

PHL pitches US investors on pharma, RE tieups

THE GOVERNMENT is looking to pitch US companies on investment opportunities in electronics, renewable energy (RE), and pharmaceuticals, positioning the Philippines as the next Asian growth market.

“If you are looking for your next growth market in Asia, look at the Philippines,” Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go said in a statement.

During a recent roundtable with US companies in Washington, DC, Mr. Go said key Philippine industries are ready for immediate investment.

These include semiconductors and electronics, mineral processing, pharma-

ceuticals and medical devices, food and agriculture, steel, renewable energy, infrastructure, and tourism.

He also noted potential opportunities in electric vehicles (EVs) and shipbuilding, citing recent plans of Mitsubishi Motors Corp. to develop a hybrid EV manufacturing facility in the Philippines.

Mr. Go noted that the Philippines is seeking long-term investments in these key industries.

“These strategic investment pillars represent both growth and stability, and we are inviting deeper cooperation and long-term investment in our priority sectors,” he said.

The Department of Finance noted that the roundtable involved the US-ASEAN Business Council and the US Chamber of Commerce.

The Philippines has joined the US Pax Silica initiative, which seeks to link the global supply chain across critical minerals, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, transportation logistics, and AI infrastructure.

The Philippine and US governments last week announced the establishment of an AI-native industrial hub within New Clark City in Tarlac, with both countries seek to increase their participation in the AI global supply chain. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

Philippines preparing to build Semirara urea plant

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it is planning the construction of a urea plant on Semirara Island in Antique, using coal as the feedstock for processing into fertilizer.

It would be the Philippines’ first urea facility if the plans are realized. The project is expected to boost fertilizer security as global prices remain elevated due to high fuel costs and supply disruptions linked to the war in the Middle East.

Agriculture Undersecretary for Operations Roger V. Navarro said the proposal has the President’s support.

“The government is planning to construct a manufacturing plant for fertilizer. This has been approved by the President during one of the cabinet meetings, and we are seeking funding for the study,” he said at a briefing on Tuesday.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel V. de Mesa said the DA is applying for a \$1-million project preparation grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

to fund technical and financial feasibility studies.

“We will be working with the ADB,” he said. “We have submitted the draft terms of reference, and are expecting the approval of the grant, which is about \$1 million.”

Mr. De Mesa said the project preparation grant is expected to be approved within two weeks.

Mr. Navarro said the feasibility study is targeted for completion by August or September, and if timelines hold, construction could begin by year’s end.

“We can break ground by maybe November or December and by 2027 we’ll be able to put up our own urea fertilizer plant,” he said.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. is set to visit Brunei this week to discuss possible fertilizer supply arrangements, Mr. Navarro said.

He said the talks are part of regional coordination which seeks to improve cooperation on fertilizer supply within Southeast Asia. — **Vonn Andrei E. Villamiel**

Produce haulers seen saving P152M/month from toll waiver

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said its free toll program for cargo vehicles hauling farm goods could generate P152 million in savings per month for the nearly 1,200 truckers currently registered for the scheme.

“We estimate the overall economic impact could reach over P150 million, and this will grow further if more truckers enroll in the program,” Agriculture Undersecretary for Agro-Marine Industrial Systems Arrey A. Perez said at a briefing on Tuesday.

The DA said truckers could save between P1,500 and P3,000 per trip from northern Luzon to Metro Manila, and as much as P6,000 for longer routes between northern and southern Luzon.

The toll exemption, which took effect on April 20, applies to DA-accredited cargo vehicles and will run for one month. It covers all major tollways on Luzon. Toll road operators had agreed to waive the charges.

The DA said it is aiming to accredit at least 4,000 vehicles, which would haul about 16,000 metric tons of agricultural goods daily.

“Our target is really to capture a large number of agricultural trucks. Because if there’s no scale, then this program we’re implementing won’t have any impact,” Mr. Perez said.

The DA estimated the number of vehicles transporting farm goods nationwide at 20,000 units. The Food Lane Program for produce haulers was launched during the pandemic.

Eligible vehicles include Classes 1, 2, and 3 carrying agricultural seeds and crops, livestock and fishery products, fertilizer and pesticide, as well as farm machinery.

Participating trucks must have a radio frequency identification tag and a DA accreditation certificate, which can be obtained through the Food Lane portal on the department’s website.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel V. de Mesa said the program could also benefit farmers by encouraging more frequent deliveries.

“If those costs are waived, truckers’ expenses will go down. And when costs decrease, they will have a better chance of buying from our production areas,” he said. — **Vonn Andrei E. Villamiel**

Slovenia seeking PHL smart-energy partners

SLOVENIAN COMPANIES are looking for Philippine partnerships in smart energy and smart infrastructure projects, according to the International Center for Promotion of Enterprises (ICPE).

ICPE advisor Jure Tomc told reporters on Monday that Slovenian companies are targeting deals with over 20 major Philippine groups, including Metro Pacific Investment Corp. and JG Summit Holdings, Inc.

The list also includes Aboitiz Power Corp., ACEN Corp., First Gen Corp., Petron Corp., International Container Terminal Services, Inc., and MORE Electric & Power Corp.

Slovenian companies, such as Robotina and Waboo, are hoping to engage with Philippine energy and water firms and make their pitch with projects involving digital infrastructure, electric vehicle manufacturing, artificial intelligence, and automation.

Robotina provides smart-energy management solutions for industry, buildings, and smart cities, while Waboo designs and delivers smart, chemical-free water treatment systems that enhance water quality, efficiency, and sustainability across multiple industries.

“We are definitely focusing on low-hanging fruit — technologies we already know work, where we have deployment projects globally,” Mr. Tomc said.

“I hope to replicate them in the Philippines as well. We won’t go and try something new but something which has been tested and used so we can quickly create value,” he added.

ICPE is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Slovenia focused on promoting “sustainable enterprise development, technology transfer, and capacity building in developing countries.” It supports practical cooperation between public institutions, researchers, and public/private enterprises.

Mr. Tomc said Slovenian firms entered into agreements with Philippine companies on

water-related solutions last year, but they are looking to secure more deals this year.

“We’ve had a lot of video conference calls with potential partners in the Philippines before we came here so a lot of the B2B meetings were pre-set and people already know who they’re talking to what the projects are,” he said.

Slovenian Ambassador Smiljana Knez said

efficient and cost-effective energy produc-

tion, infrastructure and usage are seen as matters of urgency.

“The choices we make about energy will shape our prosperity and security. And Slovenia stands ready to cooperate closely with the Philippines through technology sharing, academic collaboration and public-private partnerships,” she said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

semiconductors, and agricultural goods like coconut oil, she noted.

Ms. Knez is bullish about exploring trade and investment opportunities in semiconductors and other tech categories.

“I count on (Slovenian) companies to see the Philippines, and to realize the potential here,” she said. “Personally, I really focus a lot on knowledge-based, high-tech solutions, trying to bring them over.”

Slovenia is also looking to boost investment in the Philippines in the area of energy efficiency, she said, as geopolitical disruptions highlight the need for a secure power supply.

“In energy efficiency, I believe that there is potential, because you are also vulnerable and exposed as we are,” she said.

Last year, Slovenia opened its embassy in the Philippines, its first and only embassy within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the focus on bringing in more Filipino workers there.

To better attract Slovenian companies, Ms. Knez cited the need to address corruption and red tape issues. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

Career Opportunity in **KBR OVERSEAS, INC.**

Position Title: **Data Administration Supervisor**
No. of job Vacancy: 1
Duration: 1 year

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Develop and maintain a competent and complete data management and reporting program that follows the contract Statement of Work and adheres to Marine Corps policy and procedures.
- Execute data collection, plans analysis, and production reporting requirements.
- Formulate administrative and operational policies and procedures.
- Review invoices and requisitions in support work management activities.
- Direct and coordinate data management procedures, support system requirements, and technical report collection and management.
- Correlate data processing requirements with program plans to ensure requisite support is provided in a timely and accurate manner.
- Identify specific requirements for money, manpower, material, facilities, and services needed to support the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program (MCPP).
- Develop and/or revise effective data collection programs and techniques.
- Recommend capital expenditures for acquisition of new equipment to increase efficiency and services.
- Approve requisitions for equipment, material, and supplies within budgetary guidelines.
- Ensure compliance with personnel and administrative policies, procedures, and government regulations.
- Prepare technical reports and correspondence, identify problem areas/deficiencies, and direct clerical personnel in the preparation of reports and record-keeping activities.
- Maintain MCPP ISO policies and procedures and ensure on-going compliance with such.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: (Education, Experience, Professional License, Skills Certification, Specializes Training)

- BS degree in business or other related field.
- In lieu of a degree, a combination of college credits, professional certification, formalized training, or education, and directly related work experience may be considered.
- Ten years of progressive experience with specialized knowledge of database management and/or technical report writing, including five years in a supervisory capacity involving various aspects of cost/schedule controls, performance monitoring, report writing, program planning and customer interface.
- Must be able to obtain and maintain a Department of Defense secret security clearance.
- USMC MOS 0411/3043.
- Understanding of Marine Corps policies, regulations, and orders.
- Industry Certification.
- Automation and Scripting.
- Working knowledge of military storage procedures.
- Working knowledge of general maintenance procedures for military tactical equipment and supplies.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to comply with all established methods, quality standards, and time schedules applicable to this position

PLACE OF DEPLOYMENT: Subic, Zambales

Applications may be sent to:
Joseph Gibson
Joseph.Gibson@us.kbr.com

COMPANY/EMPLOYER		NAME OF FOREIGN NATIONAL INTENDING TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION	
Company Name	KBR OVERSEAS, INC.	Name	Maverick Austin Rogers Sprowles
Complete Company Address	Building 93, Lincoln Street, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone	Address	Subic, Zambales
Nature of Business	Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	Nationality	American
		Intended period of employment	1 year

KBR OVERSEAS, INC. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description. 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-Region III** located at **Matalino Cor. Mahusay St. DMGC, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga**

If there are any objections or inquiries, please contact the concerned DOLE Regional Office.

Any Filipino jobseeker who is competent, able and willing to perform the services for which the foreign national is intended to be hired for, may file an objection at Department of Labor and Employment – Region III located at Matalino cor. Mahusay St., DMGC, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga after this publication

Please inform Department of Labor and Employment – Region III, if you have any information on criminal offenses committed by the foreign national.

Career Opportunity in **KBR OVERSEAS, INC.**

Position Title: **Maintenance Operations Manager**
No. of job Vacancy: 1
Duration: 1 year

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Develop and maintain a competent and complete maintenance program that follows the contract Statement of Work and adheres to Marine Corps policy and procedures.
- Execute logistics, plans, and work schedules.
- Formulate administrative and operational policies and procedures.
- Review invoices and requisitions to plan work activities.
- Direct and coordinate maintenance management administration and support systems and technical publication reference library.
- Correlate maintenance operational requirements with program plans to ensure requisite support is provided in a timely and accurate manner.
- Identify specific requirements for money, manpower, material, facilities, and services needed to support the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program (MCPP).
- Develop and/or revise effective equipment maintenance programs and techniques.
- Recommend capital expenditures for acquisition of new equipment to increase efficiency and services.
- Approve requisitions for equipment, materials, and supplies within budgetary guidelines.
- Ensure compliance with personnel and administrative policies, procedures, and government regulations.
- Enforce worker compliance with established safety regulations, and method and procedures for handling and storing various equipment parts/components.
- Prepare technical reports and correspondence, identify problem areas/deficiencies, and direct clerical personnel in the preparation of reports and record-keeping activities.
- Plan and manage human resource activities within assigned area of responsibility, and within an organized labor union environment.
- Recruit and hire employees. Supervise direct reports. Establish performance objectives/goals. Monitor employee progress against goals.
- Determine salary actions, promotions, transfers, or other related personnel transactions.
- Maintains MCPP ISO policies and procedures and ensure on-going compliance with such.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: (Education, Experience, Professional License, Skills Certification, Specializes Training)

- BS degree in business or another related field.
- In lieu of a degree, a combination of college credits, professional certification, formalized training, or education, and directly related work experience may be considered.
- Fifteen years of progressive experience with specialized knowledge of maintenance and logistic support activities involving motor transportation, engineering, ordnance, and communications equipment, including ten years in a management capacity involving various aspects of cost/schedule controls, performance monitoring, report writing, program planning and customer interface.
- Must be able to obtain and maintain a Department of Defense secret security clearance.
- Understanding of Marine Corps policies, regulations, and orders.
- Industry Certification.
- Automation and Scripting.
- Working knowledge of military storage procedures.
- Working knowledge of general maintenance procedures for military tactical equipment and supplies.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to comply with all established methods, quality standards, and time schedules applicable to this position.

PLACE OF DEPLOYMENT: Subic, Zambales

Applications may be sent to:
Joseph Gibson
Joseph.Gibson@us.kbr.com

COMPANY/EMPLOYER		NAME OF FOREIGN NATIONAL INTENDING TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION	
Company Name	KBR OVERSEAS, INC.	Name	David Michael De Hart
Complete Company Address	Building 93, Lincoln Street, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone	Address	Subic, Zambales
Nature of Business	Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	Nationality	American
		Intended period of employment	1 year

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