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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Occidental Mindoro, Philippines

**4,000-HOUSEHOLD EXPANSION OF THE PHILIPPINES SMART SOLAR NETWORK PROJECT TO
INTRODUCE SOLAR-POWERED COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS AS PART OF COVID-19 RESPONSE**

InfraCo Asia, with funding from the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) Technical Assistance, and joint venture partner AIEC-ILAW, are providing a USD 118,000 grant to support the installation of three solar-powered clean water supply and distribution systems in response to the COVID-19 crisis, improving long-term water security for rural communities in the Lubang Islands archipelago of Occidental Mindoro, Philippines. Rural communities in the Philippines experienced reduced access to community well sources and bottled drinking water under recent lockdown measures. The water systems are expected to serve approximately 765 households located close to the microgrid sites and will be powered by the smart solar electrification solution that is in development as part of InfraCo Asia and AIEC-ILAW's 4,000-household expansion plans for the Philippines Smart Solar Network project.

The Philippines Smart Solar Network project, a joint development by InfraCo Asia – through Infunde Development (InfraCo Asia's contracted developer team for Southeast Asia), and AIEC-ILAW, aims to demonstrate a commercially viable rural electrification model through a highly replicable, phased roll-out that ultimately targets to serve 200,000 households with 35MWp in aggregate power generation capacity. The project consists of smart 'mesh' grid controllers combined with solar modules and batteries. These are paired with digital software to enable real-time, remote revenue collection and monitoring of energy consumption.

Following the success of the 62-household pilot phase in San Isidro, Busuanga, InfraCo Asia and AIEC-ILAW recently signed a Joint Investment and Development Agreement (JIDA) confirming plans for the sixtyfold expansion of the Philippines Smart Solar Network project. Through the expansion phase, the project will provide new and improved access to clean energy for 4,000 households or around 20,000 people in hard-to-access regions of the Philippines.

In addition to this, InfraCo Asia, with funding from the Private Infrastructure Development Group's (PIDG) Technical Assistance, and AIEC-ILAW are also providing a USD 118,000 grant to support the installation of off-grid solar-powered water supply systems in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Water security for rural communities in the Philippines came under threat under recent lockdown measures, due to reduced access to community well sources and bottled drinking water. Three clean water supply systems will be integrated with the Philippines Smart Solar Network project's microgrid networks, improving long-term water security for approximately 765 households in the island communities of Occidental Mindoro, Philippines.

As an extension of the Philippines Smart Solar Network project, the three clean water supply systems will be among the first off-grid solar-powered water purification and distribution systems in the Philippines. Renewable energy from the project will enable the purification and storage of clean water sources, its piped delivery to households, and use for small-scale irrigation. Successful implementation of these solar-powered water systems could unlock potential for the future rollout of similar off-grid energy-water nexus systems by Island Light and Water Energy Development Corporation (ILAW), an investment partner in the Philippines Smart Solar Network project.

When fully operational, approximately 3,800 people will benefit from new or improved access to clean water supply. Access to clean water is expected to support hand-washing hygiene, reduce the risk of contracting waterborne diseases, as well as reduce time spent on domestic work by women and children, who typically travel a distance in order to secure water for household needs.

InfraCo Asia CEO Allard Nooy said, “InfraCo Asia aims to serve as a catalyst for greater private sector investment in the Philippines’ rural electrification sector through its involvement in the Philippines Smart Solar Network project. With governments’ increased focus on pandemic response and economic stimulus measures, private sector participation is now needed more than ever to ensure that infrastructure development stays on track to support overall economic health and recovery, as well as enable countries’ and communities’ greater resiliency to future shocks.”

AIEC-ILAW representative Rick LaCroix said, “The three water system projects are being implemented under the auspices of and in partnership with the Lubang Electric Cooperative (LUBELCO). AIEC-ILAW’s collaboration with the local utility is central to our plans to provide expanded utility services designed to sustain the economic health and resilience of local communities in the face of challenges such as the pandemic.”

Energy infrastructure continues to be critical to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. InfraCo Asia and AIEC-ILAW recently implemented a 75% energy bill subsidy for all end users of the Philippines Smart Solar Network project, helping San Isidro’s off-grid community maintain affordable access to clean energy. Off-grid communities, particularly in the Philippines, were isolating themselves as a precautionary measure. This cut off access to the usual channels of income for the fishing community in San Isidro, Busuanga, where the 62-household pilot has been in operation since November 2019.

ENDS

About InfraCo Asia

1. InfraCo Asia Development Pte Ltd (InfraCo Asia) is a commercially managed infrastructure development and investment company of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG).
2. Headquartered in Singapore, InfraCo Asia catalyses greater private sector investment in infrastructure across south and southeast Asia by providing funding and development expertise. As an investor, InfraCo Asia funds early-stage infrastructure development activities to realise socially responsible and commercially viable infrastructure that contributes to economic growth, social development and poverty reduction. At the appropriate time in the project life cycle, InfraCo Asia aims to exit each project through the sale of its stake to the private sector.
3. Infunde Development (Infunde) is mandated to provide development services for originating, developing and financing socially responsible and commercially viable infrastructure projects across southeast Asia, in a contract under InfraCo Asia's Developer Services Programme. Infunde is led by a multi-disciplinary team with experience across a variety of sectors.
4. InfraCo Asia is currently funded by four members of PIDG – the governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Australia.

For more information, please visit www.infracoasia.com and www.infundedevelop.com.

About PIDG and PIDG TA

The Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) is an innovative infrastructure development and finance organisation which encourages and mobilises private investment in pioneering infrastructure in the frontier markets of sub-Saharan Africa and south and south-east Asia to promote economic development and combat poverty. PIDG delivers its ambition in line with its values of opportunity, accountability, safety, integrity and impact. Since 2002, PIDG has supported 157 infrastructure projects to financial close and provided 209 million people with access to new or improved infrastructure. PIDG is funded by six governments (the UK, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, Sweden, Germany) and the IFC

PIDG TA can provide technical assistance and capital grants to the PIDG companies to meet a range of needs associated with an infrastructure project's life-cycle. PIDG TA can also provide up-front viability gap funding grants to support PIDG projects that require concessional funding to make a project with strong development impact financeable

For more information, please visit www.pidg.org.

About AIEC-ILAW

The Association of Isolated Electric Cooperatives – Island Light and Water Corp. (“AIEC-ILAW”) is the electrification and clean energy venture of the Association of Isolated Electric Cooperatives (“AIEC”), the Rural Electrification Finance Corporation of the Philippines (“REFC”) and their strategic technical partner ILAW Energy Development Corporation (“ILAW”).

AIEC is an association of 44 electric utilities in the Philippines, including BISELCO and LUBELCO, which govern the sites in which the Philippines Smart Solar Network project is currently being developed.