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PAMAVTECH, Leverage International, and BOMI International Bring Certification Program to Plant and Facility Management in the Philippines

Named as one of the Next Eleven (N-11) countries to become the world's largest economies in the 21st century, the Philippines' property market remains a promising investment opportunity, despite a weak global economy. "The business leaders have been cautious; however, optimism remains high. Asian companies in general are in much better shape compared to other regions," says Ayala Land's Chief Financial Officer, and Asian Public Real Estate Association President, Jaime Ysmael.

Expected to grow to about \$9.2 billion USD by 2010 (Philippine Infrastructure Q306 Report), the nation's construction industry continues to perform well amidst a global slowdown. However, like most newly industrialized countries, substantial growth potential is dependant on the Philippines' ability to secure foreign investment opportunities and maintain a high Business Environment Ranking (BER).

Infrastructure projects continue to be a concern for Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who understands that strengthening the nation's appeal to investors will create economic stability and security for the country. Focusing on fulfilling the need for professionally managed plants and facilities to increase the nation's investor appeal, Philippine-based Leverage International, a consultancy company, and PAMAV Training Institute and Technology Center, Inc. (PAMAVTECH), a competency based training institution, have partnered with BOMI International to bring professional education to plant and facility managers in the region.

Managed by former Philippine Board of Investments managers who played key roles in developing Philippine industrial and investment programs, Leverage International understands the need for foreign investment opportunities in stabilizing and strengthening the Philippine economy.

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“Locally there is no certification program for property and facility management positions,” says Cecilia Sanchez, CEO and Chair of Leverage International. With over P56.026 billion going into infrastructure projects, there is a tremendous need for facility managers to provide superior management and technician support.

Only 32% of the projects President Arroyo promised during her 2008 State of the Nation Address have been completed, according to the end-2008 report of the Departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), which again reinforces a need for professionally trained project managers.

PAMAVTECH has partnered with BOMI International to fulfill its vision to provide continuing professional education and certification recognized internationally by engineers, technicians, and academicians, and to nurture the talents of graduating students. PAMAVTECH is focused on competency-based training programs that assess industry needs, assuring that the trainees’ are properly prepared for the demands of working internationally and within the Philippines.

Together, PAMAVTECH, Leverage International, and BOMI International will advance the skills of property and facility managers throughout the Philippines. “We are looking to bring technicians to a management level, giving them the opportunity for job promotion, international accreditation, and a chance to gain qualifications to work overseas,” says Engr. Rodolfo R. Penalosa, President of PAMAVTECH, and current Chairman, Technical Panel for Engineering and Technology, Commission on Higher Education.

Leverage International and PAMAVTECH will begin pursuing their vision by offering courses included in BOMI International’s Systems Maintenance Technician (SMT®) and Systems Maintenance Administrator (SMA®) designations. The courses are open to anyone in the Philippines interested in becoming a facility manager, maintenance manager, plant manager, or plant engineer. For more information, call (632) 818-6828, or e-mail contact@LeverageInternational.com.

About BOMI International

Founded in 1970 and located in Annapolis, Maryland, BOMI International is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization. As the primary educational resource for today’s top corporations, government agencies, property management firms, unions, and trade associations, BOMI’s goal is to work across industry sectors to improve the skills of professionals at many levels with property, facility, and systems responsibilities. BOMI is known for industry-standard designations—the Real Property Administrator (**RPA**®), the Facilities Management Administrator (**FMA**®), the Systems Maintenance Administrator (**SMA**®), and the Systems Maintenance Technician (**SMT**®). More than 20,000 building professionals hold one or more BOMI designations, and over 80,000 students have turned to BOMI for premier education and training. For more information, or to register with BOMI International, e-mail service@bomi.org, visit www.bomi.org, or call 800-235-BOMI (2664).

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