



PRESS RELEASE: NICKEL ASIA CORP. ANNOUNCES 970 MILLION NET INCOME FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 2023; NAMED BEST BASIC MATERIALS COMPANY BY FINANCE ASIA

Taguig, May 12, 2023 – Listed natural resources development firm Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) (PSE: NIKL) announced its unaudited financial and operating results for the three-month period ended March 31, 2023.

During the period, the Company recorded an attributable net income (net of minority interest) of P970 million, down 8 percent from P1.05 billion year-on-year. Foreign exchange losses of P202 million attributed to NAC's financial assets contributed to the decline in net income.

Revenues rose by 5.7 percent to P3.51 billion from P3.32 billion in the same period last year, driven by the combination of favorable exchange rates and better prices on ore export sales. Operating mines sold a combined 2.39 million wet metric tonnes (WMT) of nickel ore, which remained stable compared to the same period the year prior.

The Company exported 604 Thousand WMT of saprolite and limonite ore at the average price of \$50.37/WMT during the period against 651 Thousand WMT at \$47.48/WMT from the previous year.

Additionally, the Company delivered 1.79 million WMT of limonite ore to the Coral Bay and Taganito high pressure acid leach (HPAL) plants, realizing an average price of \$11.98 per pound of payable nickel for this quarter. This compares to 1.74 million WMT at \$11.80 per pound of payable nickel in the same period of the previous year. However, the average price for the deliveries to the HPAL plants decreased to \$18.84/WMT from \$19.58/WMT a year ago due to weaker cobalt prices.

As a result, the weighted average nickel ore sales price during the period decreased by 1.4 percent to \$26.80/WMT from \$27.19/WMT last year. The Company realized P54.80 per US dollar from nickel ore sales, a 6.4-percent increase from P51.51 year-on-year.

The group's consolidated Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) totaled P2.21 billion, relatively unchanged from the same period last year. NAC also recognized gains from its equity interests in the two HPAL plants in the combined amount of P252 million against P305 million the year prior.

"We remain bullish on the nickel sector. Despite the current nickel surplus resulting from the ramp-up in Indonesian nickel production, the accelerating pace of electric vehicle adoption, evidenced by the 25 percent year-on-year increase in electric car sales for the first quarter of 2023, will continue to be the main driver of the nickel sector over the long-term," said Martin Antonio G. Zamora, President and CEO.

Renewable Energy

Emerging Power, Inc.'s subsidiary, Jobin-SQM Inc. (JSI), increased its electricity generation by 61 percent to 37,628-megawatt hours and revenues by 84 percent to P182.25 million in the period, operating at 100-MWp capacity since adding an additional 38-MWp in July 2022.

Higher revenues and effective cost management kept JSI's EBITDA margin at 83 percent, with EBITDA rising by 90 percent to P151.35 million compared to year-ago levels. The Company also saw an 85-percent increase in net income to P26.30 million compared to P14.23 million last year.

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.

In addition, pre-development activities for EPI's second long-term lease agreement with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority have commenced and construction of a 130-MWp plant is expected to begin in early 2024. Furthermore, Greenlight Renewables Holdings, Inc., EPI's joint venture with Shell Overseas Investments B.V., is slated to launch its first project in the latter half of 2023.

NAC Awarded by FinanceAsia

In April 2023, NAC received the distinction of being awarded the Best Basic Materials Company in the Philippines by FinanceAsia, the premier capital markets publication in the region, during its Asia's Best Companies Awards 2023. The awards are based on nominations by Asia's active community of investors and financial analysts and are a highly regarded benchmark of the region's best. NAC

received a Gold citation and was one of only four companies in the Basic Materials Company sector recognized this year.

"This award further legitimizes our efforts to continuously improve our operations and our processes. As we continue to lay the foundation for a more resilient and sustainable NAC, we are again recognized for our commitment to true sustainable development. We remain on track towards achieving our twin goal by 2025 of becoming the premier ESG investment in the country and among the top 25 PSE-listed companies in terms of market capitalization," said Jose Bayani Baylon, NAC Senior Vice President for Sustainability, Risk, Corporate Affairs, and Communications.

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 with interests in the country's only two high-pressure acid leach plants and in a renewable energy subsidiary. Here 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 saprolite ore: high-grade and mid-grade. Most of our high-grade saprolite ore is used as feed for ferronickel smelters while our mid-grade saprolite ore is used as feed for electric furnaces to produce high- and medium-grade nickel pig iron. Our renewable energy subsidiary aims to engage in power generation exclusively from renewable sources. In a short period of time, we have built up through acquisitions a portfolio of renewable energy service contracts across solar, onshore 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 help bring products that would move the world towards a progressive and sustainable future, always conscious of being stewards of the environment where we operate. Learn more at www.nickelasia.com and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.