

EuroPH CONNECT

• BUSINESS • OPPORTUNITIES • PERSPECTIVES

THE BUSINESS DIGEST
OF THE EUROPEAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Issue on Technology

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- *European Country in Focus: Switzerland*
- *Interview with the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Philippines H.E. Alain Gaschen*
- *Interview with the Department of Information and Communications Technology Secretary Hon. Ivan John Uy*

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Editorial

Dear reader,

I wish you a very happy New Year and I hope that 2023 was off to a good start for you!

As your Chamber of Choice, we are grateful for the strong collaboration we have with you in all of our advocacies and events in the past year.

We will remember 2022 as another fortunate year at the ECCP. In the face of opportunity and change, we remained resilient and committed to innovating and finding new ways to support and provide the best services to our members and partners.

In 2023, we look forward to bringing even more events and initiatives that will focus on a large variety of advocacies that are of importance to the European-Philippine business community and to fostering stronger ties with various stakeholders and the government sector. Against this backdrop, we are happy to share our latest EuroPH Connect Issue which centers on the theme of Technology and discusses topics from the challenges in the ICT-BPM sector.

In this issue, we feature the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation and Ambassador Allain Gaschen as he shares insights on the business relations between Switzerland and the Philippines as well as his thoughts on the technology sector on page 8.

Take a look at page 12 where we also feature Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Ivan John Uy as he provides updates on the department's initiatives and programs on digitizing government services and addressing improving internet and connectivity infrastructure in the country.

For our ECCP members, Premium Member Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. shares news about their project on PETValue Philippines which pioneers green technology for recyclable plastic packing on page 18. Cloud software Glue Up, meanwhile, shares about how they have reimagined community engagement for their customers, helping them build deeper connections, while UBX Philippines introduces their new Global Chief Technology Officer.

On page 20, one of our partners in the IT industry, White Cloak Technologies Inc., discusses the growth of IT sourcing in the Philippines and in Asia and lists the opportunities as well as challenges of the developing sector.

Culminating the previous year with a multitude of wins, we remain resolute in continuously bringing to the public our flagship events such as the Water Challenge Forum Series, Waste Management Forum, Net Zero Carbon Event, and our ECCP Luncheon Meetings.

One of our event highlights for 2022 was the physical return of the European Philippine Business Dialogue. The hybrid event gathered big-ticket speakers, players and experts from various industries to discuss the different ways forward of improving business dialogue and investment within the European-Philippines Business Community. Read more about this story on page 24.

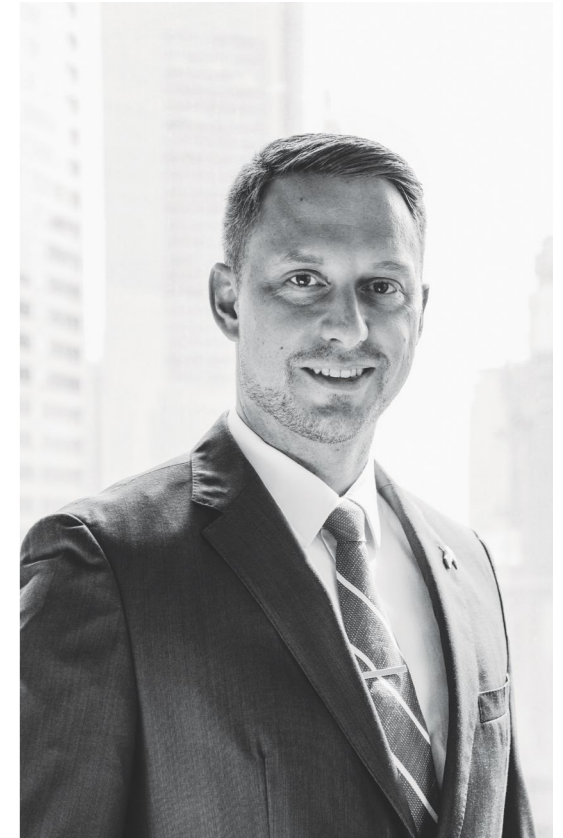
Our Advocacy Corner, found on page 44, details the meetings held with key government representatives and the various discussions on the development of relevant policies and initiatives. In the last year, we were able to conduct 68 committee dialogues, 121 engagements with the Philippine government through committee-led webinars, JFC meetings, and consultations, 19 engagements with the European governments, 12 engagements with the Joint Foreign Chambers, 169 media engagements, and 87 ECCP signed position papers and letters.

And as a trusted arm of the European-Philippine Business Community, we have welcomed 2 new Corporate Partners as well as 5 new Premium Members and in addition to that 77 new regular and associate members into the ECCP. You may join us in welcoming our newest members by reading up on them on page 50. We hope to see them in future activities as well as maximize their membership with us in the coming new year.

Meanwhile, updates on Chamber activities over the past three months spanning its branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Clark, and Iloilo are all available on page 27. Then you may keep yourself updated with the latest business opportunities on page 55.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the EuroPH Connect and, as always, thank you for your continued partnership and trust, and we look forward to building and developing our relationship even further this 2023.

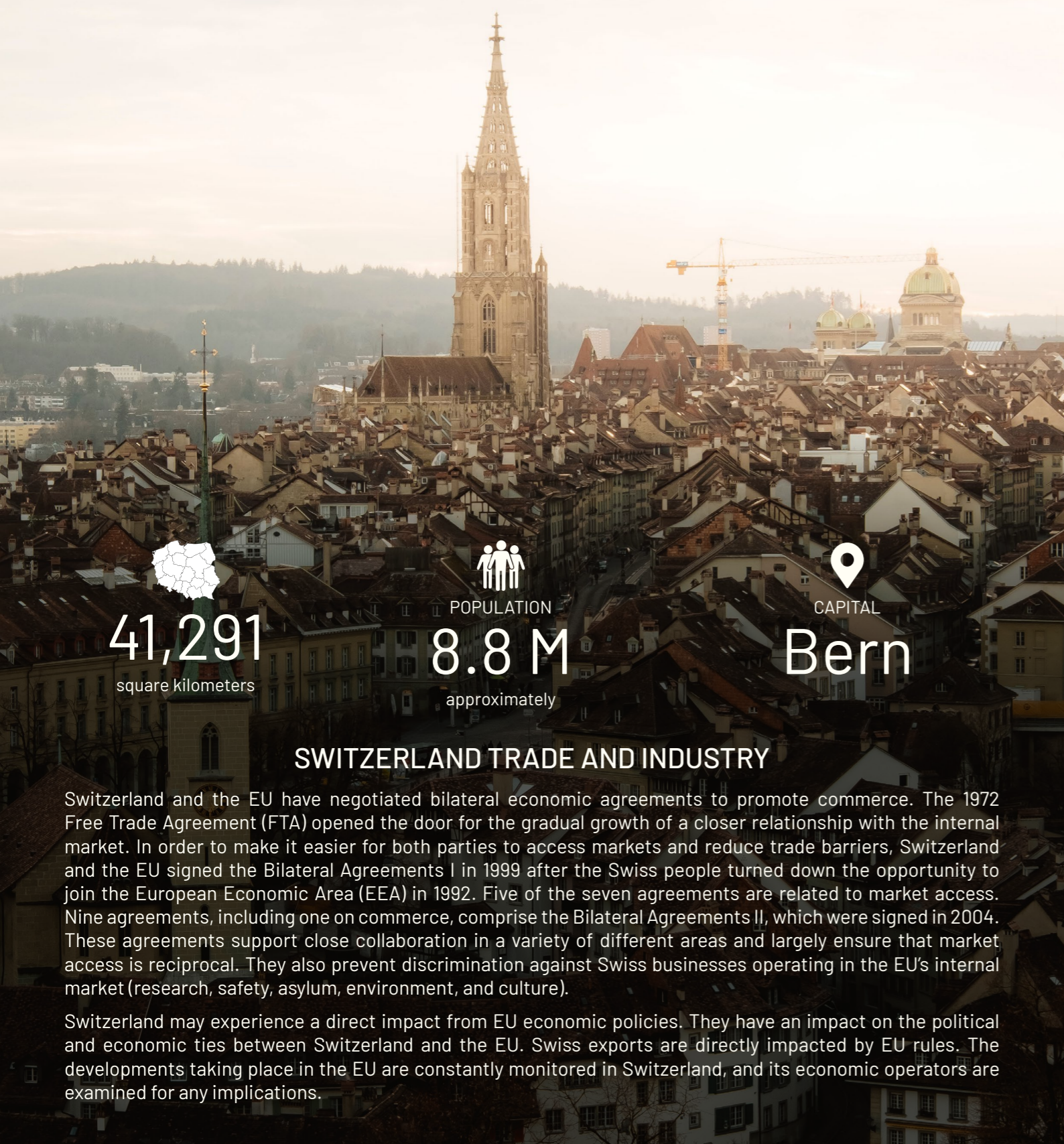
Once again, I wish you a safe and prosperous New Year.



Florian Gottein
ECCP Executive Director

European Country in Focus

Switzerland



41,291
square kilometers



POPULATION
8.8 M
approximately



CAPITAL
Bern

SWITZERLAND TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Switzerland and the EU have negotiated bilateral economic agreements to promote commerce. The 1972 Free Trade Agreement (FTA) opened the door for the gradual growth of a closer relationship with the internal market. In order to make it easier for both parties to access markets and reduce trade barriers, Switzerland and the EU signed the Bilateral Agreements I in 1999 after the Swiss people turned down the opportunity to join the European Economic Area (EEA) in 1992. Five of the seven agreements are related to market access. Nine agreements, including one on commerce, comprise the Bilateral Agreements II, which were signed in 2004. These agreements support close collaboration in a variety of different areas and largely ensure that market access is reciprocal. They also prevent discrimination against Swiss businesses operating in the EU's internal market (research, safety, asylum, environment, and culture).

Switzerland may experience a direct impact from EU economic policies. They have an impact on the political and economic ties between Switzerland and the EU. Swiss exports are directly impacted by EU rules. The developments taking place in the EU are constantly monitored in Switzerland, and its economic operators are examined for any implications.

Geographical Location: Switzerland is located in the heart of Europe. The country is bordered by five (5) countries: Italy, France, Germany, Austria, and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Climate: Switzerland has a temperate climate with four distinct seasons. Its climate is greatly influenced by the Alps and its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean.

Official Language: German, French, Italian, Romansh

Government Type: Switzerland is a federal state. The states power is divided between the Confederation, the cantons and the communes.

Standard of Living: witzerland's Human Development Index (HDI) for 2021 is 0.962, ranked as the top country out of 191 countries.

Organizations:

- International Labour Organization (since 1919)
- World Health Organization (since 1948)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (since 1949)
- World Bank (since 1992)
- International Monetary Fund (since 1992)
- World Trade Organization (since 1995)
- International Criminal Court (since 1998)
- United Nations (since 2002)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization



INTERESTING FACTS

- Switzerland is a small country made up of glacier-carved Alps, lakes and valleys. However small, Switzerland consists of 7000 lakes and it's the best ones to swim in. The lakes are mostly made up of freshwater so clear that it is safe to drink. Alongside the lakes, Switzerland also has 208 mountains and the highest peaks in Europe.
- Switzerland has been directly associated with the Alps ever since even with only less than 15% of the Alps lie within the country.
- Switzerland is known to be one of the most expensive places to live in. This is complemented by economic stability. Switzerland surpassed the United States of America for having the highest salary. Therefore, having low unemployment rates and low rates of people in poverty.
- Switzerland has ranked #1 as the most innovative country in the world for the past 12 years.
- Switzerland is prepared for a nuclear threat. According to Article 45 and 46 of the Swiss Federal Law on Civil Protection, "every inhabitant must have a protected place that can be reached quickly from his place of residence" and "apartment block owners are required to construct and fit out shelters in all new dwellings." Therefore, ensuring the entire population can be accommodated when the need arises.

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Switzerland is one of the top financial centers in the world, whether it is used for asset management, the insurance industry, or as a platform for trading commodities. A sophisticated and liquid capital market as well as cutting-edge financial infrastructure are accessible to businesses from other industries thanks to the high concentration of international and local financial service providers. The fields of project financing and investment consultancy also provide a wide range of services, such as risk assessment, risk evaluation, and assistance with mergers and acquisitions.

The financial industry in Switzerland is very diverse, with a high concentration of banks and financial service providers from a wide range of sizes and industries. There are numerous local cantonal and regional banks, asset managers, and family offices in addition to major and private banks with an international focus. The broad range of services on offer includes tailored solutions for companies, which take into account their various unique requirements.

TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



JUNGFRAUJOCH

Jungfrauoch is the tallest mountain in Europe. It is often referred to as the "Top of Europe" for its observation deck which is 3,454 meters high. The Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to Europe's highest railway station, where the Jungfrau railway has been operating for more than a century. The cog train from Kleine Scheidegg ascends steeply through a tunnel to the Jungfrauoch all throughout the year. The seven-kilometer tunnel that rises from the station Eigergletscher was constructed between 1896 and 1912. Through windows in the Eiger North Face, one stop in the tunnel offers breathtaking views of the glacial world outside. Visitors are met at the peak by a high-Alpine wonderland consisting of ice, snow, and rocks. From the "Ice Palace" or the "Sphinx" viewing platforms on the Aletsch glacier, one can take in all of this.



ZERMATT

Zermatt is one of the most alluring vacation communities in the world due to its location at the foot of the Matterhorn and in the center of a sizable hiking and skiing area. The ski area has 360 kilometers of slopes and 54 mountain railways and lifts. The largest and highest-lying summer skiing area in Europe is the area known as "Matterhorn glacier paradise." In the summer, a lot of national ski teams train here. The Haute Path, a difficult international route that takes many days to complete, runs from Mont Blanc to Zermatt, and the area is famed among mountaineers. The Matter Valley is traversed by more than 400 kilometers of hiking paths, including the 13th-century mule traders' trails (a section of these trails is still in use today).



BASEL

Basel is the oldest university city in Switzerland. The city's late Romanesque-Gothic cathedral and the expansive market square with its ornately adorned red sandstone town hall are among its historic features. A stop at the "Läckerli Huus" to sample the typical Basel honey cake is well worthwhile while strolling through the old town past modest boutiques, antique book shops, as well as shops of new designers. Basel is both open-minded and tradition-conscious, as evidenced by the numerous contemporary structures constructed by eminent architects like Herzog & de Meuron, Mario Botta, Diener & Diener, and Richard Meyer. It has the highest concentration of museums in the nation. Numerous galleries and playhouses, as well as internationally renowned museums like the Basel Art Museum, the museum honoring the iron sculpture Jean Tinguely, the Fondation Beyeler, and the Museum of Cultures, draw sizable crowds of visitors.

Interview with the Ambassador of
Switzerland to the Philippines

H.E. Alain Gaschen



Since first arriving in the Philippines to take up your post as Swiss Ambassador, how have you observed the relations between the Swiss Confederation and the Philippines develop and progress?

I started my post in Manila last August 2019, just a few months before Covid19, which is just enough time to present my credentials, pay courtesy visits to Philippine government agencies, meetings with our Swiss communities, and somehow have a little feel of the country. Fast forward to three years thereafter, I could say that our relations with the Philippines is robust with business and investments increasing due to our strong economic framework as the PH-EFTA FTA especially now where I have observed post-pandemic resurgence with our trade relations.

We were in the forefront and continuously working with our colleagues in the Philippine government in addressing the healthcare needs of the country from contributing in the Covax facility to ensure developing countries have access to the Covid19 vaccines, working with Red Cross in offering alternative testing methods, constant dialogues with our pharmaceutical companies to ensure adequate supply of essential medicines, and working with DTI to incentivize local manufacturers to produce high quality PPEs. We are involved in various works with BARMM in the areas of transitional justice, peace process, local economic development, and capacity building initiatives for Muslim women and indigenous groups. Moreover, we are also active in sustainability related projects especially those with high impact to the economy, environment, and people including impacts to human rights.

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The talents, skills, and resiliency of Filipinos are commendable not only in Europe but globally.
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What do you find is the Philippines' greatest strength that would serve it best when doing business with Europe? What about with its ASEAN neighbors?

Its people are one of its greatest strengths. The talents, skills, and resiliency of Filipinos are commendable not only in Europe but globally. You have a very good command of English, which makes it easier to communicate especially in a dynamic, multi-level, cross-region working environment.

What do Swiss businesses find most attractive about doing business with the Philippines? What are their main considerations in entering the Philippine market?

I think language is a major factor why our companies chose to do business in the Philippines. It's a huge market with a strategic location in Asia, considerably young working professionals, and lots of potential especially in manufacturing, agriculture, and artificial intelligence. The other considerations when our companies identify locations for investments and expansions are rule of law, ease of government processes and transactions, adequate infrastructure including digitalization, and human capital.

Have there been efforts to expand Swiss companies across the Philippines? What are the steps taken by the government? What are the challenges faced by companies?

Yes, and foremost of which is to harmonize all our promotion efforts concerning PH-EFTA FTA so that more companies are aware and be able to avail the benefits and privileges accorded under this trade agreement. We are finalizing the formation of an informal working group with members from relevant agencies such as DTI, BOC, and EFTA Embassies so that operational concerns are addressed immediately. Most issues are related to turn-around time in government transactions, information on requirements and procedures, and too complex refund processes, among others. At our level, we had embarked on regional roadshows in Cebu and Davao to explain the benefits of PH-EFTA and encourage Filipino entrepreneurs to be registered EFTA exporter/importer, and showcase Pinoy quality products in Europe.

What do you envision as the future of business and trade between the Swiss Confederation and the Philippines? How do you think both partners can work better together to achieve this vision?

I think a more tech-enabled Philippines fast-tracks inclusive change because it cuts the processing time of business transactions, promotes transparency which in turn lessens corruption, and easily measures impacts to economy, environment, and people including the protection of human rights for a more stable, progressive, and sustainable development. A large part of Switzerland's economic growth is fueled by private-sector innovations and discoveries because the environment encourages healthy competition amongst industries, rewards pioneering solutions, and puts a very high premium on human capital development. We have been partners with the Philippines along these areas, and I think we just need to sustain the momentum, be more proactive in pushing for economic reforms, and continuously identify points for collaboration to enhance our bilateral relations. Finding and working on mutual opportunities require a reiterative process, hence, it is always a work in progress.

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Switzerland is ranked as the most innovative country in the world. How does Switzerland keep up with technological advancements?

Switzerland has indeed ranked as the most innovative country in the world in the last 12 years. Switzerland has always been quick to utilize new technologies to create robust innovation across a range of industries, from the financial services to healthcare and life sciences. There are different factors to explain this top ranking. First Switzerland can be seen as a nation of inventors with of the highest patent application ratio in Europe. Second, Switzerland has world-class research institutes with universities ranking among the best worldwide. Third, the investments by multinationals based in Switzerland allow research and development and provide a valuable link between work done in universities and the industry. Switzerland invests over CHF 23 billion in R&D annually, which makes it one of the largest R&D investors in the world. Two-thirds of all R&D is funded by the private sector.

There are numerous emerging technologies in Switzerland. How do they decide which technologies to prioritize and how do they find funding?

The pace at which new technologies arise is impressive and also raises a series of questions. What is their purpose and how can their potential be realized? What about the ethical and legal considerations? As a country Switzerland wants to create the best possible framework conditions and evolve as a leading, innovative and sustainable location for new technologies while at the same time combat abuses and ensure integrity. For the companies it is important to maintain a clear view over solutions that may impact your industry. Investing in the most relevant technologies can create significant competitive advantage. By contrast, failing to do so can hinder sustainable and profitable growth, as well as enabling competitors and new market entrants to steal the lead. The company is obliged to think ahead and not take the status quo for granted.

Artificial Intelligence is an area of expertise of various universities and research institutes in Switzerland. How does the government play a role in encouraging students to partake in the advancement of AI technology?

Artificial Intelligence is offered by many Swiss universities and no encouragement is needed for the students to develop their interest. AI skills are high in demand in the private and public sector. It is interesting to know that Switzerland has indeed the highest number of AI companies per capita in the world.

Recognizing the fact that science and technology is reshaping our lives, the Swiss Government founded in 2019 the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) with the aim to anticipate, accelerate and translate into concrete actions the use of emerging science-driven topics. The idea was based on the growing awareness that the world is experiencing breakthrough science and technological discoveries at an unprecedented speed and that these breakthroughs will reshape how we view ourselves as humans, how we relate to each other in society and how we care for our environment. Also, that humanity, especially people living in less-advanced or emerging countries, cannot afford to miss the potential of those science and technology advances for global well-being and inclusive development.

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Investing in the most relevant technologies can create significant competitive advantage.
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Interview with the Department of Information and Communications Technology Secretary

Hon. Ivan John Uy



DICT envisions connecting more provinces and municipalities through partnerships with private companies for fiber connectivity projects. How will it be executed and maintained?

Private Sector Partnership (PPP)

- The private sector is an indispensable partner of the DICT to achieve our mandate. To foster partnerships with the private sector, the DICT now focuses on developing the necessary legal and institutional framework to address the gaps and focuses on comprehensive and more relevant strategies to forge stronger public-private partnerships. Together with PPP Center, the World Bank, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other agencies – we aim to open opportunities for collaboration in the areas of capacity-building, creating markets and opportunities, and financing for digital infrastructure.
- In the area of connectivity, the DICT heavily relies on the aggressiveness of the private sector in continuing to lay down digital infrastructure in place alongside government initiatives through the DICT.
- One example is the continuous discussion with Starlink as the Philippines is also set to be the first country in Southeast Asia to utilize their technology. Starlink is a satellite internet service operated by SpaceX, providing access coverage to more than 40 countries and delivers internet speeds of up to 200 MBPS and latency as low as 20ms even to Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged (GIDA) sites.
- We are also openly encouraging private sector initiatives and policies to improve connectivity, especially in areas not yet serviced by major Telcos and but can be reached by small players.

DICT previously mentioned that PH universities have produced graduates in the IT-BPM sector that do not match the needs of the industry. What steps are being taken by the agency to bridge the said gaps and ensure that Filipino graduates are able to meet the required skills/competence in the sector?

- Digital upskilling lies heavily on our shoulders as a government agency which aims to usher in millions of digital jobs to the country in the next six years. Not only because this is one of our mandates but also because this is one of the imperatives for our economy to not to lag and strongly compete with other countries in the ICT industry sector. As we know, our digital services and even our digital products sector are the top contributors to our economy alongside our overseas workers remittances. No less than President Marcos himself has already given us the marching orders in many of his foreign state visits – to guide investments in STEM and ICT trainings to future-proof our workforce. Likewise, the DICT sees the potential of our very young population – with an average age of 24 years old, digitally literate and articulate in English and other foreign languages. Hence, we have created a special executive office for digital upskilling to complement ICT industry development and the digital workforce in general. Our

country leverages on our very young population – with an average age of 24 years old, digitally literate and articulate in English and other foreign languages.

- Our ICT Literacy and Competency Development Bureau hand in hand with our Industry Development Bureau designs and manages programs for upskilling and reskilling initiatives to ensure a competitive digital workforce. Our holistic approach includes various forms of talent development interventions from onsite, virtual to hybrid skills training, short to full courses, certifications, scholarships, industry-calibrated workshops, and many more talent development advocacies.
- Realizing the importance of moving ahead in terms of understanding and utilizing emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, Internet-Of-Things, cloud technology and many more – the DICT have initiated Stimulating the growth of Emerging Technologies in the Philippines Program (SETPH) which explores the potential of Emerging Technologies and develops an enabling ecosystem that supports and sustains such industries.
- Our Tech Trends program aims to provide Filipinos with relevant skills and technical knowledge to benefit from the jobs and opportunities in the ICT industry.
- We continuously partner with learning institutions to stimulate ICT education especially in complex areas such as cybersecurity and specialized knowledge in the digital economy and cyberspace.

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To remain even more competitive, we strive harder to train and provide more opportunities for the Filipinos by aligning their skills with the requirements of the industry.

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How will DICT move forward as one of the Council members of the Inter-Agency Council for Development and competitiveness of the PH digital workforce? How will it affect the Digital Cities 2025 Program? How is the realization of digital cities coming along?

- The DICT supports the whole-of-government approach under Republic Act No. 11927 or the Digital Workforce Competitiveness Law of 2022. This is aligned with our mission of “ensuring sustainable growth of Philippine ICT-enabled industries resulting in creation of more jobs.” Our ICT Industry Development team was actively

involved in the crafting of the law in both houses during the last Congress as well as in the current crafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations. The DICT will strongly take the lead alongside other member agencies in undertaking programs and strategies to ensure that our workforce possesses relevant, updated, and specialized digital skills. Under the said law, we will work closely with other agencies in ensuring that trainings are calibrated by the ICT industry, ensuring the ICT-readiness of local government units, designing co-working spaces and digital hubs, among other responsibilities.

- Our mantra is to co-design these programs and strategies with all our stakeholders down to the regional level. The DICT's Digital Cities 2025 Program aims to expand the IT-BPM industry in the other cities, especially in the countryside. Our focus in the next three years is to help strengthen ICT Councils, develop digital cities roadmap development, as well as conduct business matching, niche identification and marketing sessions.
- To remain even more competitive, we strive harder to train and provide more opportunities for the Filipinos by aligning their skills with the requirements of the industry. Free online training and webinars are also being offered by the DICT and its Regional Offices to advance the digital literacy of Filipinos. For this, we have our Digital Jobs PH, which aims to provide basic digital literacy and intermediate ICT skills training in the Philippine countryside. With the help of our Regional Offices, we will be able to significantly reap the benefits of these initiatives.

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Our excellent communication skills, service orientation as well as the proactive support of the DICT for industry make the Philippines the perfect venue for ICT global services to thrive.

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Are there ongoing and planned initiatives by the DICT to further promote improved and increased investments in the ICT sector?

- The DICT under my watch has carved out a special executive portfolio for ICT Industry Development. An undersecretary has been appointed for the first time to oversee the growth of the jobs, investments

and opportunities in the ICT sector, from ICT-BPM employment to digital careers, to jobs generated by tech-startups and all other investments leading to digital services and global employment. The DICT will undertake a more robust pitch for the Philippines as an ICT investment destination of choice for all digital services and products across all verticals, not just for voice services, but non-voice, complex ICT services and ICT engineering services. Our excellent communication skills, service orientation as well as the proactive support of the DICT for industry make the Philippines the perfect venue for ICT global services to thrive.

- DICT has always partnered with the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) and its sub-sector associations in promoting and developing the country's IT-BPM industry. For the next 6 years, the DICT will adhere to the vision of the IT-BPM Industry Roadmap 2028 and will refer to the said blueprint as the Agency customizes its strategies and action plans for the sector.
 - The DICT shall focus on pushing for a more conducive investment environment for ICT and ICT-enabled industries both for local and international investors by exerting all our efforts to ensure connectivity, to ensure data privacy and cybersecurity and the presence of more skilled workers in these areas, as well as to help local government units in preparing their locations for ICT investments.
 - The DICT will prioritize the proper implementation and application of data privacy and cybersecurity laws. This will entail a strong national advocacy on cyber literacy and more funding or investments in cyber protection and investigation.
- We shall continue to undertake more ICT investments trade missions inbound and outbound to promote the Philippines as an ICT destination and shall actively participate in international ICT conferences and exhibitions for various niche industries such as health information technology, animation and game development, electronics and software, startup development and many more. The DICT under our watch will include and train different digital champions and advocates from the countryside to pitch and promote their respective cities and provinces.
- We are in collaboration with policymakers and even our regional offices and councils to ensure that enabling legal frameworks and mechanisms are in place for a more business-friendly environment for our local and international investors. Last November 29, the DICT received the Ease of Doing Business Champion award from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) at the Commission's 86th-anniversary celebration. This only affirms the Agency's proven dedication in fulfilling one of its very important mandates of promoting and enabling investment opportunities in the ICT and ICT-enabled sectors, in partnership with both public and private organizations.

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The DICT under our watch will include and train different digital champions and advocates from the countryside to pitch and promote their respective cities and provinces.

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How is the DICT also encouraging IT-BPM companies to expand beyond the National Capital Region?

- Two of the key priorities of the DICT are countryside development and ICT Industry Development. With this, the department eyes on achieving 3 million jobs for the Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT-BPM) and IT-enabled industry by 2028, wherein 54% - 60% of the 3 million jobs will be found in the countryside.
- Under the Digital Cities Program, a total of 31 locations outside Metro Manila are selected to be the next viable destination hubs of IT-BPM services based on the Digital Cities Scorecard which assesses talent availability, infrastructure, business environment, and cost of doing business. After the roadmaps, we implement activities that will further improve the ICT environment in the city such as niche identification sessions, marketing workshops, telco orientations, and business matching activities with potential locators.
- As we move to 2023 - we will drill down our initiatives to the regional level by launching RISE or the Regional ICT Summits and Exhibitions. This program will help equip Centers of Excellence, New Wave Cities and Digital Cities to promote their locations and expose themselves to new and exciting opportunities. The program will be highly customizable to the potential of every region and shall include advocacy and knowledge on various topics such as the ICT industries and its verticals, digital upskilling, building Startup ecosystem, Emerging Technologies, the Gig Economy, and Digital Governance.

Technology plays a critical role in advancing interconnectivity and streamlining processes in and across sectors. How is the DICT working with relevant government agencies and policymakers, as well as the private sector, to ensure inclusivity and security in the country's digital transformation efforts?

- Our current DICT is very much aware of the need for inclusivity especially as we are again official sitting as one of the 48 countries in the International

Telecommunications Union or ITU Council and so therefore we acknowledge the need to involve all stakeholders including women, persons with disabilities, the youth, our small and medium enterprises, and our rural areas, and all disadvantaged sectors in policy and planning and in co-creating strategies for everyone to benefit from the Digital Age. Officially we have cascaded two ITU programs - one to advance women's participation in the ICT sector - the DICT has spearheaded a movement called DIWA or the Digital Innovation for Women Advancement to increase the number of women ICT professionals and to also leverage on ICTs to promote gender inclusion. The second is ITU's Generation Connect. We have created a Generation Connect Philippines program to engage with young Filipinos 25 years old and below and developing strategies to ensure a sustainable and inclusive digital future.

- Over-all - the DICT believes that digital transformation will also come about when innovation is integrated in various government systems and policies. Here are some our programs along this line ---

E-government and the order of President Marcos to transform the Philippine government into an agile bureaucracy

1. **eGov Super App-** Launched on December 2, 2022, is the Philippine's first one-stop-platform for local and national government services that will streamline processes and transactions; and to bring a total ease-of-doing-business to all Filipinos. This initiative will avoid long lines and queues in government offices and make the Philippine government services available anytime, anywhere.

The e-gov superapp includes systems development, implementation, and integration of E-Local Government Units (ELGU), E-Government Application (EGovApp), EGovpay, E-Travel, E-Cloud, among others.

- **eGov App-** Streamlining all local and national government services in a single app. Promoting a more contactless, cashless and paperless transactions.
- **eLGU App-** One-Stop System that combines all Local Government Unit services including permits, contributions, clearances and payments.
- **eGovCloud-** Centralizing cloud services will simplify the way the government maintain and manage data storages and making all data useful and integratable.
- **eTravel-** Unifying all travel applications and documents including health, tourism, OFWs and transport. This will bring ease of transactions to all travelers.
- **eGovPay-** Aggregating all payment channels and gateways in a single system. This will simplify and standardize all payment processing and transactions.

2. **The Philippine E-Commerce Platform (PECP),** in partnership with DTI, this platform will empower and support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to sell their products online. This game changing platform will enable additional livelihood and promote our local products through online websites, mobile apps

and social media.

3. **OFW App** - The OFW app is in partnership with Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and will contain the Electronic Overseas Electronic Certificate (E-OEC), making the processes seamless, contactless and effortless on the part of our modern day heroes.

4. **The Government Employee Super App or GESA**, in partnership with GSIS, will bring total ease of business to all government employees especially when it refers to transactions with the government social insurance system.

5. **Improved Ease of Registering a Business through the Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System Software (iBPLS) / eBLPS**

The Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System Software (iBPLS) is a cloud-based system that enables LGUs and their constituents to be able to transact and process business permits and other related permits, certificates, and licenses electronically or online. The Electronic Business Permits and Licensing System (eBPLS) software was developed and implemented by the DICT to enable Local Government Units and their constituents to apply for and process business permits electronically.

6. **Secured Government Transactions and Enabled Digital Signing of Official Documents through the Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure (PNPKI)**

PNPKI is a set of hardware, software, policies, personnel, and procedures needed to create, manage, and distribute digital certificates. This way, the government's delivery of services to citizens and businesses becomes safer, faster, and more efficient.

7. **The Barangay Records Automation & Management System (BRAMS)** is a free service under the Digital Government program of DICT Luzon Cluster 1 that aims to digitally transform barangays in the management of barangay records through an online web-based management system. It enables local barangay officials to maintain their resident records as complete and up-to-date as possible, and easily accessible for verification, monitoring and reference purposes.

8. **Advancing Government ICT Innovation, Leadership, and Excellence (AGILE) Program**

AGILE aims to promote LGU capabilities in terms of their ICT-related services and/or projects. Under the AGILE program are the annual Digital Governance Awards (DGA), the DGA Compendium, and the Digital Governance Conferences (DGC).

9. **iLGU**

DICT was able to pilot launch the Integrated Local Government System (iLGU) to implement an end-to-end business registration with LGUs for Business Permits, Clearances, Real Property Tax, Business Tax, Civil Registry, and other permits. This will remove long lines in the City and Municipal Halls and streamline citizens' transactions with LGUs. Currently, there are around 906 LGUs (signed memorandum of agreement)

that will implement the Integrated Business Permit and Licensing System. The iBPLS is just one module of the iLGU.

10. **Philippine Identification System (PhilSys)**

The Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) Act or Republic Act No. 11055 aims to provide a valid proof of identity for all citizens and resident aliens as a means of simplifying public and private transactions.

11. **E-Government and E-Governance Bills**

The DICT has pushed for the consolidation of the E-Government and E-Governance bills that were filed before the two (2) Houses of Congress. While similar in objective, the bills differ in the platforms they sought to be established to achieve the digitalization of the government. At present, the bills are due to be threshed out in a meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG), duly constituted by the House of Representatives. The E-Government/E-Governance bills shall be crucial in transforming governance to one that is digital and devoid of red tape and bureaucratic inefficiency.

“

We are in collaboration with policymakers and even our regional offices and councils to ensure that enabling legal frameworks and mechanisms are in place for a more business-friendly environment for our local and international investors.

”





PETValue Philippines pioneers green technology for recyclable plastic packaging Coca Cola

PETValue Philippines, the country's first bottle-to-bottle, food-grade recycling facility is a joint venture between Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. (CCBPI) and Indorama Ventures—a global sustainable chemical company. This PHP 2.28B multi-phased project aims to establish a circular economy for recyclable PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic packaging, as it employs the most advanced, world-class recycling technologies in the Philippines.

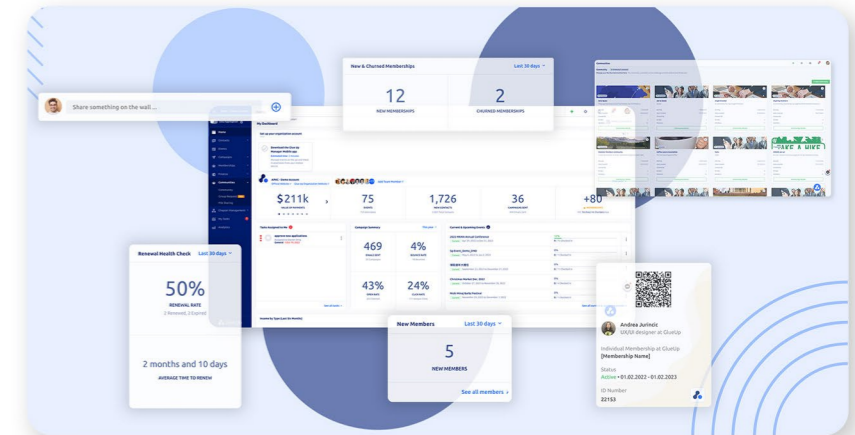
Anchored on Coca-Cola's global World Without Waste vision—to collect and recycle, by 2030, the equivalent of every bottle and can that it sells—PETValue seeks to produce more sustainable packaging innovations to help improve the collection and recycling rates of PET plastic bottles: packaging that is 100% recyclable and therefore should be given limitless life within a circular economy.

An industry-leading initiative, PETValue has been granted pioneer status by the Philippines' Board of Investments (BOI) in 2020. The BOI grants pioneer status to projects involving manufacturing or processing activities that have not been produced in the country on a commercial scale or which uses a system of transforming raw materials using new technologies, among other qualifications.

Established in General Trias, Cavite and launching its operations this 2022, PETValue's projected capacity—the amount of used plastic bottles it can process annually—is approximately 2 billion pieces of plastic bottles.

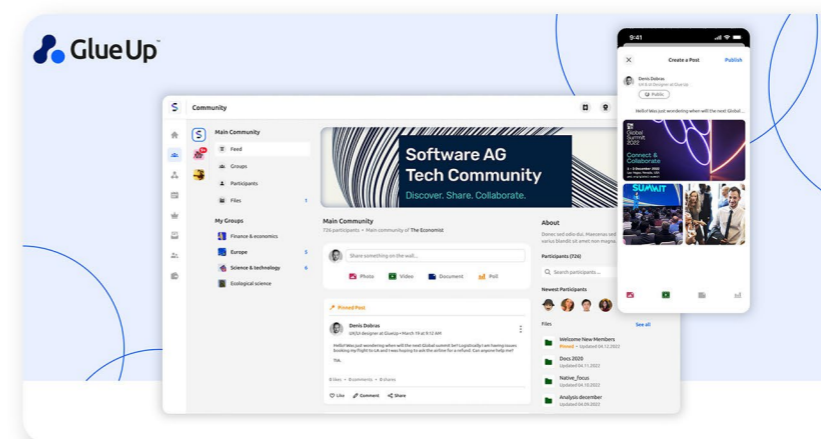
Community Engagement Reimagined: Build Deeper Connections with Your Members

People want to be in the company of people like them. They crave a sense of belonging in a community of like-minded individuals who share the same mission, vision, and values. This is why **Glue Up™** created its community module—a private space for member organizations to create a deeper sense of community and engage in a more meaningful way.



As part of **Glue Up™**'s All-in-one engagement management CRM, the community module serves as a private social media platform where members can engage in constructive dialogue, network, and get easy access to information. Members exchange digital business cards, send direct messages, join sub-communities and stay in the know about what the organization is doing.

Thanks to invaluable feedback from customers and their members, **Glue Up™** has reimagined its community module. With a cleaner, slicker redesign, **Community 2.0** amplifies its old functionalities and puts engagement at the forefront of its new features. The upgraded platform now includes email, in-app, and push notifications to ensure your community stays connected and engaged. Improved posting functionalities allow more options like bolding, hyperlinking, and @mentioning. Lastly, users can now save posts and shared files and access them at their leisure.



Eric Schmidt, CEO of Glue Up™ states "Our goal with our community module, and really our platform as a whole is to help member organizations form true human connections with their members. It's not just about providing them a solution that will make them more agile and efficient, it's about enabling communities to thrive and bringing people together."

Glue Up™'s Community 2.0 is the next step in transforming the way organizations bring their mission to life and form a true emotional connection with their members.

The Growth of IT Outsourcing in Asia

White Cloak Technologies, Inc.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Southeast Asia has experienced steady growth in IT outsourcing.

IT outsourcing in Asia is projected to have an annual growth rate of 9.40% and a projected market volume of US\$ 136.10 billion by 2027¹. The key driver for businesses to outsource IT development is to reduce costs and mitigate rising inflation in their home countries.

This trend is expected to grow as businesses in North America and Europe look to streamline IT development and leverage offshore solutions in Asia.

IT Outsourcing in the Philippines

The Philippines is a growing business hub in Southeast Asia thanks to its stable geopolitical landscape and natural affinity to western culture. There are also dedicated local and national government agencies tasked to support the growth of the industry.

Amid the global IT talent shortage, the Philippines continues to produce the top IT talents with

over 75,000 annual graduates from IT alone². Conglomerates like Google, Amazon, and NCR have outsourced IT development and support services in the Philippines, further showing the country's lead in outsourcing.

However, despite the strong talent pipeline, businesses looking to outsource IT development in the Philippines can face challenges like overcoming a myriad of government permits, ensuring compliance with Philippine labor laws, and setting up offices and infrastructure.

The White Cloak Advantage

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¹ Statista. IT Outsourcing in Asia (2022) <https://www.statista.com/outlook/tmo/it-services/it-outsourcing/asia>
² 2018 Higher Education Graduates by Discipline Group. Commission on Higher Education <https://ched.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Higher-Education-Graduates-by-Discipline.pdf>



Mario Domingo

Global Chief Technology Officer of UB

UBX, the Philippine's leading Open Finance platform, has always been driven by its mission of opportunity and access for all. Its various in-demand solutions ranging from banking-as-a-service (BaaS) and payments to lending and eCommerce have served over 200,000 business customers.

Mario Domingo, the new Global Chief Technology Officer of UBX, strengthens the UBX mission as he brings over 25 years of experience in business, transformation, technology and artificial intelligence. Mario has founded successful companies leveraging proprietary low-latency, high-performance computing and Artificial Intelligence platforms. His global experience as an executive, founder and digital transformation leader extends throughout North America, Asia and Australia.

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European businesses call for stronger European-Philippine economic cooperation

MAKATI CITY, 14 November 2022 – High-level government officials, business leaders, industry experts, and representatives from business groups convened at the 2022 European-Philippine Business Dialogue hosted by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines together with the British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines last 14 November.

With the theme “New Era of Progress, Possibilities, Partnerships”, this year’s forum sought to provide a platform for sharing insights and exchanging meaningful discussions on the country’s economic prospects as well as ways forward to strengthen the European-Philippine economic ties.

In his opening remarks, ECCP Director and Republic Cement Managing Director Roman Menz highlighted the multitude of uncertainties faced by the country stemming from the current economic and geopolitical landscape. However, he enthused that the passing of several game-changing economic reforms namely the amendments to the Public Services Act, Retail Trade Liberalization Act and Foreign Investment Act will further boost foreign direct investments and generate more jobs for Filipinos.

“The time is now to build on this positive momentum and maximize the opportunities on the horizon. As ever, the European-Philippine business community remains steadfast in working with all relevant stakeholders to address current challenges,” said Menz. European Union Ambassador to the Philippines Luc Veron also remained optimistic, saying these “reforms open key economic sectors to foreign investment, modernize customs and could have the potential to improve the ease of doing business. These will accelerate know-how transfer and have the

capacity to create new and better jobs and support the growth of a sustainable more inclusive economy. They will make the Philippines more competitive in the region.”

Ambassador Veron added, “The EU trade policy is operating in a particularly challenging international environment, affected by the rise of geostrategic rivalries and increasing resort to unilateral measures and economic nationalism. In this context, Europe needs its partners and these partners need Europe.”

Furthermore, following the Senate’s recent meetings with some European leaders, Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri underscored the plethora of possibilities for bilateral cooperation with a lot of sectors within the European Union. These include trade and manufacturing, foreign investments, tourism, post-Covid recovery, nuclear energy, climate change mitigation and defense.

Mr. Michael Angelo Roaring, Officer in Charge of the Coordinating Office of the Department of Trade and Industry’s Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC), also highlighted that “the Philippine government is focused on the full reopening of the economy while ensuring health security, food security, energy security, as well as reducing costs and stabilizing prices. For the Department of Trade and Industry, this means empowering our industries in pursuit of the country’s overall goal of inclusive and sustainable growth.”

During the plenary session, the ECCP released its newest set of Advocacy Papers. The annual publication of the Chamber aims to provide an overview of industry perspectives on pressing issues, concerns, as well as our corresponding policy recommendations. “We hope to turn these wishlists

into reality. It is meaningful and lasting change that we hope to achieve through these recommendations, by working closely with our partners here today towards achieving a competitive, fair and more inclusive economic environment in the Philippines,” said Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director.

Moreover, during the panel discussion, Mr. Hans Sicat, country head of ING in the Philippines, expressed optimism about the growth prospects of various sectors like renewable energy, technology, media & telecommunications, infrastructure, and financial institutions.

Emphasizing the importance and urgency for all stakeholders to step up and help address the climate change crisis, Mr. Sicat added, “Across the world, we have been working together with our clients on their ESG goals. We have closed several first-of-its-kind deals and many of our green financing deals were the first done by our clients. In the Philippines, we are proud to advise our clients on their sustainable finance framework and provide financing for sustainable projects that would support their transition to a sustainable and low-carbon economy.”

In addition, Mr. Sandeep Uppal, President and CEO, HSBC Philippines also shared the pivotal role of banks in supporting people and businesses as they adapt to the changing world.

“In the Philippines where HSBC has a 147-year history – making it one of the most established international banks – we are committed to mobilizing sustainable financing for clients in all sectors to support them progressively decarbonize and unlocking innovative climate solutions,” said Mr. Uppal.

Attended by close to two hundred delegates physically and online, the forum featured messages and presentations from speakers including H.E. Luc Véron, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines; Hon. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Senate President; Hon. Benjamin Diokno, Ph.D., Secretary at Department

of Finance; Hon. Stella Luz Quimbo, District Representative at the House of Representatives; Hon. Vivian Santos, Officer-in-charge, Deputy Director General of Philippine Economic Zone Authority; Hans Sicat, Country Manager at ING Philippines; Sandeep Uppal, President and Chief Executive Officer at HSBC Philippines; and Nicholas Mapa, Senior Economist at ING Philippines.

Christina Stieber, Commercial Counsellor at the Austrian Embassy in Manila and Head at Advantage Austria served as the Master of Ceremonies with Business News Editor and One News Anchor Regina Lay as moderator during the live panel discussion and open forum.

The 2022 European-Philippine Business Dialogue is co-presented by HSBC Philippines, ING Philippines, and PMFTC Inc. The event is also supported by Platinum Partners Diageo Philippines, Inc., Charmant Ingredients Corporation, and Royal Cargo Inc; Gold Partners Asticom Technology Incorporated, Mazars in the Philippines, Pru Life UK, and Shell Philippines; Silver Partners Allianz PNB Life, DamosaLand, Maybank, and William Hill International; and Event Patron Bosch Philippines.

This year’s official media partners are One News, The Philippine Business and News, and The Manila Times, with official event supporters namely Advantage Austria, French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines, Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines Inc. - DCCP, German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc., Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines - La Camara, Nordic Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, and Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

Launched in 2014, this Forum brings together industry experts, government leaders, and relevant stakeholders to celebrate and strengthen the European-Philippine economic ties.



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Inside ECCP: Manila

Protecting your Mental Health in the Digital World

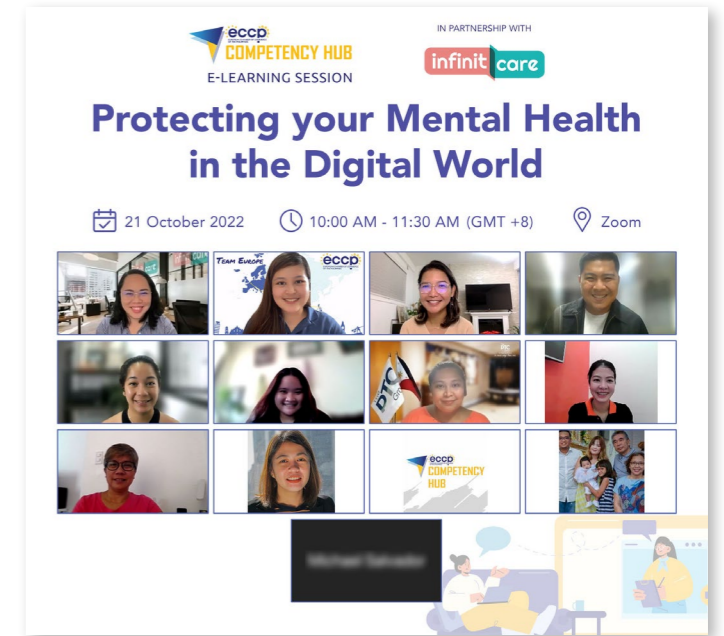
21 October 2022

With more than 76 million active Filipino online users, the discussion on the protection and promotion of mental health especially for working professionals has never been more important and timely.

Fortunately, with the partnership of Infit Care, the ECCP Competency Hub was able to raise awareness about the helpful as well as harmful behaviors that have emerged in the wake of our daily digital interconnectivity during the "Protecting Your Mental Health in the Digital World" held last October 21, 2022.

Spearheading the discussions were Infit Care's team of psychologists and well-being teachers: Bernadette Pacana-Yap, R.H.N.; Shyne Mangulabnan, M.A., RGC, Mental Health Advisor (Consultant) at Infit Care; and Anne Ordoña, General Manager at Infit Care.

A huge thank you to all our participants. We hope that this webinar was able to help you protect and manage your mental wellness in a digital world!



Social Media Marketing

24 & 25 October 2022

Social media marketing is becoming increasingly popular, but how can organizations and companies best optimize social media and know which strategies to apply?

Tackling the very concepts of social media marketing and digital marketing tools, the ECCP Competency Hub together with digital marketing agency Black Sheep Digital held the "Social Media Marketing: Intermediate Digital Marketing Course" last October 24 & 25, 2022.

With expert speakers from Black Sheep Digital, Ms. Anna Medina, CEO of Black Sheep Digital, and Ms. Ria P. Ancheta-Adrias, Director of Programs at Black Sheep Digital, the class gained valuable insights on the latest digital trends and the best practices on how to drive a social media strategy to better attract and retain customers. Moreover, the engaging two day session also featured exclusive case studies on how social media can help businesses drive results and stay ahead of the curve!



A Deep Dive into the Philippine Water Sector

7 November 2022

Addressing the global problem of water scarcity as well as local sanitation supply problems in the Philippines, the ECCP together with Platinum Partner Metro Pacific Water and Bronze Partner Manila Water held the annual Water Challenge Forum Series on the topic, "A Deep Dive into the Philippine Water Sector: Exploring Solutions for the Country's Water Supply and Sanitation System".

The forum featured discussions on innovative solutions to address water challenges and partnership opportunities in the water sector through the presentations of the following esteemed speakers: Hon. Roderick Planta, Assistant Secretary for Investment Programming, National Economic and Development Authority; Engr. Eric Ayapana, Assistant Secretary for Information Management and Technical Services, Department of Public Works and Highways; Dr. Seville D. David, Jr. CESO III, Executive Director, National Water Resources Board; Sec. Rogelio Singson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Metro Pacific Water; Hon. Leonor Cleofas, CESO IV, Administrator, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System; and Hon. Cynthia Hernandez, Undersecretary and Executive Director, Public-Private Partnership Center of the Philippines.

Moreover, the event was hosted and moderated by Mr. Chris Ilagan, Corporate Affairs Director at Cargill Philippines and Chairman of the Philippine Water Partnership, with Nestlé Sustainability Lead Ms. Maria Christine Ponce-Garcia giving her opening remarks to set the forum's tone.



Coaching through Meaningful Conversations

8 & 9 November 2022

Helping people and organizations develop their coaching and conversational skills, the ECCP Competency Hub hosted the "Coaching through Meaningful Conversations" e-Learning session last November 8 and 9.

The program was led by esteemed speaker Mr. Emmanuel Zara Jr., who tackled topics such as the transition from First- to Third-Generation Coaching, the skills and tools necessary for leaders to coach effectively, and how to apply these techniques in conducting meaningful conversations.

Throughout the webinar, various case studies, videos, role plays and self-assessments were conducted to simulate meaningful conversations and help provide focus and structure in coaching.



Make Haste to Reduce Waste: Redesigning a sustainable waste-free future

15 November 2022

The ECCP together with Holcim Philippines held the 2022 Waste Management Forum with the theme, "Make Haste to Reduce Waste: Redesigning a sustainable waste-free future".

Headed by the Chamber's Environment and Water Committee, the forum featured robust discussions and a deep examination into existing waste management frameworks and policies to address the rapidly increasing waste generation brought about by rapid urbanization and population growth.

Sharing their insights and ways to move forward were the following esteemed speakers, panel of experts, and key leaders from both public and private sectors: Senator Cynthia A. Villar (pre-recorded), Chairperson, Senate Committees on Environment and Agriculture, Senate of the Philippines; Hon. Gilbert Gonzales, CESO III, OIC, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations - Luzon and Visayas, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); Aleya Carmela Arca, Assistant Program Manager of the DILG Manila Bay Clean-up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program, DILG Philippines; Mr. Dino John Recto, OIC-Division Chief and Supervising Investment Specialist, DTI Philippines - Board of Investments; Mr. Riyann Moster, Head, Geocycle; Bert Guevara, Vice President of Philippine



Alliance for Recycling and Material Sustainability; Aaron Lao, President of Philippine Plastics Industry Association Inc; and Edgar De Jesus, Grants and Partnerships Manager of Business for Sustainable Development.

Moreover, the event was hosted and moderated by Atty. Denya Gracia "Deegee" Uy-Anastacio, Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, Inc.- PCFMI Legislative Committee Priority Topic Lead & Assistant Vice-President Public Affairs, Nestlé Phils. Inc. with ECCP Director and Charmant Ingredients Corporation President Ms. Helen Grace Baisa giving her opening remarks to set the forum's tone.

Effective Business Writing

14 & 15 November 2022

From writing engaging everyday emails to crafting detailed and informative presentations and reports – the ability to write clearly, confidently and consistently is a much-needed skill in most workplaces.

Thus, the ECCP Competency Hub's two-part workshop on "Effective Business Writing" held last November 14 and 15 was a much needed learning course to equip employees with the necessary skills and techniques to master the art of writing.

Led by Stephen Bañares, Consultant at HR Solutions & Business Management, Inc., the class underwent exercises and revisited basic English lessons to learn how to write clear and persuasive messages and allow them to efficiently communicate and respond to client requests and needs.



2023 Philippine Economic Outlook

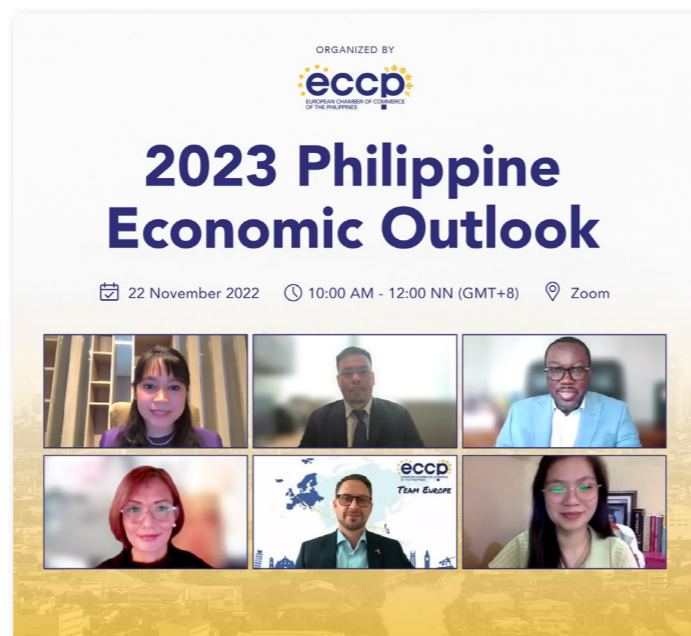
22 November 2022

Tackling the different economic opportunities across the country's budding sectors and providing key insights on how businesses can recalibrate their business plans based on current indicators and forecasts, the ECCP-hosted 2023 Philippine Economic Outlook virtual forum was held last November 22, 2022.

The online session featured the following esteemed speakers delving into the outlook of trade and investments in the country, as well as the government's socioeconomic plans and priorities:

The speakers & panelists were Hon. Sarah Lynne S. Daway-Ducanes, Assistant Secretary, Policy and Planning Group, National Economic and Development Authority; Dr. Ndiame Diop, Country Director for the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei, World Bank Philippines; and Dr. Kevin Chua, Senior Economist, World Bank Philippines.

Moreover, the event was hosted and moderated by Atty. Estrella Elamparo, Senior Partner at Divina Law with ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein giving his opening remarks to set the forum's tone.



Net Zero Carbon Event

23 November 2022

Last November 23, 2022 the ECCP in partnership with FMI - Fairs & More, Inc. and the Joint Meetings Industry Council launched the Net Zero Carbon Events Philippines – a first collaborative hybrid event to drive the Philippine events industry towards net zero and strengthen the sector's commitment to tackling climate change through the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge.

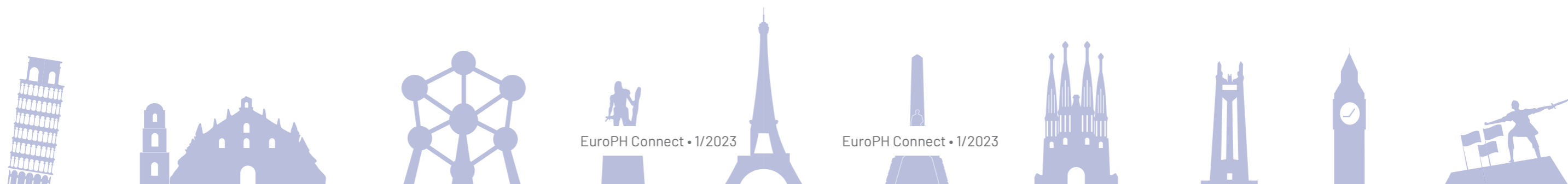
The event featured high-level panel discussions among leaders in the government, logistics, food waste and retail sporting goods sector, as well as insightful presentations from the following speakers: Hon. Joy Belmonte, Mayor of Quezon City; Usec. Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, Chairperson of the Energy Committee, House of Representatives; Maria Christine Ponce-Garcia, Sustainability Lead at Nestlé Philippines Inc.; Susan Salcedo, General Manager of Somerset Central Salcedo and City Manager of The Ascott Limited Philippines; Czarina Constantino-Panopio, National Lead - No Plastics in Nature Initiative at WWF-Philippines; Agnes Pondaven, CEO and Founder at QUALIBRI; Ms. Rina Papio, Founder of GreenSpace; Michael Ryan Miranda, Manager of Strategic Projects, Sustainability and Marketing at DB Schenker; Engr. Bryan Tañagras, CBE, CDCP, Brains Infinite Innovations Inc.; Colin Steley, Sustainability Director at Stratcon Philippines; Rafael Basciano, Decarbonization Leader at Decathlon Philippines; Kai Hattendorf, Managing Director at UFI - The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry; Atty Ina Alexandra A. Dominguez, Host and Moderator, Senior Partner at Quisumbing Torres.

As a show of commitment towards a net zero future by 2050, the event ended with an interactive pledge signed by speakers, attendees and partners.



The Net Zero Carbon Events Philippines 2022 was co-presented by the Ascott Limited, Somerset Central Salcedo, Eastern Communications, Nestlé Philippines and Brains Infinite Innovations Inc, with the support of Advocacy Partners Pure Oceans, Green Space, the Independent Power Producers Forum, and Quisumbing Torres and the participation of Solutions and Technology Partners Stratcon Philippines, Bambuhay, EcoNest, SACHI-Group, Inc., Envirotech and The Bamboo Company.

A huge thank you to all of our participants, exhibitors, partners, speakers and all those who made this event possible. Together, we will bring the events industry to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly tomorrow for all!



E-Residency: Launchpad towards European business opportunities

24 November 2022

Last November 24, 2022, we had the honor and pleasure of hosting the “E-Residency: Launchpad towards European business opportunities” briefing together with the Republic of Estonia and with the presence of keynote speaker, H.E Väino Reinart, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Estonia to Japan.

Leading the discussions were guest speakers Ms. Ülane Vilumets, Head of Business Development at E-Residency and Mr. Oliver Ait, Commercial Counselor at the Embassy of Estonia in Tokyo, who generously introduced us to the country of Estonia, its budding business environment, as well as the fundamentals in obtaining e-Residency.

During the open forum, we were also graciously joined by Mr. Fernando Martin O. Peña Honorary Consul General of the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Estonia in Manila. Meanwhile, ECCP Vice President Mr. Paulo Duarte was also present to give his welcoming remarks and set the tone for the day’s session.

ECCP Luncheon Meeting with DICT Sec. Ivan John Uy

25 November 2022

It was an immense honor to host Department of Information and Communications Technology Secretary Ivan John Uy at the recently held ECCP Luncheon Meeting last November 25 at Dusit Thani Manila and via Zoom!

Joined by EU Ambassadors and esteemed guests from various sectors, foreign embassies and leading companies in the industry – the session heard firsthand the very dynamic and insightful plans and action points of the current administration, as well as other priority areas within the country’s ICT sector.

Also present was guest panelist Ms. Ann Cuisia, CEO and Founder at TraxionTech.net, who highlighted the importance of digitalization, especially in helping Filipinos achieve financial inclusion through technology. The event, meanwhile, was hosted and moderated by Atty. Frederick August, partner at Quisumbing Torres.

Moreover, we likewise thank our partners TraxionTech.net and Asticom Technology Incorporated for supporting this event!



Year 2023 Outlook for PEZA-registered IT-BPM Companies

29 November 2022

The ECCP and its Real Estate Committee hosted a Monthly Roundup webinar on the Year 2023 Outlook for PEZA-registered IT-BPM companies.

The session featured guest resource speaker Officer-In-Charge/Division Chief of the Enterprise Registration Division of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Mr. Renier Guste. Mr. Guste shared crucial and relevant updates on PEZA’s directive on the current situation as well as other necessary adjustments being made by and within the agency.

Serving as the event host was Leechiu Property Consultants, Inc. Executive Director for Commercial Leasing Lylah Fronda-Ledonio and leading the Q&A discussion was Director for Commercial Leasing Mikko Barranda.



Living with Water: Solutions to Reduce and Mitigate Water-related Disasters

5 December 2022

On its sixth year, the ECCP Water Challenge Forum Series continued its run with a two-forum session dedicated to initiating multi- and cross-sector dialogue to raise awareness on the challenges and opportunities in the water sector.

Last December 5, 2022, the ECCP together with the Embassy of the Netherlands in the Philippines and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. concluded the 2022 series with the topic “Living with Water: Solutions to Reduce and Mitigate Water-related Disasters”, where we were joined by the following key speakers and panelists: Relly A. Leysa, Project Manager, DILG Philippines Office of Project Development Services UPMO-WSSS; Engr. Socrates F. Paat, Jr. Chief - Hydrometeorological Data Analysis Section, DOST PAG-ASA; Jan Willem Nell, Technical Manager & Digital transformation lead APAC, Philippines, Royal HaskoningDHV; Engr. Ronaldo C. Padua, Head of Water Supply Operations, Maynilad Water Services, Inc.; Ms. Harriet A. Tauli, Senior Science Research Specialist - Strategic Partnership Division, Climate Change Commission PH; and Ms. Raquel de Leon, Office of Civil Defense PH. This event was also hosted and moderated by Mr. Ramon Alikpala, CEO of FutureWater Asia.



As we near the end of 2022, the ECCP remains a committed partner in helping government address the numerous water problems of today through promotion of sector-wide efforts and by advancement of cross-cutting strategies and sustainable solutions.

A huge thank you to all our partners and participants for contributing to this important conversation on the country’s water crisis. We look forward to collaborating again next year as we elevate the discussion further!



Rise of Data Centers: Opportunities in the Philippines in 2023

7 December 2022

With the heightened growth of hyperscale data centers globally, the Philippines is emerging as the next big player in the market with the potential of even becoming the next data center hub in Asia Pacific. Definitely, #PHisNext!

With much to learn about these data centers, the ECCP together with co-presenters Santos Knight Frank and Quisumbing Torres organized the "Rise of Data Centers: Opportunities in the Philippines in 2023" hybrid event last December 7, 2022 to gather experts in the field and interested stakeholders to discuss the growing sector.

Presenting an overview on the Philippine data center market and its key legal due diligence areas were Santos Knight Frank Data Centers Lead Ms. Monica Gonzalez, DCP®, Quisumbing Torres Partner Atty. Alain Charles J. Veloso and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) - Philippines' Director Diane Gail Maharjan.



Meanwhile, setting the tone of the forum with his opening remarks was Santos Knight Frank Chairman and CEO Mr. Rick Santos.

Moreover, the event was hosted by Quisumbing Torres Associate Atty. Felicisimo Agas III and with the panel discussion moderated by Quisumbing Torres Partner Atty. Ina Dominguez.

ECCP Luncheon Meeting with DOE Sec. Raphael Lotilla

12 December 2022

The ECCP had the grand opportunity of hosting a luncheon meeting with Department of Energy Secretary Raphel Lotilla, as well as Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella, last December 12, 2022.

Together with event partners Ditrolc Solar Philippines Inc. and ING Philippines and event supporters ACEN RES and First Gen Corporation, the event centered on the Philippine government's plans and priorities for the energy sector with other discussions highlighting the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency among others.

We were also joined by a high-level group of speakers and panelists from the private sector which included Group CEO of Ditrolc Energy Mr. Tham Chee Aun and Lead for Utilities Asia Pacific of ING Bank N.V Mr. Laurent Margoloff, as well as Mr. Michael Arcatomy Guarin, partner, Executive Committee Member, and Head of Deal Advisory Services at KPMG in the Philippines who served as our session moderator.



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Inside ECCP: Cebu

Inventi Talks

8 November 2022

Inventi Philippines in collaboration with ECCP organized Inventi Talks: Innovative Green Buildings and Sustainable Developments.



Radisson Blu Hotel Cebu Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

11 November 2022



Eastern's 2022 Appreciation Nights

11 November 2022

The ECCP is grateful to be a part of Eastern's 2022 Appreciation Nights. ECCP participated at Unstoppable on November 11, 2022 at the Radisson Blu Hotel Cebu.



bai Hotel Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

23 November 2022

The ECCP participated in bai Hotel Cebu's 2022 Christmas Tree Lighting.



Dusit Thani Mactan Cebu's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

23 November 2022

The ECCP participated in Dusit Thani Mactan Cebu's 2022 Christmas Tree Lighting.



European Festive Socials

29 November 2022

Last November 29, 2022, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines held the European Festive Socials at the KMC Solutions Skyrise in Cebu City.

Professionals and distinguished guests from both the public and private sectors, including the esteemed Ambassador of Romania to the Philippines, H.E. Răduța Dana Matache, were able to meet with one another to participate in insightful conversations, network with other people, business, and government leaders, and enjoy great company.



Lunch Meeting with the Romanian Ambassador, H.E. Răduța Dana Matache

30 November 2022



Inside ECCP: CDO

ECCP CDO Member Oro Handmade Innovation Inc. Continues Its Social Impact on Sustainability 8 October 2022

Oro Handmade Innovation Inc. produces and advertises purely biodegradable presents, home accents, and individual face masks. Abaca fiber, wild Cogon grass, Bamboo strips, and Buri sticks are just a few of the raw materials they use that are renewable. Thus, the corporation was always bound to successfully flourish by being mindful of the materials they use and being environmentally cautious. Today, the company continues to commit to be an ethical company that helps eliminate the use of plastics and other harmful materials that affect climate change.

Last October 8, 2022, the company was featured in DTI Regional 10 through a video telling the story of how the company has become an award-winning one. The founder of the company, Ms. Lolita "Luchi" Cabanlet shared her humble beginnings by utilizing her resources right in the comfort of her home. She began using her blender to blend papers to create invitations, photo albums, and other creativity she can think of. What seemed to be just a spark of creativity turned profitable locally and internationally. Her excellence was able to showcase Filipino culture and materials in countries such as the United States, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

The company was a proud finalist for the 2022 Shell LiveWIRE Top Ten Innovators Award, one of the 21 semi finalists that ran until October 28, 2022. Being part of the 21 semi-finalists was quite an achievement as individuals who were granted this kind of an award were considered to be impactful and innovative which Oro Handmade Innovation embodies.

The company has been a very active exhibitor in several local and international trade fairs like Maison et Objet, Manila FAME and many more. By 2023, Oro Handmade Innovation Inc. will be celebrating its 20th year in the industry - more impactful, stronger and better!



Oro Handmade's Famous Paper Lamps Out of Abaca



Paper Clay Vases

Seda Centrio Celebrates its 10th Year Anniversary & Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 10 November 2022

Last November 10, Seda Centrio welcomed the holiday season with memorable events and activities such as its annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Apart from unveiling Seda Centrio's Christmas tree, the hotel also celebrated its 10th year anniversary of giving quality service to its new and valuable clients since 2012. The event showed its appreciation to partners through the years by inviting valued clients, partners like ECCP, and representatives from both the public and private sectors.

The event featured the Colors of Mindanao as its theme through its decorations and entertainment along with sumptuous food and overflowing drinks. It was a festive night full of holiday spirit, igniting and reuniting old friendships, building connections and network, and celebrating with Seda as they reminisced how a decade has passed since they started setting high standards to the hospitality industry in the City of Golden Friendship - Cagayan de Oro City.

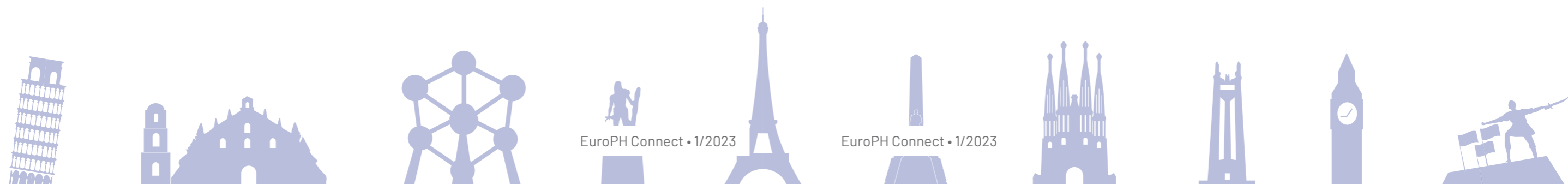
Seda Centrio has been a partner and member of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Cagayan de Oro - Northern Mindanao since 2018.



L-R: Ms. Carol Valdez, Director of Sales of Seda Centrio, Mr. Ralph Paguio, Executive Vice President of CEPALCO and Vice-Chairman of ECCP NMBC, Hon. George Goking, City Councilor, and Ms. Joanne Natindim, ECCP CDO - Northern Mindanao Branch Officer



Seda Centrio Management



ECCP NMBC Conducts its Induction of New Members & Networking Socials 17 November 2022

Last November 17, 2022, the ECCP CDO - Northern Mindanao Business Chapter held its Induction of New Members and Networking Socials with guest speaker Mr. Antonio Peralta, the Honorary Consul of the Honorary Consulate Office of Finland for Mindanao and at the same time Chairman and Member of the ECCP CDO Southern Mindanao Business Council. The event was opened by a welcome remark given by ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein in a pre-recorded video followed by an address delivered by Mr. Jordan Apat, consultant and representative of City Mayor Rolando "Klarex" Uy to the said event.

The event's agenda included a keynote talk from Honorary Consul Antonio Peralta with the topic of "Strengthening Supply Chain: Addressing Food Security Issues through Mindanao's Agriculture". Consul Peralta gave focus on the three critical aspects of addressing the gaps within our agricultural value chains: production, financing and logistics. He also discussed the constraints & opportunities and strengths, opportunities & threats in the value chain. Lastly, the Consul shared some of Finland's best practices to empower and inspire the region and country towards more sustainable ways. The talk was followed by an open forum and q&a portion where participants had the chance to ask the consul questions which he was able to address well.

The event was participated by the Cagayan de Oro Vice Mayor Jocelyn Rodriguez in the hopes of finally being able to have a grasp and physical participation in the endeavors of the chamber and its expansion to the city and region. Hon. Rodriguez expressed her gratitude for the invitation and meeting the current and newly inducted members of ECCP and joyfully expressed the confirmation of the Vice Mayor's Office to join the chamber as a member as well. With her is City Councilor Malvern "Bernie" Esparcia.

The event went on to formally welcome its new members; GMAC Logitech Refrigeration Corporation, Hyperstacks Inc., J3 Trainers and Consultants Inc., Phividec Industrial Authority, Rejhen Real Property Management Corporation, United Communications - One Corporation, University of Science and Technology of the Southern Philippines, and Zendrug, Inc. Furthermore, Mr. Paguio received its Vice-Chairman appointment letter from the ECCP President, presented by the ECCP NMBC Chairman Mrs. Mejia.

The whole program was followed by a sumptuous dinner, raffles were drawn giving out merchandise sponsored by Eastern Communications, and networking socials as the group went on to discuss in groups, building connections and brighter possibilities.

The event was held in Skybar, Xavier Sports & Country Club. The NMBC is immensely grateful for its sponsors for making the event possible; Gold Sponsors Greenergy Solar PH and Pru Life UK, Silver Sponsor Nestle Philippines, and Raffle Sponsor Eastern Telecommunications. This activity is also supported by the City Government of Cagayan de Oro.



The newly inducted members of the ECCP with their respective CEOs, Presidents and Representatives

L-R: ECCP NMBC/Slers Managing Director Ms. Mercedes Mejia, UC-1 Corporation (Seven Seas, Parasat and Dahilayan) Managing Director Mr. Alexander Paras, GMAC Logitech Refrigeration Corporation Operations Manager Ms. Gina Nacua, J3 Trainers and Consultants Inc. Training Manager Ms. Lodie Cadiz, Phividec Industrial Authority Division Manager Ms. Hyessa Suegay, USTP President Dr. Ambrosio Cultura and ECCP Vice-Chairman/CEPALCO EVP Mr. Ralph Paguio



ECCP Conducts MINDANAO TALKS: Revisiting the Struggling Salt Industry in the Philippines 29 November 2022

Last November 29, 2022, the ECCP - CDO held the MINDANAO TALKS: Revisiting the Struggling Salt Industry in the Philippines via Zoom which tackled the current situation of the salt industry, the challenges it is currently facing and what the citizens, industries, corporations, and the government can do to address these challenges. The event was formally commenced through an opening remark delivered by ECCP SMBC Chairman and event host, Mr. Tony Peralta.

The event were graced by the presence of well-versed individuals in the salt industry, such as the Chief Science Research Specialist ITDD-PCIEERD Ms. Mary Grae Buenavides, who attended the event to represent Dr. Enrico D. Paringit, the Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research Development (DOST-PCIEERD) and discussed the topic "Innovations and Interventions: Introducing New Technology and Processes in Achieving Self-Sustainability of the Salt Industry"; Prof. Francis Albert T. Argente who talked about the topic titled "Issues and Intervention: Dissecting the Factors and Setting Current Development to Confront the Decline in Salt Production"; the founder and CEO of XRoads Philippine Sea Salts, Ms. Lennie DiCarlo, who presented the topic entitled "Opening Opportunities to Local Salt Manufacturers and Traders"; and last but not least, the Chief Science Research Specialist of the Fisheries Postharvest Research and Development Institute, Dr. Ulysses Montojo and talked about the topic "Bringing Back the Glory of the Salt Industry: Mainstreaming Research, Extension, and Policy Directions Towards a Salt-Sufficient Philippines".

After the presentation of each of the invited speakers, Mr. Peralta opened the floor for a panel discussion which allowed the opportunity for the attendees of the event to raise any of their concerns, questions and clarifications regarding the presentations and be properly addressed by the speakers.

The event was formally adjourned by a closing remark delivered by the ECCP SMBC Chairman and event host, Mr. Tony Peralta. The event was supported and partnered by the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries.



Inside ECCP: Davao

ECCP Davao Showcasing the Glamour of Island City of Samal and Its Future of Tourism

4 November 2022

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, in partnership with the Island Garden City of Samal, conducted the online webinar event "The Future of Tourism: Exploring the Glamour of Island Garden City of Samal" last November 4, 2022 via Zoom. The event tackled and promoted the city's potency for opportunities and future investments.

Various experts of the field, such as Assistant Secretary at Department of Tourism - Philippines Asec. Christopher V. Morales, Regional Director of Department of Tourism RD. Tanya Rabat Tan, President at Society for Sustainable Tourism & Development Inc. Susan Santos Cardenas, and City Investment and Tourism Officer at LGU - IGACOS Jennifer D. Cariaga, CPA, MBA; all attended the event and shared their experiences and expertise towards sustainability and eco-tourism, while also discussing coordinated efforts and strategic plans for the Island Garden City of Samal.

After the presentations of each of the speakers, the floor was opened for a panel discussion to entertain the questions of the attendees. Some of the most interesting questions such as the recovery of the city's tourism sector and the plans of the LGUs were discussed by the panelists to which the participants are looking forward to the progress towards the strategic revival and promotions of the Island Garden City of Samal.

Mr. Tony Peralta, the Executive Director at Freedom, Inc. and Chairman of ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council hosted and moderated for the event.



Ashanti 2022: Erasmus + Leaders' Summit 2022

18 November 2022

The San Pedro College - Internationalization and Linkages Office in its continuous pursuit of providing local and global opportunities to its community takes the initiative to collaborate with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines in organizing Ashanti 2022: Erasmus+ Leaders' Summit 2022 last November 18, 2022 (Friday), 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM which was held at San Pedro College, Davao City.

The conference aimed to invite the Consulates of Various European Nations in the Philippines with the following objectives: (1) to meet various esteemed members of the consulate of European Nations in the Philippines, (2) to introduce San Pedro College as a possible gateway for Erasmus+ initiatives for Mindanao; and (3) to collaborate with the city government on possible Erasmus+ initiatives in the field of education and community development.

The event was graced by the presence and speech of the Honorary Consulate of Finland through the Honorary Consul Mr. Antonio S. Peralta, at the same time the ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Chairman. The event was held to help entities to strengthen their linkages with European nations and one of the organizations that will support the strengthening of the nations and entities is the European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines (ECCP).



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Advocacy Corner

Q4 Environment and Water Committee Meeting

9 November 2022

The Environment and Water Committee conducted its 4th quarter committee meeting last 9 November from 2:00-3:00 PM. During the meeting, the committee discussed updates on the status of the Extended Producers' Responsibility Act's Implementing Rules and Regulations and committee activities for the 4th quarter of the year.



Q4 ECCP Automotive Committee Meeting

16 November 2022

The ECCP and its Automotive Committee conducted its 4th quarter meeting on 16 November at 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM via Zoom. In this session, the Automotive Committee chairpersons sought the inputs and recommendations of the committee members for the formulation of the Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI), among others, which will be forwarded to the Department of Energy. The Committee also shared some latest updates on CREVI, EV Summit held last October, and recapitulated the 2022 ECCP Automotive Advocacy Paper.



ECCP Meeting with IBPAP

21 November 2022

On 21 November, the ECCP met with the IT & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) at the C2 Building, Bonifacio Global City to discuss partnership opportunities. Present at the meeting were ECCP President Mr. Lars Wittig, Vice President Mr. Paulo Duarte, and Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein. They were joined by IBPAP President and CEO Mr. Jack Madrid and Chief Policy & Regulatory Affairs Officer Ms. Celeste Ilagan.



ECCP Meeting with PCCI

21 November 2022

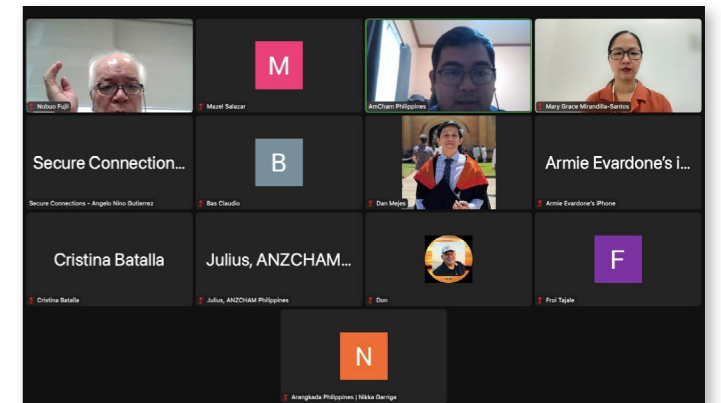
The ECCP had a meeting with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) last 21 November at Commerce and Industry Plaza, Fort Bonifacio Taguig City. The session aimed to explore potential areas of collaboration between the two chambers. The ECCP was represented by President Mr. Lars Wittig, Vice President Mr. Paulo Duarte, and Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein, while PCCI President Mr. George Barcelon and Secretary General Mr. Ruben Pascual joined on behalf of the Philippine chamber.



Better Internet PH & Secure Connections Briefing with the JFC

21 November 2022

Together with the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines, the ECCP attended the Better Internet PH & Secure Connections Briefing on policy measures to improve digital infrastructure, promote digital inclusion, and ensure cybersecurity. Better Internet PH Lead Advocate Ms. Grace Mirandilla-Santos discussed the Open Access in Internet Services Act and Executive Order on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection and Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Act, and sought the support of the JFC on the said policies.



Pilipinas Conference 2022

22 November 2022

The ECCP was represented at the 22 November Pilipinas Conference, entitled "Business Value Creation: Paving the Path for Inclusive Growth", organized by the Albert del Rosario Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ADRI). ECCP President Lars Wittig participated as a speaker and panelist in the session on "Balancing Recovery with Progressive Development Through Global Cooperation", which talked about advancing economic growth and momentum through the implementation of economic and sector-specific policies, as well as continuing COVID-related efforts.



NEDA Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit

22-23 November 2022

The ECCP, as one of the members of the Stakeholders' Chamber on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), was represented at the SDG Summit organized by the National Economic and Development Authority, held on 22 November. The SDG Summit is a 2-day event that gathered representatives from various institutions and sectors to talk about developments and best practices in monitoring, implementing, and developing the SSGs in the Philippines. The Summit also featured presentations on the Voluntary National Review 2022, as well as discussions on SDG financing.



ECCP Meeting with DTI Usec. Ceferino "Perry" Rodolfo

28 November 2022

Last 28 November, the ECCP met with DTI Undersecretary Ceferino "Perry" Rodolfo at the Industry and Investments Building, Makati City. During the session, ECCP representatives introduced the Chamber and its advocacies and explored potential areas of collaboration with the DTI. The 2022 ECCP Advocacy Papers were also handed over to the Undersecretary by the Chamber's sector committee chairpersons and representatives.



Present at the meeting were DTI Usec. Perry Rodolfo, ECCP President Lars Wittig, Executive Director Florian Gottein, Director Roman Menz, and Industry and Government Affairs Manager Katt Baligod. They were also joined by ECCP Transportation and Logistics Committee Chairperson Michael Reuber, Infrastructure Committee Chairperson Reinier Dizon, and Automotive Committee Representative Jesus Boces Jr.

Q4 ECCP Customs and Logistics Joint Committee Meeting

28 November 2022

Last 28 November, the ECCP Customs Committee and Logistics Committee conducted a joint meeting for the 4th quarter. During the session, the respective chairpersons shared with the members the 2022 priorities for the customs and logistics sectors such as the Customs Administrative Order No. 2-2022 (ATA Carnet System), among others. The meeting also provided an opportunity for industry representatives to bring up any concerns that they had.



Joint Foreign Chambers Press Conference

1 December 2022

The Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) organized a press conference in anticipation of the upcoming Arangkada Forum happening on 6 December 2022. On behalf of the group, ECCP President Lars Wittig read the opening statement and announced JFC's new target to generate an additional USD 50 billion in new Foreign Direct Investment that will enable the Philippines to create three million new direct jobs over the next decade (2021-2030). This target, set at the height of the pandemic, reflects the JFC's continuing belief in the enormous potential of the Philippines and the capacity of the Philippine government, with support from the private sector, to pursue and implement the necessary reforms and policies.



NEDA Stakeholders' Chamber Quarterly Meeting

1 December 2022

The ECCP participated in the 4th quarterly meeting of the NEDA Stakeholders' Chamber on Sustainable Development Goals. The said meeting covered updates on the discussions from the previous quarterly meetings, as well as information on the agency's development of the new Philippine Development Plan. The members were also consulted on next steps and proposed activities of the chamber.



Q4 ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting

2 December 2022

Last 2 December, the ECCP Aviation Committee had its virtual committee meeting to talk about the pax movement information process post-COVID. The attendees also discussed recent updates on sustainability as well as on digitalization in the Philippine aviation industry. Moreover, the Committee solicited the inputs of the members regarding the Aviation Summit in 2023, which will be co-organized by the ECCP, and shared the highlights of the 2022 edition of the Aviation Advocacy Paper recently published and presented by the Chamber.



ECCP Hybrid Focused Group Discussion on Sustainable Travel and Tourism

5 December 2022

The ECCP and its Tourism Committee conducted the Hybrid Focused Group Discussion (FGD) on Sustainable Travel and Tourism last 5 December at SPACES World Plaza in Bonifacio Global City and via Zoom. This FGD brought together industry experts, thought leaders, and policymakers to exchange ideas on developing a sustainable tourism sector, as well as share their organization's best practices with respect to sustainability.

Joining the panel were Department of Tourism Regional Director Cristine Mansinares; Philippine Hotel Owners Association (PHOA) Executive Director Benito Bengzon; Shangri-La Mactan General Manager Dave Junker; Hotel 101 Group General Manager Gel Gomez; Philippine Airlines Vice President for Sales Salvador Britanico; and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Country Manager for the Philippines Samuel David. The discussion was moderated by Booking.com Head of Public Affairs for APAC Yang Li.



JFC Courtesy Visit to DOLE Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma

5 December 2022

Last 5 December, the JFC had a courtesy meeting with DOLE Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma at the DOLE Office in Intramuros, Manila. The Secretary was joined by Undersecretaries Carmela Torres, Atty. Benjo Santos Benavidez, Atty. Felipe N. Egargo, Jr., Ciriaco Lagunzad III, and Dominique Rubia-Tutay, as well as Assistant Secretaries Atty. Paul Vincent Añover, Atty. Maria Liavel Badillo-Crisostomo, Atty. Lennard Constantine Serrano, and Warren Miclat.

During the said meeting, the group introduced its key advocacies in human capital development, including the Apprenticeship Program Reform and the National Unemployment Insurance. Likewise, the DOLE discussed its plans and priorities on employment promotion and human resources development, social protection and workers welfare, and labor relations.

Present at the meeting were ECCP President Lars Wittig, AMCHAM Executive Director Ebb Hinchliffe, AMCHAM Committee Chair for Human Capital and Resources Ernie Cecilia, CanCham Trustee and Chair for Human Resources & Mobility Rex Castaneda, JCCIPI Vice President Nobuo Fujii, and PAMURI Director Atty. Mimi Lopez-Malvar.



EU-PH Roundtable Discussion in Brussels

14 December 2022

The ECCP, represented by Executive Director Florian Gottein, participated in the EU-PH Roundtable Discussion in Brussels, Belgium together with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and other European business leaders. In the said luncheon, President Marcos presented an overview of European-Philippine trade and investment relations. He also elucidated the efforts of the administration to facilitate ease of doing business and increased investment in the country including the passage of landmark economic reforms such as the amendments to the Foreign Investment Act, Retail Trade Liberalization Act, and Public Service Act, as well as the relaxation of foreign participation limitation in the renewable energy sector. Moreover, the President discussed the executive order seeking the creation of green lane for strategic investments. Aside from plans to address climate change and improve the Philippine agriculture sector, the digitalization strategies and industrialization policy of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were also discussed by President Marcos during the session. These initiatives will focus on four clusters: industrial, manufacturing and transport (IMT); technology, media and telecommunications (TMT); health and life science (HLS); and modern basic needs and a resilient economy (MBNRE).



Ceremonial Signing of the 2023 General Appropriations Act

16 December 2022

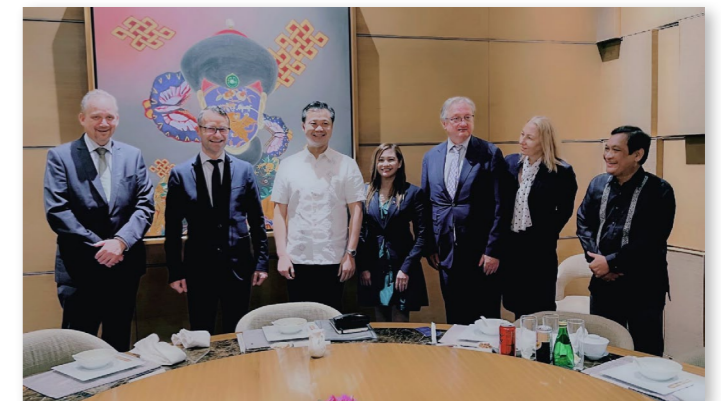
On 16 December, the ECCP took part in the Ceremonial Signing of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the Fiscal Year 2023 by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. at the Ceremonial Hall, Malacañan Palace. The 2023 GAA will fund the administration's recovery plan next year as the country emerges from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Among the priority sectors under the administration's first national budget are education, public works, health, social welfare, agriculture as well as transportation. The Chamber was represented by Board Member and Treasurer Ms. Helen Grace Baisa.



Lunch Meeting for European Parliament Member, Hon. Tomasz Poreba

19 December 2022

ECCP Treasurer and Board Member Ms. Helen Grace Baisa recently met with Senator Sherwin Gatchalian and Member of the European Parliament, the Honorable Tomasz Poreba of Poland last 19 December. During the lunch meeting, the participants discussed the Polish-Philippine trade relations and how to strengthen bilateral economic ties, regulatory framework, as well as potential investment opportunities for Polish businesses in the Philippines.



New Members Corner

Premium Members



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We are 28 years in the business industry specializing in specialty concrete finishing. For more info, please visit our website.



Amya Polytechnic College Inc.

Amya Polytechnic College Inc. is located at Quimpo Boulevard corner Tulip Drive, Ecoland, Bucana, Davao City, Philippines. This organization is one of the institutions that is accredited by TESDA and acknowledged by CHED. They offer courses in the area of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Courses (TVET) like Front Office Services NC II and a lot more.



Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST)

ASSIST was established in 2003 with the aim of addressing sustainability challenges in the Philippines.

Today, it has evolved into a self-sustaining, Pan-Asian, non-profit organization driven by passion and purpose for progress and prosperity in the region.



Aquila Softwares Corporation

Aquila builds top notch automation medical software services for medical facilities such as clinics, laboratories and hospitals.

Aquila started out as two junior engineers trying to earn a living and didn't have any plans to venture into a business but then an opportunity came in to help out one of the top IVF laboratories in Davao and that's when it all started.



East West Ageas Life Insurance Corp.

We're EastWest Ageas Insurance. We used to be called Troo, but we've refreshed recently to carry both our parent firms' names—EastWest and Ageas.

We were founded in 2015 and are the first insurance company in the world to have an end-to-end integrated IT platform in the cloud.

Our technology enables us to offer our customers a seamless experience and customized financial solutions.

It's our passion and commitment to help Filipinos plan for a better tomorrow so they can live their best lives today.



GMAC Logitech Refrigeration Corporation

GMAC Logitech Refrigeration Corporation, the joint venture company of Ayala Corp subsidiary AC Logistics and Glacier Megafridge, Inc. (GMI) is one of the largest cold chain storage and logistical services providers in the Philippines located in Cagayan de Oro City. The company provides integrated cold chain operations, including cold storage warehousing, blast freezing, inventory management, transport management, distribution and logistics.



IBPAP - IT & Business Process Association of the Phils.

The IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines is the primary trade body and advocacy group of the country's agile, dynamic, and resilient IT and Business Process Management (IT-BPM) sector.



Intelassist Inc

Intelassist is a BPO organization specializing in providing experienced and highly skilled employees based in Manila, Philippines to a diverse segment of businesses located throughout North America and beyond.

Our dedicated staff based in the Philippines along with our offices on the East and West Coast of the United States allows our team the ability to deliver results to any client and in any market or role.

With over 15 years of experience in the BPO industry, Intelassist prioritizes organizational resilience and social stewardship to create lasting, meaningful partnerships within our team and with our clients.



Pueblo de Panay Inc.

Pueblo de Panay Township is the largest township development in the Visayas Region of the Philippines. A 670-hectare flagship project of Pueblo de Panay, Inc. (PDPI), master-planned by Surbana Jurong, a Singaporean government-owned consultancy company focusing on infrastructure and urban development.

A mixed-use, master-planned, and Filipino-inspired township located in the Seafood Capital of the Philippines, Roxas City, that has designated areas for different uses seamlessly integrated into one another. It is a place where people can live, work, relax, and have fun; a place that embodies PDPI's advocacy – LIFE.WORK.BALANCE.



Rustic Creations by Anj

Founded by husband and wife team, Ann & Jeoff in 2017, the concept that became Rustic Creations by AnJ started with the simple wish to create a personalized and functional gift for their loved ones. It started the same way so many businesses do, in their garage. Today, Rustic Creations by AnJ is known for its exclusive array of personalized wooden products and curated gifts. Our organized and method-based workflow has elevated and redefined the standard for speed of delivery of personalized wooden products.

Using sustainably produced wood, we personalize boards, kitchenwares & curate gifts for any occasion.

Our local handcrafted aesthetic has helped put forward rustic inspired gifts and has become a preferred theme in weddings and other events.



Luxusmarken Von Adrenaline Inc

Luxusmarken Von Adrenaline Inc is the parent company of the Washington-Adrenaline group (total of 5 companies under the umbrella). We are the official distributors of Porsche Design (Germany: Luxusmarken), Petit Bateau and Jacadi (France: Petit Luxe), Radeberger Group of beers (Germany: WA Global) and the United Colors of Benetton (Italy: Metaretail Ventures). As a family business, we have also been authorized distributors of Rolex and Tudor for over 4 decades now.



Ocampo & Manalo Law Firm

Full-service legal partnership with a strong commercial practice in corporate, aviation and transportation law, real estate and construction, energy and natural resources, IT, media, and telecommunications



Shoppable

Shoppable Business is a trusted, hassle-free B2B eCommerce marketplace for buying and selling 100% authentic branded products in the Philippines.

Shoppable is enabling B2B eCommerce through our specialized marketplaces, logistics infrastructure, financial products, and eCommerce tools.

Our mission is to help sellers and brands worldwide by connecting sellers to buyers looking for authentic branded products from a wide selection of categories.



Villaraza & Angangco

Villaraza & Angangco was founded in 1980 under the leadership of young lawyers including now Supreme Court Justice Antonio T. Carpio and F. Arthur L. Villaraza, student leaders and top graduates from the University of the Philippines.

V&A Law is a full-service law firm, with recognized expertise in Litigation, Intellectual Property, and Corporate and Commercial Law. With decades of experience in serving a full spectrum of our client's interests, V&A lawyers are equipped to skillfully handle the most intricate problems and provide comprehensive solutions that deliver results. The firm has also established expertise in the broad practice area of corporate and commercial law.



Okada Manila

Carved on 42 hectares of picturesque oceanfront, Okada Manila is Entertainment City's iconic integrated resort. Stay, play, dine, relax – all amid the luxurious comforts of a one-of-a-kind, masterfully created space for five-star pleasure and leisure.



PayMongo Philippines Inc

PayMongo is the easiest way to get paid online. Create an account in minutes and start accepting credit cards, GCash, GrabPay, Maya and more.

Individual Members

- Louiella Aquino
- Jessie L. Todoc

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Business Opportunities



British Vitamin Company seeks a Distributor / Partner for award-winning ethical products

A British Vitamin Company seeks a Distributor / Partner for award-winning products including vitamins, minerals, herbs, nutritional oils, speciality supplements, tinctures and balms. They are looking for Philippine pharmaceutical companies or green, organic speciality stores that are open to distributing and retailing organic supplements produced from green business practices.



Australian Software Company is looking to partner with local IT companies

An Australian company, one of the world's leading suppliers of software solutions and services for asset finance, leasing, and fleet mobility management, is seeking partnerships with local IT companies which specializes in financial services. They would like to establish a partnership with a company that has already onboarded three core software engineers and two web engineers (Java Web Developers).



Two Filipino companies are looking for suppliers of solar panels

Two Filipino companies are looking for suppliers of solar panels for a pure supply relationship to establish a solar aquafarm solar energy harvesting facility in the Central Luzon.

If interested in becoming a partner, we would love to talk to you. Please send us an email to catherine.lee@eccp.com or visit www.eccp.com for more information. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Q1 JAN - MAR

Monthly Luncheon Meetings

2023 European Ambassador's Meeting

January

2023 Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook Launch

January

Ambassadors and Honorary Consuls' Meeting

January | Cebu | February | Davao

Nutrition Advocacy Forum

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

March

ASEAN-level Webinar

March

Q3 JUL - SEP

Monthly Luncheon Meetings

Sustainable Agriculture Forum

Energy Smart Forum

Water/Waste/Future Cities

Aviation Summit

Net Zero Events Philippines Initiative

Membership Networking Socials

Q2 APR - JUN

Monthly Luncheon Meetings

ECCP Golf Challenge

April

EU-ASEAN Business Council Annual General Membership Meeting, Mission & Gala

ECCP 45th Anniversary

2023 Europe Week

European-Philippine Business Summit

Annual General Membership Meeting and Networking

June

Q4 OCT - DEC

Monthly Luncheon Meetings

Europa Awards and Launch of the 2023 Sustainability Whitebook

October

2024 Economic Outlook

November

Water/Waste/Future Cities

November

Membership Networking Socials

Christkindlmarket

December

