on the country’s economic zones, incentive programs, and key investment opportunities,” it added.

Board of Investments Managing Head Ceferino S. Rodolfo welcomed the delegation, noting the Philippines’ strong commitment “to fostering a competitive and investor-friendly business environment.”



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“The Philippines provides a dynamic economic landscape, compelling incentives, and strategic advantages that make it an ideal partner for Japanese enterprises looking to expand in Southeast Asia,” Mr. Rodolfo said.

PEZA Director General Tereso O. Panga said that Japanese firms have been the top ecozone investors for nearly three decades.

“With over 800 Japanese firms contributing P589 billion in investments and generating more than 300,000 direct jobs, we remain confident that this mission will further bolster our collaboration and attract more high-value manufacturing investments to the Philippines,” he said.

The Japanese delegation visited Nakashima Philippines Corp. and JPN, Inc. at the Cavite Economic Zone and Tsuneishi Heavy Industry in Balamban, Cebu.

“The visit aimed to explore opportunities for supply chain integration with the global shipbuilder (Tsuneishi) and assess additional prospects within the West Cebu Industrial Park,” the DTI said.

“It further underscored the Philippines’ thriving shipbuilding industry and its vast potential to attract increased Japanese investment in industrial estates offering world-class infrastructure and investor-friendly regulatory frameworks,” it added.

— **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Mineral production up 1.28% by value in 2024 led by gold

THE value of the mining industry’s metallic mineral production rose 1.28% to P252.9 billion in 2024, driven by gold, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Gold accounted for nearly half of the total at P126.36 billion, which was up 19% from the 2023 total.

The value of raw nickel ore fell 15% to P56.67 billion in 2024, the MGB said.

It said the value of mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide fell 21% to P37.37 billion.

The MGB said copper output was valued at P27.24 billion, up from P25.41 billion in 2023; silver at P2.91 billion from P1.86 billion previously; and chromite at P1.75 billion from P1.51 billion.

The growth of Philippine mineral output lagged gross domestic

product growth of 5.6% in 2024, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said.

“This could have been weighed down by mostly softer economic data in China, the world’s second biggest economy and the world’s biggest importer of oil, metals, and other major commodities,” he said via Messenger chat.

He said gold was propelled by record world prices, which rose 27% in 2024 after a 13.1% rise in 2023.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ricafort said the 15% decline in the value of raw nickel ore was due to the decline of global prices to a four-year low.

Nickel prices declined 7.9% in 2024. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**



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NCR retail price growth cools to three-month low

RETAIL PRICE growth of general goods in the National Capital Region (NCR) were at their lowest level in three months in January, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said in a report.

Citing preliminary data, the PSA said price growth in Metro Manila as measured by the general retail price index (GRPI) slowed 1.4% year on year in January from the 1.5% posted in December.

This was also significantly slower than the year-earlier rate of 2.5%.

The January indicator was the weakest reading since October’s 1.3%. It was level with the pace set in November.

“The primary contributor to the deceleration of the annual growth rate of GRPI in NCR was the slower annual increase recorded in the index of manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials at 1.1% during the month from 1.5% in December 2024,” the PSA said.

The manufactured-goods sub-index accounted for 16% of GRPI growth.

Growth in the heavily-weighted price sub-index for food cooled to 1.8%, from 1.9%.

Slower price growth was also seen in beverages and tobacco (3.8% from 3.9%), crude materials, inedible except fuels (0.6% from 0.7%), chemicals, including animal and vegetable oils and fats (2.2% from 2.5%), and miscellaneous manufactured articles (1.1% from 1.4%).

The growth in the sub-index for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials was 0.9%, a reversal of December’s 0.3% drop.

The sub-index for machinery and transport equipment was unchanged at 0.2% growth.

According to the PSA, the GRPI is used as a deflator in the National Accounts, particularly in the retail trade sector, and serves as a basis for forecasting. — **Abigail Marie P. Yraola**

Philippines, South Korea launch latest clean-energy knowledge sharing program

THE Department of Energy (DoE) said it has launched a knowledge-sharing program with South Korea on clean energy.

In a statement on Sunday, the DoE said its 2024/25 knowledge sharing program serves as a platform for the exchange of expertise and best practices.

“We aim to gain invaluable insights and best practices that will help us draft policy, strengthen our institutions, and implement innovative energy solutions that respond to our country’s evolving energy landscape,” Energy Undersecretary Alessandro O. Sales said.

The two governments held high-level discussions in August to explore ways for the Philippines to benefit from South Korea’s advances in energy technology while showcasing its own strengths in renewable energy, particularly in geothermal and pumped hydropower generation.

The Korea Energy Economics Institute, Korea Advanced Insti-



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tute of Science and Technology, Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, and Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power, are participating in the program.

The Asia Economic Development Committee (AEDC) of South Korea serves as the program’s official coordinating organization for Philippine government-related knowledge-sharing matters, facilitating energy cooperation between the two countries.

“This program is not just about technology transfer, it is a testament to the enduring friendship and

shared commitment of our nations to sustainable energy development,” AEDC Chairman Yoon Sukhun said.

As part of the program, the Philippines submitted three key proposals aligned with its energy transition and socioeconomic development goals. These include initiatives accelerating electric vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure, integrating floating solar and smart grid technologies, and strengthening capacity building for clean energy development.

Since its inception in 2004, the program has supported over 759

research projects, fostering collaborations that drive innovation and enhance institutional capacity.

“The Philippines and Korea reaffirm their dedication to fostering strong energy cooperation, leveraging shared knowledge, and driving forward sustainable energy solutions that will benefit both nations in the years to come,” the DoE said.

The Energy department is seeking to increase the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix to 35% by 2030. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Jobs plan for wholesale, retail industry due midyear

THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said it hopes to release a jobs blueprint for the wholesale and retail trade industry by midyear.

“We need to finalize it because we have to validate it with our partners,” Trade Undersecretary Mary Jean C. Pacheco told reporters.

The DTI’s partners for the blueprint are the Supply Chain Management Association of the Philippines (SCMAP) and the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA).

“(We expect to release it) maybe by mid-year,” she said.

The blueprint will set targets, which Ms. Pacheco said it will require buy-in by the partners. “We haven’t presented (the first draft) yet. Because we finished it in December,” she said.

“Our plan is to do consultations first with SCMAP, then do one with PRA, and then do another with the both of them.”

In October, Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina A. Roque said that the blueprint will help create a thriving job market in the industry and ensure that innovation and technological advancements translate into opportunities for workers.

It is projected to benefit over 10 million workers in wholesale and retail, which accounted for P4.4 trillion of gross domestic product in 2023, the DTI said.

In December, PRA President Roberto S. Claudio welcomed the roadmap, noting that it will bolster the economy.


“The retail sector is ready to embrace innovation and enhance the customer experience. This blueprint provides a clear roadmap for us to achieve those goals while contributing to economic progress,” Mr. Claudio said. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Career Opportunity in FUTURENET AND TECHNOLOGY CORP.	
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (1 Vacancy)	
Job Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating development plans and forecasting sales targets and growth projections.• Identifying, marketing and opportunities through existing and potential clients and• Meeting, existing and potential clients and• Liaising with colleagues to develop sales and marketing strategies.• Preparing financial projections and sales presentations.• Attending events such as exhibitions and trade fairs.• Participating in sales meetings.• Producing reports for management.• Training business developers and sales staff.• Working in a client's business or in an office.	Qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can understand, speak, read and write English and Malay fluently• College graduate or Bachelor's degree of any course• Proficient in computer including competency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Powerpoint• Excellent strategic and analytical thinking skills to develop effective business strategies.• Must possess strong organizational, negotiation and leadership skills.
Applications may be sent to: Name of Company HR: Au, Lok Hing Nicole Email address: jellahitum@futurenetech.com	
Company Name: Futurenet and Technology Corp. Complete Address: Unit 4502 The Finance Centre, 26th Street And 9th Ave., Fort Bonifacio, City of Taguig Nature Of Business: Construction	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position Name: Teng Kok Yee Address: Taguig City Nationality: Malaysian Intended period of employment: Two (2) years
Futurenet And Technology Corp. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Malligaya Street, Malate, Manila	

Career Opportunity in FUTURENET AND TECHNOLOGY CORP.	
PROJECT COORDINATOR (6 Vacancies)	
Job Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring the daily progress of projects• Providing detailed updates to project managers or other stakeholders• Ensuring team members have the supplies and resources they need to complete their assigned tasks on time and within their budget limits• Organizing reports, invoices, contracts, and other financial files for easy access• Planning meetings and organizing project logistics• Performing billing and bookkeeping tasks.• Ordering necessary office supplies.	Qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational background in Engineering, Public Administration or any Business course.• Can understand, speak, read and write English and Mandarin and Fildien.• Familiarity with risk management and quality assurance• Proficient in computer including competency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Powerpoint• An ability to prepare and interpret flowcharts, schedules and step-by-step action plans.
Applications may be sent to: Name of Company HR: Au, Lok Hing Nicole Email address: jellahitum@futurenetech.com	
Company Name: Futurenet and Technology Corp. Complete Address: Unit 4502 The Finance Centre, 26th Street And 9th Ave., Fort Bonifacio, City of Taguig Nature Of Business: Construction	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position Name: Tan, Lu Address: Taguig City Nationality: Chinese Intended period of employment: Two (2) years Name: Long, Ruffeng Address: Taguig City Nationality: Chinese Intended period of employment: Two (2) years Name: Zeng, Gesheng Address: Taguig City Nationality: Chinese Intended period of employment: One (1) year Name: Mao, Jianying Address: Taguig City Nationality: Chinese Intended period of employment: One (1) year
Futurenet And Technology Corp. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Malligaya Street, Malate, Manila	

Career Opportunity in FUTURENET AND TECHNOLOGY CORP.	
SITE TECHNICAL SPECIALIST (6 Vacancies)	
Job Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides administrative and technical support for building projects.• Reviewing budgets, blueprints, and schedules, discussing issues with particular craftspeople, and giving second opinions on best practices and strategies for completing a project.• Conducting quality assessments of processes throughout the project period, doing on-site check-ups of work progress and advising on specific technical problems that influences the working processes• Checking technical designs and drawings to ensure that they are followed correctly• Preparing site reports and filling in other paperwork• Providing technical advice and solving problems on site	Qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational background in Data Analytics or Engineering or any Business course• Can understand, speak, read and write English, Mandarin and Fildien.• Familiarity with environmental regulations & environmental permitting requirements.• Proficient in computer including competency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Powerpoint• Excellent strategic and data analytical skills to develop effective business strategies.
Applications may be sent to: Name of Company HR: Au, Lok Hing Nicole Email address: jellahitum@futurenetech.com	
Company Name: Futurenet and Technology Corp. Complete Address: Unit 4502 The Finance Centre, 26th Street And 9th Ave., Fort Bonifacio, City of Taguig Nature Of Business: Construction	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position Name: Li, Dongliang Address: Taguig City Nationality: Chinese Intended period of employment: One (1) year Name: Fu, Kai Address: Taguig City Nationality: Chinese Intended period of employment: One (1) year Name: Zhu, Xian Address: Taguig City Nationality: Chinese Intended period of employment: One (1) year
Futurenet And Technology Corp. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Malligaya Street, Malate, Manila	

Career Opportunity in NEW CHANGE TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS INC..	
PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (1 Vacancy)	
Job Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for implementing project contingency plans for the successful execution of projects.• Analyses business-critical data to identify inefficiencies and trends in projects to prevent issues from arising.• Ensures that the scope and schedule of projects are achievable within the given time and budget.• Consults issues associated with a project with the project management team, clients, and other interested parties.• Allocates tasks to the project management team and provides regular guidance to team members to ensure that projects are on track.	Qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelors/College Degree in Economics Management or any business related course• Must have an excellent written and verbal communication skills in English, Arabic, and Tunisian Arabic language.• Highly proficient in data analysis and business intelligence.• Proficient in computer including competency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Powerpoint• Proficient in using planning and scheduling software to estimate timescales.• Must possess strong organizational, negotiation and leadership skills.
Applications may be sent to: Name of Company HR: Keren Tumang Email address: cy@newchangegroup.com	
Company Name: New Change Technical Consultants Complete Address: 7/F Gloria 4, Ayala Center, San Lorenzo, Makati City Nature Of Business: Other Community, Social And Personal Service Activities	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position Name: Kadi, Ali Address: Quezon City Nationality: Tunisian Intended period of employment: One (1) year
New Change Technical Consultants Inc. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Malligaya Street, Malate, Manila	

Career Opportunity in : CBS TOTAL CONSULTANCY CORP.	
Position : Sales Executive Consultant / Sales Representative	
Vacancy : 1	
Job Description: To respond promptly to customer inquiries on products and services offered by the company. To maintain a positive, empathetic, and professional attitude toward customers at all times. Building and maintaining client relationships. Other Tasks that the management will order by your position.	
Qualifications : Proficient in speaking and writing in English and Korean Hangul Can work with minimum supervision With or without experience in related field. With Strong Internet Connections Can work under pressure	
Applications may be sent to: AAZENITH L. GIMENA cbvolsa2019@gmail.com	
Company / Employer  CBS TOTAL CONSULTANCY CORP. 3rd Floor, ECH Bldg., 100 Jupiter Street, Corner Makati Avenue, Makati City Nature of Business : Management Consultancy	Name of Foreign National intending to apply for the position Name : JO YONGJIANG Address : Verve Residences, BGC, Taguig City Nationality : Korean Intend period of employment : One (1) year
Company hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for the position for his job. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Malligaya Street, Malate Manila.	