



Legal Watch

PHILIPPINES HIGHLIGHTS ROLE AS RELIABLE SOURCE OF GREEN INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS IN STEEL SECTOR DISCUSSIONS



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SUMMARY

The Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Kuala Lumpur (PTIC-Kuala Lumpur) supported discussions between the Philippine Embassy, SteelAsia Manufacturing Corporation, and the Philippine Iron and Steel Institute on 23 April 2026 regarding expansion plans, sustainability initiatives, and regional opportunities for the Philippine steel sector.

SteelAsia presented its program to increase domestic steel production through new mills in key regions, with the objective of reducing import dependence and supporting infrastructure and manufacturing demand. The company also highlighted its low-carbon production initiatives, including electric arc furnace technology, increased use of recycled steel, and renewable-energy integration. Its projects in Candelaria and Lemery, Batangas have reportedly received Board of Investments “green lane” certification, which may facilitate approvals for qualifying strategic investments.

The discussions also emphasized the need for competitive energy costs, long-term policy stability, skilled workforce development, and stronger intra-ASEAN partnerships to support industrial growth. The development signals continued government interest in promoting domestic manufacturing capacity and lower-carbon industrial production, particularly in sectors linked to construction, infrastructure, and regional supply chains.

ACTIONABLE ADVICE

Steel producers, construction companies, manufacturers, and industrial suppliers should monitor opportunities arising from domestic capacity expansion and possible demand for locally sourced steel, recycled materials, energy-efficient equipment, logistics, and technical services. Businesses considering new steel, manufacturing, or green-industrial projects should assess the availability of investment incentives, including potential BOI registration and green-lane eligibility.

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