

Recto,  
from SI/1

Mr. Ricalfort said it is “possible, but not 100% sure” for the BSP to cut rates before its scheduled meeting on Dec. 11.

“There have been rumors in the market since (Wednesday) about a possible off-cycle monetary easing, particularly a cut in large banks’ RRR (reserve requirement ratio), after the softer local GDP growth data (on Nov. 7),” he said in a Viber message on Thursday.

“Every (one) percentage point cut in large banks’ RRR is equivalent to about P180-billion additional liquidity infused into the banking system that could increase lending and other investments such as fixed income or bonds, among others,” he added.

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link <tinyurl.com/Zysqhb22>

On Feb. 21, the BSP cut universal and commercial banks’ RRR by 200 bps to 5%, which took effect in the week of March 28.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ricalfort noted that the latest third-quarter GDP data have caused the yields on the PHP (Philippine peso) Bloomberg Valuation Service to decline slightly and the peso to slump to a fresh low against the US dollar.

On Nov. 12, the peso fell to a new record low after closing at P59.17 versus the greenback, slipping by 18.5 centavos from its P58.985 finish on Tuesday.

The BSP chief earlier said they will not intervene in the foreign exchange market unless the peso’s depreciation leads to inflationary pressures.

Investment,  
from SI/1

Mr. Chikiamco said the “over-valued” peso and the “lousy” tariff deal with the US have also affected the investment outlook.

Meanwhile, Federation of Philippine Industries Chair Elizabeth H. Lee said that the peso’s slide to a new all-time low of P59.17 against the dollar reflects global and local challenges.

“Locally, unresolved corruption cases and stalled infrastructure projects have tested confidence and slowed growth,” she said in a statement over the weekend.

“The path forward is clear: we must resolve corruption cases with transparency and accountability,” she said, adding this will help “restore trust, attract investment, and unlock infrastructure spending.”

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link <tinyurl.com/268wpy69>

She said this will create the stability that manufacturers need “to expand production, safeguard employment, and drive growth.”

“By protecting jobs in manufacturing and showing that clean governance drives stability, we can shorten the peso’s weakness, rebuild confidence, and put the economy back on a stronger, more sustainable growth path,” she added.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman George T. Barcelon attributed the peso’s recent performance to rate cuts by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, “coupled with the higher demand of dollars due to foreign investors’ off-loading stock investments and buying dollars to remit their money.”

# PHL a laggard in AI returns due to legacy data practices — Boomi

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz  
Reporter

PHILIPPINE companies struggle to reap the benefits of their artificial intelligence (AI) investments after failing to shed their legacy practices in gathering and organizing data, according to US integration and automation firm Boomi.

“If you look at the Philippines themselves, chief executive officers are talking about boosting AI adoption, but they struggle, like many companies across South-east Asia (and) the Asia-Pacific

as a whole, with the RoI (return on investments) because of those weak data foundations,” David Irecki, chief technology officer for Asia-Pacific and Japan at Boomi, said in a virtual interview.

Citing the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development’s policy note on AI, Mr. Irecki noted that many firms in the Philippines still rely on manual data collection.

“As a result, the data that would be really valuable to provide context for the AI platform is unavailable,” he said.

Data quality is also key challenge for Philippine companies,

especially in rural areas, Mr. Irecki added.

Companies that struggle with data quality and liquidity will have a hard time scaling AI beyond pilot-testing, he said.

“When agents are acting on incomplete data or they make unexplainable decisions, companies have to start worrying about error scaling.”

Mr. Irecki said an AI-ready company has digitized and discoverable data; can easily integrate AI technology across workflows; and has governance and security measures in place.

He also cited the need to balance AI autonomy with accountability by deploying human auditors for AI agents.

“Otherwise, you’re scaling the risk and not the value within your business,” Mr. Irecki said.

“The idea is you’re using AI not to automate what you already do, but to create systems that can adapt as conditions change,” Mr. Irecki said.

AI technologies can generate P1.8 trillion in economic benefits for Philippine companies with improved digital access and skills training, according to a report by Google Philippines and consulting firm Public First.

## Substandard steel seized in Central Luzon, Calabarzon regions valued at over P3 million



THE LOW-P-IMPULASH

THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) confiscated over P3.5 million worth of substandard steel products in Central Luzon and Calabarzon.

The DTI is hoping “to rid the market of unsafe construction materials,” the Philippine Iron and Steel Institute (PISI) said in a statement over the weekend.

Since the start of the year, the DTI’s Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau (FTEB) has seized over 23,000 pieces of deformed rebar in the two regions, which make up the immediate hinterland of Metro Manila.

“These products — sold by over 200 firms — were discovered in inspections the FTEB conducted in Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, and Rizal,” PISI said.

The products were found to have failed to meet the minimum mechanical and dimensional requirements, including tensile strength, elongation, and proper manufacturer markings.

PISI said that substandard materials pose a threat to infrastructure, especially during calamities.

“Substandard steel can deform or break under load, increasing the risk of structural failure in homes, high-rise buildings, bridges, and other infrastructure, especially during earthquakes, strong winds, or heavy usage,” it said.

According to PISI, FTEB Acting Director Marimel D. Porciuncula will be charging Flores Commercial and Wan Chiong Steel for selling non-compliant deformed bars based on FTEB testing.

PISI President Ronald C. Magsajo said steel manufacturers are being encouraged by the FTEB’s initiative to go after sellers of substandard steel and other construction materials.

“We continue to support the government’s drive to ensure public safety by removing substandard steel from the market and penalizing retailers and manufacturers found to be non-compliant with Fair Trade Laws,” he added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

## Nord Anglia International School Manila: Future-ready education for a world driven by technology, creativity, and compassion

Nord Anglia Education is renowned around the world for its strong academic foundations that combine world-class teaching and curricula with cutting-edge technology and facilities.

Its local presence, Nord Anglia International School Manila (NAIS Manila), is part of the school’s global family of over 80 institutions worldwide. Located in Aseana City, Parañaque, NAIS Manila is the only British international school in the capital offering the full English National Curriculum and the International Primary Curriculum (IPC).

**NURTURING, AMBITIOUS LEARNING**

Heading the esteemed institution to prepare students for a world driven by technology and creativity is newly appointed Principal Alison Fox. She brings over 20 years of international experience to Manila, having led schools and teams in Europe and Asia with a focus on high academic standards and student well-being. Before joining NAIS Manila, Mrs. Fox served as Principal of The British School Yangon, part of the Nord Anglia Education network.

In an interview with *BusinessWorld*, she shared her vision for fostering a nurturing yet ambitious learning environment that empowers students to reach their full potential.

“At Nord Anglia International School Manila, we believe every child can achieve remarkable things when given the right opportunities, support, and challenge. Here at NAIS Manila, we believe that every child deserves a chance to thrive. Our expatriate UK-qualified teachers provide high-quality personalised learning so that each student is stretched, supported, and inspired,” Mrs. Fox explained.

**INNOVATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY, GLOBAL COLLABORATION**

Nord Anglia Education is known for its aspirations to be the most forward-thinking, technology-enabled educator



Alison Fox, Principal — Nord Anglia International School Manila

in the world. In this endeavour, the school system has used technology to transform how its students learn, connect, and create. Mrs. Fox mentioned that NAIS Manila uses interactive classrooms, AI-powered tools, and a global collaboration platform called Global Campus.

“It allows our students in Manila to collaborate with peers in London, Boston, or Dubai on projects that develop curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. They take part in global challenges, leadership opportunities, and cultural exchanges that broaden their horizons well beyond the classroom. Paired with the rigour of IPC, Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), and A Levels, this creates a truly world-class learning environment where curiosity and critical thinking drive progress,” Mrs. Fox said.

To prepare their students for the complications of these technologies, the NAIS Manila principal noted the integration of digital literacy across all stages of education in the school, from IPC in primary through A Levels.

“Students explore coding, robotics, design, and digital creativity, developing curiosity and confidence through real-



PHOTOS FROM NORD ANGLIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA

world applications. Alongside these skills, we foster compassionate and critical digital citizenship, ensuring our students are not just capable but also ethical and responsible users of technology,” she said.

**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS SHAPING FUTURE LEADERS**

Building on this foundation of innovation and global connection, Mrs. Fox highlighted how Nord Anglia’s worldwide partnerships with Juilliard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and IMG Academy in Florida further enhance the learning experience for every student.

“These world-class collaborations enrich our holistic education. Juilliard inspires creativity through performing arts, MIT develops critical and curious thinkers through STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) challenges, UNICEF nurtures compassion and global citizenship, and IMG Academy Florida strengthens character and commitment through sport. Together, these partnerships add extraordinary dimensions to daily learning, blending academic rigour with global experiences that prepare students to succeed anywhere in the world,” she said.

Expanding on these global collaborations, Mrs. Fox shared that their MIT partnership has translated into real-world learning experiences for their students that bring the curriculum to life for students.

“MIT has reshaped our approach to STEAM education, emphasising hands-on, inquiry-based learning. Our students design, test, and refine solutions to real-world problems — whether in engineering, sustainability, or innovation

projects. This builds curiosity, creativity, and collaboration, complementing the rigour of IGCSEs and A Levels while making learning both inspiring and deeply relevant,” she added.

**ACADEMIC RIGOUR AND REAL-WORLD RELEVANCE**

Continuing this focus on global learning and academic excellence, Mrs. Fox explained that NAIS Manila’s curriculum blends rigorous academics with real-world experiences that develop confident, capable, and compassionate students.

“Our curriculum is anchored in excellence and innovation. With IPC in primary, Cambridge IGCSEs in secondary, and A Levels at the pre-university level, we give students strong academic foundations. UK-qualified expatriate teachers bring world-class expertise, and we continually review our programmes through global benchmarking, community feedback, and Nord Anglia’s worldwide best practice,” she said.

Mrs. Fox also revealed that the school will be launching in January 2026 the International Primary Curriculum or IPC, a varied and academically rigorous yet flexible pathway which includes

IGCSEs, Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC), and A Level qualifications.

“Every child is unique, and our learning environment caters to the individual. We have a team of talented specialist EAL and Learning Support teachers who can provide targeted support both in and outside of the classroom. Being a small and inclusive community, our students feel they truly belong. We develop in them the confidence to be committed, compassionate, and creative,” she explained.

**DEVELOPING CHARACTER, COMPASSION, AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

Aside from the curriculum, Mrs. Fox shared the school’s “Challenge Week,” where NAIS Manila sends its students on trips to Thailand and Japan, as well as Nord Anglia Expeditions, which similarly gives its students a chance to visit the Swiss Alps and Tanzania, giving students opportunities to develop leadership, resilience, and compassion.

The principal also emphasised that academic excellence goes hand-in-hand with developing global awareness and social responsibility — values that lie at the heart of Nord Anglia’s approach to education.

“Global citizenship is woven into everything we do. While UNICEF provides a platform for global advocacy, we embed compassion, curiosity, and commitment into daily teaching and community life. By combining academic excellence with real-world experiences, we ensure our students leave NAIS Manila as confident, compassionate global citizens ready to make a difference,” she concluded.

To know more about Nord Anglia International School Manila, visit <https://www.nordangliaeducation.com/nais-manila> or follow them on Facebook <https://naism.naismanila.edu.ph/facebook> and Instagram <https://naism.naismanila.edu.ph/insta>

