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Clark pitched as new 'aerotropolis' to global investors

By **BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT**

KUALA LUMPUR – The Philippines has made a strong pitch before global investors the master-planned development of Clark, a former American military base north of Manila, which is being developed as Asia's next 'aerotropolis.'

Aerotropolis is the concept of developing a city with the airport at its center.

Joshua M. Bingcang Senior VP for Business Development & Operations Group Bases Conversion Development Authority Group (BCDA), joined other airport operators, city planners, social infrastructure developers, and city council representatives during the 3rd Annual Aerotropolis Conference held here.

Aside from Bingcang, distinguished guest speakers who attended the conference were Alan Isaacs, director of Asia Pacific International Business at the Munich Airport International in Germany; Jomon Varghese, managing director and CEO of Aertopolis Group in Australia; Rob Mactaggart, chief executive officer of The Airport Group Australia; Arja Lukin, project director of Airport City Aviapolis in Vantaa, Finland; Caspar Baum, director aviation of Surbana Jurong Private Limited in Singapore; and Cosmas Hamadziripi, director of policy and plan-

ning of the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in South Africa.

Speaking on the topic "Building a smart and sustainable airport city: Creating new growth center," Bingcang said Clark is all set to emerge as Asia's next aerotropolis.

As a strategic investment opportunity, Bingcang said, "Clark is on its way to becoming Asia's next aerotropolis with the development not only of the airport, but the Clark Freeport as well, and the construction of the first smart, green, and resilient New Clark City (NCC)."

Bingcang invited potential investors for the construction of the access road from Clark International Airport (CRK) to the NCC, the new metropolis that will rise in the Clark Special Economic Zone; and the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the Clark airport. The CRK is envisioned to be a major gateway, with its capacity expected to increase to 80 million passengers yearly at full development.

A new world-class terminal building, which broke ground last December, 2017, is projected to accommodate eight million passengers per annum. Phase 1 is expected to be completed by June, 2020.

* INVESTMENT