

## **Investree Philippines obtains SEC approval to operate the first crowdfunding platform for SME financing in the Philippines**

**January 11, 2021** – A fintech-based joint venture company between the Gotianun-led Filinvest Development Corp. (FDC) and Investree Singapore Pte. Ltd. -- received approval from the Philippines' Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to operate the first licensed crowdfunding platform for SME financing in the country. This is the very first issuance to any company since the SEC released its implementing rules and regulations in 2019. Investree Philippines aims to address the largely underserved \$200+ billion MSME credit gap in the Philippines.

As the first-ever company to obtain this license, Investree Philippines is gearing up to provide financing solutions to MSMEs in the Philippines and help them access capital to boost their growth. Investree aims to do this by connecting SMEs and startups with institutional investors through its marketplace platform.

“We are proud to bring in the first licensed platform in the country and to contribute towards the further development of SMEs through Investree Philippines, especially now that we are working to reignite the economy. We believe that Investree is a good channel for SMEs to tap in their drive towards reestablishing and growing their businesses and contributing to the country’s economic recovery and growth,” said Josephine Gotianun-Yap, President and CEO of FDC.

Investree Co-Founder & Regional CEO, Adrian Gunadi, further added, “Together with FDC, I am confident that Investree Philippines will be able to help increase financial inclusion in the Philippines. FDC’s robust ecosystem including Eastwest Bank and their knowledge of the local market will help the process of connecting lenders and SMEs become more seamless. Working alongside them, we now have an operations and business model that ensures optimal service to support the growth of SMEs in the region.”

It is reported that SMEs have large financial requirements to be considered as microfinance but are too small to be effectively served by corporate banking models given issues such as lack of collateral and credit history, thus creating the financial credit gap for this “middle segment”.

“SMEs are the backbone of our economy, contributing 35% of the country’s GDP and employing more than 60% of the local workforce, yet this segment remains underserved,” mentions Xavier Marzan, Managing Director of FDC’s venture and innovations arm f(dev), a wholly owned subsidiary of Filinvest Development Corporation, who spearheaded this initiative.

“With the support of FDC, Investree Philippines is harnessing the power of technology and data to develop and scale a robust risk scoring model that helps with the labor-intensive credit assessment processes that are experienced by traditional banking and lending institutions. We want to further innovate on this capability to financially include more businesses in the Philippines,” Marzan added.

Investree was established in 2015 with a mission to support the growth of Indonesia’s underserved SMEs ecosystem. As a pioneer in fintech lending in Indonesia, Investree connects lenders who are open to lending their money with borrowers who need financing support to grow their businesses. Investree has been named "Best Fintech of the Year" by The Asset Magazine, "Best P2P Lending Platform for SMEs" by The Asian Banker, and "30 Most Promising Growth-Stage Startups" by Forbes. Strengthening its regional presence, the company has recently expanded its regional reach in Thailand and the Philippines.

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### **About Filinvest Development Corporation**

Filinvest Development Corp. (FDC) is one of the leading, most stable and diversified conglomerates in the Philippines. Through its diverse businesses, FDC has established a strong reputation as a dependable partner in economic development. FDC currently has strategic holdings in key industries

such as real estate development and leasing, banking and financial services, hotel and resort management, power generation, and sugar. FDC aims to grow this legacy of success by continuing to strengthen its position in the industries where it competes and embarking on new endeavors that will bolster its role in nation building.

**About Investree Philippines**

We are on a mission to empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), seeing their great potential in leading and driving the economic growth of the country. The business-to-business lending marketplace we pioneered in Indonesia has championed the provision of capital access to entrepreneurs, augmenting business financing gaps through a digital-powered ecosystem of trusted Lenders and Investors, and the SMEs we help.

We are steadfast in replicating the same success story with Pinoy business owners here, bringing financial options tailored to their needs and growth goals. Through our innovative infrastructure and fair business practices, we want to bolster providing quick, secure, transparent, and supportive financing options to the Philippine entrepreneurs.

For more information, visit [www.investree.ph](http://www.investree.ph) or social media channels:

- LinkedIn : Investree Philippines
- Facebook : InvestreePhilippines
- Instagram : @investree.ph

**At Investree, #EveryoneCanGrow.**

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