



**November 9, 2023**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**NICKEL ASIA CORP. ANNOUNCES P3.6 BILLION NET INCOME FOR FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 2023**

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

During the period, the Company recorded an attributable net income (net of minority interest) of P3.6 billion, down 47 percent from P6.9 billion year-on-year. This is on the back of lower nickel ore prices due to the increase in Indonesian nickel production. Further, NAC registered a loss of P379.8 million from its combined equity interests in the two HPAL plants against a profit of P1 billion the year prior due to lower nickel and cobalt prices year-on-year.

Likewise, revenues from sale of ore declined by 15 percent to P16.8 billion from P19.9 billion in the same period last year. Operating mines sold a combined 13 million wet metric tons (WMT) of nickel ore, an improvement of 5 percent compared to the same period the year prior.

The Company exported 7.3 million WMT of saprolite and limonite ore at the average price of \$29.15 per WMT during the period against 6.7 million WMT at \$38.87 per WMT in the previous year.

Additionally, the Company delivered 5.7 million WMT of limonite ore to the Coral Bay and Taganito HPAL plants, realizing an average price of \$10.53 per pound of payable nickel for the nine-month period. This compares to 5.8 million WMT at \$11.66 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 21 percent to \$23.24 per WMT from \$29.46 per WMT last year. The Company realized P55.64 per US dollar from nickel ore sales, a 3-percent increase from P54.22 year-on-year.

The group's consolidated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) amounted to P8.5 billion, a 31-percent decline from the same period last year. This decline was due to the lower revenues and losses incurred from the company's combined equity interests in the two HPAL plants. It was also due to the higher production volume, which was tempered by a 7 percent reduction in cost per WMT resulting from productivity measures.

“We are seeing a recovery in nickel ore prices since bottoming out in the second quarter due to the recent tightening in Indonesian nickel ore supply. Meanwhile, China’s economy continues to recover with third quarter GDP growth at 4.9 percent, exceeding consensus estimates and indicating that recent policy measures are aiding its recovery. We believe that nickel ore prices will further recover until the end of the year due to the circumstances surrounding Indonesia’s nickel ore supply and China’s economy,” 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 36 percent to 106,032-megawatt hours and revenues by 34 percent to P529 million during the nine-month period, operating at 100-MWp compared to the same period from last year of 62-MWp. JSI is currently constructing an additional 72-MWp solar farm in its existing Sta. Rita site and is on track to go online by the end of 2023.

JSI’s EBITDA margin remains strong at 84 percent, with EBITDA rising by 34 percent to P442 million compared to the same period last year.

Furthermore, the pre-development activities for EPI’s second long-term lease agreement with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority is expected to be completed by year-end while the construction of a 145-MWp solar plant is expected to begin thereafter.

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.

### **Special Cash Dividend**

The Company's Board of Directors approved the declaration of a special cash dividend of P0.07 per share of common stock, payable on Dec. 7, 2023, to shareholders of record on Nov. 24, 2023.

## **Disclaimer**

This Press Release includes forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are management's present expectations of future events and are subject to a number of factors and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. The reader is cautioned not to rely on such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they were made. All subsequent forward-looking statements attributable to the Company, its affiliates or any person acting on their behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements referred to in this Press Release.

## **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 2,000 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.