



October 6, 2011

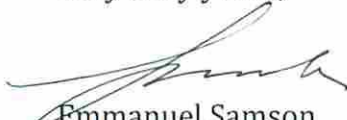
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE INC.
3F Philippine Stock Exchange Plaza
Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue
Makati City

Attention: Ms. Janet A. Encarnacion
Head, Disclosure Department

Dear Ms. Encarnacion;

Find attached is our press release disclosing information on the Company's shipments by tonnage and value for the 9-month period ending September 30, 2011.

Very truly yours,



Emmanuel Samson
Senior Vice President



PRESS RELEASE

NICKEL ASIA 9-MONTH SHIPMENTS HITS P9.8B, UP 78%

The Company's total estimated value of nickel ore shipments amounted to P9.8 billion in the nine months ended September 30, 2011, a 78% increase compared to the P5.7 billion reported in the same period last year. The increase in shipments was mainly due to the surge in demand and improved pricing for nickel ore sold to Chinese customers. This was brought about by the strong growth in China's nickel pig iron (NPI) industry.

The average realized exchange rate during the period January to September 2011 was P43.10 to the dollar.

The total volume of nickel ore shipped from the Company's four lateritic mines reached an aggregate 4.0 million wet metric tonnes (WMT) during the third quarter of 2011, or almost equivalent to the level of shipments made during the first half of the year. As a result, the Company sold an aggregate total of 8.3 million WMT of nickel ore during the first nine months as compared to 5.8 million WMT in the same period last year, an increase of 43%.

In terms of price, the estimated realized nickel price applicable to 3.3 million WMT of ore shipped in the first nine months was at an average of \$10.88 per pound of payable nickel as against \$9.57 per pound of payable nickel during the same period last year. The balance of the shipments, which are mainly the low and medium grade variety ore sold to Chinese customers, was sold on the basis of a negotiated price per WMT of ore which averaged \$23.79 per WMT of ore compared to \$17.86 per WMT of ore.

While the price for high grade nickel ore typically tracks LME nickel price, the ore of medium grade and low grade variety does not always follow in the same direction. In fact, the Company benefited from the

much improved pricing of ore sold to China, which increased by an average of 50% so far this year, despite LME nickel price falling by up to 27%.

Of the various types of laterite ore sold to Chinese customers this year, the most notable were the increases in the shipments of medium grade nickel ore (1.4% - 1.6%), whereby demand may have been driven by the high price and limited supply of higher grade nickel ore. There was also a substantial increase in demand for laterite ore with high iron content, which is used in the production of carbon steel.

NPI has become the preferred material for China's stainless steel producers due to the limited availability of ferro-nickel and stainless steel scrap. There is also additional cost savings due to the free iron content in NPI.