

AboitizPower, Japan’s JERA open Batangas training hub

ABOUTIZ POWER CORP. (AboitizPower) and Japanese energy firm JERA established a training hub in Batangas to build up the industry’s workforce.

The Global Technical Center of Excellence (GTCOE) is geared towards developing world-class technical talent, AboitizPower said in a statement.

“The GTCOE is a platform where technical expertise meets with leadership, adaptability, safety, and global readiness. It is designed to foster a community of technical leaders, lifelong learners, and collaborators,” AboitizPower Transition Business Group President and Chief Operating Officer Celso Caballero III said during the facility’s inauguration on Monday.

“It is our way of ensuring that as the energy landscape changes, our people are not just keeping up, but leading the way,” he added.

Situated at the LIMA Commercial Center, LIMA Estate, the GTCOE will provide operations and maintenance (O&M)

education and hands-on training at AboitizPower-affiliated facilities GNPowr Mariveles Energy Center and GNPowr Dinginin.

The partnership between the two companies builds on the launch of a talent exchange program in 2023 focused on enhancing technical expertise in O&M.

“While JERA and AboitizPower operate in different markets, our expertise and perspectives complement each other. GTCOE is more than a training facility. It’s a hub for innovation and shared growth. It will equip engineers, technicians, and operators with the skills they need at every stage of their careers,” JERA President and Chief Executive Officer Hisahide Okuda said.

Meanwhile, JERA is Japan’s largest power generator with businesses that include liquefied natural gas upstream projects, fuel procurement, fuel transportation, and power generation. Its subsidiary JERA Asia holds a 27% stake in AboitizPower. —

Sheldeen Joy Talavera

Blacklist looms for more builders involved in flood-control projects

THE Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said it will declare more flood-control contractors ineligible to participate in government procurement once the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) compiles its blacklist.

In a statement on Monday, Budget Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman said its Procurement Service (PS) is awaiting a DPWH order barring the contractors from future projects before removing them from the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS).

Already removed are SYMS Construction Trading and Wawao Builders, both barred by the DPWH last week after their alleged involvement in “ghost” infrastructure projects, which turned out to be non-existent despite being classified as completed.

“Our New Government Procurement Act... grants the implementing agency the authority to blacklist their contractors. This process is clear and follows due procedure,” Ms. Pan-



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gandaman said. “We are ready to cancel the PhilGEPS membership of these companies to prevent them from participating in government procurement activities.”

Last week, the PS also revoked the PhilGEPS “platinum” membership of nine companies linked to Cezarah Rowena Discaya, a former candidate for Pasig mayor.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ordered the blacklisting of contractors proven to be behind “ghost” flood control projects.

Flood-control contractors have been in the spotlight since the July floods after their projects failed or were found to be substandard, unfinished, or non-existent.

PhilGEPS is the official platform for all government procurement.

“We at PS are aware of our responsibility to support other branches and employees of the government to ensure that there is no corruption... in public procurement,” PS Executive Director Genmaries Entredicho-Caong said.

Ms. Pangandaman met last week with Public Works Secretary Vivencio B. Dizon to review the DPWH budget for 2026. —

Katherine K. Chan



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