

Pacific Sunday News

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PUC approves 132MW solar project in Yona

Guam's biggest yet

By Joe Taitano II
Pacific Daily News

Construction of the island's largest solar farm to date can move forward on a 627.6 acre parcel off

Cross Island Road in Yona, with the Public Utilities Commission approving the project.

The solar facility is a joint venture of the Samsung-KEPCO-EWP consortium, doing business as KES Yona Solar LLC, which will build the 132-megawatt, estimated 250,000 panel solar farm.

When complete it will be the

largest solar farm for the island by far, with more than twice the output of the current largest, the 60 MW Mangilao Solar Project.

By comparison, the Guam Power Authority reported power demand for the whole island hit a peak of about 267 MW at one point last August, the highest in years. At full output, the Yona facility will deliv-

er close to half of that.

And the facility will also come with a 66 MW battery, capable of storing about 50% of energy produced during the day and "shifting" it for use during the evening hours, when power demand shoots up, GPA General Manager John

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Local attorney Vince Camacho talks about how 55,000 able-bodied people of Guam are able to work, but do not seek jobs, during the 2025 Career and Technical Education Summit held at the University of Guam Lecture Hall on Feb. 28, 2025. Pictured at left is Jared Baldwin, executive pastor at Harvest Ministries.

'We need to do something': Summit looks at ways to get people employed, stay on island

By Jojo Santo Tomas
Pacific Daily News

Showing up on time. Excellence in soft skills. Pay inequity and disparate costs of living and qualities of life. Artificial intelligence. Problem solving and conflict resolution.

Passion, drive and initiative.

Those were some of the big topics covered at the 2025 Career and Technical Education or CTE Summit, which started Friday evening at the University of Guam Lecture Hall. The summit was geared to-

ward island educators, and there were plenty of Guam Department of Education classroom staff hanging on to every word.

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GVB: \$103K in sponsorships bring in visitors, exposure for Guam

By Jojo Santo Tomas
Pacific Daily News

The Guam Visitors Bureau said \$103,000 worth of sponsorships for four organizations approved by its Board of Directors on Thursday will bring in visitors and provide needed exposure for Guam.

The sponsorships fall under GVB's Grants-and-Aid division. Interested entities can pick up a grants aid packet, which usually requires a breakdown on what they will use the money for.

The four entities requested for and were granted \$103,000 collectively, with the International Dragon Boat Festival topping the request chart with \$27,000.

Guam's Dragon Boat Federation is looking to retire the three aging boats that it owns and purchase six new boats, in time for its 7th Annual event in November, said Lisa Bordallo, GVB spokesperson.

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\$5 WOW BREAKFAST

PREMIUM LAVAZZA COFFEE

CHICKEN FIELD SALAD

CHICKEN RICE BOWL

LEMON MERIT & HONEY

it's finger lickin' good

ANILAO • BARRIGADA • BEBEDO • MANGILAO
TANJONG • YIGO • MICRONESIA MALL • GPO
KFC Guam KFC.com/guam

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Guam EPA warns of 14 polluted beaches

Pacific Daily News

The Guam Environmental Protection Agency announced 14 polluted beaches on the island.

Based on the results of 22 samples taken by Guam EPA on Feb. 27, the following recreational waters were identified to be polluted above the accepted bacteriological standards:

- Hagåt: Bangi Beach, Togcha Beach - Bridge, Togcha Beach - Cemetery
- Asan: Adelup Beach Park, Adelup Point Beach (West)
- Hagåtña: Hagåtña Bayside Park, Hagåtña Channel - Outrig-

ger Ramp

- Piti: Santos Memorial
- Tarruning: Dungca's Beach, East Hagåtña Bay - Alupang Tower Beach, East Hagåtña Bay - Trinchera Beach, Naton Beach - Fujita, Naton Beach - San Vitores
- Humåtak: Toguan Bay

Swimming, fishing or playing in unsafe waters may result in minor illnesses such as sore throats or diarrhea. It may also result in more serious illnesses such as meningitis, encephalitis, or severe gastroenteritis.

Children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems



POW FILE PHOTO

The Asan Beach Park in Asan on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

have a greater chance of getting sick when they come in contact with contaminated water.

The Recreational Waters Pollution Report is compiled by Guam

EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Analytical Services Division.

Guam EPA has performed this community service weekly since 1974. The EMAS Division takes water samples of 43 recreational beaches every Thursday (adjustments are made during official holidays) and analyzes the samples for concentrations of the enterococcus bacteria indicator.

Advisories are based on a Statistical Threshold Value of 130 enterococci/100mL and a geometric mean standard of not greater than 35 enterococci/100 mL.

Summit

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The theme for this year: the state of the working economy.

From the takeaways from keynote speaker, economist Roseanne Jones, dean of the UOG School of Business and Public Administration; and the lively discussion from the various experts on the panel, it did not take long to realize that Guam has plenty of job openings in every department of every industry. Whether Guam had the qualified bodies to fill those openings was another matter.

Attorney Vince Camacho reiterated some sobering facts from the Guam Department of Labor.

"There are 62,000 people in the workforce, but there's 55,000 people who are employable who are not looking for work. That's 45%," he said. "And 33% of those people are between the ages of 18-24. How do we get those 55,000 people to work? Because that will help."

Camacho acknowledged that some Guam employers will "steal" talented employees from other employers, and some of them take those employees — and their families — elsewhere, contributing to a



JOJO SANTO TOMAS/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

Industry experts representing various industries including advertising, government economics, engineering firms, the Guam Legislature, the hospitality industry, a local church, a private equipment company and law firms took turns answering questions and offering insights on the local workforce at the 2025 Career and Technical Education Summit held at the University of Guam Lecture Hall on Feb. 28, 2025. At far right is moderator and current ACTE President Charlie Hermosa.

brain drain. He doesn't at all blame people for wanting what's best for their families.

"We need to do something as a community to help the businesses better their benefits and compensation packages. We need to lower the cost of living on Guam for them to stay," he said. "But if someone has a better cost of living, a better quality of life, then we cannot compete. We've lost a lot of good people. We can't lose anymore."

The panelists agreed that while top students are bound to get the better jobs as a general rule, they told the teachers present to help the students hone their non-technical, or soft skills.

"What we're looking for

is showing up on time. The other thing is the soft skillset as well. Being able to communicate cross-generation, cross-contractors, throughout some of the different commands and specialties that we work with," said Cmdr. Jamie Rivas, professional engineer and executive officer for OICC NavFac Pacific.

She said she isn't necessarily looking for every technical competency. Those are some of the things that they train whether they are for the sailor or for the tradesmen.

"We don't need them to know everything, we can help them develop that. But I can't train initiative. I can't train to care about the job and performing well.

As well as being able to understand failure and being able to fail safely by asking questions showing partial progress before asking, 'Am I doing this right?' Rivas said.

Kenneth Rekdahl, a professional engineer with Duenas, Camacho and Associates, said that his company has taken to hiring high school students. They take pictures and shadow jobsite inspectors, he said, and they will learn and ask questions. Soon enough, they will be young experts.

Mel Mendiola, from the Guam Economic Development Authority, businessman Tae Oh who chairs the Guam Chamber of Commerce, and other panelists all offered poignant re-



JOJO SANTO TOMAS/PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

Cmdr. Jamie Rivas, professional engineer and executive officer at OICC NavFac Pacific, talks about the soft skills that employers look for, skills that prospective employees need to separate themselves from a pool of qualified applicants at the 2025 ACTE Summit held at the University of Guam Lecture Hall on Feb. 28, 2025.

marks too.

Tiyan High School Principal Sophia Duenas said she enjoyed the summit and felt validated that her school incorporates soft skills training across all grade levels.

"The summit was informative in both directions and I really hope with the conversations we had today we can really bridge that gap," she said. "Provide the experiences for the high school students, provide a pathway for our students to straight into the industry. And for the educators to make our students more skilled workers, and so that we therefore build that economy for Guam, and keep our people on our island."

Pacific Daily News reporter Jojo Santo Tomas covers all interesting topics, including sports. Email him at jsantotomago@guampdn.com.