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TeaM Energy touts CSR project

THE consortium of Tokyo Electric Power Co. and Marubeni Corp said it completed what it claims to be the Philippines' biggest corporate social responsibility (CSR) program by electrifying thousands of villages across the country.

In a statement, TeaM Energy said the company, through TeaM Energy Foundation, has turned over to the Department of Energy the list of 1,500 barangays it has given electricity access.

"This paves the way for local economic development and increased livelihood and income opportunities for beneficiary barangays," Federico Puno, TeaM Energy president and CEO, said. The company also provided a two-kilometer submarine cable connecting the island barangay of Cabalitian to the Pangasinan mainland.

Satoru Harada, TeaM Energy executive vice president for business development and corporate, said that with the connection of Cabalitian to the main grid, Pangasinan is now 100 percent energized at the barangay level. Cabalitian Island is located 3.3 kilometers off TeaM Energy's 1,218 megawatt Sual Power Station in Barangay Pangascasan.

It is composed of around 250 households, totaling close to a thousand residents who will now have access to electricity 24/7. While most island residents rely on fishing for their livelihood, Cabalitian also has several tourist resorts. Cabalitian Island was among the last beneficiaries of TeaM Energy's nationwide electrification program dubbed Project Beacon (Barangay Electrification Assistance for Countryside Development).

Started in 2001 and completed at a cost of P1.5 billion, the project is to date, the largest CSR program undertaken by a private corporation in the country. It has provided electricity in several regions around the country including conflict areas in Mindanao. The program has benefited an estimated 300,000 families and 1.5 million individuals.