



# CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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## ILLINOIS-BASED COMPANIES PARTNER WITH PHILIPPINE FIRM TO MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTE INDUSTRIAL BATTERIES IN THE PHILIPPINES



*Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin (standing, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) witnesses the signing of the agreement among (seated, from left): RP Connect-RPC Prime CEO Noubikko P. Ulanday, GR8 Seas Holding Inc. President William J. Stephens, and Tecchren Inc. CEO SriramaRaju Chakravaram. Also witnessing the signing are (standing, from left): Consul Melchor M.P. Lalunio, GR8 Seas SVP Bob Jeter, GR8 Seas VP Ramon Pacheco, and Consul Ryan Gener.*  
*(Photo: Chicago PCG/Arnel Santiago)*

Chicago, 22 August 2019 – In a simple signing ceremony at the Kalayaan Hall of the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago on 14 August 2019, Illinois-based companies GR8 Seas Holding Inc. and Tecchren Inc. signed a business agreement with RP Connect (USA) – RPC Prime (Philippines) to manufacture and distribute different types of batteries to store and power vehicles, devices and electricity grids in India and the Philippines.

Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin welcomed the companies' executives to the Consulate and lauded them for reaching an agreement to manufacture cutting-edge electric vehicle (EV) and other industrial batteries, which would significantly contribute to the Philippines' efforts to achieve sustainable growth through viable domestic sources of renewable energy. The agreement is yet another concrete manifestation that the Philippines – the fastest growing economy in Asia, where significant steps have been taken to enhance the ease of doing business – is now considered a top country to invest in.

GR8 Seas Holding Inc. President William J. Stephens, RP Connect (USA)/RPC Prime (Philippines) CEO Noubikko P. Ulanday, and India-based Tecchren Inc. CEO SriramaRaju Chakravaram signed the agreement. Witnessing the agreement with Consul General Jamoralin were Consul Melchor M.P. Lalunio, Consul Ryan Gener, GR8 Seas Senior Vice President for Engineering Bob Jeter, and GR8 Seas Vice President for Waste and Water Solutions Ramon Pacheco.

The agreement covers the expansion of Tecchren's manufacturing and technology centers in India and the U.S., and the construction of manufacturing and distribution facilities in the Philippines. The Philippine manufacturing and distribution facility is scheduled to be completed in 2021, in time for the expected surge in demand for batteries.

The three companies see a robust growth in the global demand for batteries, including those for EVs. Tecchren and RP Connect-RPC Prime noted the current government's openness to use EVs (e.g, e-jeepneys, e-trikes, and e-buses), which creates a strong consumer base for the product. GR8 Seas Holdings is also programming additional investments in the manufacture of other types of batteries in the Philippines.

The Philippine Consulate facilitated the investment by providing active assistance to GR8 Seas Holdings in pursuing the venture since 2018. **END**

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