

# Lopez Link

A monthly publication of the Lopez group of companies

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## Lopez Group restarts 'Big One' preps

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# Corporate governance training online

By Carla Paras-Sison

FOR the second year in a row, the annual corporate governance training of directors and officers of publicly listed companies (PLCs) associated with the Lopez Group was conducted online on Oct. 29, with speakers from SGV & Co. and the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD).

Katrina Francisco, senior director at the Climate Change and Sustainability Services division of SGV's Assurance Practice, discussed the recommendations of the "Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)," released in 2017 and which have been adopted as a global framework to assess and report on climate risks. She stressed the "growing accountability on company directors to exercise duty of care and diligence on climate-related risks."

The Financial Stability Board established the TCFD to develop recommendations for more effective climate-related disclosures that could promote more informed investment, credit and insurance underwriting decisions and, in turn, enable stakeholders to understand better the concentrations of carbon-related assets in the financial sector and the financial system's exposures to climate-related risks.

## 'Integrate climate risks'

"Directors must integrate climate risks and opportunities into their governance roles to discharge their duties... Directors who understand climate-related risks and their implications will be better-positioned to effectively evaluate the company's risk profile, respond to growing demands from in-

vestors and help protect both the company and themselves against potential legal action," Francisco said.

TCFD recommendations are structured around four thematic areas that represent core elements of how organizations operate: governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics and targets. These thematic areas are intended to interlink and inform each other.

Francisco recommends that climate-related risks and opportunities and their financial impact be integrated in each company's overall risk management process. Such process should then cover physical risks, transitional risks and opportunities, as applicable to the organization. The sustainability report template of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) already incorporates TCFD recommendations in the framework recommended to PLCs.

Donald Lim, chief operating officer of DITO CME and chief innovation officer of Udena Corporation, talked about the "Culture of Innovation and Technology," breaking down innovation beyond its "why" and tackling its "who, what, where and when."

Lim, a former chief digital officer of ABS-CBN Corporation, walked through trends that emerged out of the pandemic lockdown in the last two years.



Directors and officers of Lopez Group listed companies listen to DITO CME's Donald Lim

sleep schedules and level of productivity each day. Even the content they consumed was linked to somehow better their current well-being. Online platforms such as TikTok and Netflix were a form of escaping life on ECQ (enhanced community quarantine)," he observed.

He added: "On a more positive note, Filipinos looked to learning new skills during this time. Some believed they now had free time to explore their passions and enhance the skills they already had. From pan-buysing, Filipinos were now more mindful of how these actions affected other people. Not only did they share their pro-

cedures at home as a means of encouraging other to stay safe and healthy, but they also took time to cook and donate food to front liners and other less fortunate people."

## Phases of digital era

Lim recommends analyzing the digital readiness or maturity of one's organization according to the four phases of the digital era: the internet era or fundamental phase where the digital culture is mandated and customer communication is mostly one-way; the social era or tacti-

cal phase where digital culture is adaptive and customer communication is two-way; the collaborative era or integrated phase where digital culture is collaborative and the customer leads communications; and the autonomous era or optimized phase where digital culture is synergistic and the organization is able to carry contextual conversations with customers.

Each phase will signal the kind of investments, campaigns and revenue expectations from digital that a company can en-

vision and strategize for.

The continuing education of professional directors and officers of listed companies is required by the SEC. In attendance were delegates from ABS-CBN, ABS-CBN Holdings Corporation, First Gen Corporation, First Philippine Holdings Corporation, Lopez Holdings Corporation and Rockwell Land Corporation. Also attending as observers were directors and officers of Energy Development Corporation, Lopez Inc. and some of its subsidiaries.

Available on [mysky.com.ph](https://mysky.com.ph)

## SKY introduces KYLA messaging platform

SKY has launched a round-the-clock customer service messaging platform to enable subscribers to immediately communicate their concerns and other service inquiries online and have these addressed.

This customer touchpoint provides a convenient and efficient customer interface for existing and potential SKY subscribers facilitated by a messaging bot named KYLA.

"Our new messaging platform is all set to provide our subscribers with a superior customer experience that they deserve," said March Ventosa, SKY president and COO. "In

line with our digital transformation initiatives, we aim to address our customers' service concerns in the most efficient and timely manner that is also immediately and easily accessible to them."

"KYLA helps SKY subscribers to do self-help on basic concerns by guiding them to available resources, and transfers them to converse with live agents for more complex matters," noted Leonor Namoc, SKY's head of customer experience.

"Users can even use the platform at their own pace, with no worry of being disconnected or their session timing out if they

decide to do something else during their conversation with KYLA."

Visit SKY's official website, [mysky.com.ph](https://mysky.com.ph), and click on the "Message Us" icon and the "Get Started" button to begin using the messaging platform. Select the category and subcategory presented by KYLA for queries on SKY products, billing inquiries, service matters and other requests. KYLA will then guide users to relevant information and self-help guides to help address their concerns. Users may opt to be transferred to a live agent to discuss complex matters further.

# SKYBIZ draws up continuity plan for partners



A trend that developed during the pandemic lockdowns were businesses inside homes with digital storefronts. Most home business owners jump-started their ventures by harnessing their passions, what they really love to do with their time and energy.

Whatever your calling, we must realize we cannot survive this pandemic by ourselves. Everybody has to win, because if someone loses, we all lose. This win-win attitude is the only way we can survive and thrive in this pandemic. And SKYBIZ is set to do just that.

According to SKY Cable enterprise marketing head Patricia Gabriel, "the SKYBIZ 'Grow Together' campaign is a continuation of our 'Jump-start' campaign, which started in January of this year. It aimed to support companies and businesses to get back on track after slowing down or even closing their operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

But the bigger question, Gabriel said, is: "What is next for our clients after jump-starting them?" "The SKYBIZ 'Grow Together' campaign is a continuity plan for our partners. We want

to help them move forward and grow their business further despite the many challenges that we still face in this new normal," she explained.

New HomeBiz owners will need a reliable partner that will support the growth of the business, from the moment the business is "planted" to reaping the fruits of its harvest. That's possible with a reliable internet connection from SKYBIZ.

SKYBIZ has a true fiber network and access to a bigger and stronger network with 24/7 technical support, so whenever there's a problem, there's someone to help clients through, leaving no one behind.

Every successful BIZBroadband application gets a free install fee for speeds of up to 200 Mbps until Nov. 30, 2021. This applies to businesses in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Bacolod, Iloilo, Dumaguete, Cebu, Davao, General Santos and Zamboanga.

In addition, every successful HomeBiz application with plans of up to 200 Mbps gets a free WiFi mesh setup. For more information, visit [skybiz.com.ph](https://skybiz.com.ph).



First Balfour president Anthony Fernandez and AVP-HR Maria Victoria Aquino, with Rev. Fr. Roberto Ebiza, cut the ribbon on the new recruitment hub

# First Balfour opens recruitment office in Cebu

By Dolly Pasia-Ramos

FIRST Balfour has opened a recruitment office in Cebu City to fill its massive human resource requirements over the next three years.

In the ribbon-cutting and office blessing, president and chief operating officer Anthony Fernandez was accompanied by AVP for human resources (HR) Maria Victoria Aquino, along with First Balfour employees from Cebu Link Joint Venture. The blessing was officiated by Rev. Fr. Roberto Ebiza.

HR head Carlos Pedro Salonga said: "We are thrilled by the prospects and the future we are building. With our growth and expansion plans and the

increasing competition for specialized skills, we found it essential to implement alternative channels to bring in more skilled workers to form part of our growing cadre of project employees."

Moreover, the company has set up recruitment hubs in the cities of Baguio, Lipa and Legazpi to meet its goal to employ over 5,000 workers to bulk up its workforce.

"With dedicated recruitment centers, we will be able to get ourselves closer to where the labor pools are," Salonga added.

Housed at Green Arkid Commercial Complex along N. Escario Street, the 111-square

meter office has a meeting room, workstations for recruitment staff and a lounge for receiving applicants. Currently, recruitment activities are being managed by Aquino in collaboration with the corporate talent acquisition and onboarding team.

The Cebu recruitment office targets to hire 1,000 new employees including engineering and construction professionals and direct workers for its ongoing projects in Leyte and Negros Oriental. It is likewise open for drivers and operators who are interested to work for the company's equipment rental business, T1 Rentals.

# EDC powers HCG's bathroom solutions with 'Geo 24/7'

By Frances Ariola

THEY say that our bathroom reflects our personality. Is it simple, clean, luxurious or stylish? What brand do you use for your fixtures? Were they sustainably sourced?

For Hochteng Philippines Corporation (HCG), they've chosen to follow the road that leads to sustainability by creating partnerships with like-minded companies as they provide the materials for this very important part of the home.

"As a company whose ultimate goal is to pursue excellence in LEED [Leadership

in Energy and Environmental Design]-compliant products, we build better designs to reduce our overall impact on the environment and to support government projects towards sustainable development," said Eugene Lin, HCG senior vice president and OIC.

HCG's mission is to provide quality bathroom fixtures to every Filipino home. The company is achieving this goal through sustainable means, one of which is by choosing 24/7 green energy from a reliable energy supplier to power their operations.

Being a trusted brand with an unwavering commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, HCG also aims to build a better world where people can live in the future today, and where everyone can look around them and say "I can live here!"

Energy Development Corporation (EDC), a subsidiary of First Gen Corporation, makes the reality of decarbonization possible through geothermal energy that provides an uninterrupted supply of green energy or "Geo 24/7."

"Hochteng Philippines Corporation believes First Gen and EDC can help meet our goals by providing efficient electricity through their low-carbon footprint resources," Lin said.

Like EDC, HCG wishes to elevate the lives of each Filipino and they are doing it through an 80-year-old story of excellence and timeless craftsmanship. Choosing the right energy partner allows them to move toward a future that goes beyond sustainability for them and for the Filipinos' bathrooms.



Rene Mayol, DJ Gandionco and Dr. Ted Esguerra sat down with LopezLink to discuss the Lopez Group's The Big One framework

**THE BIG...**  
from page 1

**THESE** days, practically everyone in Metro Manila remembers a big quake that happened in the last 12 months.

It could be the 5.7-magnitude one in September when people had just gotten into bed, the 6.6-magnitude early-morning tremor that roused them from sleep in July, or the 6.3-magni-

tude Christmas Day tremor last year as they were sipping their morning cup of coffee.

Months earlier, when the country's COVID-19 and work from home (WFH) situation had somewhat stabilized, the Lopez Group business continuity management (BCM) team thought it would be a good time to dust off their Big One framework (see sidebar story).

"The interest was already there. All of a sudden every-

one was talking about business continuity," says First Gen Corporation's DJ Gandionco.

**BCM as guide**

BCM serves as a guide for stakeholders during business interruptions, such as those caused by natural disasters. It has three components: emergency response aimed at saving lives; business recovery; and crisis management, which aims to balance the lifesaving aspect with recovering the business.

According to Gandionco, their Big One framework actually predated the one for the pandemic.

"We just adapted the layout for the COVID-19 pandemic plan from The Big One framework," Gandionco recalls. "We had incorporated our learnings from an earthquake swarm into our earthquake plan for the power plants, and also we had it in mind in planning for The Big One."

Gandionco notes that BCM is not always forward-looking or anticipatory, citing the case of the Batangas earthquake swarm which caused the First Gen power plants to trip in 2017. At the time, their plan did not take into consideration the existence of an unnamed fracture under the coastal municipality of Mabini, Batangas.

Post-earthquake swarm, First Gen made adjustments to further secure their towers and minimize tripping, while additional seismic monitors were positioned in Batangas and at the company's head office in Rockwell Business Center in Ortigas.

**Pandemic lessons**

Gandionco and First Philippine Holdings Corporation's (FPH) Rene Mayol were in Ormoc when news of the Philippines' first COVID-19 case broke in late January 2020. As soon as they got back to Manila, they drew up a pandemic framework, tapping the expertise of FPH's head of occupational health, Dr. Lito Gapas.

"When we were putting in the details, we asked ourselves if we were being too foresighted or pessimistic. But that's what BCM does," Gandionco explains.

By early February, the plan had been presented to and approved by First Gen president Giles Puno. This, in part, was the reason the Lopez Group was able to institute its own lockdown a week ahead of the government-imposed community quarantine.

Over the next months, the BCM COVID-19 framework underwent revisions and updates as new information became available. But when the

team came up with their first version, they were early enough that even the name "COVID-19" was not yet in use, Gandionco notes.

For The Big One framework, the WFH setup posed its own set of problems.

"The pandemic complicated things because most of us are at home. Residential structures are less inclined to follow the building code and will likely not be able to survive a magnitude 7 earthquake. We have to consider that in the planning," Gandionco points out.

FPH's Mayol adds that the pandemic lockdown also underscored that not everyone can effectively perform their duties in a WFH setting because they do not have the necessary equipment or connectivity.

"A few days into the pandemic, a lot of things were going on in the background. The IT department had to provide or check our connectivity. We had some employees who had no connection in their area so we helped them with Smart and Globe," he shares.

Then there are the employees with mission-critical assignments that require them to be on-site.

"By the nature of their work, they cannot work from home—they cannot operate the power plants at home or they perform regulatory, revenue and reputational tasks that require them to be physically present at the head office," Mayol notes.

He emphasizes that while COVID-19 crept up on people—it started out as something that happened to strangers, until a member of their own family contracted the disease—the same would not apply to The Big One.

"The pandemic was gradual. The Big One is not going to be something you'll read about in the papers or hear about from other people. The moment it happens, we will all be affected at the same time," Mayol says.

**Preaching family preparedness**

When The Big One strikes, the BCM team preaches family



PHOTOS FROM news.abs-cbn.com

preparedness instead of looking to the government or even to the company for assistance.

"Each of us has to be resilient. We have to be prepared in each of our households," Mayol says.

He adds: "It can get very chaotic in the evacuation center during a fire incident in one barangay. How much more in a Big One earthquake? Let's say most of Metro Manila's 12 million population flock to the four main government evacuation camps, that's three million people per area."

The company on the other hand will have its hands full with scores of employees and their family members to look after, not to mention getting the business back on track as soon as possible.

Mayol stresses: "We want the employees to get themselves prepared in their respective houses. We're not encouraging them to go to the government evacuation area. Be self-sufficient so you would not be dependent on what they can give you."

However, the latest BCM earthquake framework does include provisions for an emergency operations center or EOC.

"It's kind of like a 911 that, hopefully, only a very small portion of employees who badly need help can call," Mayol notes. "Another key learning that we're putting in place deals with communication. In a Big One scenario, the telecoms

companies can't guarantee that there will still be a cellular network. In a pandemic there is electricity, water, WiFi. But all of those will be a big question mark during The Big One."

With Energy Development Corporation's (EDC) Dr. Ted Esguerra on board, Lopez Group employees are assured of receiving the most comprehensive life skills training to prepare them to deal with fallout not just from The Big One but from other types of hazards as well.

Like Mayol, Esguerra is adamant about the importance of arming oneself with survival skills, including CPR, wound management, basic firefighting, online and offline communication, evacuation and even handling dead bodies.

"Pag may nangyari, ikaw muna. Anuman mangyari sa buhay mo, ikaw muna. Ma-heart attack, ikaw muna 'yun. Madisgrasya ka, ma-terrorize, may criminal, major disaster, ikaw muna yun. Kung sa first impact nadale ka, wala na. Pero kung nabuhay ka, you should have skills na magkaroon ka ng sustenance, na magkaroon ka ng medical treatment," says Esguerra, one of the country's foremost crisis experts.

He is battling for a triad of programs similar to what they are implementing in EDC, which includes training and forming a pool of responders composed of EDC employees and members of their host com-



munities; "1+1" training where an employee who attends a one-on-one session with Esguerra brings along a family member who can take over in case the former becomes incapacitated; and all-hazards training.

"Yung lahat ng pwede maisip mong sakuna na darating sa 'yo, foresee it," he explains. "Nilecturan namin sa all-hazards. Ang problema sa survival is, who's going to command sa loob ng pamamahay? For example, bumagsak bahay natin, lahat 'yan magsisigawan. Tinuturo namin ang command structure because decisions have to be made. There has to be someone who will say, 'Let's prepare to evacuate.'"

Esguerra further emphasizes that a family or home preparedness program must be synchronized with a workplace incident action plan.

"Kailangan tumutugma para pag wala nang communication, hindi naghahanapan. Because

when you remove connectivity of one man to his family, that's when trouble will start. Maguloyan," he points out.

Esguerra lauds the Group's leaders—former Lopez Group chairman emeritus Oscar M. Lopez, who brought him to EDC, FPH chair Federico R. Lopez, First Gen's Giles Puno, EDC president Ricky Tantoco and the BCM team—for the speed with which they responded to COVID-19 and hopes this carries over to preparations for The Big One.

"During the pandemic we were ahead in so many ways. Tayo pinag-uusapan na paano kukunin ang family while ang iba (conglomerates) halos wala pa. Life skills are what we are trying to push through slowly. Sa 2022 makakabwelo na tayo. Let's fortify ourselves para maka-survive tayo. Be proactive, be ready on all fronts," he says.

Spotlight

# Snapshot: The Big One

THE Philippines has had its share of strong and major quakes in the 21st century, including the 7.2-magnitude earthquake that jolted Bohol in 2013. Metro Manila has largely been spared, but experts say the West Valley Fault that cuts across seven cities and four provinces should be on the cusp of an active phase, having generated its last major event in 1658. This "earthquake source" has been discovered to have a recurrence interval of 400 years to 500 years.

From 2002 to 2004, the Metropolitan Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study (MMEIRS) had looked at 18 scenario earthquakes before trimming these down and presenting damage analyses for three models—Model 08 (West Valley Fault M.7.2), Model 13 (Manila Trench M.7.9) and Model 18 (Manila Bay M.6.5).

Deemed the worst case, West Valley Fault M.7.2 is The Big One expected to hit Metro Manila and its nearest neighbors.

The West Valley Fault is one of the two major segments of the Valley Fault System (also known as the Marikina Valley Fault System), the other segment being East Valley Fault.

According to the MMEIRS, "the Valley Fault System... is considered to potentially cause the largest impact to the Metropolitan Manila area should it generate a large earthquake. Many research studies indicate that active phases of the Valley Fault are approaching and the estimated magnitude will be around 7 or more."

The study estimated that The Big One will topple or damage almost half of all residential structures and up to 35% of public buildings in Metro Manila. This will directly result in about 114,000 injuries, and the deaths of some 34,000 individuals within the first hour of the quake

alone. Fires caused by short circuits and gas leaks could trigger a secondary disaster, increasing the death toll by 18,000.

The impact of The Big One, the study found, could split Metro Manila into four due to fires, collapsed structures and broken road networks—the western portion; Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela in the north; Las Piñas, Makati, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pasay, Pateros and Taguig in the south; and Marikina, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Quezon City and San Juan in the east.

The quake, which could last for as long as 30 seconds, may be felt at Intensity VIII (very destructive shaking) in

Metro Manila. At this level on the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology Earthquake Intensity Scale or PEIS, people will have difficulty remaining upright even on solid ground. At Intensity VIII, railway tracks may bend or break, cracks may appear on the ground, posts and monuments may fall over or tilt, trees may shake, and water and sewer pipes may burst or bend.

The Big One might also be felt at Intensity VI (very strong shaking) in Batangas, and Intensity IV to V (moderately strong to strong shaking) in surrounding areas, including Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite and Laguna.



The 100-kilometer West Valley Fault is one of the two major segments of the Marikina Valley Fault System

PHOTO FROM: NRC-P DOST/GOV.PH

## WHAT TO DO AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

### SAFETY TIPS

**In case of an aftershock, drop, cover and hold.**

**Check yourself for injuries and get first aid if needed.**

**Put on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and work gloves to protect against injury.**

**Check your home for damage and evacuate if it is unsafe.**

**Listen to the radio for updated emergency information and instruction.**

**Report life-threatening emergencies as soon as possible.**

**Look for and extinguish small fires to prevent their spread.**

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# Knowledge Channel returns to digital TV



STARTING Oct. 5, World Teachers' Day, Knowledge Channel once again began airing its educational TV programs on digital TV in partnership with BEAM. Teachers, parents and learners can access the channel by doing a rescan of their digital TV box.

Dubbed as the "biggest classroom on air," the ETV pioneer now reaches over 10 million households including those with cable and direct-to-home satellite TV. It currently airs over 1,500 video lessons from kinder to Grade 10 and the Alternative Learning System or ALS.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Knowledge Channel immediately launched a campaign called "Stay at Home, Learn at Home" in response to the cancellation of

face-to-face classes last year. It allowed learners in over 7 million households to continue learning from home via ABS-CBN TVplus, SKYdirect and SKYCable.

The nonrenewal of ABS-CBN's franchise, however, along with the cease-and-desist order issued to TVplus and SKYdirect, narrowed down the channel's reach. Despite this challenge, Knowledge Channel continued its educational programming while shifting to "School at Home" in preparation for school year 2020-2021. The campaign was highly successful, with Knowledge Channel's Facebook page reaching over 150,000 followers and its YouTube channel earning a Silver Play Button. The campaign was recognized as the outstanding CSR project

in education in the 2021 League of Corporate Foundations' CSR Guild Awards.

This school year 2021-2022, Knowledge Channel continues to bring learning to more Filipino children via television and the digital space. Students can watch Knowledge Channel video lessons from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. on digital TV, cable and direct-to-home. Video lessons from Grades 1 to 6 are available on A2Z on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Video lessons for preschool can be viewed for free on the Asianparent app.

Knowledge Channel is also livestreaming educational content with its "School at Home" block on Kumu's SeenZone Channel simulcast on Knowledge Channel's Facebook page, weekdays at 11 a.m. Catch "Wikaharian Online World" with "Teacher Michelle" every Monday, "Team Lyqa" every Tuesday, "Knowledge on the Go" back to back with Robi Domingo's "MathDali presents Math Talks" every Wednesday, "Money Lessons with FQ Mom and Sons" every Thursday and "Art Smart with Teacher Precious" every Friday.

## Light It Forward challenge

# Light a home, light a community

By Dianne Datu

EMPLOYEE POWER, First Gen Corporation's employee volunteerism program, launched the Light It Forward challenge in March 2021.

The campaign was well received by employees of First Philippine Holdings Corporation (FPH) and First Gen as they dared one another to take on the challenge of building their own solar lamps. There were 112 employees who put solar lamps together and raised a total of P84,001 for the campaign.

The Light It Forward challenge was a fun opportunity for everyone across the group to come together as one and participate in an employee volunteering effort. It brought out the tinkering side of the whole FPH community; more

so, it became a form of family bonding for some or a brushup of their intro course on engineering or technology and home economics. Ultimately, the initiative harnessed personal involvement in the advocacy of bringing sustainable and equitable lighting to communities similar to what First Gen and Energy Development Corporation are doing—through solar lamps assembled with the employees' own hands.

After the journey of these solar lamps from the LITER of Light headquarters to the individual houses of employees for assembly, around 100 solar lamps have reached and brought light to partner communities in Agusan del Norte, Nueva Ecija and Bukidnon.

The light did not just come in handy during power shortages; it created a sense of security for the indigenous peoples (IP) of Jabonga, Agusan del Norte when they had to go to the mountains, tend to their farms and earn a living. These were all common testimonials of IP leaders in barangays Bangonay and Maraiging, stakeholders of First Gen's Puyo hydro development project.

According to a farmers' association in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, the members would eat in the dark and make do with oil lamps or flashlights in the past. But because of the employees' help to bring light to these communities, the solar lamps can now help their children work on their studies at night and spark hope for their community and their lives.

# Burgos project gets 1st DOLE safety seal for construction in Region 1

By Dolly Pasia-Ramos

FIRST Balfour's project in Burgos received on Oct. 16, 2021 a safety seal from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the first and only construction project to receive such in the Ilocos Norte region.

The safety seal certification is a voluntary certification scheme that affirms an establishment is compliant with the minimum public health standards set by the government and uses or integrates its contact tracing with StaySafe.ph.

The Burgos project site, which involves maintenance works for the 115-kilovolt Burgos-Laoag overhead transmission line, was inspected on Oct. 1 against the checklist and sector-specific guidelines issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

"I think one of the good points raised during the audit was the implementation of our health declaration form which was required from them prior

to visiting the site," said project-in-charge Jaycy Aguite. "They said that was the first time they encountered such a measure from their many audits. That, along with our other protocols, shows how serious First Balfour is when it comes to ensuring virus transmission is prevented."

Other control measures assessed were the implementation of a COVID-19 control and response protocol, presence of signage on COVID-19 safety measures, proper use of personal protective equipment on-site and frequent disinfection of stations and worksites, among many others.

Aguite also takes pride in leading a 53-person project team whose members are mostly fully vaccinated.

DOLE issues the safety seal for manufacturing, construction sites, utilities, information and communication companies and warehouses. In June, the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway project became the first construction project awarded with a DOLE safety seal in Central Visayas.



L-R: Safety officer Christopher Ruado, project-in-charge Jaycy Aguite, occupational health nurse Janine Llana Luis, Labor Sec. Silvestre Bello III, DC/Finance's Jenivie Ann Domingo, Rep. Angelo Barba, Ilocos Norte vice governor Cecilia Marcos and Laoag City mayor Michael Keon

# EDC's Negros facility obtains DOLE safety seal

By Frances Ariola

ENERGY Development Corporation's (EDC) 222.5-megawatt Southern Negros Geothermal Project (SNGP) has been certified as compliant with the minimum health standards set by the government on COVID-19.

Though getting the safety seal certification is voluntary, EDC took on the challenge and invited representatives from the Department of Labor and Employment to inspect its 24/7 green energy facility in Valencia, Negros Oriental to showcase its health and safety protocols for its employees and contractors.

"The utmost importance that we give to the health and safety of our workforce and partners has been put to the test since the start of the pandemic last year. It was imperative for EDC to keep everyone safe from the time they enter our facilities to the time they go home to their families as we continue to provide an uninterrupted source of clean, reliable power to our country," said SNGP head Engr. Debonnaire Mamhot.

Through the collaborative efforts of EDC's occupational health team and COVID-19 officers led by Mary Trishia Alesna, safety officers Earl Alano and Ma. Theresa Cardino and compliance officer Bonife Marie Gaso-Llena, they were able to showcase EDC-SNGP's protocols and implementation that consisted of thorough health entry screening, strengthened COVID-19 health information, education and communication campaign, and signage reminding everyone of the minimum health standards and the need for full compliance.

"This certification encourages us to share our best practices with our stakeholders and other companies to help them keep their own people safe from



Nurse Mary Trishia Alesna and the rest of EDC's COVID-19 officers in Negros and in all its sites have been working hard to keep employees and contractors safe

COVID-19 and harm," noted Mamhot.

EDC's Negros team has been consistently recognized for its practices that go beyond compliance and sustainability. In June, it won a Gawad Tugas award in the Clean Air and Water-Power Plant category from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Last year, its Baslay Coffee Project received awards from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines and the League of Corporate Foundations.

# 4th batch of KCh interns graduates

"EVERY person we meet, every new idea, every new challenge presents an opportunity for us to learn and contribute... I find nothing more inspiring than being with people who, in their own little ways, want to make a difference in the world."

These were the words of media executive and TV host/actress Charo Santos-Concio as she shared a keynote message to almost 70 college students and volunteers who were recognized for their contribution in supporting the education sector through the Knowledge Channel Volunteer and Internship Program (KCVIP).

In a graduation ceremony held via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook, students and volunteers gathered virtually to celebrate this milestone.

Themed "Press Play," the event highlighted the importance of continuing to be of service to fellow Filipinos amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

**'We will not pause'**

Last year, face-to-face classes were suspended in response to the health crisis, forcing the education sector to pivot to alternative methods like online and modular learning. The interns were commended for their fortitude and support for Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc. (KCFI) despite the denial of ABS-CBN's franchise renewal.

In a recorded message from KCFI president and executive director Rina Lopez, she expressed her gratitude and



KCFI president Rina Lopez and keynote speaker Charo Santos-Concio impart words of wisdom to the KCVIP participants, led by outstanding intern Avigale Quilinguin



admiration for the intern graduates.

"Despite all these changes, our passion for learning and commitment to service remain. Our pre-pandemic lives may be on pause, our plans on hold, but when it comes to helping our fellow Filipinos, we cannot and will not pause," Lopez emphasized.

Over 10 KCVIP partner schools were lauded for their

partnership with KCFI.

iAcademy president Vanesa Tanco, who represented the partner schools, communicated her gratitude to KCFI in a video message and underscored the alignment of values when it comes to education.

**Outstanding intern**

"Congratulations to the Knowledge Channel for the valuable work that you're doing

for the underprivileged Filipino children. We also believe that education is the key to reducing poverty and that in this lifetime all Filipino students should have access to quality, inclusive and relevant education," Tanco said.

Avigale Quilinguin of the University of Asia and the Pacific was named as the KCVIP batch's outstanding

intern for 2020-2021. Quilinguin did research work under the monitoring and evaluation department spearheaded by Liezl Vinluan.

In her speech, Quilinguin stressed the importance of making a difference through internships and volunteerism.

"Through the philanthropic act of volunteerism, you are able to contribute to

the improvement of distance learning and help uplift the quality of Philippine education; through selfless acts of service, you help young minds open their avenues to brighter tomorrows; through the simple gesture of lending a hand, you give these children the opportunity to learn—an opportunity that is rightfully theirs," she said.

## Lifelong Wellness



One way to avoid digital eyestrain is to use lenses with a special coating designed to filter blue light

# Blue light and your eyes

By Charizze Henson

BLUE light is all around us—in sunlight, LED and fluorescent light, and digital devices. But with remote work and learning becoming the norm in the last year, more people are complaining about eyestrain, headaches, blurry vision, dry eyes and even neck and shoulder pain. These are all warning signs of digital eyestrain.

Digital eyestrain is a group of eye- and vision-related problems that is caused by pro-

longed use of digital devices. It happens because digital screens emit blue light and have unique characteristics and high visual demands, which makes our eyes work harder.

Good thing there is ScreenShield lens coating.

ScreenShield is a special lens coating designed to filter blue light that comes from digital devices. Blue light lenses can be clear or can have yellow tints; yellow tints are known to offer

more protection and increased comfort.

Available with or without an eyeglass prescription, ScreenShield lenses can be worn by both children and adults. It also filters ultraviolet (UV) light from the sun. Prolonged exposure to UV light is linked to sight-threatening eye conditions such as cataracts, retinal damage and other eye problems.

In addition to wearing ScreenShield lenses, you could blink

more frequently, use lubricating eye drops, sit an arm's length away from your screen, and practice the 20-20-20 rule. The 20-20-20 rule means that you have to look at an object 20 feet away for 20 seconds for every 20 minutes spent looking at a digital screen.

Get your eyes checked to confirm if you have digital eyestrain. Asian Eye has clinics in Rockwell, Makati; TriNoma; SM MOA; and Commercenter Alabang.

# ABS-CBN Christmas theme is a heartfelt tribute to everyday heroes

By Kane Choa

FILIPINOS from different sectors who spread love and hope despite the challenges brought by the pandemic were given the spotlight in ABS-CBN's "Andito Tayo Para sa Isa't Isa: Ang Christmas ID ng Pilipino."



'It's Showtime' host Vice Ganda

The stories of families, the youth, teachers, medical front liners, OFWs, community heroes, drivers, economic front liners, and safety and security personnel sparkled brightly in the music video that was launched on "TV Patrol."

Joining them in sharing their touching stories were ABS-CBN's brightest stars including Ogie Alcasid, Regine Velasquez-Alcasid, Kathryn Bernardo, Andrea Brillantes, Sharon Cuneta, Seth Fedelin, Vice Ganda, Sarah Geronimo, Angel Locsin, Belle Mariano, Coco Martin, Martin Nievera, Daniel Padilla, Donny Pangilinan, Piolo Pascual and Gary Valenciano.

Kapamilya may join the #ChristmasIDChallenge by using the instrumental version of the song on Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube Shorts and Kumu Klips and recording

themselves singing their version of "Andito Tayo Para sa Isa't Isa: Ang Christmas ID ng Pilipino." After recording the video, indicate in the caption to whom the video is dedicated and post it on social media using the hashtag #ChristmasID-Challenge.

The lyrics of "Andito Tayo Para Sa Isa't Isa: Ang Christmas ID ng Pilipino" were written by Robert Labayen and Love Rose de Leon of ABS-CBN creative communication management (CCM) division with Thyro Alfaro. Thyro composed the song's music with Xeric Tan. CCM's Maria Lourdes Parawan provided the English translation of the lyrics for the video.

Led by Robert, Johnny delos Santos and ABS-CBN chief operating officer of broadcast Cory Vidanes, CCM is also behind the recording and lyric

video of "Andito Tayo Para Sa Isa't Isa: Ang Christmas ID ng Pilipino." It was created with the support of ABS-CBN Marketing, TV Production, News, Sales and ABS-CBN Foundation Inc.



Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla

## Charlie, Joshua showcase acting prowess in 'Viral Scandal'



The RCD drama unit brings together rising stars Charlie Dizon and Joshua Garcia in its series that premiered on Nov. 15

CHARLIE Dizon and Joshua Garcia team up in ABS-CBN Entertainment's "Viral Scandal," a timely new series about online video scandals.

Charlie plays Rica, the eldest among the children of Kakay (Dimples Romana) and Dan (Miko Raval) who is just finishing her internship in an architectural firm. All is well for Rica and her family until she gets involved in a viral video.

Rica tries to continue her life by applying in Balai Arkitektura, where Kyle (Joshua) is the acting CEO. Here, she will try to regain the confidence she lost from the viral video.

The series marks the return of Charlie and Joshua to the RCD drama unit after their performances in the group's award-winning shows, "A Soldier's Heart" and "The Killer Bride," respectively.

"Viral Scandal" also stars Jake Cuenca, Jameson Blake, Markus Paterson, Ria Atayde, Maxene Magalona, Aljon Mendoza, Karina Bautista, Louise Abuel, Kaila Estrada, Vance Larena, Gian Magdangal, Arielle Rocas and Aya Fernandez. Watch it on Kapamilya Channel, TV5, A2Z, Kapamilya Online Live, iWantTFC and TFC IPTV. (K. Choa)

### The Rockwellist Guide

Watch this!

## Rockwell safely welcomes cinemagoers

By Anina Reyes

AFTER a year and a half of waiting, the Rockwell cinemas in Power Plant Mall and Santolan Town Plaza were finally opened on Nov. 10, 2021. Movie enthusiasts can look forward to exciting titles on the big screen, such as "Dune," "Eternals" and "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," to name a few. To welcome cinemagoers back, Rockwell has taken on protocols to ensure customers' safety.

Seating is at 40% capacity with a 1.2-meter lateral

distance between customers and a 2.2-meter gap from those in front and at the back. All cinemagoers must be fully vaccinated. Contactless payment solutions are highly encouraged, and HealthBadge, Rockwell's single-QR contact tracing platform, is scanned at the entrance.

To further ensure the health and safety of customers, there is a one-hour interval between each screening for thorough disinfection through UV light and misting machines. Power Plant

Cinema has been awarded a safety seal certifying that the appropriate protocols are in place in preparation for the return of movie theaters.

Those who prefer a more intimate viewing experience with their friends and families can privately enjoy the movies through block screenings. Cinemagoers can easily avail of this at Power Plant Mall and Santolan Town Plaza.

For more info, check out their Facebook and Instagram pages or learn more at TheRockwellist.com.

## Santolan Town Plaza does Rockwell On Demand

SHOPPING at Santolan Town Plaza is now easier as Rockwell brings Rockwell On Demand to this side of town.

To book Rockwell On Demand, download The Rockwellist mobile app on the Apple Store or Google Play Store. This covers the entire shopping journey, from ordering and purchasing to doorstep delivery.

Need someone to do your groceries? Enjoy The Marketplace grocery buying assistance and next-day delivery for P250 plus a standard city-based delivery fee.

For those who want to shop in other Santolan Town Plaza stores, let Rockwell On Demand do the shopping for you with its buying assistance service. Book for up to three stores or restaurants with same-day delivery for a flat rate of P80 plus a standard city-based delivery fee.

Pay for your orders with different payment options: bank transfer, debit card,

**SANTOLAN TOWN PLAZA ON DEMAND**  
Let us shop for you from the comfort of your homes! Here's how:

- Step 1** Open your Rockwellist mobile app. Click on the Rockwell On Demand tab located at the bottom of your screen.
- Step 2** Select Santolan Buying Assistance.
- Step 3** Input your details.
- Step 4** Check out your items and select your location for delivery. Payment details will be sent to your email.

Download The Rockwellist Mobile app at [bit.ly/therockwellistapp](http://bit.ly/therockwellistapp) to get started.

credit card or PayMaya.

Get anything you need and want from this side of

town. Download The Rockwellist mobile app to get started! (A. Reyes)

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