Ambassador Sung Kim Renews Agreement with the Commission on Higher Education

Makati—On April 28, 2017, Ambassador Sung Kim, honorary Philippine-American Educational Foundation Board Chairperson, reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) that continues the Fulbright-CHED Scholarship Program for Graduate Studies in the United States. Fulbright-CHED Scholarships enable faculty and staff from higher education institutions to pursue master’s and doctoral studies, including thesis or dissertation research, in higher education institutions in the United States.

In 2016, CHED and the Philippine-American Educational Foundation (PAEF) formally established the Fulbright-CHED Scholarship to build capacity for higher education in the Philippines and strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries. The 2016 MOA provided scholarships for 17 faculty and staff to pursue graduate degrees in fields including Socio-Cultural Anthropology, Agricultural Education, Fisheries Technology, and Maritime Law and Policy in the United States during the 2017-2018 academic year. The renewed MOA will offer additional graduate education scholarships to college faculty for the academic year 2018-2019. -USEmbassy/Manila

SBMA okays 982 has. US$798-M dev’t in Redondo Peninsula

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT – More manufacturing companies and light to heavy industries are expected to locate in this premier Freeport, as the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) approved the development of a 982-hectare industrial estate at Subic’s Redondo Peninsula.

SBMA Chairman Martin B. Diño and SBMA Administrator Wilma T. Eisma announced the approval of the US$798-million project proposed by Dynamic Konsrtuct International ECO Builders Corp. (DKIEBC), a duly-registered enterprise inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

“This project is our answer to the inquiry of investors looking for thousands of hectares of flat land for manufacturing and light to heavy industries inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone,” Chairman Diño said during the State of the Freeport Address (SOFA) hosted by the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce (SBFCC) last Monday.

The location of the proposed solar farm and industrial city at the Redondo Peninsula

SBMA Administrator Wilma Eisma outlines measures to further develop the Subic Bay Freeport during her State of the Freeport Address on April 24.

Similarly, she pointed out that the SBMA posted a net income of P46.7 million in the first quarter of 2017, which represented a 148 percent increase over last year’s P18.8 million net income.

Eisma also announced that the total cash and investments made by the Subic agency in the first three months of 2017 amounted to P4.57 billion, or a 24.84 percent increase over last year’s P3.6 billion record.

SBMA Administrator Wilma Eisma outlines measures to further develop the Subic Bay Freeport during her State of the Freeport Address on April 24.
This brings the Subic summer experience to a whole new level. Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Administrator Wilma Eisma said as she announced the three-day event on Tuesday.

“Subic’s popular waterfront area will be transformed into a giant entertainment park with music and arts theme, and we’re very much excited because Subic has been one of the entertainment concepts for Subic that we really want to push,” she added.

The festival was previously staged at beach venues in Zambales, but the SBMA and festival organizer Travel Factor signed a memorandum of agreement last week to bring the festival to the Freeport.

Eisma said the event will be held along Subic’s Waterfront Road entertainment zone.

The three-day beach festival will be held under the Subic Bay Front Area (SBFA) and the Subic Bay Hotels, Attractions and Tourism Stakeholders Visitors Board (SB- HATSVB), will sponsor the event.

Meanwhile, festival organizers have partnered with residents of the area to put up a series of various themed pool parties, three days of art workshops and fitness activities by the shore, and two evening concerts featuring some of the country’s biggest rock, alternative, and pop acts. The featured artists will include Ron Poe, Quest, Runngh, Ace Ranucho, David Ardiante, DJ Highrise, Up Chikang, DJ Arshy, and Gab and John of Urbandub.

Eisma said the event will certainly push the already high number of visitors in the Subic Bay Freeport to record-breaking figures since the summer season is not over yet.

She also stressed that the festival will implement strict security measures to keep Subic Siren drug-free and safe for everybody.

“We don’t want drugs to proliferate in the area. We just like the event opened in another concert场馆,” Eisma added.

She said that she has urged the organizers to cooperate and for the SBMA Law Enforcement Department to be vigilant.

“Subic has previously been named by the Department of Tourism as one of the selected tourist destinations in Central Luzon and we’re pushing the festival Subic Freeport to retain this title. Summer Siren is really an ideal event that would push Subic Freeport even a notch higher,” Eisma added.

Subic’s business outlook, along with the approval of Dynamic Konstrukt Corp.’s $4.36 billion industrial park development and renewable energy project, is also expected to contribute a annual port revenue of $2.75 billion, as well as that of Tekway, a joint venture that controls the world’s biggest fleet of gas carriers.

Another billion peso investment project recently approved by the Department of Tourism is the $4.6 billion golf course and leisure complex project. Eisma said that this is expected to bring in more investments in the Freeport and also boost the number of jobs, which currently sustain the number of tourists visiting the area.

Administrator Eisma made the State of the Address and organized by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman Sergio “Nonoy” L. Ortíz Jr., during the the State of the Address on April 24.

On the other hand, the agency’s total debt decreased by 8.79 percent in the first quarter, with a total of P8,644,026,284.10 for this year compared to P7,284,520,865.20 last year.

The administrator also pointed out that the agency’s key performance indicators such as the number of investments, new locations, import value and export value all rose significantly for the first quarter.

The number of total new investments here have slightly increased by one percent. From last year’s P1,406,476,765 to P1,420,746,404, this year, Eisma announced during the SOFA, adding that the agency registered 47 new business locations in the first quarter.

Eisma also noted a Subic’s business outlook, along with the approval of Dynamic Konstrukt Corp.’s $4.36 billion project, will significantly increase in the same period. The industrial park development and renewable energy project, is also expected to contribute a annual port revenue of $2.75 billion, as well as that of Tekway, a joint venture that controls the world’s biggest fleet of gas carriers.

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AROUND CENTRAL LUZON

Labor Day Job & Business Fairs have 8,700 jobseekers ‘near-hires’ in Reg. 3

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga. — Around 8,700 jobseekers were recorded as “near-hires” in today’s Labor Day Job and Business Fairs in Central Luzon.

“Near-hires are job applicants who were considered hired but still need to submit additional or lack requiring documents, or may need to attend further interviews/exams,” Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Director Jojo Dione said.

“The overlap of near-hires versus the number of attendance of jobseekers means some of them were reported near-hires in more than one company,” Dione added.

Carrying the theme “Matatag na Kabataan at Tabahao, Tungo sa Progresibong Pagbabago,” over 7,464 jobseekers flocked the Labor Day Job and Business fairs that were simultaneously held in 3M malls in Baliuag, Pampanga, San Fernando Downtown, and Clark.

A similar activity was also held at the Freedom Park in CAButan City, Metro Town Mall in Tarlac City, and Ayala Harbor Point in Subic Bay Freeway Zone. The DOLE Technical Support and Service Division for Employment and Welfare headed by Alejandro Inca Cruz said the near-hires are expected to add-up in the days to come.

“We will be having our usual month-long monitoring of our near-hires and those interviewed for interview in the next month,” Dione said.

Bulacan has 45 centenarians

MALOLOS CITY, Bulacan. — “Old age is the children of immortality.”

With these words that he quoted from a Greek writer, Gov. Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado, together with Vice Gov. Daniel Fernando and officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) regional office on Thursday recognized the feats and contributions of the province’s centenarian citizens.

During the “Pagkilala sa mga Centenaryong Bulakenyos” program, the 105-year-old Mr. Thomas Aveling “Tom” from Santa Maria town was recognized as the province’s oldest centenarian.

The four-kilometer lighting project on is the setting up of 400 posts (200 perhighway in Palihan, Culis and Mambog, Orani town. The district engineer said also go to the towns of Samal and Abucay and a road project in Barangay Mulawin, Orani town.

Ongoing are bridge rehabilitation projects along the MacArthur Highway in Abucay town has a budget of PHP32 million; Flores project in Barangay Balungao, Perlas and Culis.

“The job and business fairs are expected to increase over in applicants hired in KEGS during the job fairs, aprisse and advocate job seekers to consider entrepre neurial and business opportunities, and build strong partnerships among concerned agencies including DOLE, DTI, local government units, and private sector,” the official furthered.

During the fairs, DTI conducted a lecture on Business Opportunities for jobseekers and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who wish to venture into entrepre neurial and small businesses.

National Reintegration Center for OFWs, on the other hand, provided teaching kits for OFW teachers under the Sa Pina, Ikwang Am Na Sir Program. (PIA 3)

Three Zambales towns receive PHP49.77-M DILG development funds

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga. — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has granted a total of PHP49.777-million development fund to three local government units (LGUs) in Zambales under the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities (ADM) program.

The municipalities of Botolan, Masinloc, and Sta. Cruz comprise the first batch of recipients of the ADM fund following their compliance with the requirements of the DILG Seal of Good Financial Housekeeping (SGFH) and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Public Financial Management System.

The municipality of Botolan received PHP17.513 million; Masinloc, PHP16.788 million; and Sta. Cruz, PHP15.472 million.

The ADM is a new program consistent with the advocacy of the national government to empower LGUs and boost citizens’ access to basic services.

It also aims to address the fiscal gap in the LGUs and to promote transparency and good governance.

Projects under the ADM program include water system, evacuation facility, local access roads, small water impounding and sanitation and health facilities.

The other 10 municipalities of Zambales will receive a total of PHP159.445 million upon the release of the second batch of ADM fund. (PNA)

DPWH to construct 10 bridges, widen roads in Bataan

ORANI, Bataan. — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has allotted a budget for the rehabilitation of 10 bridges and widening of a six-lane road in the first district of Bataan.

Chief Engineer Erlindo Flores, Jr. on Tuesday said Rep. Geraldine Roman of the province’s first district requested the RP50.9 million worth PHP132.4 million that will be implemented within the year.

The bridges to be rehabilitated are the Orani 1 and Orani 2 bridges In Orani town; Gapanay, San Ildefonso, and Cabangan Bridges in Hermosa town and Mauban bridge in Morong town.

The rehabilitation of 10 bridges constructed in the 1970s mostly along the Roman Superhighway was budgeted for PHP100 million while widening from four to six lanes of the portion of the superhighway in Abucay town has a budget of PHP32 million, Flores added.

Ongoing are bridge rehabilitation projects along the MacArthur Highway in the towns of Sanil and Abucay and a road project in Barangay Malulawan, Orani town.

The district engineer said also going on is the setting up of 400 posts (200 on each side) for the installation of luminous street lights along the Roman Superhighway in Pulilan, Culis and Mambog, all barangays in Hermosa town.

The four-kilometer lighting project was allotted with a PHP42-million budget, Flores added. (Ernie B. Esconde/PNA)

SM Olongapo’s Rooftop Illumination Dance Party

Olongapenos got the feel of real fun and exciting dance party ever. The Illumination dance party, held at the rooftop last Saturday, was a hit to partygoers, both teenagers and adults. The performances of the Philippine Shuffle Squad, Gents, and the perfect music choices of guest DJs Ron Poe and Mc Boo augmented the colorful lighting and sound, together with the burst of foam that created a high energy atmosphere.

Lower Kalaklan Road, Olongapo City. Fifteen minutes drive from SBMA RESERVATION & INFORMATION CENTER

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Makin Island ARG/11th MEU’s Contributions to US 7th Fleet

PACIFIC OCEAN — The Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), comprised of the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), the amphibious transport dock ship USS Somerset (LPD 25), and the amphibious dock landing ship USS Comstock (LSD 45), with the embarked 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), provided a vital array of amphibious capabilities to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations during a month-long stay in theater.

The 4,500 Sailors and Marines of the ARG-MEU conducted maritime security operations and partnership building throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific to preserve the free flow of commerce in the region and promote international cooperation. The Navy-Marine Corps team also participated in bilateral engagements which strengthened military relations with partner nations and enhanced regional stability.

Capt. Mike Crary, commander, Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 5, said the team’s deployment to the region brought a critical capability to a dynamic operating environment.

“When a new team brings a range of capabilities to any region. During month six of our deployment, we entered the U.S. 7th Fleet at the top of our game, trained forward deployed contingency-response force and vehicles, but you can’t surge forward a common objective,” said Col. Clay C. Tipton, commanding officer, 11th MEU.

“Our time is 7th Fleet was very relevant and much of what our team accomplished will have long-lasting, positive impacts on this region,” said Capt. Mark Melson, Makin Island’s commanding officer. “The importance of the partnerships our Sailors and Marines enhanced here can not be overstated, and their contributions to those relationships will remain long after our deployment is done.”

The Sailors and Marines aboard Comstock also trained alongside members of the Sri Lankan Navy in an effort to exchange expertise in a range of topics which improved communication and coordination between U.S. and Sri Lankan forces, built mutual warfighting capability and supported long-term regional cooperation.

Comstock also hosted Port Moresby, as its primary activities are training that enhanced the Papua New Guinea Defense Force’s support to civil authority and disaster relief operations. The Philippine Air Force also conducted training and exercises on the ship’s flight deck.

The ARG-MEU team worked closely with foreign nations during their operations in the Pacific Ocean to enhance amphibious capability with regional partners and to serve as a ready-response force for any type of contingency. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matthew Diendorf)

IN THE NAVY

Subic Bay News

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Subic companies open 3,000 jobs on Labor Day

Workers from business-locators in the Subic Bay Freeport take part in a fun run, motorcade, and dancing and dance contests organized by the SBMA Labor Department to celebrate the International Labor Day. A jobs fair offering local and overseas job listings for jobseekers in cooperation with the Olongapo City Public Employment and Services Office.

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — More than 3,000 jobs were offered to jobseekers here on Monday during a jobs fair organized by locator-companies and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Labor Department in line with the celebration of Labor Day.

SBMA Administrator Wilma Elisma said the huge volume of jobs being offered to workers could be attributed to the growing number of investments in the Freeport, and the participation of businessmen from the nearby city of Olongapo.

Elisma said more than 100 business-locators participated in the job fair and offered jobs ranging from housekeeping, various skilled positions for electricians, plumbers and welders, and engineers.

Thousands of applicants from Olongapo and the nearby provinces of Zambales and Bataan filled the jobs fair venue at the Ayala Harbor Point mall to full capacity, she said.

The SBMA official added that the increasing number of job openings in the Freeport indicates the growing success of the SBMA in attracting more investors to Subic.

“As of late, Evergreen Shipping Company to made its maiden voyage to the port of Subic, negotiated for the establishment of an American joint venture, Re- dondo Peninsula, and last week the country’s first ship-to-ship transfer operation of liquefied natural gas commenced here. All these signal more jobs and more opportunities for local workers,” Elisma said.

She also noted that while SBMA is doing its best to attract new investors, it also promotes harmonious working relationships between workers and management, and initiates projects for workers’ welfare.

“We believe that quality performance by employees is not only the end result of getting good salary or working in a big company. Quality performance also comes about if workers feel good about their employers, and if investors feel good about their employees and the SBMA,” she explained.

Meanwhile, SBMA labor manager Severo Pastor Jr. said the job fair was just one of the activities they organized for the Labor Day celebration here.

“We had a fun run, and as early as 5:30 in the morning, we already had 750 worker-runners ready for the kilometer fun run around the Freeport’s Central Business District. Then we also had a company float parade, singing contest, and dance and sports competitions,” Pastor said.

The contestants in the various competitions were all workers from Subic-based companies, he added.

Pastor also said that during the May 1 event, Freeport workers choose to relax along-side colleagues from other companies, as well as SBMA employees.

“We make a big difference here in Subic because a lot of our labor organizations are justsheet protests and rallies to celebrate Labor Day, workers in Subic Freeport run for fun and good health. This is a day for camaraderie and to thank every member of the labor sector for a job well done,” he added.

Subic Labor Day Job’s Fair

PACIFIC OCEAN. The Republic of Korea destroyers Sejong the Great (DDG 991) and Yang Manchun (DDH 973), the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108), USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) and USS Sterthen (DDG 63), the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain (CG 57) and the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) transit the western Pacific Ocean. The U.S. Navy has patrolled the Indo-Asia-Pacific routinely for more than 70 years promoting regional peace and security (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sean M. Castellano)