

The Daily Dispatch

December 14, 2017
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

ADB upgrades Philippine growth outlook

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised its growth forecast for the Philippines to 6.7 percent this year and 6.8 percent in 2018, citing strong household consumption, manageable inflation and infrastructure investment.

Jetro vows to boost Philippine-Japan economic ties

The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) has vowed to further boost trade and investment cooperation between Manila and Tokyo, the DOF said yesterday. Citing a letter sent by JETRO EVP Yuri Sato, the DOF said the Japan trade organization has committed to intensify its efforts to enhance the economic ties between the two

Robinsons Retail invests in cosmetics e-commerce site

Robinsons Retail Holdings Inc., the listed retail arm of the Gokongwei group, has acquired a 20 percent stake in Taste Central Curators Inc., a company that operates a beauty and cosmetics e-commerce site. RRHI said the move is seen to further expand and strengthen RRHI's presence in the beauty format and e-commerce space.

DOF 'pleased' with final tax reform bill

The Department of Finance (DOF) is "very pleased" with the final version of the first tax reform package despite some changes introduced by the members of the bicameral conference committee. Finance Secretary Dominguez said they accommodated a number of other provisions that lawmakers wanted to include in the first TRAIN bill.

Moving on, RCBC on expansion mode

More than a year since the \$81-million heist story that involved Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) came up, this Yuchengco-led firm has now moved on — eyeing additional income for next year and is now an expansion mode like any normal bank in the country.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

8,018.05

1 Yr Return:

-0.34%

Open:

8,015.68

YTD Return:

15.58%

52-Week Range:

6,499.00 - 8,106.74

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of Dec. 08, 2017

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	50.447

PDST-R2 Rates

As of Dec. 08, 2017

Tenor	Rate
1Y	3.0429
3Y	4.3274
5Y	4.6973
7Y	5.2021
10Y	5.7004
20Y	5.9332

Daily Quote

"The proper response, as Hanukkah teaches, is not to curse the darkness but to light a candle."

--Irving Greenberg

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

SBS raises P1.4b from rights offer

Chemical trader and distributor SBS Philippines Corp. successfully raised P1.41 billion from a recently-concluded stock rights offering. SBS said in a disclosure to the stock exchange it sold 302 million shares through rights offer price of P4.67 apiece.

PSALM issues default notice to FDC Misamis

THE Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corp. has served a notice of default to FDC Misamis Power Corp. in connection with the latter's Independent Power Producer Administrator Agreement (IPPAA) on the energy capacity of Mindanao Geothermal Plants 1 and 2.

Dennis Uy eyes more IPOs in 2018

Dennis Uy is planning to conduct more initial public offerings next year under his holding firm Udenna Corp. "This year, we've made one company public—our Chelsea Logistics Group—and by next year, we plan to do more listings...with the support of everybody," Udenna president and chief executive officer Dennis Uy said.

WESM price ruling to make consumers pay P17B

The ruling of the CA to void high prices at the WESM from November to December 2013 would result in the passing on of charges totaling P17 billion to consumers in Luzon, a consumer group warned on Wednesday. Once the verdict takes effect, a typical household would pay an average of P700 on top of its monthly electricity bill.

Koreans, Chinese top PH tourists for Jan-Oct 2017

South Korean and Chinese tourists were the top visitors to the Philippines from January to October this year, according to the Department of Tourism (DOT). Data released by the DOT on Tuesday, December 12, showed that there were 1.33 million South Korean tourists for the 10-month period, representing 24.33% of total arrivals.

Philippine apex bank reviewing bitcoin exchange

The Philippine central bank is evaluating 12 applications for the registration of virtual currency (VC) exchanges after it issued permits to two firms earlier this year, but says it is not endorsing cryptocurrencies, including bitcoin.

P2-B office project woos Binondo-based businessmen

GOLDEN BAY Properties, Inc., a company whose owners started in seafood trade, will spend around P2 billion to develop a premium office building along Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City. Golden Bay is hoping to lure Filipino-Chinese businesses from Binondo to its new project, Aspire Corporate Plaza.

Philippines AirAsia IPO seen before end-2018

"We are working on the papers. We hope to do it before the end of the year (2018). Around the second semester of next year, hopefully," Philippines AirAsia CEO Dexter M. Comendador told reporters late Tuesday.

Trade groups unhappy with tax reform

Some of the biggest local and foreign business chambers in the country have expressed reservations about the final version of the first tax reform package, warning that some of the tax changes imposed would have a "negative impact" on both consumer welfare and the country's competitiveness.

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Debt-laden HNA met with CH banks for financing

Debt-laden HNA Group Co. met with Chinese lenders for talks on financing next year, after borrowing costs surged in recent weeks and prompted some units to scrap bond offerings. Representatives from eight Chinese banks' branches in the southeastern province of Hainan, met with the group Wednesday on providing credit support in 2018.

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MORE ASIAN NEWS

Singtel wins more spectrum in AU, including 5G

Singtel-owned Optus in Australia announced that it has successfully acquired a variety of new metropolitan licences for customers in the 2300 MHz and 3500 MHz spectrum bands. Optus won two 2300MHz lots in Sydney and Melbourne, and three 3500MHz lots in Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide for A\$6.5 million (S\$6.7 million).

Tencent Music drowns out Spotify, Apple in CH

One of China's most-anticipated initial public offerings next year may be music to the ears of Tencent Holdings Ltd. investors because of its potential to drown out any noise Spotify and Apple Music want to make in the biggest market. Tencent Music, a streaming and downloading service, is expected to raise at least \$1 billion.

Finstar backs DFI in \$50m investment

International private equity (PE) firm Finstar Financial Group (Finstar) has backed a \$50 million investment in Digital Finance International (DFI), a digital lending solution developer, to help the latter expand its presence in the Asia Pacific (APAC).

Anthill Ventures aims for \$100m to fund startups

Early-stage investment firm Anthill Ventures aims to raise around \$100 million next year, of which only \$25 million will be through new funds, while the remaining will be commitments for follow on investments. "Its a \$25 million fund and a \$75 million pledge," Prasad Vanga, founder and CEO of Anthill Ventures said.

Marathon Venture leads \$6.4m round in Lion Rock

Marathon Venture Partners has led a \$9.4-million funding round in Hong Kong fintech company Lion Rock Fintech Ltd. 9F Inc, the strategic investor who backed Lion Rock's previous round of financing, also invested in this round. The NYSE-listed fintech company Yirendai participated as a new strategic investor.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Yellen says no risks to stability as markets boom

Amid booming stock markets that have hit repeated records, and soaring bitcoin, US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Wednesday, December 13, she does not see any risks to financial stability "flashing red" for regulators. She said the high stock prices are not a risk factor the central bank is currently focused on.

Austrian explosion rattles European gas market

Natural gas flows were set to recover in Europe after an explosion at an Austrian hub threatened supplies already pinched by a closed pipeline in the North Sea and a cold snap across the continent. Natural gas and power prices earlier jumped in Europe after the explosion.

Fed raises rates, eyes three 2018 rate hikes

Federal Reserve officials followed through on an expected interest-rate increase and raised their forecast for economic growth in 2018, even as they stuck with a projection for three hikes in the coming year.

Disney deal set to value Fox at more than \$75 bn

Walt Disney Co's deal to buy film, television and international businesses from Rupert Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox Inc will value the latter at over \$40 per share, or \$75 billion, a person familiar with the matter said.

Economic Calendar

Date	Release
12.04.2017	PH: CPI YoY
12.05.2017	PH: Bank Lending YoY
12.06.2017	PH: Foreign Reserves
12.11.2017	PH: Unemployment Rate
12.11.2017	PH: Trade Balance

Source: Bloomberg Economic Calendar