

Asia seen as core market for cargo handling

By MYRNA M. VELASCO

The Asian region is seen as a growth market for cargo-handling and project logistics ventures given robust economic growths of various countries and the forecasted expansion of some industries - including those in the energy sector.

For the World Project Group (WPG), which lists members from companies engaged in project transport operations, several countries in the region such as Vietnam, Thailand and China are strategic markets they have been looking at given their brisk economic expansions.

In the Philippines, upstream activities in the oil and gas sector is seen as the core to drive up demand for shipping or transport services, given the aggressive effort set out by the Department of Energy (DOE) for seismic and eventual exploration activities, according to Filip Benoit, executive vice president of Supply Oilfield Services, Inc.

SOS counts roughly 28 years of providing logistical support services for projects, and one of the biggest clients it had so far in the Philippines was Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. for the Malampaya gas field project.

The company remains hopeful of expanding its list of clients, primarily on upcoming oil and gas exploration ventures that may include the proposed Malampaya oil rim.

Meanwhile, Michael P. Ellsworth, managing director of Singapore-based Altus, another member of WPG, noted that drilling activities in Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar are potential markets for expansion; and this can be complemented by propose expansion of gas pipelines among Southeast Asian countries.

WPG members take special interests on wide range of projects on oil and gas; power generation, water treatment, mining and other industries with high market complexity and requiring special handling.