

**NICKEL ASIA CORPORATION: P7.81 BILLION IN ATTRIBUTABLE NET INCOME FOR 2021; EXPANSION IN RENEWABLE ENERGY BUSINESS; INCREASED EQUITY IN NICKEL PROCESSING; AND REGULAR AND SPECIAL CASH DIVIDENDS OF P0.17 AND P0.05, RESPECTIVELY.**

Taguig City, March 10, 2022 – “A defining year- that is how 2021 was for our Company”, said Martin Antonio G. Zamora, President and CEO of Nickel Asia Corporation (NAC; PSE: NIKL). “In the face of the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing economic and social hardships it has brought to our country and our communities, we remained focused on our people and our business objectives, on our diversification into renewables through our subsidiary Emerging Power, Inc. (EPI), and we even crafted and adopted a new vision for our future.”

“At the same time the surging demand for nickel fueled by a doubling in sales of electric vehicles and strong growth in stainless steel production coupled with lower than expected nickel production, particularly out of Indonesia, resulted in a nickel deficit of about 150,000 tonnes rather than a projected surplus. This has clearly been a significant tailwind for the global nickel industry and for us”, Mr. Zamora added.

***FINANCIAL RESULTS***

NAC today announced its audited financial and operating results for 2021 with attributable net income (net of minority interests) at P7.81 billion compared to P4.07 billion reported in 2020. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) amounted to P14.40 billion compared to P9.47 billion in the prior year.

The higher net income was the result of higher ore sales prices. NAC sold a total of 17.94 million wet metric tons (WMT) of nickel ore at the weighted average realized price of \$29.13 per WMT in 2021, compared to 18.20 million WMT at \$22.46 per WMT in 2020. Accordingly, total revenue increased by 26% to P27.40 billion from P21.77 billion in the prior year.

Breaking down the ore sales, the Company exported 10.79 million WMT of saprolite and limonite ore to customers in Japan and China at the average price of \$40.40 per WMT in 2021. This compares to 10.02 million WMT at \$33.99 per WMT in 2020. Likewise, NAC delivered 7.14 million WMT of limonite ore to the Coral Bay and Taganito HPAL plants, the prices of which are linked to the LME, and realized an average price of \$8.36 per pound of payable nickel. This compares to 8.18 million WMT at \$6.22 per pound of payable nickel in 2020. Expressed in US Dollar per WMT, deliveries to the two HPAL plants generated \$12.11 and \$8.33 per WMT in 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Following higher Nickel LME prices, the Company recognized a gain from its equity share in its investments in the two HPAL plants in the combined amount of P557.9 million in 2021, compared to P190.4 million in the prior year. Furthermore, due to the stronger US Dollar against the Peso, NAC recognized net foreign exchange gains from its US Dollar denominated net financial assets in the amount of P558.9 million in 2021, a major turnaround from net foreign exchange losses of P450.8 million in 2020.

Total operating cash costs increased by 11% year-on-year to P11.73 billion from P10.61 billion in the prior year. On a per WMT sold basis, total operating cash costs increased to P654 per WMT compared to P583 per WMT in 2020.

### ***RENEWABLE ENERGY***

On the NAC renewable energy business under EPI, Jobin-SQM Inc. (JSI), an EPI subsidiary, is expected to complete its 38 MW project expansion by second quarter this year. This will increase the capacity of its Mt. Sta. Rita Solar Power Project located in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone to 100MW from the current 62MW.

In February 2021, JSI was awarded another 100 MW Solar Energy Operating Contract by the Department of Energy. JSI is currently in the pre-development stage and is looking to sign the EPC contract this year with a target of full commercial operation by 2024.

Aside from expanding JSI's projects, EPI is in the process of developing land in high irradiance areas in the country to grow its investments in solar power generation. It is in the final stages of acquiring a solar power project in Visayas.

EPI is looking to reach 1,000 MW by 2028, adding about 500MW by 2025. It is likewise in search of appropriate sites for wind power projects.

### ***INCREASED EQUITY SHARE IN CORAL BAY***

The Board of Directors also approved the exercise by the Company of its option to purchase an additional 33,046,875 common shares in Coral Bay Nickel Corporation (CBNC) for US\$25,937,500 under an Option Agreement with Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd. The Company intends to exercise its option in October 2022 or earlier, to increase the Company's equity share in CBNC from 10% to 15.625%.

### ***REGULAR AND SPECIAL CASH DIVIDEND***

Finally, the NAC Board of Directors approved the declaration of a regular cash dividend of P0.17 and a special cash dividend of P0.05 per common share payable on April 7, 2022 to shareholders of record on March 24, 2022.

For any questions and/or clarifications, please contact:

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**NICKEL ASIA CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**(Amounts in Thousands)**

	<b>December 31</b>	
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>₱10,826,806</b>	₱11,835,201
Trade and other receivables	<b>1,971,096</b>	1,438,920
Inventories	<b>2,242,932</b>	2,930,348
Financial assets at:		
Fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)	<b>5,266,080</b>	2,846,822
Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)	<b>1,122,284</b>	2,548,760
Amortized cost	–	100,000
Prepayments and other current assets	<b>2,581,867</b>	311,919
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>24,011,065</b>	22,011,970
<b>Noncurrent Assets</b>		
Property and equipment	<b>17,238,357</b>	16,889,585
Investments in associates	<b>3,812,554</b>	3,193,911
Geothermal exploration and evaluation assets	<b>1,849,936</b>	1,819,859
Financial assets at - net of current portion:		
FVTPL	<b>731,813</b>	906,626
Amortized cost	<b>460,000</b>	110,000
Deferred income tax assets - net	<b>309,746</b>	607,264
Long-term stockpile inventory - net of current portion	<b>42,535</b>	–
Other noncurrent assets	<b>3,244,876</b>	3,374,075
<b>Total Noncurrent Assets</b>	<b>27,689,817</b>	26,901,320
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>₱51,700,882</b>	₱48,913,290
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	<b>₱9,226,190</b>	₱8,033,675
Short-term debts	<b>1,492,916</b>	1,492,654
Income tax payable	<b>773,450</b>	1,034,281
Other current liability	<b>300,731</b>	261,691
Current portion of:		
Long-term debts	<b>89,248</b>	84,040
Lease liabilities	<b>35,754</b>	30,982
Long-term payable	<b>6,693</b>	7,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>11,924,982</b>	10,944,323
<b>Noncurrent Liabilities</b>		
Noncurrent portion of:		
Long-term debts	<b>867,111</b>	893,409
Lease liabilities	<b>578,190</b>	584,922
Deferred income	<b>41,899</b>	46,089
Long-term payable	–	6,093
Provision for mine rehabilitation and decommissioning	<b>823,962</b>	664,379
Pension liability	<b>624,110</b>	676,087
Deferred income tax liabilities - net	<b>511,428</b>	501,199
<b>Total Noncurrent Liabilities</b>	<b>3,446,700</b>	3,372,178
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>15,371,682</b>	14,316,501

(Forward)

	<b>December 31</b>	
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Equity Attributable to Equity Holders of the Parent</b>		
Capital stock	<b>₱6,849,836</b>	₱6,849,836
Additional paid-in capital	<b>8,271,900</b>	8,271,900
Other components of equity:		
Share in cumulative translation adjustment	<b>599,215</b>	381,991
Cost of share-based payment plan	<b>473,442</b>	441,589
Asset revaluation surplus	<b>30,565</b>	30,948
Net valuation gains on financial assets at FVOCI	<b>3,363</b>	57,771
Retained earnings:		
Unappropriated	<b>16,710,460</b>	14,952,425
Appropriated	<b>135,000</b>	189,950
Treasury stock	<b>(134,014)</b>	(134,014)
	<b>32,939,767</b>	31,042,396
<b>Non-controlling Interests (NCI)</b>	<b>3,389,433</b>	3,554,393
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>36,329,200</b>	34,596,789
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>₱51,700,882</b>	₱48,913,290

**NICKEL ASIA CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

(Amounts in Thousands, Except Earnings per Share)

	Years Ended December 31		
	2021	2020	2019
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Sale of ore and limestone	<b>₱26,099,020</b>	₱20,456,629	₱16,669,736
Services and others	<b>797,163</b>	1,026,794	861,307
Sale of power	<b>507,932</b>	288,158	392,251
	<b>27,404,115</b>	21,771,581	17,923,294
<b>COSTS</b>			
Cost of sales	<b>7,611,841</b>	7,519,981	7,105,870
Power generation	<b>361,121</b>	313,250	377,467
Services	<b>321,622</b>	328,562	331,819
	<b>8,294,584</b>	8,161,793	7,815,156
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Excise taxes and royalties	<b>2,705,929</b>	2,244,402	1,787,323
Shipping and loading costs	<b>2,255,570</b>	2,122,779	1,767,016
General and administrative	<b>1,145,907</b>	1,117,666	1,155,984
Marketing	<b>209,121</b>	208,078	157,031
	<b>6,316,527</b>	5,692,925	4,867,354
<b>FINANCE INCOME</b>	<b>162,075</b>	238,293	405,598
<b>FINANCE EXPENSES</b>	<b>(244,081)</b>	(274,502)	(343,655)
<b>EQUITY IN NET INCOME OF ASSOCIATES</b>	<b>557,863</b>	190,447	10,383
<b>OTHER INCOME (CHARGES) - net</b>	<b>701,593</b>	(263,209)	168,824
<b>INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAX</b>	<b>13,970,454</b>	7,807,892	5,481,934
<b>PROVISION FOR (BENEFIT FROM) INCOME TAX</b>			
Current	<b>3,162,852</b>	2,564,732	1,790,581
Deferred	<b>169,428</b>	(245,882)	(135,075)
	<b>3,332,280</b>	2,318,850	1,655,506
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>₱10,638,174</b>	₱5,489,042	₱3,826,428
Net income attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent	<b>₱7,812,575</b>	₱4,068,732	₱2,684,969
NCI	<b>2,825,599</b>	1,420,310	1,141,459
	<b>₱10,638,174</b>	₱5,489,042	₱3,826,428
<b>Basic/Diluted Earnings Per Share</b>	<b>₱0.57</b>	₱0.30	₱0.20