

## First Gen says Batangas plant to run on Bac-Man geothermal via GEOP

TAIWAN FRUCTOSE (Philippines), the local subsidiary of global sweetener supplier Taiwan Fructose Co. Ltd., has tapped Lopez-led First Gen Corp. to procure renewable energy to power its production and logistics facility in Batangas.

In a statement on Thursday, First Gen said it will supply the Taiwan Fructose facility inside the First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP) in Batangas with electricity sourced from the Bacon-Manito (Bac-Man) geothermal complex in the Bicol region via the government's Green Energy Option Program (GEOP).

GEOP is a program that allows eligible electricity end-users to choose renewable energy as their power source.

Taiwan Fructose's facility at the FPIP manufactures various sweetening products for the export market — such as glucose and fructose syrups — and other sweet additives for a wide range of food and beverage products, as well as health supplements.

"Geothermal energy is a renewable energy source that can run at baseload capacity which is ideal for industries that require stable 24/7 power supply with a lower carbon footprint. We are pleased to support Taiwan Fructose in its journey towards sustainability and decarbonization," said First Gen Chief Customer Engagement Officer Carlo Vega.

The Bac-Man geothermal complex is owned and operated by First Gen subsidiary Energy Development Corporation, the country's leading geothermal developer.

To date, First Gen has a total of 3,617 megawatts (MW) of combined capacity from its portfolio of plants that run on geothermal, wind, hydro, solar energy, and natural gas.

On Thursday, First Gen closed at P16.50, up 0.06 or 0.36%. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

# PHL targets 2026 to start accepting nuclear energy project proposals

By **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Reporter

THE Department of Energy (DoE) plans to begin accepting applications for nuclear energy projects by 2026 as part of efforts to introduce nuclear power into the country's energy mix by 2032.

"Although there is uncertainty about the availability of the technology, our target basically is that the Philippines will be ready to accept applications for nuclear projects by 2026," Energy Secretary Sharon S. Garin told reporters on Wednesday.

The Energy chief said this is to allow proponents to prepare ahead of the 2032 target.

Under the Philippine Energy Plan, the country aims to integrate nuclear energy into the power mix with at least 1,200 megawatts (MW) of capacity by 2032, doubling it to 2,400 MW by 2045 and to 4,800 MW by 2050.

To ensure safety in utilizing nuclear energy, the DoE said it has begun discussions on its environmental impact.

The DoE-led Nuclear Energy Program-Inter-Agency Committee (NEP-IAC), through its Subcommittee 5, organized a technical workshop for concerned government agencies to tackle the environmental regulations for nuclear power plant facility projects.

"This undertaking defines the Nuclear Energy Program's commitment to pursuing the integration of comprehensive environmental safeguards with the Philippines' peaceful transition into nuclear energy utilization," DoE Legal Services Director Myra Fiera F. Roa said in a statement on Thursday.

Ms. Roa said the workshop aims to address remaining challenges, enhance tools, and ensure that environmental compliance certificate applications "embody not only our regulatory compliance, but also public trust and scientific integrity."

On the part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Environmental Management Bureau Director John Edward T. Ang said the agency is committed to ensuring economic sustainability via the environmental impact assessment system.

"While there are perceived benefits to the nuclear route, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that its implementation will be in harmony with the environment and our people," he said.

Amid growing interest from potential proponents to pursue either conventional nuclear power plants or small modular reactors, the government is coordinating to align applicable environmental regulations for nuclear projects.

"The vision of having nuclear energy is no longer a distant discussion. We are working to put in place a process to ensure that environmental risks are addressed before projects are rolled out. We can make economic progress and

maintain the integrity of the environment," Ms. Roa said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Garin said a feasibility study being carried out by Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co. Ltd., along with other South Korean partners KEPCO KPS, a subsidiary of Korea Electric Power Corp., and Doosan Heavy Industries and Construction, for the rehabilitation of the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) is expected to be completed by February next year.

BNPP, located at Napot Point in Morong, Bataan, was completed in 1985, two years after the original target, according to the Philippine Nuclear Energy Program.

The twin developments of the People Power Revolution and the Chernobyl Accident in 1986 led to the decision to mothball the BNPP.

The National Power Corp., as the designated caretaker of the power plant, placed it into preservation mode.

## PSE launches new partnership to boost global investor outreach

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) and Bloomberg, a global financial data and media company, have announced a partnership aimed at boosting global investor awareness of the Philippine capital markets, through a series of joint outreach initiatives both locally and internationally.

The partnership was launched on Thursday with a bell-ringing ceremony and a panel discussion featuring PSE President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Monzon, Bloomberg's Asia-Pacific Head Bing Li, and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Francisco Ed. Lim.

Under the agreement, the PSE and Bloomberg will organize various investor-focused activities such as virtual roadshows and C-suite roundtables. They also plan to explore enhanced training op-

portunities for Philippine-based investor relations professionals.

During the 40-minute panel discussion, Mr. Monzon noted that the Philippines is home to some of Asia's most dynamic companies, which are actively pursuing growth, expansion, and sustainability. Mr. Lim, for his part, said that integrity and credibility are vital to the development of the capital markets.

"Our objective really is to be able to leverage the global reach and expertise of Bloomberg so that our companies can reach out to global investors. And hopefully global investors will get to know about our listed companies and invest," Mr. Monzon said.

Asked about the potential benefits for listed firms, Mr. Monzon said the collaboration provides a platform for companies to share key information — such as

earnings, strategic initiatives, and growth plans — with an international audience.

"And because they're on a global stage, I think it helps them become more transparent. It's one of the transparency [requirements] of the global market," he added.

Mr. Monzon expressed hope that continued dialogue with market participants would generate stronger global interest in Philippine-listed companies.

Meanwhile, Mr. Li said the outreach efforts highlight the Philippine market's openness and growing appeal to global investors, particularly those eyeing Southeast Asia.

"This initiative can start an important dialogue with local market participants about how they can better tell their story to global investors through transparency and data," Mr. Li said. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**



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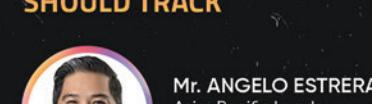


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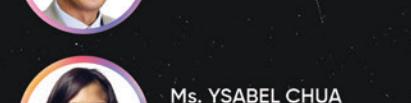


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