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**PRESS RELEASE**

**NICKEL ASIA CORP. ANNOUNCES P1.7 BILLION NET INCOME FOR FIRST HALF OF 2023**

**Taguig** – Listed natural resources development firm Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) (PSE: NIKL) announced its unaudited financial and operating results for the six-month period ended June 30, 2023.

During the period, the Company recorded an attributable net income (net of minority interest) of P1.7 billion, down 55 percent from P3.8 billion year-on-year.

Excluding the company's equity interest in the Coral Bay and Taganito high-pressure acid leach (HPAL) projects, NAC's attributable net-income (net of minority interest) of P1.8 billion is down 33 percent from P2.7 billion year-on-year on the back of lower nickel ore prices due to the growth in Indonesian nickel production and the slowdown in the Chinese economy. The combined losses incurred by the HPAL plants were due to lower metal prices of nickel and cobalt year-on-year.

Likewise, revenues declined by 8 percent to P10.9 billion from P11.8 billion in the same period last year. Operating mines sold a combined 7.52 million wet metric tons (WMT) of nickel ore, an improvement of 8 percent compared to the same period the year prior.

The Company exported 3.66 million WMT of saprolite and limonite ore at the average price of \$28.22/WMT during the period against 3.12 million WMT at \$42.05/WMT from the previous year.

Additionally, the Company delivered 3.86 million WMT of limonite ore to the Coral Bay and Taganito HPAL plants, realizing an average price of \$10.13 per pound of payable nickel for the first six months of the year. This compares to 3.83 million WMT at \$12.52 per pound of payable nickel in the same period of the previous year.

As a result, the weighted average nickel ore sales price during the period decreased by 26 percent to \$22.32/WMT from \$30.03/WMT last year. The Company realized P55.33 per US dollar from nickel ore sales, a 5-percent increase from P52.56 year-on-year.

The group's consolidated Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) totaled P4.79 billion, a 25.7-percent decline from the same period last year. NAC

registered a loss from its combined equity interests in the two HPAL plants in the amount of P77.4 million against a profit of P1.1 billion the year prior.

“We may have already seen the bottom of nickel ore prices for this year in the second quarter. The recent pledges from China to bolster their economy will provide a boost to their economic situation and will contribute to drive the demand for Indonesia's incremental nickel supply. The bright spot remains to be the positive electric vehicle (EV) adoption trend, which has remained strong. Furthermore, government policies globally are supportive of the EV industry, which is why we think the nickel sector will be well supported over the long-term,” said Martin Antonio G. Zamora, President and CEO.

## **Renewable Energy**

Emerging Power, Inc.'s (EPI) subsidiary, Jobin-SQM Inc. (JSI), increased its electricity generation by 54 percent to 76,375-megawatt hours and revenues by 81 percent to P390.6 million in the period, operating at 100-MWp since adding an additional 38-MWp in July 2022. JSI is currently constructing an additional 72-MWp solar farm in its existing Sta. Rita site, which is scheduled to go online by the fourth quarter of 2023.

Healthy revenues buoyed JSI's EBITDA margin to 85 percent, with EBITDA rising by 86 percent to P330.8 million compared to last year. The Company also saw a 19-percent increase in net income to P56.5 million compared to P47.6 million last year.

Furthermore, the pre-development activities for EPI's second long-term lease agreement with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority are underway and construction of a 145-MWp solar plant is expected to begin in early 2024.

Furthermore, Greenlight Renewables Holdings, Inc., EPI's joint venture with Shell Overseas Investments B.V., has started the construction of its first project located in Leyte for the first phase of a 120-MWp solar plant in the third quarter of 2023.

### **About Nickel Asia Corp.**

Nickel Asia Corp. (PSE: NIKL) is a diversified natural resources development company in the Philippines, comprising five operating and three exploratory mines and interests in the country's only two high-pressure acid leach (HPAL) plants and in a renewable energy subsidiary. At NAC, our aim is to contribute to sustainable national development by adopting our ESG roadmap in order to achieve the highest standards in the responsible utilization of our country's natural resources. Our mines produce two types of ore: saprolite and limonite. Our saprolite ore is used as feed for ferronickel and nickel pig iron smelters in Japan and China while most of our limonite ore is processed domestically by the Coral Bay and Taganito HPAL projects. . Our renewable energy subsidiary aims to engage in power generation exclusively from renewable sources. In a short period of time, we have built up a portfolio of renewable energy service contracts across solar, wind and geothermal, which are at various stages of development. Through our operations and along with our partners of over 1,000 employees across communities, we aim to bring products that would move the world towards a progressive and sustainable future, always conscious of being stewards of the environments where we operate. Learn more at [www.nickelasia.com](http://www.nickelasia.com) and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.