

# EuroPH CONNECT

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

Issue on Nutrition

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- *European Country in Focus: Austria*
- *Interview with the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Philippines H.E. Johann Brieger*
- *Interview with the Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute Director Dr. Imelda Agdeppa*



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**Published by**  
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Digital copies of the EuroPH CONNECT are distributed free of charge on a bi-monthly basis to ECCP members, partners, and friends of ECCP, as well as to industry associations and government officials with whom the Chamber has dealings.


**Subscription Service**  
Subscriptions from non-members are also accepted: in the Philippines: PHP 1,500 (6 issues); Individual copies may be purchased locally at PHP 220 (members) and PHP 250 (non-members); and for companies outside the Philippines at US\$25.00.

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# CONNECT WITH THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

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## Editorial

Dear reader,

One of the important factors in an individual's overall wellbeing is nutrition. More than ever has this become apparent in the recent pandemic. People became more aware and are now to a larger degree willing to put more value and investment towards their health and nutrition.

This EuroPH Connect issue on Nutrition aims to raise awareness about the health and nutrition issues in the country and the preparedness of institutions to address these health problems and concerns.

For ECCP, we feature the initiatives of one of our long-standing committees, the Food and Beverage Committee with one of its advocacies focused on resolving the issue of food insecurity and malnutrition in the country. The Committee has conducted several initiatives to raise awareness on the significance of nutrition in the country's plight towards recovery, one of which was the Hybrid Advocacy Event on Nutrition and Wellness which we held last year 31 August 2022.

The hybrid event included discussions, plans and programs of the current administration to address the issue of food insecurity as well as promote nutrition and multi-stakeholder dialogues on innovative solutions to improve nutrition outcomes. In continuation of these dialogues, the Committee is scheduled to hold a hybrid event later in April this year to which we are all looking very much forward to.

In this issue, we also feature the Embassy of the Republic of Austria and Ambassador Johann Brieger as he shares insights on the business relations between Austria and the Philippines as well as his thoughts on health and nutrition on page 8.

The Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute's (DOST-FNRI) Director Dr. Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa provides updates on page 12 on the department's initiatives and programs on tackling malnutrition and making nutrition more accessible for all Filipinos.

From our ECCP members, Corporate Partner KPMG underscores the pressing challenges adversely affecting food security on page 16. Corporate Partner Pru Life UK, meanwhile, shares about how they drive up financial inclusion through their insurtech policy paper and emphasizes why it is essential in driving broader insurance access.

As for early wins this 2023, I am happy to share that we marked the first weeks of the year with three successfully held events on the 26th of January.

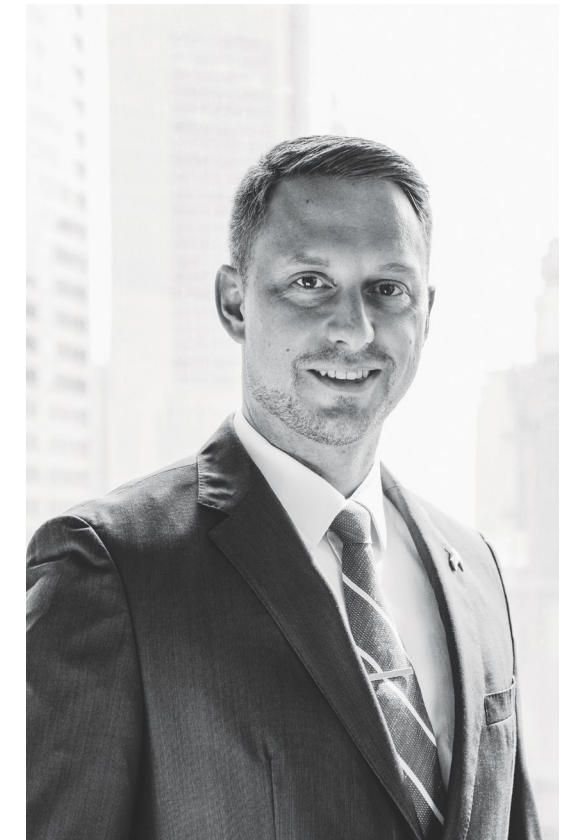
Our first event included a press launch of the 2023 edition of the [Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook](#) held in the morning, done in partnership with our Premium Member DivinaLaw and with members of the diplomatic corps, partners, and the media present at the launch. It was followed in the afternoon with our closed-door European Ambassador's Meeting with speakers and members of the diplomatic corps in attendance to provide an overview on the trade and investment landscape of the Philippines. Lastly, to cap off the day, we hosted our annual New Year's Reception where we celebrated the start of another strong year together with our beloved members, trusted partners and esteemed guests from the government. Read more about this story on page 22.

As for other highlights at the Chamber, our Advocacy Corner found on page 37 details the many meetings held with key government representatives and the discussions that took place regarding developments of relevant policies and initiatives over the last few weeks.

Moreover, as a trusted arm of the European-Philippine Business Community, we have warmly welcomed 1 new Premium Member. In addition to that, we have also onboarded 23 new regular and associate members, and 1 individual member into the ECCP. You may join us in welcoming our newest members by reading up on them on page 44. 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 two months spanning its branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Clark, and Iloilo are all available on page 28. Then you may keep yourself updated with the latest business opportunities on page 49.

As we approach the end of Q1, we are getting ready to face another quarter filled with more events and activities for our members and partners. I hope you will 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.



**Florian Gottein**  
ECCP Executive Director



European Country in Focus

# Austria



**Geographical Location:** Austria is located in the southern part of Central Europe. It is bordered by Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Italy.

**Climate:** Austria has temperate and an alpine climate. It has all 4 major seasons although it varies throughout the country.

**Official Language:** German

**Government Type:** Austria is a federal parliamentary republic. The head of the government is the Chancellor and the head of the state is the President. The Austrian Parliament consists of two chambers: the National Assembly (Nationalrat) and the Federal Council (Bundesrat). It also has nine (9) independent federal states; Burgenland, Carinthia, Lower Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Upper Austria, Vienna, and Vorarlberg.

**Standard of Living:** The average household net-adjusted disposable income per capita is USD 37,001 a year which is considered above the OECD average of USD 30,490 a year. The Human development index (HDI) of Austria is reaching 0.916 in 2021 which indicates a very high level of development by the UN definition.

**Organizations:**

- United Nations (since 1955)
- European Union (since 1995)
- World Trade Organization (since 1995)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (1973)
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (1961)
- Interpol (1923)

## INTERESTING FACTS

- Austria is a landlocked country in East Central Europe. The country is only surrounded by land, mountains and forests. 62% of the country is covered with mountains. Austria is covered by mountains, most of them are called Alps, but there are others especially in the East.
- Austria is comparatively high in elevation in contrast to other countries. It has an average elevation of 910 meters above sea level and about 30% of the country is found anywhere below 1,640 feet. The highest peak or mountain is at approximately 12,461 above sea level.
- More than half of electricity in Austria comes from hydropower. Due to its alpine topography and abundant rivers, the country was able to utilize hydropower as their main source of electricity production. The Alpine country also boasts one of the largest pumped hydropower storage capacities in the region.
- The Austrian flag is one of the oldest flags in use in the world dating from 1230. Although, the red and white triband is said to be used as early as 1105.
- Austria's Gross Domestic Product per capita is at \$53,637 in 2021 which makes it one of the fourteen richest in the world in terms of GDP per capita. The country's economy focuses on foreign trade.

## FINANCIAL DISTRICT

A wide range of institutions handles financial services, including large nationally owned and foreign banks, the Austrian Post Savings Bank (Österreichische Postsparkasse), smaller local savings banks, and commercial credit and agricultural credit cooperatives. Founded in 1771 by Empress Maria Theresa, the Vienna Stock Exchange (Wiener Börse) is one of the oldest institutions in Europe where shares of both Austrian and foreign companies are traded there.

Austrian private investors and entrepreneurs have found a new arena for foreign investment in Austria's former imperial domains such as Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia and, to a lesser extent, northern Italy. Since the mid-1990s, thousands of Austrian companies that are mostly small and medium sized have been involved in investment projects in these countries. An extensive network of OMV gas stations and numerous branch offices of Bank of Austria are some notable examples of Austrian ventures in eastern European countries.

## TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE

Schonbrunn Palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is one of Europe's most beautiful Baroque palaces which is a former summer residence of the Habsburg in Vienna. It consists of 1,440 rococo style rooms with massive sculpted garden space and lavish architecture designed by the architects Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach and Nicolaus Pacassi. It has been one of Vienna's major tourist attractions with over millions of people from all over the world visiting each year.



HALLSTATT-DACHSTEIN

Declared as one of the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, Hallstatt boasts a picturesque small town in Gmunden in the state of Upper Austria. This town is known for its production of salt that can be traced back from prehistoric times. It has a breathtaking view of the mountain complemented by the baroque architecture of houses and its beautiful lake. It is also one of the most popular places to visit in Austria.



KRIMMLER ACHE

Krimmler Ache is Austria's tallest waterfall and the highest in Europe. Situated in National Park Hohe Tauern this waterfall has a total plunging height of 380 meter or 1,247 feet. Due to its worldwide popularity the place draws over 400,000 tourists every year. Also, this waterfall is considered to be mystical because its waters are said to have a healing power component. It is scientifically proven that visiting the Krimml Waterfalls can alleviate or even heal numerous ailments. Bronchial asthma, allergies, stress-related diseases and ailments of the autonomic nervous system can be treated effectively with waterfall therapy.

83,883  
square kilometers

POPULATION  
9.1 M  
approximately

CAPITAL  
Vienna

## AUSTRIA TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Austria's economy is considered as one of the most stable economies in Europe. As the country is heavily dependent on foreign trade, it has a strong network in export-focused small to medium enterprises, excellent academic standards as well as significant investment for research and development. The agricultural sector in Austria is one of the major factors for its booming economy, cattle farming, organic farming and viticulture are the country's main agricultural activities. The main industrial sectors are the metal industry, electrochemistry and engineering which are widely scattered throughout its states from the implemented policies for the economic specialization of each state. Moreover, the renewable energies sector that focuses on hydropower is also a great part of its augmenting performance in the global arena as it has exceeded those of the tourism and construction sectors. But the most important sector that dominates the economy is the services sector which contributes 62.6% of GDP and employs 71% of the country's active population.



Interview with the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria  
to the Philippines

## H.E. Johann Brieger



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

I arrived at the end of August last year, the very day children started to go back to school. Everything gradually opened up and you could sense the positive mood that came with the regained freedoms. The current administration actively looks outside and travels, sending the right messages and inviting people and businesses to take a fresh look at opportunities in the Philippines. We can feel that every day and the numbers support that with our bilateral trade set to surpass the all-time-high of 2017.

“

*The Philippines has a rich pool of well-educated young people whose English proficiency is a real asset for doing business with Europe.*

”

**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?**

The Philippines has a rich pool of well-educated young people whose English proficiency is a real asset for doing business with Europe. The previous government has already put in place measures that improve the ease of doing business. Continued pressure in cutting red tape while setting further structural measures by the current administration to create an enabling environment will continue to increase the attractiveness of the Philippines as an investment destination.

**What do Austrian businesses find most attractive about doing business with the Philippines?**

Global competition is fierce and a business friendly and highly efficient environment in terms of power supply, connectivity and digital infrastructure are necessary preconditions. The government is addressing these issues and highly innovative Austrian companies have already proven in the past the contribution they can make in supporting the infrastructure development of the Philippines. The Philippine government's "Build, Better, More" seems to attract even more Austrian companies to establish subsidiary or even regional headquarters in the Philippines.

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

To be successful in distant markets, personal contacts and the right partners are of utmost importance. The post-Covid recovery and the growth dynamics of the Philippines send the right messages and I am pleased to report that we are currently in preparations for the visit of a strong business delegation from Austria to the Philippines in April to see for themselves.

Austrian companies see potential with infrastructure, water and wastewater management, renewable energy and sustainability, circular economy as well as health and agriculture in the Philippines.

“

*To be successful in distant markets, personal contacts and the right partners are of utmost importance.*

”

**Are there Austrian outlooks on health and nutrition that can inspire our partners to live a healthier lifestyle you would like to share?**

Austria is located at the heart of Europe, in a magnificent landscape. The Alps provide the romantic backdrop for a small, exquisite world, wholly dedicated to taking pleasure in natural products. Juicy green meadows, blossoming fields and untouched alpine pastures grow the ingredients. These are then transformed into a range of specialty products by both the traditional, small-scale Austrian agricultural industry and the processing institutions, inspiring palates around the whole world. I think one of the similarities between Austrian and Filipino culture is our love for food.

In public polls, Austrian consumers usually express a preference for high quality, regionally, and sustainably produced foods. We believe that dietary behavior influences health as well as the development and course of certain diseases and works hand in hand with physical activity that makes an essential contribution to maintaining health and well-being.

Austria is the first country to establish national regulations regarding organic farming. Regulations were already introduced in 1983 and served as the basis for the control of organic farming by the authorities until Austria's accession to the EU. Organic farming is a way of agricultural production which uses organic production methods and places the highest emphasis on environmental and wildlife protection and with regard to livestock production, on animal welfare considerations. Organic food production is playing a continuously increasing role all over the world and Austria is a pioneer in this field!



In fact, the highest share of organic farming areas in the EU is recorded in Austria. In 2020, the total area of Austrian agricultural land under organic farming is 25%. And in the Salzburg region of Austria, about one half (52%) of the total utilized agricultural area is used for organic farming in 2016, the highest share among EU's regions.

**What were the major nutrition and health-related challenges faced by Austria, and how were these addressed?**

Austrians have been paying more attention to their diet since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic but unhealthy lifestyles remain a key public health challenge. Although there are challenges in implementing policies to discourage and reduce alcohol consumption and smoking, long planned reforms have come into place. For example, the 2014 Health Promotion Strategy put greater emphasis on prevention and health promotion, including the creation of health promotion funds in each state – supported by € 15 million per year until 2022 – that aim to strengthen health promotion and prevention. At least two-thirds of the funding must be spent on prevention targeting certain groups or activities, including early childhood (healthy nurseries, kindergartens and schools), strengthening health literacy and promoting the well-being of older people (BMASGK, 2019).

The World Health Organization recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week for the population aged 18-64 as well as muscle-strengthening activities on at least two days per week. Austria has a lot of national policies or action plans for the promotion of physical activity for health involving various sectors (health, education, sports, environment, urban planning, transport) to coordinate the working group on health targets to promote healthy, safe exercise and activity in everyday life through appropriate environments.

One of the many good examples is the national funding programme "klimaaktiv mobil" in the Ministry of Climate Action that has provided financial support for companies, federal states and municipalities to promote cycling, including infrastructure since 2007 and in 2020, the national budget was doubled to € 40 million per year. Additionally, new funding was provided for bicycle lanes which brings us to The Masterplan cycling 2015-2025 strategy. This aims to increase the prevalence of cycling from 7% to 13% as a health-promoting measure, reduce health and environmental costs and increase training in cycling, raise awareness and invest in promotion of cycling throughout the country, with development of infrastructure, cycle-friendly legal conditions and a pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion in the context of the UNEC/WHO Transport, Health and the Environment Pan-European Programme.

**Are there notable public-private partnerships on health and nutrition?**

Styria vitalis is an independent non-profit organization that provides tools, expertise and methods concerning health promotion and prevention throughout the province of Styria. They address topics such as healthy eating and drinking, dental health, exercise, mental health and the promotion of community and social cohesion. They also create healthy living conditions by providing healthy

school buffets, barrier-free paths, attractive playgrounds, and meeting places of which the municipality of Lieboch (Graz, Austria) successfully implemented several projects through this partnership and provided health courses, lectures and health day to inform its citizens regularly about health topics.

Similarly, the municipality of Mistelbach in Lower Austria started a similar program which started in 1995 with the aim of making the participating communities health-promoting and taking preventive measures that are oriented towards Austria's health goals. The municipality works closely with representatives of various organizations and stakeholders and provides lecture programs, which deals with the topics of exercise, nutrition, nature and the environment, mental health and medicine/prevention. The municipality, through the "healthy community" also established a hiking trail and provided herbal apprentice courses, healthy cooking courses, and supported school projects through workshops, movement and swimming courses, etc.

And as you can tell, Austria places a high priority on health. I would say that one of the notable public-private partnerships on health and nutrition are the works of the Austrian Health Promotion Fund (FGÖ)—a business unit of the Austrian National Public Health Institute which provides funding and a competence center for health promotion and prevention.

FGÖ's activities are focused on project funding. It financially supports health projects from all over Austria which are planned and implemented by committed organizations. FGÖ also disseminates knowledge, develops skills and competencies in the field of health promotion through training opportunities in partnership and close cooperation with stakeholders and actors. The FGÖ also promotes the exchange of practice, science and politics in the field of health promotion.

Another remarkable partnership is the establishment of Healthy Cities Network in 1992. It is the Association for the Promotion of Health Awareness in Austrian Cities. The Austrian network is part of the WHO National Healthy Cities Network and is tasked to coordinate and exchange information among Healthy Cities and provide advice and assistance in the implementation of Healthy Cities projects.

**“  
Global competition is fierce and a business friendly and highly efficient environment in terms of power supply, connectivity and digital infrastructure are necessary preconditions.  
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Interview with the Department of Science and Technology  
Food and Nutrition Research Institute Director

## Dr. Imelda Agdeppa



### What are the driving factors of persistent malnutrition or undernutrition in certain areas of the country?

The 2018-2019 ENNS reported that more than half (56.0%) of Filipino households were classified as food insecure.

The persistent malnutrition problem in the has immediate, underlying, and basic causes.

The major immediate causes arise from inadequate dietary intake and the presence of disease. These immediate causes are linked with underlying causes at the household, community, and societal levels which include food insecurity, poor caring and feeding practices, poor home environmental conditions, and inadequate health care services, in some cases, poor access to health care services, poor biodiversity, and poverty. Malnutrition deprives children of the opportunity for optimum growth and development.

### What are the programs and initiatives in place to help make nutrition more accessible for all Filipinos?

There are existing nutrition programs being implemented by the national government, local government units, non-government organizations, and private sectors. These programs include:

The implementation of robust programs and policies during the First 1,000 Days. The Republic Act No. 11148 (Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act), and Republic Act No. 11037 (Masustansiyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act) supported the different nutrition programs to be more available and accessible to the people (i.e., deworming, vitamin A supplementation, ferrous sulfate, iron-folic acid, pre- and post-natal services, nutrition education, counseling, etc.).

Another program is the Operation Timbang Plus (OPT+). It is an annual weighing and height measurement activity done among 0-59 months old children in the community to identify and locate undernourished children. The OPT+ results are used as a basis in planning and implementing nutrition programs such as feeding interventions and the conduct of nutrition education among mothers and caregivers.

In the schools, nutrition assessment, school feeding programs, nutrition educational campaigns. As part of the anti-hunger mitigation program of the government, crops and livestock are distributed to targeted beneficiaries (poor households) in the community. To improve food security status of the households, the local government units through the Department of Agriculture encouraged households to establish their own vegetable garden, along with the distribution of seedlings. There is also Gulayan sa Paaralan program where the produce is utilized as ingredients for the school feeding program to make the food served more nutritious and encourage children to eat vegetables.

We at the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute serve as the research arm of the government in giving up-to-date information on the country's food and nutrition situation and even on some health indicators where the DOST-FNRI is the official source of data. Developed nutritious products are used in supplementary feeding programs of the NNC, DepEd, and DSWD.

“

*Adopt the technologies so that these will cover more people in need especially in the hard-to-reach areas.*

”

### How can the private sector contribute and collaborate with your office in promoting Nutrition and wellness?

There are so many ways how the private sectors could collaborate in promoting nutrition and wellness:

1. Be our partner at the grassroots by advocating the use of the Pinggang Pinoy; disseminating the Nutritional Guidelines at the local government units.
2. Use the results of the National Nutrition Survey as basis in crafting nutrition programs or interventions so these will be area-specific, more cost-effective and cost-efficient.
3. Adopt the technologies so that these will cover more people in need especially in the hard-to-reach areas.
4. Fund research that responds to the current needs for food, nutrition, and technological services.

### In your opinion, how huge is the influence of social media in today's time in terms of food, nutrition and eating habits of the Filipinos?

Due to the growing presence of social media in Filipinos' lives nowadays, especially with the introduction of TikTok, many food and beverage products are being marketed by different companies or brands or people. As such, Filipinos, specifically adolescents are influenced by this vast amount of information available with just a tap or click away. Take for example the coffee trend that started at the height of the pandemic in 2020 wherein many people around the world as well as Filipinos took part in this craze (Kang, 2020; Kirkwood, 2020). This shows that social media really does play a huge part in today's time in terms of food, nutrition, and eating habits of Filipinos. However, depending on the nutrition value of the products being marketed, social media advertisements' influence may contribute to the risk of developing unfavorable health outcomes such as obesity, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes (Kucharczuk et al., 2022).

Social media is an effective tool or platform that can be used to provide awareness and promote healthy lifestyle habits such as healthy eating, increased physical activity, avoid smoking and excessive drinking of alcoholic beverages. However, as social media users, we must be vigilant on the information being shared and the source of this information because we might be getting the wrong or incorrect information and that these may be shared to a lot of people causing a domino effect.



“

*As part of the anti-hunger mitigation program of the government, crops and livestock are distributed to targeted beneficiaries (poor households) in the community.*

”

**Are there any factors that would hinder the effectiveness of nutritional campaigns/feeding programs? What are the key performance indicators used to measure the success of a nutritional campaign?**

**A. Nutritional Campaign**

Several factors might influence the effectiveness of nutritional campaigns and this can be at the individual, sociocultural, and local level. At the individual level, barriers in making healthy dietary choices include personal preference, age, gender, culture, education, income, health status, nutritional, as well as attitude toward food and health, motivation, and values.

The sociocultural factors include family and community norms, social pressures, social class, social networks, race, and ethnicity as well as the local environment where one thrives. Apart from these, wider commercial pressures also affect consumer choice, including food packaging, marketing, advertising, and sociocultural perceptions of norms, status, and prestige (Mozaffarian et al., 2018).

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) should be in place to determine the effectiveness of a nutritional campaign. Evaluation could be in terms of the number or percentage of individuals who reported practicing a certain nutrition-related behavior, etc.

**B. Feeding Programs**

A lot of factors might hinder the effectiveness of a feeding program.

This include lack of manpower or inadequate training of the implementers; lack of resources such as functional equipment in measuring weight and height to determine the nutritional status of children before and after the program; proper targeting of program beneficiaries; unsupportive parents of children beneficiaries; lack of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component or there are gaps in M&E; and

nutrition programs not being the priority program of the LGU. Low support of the LCE may affect program sustainability in terms of budget and support for manpower, among others.

The presence of the M&E component of the program will determine whether it is effective or needs improvement in the implementation. Key performance indicators may include the number or percentage of children who gained weight after the intervention; prevalence of underweight or thin children at the end of the program; number or percentage of children with improved nutritional status (i.e., underweight to normal weight-for-age status); and number or percentage of children with illness before, during and at the end of the intervention.

**How do you advocate for programs that help promote healthy lifestyles among your citizens? (Ex. encouraging citizens to walk or bike as part of their daily commutes, recommending nutrient efficient meals to company cafeterias)**

Our mandate includes defining the nutritional status of Filipinos; developing tools, standards and nutritious products to address the identified nutrition problems as well as recommend policies and programs; and disseminating the research findings to relevant stakeholders. As DOST-FNRI is not an implementing agency, the Institute coordinates with different agencies and organizations in providing evidence in the implementation of nutrition programs. We also provide technical assistance in the adoption of our technologies to help alleviate malnutrition, like the Malnutrition Reduction Program (MRP), and the Enhanced Nutribun which now has many variants. We also lobby for policy recommendations to relevant stakeholders, both at the local and national levels, in order for them to prioritize and address pressing issues in nutrition like food security and undernutrition.

Ensuring proper dietary habits is crucial especially now that we are still in a pandemic. The use of different tools developed by the Institute may guide Filipinos to achieve a healthy lifestyle. These tools are posted in our social media accounts.

We have the Nutritional Guidelines for Filipinos (NGF) that contains all the key nutrition messages to healthy living for all age groups from infants to adults, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly.

We also have the Pinggang Pinoy, a simple, visual tool to guide Filipinos in consuming the right amount of food in every meal. It is an easy-to-understand guide that uses a familiar food plate model to show the right food group proportions on a per-meal basis to meet the energy and nutrient-needs of an individual. The plate represents proportions of foods belonging to the Go, Grow and Glow food groups. Half of the plate is for Glow foods consisting of fruits and vegetables while one-sixth of the plate is for Grow foods like meats, eggs, poultry, fish, beans and legumes. Meanwhile, one-third of the plate is taken-up by the Go foods such as rice, corn, bread, oatmeal, and root crops.





# The nutrition of the mind

By Michael Arcatomy H. Guarin,

KPMG in the Philippines' Deal Advisory Head and Head of Healthcare Sector

The future generations' success will largely depend on their ability to obtain sufficient and healthy food. However, there are pressing challenges right now that are adversely affecting food security. Commodity shortages and price increases are being caused by supply chain blockages. Moreover, the effects of climate change are also posing a threat to the stability of the food supply and driving up food prices.

This is a critical issue that needs addressing as studies show that nutrition is linked with the development of one's cognitive abilities.

## Hunger in the Philippines

According to a survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) made in 2021, around 2.5 million Filipino families experience hunger. Of this figure, the survey said around two million families experience moderate hunger skipping at least one meal a day, while the remaining half a million families experience severe hunger, having to go without food for more than one day.

Undernutrition is and has always been a major issue in the Philippines. The World Bank reports that throughout the past thirty years, there have hardly been any changes in the level of undernutrition in the Philippines. In 2019, one in three children (29%) under the age of five suffered from stunting, placing the nation in the top 10 countries in the world with the highest number of stunted children. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines stunting as the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.

What we eat is a daily essential with which we have the most control. However, given the various social realities that we face, access to the right and proper diet has become a privilege. That is why, we must be on the same page in calling for inclusive and sustainable solutions to address this crisis.

## The web of Nutrition and Education

This lack of food, the most basic of human rights, has far-reaching impacts and consequences in our society. There have been several studies linking cognitive performance with diet and nutrition. As an example, a study from the Harvard Medical School found that access to protein-rich food sources like fish and healthy fats such as olive and canola oils helps with sharper brain performance. The

WHO also states that deprivation of the right diet affects a child's physical, emotional, and mental development. It has been proven that malnourished children have poorer learning aptitude. In terms of IQ, the World Population Review ranked the Philippines in a 2022 study at 111th place out of 199 countries with an average IQ of 81.7, compared to Japan which is ranked first with an average IQ of 106.48.

Poverty has been a decades-long problem in the country, and it gave birth to various social realities like hunger and malnutrition. Now, as we witness the relationship between nutrition and mental abilities, it simply proves that food is essential to the holistic being of each person.

These are very concerning issues with serious long-term consequences. The country's economic strength lies within its people. The Philippines prides itself in having a globally competitive workforce but if we do not take care of the next generation, then we will miss out on taking full advantage of the benefits of the demographic sweet spot that comes from having a young population.

## Ways to move forward

This is a critical issue that needs addressing now. There is a lot to be done but we can start by:

- Boosting the National Nutrition Council's capacity to supervise and oversee programs, enabling it to respond to gaps in program implementation and ensuring that programs run smoothly and efficiently.
- Prioritizing and supporting executive and legislative agenda on nutrition and education both at the macro and micro levels of the government.
- Pushing forward education programs aimed to provide scholarships, subsidies and grants to individuals who are deprived of education.
- Highlighting campaigns aimed at addressing malnutrition and stunting in poverty-stricken communities and educate households on how to combat such health deficiencies.

KPMG in the Philippines works hand-in-hand with companies, sector groups, and the government to push for growth, progress and innovation. The firm believes in finding solutions that are inclusive, sustainable, long-term and adaptive to the drastic changes of the digital landscape and the fast-paced "new normal."

<https://kpmg.com/uk/en/blogs/home/posts/2022/09/collaboration-and-consumer-engagement-are-key-to-a-resilient-foo.html>  
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/publication/-key-findings-undernutrition-in-the-philippines>  
<https://www.who.int/news/item/19-11-2015-stunting-in-a-nutshell>  
<https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/07/08/195611/numbers-back-world-banks-report-on-philippine-education-system-in-crisis/>  
<https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/foods-linked-to-better-brainpower#:~:text=Just%20as%20there%20is%20no,%2C%20legumes%2C%20and%20whole%20grains.>  
<https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/02/10/opinion/columns/ph-is-lowest-in-iq-so-what/1878072#:~:text=THE%20World%20Population%20Review%20website,should%20be%20noted%20as%20average.>







## Food & Beverage Committee

As one of the Chamber's long-standing committees, the ECCP Food and Beverage Committee advocates for measures aimed at promoting ease of doing business in the food and beverage industry as well as resolving the issue of food insecurity and malnutrition in the country, among others.

Over the years, agri-food systems have played a central role in the discussion on sustainable development particularly due to the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change that have exacerbated the challenges in achieving food security. Access to healthy diets also remains to be an issue as malnutrition continues to manifest in various forms, with an estimated 149 million children under the age of five being stunted and over 45 million suffering from wasting, as reported by the World Health Organisation. Today, the road to achieving the goal of ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms remains to be challenging as global food prices continue to soar.

In this context and in line with the committee's advocacy to promote good health and wellness in the country, the Committee has conducted several initiatives to raise awareness on the significance of nutrition in the country's plight towards recovery including the following:

- **Nutrition Profiling and Responsible Marketing to Children:** Held last 22 November 2021, the online session featured government updates on nutrition profiling and regulation of the marketing of food to children, as well as valuable insights from regional and local industry players on solutions and strategies to resolve child obesity.
- **Hybrid Advocacy Event on Nutrition and Wellness**  
The ECCP, in partnership with its Food and Beverage Committee, organized a hybrid

advocacy program focused on Nutrition and Wellness for the community of Muntinlupa City. This event was created with the important goal of collaborating with stakeholders and consumers to plan a sustainable journey towards achieving a healthy society and covered The hybrid session covered the following topics:

- Basic nutrition (understanding basic nutrients and importance of a balanced diet)
- Understanding the label (front and back packaging)
- Physical activity & health, etc.

Building a Healthier Philippines: Strengthening Partnership and Policies for Nutrition

Held last 31 August 2022, the hybrid event featured discussions on the plans and programs of the new administration to resolve the issue of food insecurity as well as promote nutrition and multi-stakeholder dialogues on innovative solutions to improve nutrition outcomes.

In continuation of these dialogues, the Committee is scheduled to host a hybrid event in April 2023 with focus on promoting healthy diets and achieving food security against the backdrop of a high inflationary environment.

The ECCP, through its Food and Beverage Committee, is a steadfast partner of the government in pursuit of our shared advocacy of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition in the country for a healthier and stronger Filipino population.

To know more about the Committee's initiatives, email [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



# Pru Life UK drives up financial inclusion through ‘insurtech’ policy paper

‘Insurtech’ essential in driving broader insurance access



175 YEARS | PRU LIFE U.K.

“It is our purpose at Pru Life UK to help Filipinos get the most out of life. We are inspired to lead the discussions and concerted initiatives with many like-minded partners to leverage mobile and online apps and platforms to drive up financial/insurance awareness, literacy and inclusion to help many more Filipino families in the country.”

Eng Teng Wong  
President & CEO  
Pru Life UK

President and CEO Eng Teng Wong. Key recommendation of the paper is for the Insurance Commission to consider allowing online shopping platforms, including electronic wallets that are serving as e-commerce platforms, to act as an “intermediary” for the sale and distribution of insurance products, including investment-linked insurance products, under a three-tiered classification of intermediaries as follows:

- Those that provide advice and client servicing such as insurance agents and brokers;
- Those that provide advice but not client servicing, but require a degree of knowledge of insurance products such as online insurance aggregators; and
- Those that merely provide a platform that connects the insurer and the consumer for online distribution of insurance products, and do not provide advice and / or client servicing such as online shopping platforms, online marketplaces and e-wallets.

“Digitalization has accelerated almost every aspect of our lives. However, the insurance penetration in the Philippines as a percentage of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is less than 2 percent. This is amongst the lowest in Asia. By harnessing the combined strengths of financial advisor workforce and the power of mobile and online apps and platforms, we can quickly broaden the reach and accessibility to many more affordable life and health insurance solutions, including investment-linked plans,” shares Wong.

Wong is also FinTech Alliance Philippines’ Insurtech Committee Chairman leading the organization’s role in engaging, building, and expanding a sustainable digital finance ecosystem.

FinTech Alliance Philippines, the country’s leading and largest digital trade organization supports Pru Life UK’s policy paper on how insurtech can bring innovation to the insurance sector and impact the regulatory practices of insurance markets.

To download the policy paper, please visit [www.prulifeuk.com.ph](http://www.prulifeuk.com.ph) or click [here](#).

**Manila, Philippines (06 March 2023)** Leading life insurer Pru Life UK released a policy paper called “InsurTech: Driving Broader Insurance Access,” giving a better understanding of how insurtech such as online shopping platforms can be used to broaden Filipinos’ access to life and health protection products.

Authored by leading law firm Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & de los Angeles, the policy paper reviews the current regulatory framework for electronic commerce of insurance products and looks at how online shopping platforms can serve as insurance intermediaries. “The full potential of online shopping platforms has up to now not yet been maximized, likely because online shopping platforms are not insurance-specific. As InsurTech evolves the way of doing the insurance business, insurers need to keep up,” says Atty. Cynthia Del Castillo, Senior Partner and Head of the Capital Markets Practice at Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & de los Angeles.

“It is our purpose at Pru Life UK to help Filipinos get the most out of life. We are inspired to lead the discussions and concerted initiatives with many like-minded partners to leverage mobile and online apps and platforms to drive up financial/insurance awareness, literacy and inclusion to help many more Filipino families in the country,” shares Pru Life UK

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Customer helpdesk: (632) 8887 LIFE within Metro Manila, 1 800 10 PRULINK for domestic toll-free  
Email: contact.us@prulifeuk.com.ph

Established in 1996, Pru Life UK is the pioneer of invest, or investment-linked life insurance products, in the Philippines and is one of the first life insurance companies approved to distribute US dollar-denominated investment-linked life insurance policies in the country. Since its establishment, Pru Life UK has expanded its reach to over 190 branches in the Philippines, with the biggest life agency force of about 35,000 licensed agents. The company ranked first (1st) among the country’s life insurers based on the Insurance Commission’s Full Year 2021 rankings in terms of new business annual premium equivalent. Pru Life UK is headquartered in Uptown Bonifacio, Taguig City. Pru Life UK and Prudential plc are not affiliated with Prudential Financial, Inc. (a company whose principal place of business is in the United States of America), Prudential Assurance Company (a subsidiary of M&G plc, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom), Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Company, Prudential Plans, Inc. or Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc. (all Philippine-registered companies). Pru Life UK is a life insurance company and is not engaged in the business of selling pre-need plans.

ASC Reference Code: P039P061522PS



# 2023 NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION

📅 26 January 2023 ⌚ 06:30 PM - 10:00 PM (GMT+8) 📍 Pooldeck, Dusit Thani Manila

PLATINUM PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS

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BEVERAGE PARTNER



RAFFLE PARTNERS



To all our friends, partners, and esteemed guests who celebrated with us at the 2023 New Year's Reception – our biggest and warmest thank you!

As your Chamber of Choice, the ECCP is grateful for the overwhelming support shown at the 2023 New Year's Reception held last night at Dusit Thani Manila.

It was truly a wonderful and memorable event with more than 260 attendees including Excellencies and Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Senator Mark Villar, Philippine Ambassador to Austria Her Excellency Luli Arroyo-Berna, DICT Secretary Ivan Uy, DILG Undersecretary Atty. Margarita Gutierrez, DILG Assistant Secretary Lilian De Leon, DILG Undersecretary Serafin P. Barretto Jr., DTI-Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC) Assistant Secretary Glenn Peñaranda, DTI-Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) Executive Director Edward Ferreira, partners from the Philippine government, members, partners, and friends from the media.

We also acknowledge our partners for making this event as grand as possible!

Our Platinum Partners: Datem Incorporated, Eastern Communications, Generali Philippines, Maoneng Philippines, Okada Manila, StarComm, Teleperformance Group and X10 Networks.

Silver Partners: The Ascott Limited, Cesar C. Cruz & Partners Law Offices, Converge FiberX ICT Solutions Inc., iONTEK, Ella Aquino Marketing and Outsourcing Agency, Pioneer Adhesives Inc., PPI Pazifik Power, Inc., and Vamed Healthcare Services Sdn Bhd.

Digital Media Partner: Globaltronics

Raffle Partners: Mövenpick Resort & Spa Boracay, Crimson Resort & Spa Boracay, Pacific Cross Philippines, and Gardenia.

Beverage Partner: Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines

We hope that through this festive occasion, we were able to create new opportunities for you and your business. We look forward to seeing you all again at our future ECCP events!





# Inside ECCP: Manila

## A Short Guide on Critical Thinking for Professionals

18 January 2023

It was a full class at our first e-Learning session for the year 2023!

Organized by the ECCP Competency Hub, the “A Short Guide on Critical Thinking for Professionals” webinar featured a dynamic discussion with speaker and consultant John Michael Rolda.

The course explored thinking barriers and differentiated between facts and feelings to help our attendees develop fresh and innovative ideas to solve problems. Definitely a great way of getting one primed and ready for a new and exciting work year!



## Supervisory Leadership: Crucial Skills Training for Supervisors

25,26 January 2023

Supervisors play a crucial role for the internal growth of a business, thus it is always a right step forward to invest in your people and their capabilities. If you want a better company, it's tantamount that we create better supervisors.

To aid in creating more capable and efficient supervisors, the ECCP Competency Hub held the “Supervisory Leadership: Crucial Skills Training for Supervisors” e-Learning session last January 25 and 26 with Mr. Stephen Bañares, consultant at HR Solutions & Business Management, Inc., facilitating the course.

More than 50 participants joined our virtual class where we tackled topics such as how to develop one's leadership ability, better time management practices, and methods to improve work, decision making and management-related problems.



## Doing Business in the Philippines 2023 Publication Press Launch

26 January 2023

The ECCP, in partnership with DivinaLaw, unveiled its Doing Business in the Philippines 2023 Publication at a press conference held at the DivinaLaw Hall, 8th Floor Pacific Star Building.

Organized together with content partner DivinaLaw and communications partner Haptic PR, the event gathered key European officials, namely H.E. Ambassador Luc Véron, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Delegation of the European Union in the Philippines who provided updates on EU-Philippines Trade and Investments, as well as H.E. Christian Halaas Lyster, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila who discussed recent EFTA-Philippines FTA developments.

Present as well to give an overview and a legal perspective of Doing Business in the Philippines was Atty. Nilo T. Divina, Managing Partner of DivinaLaw.

The event also gathered media attendees as well as publication partners from HSBC, KPMG, Philexcel



Business Park, Arcadis PH, GEC & GSSC Philippines, Bollere Logistics, Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), HMR Auction, and Nague Malic Magnawa and Associates Customs Brokers (NMM).

Furthermore, ECCP President Lars Wittig gave an overview of the DBIP 2023 Publication, and with ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein giving his welcoming remarks to set the tone of the press launch.

## 2023 ECCP European Ambassador's Meeting

26 January 2023

On 26 January 2023, the ECCP, in partnership with ING Philippines, organized this year's European Ambassadors' Meeting at Dusit Thani Manila.

The high-level meeting covered recent political and economic developments in the Philippines and in ASEAN, European-Philippine business community's policy and legislative advocacies. Updates on the current business environment and how the Philippines fares compared to its ASEAN peers were also discussed.

The speakers at the meeting were ECCP Vice President Mr. Paulo Duarte, ING Bank Philippines Senior Economist Mr. Nicholas Mapa, DivinaLaw Managing Partner Atty. Nilo Divina, ECCP President Mr. Lars Wittig, Ambassador to the Delegation of the European Union in the Philippines His Excellency Luc Véron, Ambassador of the The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila His Excellency Christian Halaas Lyster, British



Embassy Manila Director of Trade and Investment Ms. Lindsey Gilbert-Crouch, EU-ASEAN Business Council Executive Director Mr. Chris Humphrey.

ING Bank Philippines Country Head Mr. Jun Palanca and Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines Minister Counsellor - Head of the Economic and Trade Section Mr. Philipp Dupuis also joined as panelists, while ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein hosted and moderated the discussion.



## MS Excel Advanced Skills for Business 8, 9 February 2023

Last February 8 and 9, the ECCP Competency Hub held another successful e-Learning course on the topic of “MS Excel Advanced Skills for Business” with speaker Anna Masindo.

This time, the course was split into four sessions or modules where participants learned about the various tools, functions and formulas of Excel, 3D referencing, and pivot tables!



## ECCP Luncheon Meeting with DTI Secretary Alfredo Pascual 16 February 2023

On February 16, 2023, the ECCP held its first luncheon meeting of the year with keynote speaker DTI Secretary Alfredo Pascual at Dusit Thani Manila and via Zoom.

During the event, the Trade and Industry Chief unveiled the priorities of the Agency to facilitate increased trade and investment and to improve competitiveness in the Philippines.

Also present during the event were guest panelists DTI Assistant Secretary for Industry Development and Trade Policy Atty. Allan Gepty, Delegation of the EU to the Philippines Minister Counsellor - Head of Economic and Trade Section Mr. Philipp Dupuis and Royal Cargo Inc. Chairman of the Board and Group Chief Executive Officer Mr. Michael Kurt Raeuber.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the Department of Trade and Industry, to Secretary Alfredo Pascual and to our panelists for the informative session, to our Event Patrons Pru Life UK and Royal Cargo Inc., and to our host and moderator Mr. Christopher Ilagan, Corporate Affairs Director at Cargill Philippines, Inc., for facilitating the very stimulating discussion!



## Mastering Digital Marketing 22 February 2023

The ECCP Competency Hub held its first Face-to-Face Training of the year with speakers from Black Sheep Digital on the topic of “Mastering Digital Marketing: Planning and Engagement strategies”.

The session was headed by Black Sheep Digital CEO Ms. Anna Medina and Director of Programs Ms. Ria Ancheta-Adrias. The digital mavens discussed the best social media strategies and tools to help marketing practitioners attract, retain and engage customers, as well as tactics to guide companies as they build their digital marketing campaigns.

We would like to thank all of our attendees for their participation during the session and we look forward to seeing you all apply your learnings to your respective companies.



## Effective Internal Controls to Achieve Business Objectives 27, 28 February 2023

Once properly navigated, internal controls can have significant impact on business success and sustainability!

Last February 27 & 28, the ECCP Competency Hub held a two-part e-Learning session on the topic of “Effective Internal Controls to Achieve Business Objectives” with HR Solutions & Business Management Inc. Consultant Stephen Bañares!

The session covered topics such as the types of internal controls and the basics of an internal control framework, as well as featured activities that helped participants define their respective companies’ internal control activities.





# Inside ECCP: Cebu

## Courtesy Meeting with the Deputy Head of Mission Ms. Laura Hassinen of the Embassy of Finland

16 January 2023

The Honorary Consul of Finland invited the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines - Cebu Business Council Members for a meeting with the Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Laura Hassinen of the Embassy of Finland, at the Finnish Consular Office in Cebu IT Park.



## Courtesy Meeting with Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)

16 January 2023

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), represented by its Relationship Manager Ms. Cecile Angalot, Market Head of Cash Management Sales of BPI VisMin Ms. Jonnabel Lau, and Cash Management Sales Officer Ms. Maricel De Los Santos, paid a courtesy visit to the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines - Cebu at the ECCP Office in Regus, Park Centrale.



## ECCP Visayas - European Honorary Consuls' Meeting

30 January 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines - Cebu, in partnership with Cebu Landmasters, Inc., organized the first ECCP Visayas - European Honorary Consuls' Meeting in the Capitol & Jones Function Room in Citadines Cebu City last January 30, 2023.

The high-level meeting covered the recent developments and economic outlook of the Philippines, the current business climate, and the European-Philippine business community.

ING Bank Philippines Senior Economist Mr. Nicholas Mapa shared his insights on the Philippine Economic Outlook of 2023 in a recorded video of his presentation during the 2023 European Ambassadors' Meeting with ECCP last January 26, 2023, at Dusit Thani Manila.

SGV & Co. Tax Senior Manager Atty. Karen Calambañez, Mercedes-Benz Group Services Phils., Inc. President & CEO and ECCP Board Member Mr. Jochen Bitzer, Minister Counsellor - Head of the Economic and Trade Sector of the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines Mr. Philipp Dupuis, Honorary Consul of Switzerland Mr. Mathias Bergundthal, and ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein were the resource speakers at the event.

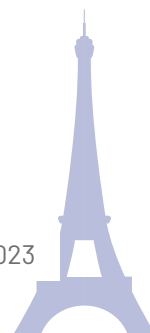
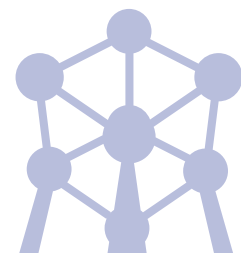
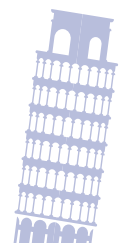
Hosted and moderated by Atty. Kristin Charisse Siao, Corporate and M&A Partner of Villaraza & Angangco Law, the said speakers presented their updates and insights on the topics of Legal Perspective on the Business Landscape in the Philippines, the Business Outlook, and ECCP's plans for 2023, EU-Philippines Trade and Investment Strategies & Recent Political



Developments, Updates on the EFTA-Philippines FTA, and EU-ASEAN Business Sentiments for 2023 respectively.

Present at the meeting were the Honorary Consuls for Visayas from the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic, Sweden, Belgium, Norway, Romania, and the Netherlands who also shared their insights and business and sentiments on the ease of doing business in the region.

Moreover, also present were leaders and representatives from the Board of Investments - Cebu Extension Office, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mandaue Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Department of Trade and Industry Cebu Province (DTI Cebu), Philexport Cebu, Department of Health Region 7, Department of Trade and Industry Region 07, Bureau of Customs Port of Cebu, Cebu Provincial Government, Department of Agriculture VII, Department of Labor and Employment Region 7, and others.





## 2023 ECCP Cebu Kick-Off Reception 30 January 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines – Cebu, along with our silver partners AGS Four Winds International Movers, Inc. and V&A Law, organized the 2023 ECCP Cebu Kick-Off Reception held at the Citadines Cebu City last January 30, 2023, to fully welcome the New Year and jumpstart developing synergies in 2023.

Attending the event were honorable visitors, professionals from various industries, representatives from the public and private sectors, and representatives from other chambers. It was a significant occasion to ring in the new year with more promising prospects, fruitful connections, and the development of a robust corporate network!

The ECCP would like to express its sincere appreciation to our Wine Partner Happy Living as well as our Raffle Partners Badian Island Wellness Resort, Jpark Island Resort & Waterpark. Cebu, Cebu Parklane International



Hotel, and Sheraton Cebu Mactan for making this event possible.

Through events such as these, we are committed to providing you only the best opportunities to strengthen your relationships and broaden your network. We look forward to seeing you again at the next ECCP events!

## Series of Visits to the Province of Bohol 10,11 February 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, represented by its ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Ms. Jillian Sitchon, conducted a series of visits to the Province of Bohol last February 10-11, 2023.



# Inside ECCP: CDO

## ECCP CDO Becomes Event Partner for the 4<sup>th</sup> Knowledge Festival 2022 in Capitol University 17 December 2022

The European Chamber Commerce of the Philippines – CDO/NM has been privileged yet again to be an event partner with Capitol University for their 4th Capitol University Graduate School's Knowledge Festival held last December 17, 2022 at the Mini Theater of Capitol University. As organized by Dr. Heidi Grace Mendoza, the Chairperson of CUGS Management Department, Capitol University celebrates the festival through short powerful talks from experts; its aim is to enhance the learning experience of graduate students and augment the current teaching environment.

The Knowledge Festival's plenary session was welcomed by the President for CUGS Student Body Organization, Ms. Jenette Mae B. Torayno. Later on, the opening remarks of the festival was done by the festival's organizer, Dr. Heidi Grace P. Mendoza, to give a brief orientation on how the short talks will go after the plenary session. It was then an honor for ECCP to have the Northern Mindanao Business Council Chairperson of ECCP, Ms. Mercedes P. Meija bestow the Message of Partnership with Capitol University along with Officer-in-Charge for DOST Region 10, Undersecretary Sancho A. Maborang.

The event was attended by almost 500 professionals, graduate and college students. The keynote speaker of the festival was Hon. Ian Mark Q. Nacaya the City Councilor of Cagayan de Oro City Council. The panel speakers on the other hand were Dr. Eman A. Lachica of DOST Region 10, Ms. Rose Mae T. Lumasag of the Commission on Higher Education Region 10 and lastly, Mr. Ruben A. Vegafria of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. With this, it was of great privilege for the ECCP to take part once again in the festival with the theme: "Education for Sustainable Development in Northern Mindanao" and hold in great respect the certificate of appreciation it received during the festival.

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines CDO Branch also presented the certificate of membership to Capitol University in the said event with high hopes that it can continue being event partners with Capitol University for next year's Knowledge Festival and its relationship with the university to continue to grow.



L-R: Ms. Mercedes Mejia, ECCP CDO-NM Business Council Chairman, Dr. Edwin Du, Dean of Graduate School, Dr. Heidi Mendoza, Author of Knowledge Festival and Director of Business Development and Management Program, and Joanne Natindim, ECCP CDO-NM Branch Officer during the presentation of ECCP membership certificate to CU



Dr. Heidi Mendoza doing the Opening Remarks of the program



Ms. Mejia expressing her thoughts during the panel discussion on the topic of Education for Sustainable Development in Northern Mindanao



## ECCP Mindanao Hosts a Cybersecurity Webinar to Address Rising Issues on Scams

8 February 2023

The ECCP Mindanao organized a webinar addressing the rampant issues on cybersecurity last 08 February 2023 called the How to Detect Scams: Addressing the Rising Cybersecurity Issues. The esteemed speakers of the virtual event were Atty. Leland Villadolid Jr., Co-Managing Partner of ACCRA Law, who specializes in litigation and arbitration principally in the areas of information, telecommunication and technology and cyber security, and Mr. Angel Redoble, Chairman of the Philippine Institute of Cybersecurity Professionals was represented by Ms. Ellen Solosod, PLDT-SMART Deputy Chief Information Security Officer & Cyber Security Operations Group (CSOG). The event had an informative exchange catering to the questions of the attendees who wanted to know more about policies, recommendations and mitigations involving cybercrime as cybersecurity is something that is treated as an evolving threat among businesses.

The webinar was hosted and moderated by ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta and the whole event was supported by the EU-ASEAN Business Council.

## ECCP CDO Conducts a Workshop on Data Analytics

13 February 2023

ECCP CDO conducted a workshop on the Introduction to Data Analytics & Decision-Making last 13 February 2023 with speaker Mr. Fercy Cavan, FREEDOM Consultant and Statistician. The 2-hour workshop was attended by several members and non-members of the chamber all wanting to know more about understanding the importance of data analytics and how it allows them to stay competitive in the market and develop better decision-making strategies. The session's objectives were to help participants identify problems where analytics can help in terms of modeling, simulation or prediction, provide participants the conceptual understanding and share experiences on the applications of data analytics; and provide a clear understanding of why companies see data analytics essential to the delivery of their products and services.



# Inside ECCP: Davao

## Forging Synergy Towards Harmonized Educational Systems

17 January 2023

In a bid to improve and increase the competitiveness of the education sector in the country, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines – Southern Mindanao Business Council chaired by Mr. Antonio Peralta spearheaded the 1st ECCP-SMBC Education Advocacy Committee Meeting with Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Finland in the Philippines Ms. Laura Hassinen as the honorary guest.

Co-organized with the Institute of ASEAN-European Studies - Holy Cross of Davao College, the event served as a venue for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and stakeholders across Mindanao to meet, learn from the best practices of Finland's education system, and explore areas for collaboration.



On the sidelines, Ms. Laura Hassinen paid a courtesy visit to Davao City Mayor Sebastian Duterte and met with Davao Light & Power Company President Engr. Rodger Velasco. Meeting discussions focused on the topics of education, waste management, renewable energy, and digitalization, among others.

The meeting was held at the Holy Cross of Davao College (HCDC).

## Positioning Mindanao as a Premier Tourist Destination

27 January 2023

The 1st Mindanao Tourism Expo (MTEx) officially opened at the SMX Convention Center, SM Lanang, Davao City with Department of Tourism - Philippines Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco joining as the guest of honor.

With the theme "Sustaining the Colors of Mindanao," the 3-day event was part of the national government's post-pandemic recovery strategies of helping revitalize the vibrant domestic tourism, one of the major economic drivers of the island-region. The Expo also sought to attract more tourists and foreign investors to improve business climate and accelerate development of the local economy.

Furthermore, the event highlighted the unspoiled beauty and wonders that Mindanao is known for – pristine and crystal-clear beaches, majestic nature landscapes, vast agricultural products, rich culture & artistry, and its diverse population (Christians, Muslims, and Indigenous Peoples).



European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Southern Mindanao/Davao Branch Officer Ms. Rosemarie Baguio attended the opening ceremony and visited the booths of its valued members/participating exhibitors: Dusit Thani Residence Davao, Malagos Garden Resort Davao, and Park Inn by Radisson Davao.

The MTEx was organized by the Department of Tourism - Davao Region, together with the DAVA0 Visitors Destination Hub, DOT Mindanao Regional Offices, DOT-Office of Product and Market Development, DOT-Office of the Undersecretary for Tourism Regulation Coordination and Resource Generation.



## ECCP SMBC Presented The EU-funded BAEP Program to MinDa for Possible Collaboration

13 February 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines – Southern Mindanao Business Council met with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) to explore potential partnership on the EU-funded program in Mindanao.

To be implemented in the Bangsamoro Region, the Creating Responsible, Sustainable, and Competitive ENTERprises or CRESCENT Project aims to promote complete value chain development and increase rural agricultural enterprises in the area with a strong private-sector support and participation. It also focuses on generating sustainable investments and increasing competitive and export quality products.

Also present during the meeting were heads of Biogrow Substrates Philippines and Marine Algae Products Inc., who are also members of ECCP Davao.



Photo courtesy of MinDA

## Reliable Digital Infrastructure for Better Connectivity

22 February 2023

ECCP SMBC Chairman Antonio Peralta and Branch Officer Rosemarie Baguio attended the successful groundbreaking and capsule laying ceremony for the Bifrost Davao Cable Landing of Converge ICT Solutions Inc. at Barangay Bago Gallera, Davao City.

They showed their full support to Converge, one of ECCP's premium members, for this digital breakthrough.

This multi-million dollar submarine cable system will connect the Philippines, Singapore, and Indonesia to the West Coast of North America. The project is expected to be completed by mid-2024.

It is seen to deliver a faster and more reliable internet capacity and enhanced network resiliency in the country.



# Inside ECCP: Iloilo

## Water is Too Big

27 February 2023



Realizing that the Philippines, along with other United Nations (UN) member states, is a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the ECCP – as a staunch partner of the European-Philippine business community – undertook the initiative of being involved in sustainability-related advocacies, bolstering alliances with the Philippine government as well as reinforcing ties with stakeholders. Accepting the sustainable development goals (SDGs) framework as the country's roadmap for sustainable development, ECCP Visayas Chapters conducted its first-ever hybrid forum last February 27, 2023 entitled, "Water is Too Big: A Dialogue on the State of the Water Sector in the Visayas." This event was held at SEDA Hotel Atria with the presence of a diverse panel of experts as they imparted impeccable knowledge and insights on the ways to address the region's water challenges, as well as the measures in achieving the goal of clean water and sanitation for everyone.

The event was commenced by welcoming remarks delivered by ECCP Western Visayas Business Council Chairman, Mr. Joe Bantiling. In view of the hybrid set-up, NEDA VI OIC Regional Director Engr. Arcio Casing Jr., Metro Pacific Water President Rogelio Singson, and ARUP Water Lead Adrian Marsden were able to deliver their presentations onsite, whereas Philippine Institute for Development Studies Senior Research Fellow Dr. Roehlano Briones and Public-Private Partnership Director Maria Lerma Advincula were able to impart their knowledge via online.

The event was well attended by more than 40 onsite participants which was both an exciting and engaging experience to learn more about the water sector in the visayas. It is made possible by the event supporter Iloilo Provincial Government, and partners Metro Pacific Iloilo Water, ARUP, Clewat, and Waste Trade.

Once the presentation of each speaker has been concluded, the panel discussion took place with stimulating questions left and right from the audience, eagerly answered by both virtual and onsite panelists.

Moreover, the forum was moderated by Dr. Joan Alice Ferrer, a professor and a scientist from the University of the Philippines Visayas.

The panelists highlighted several key challenges facing the water sector in the Visayas. These included the lack of access to safe and clean water for some communities, especially in rural areas. The panelists noted that while progress has been made in increasing access to water supply, the quality and reliability of water services remain a major concern.

Additionally, the panelists discussed the impact of climate change on the water sector, such as extreme weather events and sea-level rise, which exacerbate water scarcity and pollution. They also emphasized the importance of governance and institutional arrangements in ensuring sustainable and efficient water management.

There was a discussion about the need for strong regulatory frameworks, transparent and accountable decision-making processes, and collaboration among stakeholders in the water sector. The panelists noted that while there are existing policies and laws related to water management, their implementation and enforcement need to be strengthened to address the challenges facing the sector. Moreover, the panelists highlighted the role of innovation and technology in improving the efficiency and sustainability of the water sector. They discussed various examples of innovative approaches such as water conservation, wastewater treatment, and rainwater harvesting.

Overall, the panel discussion provided valuable insights into the current state of the water sector in the Visayas and the challenges and opportunities it faces. The panelists emphasized the need for collective action and collaboration among stakeholders to address the water-related challenges and ensure sustainable and equitable access to water. They also highlighted the importance of long-term planning and investment in the water sector to ensure its resilience to climate change and other external pressures.

In conclusion, the discussion on the state of the water sector in the Visayas provided a platform for experts to share their knowledge and insights on the challenges and opportunities facing the sector. It highlighted the need for a holistic and integrated approach to water management that considers the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the sector. The panelists' recommendations and insights can serve as a guide for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders in the water sector to work together to address the challenges and ensure sustainable and efficient water management in the Visayas.



## European Sustainable Transportation For The Visayas Market: Urban Transportation and Decarbonization

1 March 2023



The Keynote Speaker, H.E Annika Thunborg, Ambassador of Embassy of Sweden to the Philippines

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Visayas Chapters explore potential approaches to strengthen and promote the sustainable transportation goals throughout the Visayas region. On March 1, 2023, the ECCP Visayas Chapters, in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden in Manila, held a forum titled "European Sustainable Transportation for the Visayas Market: Urban Transportation and Decarbonization," with keynote speaker H.E. Annika Thunborg, Sweden's Ambassador to the Philippines. The event took place at the Park Inn by Radisson Hotel Iloilo.

The forum was opened by the welcoming remarks from the Chairman of the ECCP Western Visayas Business Council, Mr. Joe Bantiling. The Keynote Speaker, H.E. Annika Thunborg, delivered the opening presentation, which was followed by the panelists. Following the presentations, a panel discussion took place with engaging questions coming from the audiences.

"The use of biofuel is part of our circular economy that every urban area, every company, every public and private actor needs to implement for us to be able to create livable sustainable cities and societies." says Ambassador Annika in her concluding remarks.

The Lady Diplomat continues to actively promote transportation sustainability, especially in light of the ongoing global crises. With world-leading companies such as Volvo, this industry plays a vital role in acknowledging how Sweden

has much to offer in the realms of smart transportation and smart energy solutions in the development of regional sustainable transportation. Ambassador Annika recognizes Iloilo City's potential and looks forward to supporting the development of its public transportation system.

Among the topics discussed were on the Overview of the Local Transport Route Plan (LPTRP), SMART: Livable City, Iloilo Pedals Toward Greater Mobility, The Road to Sustainable Transportation, Sustainable Transportation: Buses, and E-Vehicles, all of which promote in the development of sustainable mobility and provide a safe environment for everyone.



In photo, L-R: Autodelta Coach Builders Inc. Chairman Mr. Robbie Torres, ECCP Western Visayas Business Council Chairman Mr. Joe Bantiling, Iloilo City Mayor Hon. Jerry P. Trenas, H.E. Annika Thunborg, Moderator Ms. Jessica Dator-Bercilla, Iloilo City Councilor Atty. Sedfrey Cabaluna, PSTMO Head Jeck Conlu, and SkyBright New Energy Vice President Ronell Jemino

More than 70 people attended the event, including representatives from the public and private sectors, academe, Local Government Offices, and ECCP Western Visayas members. The Swedish Ambassador H.E. Annika Thunborg and Iloilo City Mayor Hon. Jerry P. Trenas are both eager in partnering on reaching the sustainable transportation goals of Iloilo City. The ECCP will continue to make it a top priority to organize events that advocate for and benefit the society at large.

# Advocacy Corner

## Public Consultation on the IOG of PPA Administrative Order No. 04-2021

4 January 2023

Last 4 January 2023, ECCP Associate Director Sophia Ordoña attended the Public Consultation on Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) Administrative Order (AO) No. 04-2021 at the PPA Corporate Bldg. Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. The said AO, entitled "Policy on the Registration and Monitoring of Containers," took effect on 19 October 2021. Section 6 thereof states that the PPA shall prescribe the Implementing Operational Guidelines (IOG) on the Trusted Operator Program-Container Registry and Monitoring System (TOP-CRMS) and that prior consultation with affected sectors shall be conducted before its implementation.

To view a copy of the draft IOG, please visit this link: <https://bit.ly/3jTUi5z>



## JFC Meeting hosted by CanCham

12 January 2023

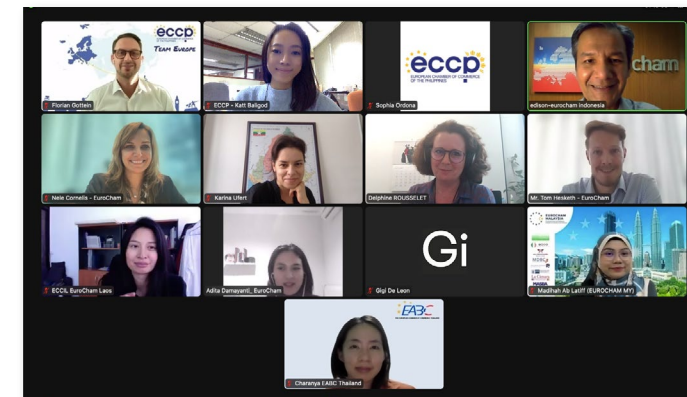
The Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines had its first meeting in 2023 last 12 January at Dusit Thani Manila. JFC representatives covered a wide range of topics during the discussion, including the 2023 Philippine economic outlook as well as the legislative updates on the Philippine business groups (PBG)-JFC priority bills. The issue of the New Year's air traffic management fiasco in the country and the PPA registry and monitoring of containers, among others, were also discussed at the session.



## EBO ASEAN and EU-ABC Coordination Meeting

18 January 2023

The ECCP attended the first coordination meeting of the year of the European Business Organisation Worldwide Network (EBO WWN)-ASEAN and the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) last 18 January. At the said session, the representatives discussed some updates on their respective organisations, including the key engagements with their national governments, European government, and upcoming joint activities between EBO and EU-ABC.





## ECCP RE&EE Committee Courtesy Meeting with ERC Chairperson Monalisa Dimalanta

20 January 2023

The ECCP and its Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) Committee members had a courtesy meeting with Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Chairperson Monalisa Dimalanta on 20 January 2023. At the said meeting, the group received updates on the Commission's policy updates and priorities such as ensuring stable energy supplies, developments on the Net-Metering Program, and adjustments on electricity charges, among others. The meeting likewise covered discussions on industry best practices, as well as areas for collaboration between the government and the private sector. ECCP Executive Director, Mr. Florian Gottein, and ECCP RE&EE Committee Chairperson, Ms. Ruth Yu-Owen, also handed over the 2022 Advocacy Papers to ERC Chairperson Dimalanta. The said publication features the various sector updates and policy recommendations of the Chamber's advocacy committees.



## ECCP and HTAP Courtesy Meeting with BCDA Chairman Delfin Lorenzana

23 January 2023

The ECCP, together with the Health Technology Association of the Philippines, had a courtesy meeting with Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) Chairman Delfin Lorenzana, to have an exchange on BCDA's updates and priorities, as well as the Chamber's key sectors and advocacy priorities. The meeting was also joined by BCDA President and CEO Aileen Zosa, who gave a presentation on the New Clark City and business opportunities in BCDA projects, as well as Ms. Michell San Juan-De Vera and Ms. Liberty de Leon. Among the sectors identified as BCDA's priorities are infrastructure, transportation, ICT, waste management, water, energy, and health. During this meeting, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein handed over the 2022 ECCP Advocacy Papers to the BCDA officials.



## Senate Committee on Labor, Employment, and Human Resources Development Public Hearing

30 January 2023

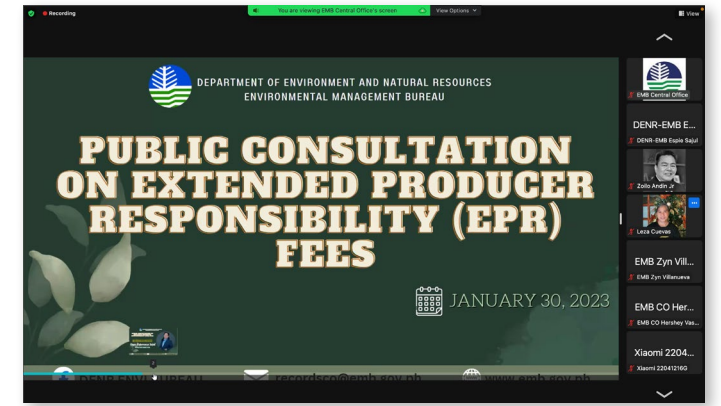
The ECCP participated in the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment, and Human Resources Development Public Hearing on Senate Bill No. 1333 or Enterprise Productivity Act, held last 30 January 2023. The said measure has been identified as one of the priority measures of the Department of Labor and Employment, with the objective to promote the principle of shared responsibility in enhancing productivity in work cultures. The bill seeks to provide incentives to enterprises that implement productivity incentive programs, as well as provide technical assistance to enterprises and employees to boost productivity. To view a copy of Senate Bill No. 1333, visit <http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/3944935845!.pdf>.



## DENR Public Consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Fees

30 January 2023

On 30 January, the DENR held a public consultation on the proposed fees and charges in relation to the registration of EPR Programs following effectivity of Republic Act No. 11898 otherwise known as the EPR Act of 2022 and its implementing rules and regulations. For updates and other inquiries in relation to the EPR, you may email [epr@emb.gov.ph](mailto:epr@emb.gov.ph).



## SCGL & RCI Joint Venture Agreement Signing Ceremony

7 February 2023



## Food and Beverage Committee Meeting

7 February 2023

The ECCP Food and Beverage Committee held its first hybrid meeting last 7 February. During the meeting, the committee identified its advocacies, focus areas, plans and activities for the year. Committee members also shared updates with regard to their issues and priorities and identified how the Chamber and the committee can support their respective organizations. The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled on 7 March in Makati/BGC and via Zoom. For confirmation and other inquiries, please contact Elena Tabbu at [elena.tabbu@eccp.com](mailto:elena.tabbu@eccp.com).





## Q1 ICT-BPM-KPM Committee Meeting

9 February 2023

The ECCP ICT-BPM-KPM Committee held its first hybrid meeting last 09 February. With guest speaker Ms. Carole Gaffud, IBPAP Associate Director of Research, the meeting tackled updates, trends, and forecasts in the IT-BPO industry. The Committee also discussed its advocacies and priorities, while the members shared developments and challenges in their respective industries. The schedule for the next Committee meeting will be announced via email once confirmed. For inquiries, please reach out to Mazel Salazar at [mazel.salazar@eccp.com](mailto:mazel.salazar@eccp.com).



## ECCP Automotive Committee Meeting with DOTr Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Mark Steven C. Pastor

15 February 2023

The ECCP Automotive Committee had a meeting with DOTr Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Atty. Mark Steven C. Pastor last 15 February at Discovery Centre, Pasig City. The participants discussed updates on smart and safer mobility in the Philippines including the committee priorities and advocacies on institutionalizing mechanisms to improve vehicle and road safety such as the adoption of anti-lock braking system (ABS) and electronic stability program (ESP); implementation of the Child Seat Law; installation of dashboard cameras (dashcams); and car tints restriction on public and private vehicles. The Undersecretary also discussed updates on the mandatory roadworthiness vehicle inspection including the appointment of certified workshops and the Agency's initiatives to support the Philippine electric vehicle industry.

The session was attended by DOTr Usec. Steve Pastor, Office of the Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Chief of Staff Ms. Ja Biscante, PUVMP OIC-Program Manager Ms. Joyce Rivera; Land Transportation Office (LTO) Officials Engr. Oliver Marique, and Engr. Emerito Santiago.



The meeting was also participated by ECCP Vice President and Automotive Committee Co-Chairperson Mr. Paulo Duarte and Automotive Committee Co-Chairperson Mr. Willy Tee Ten who handed over the 2022 ECCP Advocacy Papers. Moreover, Bosch Philippines Corporate Communications Officer Mr. Diego Bautista, Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Ms. Sophia Ordoña, Industry and Government Affairs Ms. Katt Baligod, and Advocacy Officer Ms. Chin Nethercott attended the session.

## Meeting with the Czech Trade Office

14 February 2023

The ECCP had a meeting with the Czech Chamber of Commerce and Czech Trade Office, a state agency focused on assistance in development of B2B relations on foreign market, to discuss and share insights on the Philippine business environment. The meeting was attended by Radomil Dolezal, CEO of CzechTrade, the director of Czech Trade Manila office, as well as several representatives from MSMEs.

Present from the ECCP were Executive Director Florian Gottein, Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña, Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Gen Anaquita and Business Consultancy and Research Officer Catherine Anne Lee.

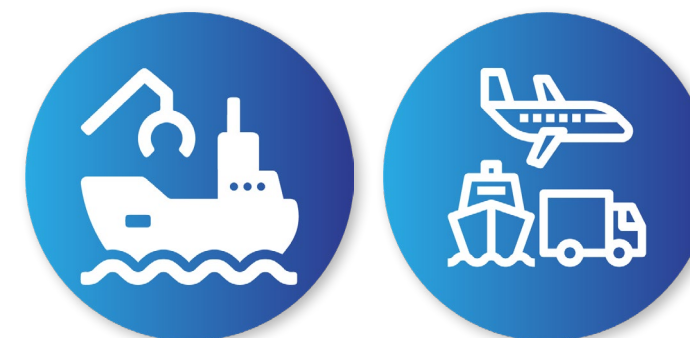


## Joint Customs and Logistics Committee Meeting

15 February 2023

The ECCP held a joint face-to-face meeting for its Customs Committee and Logistics Committee last 15 February. Customs Committee Chair Atty. Mark Tamayo of MTF Counsel gave recent updates in the customs sector as well as talked about what to expect given the change of leadership in the Bureau of Customs. For the logistics sector, Transportation and Logistics Committee Chair Mr. Michael Kurt Raueber of Royal Cargo discussed pressing concerns such as developments on the PPA's proposed measure on container monitoring and registry system, destination charges, and more. Advocacies and priorities of the respective committees were similarly shared while pressing industry issues were brought up by the members.

The schedule for the next Committee meeting will be announced via email once confirmed. For inquiries on committee activities, please reach out to Aila Torres at [aila.torres@eccp.com](mailto:aila.torres@eccp.com).





## Automotive Committee Meeting 17 February 2023

The ECCP Automotive Committee met last 17 February at SPACES World Plaza in Bonifacio Global City. During the session, the Committee discussed key industry developments including updates on the Philippine electric vehicle industry, vehicle and road safety in the country, as well as emission and roadworthiness testing standards, among others. The participants also identified the focus areas of the Committee for 2023 and suggested initiatives and engagements for the year.

The session was led by Committee Co-Chairpersons Mr. Paulo Duarte and Mr. Willy Tee Ten. The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled on 23 March in Makati/BGC. For confirmation and other inquiries, please contact Chin Nethercott at [chienie.nethercott@eccp.com](mailto:chienie.nethercott@eccp.com).



## Healthcare Committee Meeting 21 February 2023

The ECCP Healthcare Committee held a meeting last 21 February at SPACES World Plaza in Bonifacio Global City. With 23 onsite and virtual participants, the group discussed pertinent sector updates and developments, including value of innovation, regional harmonization of standards, as well as product registration. The participants also had an exchange on the priorities and initiatives of the healthcare committee this 2023.

To join or inquire regarding the ECCP Healthcare Committee, please contact Katrina Baligod at [katt.baligod@eccp.com](mailto:katt.baligod@eccp.com).



## Committee on Trade and Industry Meeting on RCEP Ratification 21 February 2023

The ECCP was represented at the House Committee on Trade and Industry virtual meeting on House Resolution No. 728, a Resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives on the ratification of RCEP or the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.



## Solar PV Philippines Summit 22, 23 February 2023

The ECCP participated at the 2nd Philippine Solar PV Energy Summit held last 22 to 23 February 2023. Ms. Ruth Yu-Owen, Chairperson of the ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee, delivered the opening remarks at the event's first day. In her speech, Ms. Yu-Owen highlighted the Chamber's work and support in advancing renewable energy technologies, including its efforts on advocating for the liberalisation of the RE sector, as well as its REPH100 Initiative. The Summit covered discussions from the public and private sectors on the development and potential of solar energy, as well as its contribution to the Philippine economy.

## ECCP Tourism Committee Meeting 22 February 2023

The ECCP Tourism Committee held its first quarterly meeting last 22 February via Zoom with guest speakers from the Department of Tourism Assistant Secretary for Tourism Regulation Coordination & Resource Generation Hon. Maria Rica C. Bueno and Director for Tourism Standards and Regulation Hon. Virgilio M. Maguigad. Asec. Bueno discussed the tourism industry updates and DOT priorities for 2023 while Director Maguigad presented the developments in the agency's accommodations accreditation standards. In addition, the group, led by Committee Co-Chairperson Ms. Gwen Dela Cruz, discussed the committee's advocacy recommendations and suggested focus areas for 2023.

To join or inquire regarding the ECCP Tourism Committee, please contact Chin Nethercott at [chienie.nethercott@eccp.com](mailto:chienie.nethercott@eccp.com).



## ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting 27 February 2023

On 27 February, the ECCP Aviation Committee met at the Quisumbing Torres office in Bonifacio Global City. At the session, the group discussed recent industry developments as well as the committee priorities for 2023. The participants, led by committee co-chairpersons Atty. Marvin Masangkay and Ms. Lourdes Cariño-Angeles, also tackled the committee advocacy recommendations, including the upgrade of airport infrastructure, restructuring the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), the creation of the Philippine Transportation Safety Board, and the promotion of sustainable travel, among others.

To join or inquire regarding the ECCP Aviation Committee, please contact Chin Nethercott at [chienie.nethercott@eccp.com](mailto:chienie.nethercott@eccp.com).





# New Members Corner

## Premium Members



### Converge ICT Solutions

We are a premier provider of customer-focused telecommunications and ICT solutions dedicated to equip, enable, and empower our clients. As a pioneer in Fiber optic installations, we have dedicated our experience and expertise to ensuring our customers receive the best in networking infrastructure, facilities management, broadband implementation, and full telecommunication infrastructure and support.

## Regular Members



### Bureau Veritas

"Shaping a World of Trust"

Established in 1994, Bureau Veritas Philippines remains a trusted Business to Business to Society company specializing in Testing, Inspection, and Certification (TIC) and is dedicated to positively transforming the world we live in. With trust at the core of its operations, Bureau Veritas acts as a trust-maker between organizations – enabling government agencies and societies to operate and innovate safely, as well as improve their performance. They build and protect companies' reputations, supporting them as they forge the foundations of trust that is built to last.



### DEME

DEME is a global solutions provider and world leader in the highly specialised fields of dredging, land reclamation, marine infrastructure, offshore energy and environmental remediation. With more than 145 years of experience and about 5,000 highly skilled professionals, we have built up a vast bank of knowledge and expertise which has allowed us to foster a pioneering approach throughout our history. This enables us to bring tailor-made solutions, innovation and new technologies to our customers' projects, ensuring that they are performed safely, efficiently and cost-effectively.

While our roots are in Belgium, DEME has built a strong presence across the globe. We operate one of the largest and most technologically advanced fleet of vessels in the world.



### KARL STORZ Endoscopy Philippines Inc.

Karl Storz Endoscopy Philippines Inc. was established in the Philippines in the year 2020, as a fully owned subsidiary of Karl Storz Germany. Since its beginnings in 1945, the KARL STORZ family company has grown into a global manufacturer and distributor of endoscopes, medical instruments, and devices. We are no giant on an international scale but a leader in the things that matter: creativity, flexibility, and expertise.



### Oficina Comercial De La Embajada De España

The Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in Manila – part of the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines – works to foster business and trade relations between Spain and the Philippines, promote Spanish commercial interests in the country and act as a liaison point between the Asian Development Bank and Spanish companies.



### Perfetti Van Melle Philippines Inc

Perfetti van Melle (PVM) is one of the World's leading manufacturers and distributors of confectionary and chewing gum companies.

PVM's iconic brands like Mentos, Chupa Chups and Fruittella are enjoyed in over 150 countries worldwide and in the Philippines since 1983.

## Associate Members



### Araw Hospitality Inc.

showcase Philippine culture, arts, flavors ,and thecountry's distinct" kindly fix the spacing into "showcase Philippine culture, arts, flavors, and the country's distinct



### Betafoam Corporation

Betafoam Corporation specializes in insulation and packaging solutions. We are an ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 certified manufacturer which offers product customization to fit our customers' needs.

Betafoam started in 2003 manufacturing polyethylene foam insulation. Committed to continuous growth, Betafoam has expanded its insulation product lines to include polyolefin foam, bubble foil, glass and rock wool insulation. In 2018, the company acquired new machines to produce packaging items such as bubble sheets, stretch films, and tapes.





**bNext Corporation.**

bneXt is a premier SAP partner and digital enabler that helps organizations understand their pain points, end-objectives and priorities towards creating a roadmap outlining their Digital Transformation journey.



**Brankas Digital Technologies Inc.**

Brankas is building Southeast Asia's first Open Banking ecosystem. We help leading banks and financial institutions to design, build, and deploy the region's first Open APIs (application programming interface) - a technology standard for securely transmitting data between two or more separate computer systems. Brankas introduces this modern technology that makes it easy for banks to partner with fintech / technology companies. Brankas provides the software infrastructure that reduces development time for a new financial product from 6+ months to a few weeks, always with modern security and encryption.



**Crown Asia Chemicals Corporation**

Crown Asia Chemicals Corporation is a Listed company, duly organized and registered with SEC dated February 10,1989. Company engaged in manufacturing of Pvc pipes, PPR/ HDPE, Pof and compounds.



**JGC, Philippines Inc.**

JGC Philippines, Inc. (JPHIL), was incorporated and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on September 5, 1989.

JPHIL was originally engaged in providing engineering services including feasibility studies, front-end engineering and detailed engineering designs for its parent company in Japan, JGC Corporation, and its domestic clients. The three original shareholders are AG & P, Marubeni and JGC Corporation.



**Bottega 8290 Architectural Design Services**

Bottega, "the studio or workshop of a major artist in which other artists may participate in the execution of the projects or commissions of the major artist". It embodies the true essence of architecture as a collaborative and multi-disciplinary field of art and science in building creative, functional, and environmentally sensitive spaces.

Bottega 8290 was established to bring to life the notion that the built environment need to be more socially, environmentally and economically sensible. The direction of sustainability is further emphasized by the office's move to handle and apply for research grants as well as teaching its know-how to other professionals in the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) industry.



**Central Mindanao Colleges**

Private, Non-sectarian, for-profit academic institution located at the heart of Kidapawan City.



**Happy Living Philippines Corporation**

Happy Living is a wine importer & wine distributor in the Philippines. Catering to onpremise, offpremise & private clients for their wine and liquor needs since 1994.



**Local Government Unit of Digos City**

Digos City, officially the City of Digos, is a 2nd class city and the capital of the province of Davao del Sur.



**Vouno Trade and Marketing Services Corp.**

Vouno is the Marketing Arm in the Philippines of PT Mayora Indah of Indonesia. Makers of Kopiko, Energen, Le Minerale, Fres, Cal Cheese, Beng-Beng, Valmer, and other brands.



**Parklane Hotels and Resorts**

The company was established last July 12, 2006 with its first hotel in Cebu City. It is a family corporation owned by Cebuano Chinese family.

Inspired by Cebu Parklane International Hotel's success, the company then acquired a small resort in Anda, Bohol and rebranded it as Parklane Bohol Resort and Spa.

It is the company's thrust to help the community where its property is located while letting its guests experience the local culture. Thus, having all locals as its employees. True to its tagline being "Distinctly Local!"



**Science Park of the Philippines, Inc.**

Science Park of the Philippines, Inc. (SPPI) was established in 1989 and, through the years, has gained the reputation of being a cutting edge developer of industrial estates through its Light Industry & Science Park projects.

Today, SPPI is highly regarded as one of the pioneers and leaders in private industrial estate development in the country and has the largest hectareage of industrial estates developed and being developed with almost 800 hectares of aggregate area.



**MR Travel Services Inc.**

A privately-owned travel management company



**Parlance Business Solutions Int'l, Inc.**

Accounting and Finance Outsourcing.



BACOLOD

**ParkInn by Radisson Bacolod**

Situated in Bacolod's burgeoning urban district, the Park Inn by Radisson Bacolod places you in the heart of the City of Smiles. Our hotel is connected to the SM City Bacolod shopping complex and the SMX Convention Center Bacolod, ideal for enjoying a shopping spree or walking to your conference. You can also stroll to Bacolod Public Plaza and the lovely San Sebastian Cathedral.

After exploring the city's sights, return to the hotel to relax by the pool with a cocktail from the poolside bar. You can mingle with other guests as you sip a signature drink at our Lobby Lounge or enjoy a delicious meal at Arima, our all-day dining restaurant. We also provide 24-hour snack and drink options to keep you satisfied day and night. Planning an event? Our three meeting rooms, each outfitted with audiovisual equipment and free Wi-Fi, can accommodate your seminar, bridal shower, or family gathering.





### Sam Yu Global Holdings

Sam Yu Global Holdings is the parent company established by Jack C Wong, MBA, PHD. This holding firm is forming a diversified portfolio with business interest in real estate, energy, food and beverage, agriculture and NGO. Prime Sam Yu Development Corp is our real estate arm handling the administration of ecozone operations that includes property management, boutique hotels (under the Phoenix Dragons Hotels and Resorts), water theme park (under Bohol Water World), leasing and selling of developed properties for commercial and industrial use. In addition, SYGH company is into renewable energy and alternative power generation that could provide for residential, commercial, and industrial requirements through its sister firms of Telenta Electric Power Generator. Another sister firm of SYGH is Sam Yu Seh Khay Ventures which is into the retail distribution and franchising of healthy food products and services that is under our brand of Captain Jack's Healthy Food ventures. Canahold Sam Yu Farms is in the agriculture industry, harvesting and producing raw agricultural products like peanut butter and mushroom chips. The most special to us, VAW Sr. Leadership Forum leads our monthly corporate social responsibility activities, under the NGO category. The entrepreneurial spirit prevails in SYGH creating shared value with its stake holders, the Filipinos, and the Philippine economy.

## Individual Member

- **Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go**



### Seda Atria Hotel

Seda Atria re-defines hotel living in Iloilo City with its modern facilities, technological conveniences and world-class service that combines the best of Filipino hospitality and efficiency. The first Seda hotel in the Visayas, the 152-room property is located in the city's emerging business and commercial capital, just 30 minutes from the international airport. The hotel is right beside Shops at Atria, five minutes from the Iloilo Business Park and Convention Center, and 15 minutes from the downtown area.

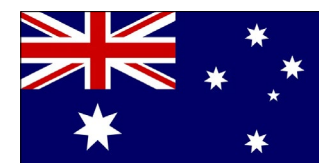


# Business Opportunities



### 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](mailto:catherine.lee@eccp.com)** or visit **[www.eccp.com](http://www.eccp.com)** for more information. We are looking forward to hearing from you.



# MARCH

**1** **Physical**  
03:00 PM - 05:00 PM  
ParkInn by Radisson Iloilo  
**European Sustainable Transportation for the Visayas Market:  
Urban Transportation and Decarbonization**

**1** **Physical**  
06:00 PM - 09:00 PM  
ParkInn by Radisson Iloilo  
**European Business and Beers**

**7,8** **e-Learning**  
08:00 AM - 05:00 PM  
via ZOOM  
**Behavior-Based Safety Training**

**7** **Online**  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
via ZOOM  
**Urban and Regional Planning:  
Vital Role Towards Economic Growth**

**9** **Physical**  
01:30 PM - 05:30 PM  
ParkInn by Radisson Davao  
**Economic Roundtable Briefing on Opportunities for Europe:  
Mindanao Economic Trade and Investments**

**14,15** **e-Learning**  
01:00 PM - 04:00 PM  
via ZOOM  
**Coaching through Meaningful Conversations**

**21** **Hybrid**  
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM  
Spaces-Manila, BGC  
**Women Rising: Bridging the Gender Gap and  
Promoting Inclusive Growth**

**23** **e-Learning**  
09:00 AM - 04:30 PM  
via ZOOM  
**Understanding Financial Reports: Module 2  
Profitability Analysis Module**

**27,28** **e-Learning**  
09:00 AM - 12:00 NN  
via ZOOM  
**Effective Business Writing**

**27** **Physical**  
The Bellevue Resort, Bohol  
**The Future of Green Living:  
Understanding Sustainable Retrofitting**

**28,29** **Physical**  
09:00 AM - 05:00 PM  
Cebu City  
**Food Fraud and Food Defense**

**29** **e-Learning**  
09:00 AM - 12:00 NN  
via ZOOM  
**How Data Analytics Works in  
Business Decision Making**



