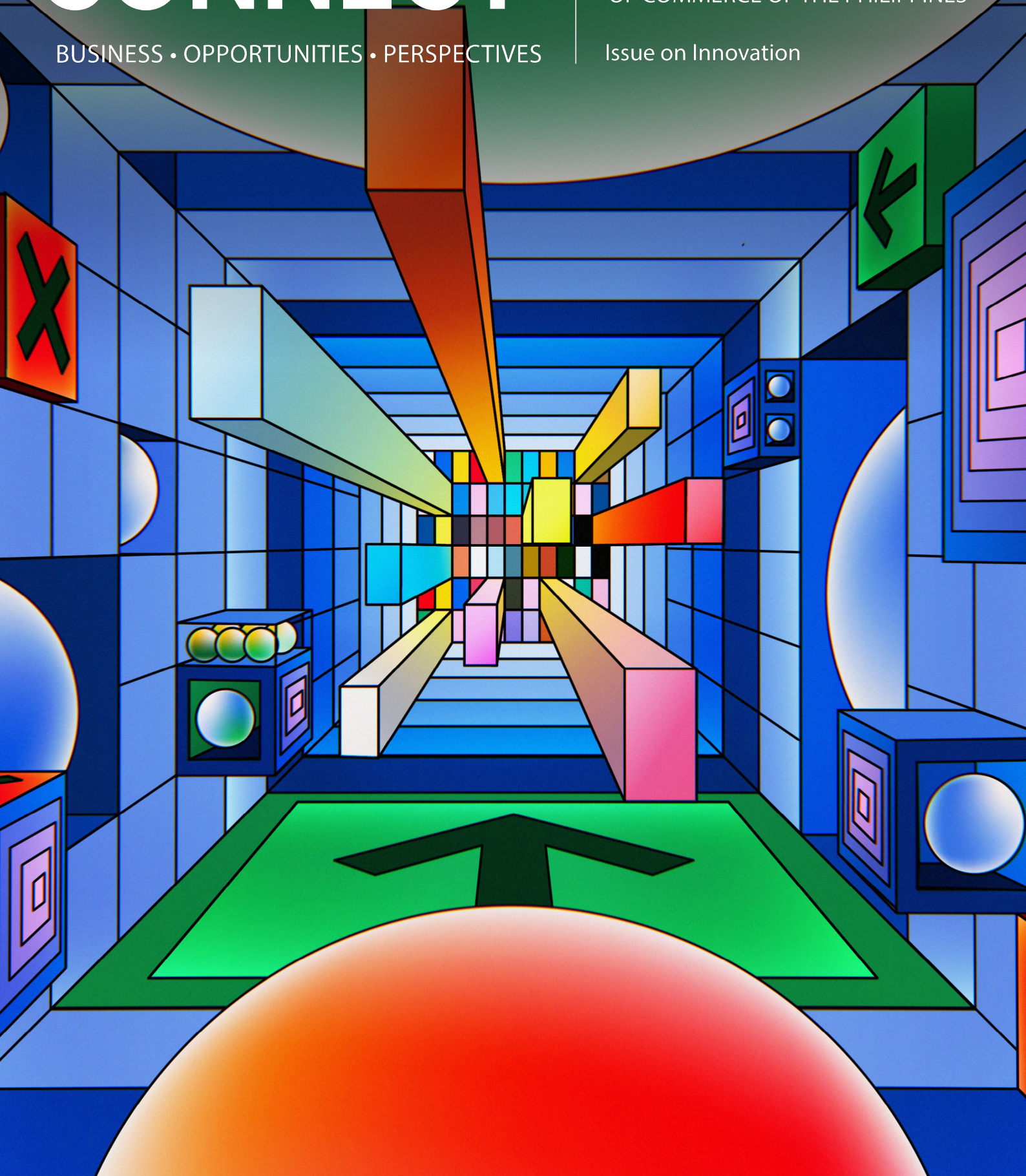


# EuroPH CONNECT

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

BUSINESS • OPPORTUNITIES • PERSPECTIVES

Issue on Innovation



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Published by

European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP)

**Head Office**

19/F Philippine AXA Life Centre Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor.  
Tindalo St., Makati City, Philippines  
Tel No.: (+632) 8845 1323; (+632) 8856 0423  
E-mail: info@eccp.com

**Visayas Office**

Regus Office 5F Park Centrale Building Jose Maria del Mar St.,  
cor. Abad St., Cebu IT Park, Cebu City 6000, Philippines  
Tel: (+6332) 494 9585  
E-mail: visayas@eccp.com

**Western Visayas Office**

Regus Iloilo, 3F Festive Walk Mall, Iloilo Business Park  
Mandurriao, Iloilo City  
E-mail: western.visayas@eccp.com

**Davao Office**

ECCP Research Center, 5/F Thibault Building, Holy Cross of  
Davao College, Sta. Ana Avenue cor. C. De Guzman St., Barangay  
14-B, Davao City  
Tel: +63 (82) 238 7500  
E-mail: davao@eccp.com

**Cagayan De Oro Office**

Regus Centre, 12th Floor, SM CDO Downtown Tower, Claro M.  
Recto Ave, Cagayan de Oro, 9000 Misamis Oriental  
E-mail: cdo@eccp.com

**ECCP Board of Directors**

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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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# KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP PERKS.

## ECCP MEMBERSHIP

Meet with some 2000 local and foreign senior business leaders across more than 700 companies in the European-Philippine business community.

For inquiries, you may contact us at [argena.anaquita@eccp.com](mailto:argena.anaquita@eccp.com)

## Editorial

Dear reader,

Greetings and Happy Holidays!

We experienced a remarkably productive 2023 marked by a multitude of activities and achievements. This year, we not only celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the ECCP, hosted our annual European Philippine Business Dialogue and welcomed President Marcos Jr. at our Gala Dinner. Following an exclusive event the chamber hosted with EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the end of July, we successfully organized the third edition of the Europa Awards on Sustainability in October, transitioning to a face-to-face format for the first time. These events were just a snapshot of our continuous efforts to foster collaborations and strengthen relationships with our members and stakeholders.

As we reflect on the successes of the past year, we eagerly anticipate an even more dynamic 2024. Our commitment to championing the causes of the European-Philippine business community remains unwavering, and we are dedicated to forging stronger connections with stakeholders and the government sector. Looking ahead, we are excited about the prospect of introducing new events, partnerships, and initiatives.

Before the year officially comes to a close, we are delighted to share the latest edition of our EuroPH Connect membership magazine, focusing this time on the theme of Innovation. This publication is a testament to our ongoing dedication to keeping our community informed and engaged, providing valuable insights into cutting-edge developments and innovation.

In this issue, we highlight the Royal Danish Embassy, Manila, and His Excellency, Ambassador Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin as he shares updates on the business relations between Denmark and the Philippines, as well as his thoughts on innovation between both countries on page 8.

Take a look at page 18, where we also feature the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. as he provides updates on the department's programs and initiatives for innovating with different sectors in the country and collaboration projects of the government.

Dive into the stories of our ECCP members. Corporate Partner KPMG shares how innovation has become imperative in today's dynamic business environment on page 24. Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. (CCBPI) shares how they won two prestigious awards for their work in integrating sustainability into operations and leading environmental initiatives in local communities. Holcim Philippines also shares their sustainability excellence in the Europa Awards.

On page 31, bneXt highlights their partnership with STEAG State Power Inc. Through a strong partnership and digital transformation, it can bring a positive impact to communities, and the need to accelerate business processes is necessary to meet current market standards to ensure continuous growth and success.



**Florian Gottein**  
ECCP Executive Director

We invite you to revisit the first physical Europa Awards held at the Fairmont Hotel on October 11, which was a great success. We are proud to acknowledge our champions for sustainability and honor them for their achievements and initiatives in various sectors on page 40. Together with our partners, we look forward to seeing you in the next edition of the Europa Awards in 2024.

As we navigated through the fourth quarter, the Chamber hosted numerous events and activities to conclude the year on a high note. Highlights include the relaunch of our Free Trade Agreement Committee, a joint luncheon meeting with the Bureau of Customs and the Food and Drug Administration, and our final ECCP Community Connect of the year, dedicated to welcoming new members. Additionally, our ECCP Board of Directors convened their last meeting for the year to discuss goals and expectations for the Chamber in the coming year. Explore more events on page 42 in our Inside ECCP section.

For deeper insights into our key engagements with government representatives and discussions on relevant policies and initiatives, turn to our Advocacy Corner on page 77.

Join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest members from October to December by reading about them on page 85. Meanwhile, updates on Chamber activities over the past three months, spanning branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Clark, and Iloilo, are available on page 59. Stay informed about the latest business opportunities on page 92.

I trust you'll find this issue of EuroPH Connect enjoyable, and as always, thank you for your continued partnership and trust. We look forward to further building and developing our relationship in 2024.

Wishing you again Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

European Country in Focus

# Denmark



42,920  
square kilometers

POPULATION  
5.92 M  
approximately

CAPITAL  
Copenhagen

## DENMARK TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Denmark is known for its high standard of living, supported by its growing economy. Most of their economy relies on service-based industries, trade, and manufacturing. In fact, Danish exports consist of food, machinery, instruments, and packaged medicaments.

As of 2017, Denmark was ranked as the 38th largest export country in the world, and the 19th most complex economy. With its strategic location, Denmark has taken advantage of its maritime trade, but has also explored trade through land transportation as well. Some of their top major import partners are Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, China, Norway and the United Kingdom.

The top 2 Industries in Denmark are Finance/Insurance/Real Estate and Services. In that particular order, the Finance industry holds 38.8% of Denmark's market share, and the services industry holds 38.6%. In terms of the dominating finance sector in Denmark, much of the established banks (regulated by the government) are located in Copenhagen. Although a member of the European Union, Denmark's main currency is the Krone, and has not voted to adopt the Euro (the common currency of the EU). On the other hand, the services industry mainly focuses on the ever growing tourism sector, and a substantial amount of the services provided are mostly in public administration, education, social and health services.

**Geographical Location:** Denmark is currently located in Northern Europe between the Baltic and North Sea. It also includes the Faroe Islands and Greenland in the North Atlantic. In fact, its location is attractive for business opportunities as it connects the whole of Europe, the Scandinavian, and the Baltic nations together; creating a trading link for markets that hold millions of consumers.

**Climate:** The climate in Denmark is moderated by the warm gulf streams, therefore the weather isn't as intense as their Scandinavian neighbors. In addition to that, the country also hosts 4 seasons; the coldest seasons are December to March, whereas the hottest months are June, July, and August.

**Official Language:** Danish serves as the official language of Denmark. However, there are several minority languages spoken throughout the territory, if The Faeroe Islands and Greenland are included.

**Government Type:** Denmark runs as a Parliamentary Democracy. Also known as the Folketing, it also runs as a multi-party structure. Within the multiple parties, the strongest party representative will run as the Prime Minister, and these parties also negotiate in order to form a coalition with each other. Elections for the Folketing are held every 4 years, but the Prime Minister may choose when to hold one at any time. Finally, although the Danish Queen runs as the head of the government, her role is mainly conventional.

**Standard of Living:** Denmark is known for its high standard of living for its citizens, outperforming in terms of job opportunities, education, health, environmental quality and more. The average household disposable income per capita is USD 33,774 a year, with about 74% of the population aged 15-64 working paid jobs. In terms of life expectancy, it averages around 82 years old, a year higher than the world average, which is 81 years old.

**Organizations:** Denmark holds a lot of importance in terms of participating in international development cooperation, making them active players in addressing cross-border, global challenges. Some of the multilateral organizations Denmark is participating in are the European Union, United Nations, World Bank, Global Environment Facility, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, African Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and finally the Asian Development Bank. Denmark's engagement and contribution with the international organizations hopes to address global challenges such as human rights, environmental protection, widespread poverty, and more.

## FINANCIAL DISTRICT

The main capital of Denmark, Copenhagen, hosts the main business/financial hub of the country. In fact, Denmark is known as the #1 European country to invest in for future business owners, with key industries ranging from clean technology, life science, and food. Copenhagen also holds many of the countries' major banks, like Danske Bank, Nordea, Jyske Bank, Syd Bank, and more. In addition to that, Danske Bank has enabled growth and development in society, and has provided support for businesses and individual citizens in Denmark alike.

## TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



THE FAROE ISLANDS

Situated in the North Atlantic, The Faroe Islands are an archipelago of 18 islands that were shaped by volcanic activity and the glaciers of the ice age between Iceland and Norway, but are under the Kingdom of Denmark. Most of its economy depends on tourism and its fishery exports, in fact, a lot of tourists visit the islands for its incredible natural beauty. Many visitors from all over the world come to hike and bird watch around the coastal cliffs.



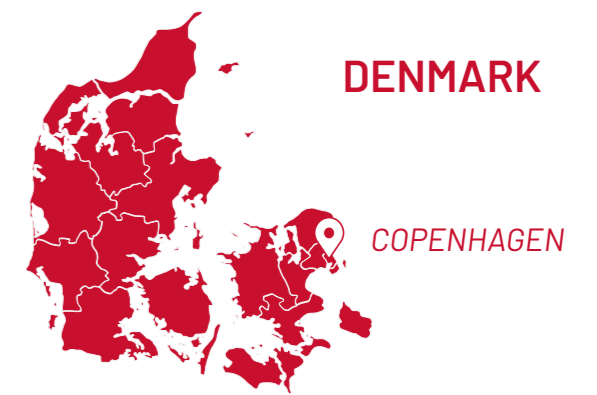
TIVOLI GARDENS

A popular recreational attraction for tourists, Tivoli Gardens was an inspiration for many of the modern Disneyland parks, and holds many fun attractions such as roundabouts, roller coasters, food pavilions, a Moorish-styled concert hall and more. It is also the world's second oldest amusement park, their gates being first opened back since August 15, 1843.



CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE

Christiansborg Palace is the home to the Danish Parliament, the Prime Minister's office, the supreme court, as well as several wings of the royal household. This tourist destination holds spectacular views of the Royal Reception Rooms, royal receptions, and galas.



DENMARK

COPENHAGEN

## INTERESTING FACTS

- Denmark is known for being one of the happiest countries in the world, as reported by the World Happiness Report. Denmark's friendliness and progressive culture makes it a worry-free place to stay in. Their concept of happiness stems from the word "hygge", pronounced as "hyoo-gah", which describes the feeling of comfort you experience when you're together with family and friends.
- The world-famous building-toy, LEGO®, was actually a Danish invention. The name LEGO® originated from the word "leg godt", which means "play well". LEGO® started off as a wooden toy company, but by 1947, they introduced the well-beloved, popular, interlocking colorful plastic bricks we know and love today.
- The harbor in Copenhagen is so clean, you can actually swim in it. Copenhagen Harbor has 3 main areas, Nordhavn, Inderhavn, and Sydhavnen. The city's most popular area to swim in is Sydhavnen, where you'll find the island's Brygge Harbour Bath.
- The Danish royal family is one of the oldest existing monarchs in the world. Their family ancestry can be traced back to the 8th century, and the current Danish Monarch, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II, is the head of state.
- Denmark's flag is the oldest national flag of the world still being continuously used. According to a legend, the Danish flag, also known as Dannebrog, fell during the Battle of Lyndanisse against Estonia in 1919. It was then the Danish King Valdemar II won victorious amidst his drive to the rest of the Baltic states.
- Known for its progressive and open culture, Denmark became the first country to legalize same-sex marriage. Same-sex partnership laws were first introduced in 1989, and in 2012, the parliament legalized same-sex marriage, allowing equality for all marriages.

Interview with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark  
to the Philippines

## H.E. Franz-Michael Mellbin



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

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** We have seen very good progress in several areas and I'm very happy to see the growing interest from Danish companies in the Philippines, so that more investors are coming here. We had a great breakthrough. The Philippine government changed the rules for foreign ownership of renewable energy assets and that led to commitments by the Danish investor group for over \$5 billion into the renewable energy sector here—by far the largest commitment we've seen from the Danish side so far into the Philippines.

But certainly, also in a number of key areas where we are active, we're seeing progress. We are looking at the agricultural sector where we have already had several visits and are planning more for next year. In the energy sector, we have not only these investments coming in but also stronger cooperation with the Philippine side, which we'll also see during COP 28, which is going on as we speak. We are happy to share the progress also within the maritime area, which of course is a key area for both our countries. We are also picking up speed in the defense sector, due to strategic reasons, which has taken up a lot more space recently, both in Europe and here in the Philippines.

And then we have the sustainability agenda which is also an important one and then digitization. For now, it's not an even progress across all those six sectors, but we do have progress across the line and we have strong Danish interest. I do expect that we will see quite a lot more happening as we go through 2024, but we're off to a very good start.

**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?**

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** There's no doubt that the attraction of the Philippines rests on the size of the market itself. It has a large population and it also has a young population, so it has a great growth potential and that's always attractive for foreign businesses and also foreign investors. As you will have heard, there was this China plus one policy that a lot of companies are employing. Trying to diversify more in this area in Southeast Asia and the Philippines, of course, is part of that and attracts attention because of that reason and the other Marcos administration's steps of trying to make the country more open towards foreign business and investments. This communicates to the wider business community that there is opportunity in the Philippines.

Now there are some drawbacks when we compare to your ASEAN neighbors. The story is very much the same. A lot of the world's growth is happening in this region. It's happening in this country, but it's also happening with your neighbors and some of them are off to a head start for various reasons. If we look at the manufacturing side, where I know the Philippines would very much like to have more manufacturing in the country. For substitution or outright for exports, this is difficult because the supply chains in the Philippines are much shorter and much

more narrow than they are. For example, in Vietnam or Thailand, the Philippines will have to work diligently to change that situation, and the government is trying to do its part. But there's much more work to be done to change that. There's also a challenge with energy prices. If you're looking at manufacturing certain strengths for the Philippines, including the digital area, the back office success story of the Philippines is widely understood.

Danish companies employ thousands of Filipinos in back office operations, which of course is a great thing. We also see more IT services moving out from Denmark to the Philippines. This is a continuing process and it is a real strength for the market and for the economy on the service side. Speaking of service, the addition of having an English-speaking labor force is a huge advantage also. However, there are also peer pressures from your neighbors, at least when it comes to educated staff. So you must have people who either have an academic background or high school background, or are increasingly fluent in English. Whereas, in fact in the Philippines, the trend line is down and the Philippines really needs to have to think carefully about where it's going with its education sector because this is a strength.

Finally, there's the cultural affiliation. Certainly, there is a stronger cultural connect between the Philippines and Europe, than for many of your ASEAN neighbors. This has historical backgrounds and it also has to do with the strong orientation of the Philippines towards the U.S. and the U.S. influence in the country. But it has resulted in a stronger cultural affiliation between the Philippines and Europe, and in a business sense, this is also an advantage that you have compared to your ASEAN neighbors. So there are some pluses but also some drawbacks.

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

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** The two strongest factors for Danish companies are the growth potential of the economy. It's destined to grow quite a lot over the next decade if things go right and they have gone right before. But as I like to say, let's make this the decade of the Philippines. So hopefully that will come to fruition. This growth story is a very strong factor.

The other one is really the young population. The young population, sort of, gives rise to various kinds of opportunities and these are the two things that people are balancing. So if you're into the selling market, you are looking at growth, but you're also looking at the opportunities that come with these young adults getting into purchasing power and hopefully, a growing middle class coming out of that.

As an investor, it's interesting to have young people to work with, but also just having the hands needed because labor shortage is a real issue on a global scale in several sectors. This includes sectors like renewable energy, IT and digitization. So there is a lot of demand for the workforce out there that the Philippines can be part of. But you will see what happens when you have very large investments coming in is that there is an undercurrent of companies and suppliers that are used to working with some of these large

investors and they will start popping up in the market. I've already had visits from several of them at my office taking a closer look at the Philippines and the opportunities here.

**What efforts have been put in place to expand Danish companies across the Philippines and if there were any challenges faced by these companies, can you share a bit about that?**

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** One of the instruments we have is our export promotion credits which are looking more closely at the Philippines and the fact that they want to do more here, and I think that is a good stepping stone. There are some companies that are very used to using that instrument and we also recently had a seminar together with Sweden, Switzerland, and the Netherlands about how these credit facilities work. Denmark has the next oldest in the world of these export credit facilities. It's a very modern, very flexible instrument and we can use it for various things. So that has sort of been put in place.

We also have something we use that we have either already entered into or are pursuing with the Philippines. One of those is digitization that has not been signed yet, but I'm still hoping we can sign this year and that will also open new venues for Danish companies to work with the Philippine public sector. Denmark is the world's leader in public IT and IT solutions. This is a main priority for the Marcos administration. We really want to do more together with the Philippines in that space and Danish companies are ready to enter the market to do that as soon as we have the MOU in place.

There are a wide range of sectors, key things, if we look at the challenges. You also asked about what the Danish companies might be facing out there and the three main things that I'll mention which are quite important to Danish companies as they look upon the Philippines. The first is that the economy suffers from low productivity. Now that is an opportunity. If you, as a foreign company, come in with world class or leading productivity, it's like picking up gold in the streets. I mean, there's just a huge gap in many sectors. Between the productivity in the Philippines and sort of the global mean productivity, agriculture is a good example of this. The agricultural sector is under invested. It is underperforming for that reason.

There are, of course, huge opportunities. The Philippines used to be a leading exporter in the world of agricultural products. It used to be the largest rice exporter in Asia. It used to be the world's largest coffee exporter. I don't think anybody even remembers that you would be the world's largest coconut exporter and cocoa exporter. I mean, all these strongholds sort of went out because of lack of investment and thus, lack of productivity growth. But there is a real opportunity there. Another thing that Danish companies look at and would sometimes worry is the lack of productivity, if you are dependent on suppliers, and supply chains inside the Philippines. You worry about low productivity in the market because that is higher prices and less quality. So that is something they look at also from that point, it's not just an opportunity to make money. By replicating what you're doing elsewhere, it's also dependent on the system here, and the infrastructure plays a role.

The other big chunk is governance. Governance is a real issue. It's closely linked to bureaucracy and red tape, of which I'd say the Philippines is extremely innovative. I always use the example with my car. I arrived in the Philippines 1 1/2 years ago. My car still does not have number plates. It's not lack of trying, it's just hypocrisy. It's difficult to describe for people who haven't sort of experienced it. I have a whole staff to help me. I don't know how ordinary people manage those things, but for me it's taking more than a year and I still don't have my number plates for my car. So it's just a colloquial example of what you might face.

Customs is well known and not always admired. Part of that bureaucracy also worries investors. Governance is a real problem and it needs to improve a lot of steps the government could take. I do hope that we'll see the government push more in this direction given that the President has stated his intentions. We need more action on the ground to improve that.

So the third area I'll point towards is infrastructure. There is a huge need for better infrastructure. The government is aware they are investing heavily in infrastructure. I think NEDA and the Department of Transportation and others are actually doing a very good job. They know what is needed. You are behind the curve on infrastructure, so it's good that there are huge investments there. In this area you will become a richer nation because of these investments. As a foreign investor, we have to think carefully about how to manage the current infrastructure challenges and what will it look like further down the road. We do see a lot of promising projects ongoing in the country and I think that will be a real boom to the economy overall.

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

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** I remain an optimist. I do believe this will be the decade of the Philippines. I think the Filipino people deserve it. You have watched your neighbors sort of move into high gear. It's high noon for the Philippines to do the same and experience the kind of growth that you've seen. Projections are very optimistic if you look at the ADB and World Bank numbers of 6-7% in line with government estimates over the next decade, effectively double the economy over the next decade. This is a great departure point so I am very optimistic we will see more Danish companies doing more business here and with the Philippines.

The free trade agreement with the EU could be another boost. I very much hope that it will continue to move forward. I've been very impressed both by the European side and by the Philippines side, how quickly it was possible to re-engage on a free trade agreement and get things moving. To me, it signals that both sides are earnest about reaching an agreement. The Marcos administration has been able to come to the table well prepared in spite of the long hiatus after the negotiations were stopped for several years ago now. So this to me is a past design and of course that will be helpful.

This will also send a signal to European and Danish companies about the economic opportunities and the relationship with the Philippines. Also, removing some of





the barriers will be helpful and then the shared growth of the economy itself will also indirectly draw Danish companies here. As I said before, we already have a number of Danish companies following these large scale investors into the renewable sector, but the same can also be said on the number of other international multinational companies.

Denmark is very much an early mover into various markets, so, if we have more international companies from the U.S., Japan, South Korea, Germany, the UK, and France moving into the market here, I expect the same will happen. You will see a lot of U.S., South Korea, and Japanese companies move and have more focus on the Philippines than maybe European. But Danish companies are, to a very high degree, specialized suppliers to the industries of the world and they will follow the customers here. So, as the Philippines experienced a more broad based investor interest, we will also see this underwood of Danish specialized companies follow their customers. They tend to be early movers. We've seen that many times before. So on a big scale in China, and we've also sold in Taiwan. During the years where those two countries grew prodigiously, Danish companies followed quickly.

**Could you share about Denmark's innovation efforts and what are the country's priority areas in terms of innovation?**

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** Denmark is a great believer in research, but also in linking research with industry. We have sort of the triple Helix model with companies, universities and government trying to work together to create accelerated innovation within several areas or historical reasons. There are certain areas where we are very strong on innovation. Some of that actually grew out of our interest in agriculture, so definitely agriculture is a strong point for Denmark.

We have a very strong point also when it comes to energy. Comparing energy technology to the size of its economy, Denmark has the largest share of energy technology exports in the world. So a real sharp end of Danish competitiveness is in the energy sector overall, and this is evident when it comes to renewable energy. But we are also big on energy savings, energy technologies in a broader sense, and we continue to have very strong innovation in that area, which is a great thing.

We are also very strong when it comes to medicine. The whole biopharma sector in Denmark is amongst the strongest in the world. This has led to some very large Danish pharma companies, which continues to be a very strong part of our industrial strength. We have also successfully built the world's next largest medical cluster, which actually is Copenhagen's candia cluster. Only Cambridge in Boston is larger. So this was a very good effort that was done some 25 years ago and have created impressive results that is good for the economy too. It's very stable in common and a high growth, high value area to be in. Linking to that, and also growing out from the agricultural sector and now early leadership in that area, is nanotechnology and microbiology. So two of the world's leading enzyme companies are Danish or at least of Danish origins. One has been sold off to a U.S. company, but still the mainstaying of the businesses in Denmark. So we have Novozymes and Chr. Hansen A/S for people who are into

enzymes. Not a lot of people are into that, but enzymes are everywhere. They're like shampoo, beer, and wine. It's in your rice. It's just everywhere and the greatest companies in that area are Danish. So this whole sector, again, the very high margin, very profitable sector to be in and we have a clear innovative edge there.

The last one I'd like to highlight is quantum computing. I say this because sometimes people think that some of these large innovative tracks are something that has to do with large countries. But when it comes to quantum computing, we are either first or second in the world currently. I think our biggest lead is we actually have something that works which is sort of great.

It's a very competitive scene and a lot of people are investing huge amounts of money into this area. But Denmark, for various reasons, has a very strong leader and this is again linked to this whole tradition of microbiology, biochemistry, and chemistry, which has been a very strong thing for Denmark over many years, and to our industrial innovative strength.

Generally, for Danish companies they are highly specialized. So this is also why few people know Danish companies, like the Nordisk company, which is now by far the most valuable company in all of Europe. A lot of people will know Mercedes, Rolex, Airbus, but they will never have heard about Nordisk, in spite of its tremendous size, but because it's a pharma company. Unless you're sick and use their products, you won't know it, of course. The effects have sort of a footnote or is on the world map for a while at least, but otherwise a lot of people don't know a lot of these things - companies, instruments, for example, are technical instruments. We have several Danish companies that are absolutely world leading, but unless you're in a business where you use those tools, you won't have a clue.

It's actually the same for Danish globalized companies. The rule of thumb is we are either the first or second in that sector, otherwise, it's not for us. If that's not possible, skip them.

**Can you share about Danish expertise in sustainable practices and green innovation and how these could benefit Philippine businesses and industries?**

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** I think the most important answer to that is if the Philippines, as a nation, its industry, its service centers, and all that, don't start moving towards sustainability, you will lose out on your competitive edge. So it's not as much, "is this something we would like to do or is this convenient", but simply staying relevant in a world where this has increasing weight when it comes to business decisions. I'm very happy to share that I feel that the Philippine government really has understood the signal and it starts with the President, but it also goes down to ministers and various sectors. The trade minister, minister of industry, the energy minister—they all understand that there is this need to satisfy.

Here, sustainable practices are coming in big because the big investors are asking already now when they come in. They have sustainability goals like NET 2030 or 35 or 40 or 50, whatever it may be. They are already asking, will it be possible for us to achieve that goal here in the Philippines if we put up shop here either in office or manufacturing? Can we get sustainable electricity?

One of the reasons why President Marcos really wants to expand the amount of renewable energy is that he understands that foreign companies will be asking for renewable energy. If you go to a country like Vietnam, they are facing a challenge now with some manufacturing companies forgoing Vietnam, in spite of quite a lot of advantages, due to their broad based supply lines. This is an interesting development. Denmark has a lot of energy technologies. We have a lot to share when it comes to reducing energy usage which is a very large part of becoming more sustainable. Reducing your energy consumption is the best way.

Energy you don't buy and don't use is the cheapest energy and the cleanest energy, no comparison. I'm very happy to have heard the president and the environmental minister all say, the energy you save is the first few so energy savings out. First few it's a great thing and Denmark does have leading technology here. We can do a lot with the energy wastage. The lack of understanding of how to manage energy in this country is quite worrying. It also gives a lot of opportunities. I think there needs to be a lot more awareness on that. Then there's the question of how do you optimize your productivity in a way that it also makes your production more sustainable? Denmark has a lot to offer here. We have very strong advisory and consultant services who understand how to do this, so I'll give one example.

One of the areas which takes up a lot of energy is wastewater treatment. This is a high energy cost and basically a high cost sector, so it costs a lot to deal with waste and all things. But in Denmark, we now have two waterworks that are called resource harvesting centers. So they're not waste water processing centers, they are resource harvesting centers and they actually produce a surplus of energy. This is just going in, optimizing what you're doing and simply changing the equation and these things can be done. It's really optimization process.

The third area where I can see a lot of opportunity here is when it comes to the circular economy and how the Philippines can become much better at reusing and recycling, while also taking more careful care of the resources it has. And we all know waste is a huge problem in this country. It pains me to see Philippine forests, beaches, sea, rivers, lakes polluted with all kinds of things. There is a better way and it can be done in a more efficient way. It's really about political will.

The Philippines can do what a lot of other countries have already done, including in the region, and it will be for the benefit of Filipino people and it will be beneficial for future generations. Denmark does have solutions to offer here. I think overall, Europe is in a strong position to help. It is about getting the politics right and using the example of waste management. It's highly politicized in the Philippines because it's a money bank for certain groups and that is not conducive to optimizing the results. You need political will to change that.

When it comes to the circular economy, I think that it's really about knowing how and understanding better what can be done and how do you actually go there. In Thailand, they have the world's largest tuna factory and so there's a very large tuna producer. They produce a lot of tuna products there, including canned tuna. They actually found

out that if they took the waste material, the leftovers you can't sell to consumers like the heads, tails, and bones, the skin products, etc., and they mix that up with enzymes from one of these Danish enzyme companies, the value of that is now higher than the tuna they're selling. And I just think that is an amazing story of how you have turned a waste product into a huge competitive edge, but also a huge profit which nobody had imagined. You just usually threw these things out, but now it has found productive use. There are solutions like that which people simply don't imagine because they don't have the knowledge or the know-how.

This is where Danish companies, Danish advisory and consulting, come in and point to world class solutions. But not always from Denmark necessarily. I'd like to make a short plug for food waste in Denmark. We have been very good at reducing food waste in Copenhagen. It's dropped dramatically. I believe it's down to half of what it used to be, a precipitous drop in food waste.

Again, this is an organizational skill. There is a Danish company that made an app which helps consumers meet producers and providers that makes food waste accessible because it needs to be saved. Food is perishable. That can also be done here in the Philippines. Indeed, there is a Danish charitable organization which is now organizing large scale food saving. They call it food rescuing which they have done in Thailand and they feed hundreds of thousands of people through those programmes. That can help some of the poverty stricken Filipinos, which are in dire need of all the help they can get.

It's a good business case. I find this very difficult to understand. You go into a hotel lobby and it's 16 degrees and I'm thinking, if you turn up to 21 or 22 degrees, which is actually a very nice temperature, you're going to save half your electricity bill if you're a hotel manager. Why are you not? Changing the temperature in your lobby is an easy thing to do and the savings are huge. These things I'm curious about and it is an awareness issue. In Denmark we were not good at saving energy back in the 70s. But with public information and education, now Danes are very good at it and we're saving energy. Water consumption in Denmark, in spite of becoming richer since the late 70s and the beginning of the 80s, have reduced and the economy has expanded a lot since then. Water consumption has been reduced by 40%. Just imagine.

**Can you highlight any ongoing or upcoming collaborative initiatives between Denmark and the Philippines that promote innovation and sustainability and commercial interests?**

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** If we look at the six sectors as I mentioned before, we're looking towards the MOU on the digital side. We are looking towards having more visits on the agricultural side, so there will be more exchanges in that sector. We have invited the Philippine Navy and Coast Guard to visit Copenhagen to learn more about how we manage our own defense, but also to look at the defense technologies that will potentially allow the Philippines to have more situational awareness over areas such as the West Philippine Sea.

We are also looking right now at the export credit facility and are about to sign an umbrella agreement with the

Ministry of Finance. This will pave the way for more export credits to the Philippines than we've had previously, which is a good thing. Then we will cooperate more closely with the Philippines when it comes to the training up and rescaling of manpower for the renewable energy sector. This is very much needed for the Philippines' own plans to go much more into solar and wind energy and will also give an opportunity for Filipinos who want to become OFWS and work within the international renewable sector, where there's a huge demand for workforce. So all these are specific examples where we will see concrete progress over the next half year or so.

**How have programmes on innovating technologies evolved in informing Danish business owners who are interested in transitioning to digital systems?**

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** Denmark is a leader when it comes to the taxation and it is one of the strong points of both the Danish society, soon the public side, but also on the business side. It has a very high degree of understanding of digital systems amongst the population which adds to our competitiveness and one of the strengths that we've had is there was a very close cooperation between the public and the private sector.

In the early days of digitization, a lot of the platforms are joint platforms. For instance, our secure login, which we do through the mobile phone, is the same. If I want to check my doctor or book an appointment with my doctor, if I want to go to my bank, if I'm communicating with my union, if I'm talking with the municipality or changing my address or getting on the voter's register- all that has a unified, secure idea and this unification makes your life a lot easier. The system's more efficient. This has given us an early head start, but the whole world is digitizing so we need to stay on our toes. So far, we remain number one in the world on publicization and I hope we will remain there also for the next ten years as we've been for the previous ten years.

And for the companies, the big question now is how fast can we integrate AI into? What are we doing? I have been impressed so far by how fast the English companies have started to look more closely at AI and already are developing AI based tools into their production because at the end of the day, AI is about increasing productivity. And one of the reasons why our economy is so strong and has been able to grow so much as it has over the last years is due to the very strong productivity growth led by the private sector. That is a key to bringing welfare and jobs to all things.

The development of AI is the next big step out there and we need to be part of that. There are some new things happening around the world and we're not always where we should be. I'm sometimes a little critical of some of the Danish companies and I hunt them by pressing them, asking them that you need to do this or that. I think Elon Musk and Tesla is a very illustrative story. Tesla is the most valuable car company in the world. It's worth more than all other car companies together. Quite an amazing thing if you think about it. Take all other car manufacturers in the whole world, put them together. The value of Tesla is larger, but Tesla and Elon Musk do not call Tesla a car company they say which is true. It is a data company. So when you get in your Tesla, you are the product. People don't think about that and that's why that company is worth so much.

Big data mining needs to be much more integrated into how Danish business works. Some of them are there, some of them are leading the field even in that area. But I think we have more work to do and that's the nature of competition in a global world, you really have to be on your marks. AI will be the next big thing for sure and we need to be there. I'm encouraged by what I see from things.

**Denmark's innovation on entrepreneurship and finance has been internationally recognised by several nations. Will Denmark's innovation strategies address that domestic firms might have challenges when integrating into a competitive global market?**

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** I think I really love this question because I think it says a lot about the Philippines and a lot about Denmark. There's a huge difference between Denmark and the Philippines, in that Denmark is tremendously integrated into the global economy. When compared to the Philippines and the integration of Denmark into the global economy, Denmark is a full scale outcome and the Philippines is not. So if you're going to have a successful business in Denmark? You are, what we in Denmark use this expression, "You are born global." Either you are globally competitive or you're not even going to make a business in Denmark. I could give an example of this and it does say a lot about the lack of productivity in the Philippines, which I talked about before.

If you look at foreign direct investors in Denmark, we have quite a lot coming to Denmark investing there, including FDIs. It's very interesting to note that on average, FDIs in Denmark are 25% more productive than the Danish companies, so they bring a lot of competitiveness into the Danish market. Now, the Danish economy is one of the most productive in the whole world. So you're almost up there in the number one spot. You can look at different models and some will say we're #3 or will say to someone it's not very important. It's up there at the very, very top and then you have to imagine that foreign direct investors in Denmark are 25% more. It's not like a few percent, it's a gap. Just imagine the productivity gap in the Philippines which is much less.

This born global concept is an important one. If you have a local 7-11, you know you're not feeling that globalized pressure. So I'm not going to say it's 100% of the economy because it's not. There's parts of the service industry that won't be, but a very large percentage of even small, medium sized companies are born global and we can see that they are good at it. If you look at robotics, where Denmark is leading the world when it comes to human sized robotics, you have these industrial robots, the ones who make cars. If you want a robot like that, you go to the U.S. or Sweden or Japan and they're quite good at it. But if you want human scale robots, the ones that sort of interact with people, Denmark is a great place to go. We have some leading companies there.

So that through specialization, we allow ourselves a sort of capture. Various areas where we can be, if not dominant, then at least large actors and the most used small scale robot in the world is a Danish robot. Just an example of that. In effect, if you define and, I don't know what the Philippine definition of a small or medium sized company is but in Denmark, the cut off here is 100 people. So if you are



larger than 100 in Denmark, you are a large company. It's quite interesting if you go to Germany, I think the cut off is 2000. You're not a large company before you passed. It just says a lot about the industrial structure of Denmark. We have a few giants with hundreds of thousands of people, but a large proportion of our industrial strength and service strength lies with very small companies.

I'll give another example. We have a company that delivers software for flight control and they are leading that niche in the whole world. I met the owners and I asked them about the software and how they're selling to New York and Frankfurt and Heathrow and all these other channels, even China. Everybody more or less uses Hong Kong or Singapore-made software. I asked them about their company and there are three people there. Yes, that was the company and it just went out there and sold the stuff to the world. That's a very small company that found a very specialized niche that a lot of bigger companies may not take a big interest in, but it just shows that specialization is very close to what Danish entrepreneurs are looking for.

They have this idea in their head. If they're going to be successful, they have to scan not just what's around the corner. They have to scan out into the world and see what's best out there. And can we be even better?

I think you have lots of opportunities and I really mean it when I say let's make this the ticket of the Philippines. There's no reason why you haven't had your breakthrough except for bad policy. I mean bad politics is really the pain of the Philippines and the Filipinos. You deserve to be in a much better place. Go there. It's not just going to happen. You're going to have to work for it.

We didn't talk a lot about education. I did mention with the English skills. I worry about education in the Philippines. We need to invest more, we need to mobilize more effort on the educational side. Otherwise you're going to hit a level of economic growth and welfare. Then you're going to level off because you're going to lack the people to take the next step. Don't do that. Educate your young people. Nothing drives the economy more than smart people. We didn't talk about this, but let me mention on the innovation side, I think it is important we import a lot of talent to Denmark. A lot of talent comes to Denmark to work there and it really helps our competitiveness. Having smart people, it can't be beat.

**How does Denmark see itself in influencing the digitization of small and start up Philippine businesses in both nations?**

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** We really want to work closely with the Ministry of IT and the public sector here. I think where we can do most is on the public sector side. We have solutions for private companies, but typically these people are already our customers and so we won't be introducing anything new. I'd rather say we'll sort of be honing the digital skills of what's in the market. You have a lot of companies here who have a very low degree of digitization. There are a lot of reasons for that, amongst others, insufficient internet infrastructure, too high prices and too slow speeds. It just doesn't make for a very good combination. But also because the public sector doesn't offer a lot of important services, haunted tour platforms and that needs to change.

It will be a benefit for everybody inside. It will cut down on red tape. It will increase governance levels. So there's a lot to be done there. It can also increase productivity overall. I do hope we will see a much stronger cooperation between Denmark and the Philippines here. I believe some of the lessons we have learned, some of the solutions we have made, which would have been exported around the world to all kinds of countries, like UAE, Germany, U.S., UK et cetera. can be hugely beneficial but the lack of infrastructure is a problem for your small and medium sized enterprise. It's a cost and it's annoying. It's annoying for everybody because it is expensive and slow and all that. But the big ones, they manage that. They take it as an extra cost, and that's annoying but they can manage it. For small and medium sized enterprises, it holds them back. And you know you can easily have talented people here who also can start developing solutions and be part of that global market. But if they don't have the opportunity to work and grow here, your best people are going to go abroad and that's not helpful.

**Do you have any parting message to the readers of the EU-PH Connect for this issue on innovation?**

**Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin:** Education is absolutely key. It starts with elementary school and grows all the way up to college. The Philippines needs to invest more, but also Philippine companies have to help the state drive education forward. If there is a need for concerted effort from the government, from companies but also from Filipino families who are wishing for a better future for their children, bet on education. It's the best investment you can make in your life and that will drive innovation.



# Hon. Renato U. Solidum Jr.



## How do you plan to scale up the country's technology adoption, utilization, and commercialization while making it market-driven and competitive?

To scale up the country's technology adoption, utilization, and commercialization, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) will do the following:

- ✓ Paradigm shift in doing research and development (R&D) to push for more market driven/need-based approach for relevance and suitability of technologies developed;
- ✓ Intensify further government-academe-industry collaborations in R&D for seamless transfer of developed technologies or services;
- ✓ Capacity building of partner institutions on Intellectual Property (IP) protection, packaging of technologies for promotion, and technology transfer;
- ✓ Review existing policies and guidelines to make services more conducive for business sectors without sacrificing the objectives of the government;
- ✓ Strengthen partnership with other National Government Agencies (NGAs) and other stakeholders for support in the deployment/transfer of technologies - building capabilities of technology adopters to scale-up commercialization of technologies;
- ✓ Encourage researchers, scientists, and engineers (RSEs)/technology developers to venture into spin-offs or startups while infusing technopreneurship;
- ✓ Sustain the implementation of the following DOST programs:
  1. **Startup Grant Fund (SGF) Program** - The DOST has approved a total of Php 586 Million for our startup development programs. Through the SGF Program, the DOST has supported a total of 58 startups.
  2. **Technology Business Incubation (TBI)** - a program that aims to help start up technology-based businesses by providing a range of resources, services, and facilities needed during their development stage. The goal of TBI is to produce firms that will leave the incubation program financially viable and able to sustain operation and compete in the market. Through the DOST's 49 TBIs, we have successfully incubated a total of 1,644 startups. The startups in the TBIs and our SGF grantees have collectively generated 8,077 jobs, received a total of P2B in private investments, and generated a total of P1.3B worth of revenues.
  3. **Balik Scientist Program (BSP)** - a DOST program institutionalized through the enactment of Republic Act No. 11035 (Balik Scientist Act) in 2018, where Filipino scientists and experts are encouraged to return to the country and share their expertise to promote scientific, agro-industrial, and economic development, including the development of our human capital in science, technology, and innovation (STI). Since the inception of the program in

1975, nearly 700 scientists have returned to the Philippines, and from July 2022 to June 2023 alone, 44 scientists came back under the program.

4. **Onelab** - a network of laboratories aimed at ensuring availability and broadening public access to testing and calibration services at a single touchpoint through an IT based platform. It facilitates the seamless laboratory transaction from sample receipt to release of test result as facilitated by the Onelab Referral System. Currently, the Onelab network comprises 16 DOST Regional Standard and Testing Laboratories (RSTLs), 6 DOST Research and Development Institute (RDI) laboratories, 4 government agencies laboratories, 19 private local laboratories, and 8 international laboratories.
5. **OneSTore** - an E-commerce Web Application that operates nationwide and caters primarily to Philippine consumers. It helps DOST-assisted MSMEs widen the scope of their target market and provides customers with an effortless shopping experience and retails with simple and direct access to the largest customer base in the Philippines.
6. **OneExpert** - a network of (science and technology) S&T experts, intended to improve access to experts and technologies particularly by people living outside of the major urban centers, to bring the services of any accredited expert located anywhere in the Philippines to clients that need S&T assistance.
7. **Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP)** - a nationwide strategy to encourage and assist micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to adopt technological innovations to improve their operations and thus, boost their productivity and competitiveness. SETUP provides MSMEs with equipment and technical assistance to enable them to increase sales and production, streamline and improve overall company operations, upgrade the quality of products and services, conform to national and international standards, and be competitive in their respective fields.
8. **Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) Program** - deploys a package of S&T interventions that aims to build progressive and empowered communities. It seeks to assist the "disadvantaged sectors" in the country. The program's implementation entails provision and transfer of technology-based livelihood projects to the identified communities. It facilitates the transfer of technologies to beneficiaries along the areas of education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, disaster risk reduction, and industry development or livelihood.

**9. Technology Innovation for Commercialization (TECHNICOM) Program** - aims to fast-track the transfer, utilization, and commercialization of R&D outputs to contribute to the country's sustainable development through relevant technological platforms. Through the program, DOST provides technopreneurs with an easily accessible multimillion pre-commercialization grant and linkage to DOST- Technology Application and Promotion Institute's technology and innovation support programs.

The DOST is also now reformatting and recalibrating its grants-in-aid (GIA) program to require proponents such as our state universities and colleges (SUCs), private higher education institutions (HEIs), and RDIs to include in-depth analysis of potential markets, users/customers, and adopters, market competitors, trends and forecasts in customer needs as well as analysis of the requirements of market and regulatory systems. These analyses are expected to include information on export gaps, export requirements, deficits/gaps in the value and supply chains. By focusing on needs of markets and customers, business, and industry, the DOST believes that the country's R&D can be much more solutions-oriented and designed to plug in the observable deficits in these environments.

**What initiatives are in place to foster a thriving innovation ecosystem in the Philippines, and how can European businesses actively participate in it?**

To foster a thriving innovation ecosystem in the country, Republic Act No. 11293 or the Philippine Innovation Act was enacted into law. It gives priority "to generate and scale up actions in all levels and areas of education, training, research, and development towards promoting innovation and internationalization activities of micro, small and medium enterprises as drivers of sustainable and inclusive growth."

The Philippine government, through the DOST also implements programs and projects aimed at improving the innovation ecosystem in the country, which include programs on R&D, technology transfer and commercialization, startup, those that address the different gaps in commercializing the outputs of R&D, such as assistance in applying for IP protection, strengthening the capacity of partner institutions on technology transfer, as well as technopreneurship. Aside from the testing and laboratory services provided to firms, DOST also established STI facilities, so firms may be able to transcend barriers in trading and compete globally. The TBIs in 55 universities and colleges throughout the country are a platform for inculcating a culture of partnership and learning, value of working in multidisciplinary teams, communication, negotiation, and enterprise-building.

DOST is also currently pursuing the establishment of Knowledge, Innovation, Science, and Technology {KIST} Ecozones, a new type of ecozone that will help strengthen the collaboration among the government, academe, and industries to accelerate R&D, facilitate the commercialization of outputs, and support/nurture innovative startups and spin-offs among other initiatives

to maximize STI for economic development. Envisioned as a seedbed and enclave for technological innovation, the KISTs will nurture and spur the growth of new high tech firms, facilitate the transfer of university know-how to locator-companies, encourage the development of faculty or student-based spin-offs and stimulate the development of innovative products and processes. Republic Act No. 11534 or the CREATE Law also provides incentives to pioneering technologies, emerging tech-based enterprises and soon through the KIST Ecozones, among others.

European businesses can actively participate in the innovation ecosystem in the Philippines by:

- ✓ Forming partnerships and collaborations with local companies and institution. This may involve sharing of expertise, knowledge, and resources to support innovation and R&D initiatives in the country.
- ✓ Exploring investment opportunities in the Philippines' innovation sector, such as funding startups or establishing R&D centers. By investing in the local innovation ecosystem, European companies not only contribute to the growth and development of the sector but also gain access to a pool of talented individuals and innovative ideas.
- ✓ Participating in knowledge exchange programs and capacity-building initiatives. This may involve providing training and mentorship programs for local entrepreneurs and researchers, as well as facilitating technology transfer and sharing best practices.
- ✓ Participating in relevant conferences, exhibitions, and trade fairs (like the National Science and Technology Week) in the Philippines to showcase their innovative products and services. This can help create awareness and visibility for European companies while also fostering collaboration opportunities with local stakeholders.
- ✓ Seizing the opportunity to partner and operate with startups and spin-off companies in special ecozones or engage in any activities enumerated in the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) to enjoy fiscal incentives. Aside from capacity building and the TBIs, the KIST Ecozones may also be a good platform for collaboration with EU companies.

**What collaborative projects or initiatives are the Philippines engaging in with European countries to drive innovation and technology advancements?**

The DOST has existing agreements with France, Italy, Hungary, and the UK through various modes of cooperation such as capacity building, joint research projects, and research mobility initiatives, among others.

DOST is collaborating with France on research mobility projects through the Philippine-French Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) "Science for the People" (PHC-SFTP). The program aims to support the scientific mobility of researchers and facilitate the establishment of joint research projects. In addition, UK, France and Italy are currently extending scholarships to talented and deserving Filipino students/researchers to study and obtain MS and PhD degrees in science and engineering in reputable

foreign institutions. This will help the Philippines develop a pool of high-quality human resources in science and engineering who will contribute to the country's global competitiveness and economic development.

Philippines partners with the UK's Royal Academy of Engineering for the Leaders in Innovation Fellowship (LIF) where they provide engineering and technology innovators with access to experienced UK mentors, an international network of peers, and high-quality skills training focused on commercialization and maximizing their technology's impact on society. From 2014 to 2020, the DOST supported a total of 90 Filipino cohorts. Later this year, DOST participated in the LIF Global 2024. Selection of Filipino innovators is currently ongoing; where Philippines is expected to host an in-country event for the selected fellows in February 2024.

The country is also working with the National Copernicus Capacity Support Action Program for the Philippines (CopPhil), the EU's earth observation flagship programme, which provides free environment and climate data derived from a constellation of satellites -the Sentinels which monitor the earth and its many ecosystems 24-hours daily. This free information aims to help public authorities, businesses, and international organizations mitigate climate change impacts and build a sustainable future for all. In the Philippines, Copernicus' satellite images have already helped authorities monitor the situation of remote communities in the aftermath of typhoons such as Odette or accidents like an oil spill to help authorities plan their disaster preparedness and mitigation plans and response. The Copernicus programme for the Philippines is a pioneer initiative in the Asia Pacific and a starting point for a larger programme on Digital Connectivity. The programme will enhance capacities for a stronger and more shock-resilient Filipino economy and society, as well as support reciprocal exchanges between the Philippines and the EU. This 10-million Euro programme, which will run for three (3) years, is in line with DOST's commitment under the Philippines and EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement which includes cooperation on science and technology, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

**What incentives or grants are available to promote research and development activities, and how can European companies access these opportunities?**

DOST empowers researchers across various fields to undertake cutting-edge research projects that may otherwise be financially challenging. Grants are available to support research and development activities that are aligned with the Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA).

The Philippines grants tax incentives, particularly for projects that promote emerging technology research and development, among others, to support the fourth industrial revolution and boost investments in the country. It also has the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) that identifies business enterprise and exports investment areas that will significantly raise revenues and job creation to sustain Philippine economic growth. Various S&T projects and activities are covered under the SIPP:

- R&D and activities adopting advanced digital production technologies of the fourth industrial revolution
  - a. Robotics
  - b. Artificial Intelligence
  - c. Additive Manufacturing
  - d. Data Analytics
  - e. Digital Transformative Technologies (e.g. Cloud computing services, hyperscalers, data centers, and digital infrastructure)
  - f. Nanotechnology including nanoelectronics
  - g. Biotechnology
  - h. Production and/or adoption of new hybrid seeds
  - i. Other Industry 4.0 technologies
- Highly technical manufacturing and production of innovative products and services
  - a. Manufacture of equipment, parts, and services
  - b. Commercialization of IP and R&D products/ services, aerospace, medical devices (except personal protective equipment)
  - c. Internet of Things (IoT) devices and systems (includes wireless sensor and devices)
  - d. Full-scale water fabrication
  - e. Advanced materials
- Establishment of innovation support facilities
  - a. R&D Hubs
  - b. Centers of Excellence
  - c. Science and Technology Parks
  - d. Innovation Incubation Center
  - e. Tech Startups
  - f. Startup Enablers: Incubators and Accelerators
  - g. Space-related Infrastructure

European companies may consider investing in S&T areas enumerated under the SIPP. More information from the Fiscal Incentives Review Board may be obtained from their website at [firb.gov.ph](http://firb.gov.ph).

European companies can access the opportunities offered by DOST in the Philippines by actively engaging with DOST, leveraging existing partnerships, participating in relevant events, and staying updated on the latest policies and initiatives. By tapping into these resources, European companies can benefit from the financial support and equipment provided by DOST to fuel their innovation, research, and development endeavors in the country.

**Are there specific regulatory hurdles or barriers that the government is working to address?**

One of the government's efforts is the passage and implementation of the Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service

Delivery Act of 2018. It is being implemented by the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) which is also mandated to implement various reform initiatives to combat red tape and ensure that the various government units and agencies comply thereto. RA 11032 aims to streamline the current systems and procedures of government services. Amongst its purpose is to lessen the turn around time to be followed and to efficiently guide the public in conducting their respective interests in all types of Philippine soil. For DOST, it is a sound legal basis for streamlining the procedures for the granting of scholarships, certifications, and sponsorships and approving the submitted proposals related to research and development for the benefit of Filipinos.

One other specific regulatory hurdle that the DOST is working to address is the simplification and streamlining of the process for obtaining permits and licenses related to research and development activities. To overcome this challenge, DOST is collaborating with relevant government agencies to develop more efficient and streamlined processes, reducing unnecessary red tape, and promoting a business-friendly environment.

Another regulatory barrier that the DOST is focused on is the protection of intellectual property rights. The government is actively working to strengthen the legal framework for intellectual property protection, ensuring that innovators and businesses can confidently protect and monetize their intellectual assets. This includes providing education and support to researchers and businesses on intellectual property rights and facilitating the registration and enforcement of these rights.

DOST is also working towards the development of comprehensive data protection regulations that comply with international standards, safeguarding the rights and interests of individuals and businesses.

DOST is actively engaged in Congressional Hearing in amending the Government Procurement Law. It was able to lobby in the Substitute Bill the inclusion of P100,000.00 cap in direct procurement of goods and services subject to accounting rules and regulations for practical and easier purchasing of goods and services without the need for public bidding. Direct acquisition is added as another mode of procurement in Sec. 74 of the Substitute Bill.

In developing the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Sec. 71 of the Substitute Bill, particularly "Item F. Scientific, Scholarly or Artistic Work, Exclusive Technology and Media Services", DOST will lobby for the inclusion of

Goods 'Not Commonly Used Supplies and Equipment (CSE)' as part of the eligible items of procurement. DOST aims for refinement of procurement guidelines for research and development in science and technology. There is a need for explicit guidelines in procurement of specialized and scientific equipment essential for cutting-edge research. Absence of clear guidelines on the matter can lead to prolonged deliberations or even legal quandaries hindering progress of vital research projects. This will expedite the procurement process by eliminating ambiguities and empower research institutions to acquire state of the arts tools crucial in groundbreaking scientific work.

To further resolve concerns in procurement, DOST is in the planning stage of developing its own S&T procurement manual through a Procurement Summit. This will be attended by S&T Expert and Procurement Officers of DOST Attached Agencies and Regional Offices. This will fast track and specifically address the needs and barriers in procurement of S&T equipment and research and development supplies and materials. In coordination with Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), the S&T procurement manual will enable an agile and responsive procurement process designed for specific needs of research and development. It will also include best practices and standard which will serve as a blueprint to operationalize nuanced provisions of the previous law.

**What sectors are currently being focused on by the DOST in terms of research and development? What are the long-term goals of the DOST in relation to supporting innovation?**

The DOST is focusing on the following sectors:

1. Health
2. Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources
3. Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology

The long-term goals of the DOST in relation to supporting innovation revolve around the four strategic thrusts of human well-being, wealth creation, wealth protection, and sustainability. Specifically, the DOST aims to advance innovation in the sectors such as Health, Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources, as well as Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology. By fostering innovation in these areas, the DOST seeks to enhance the well-being of individuals, create economic opportunities, protect intellectual assets, and ensure sustainable development for the nation.



# Driving Digitalization, Living Innovation

By KPMG in the Philippines Technology Consulting Partner Gilbert T. Trinchera

In today's dynamic business environment, innovation has transformed from a luxury into an imperative.

Businesses are facing an unprecedented pace of change, driven by a confluence of factors, including geopolitical shifts, industry disruption, and the emergence of transformative technologies. These forces are creating new opportunities and challenges, demanding that organizations adapt their strategies and operations to remain competitive.

## Be determined, not deterred.

Despite the headwinds of global economic uncertainty, digital transformation leaders that are committed to their innovation priorities continue to realize value at pace. By aligning investment in technology with their strategic ambitions, these organizations are upholding momentum. When it comes to digital transformation, a hesitant mindset could prove costly, and not just because competitors will continue to invest: new technologies can give businesses ways to deal with the difficult market. Moreover, rather than embracing new technologies simply for the sake of it, organizations should ensure their digital innovation plans are intentionally tied to their dynamic strategic and commercial goals.<sup>1</sup>

## The AI and machine learning boom continues to burn bright

According to the KPMG Global Tech Report 2023, organizations consider AI and machine learning as the most important technologies for achieving their short-term ambitions. More than half of the technology professional respondents (57 percent) of the report believe that AI and machine learning, including generative AI, will be important in helping them achieve their business objectives over the next three years. This is significantly ahead of the next technology in the rankings: edge computing (42 percent).

Among leading businesses where investment in technology is driving confidence and profitability most quickly, AI and machine learning are even bigger priorities. More than two-thirds (68 percent) say these technologies will be vital in helping them to achieve their short-term business goals, compared with 57 percent of the total sample.

To build on the digital transformation momentum so far in the face of economic headwinds, organizations must continue to uphold a level of intentionality in their strategies to prevent projects from drifting aimlessly. This will be especially important to ensure organizations do not waste precious money and resources in an era where budgets continue to tighten.

## Living Innovation

It is undeniable that for innovation to flourish, a collaborative effort involving a dedicated team and the right technology is imperative to translate visionary ideas into reality. Organizations that possess a clear vision, quantifiable metrics, a culture driven by collaboration and results, and

robust internal relationships are better positioned to thrive in this era of rapid change.

Since the pandemic, KPMG in the Philippines has been hosting an annual Innovation Summit, a testament to the firm's commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration. This year's Summit held last July at Fairmont, Makati stands out as a celebration of ideas, bringing together tech and business leaders from diverse industries. Discussions delved into the implementation of game-changing strategies for sustainability and digital transformation.

In a significant stride toward advancing digitalization, KPMG in the Philippines unveiled the Digital Government Center. This one-stop shop assists national government agencies and local government units in their digital transformation journeys, offering services ranging from crafting strategy plans and roadmaps to automating processes and services. The center also focuses on harnessing emerging technologies to provide citizen-centric solutions and upskilling civil servants through training and certifications.

Additionally, the local leg of KPMG's Global Tech Innovator (GTI) competition was also hosted at the Summit which showcased promising startups and emerging technology players, providing a platform for exposure to potential local and international investors.

Peddlr, a digital accounting and bookkeeping point of sale (POS) application established in Catbalogan, Samar, emerged as the gold winner of the local leg of the GTI. Mentored by experts within the firm and KPMG's network of industry leaders, Peddlr competed globally at the Web Summit in Lisbon, Portugal last 15 November 2023, showcasing its mission to revolutionize traditional business processes. Nel Laygo, CEO and Founder of Peddlr, pitched the tech startup's vision to replace outdated pen-and-paper business methods, particularly on sales recording, credit management, and manual inventory stock management.

Although Peddlr didn't clinch the top spot globally, Laygo expressed gratitude for the opportunity to showcase the impact of Peddlr on aiding MSMEs in leveraging technology for business growth.

The Innovation Summit and GTI underscores KPMG in the Philippines' longstanding commitment to driving digitalization and innovation in the country. Our firm is dedicated to using our expertise and resources to make a positive impact on society, extending our commitment beyond business excellence. By supporting tech startups like Peddlr, we are helping to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the Philippines.

Innovation transcends merely staying ahead of the curve; it is about creating a better future for all. As we navigate the ever-changing business landscape, let us embrace innovation as a catalyst for sustainable growth and positive social impact.

<sup>1</sup> <https://kpmg.com/xx/en/home/insights/2023/09/kpmg-global-tech-report-2023.html>

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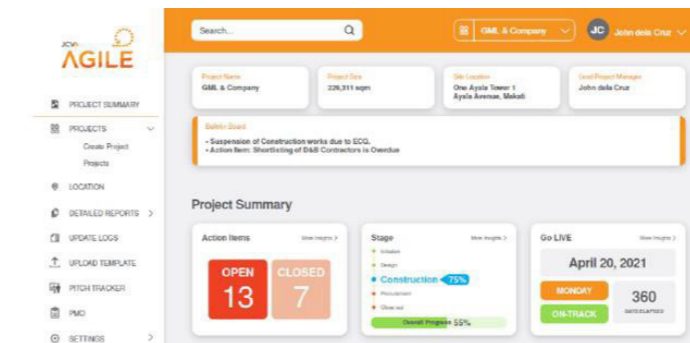


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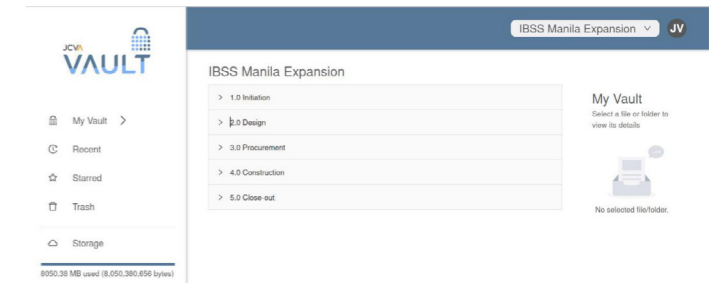
Document management is among the primary responsibilities of a project manager. With Agile, our web-based tracking and reporting tool, JCVA facilitates a streamlined approach to construction project management, document tracking, and progress monitoring.



Agile can capture and present accurate and real-time information about our projects. This enables our team to have seamless collaboration anywhere and anytime.

### Securing Project Assets

JCVA also developed Vault, our Project Management Information System and File Transfer Protocol facility, aiming to create an online drive to store and secure all project reports, communication materials, and other necessary documents for the project.



Vault also serves as a storage for our internally developed forms and document templates which are important in adhering to our Integrated Management System (ISO 9001:2015 and 45001:2018).

### Monitoring Projects Remotely

JCVA partnered with Digiscript and their OpenSpace technology to further transform the space through reality capture technology. This enabled JCVA to provide quality project management services while consistently delivering updates to our clients remotely. OpenSpace effectively complements JCVA's Agile and Vault for its purpose of increasing our efficiency, team collaboration, transparency, and convenience.

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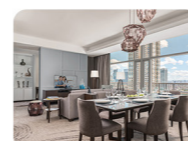
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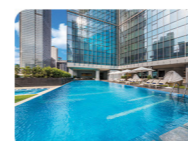
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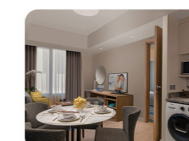
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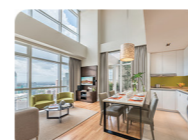
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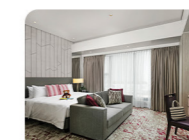
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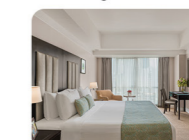
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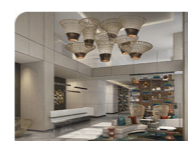
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## GET IN TOUCH

# bneXt and STEAG State Power Inc: Bringing Positive Impact to Communities Through Strong Partnership and Digital Transformation



The need to accelerate business processes to meet current market standards is a must for all enterprises to ensure continuous growth and success. This is why STEAG State Power Inc. (SPI) decided to shift to SAP S/4HANA, which recently went live successfully through the stewardship of and collaboration with bneXt.

According to SPI's President, Mr. Dirk Sohns, they understood that there are certain limitations to their operations and that they need a robust platform to help boost their processes to continue delivering independent and reliable electric power production throughout the country.

The same sentiment was echoed by Atty. Jewela Espinar-Boiser, Head of Legal & Purchasing Department of SPI. "The move to SAP S/4 HANA was inevitable. We needed a robust solution that would be able to cater to our growing demands operationally. So we needed a reliable partner who will provide expertise and guidance to help us achieve our transformation efficiently and successfully," she shared.

SPI elected to have bneXt as their chosen SAP Partner, who committed to providing top quality and world class services with the goal of helping SPI with their digital transformation roadmap and initiatives.



bneXt's engagement with SPI also went beyond the just fulfilling tasks in line with the project. In a display of corporate synergy and commitment to environmental sustainability, bneXt and STEAG State Power Inc. (SPI) also came together to hold a tree-planting activity, which is part of the two companies' shared vision of forging even stronger ties and in celebration of recent milestones.

"They had no issues collaborating with our extensive team across regions and even countries, which posed as significant challenges for other SAP partners. bneXt showed its skills in dealing with such difficult situations and we are very grateful for all their dedicated efforts," shared Engr. Dinish Ongcol, IT Head of SPI.

**"This is what we exactly got from bneXt. Exemplary service, quality consultants, reliable team members, and world class delivery."**

The successful partnership forged between SPI and bneXt highlights the importance of having aligned goals and values, which were carried by each team member. As Mr. Sohns' shared, he views this initiative as more than just operational efficiency. He sees SPI as not just an energy provider, but also a key contributor to the growth of the community, the Mindanao region and even the country in general.

"Our goal is to bring positive impact to the lives of every family in the areas we service and ensure that they are given the quality of service that they deserve. This is also what we expect from the partner we work with and what we exactly got from bneXt. Exemplary service, quality consultants, reliable team members, and world class delivery. With their help, we're confident that we can continue to grow and keep the lights on not just on our facilities, but also in every home and every community that we service," added Mr. Sohns.







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A member of Marriott Bonvoy's portfolio of 31 hotel brands, Four Points by Sheraton has finally arrived in the Philippines with its first hotel at Sabang Beach in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Modern, stylish, and straightforward, Four Points by Sheraton Palawan, Puerto Princesa brings modern comforts to this unspoiled nature reserve.

A 90-minute drive from the Puerto Princesa International Airport, the resort is located within the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park. Its unique location makes it a great jumping-off point for multiple must-see sites, such as Sabang Falls, Sabang Mangrove Forest, and the Puerto Princesa Underground River, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



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With the Four Points by Sheraton signature Best Brews selection, you can savor local flavors with handpicked beers to accompany your meal. The iconic 1,367 square meter swimming pool is a thrill on its own, but a pitstop at the sunken Pool Bar in the literal heart of the resort will transform a quick afternoon dip into a whole new experience. Families with kids can find a world of imagination at the colorful Kids Club, while guests looking for a self-care session can pop by at the 24/7 fitness center or book a massage at the spa.



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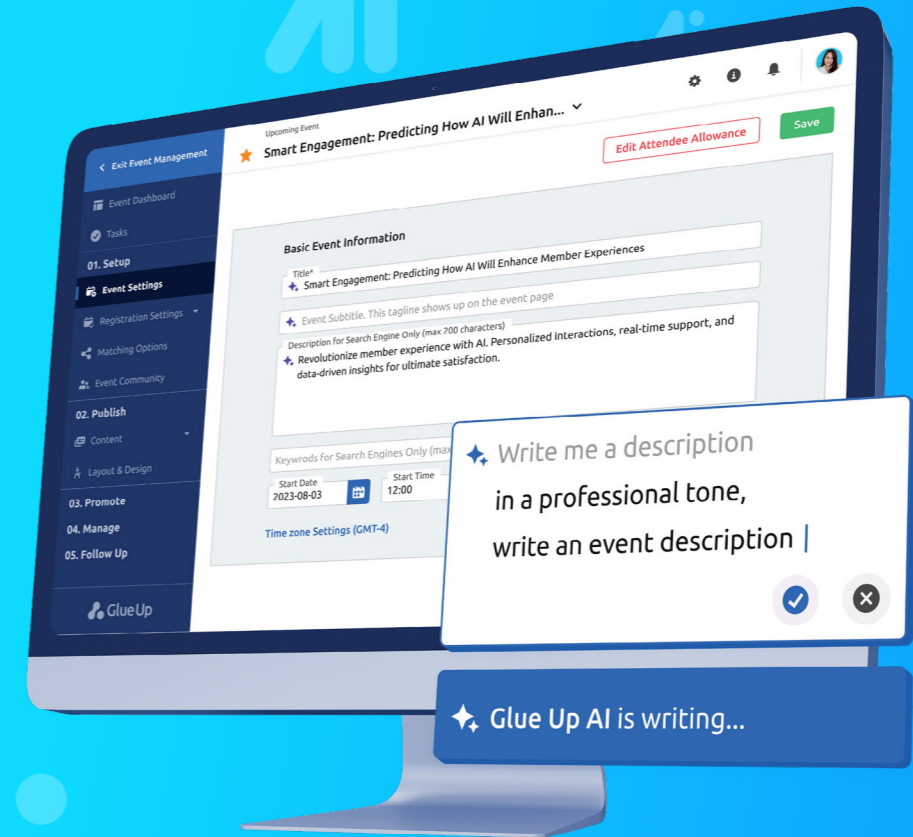
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From left, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) President Paulo Duarte, Geocycle New Revenue Streams Manager Dia Cruz, Holcim Philippines Stakeholder Relations Manager Jill Ramos, CFO Eliana Nieto, President and CEO Horia Adrian, Bulacan Plant Manager Erdy Cruz, Chief Sustainability Officer Zoe Sibala, Bulacan Environment Officer Violie Bautista, Senior Vice President for Cement Industrial Performance Eung Rae Kim, Communications Manager Don Carreon and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein during the awards ceremony

## Holcim recognized for sustainability excellence in Europa Awards

Leading building solutions provider Holcim Philippines's efforts to drive business results and positive impact were recognized in the 2023 Europa Awards with the company bagging top prizes in the Digitalization for Sustainability and Water Resource Management categories.

In a night recognizing excellence in sustainability, Holcim Philippines further distinguished itself for being the only multiple awardee and a finalist in the Waste Management category.

Organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the Europa Awards recognizes companies for exceptional performance and contributions in promoting sustainability in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the Philippine Development Plan.

Holcim Philippines President and CEO Horia Adrian: "Thank you to the organizers for the recognition and to our people and stakeholders helping us make the company a stronger development partner of the country. These awards further encourage us to accelerate our transformation anchored on sustainability and innovation to win with purpose and help build progress in the Philippines."

The company received the Water Resource Management Award for excellence managing water resources through innovative approaches and practices. The company highlighted its success in reducing freshwater withdrawals by 64% since 2018 driven by investments in systems for operational efficiency and rainwater harvesting facilities.

Holcim Philippines aims to cut freshwater withdrawals to zero and provide water to the communities by 2030. It

was the second water award Holcim Philippines received in 2023 with the company also bagging the Wise Water Choice Award from the National Water Resources Board earlier this year.

Holcim Philippines also took home top honors in the Digitalization for Sustainability category for excellent use of technology to reach sustainability goals. The company highlighted its digitalization programs raising the efficiency, safety and environmental performance of the business. Of particular note were its incorporation of data analytics for greater transparency and speed in decision making and Plants of Tomorrow initiatives focused on operational excellence and predictive maintenance.

Holcim Philippines is accelerating its transformation as a sustainable and innovative building solutions provider with focus on advancing decarbonization and circular economy in the construction industry. Since 2018, Holcim Philippines has reduced its carbon footprint by more than 20% by producing more blended cements, replacing coal with qualified wastes as alternative fuels and raw materials, and improving efficiency of operations.

The company's carbon footprint reduction program is aligned with the Holcim Group's Net Zero direction and the country's Nationally Determined Contributions. Holcim Philippines also is working with key stakeholders to encourage the shift to low-carbon products that reduce the footprint of the built environment.



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## Coca-Cola Beverages PH bags awards championing sustainability initiatives



A core pillar in CCBPI's comprehensive service to local communities and the collective campaign for sustainability is the Tapon to Ipon: Basta Klaro, Panalo! Program. Launched 2021, the program works to strengthen communities' waste management systems through the collection of recyclable post-consumer PET plastic packaging, regardless of the brand. The initiative takes its name from Filipino words—tapon "to throw away" or "discard" and ipon "collect" or "earn," pointing to the incentivized nature of the program.



"These accomplishments have been made possible through each one of our over 10,000 associates. Winning these awards is a truly humbling experience and will definitely push us to do more, do better, and set higher standards for ourselves," adds McGeown.

The two industry honors reaffirm CCBPI's core mission of creating meaningful impact for its people, communities, and the environment.

Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. (CCBPI) has won two prestigious awards for its work integrating sustainability into its operations and for leading environmental initiatives in local communities: the ESG Initiative of the Year – Philippines from the FMCG Asia Awards for the Tapon to Ipon program, and recognition as among the Top Sustainability Advocates in Asia by the Asia Corporate Excellence & Sustainability (ACES) Awards.

"Being recognized by ACES Awards and FMCG Asia as an industry leader in sustainability further highlights CCBPI's commitment to having responsible business practices as a core aspect of our operations," says Gareth McGeown, CEO and President of the bottling arm of Coca-Cola in the Philippines.

CCBPI is now a two-time recipient of the ACES Awards. In 2022, CCBPI was recognized among the Industry Champions of the Year by the award giving body. The ACES Awards' Top Sustainability Advocates in Asia once again recognizes CCBPI's sustainability journey for Coca-Cola's global World Without Waste vision, water efficiency in operations, climate action, and people-centric policies.



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## ECCP recognizes sustainability champions at the 2023 Europa Awards

Makati City, Philippines – In the face of global warming and climate challenges affecting vulnerable sectors, the pursuit of sustainability demands united efforts anchored on innovative, holistic and sustainable solutions.

Cognizant of the pivotal role of businesses and organizations in driving sustainability initiatives to achieve inclusive and long-term sustainability goals, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) has unveiled the winners of the 2023 Europa Awards during its award ceremony on Wednesday at Raffles and Fairmont Makati.

Now in its 3rd year, the Europa Awards continues its tradition of honoring European and non-European companies operating in the country for their exceptional performance and contributions in promoting sustainability in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Philippine Development Plan.

In the first in-person awarding of the Europa Awards since its inception in 2021, the Chamber celebrated the following award recipients:

- Clean and Green Energy: Maynilad Water Services Inc.
- Digitalisation for Sustainability: Holcim Philippines, Inc.
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation: Manila Water Company, Inc.
- Green and Inclusive Finance Solutions: ING Bank N.V. Manila Branch
- Green Buildings: NEO
- Smart and Safer Mobility: Bosch Service Solutions, Inc.
- Startup for Sustainability: Buskowitz Energy Inc.
- Sustainable Agri-Food: Puratos Philippines, Inc.
- Waste Management: Newport World Resorts
- Water Resource Management: Holcim Philippines, Inc.

During the grand awarding ceremony, Holcim Philippines Inc. bagged two awards for the categories of Digitalisation for Sustainability and Water Resource Management.

“Thank you to the organizers for the recognition. These awards further encourage us to accelerate our transformation anchored on sustainability and innovation

to win with purpose and help build progress in the Philippines,” said Holcim Philippines President and CEO Horia Adrian.

For Clean and Green Energy winner Maynilad Water, their commitment to sustainability is deeply ingrained in their operations as explained by Atty. Roel Espiritu, Vice President and Head for Quality, Sustainability, and Resiliency. “Maynilad’s journey began with a vision to redefine the way we harness and utilize water resources. And today, we find ourselves at the forefront of capitalizing on technologies that contribute to a cleaner and greener future.”

From the banking sector, ING Bank N.V. Manila Branch won the award for Green and Inclusive Finance Solutions with their initiatives towards a net-zero future. “We are honoured to be recognised by the ECCP for our sustainability efforts. Sustainability is at the heart of what we do and we cannot do it alone. Working with our partners, businesses and the community will be key as we accelerate our path to net-zero,” said Country Manager Jun Palanca.

“At Bosch, we believe that the more a company commits to sustainable technologies, the more economically successful it will be in the future,” said Mamadou Kone, Managing Director at Bosch Philippines, who clinched the Smart and Safer Mobility category. “We are convinced that sustainability must be a non-negotiable part of doing business.”

NEO, winner of the Green Buildings category, remains fully committed to achieving its ambitious environmental objectives. “The satisfaction of reaching these goals is a reward in and of itself, while industry recognition validates our hard work and inspires us to continue our progress. We aim to spark a movement towards a sustainable future and encourage others to join us in our mission,” said NEO Chief Sustainability Officer and Co-Managing Director Gie Garcia.

Further, leading solar energy company Buskowitz took home the award for Start Up for Sustainability. “Today, the world is experiencing the rapid need of sustainability to act on environmental issues,” said Chairman and CEO

James Buskowitz. “Buskowitz’ sole purpose is to create an avenue for companies and homeowners alike to easily contribute to this mission, while saving on expensive electricity costs coming primarily from fossil fuels.”

Puratos Philippines Inc. Managing Director Bernard Poplimont highlighted their Cacao-Trace program which won in the Sustainable Agri-food category. “More than 1,600 Filipino farmers received our chocolate bonus and quality premium, providing them with a salary increase equivalent to 1 to 2 months. Through the program which starts with training in farming, our local cacao farmers deliver cacao beans with superior quality which we process according to Belgian Chocolate-making standards into the best quality real chocolate made with 100% Philippine cacao.”

Lastly, Newport World Resorts took home the win for the Water Management category.

“The continuity of our sustainability initiatives is underpinned by one thing, which is the most important aspect of Newport World Resorts’ program, and that is LOVE,” said Bruce Winton, I LOVE Earth Council Chairman and Marriott International Multi-Property Vice President for the Philippines and Marriott Hotel Manila General Manager. “All of us here – the private sector, government, non-government organizations, media – are all part of this effort. We hope the others will join us in saying, “I Love Earth,” and putting that commitment into action.”

In his welcoming remarks, ECCP President Paulo Duarte emphasized the need for a comprehensive and collaborative approach to tackle current environmental and socio economic challenges. He also highlighted the importance of transforming ideals, such as the Philippine Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, into tangible achievements through collective efforts.

“Last year, the ECCP has proudly earned its place among the 42 members of the National Economic and Development Authority Stakeholders’ Chamber on the SDGs. This marks a significant milestone for us, and it fuels our determination to strengthen our initiatives further,” said Duarte.

The event also featured a messages from Department of Energy and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyza EU Delegation Minister Counsellor

and Head of the Economic Trade Section Mr. Philipp Dupuis, and United Nations Development Programme Deputy Resident Representative Mr. Edwine Carrie.

“The hope is that those who are most vulnerable can reap the full benefits of Philippines progress towards the SDGs without leaving no one behind,” emphasized Carrie. “And for this private sector can play a role. There is opportunity for businesses to participate in development efforts, as evidenced by today’s gathering.”

The Chamber also launched the third edition of its Sustainability Whitebook which was presented by ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein.

“The Whitebook outlines the advocacies and policy recommendations of the Chamber, all in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Philippine Development Plan,” said Gottein. “It stands as a guiding roadmap, helping us navigate and address both the present and future challenges encountered by the European-Philippine business community while driving sustainable growth and development.”

Presented annually by the ECCP, the Europa Awards is one of the Chamber’s biggest flagship advocacy events. The Awards underscore the commitment of organizations to sustainable practices and their dedication to making a positive impact on society and the environment.

The 2023 Europa Awards is organized together with Technical Adviser & Official Tabulator SGV; Gold Partners DIAGEO and Pru Life UK; Silver Partner Shell Pilipinas Corporation; Bronze Partner Royal Cargo Inc. and Movenpick; Sustainability Partners Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, United Nations Development Programme, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium, Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark, Embassy of the Republic of Finland, Embassy of Germany, Embassy of Hungary, Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Embassy of Romania, and the Embassy of Sweden; Media Partners CNN Philippines, Globaltronics, and Great Travel Philippines; Trophy Partner Nazareno/Lichauco for Zacarias1925; Venue Partner Raffles and Fairmont Makati; Endorsing Partners Developers of Renewable Energy for AdvanceMent, Inc., Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance, and Safe Travel Alliance; and Beverage Partner Le Cellier Quality Store Corporation.

# Inside ECCP: Manila

## ECCP Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of Ireland in Manila 30 August 2023

Last August 30, ECCP Vice President Roman Menz and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein had the honor of conducting a Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of Ireland in Manila.

During the visit, they engaged in discussions with H.E. Ambassador William Carlos, exploring potential synergies and collaborations between the Embassy and the Chamber.



## ECCP Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of Italy in Manila 1 September 2023

On September 1, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein and ECCP Vice President Francisco Romero Milan conducted a Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of Italy in Manila. During this visit, they engaged in fruitful discussions with H.E. Ambassador Marco Clemente and Mr. Leo Carlo Liay, Liaison Officer for the Asian Development Bank.

The conversation revolved around ECCP's upcoming plans, as well as explorations for potential areas of collaboration, with the aim to bolster the already dynamic and thriving relationship between Italy and the Philippines.



## Exclusive session on Digital Marketing Fundamentals 12 September 2023

Last September 12, the ECCP Competency Hub orchestrated a virtual in-house training for Aboitizland, Inc. on the topic of "Digital Marketing Fundamentals".

The session was expertly led by digital mavens CEO Ms. Anna Medina and Director of Programs Ms. Ria Ancheta-Adrias of Black Sheep Digital. During the training, the class delved into current online marketing strategies, as well as tools and tactics to build and implement relevant and innovative digital marketing campaigns.

These newfound resources will undoubtedly guide the company as they embark on an exciting journey of genuinely connecting and communicating to their online audiences and stakeholders!



## Business Delegation with LGU GenSan and GSCCII 14 September 2023

The ECCP was honored to host a business delegation from the Local Government of General Santos (LGU GenSan) and the General Santos City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Incorporated Inc. (GSCCII), in cooperation with the Board of Investments (BOI) Manila Office on 14 September 2023.

The meeting served as a valuable platform for both organizations to explore potential business opportunities, exchanges, and collaborations. It also provided an excellent opportunity to showcase General Santos City's immense potential, investment incentives, and capabilities as a thriving business hub in the Southern Philippines. Furthermore, the meeting included a discussion regarding the EU GSP+ (Generalized System of Preferences Plus), among other important topics.

In attendance from the Chamber were ECCP President Paulo Duarte, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, ECCP Director for Projects, Events, and Training Gerry Constantino, ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña, and ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Gen Anaquita.



## Luncheon Meeting with the Department of Tourism - Philippines

20 September 2023

The ECCP hosted a Luncheon Meeting with the Department of Tourism on September 20, 2023, at Dusit Thani Manila and via ZOOM.

During her keynote speech, DOT Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco detailed the agency's priorities for the continuous promotion of Philippine tourism. The event also featured Hon. Shereen Gail Yu-Pamintuan, Undersecretary for Finance and Administration at the Department of Tourism, who provided additional insights into the agency's most recent achievements.

The panelists for this event included Mr. Samuel David, Country Manager for the Philippines at the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and Atty. Cenelyn Manguilimotan-Dalnay, Chief Operating Officer at Parklane Hotels and Resorts. ECCP President Paulo Duarte presented his welcoming remarks, while ECCP Director Bernd Schneider introduced our keynote speaker.



Our sincere appreciation goes to Mr. Benito Bengzon Jr., Executive Director of the Philippine Hotel Owners Association - PHOA, for his role in facilitating such engaging discussions as our host and moderator.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to Event Patron Parkway Corporate Center and Media Partner Great Travel Philippines for their valuable support in organizing this luncheon meeting, as well as to all our attendees and guests. We look forward to seeing you in our upcoming events!

## The Future of Smart Buildings hosted by Leechiu Property Consultants

21 September 2023

The ECCP, in collaboration with its Real Estate Committee and Venue Partner Leechiu Property Consultants, hosted an event on September 21, 2023 to explore "The Future of Smart Buildings" and to see what makes a building smarter than the rest!

With renowned resource speakers from WiredScore - Global Director of Asia Pacific, Thomasin Crowley, and Director of Business Development-Asia, Anne Tng, the event delved into the technology that today's occupiers expect in their workspaces. Discussions also highlighted cutting-edge technologies adopted by landlords and building owners, offering superior user experiences for both current and future occupiers.

The discussions were rich with insights, including regional case studies illustrating how innovative technologies are transforming the modern workplace!



## Meeting with the new Country Director of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Philippines Office, Dr. Daniela Braun

21 September 2023

The discussions revolved around shared advocacies, past successful projects, such as ECCP's collaboration with KAS - i4J, and the Chamber's initial engagement with Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) MSMEs.

During the meeting, KAS also presented their key priorities as a political foundation. It was an insightful conversation that paved the way for identifying potential areas of collaboration.

In photo (from L-R): ECCP Director for Projects, Events, and Training Gerry Constantino - ECCP, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Philippines Country Director Daniela Braun, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña, and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Philippines Program Manager for Inclusive Economic Development Joshua Uel Abad.

Photos courtesy of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Philippines.



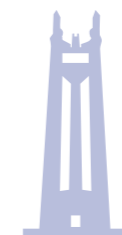
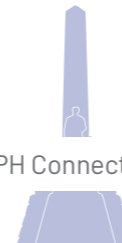
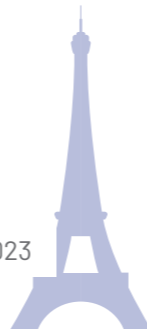
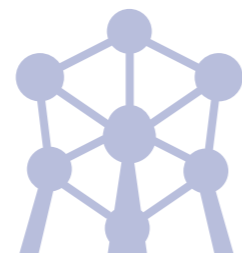
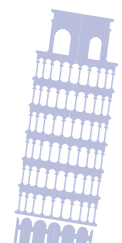
## ECCP Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Manila

22 September 2023

ECCP President Paulo Duarte and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein recently paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Jarosław Szczepankiewicz, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Philippines.

The visit was marked by fruitful discussions on upcoming initiatives and the exploration of potential collaborations. These efforts aim to further solidify the strong relations between Poland and the Philippines.

The ECCP continues its commitment of fostering meaningful connections and partnerships to promote business and cultural exchange between the Philippines and Europe and vice versa.



## Grand Inauguration of Unilever Philippines' New Beauty & Wellbeing and Personal Care Factory

22 September 2023

ECCP President Paulo Duarte was among the distinguished guests at the grand inauguration of Unilever Philippines' new Beauty & Wellbeing and Personal Care factory in General Trias, Cavite, alongside President Marcos who led the inauguration.

This significant event marked the official opening of the new facility, which will serve as the production hub for a wide range of daily beauty and hygiene essentials, from shampoos to deodorants.

Unilever's Php 4.7 billion investment in this cutting-edge factory is a testament to its dedication to the Philippines and its position as the 13th largest in its worldwide network.

We congratulate Unilever on this remarkable achievement, marking another milestone in their unwavering support of the country's growth and development!

Photos courtesy of Unilever Philippines.



## Cybersecurity Masterclass: Vulnerability Management and Incident Response

21 - 22 September 2023

On September 21 and 22, the ECCP Competency Hub, in collaboration with Bnext Innovation Academy and CompTIA - The Computing Technology Industry Association, held the second class of its "Cybersecurity Masterclass" on the topic of "Vulnerability Management and Incident Response".

During this masterclass, participants engaged in session lab works focused on implementing vulnerability scanning methods, mastering vulnerability analysis, and effectively handling and managing vulnerability responses.

The class also explored key insights into incident response activities and the proficient demonstration of incident response communications. Participants also had the opportunity to avail of a CompTIA Cybersecurity Analysts (CySA+) Certification!



## ECCP Engagements with EABC Thailand and International Trade Promotion office of the Ministry of Commerce Thailand

22 September 2023

Strengthening ties and exploring opportunities in Thailand!

With the aim to foster international collaborations and trade relations, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) had a series of engagements in Bangkok, Thailand last September 22, 2023.

ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein visited the EABC - European Association for Business and Commerce, where he engaged in enlightening discussions with Dr. Charanya Nopnukulvised, Operations Director of EABC Thailand. Their meeting was centered around sharing best Chamber practices and delving into the recently announced Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between the EU and Thailand, as well as the EU and the Philippines.

On the same day, the ECCP in collaboration with Fairs and More Inc. (FMI), conducted a courtesy visit to the Department of International Trade Promotion of the Ministry of Commerce Thailand. This fruitful visit included discussions with prominent figures, including Office of Lifestyle Trade Promotion Director Nisabudh Virabutr, Office of Overseas Market Development Director Jirakarn Bejrati, Head of Europe Division Mr. Pisai Piriyastrit, and Trade Officer Ms. Tae Thapupsorn.

During these meetings, the parties engaged in constructive conversations about potential collaborations and trade opportunities between the organizations. Specifically, they explored exciting prospects for Thai companies in the Fashion, Home,



and Gift sectors to participate in prestigious shows in the United Kingdom (UK), organized by Hyve Group UK.

Representing the ECCP during these significant engagements were ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, Senior International Trade Fairs Officer Dawn Cabigon, and ECCP Vice President Helen Grace Baisa.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to EABC Thailand and the International Trade Promotion office of the Ministry of Commerce Thailand for their warm reception and the productive discussions. These interactions serve as a stepping stone for future endeavors in fostering international trade relations!



## Relaunch of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Committee

05 October 2023

On October 5, the ECCP organized the relaunch of its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Committee to enhance dialogues surrounding trade relations and explore new opportunities between Europe and the Philippines.

Convening esteemed members of the Chamber, the event featured discussions on the potential EU-PH FTA and the advantages it holds for businesses.

Mr. Philipp Dupuis, Minister Counsellor and Head of Trade and Economic Affairs at the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, provided his insights into EU FTAs and the prospective EU-PH FTA. Meanwhile, a message from Mr. Jean-Jacques Boufflet, Vice Chair of the European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam, delved into the economic benefits of EU FTAs through the experiences of EU businesses in Vietnam.

The event also featured a stimulating panel discussion moderated by trade expert Anthony Amunátegui Abad.

The event was organized together with host and venue partner HSBC Philippines.



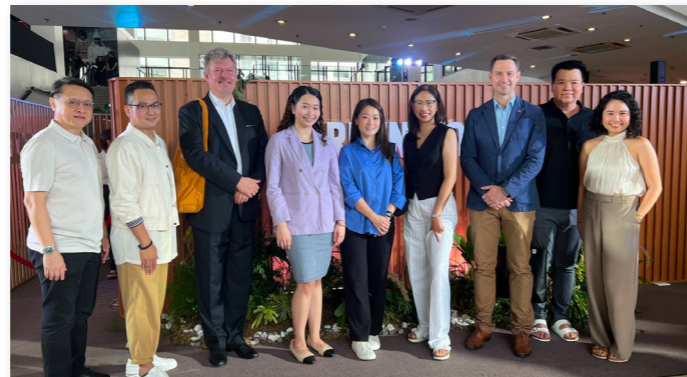
## The Hourglass Manila

09 October 2023

Last October 9, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein and Member Relations Associate Canela Reillo attended an event hosted by Birkenstock Philippines in celebration of German tradition and pride in light of the brand's upcoming 250th anniversary celebration.

The event, named 'The Hourglass, Manila,' is an exhibition of cultural artifacts which featured the first shoe-making tools, the initial sandal prototype, and communication materials that tell the rich history and heritage of the brand.

In photo (from L-R): Mr. Jun Uy, Managing Director of Primer Group of Companies; Mr. Carlo Cecilio, Brand Manager of Birkenstock Philippines; Mr. Christopher Zimmer, Executive Director of German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.; Ms. Canela Reillo, Member Relations Associate of ECCP; Ms. Sherleen Lim, Marketing Manager, SEA & Down Under of Birkenstock Group; and Mr. Florian Gottein, Executive Director of ECCP.



## In-house training with Pioneer Adhesives Inc.

19 October 2023

On October 19, 2023, the ECCP Competency Hub held an in-house training with Pioneer Adhesives Inc. in Calamba, Laguna!

The session was dedicated to enhancing their Branded Professional Presence, drawing in 40 enthusiastic participants from Pioneer's dynamic Construction Sales Team.

Led by a duo of experts from Spiderhook, the program touched on a spectrum of essential topics, such as the Intricacies of Professional Presence, Self-leadership, the Art of Grooming and Presence, and the Crucial Skills of Communication. An online training needs analysis meeting was also conducted prior to the actual session to align with their training objectives.

The session was facilitated by Mr. Jyro Triviño, a full-time assistant professor at Ateneo de Manila University's John Gokongwei School of Management, and Ms. Anna Katrina Apostol, an experience training consultant with a proven history in leading teams across organizations in the telecommunications, broadcasting and satellite TV industries. Her specialization in Customer Service, Quality, and Training added invaluable depth to this session.



## Courtesy Visits to APM Agricom, Metrobank, and Pacific Cross Philippines

16-19 October 2023

From October 16th to 19th, 2023, our ECCP Membership Team was on the move, taking on a series of courtesy visits to the offices of our esteemed members.

Led by our ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Gen Anaquita and ECCP Member Relations Associate Canela Reillo, the Chamber had the privilege of catching up with members of APM Agricom, Metrobank, and Pacific Cross Philippines.

But these visits were anything but routine, as they provide a platform for the Chamber to strengthen ties with its member companies. These visits facilitate meaningful discussions, allowing the ECCP to gain insights into the evolving needs of its members and to explore new collaborative opportunities.



## The Unbreakable Corporate Spartan

18 October 2023

With such dynamic work environments, it pays to invest in your ultimate well-being to excel in both your personal and professional lives.

Last October 18, the ECCP Competency Hub together with Whitehall Consulting introduced a free webinar on "The Unbreakable Corporate Spartan". The session explored the fundamentals of optimum performance and provided insights on how business leaders can achieve ultimate well-being to excel in both their personal and professional lives.

Facilitated by Performance and Well-Being coach Mr. Aris Tulalain, the session guided our attendees in identifying and overcoming the challenges facing business leaders today. The webinar also delved into the four pillars of a Corporate Spartan and its application in work and daily life.



## ECCP Board Meeting

19 October 2023

The ECCP had its Board Meeting on October 19, 2023 to discuss present opportunities and future plans to steer the organization towards continued growth in the upcoming year.

During the meeting, the President's Updates as well as Industry Updates provided insights into the Chamber's strategic direction and the progress made in various endeavors throughout 2023. Chamber Updates, which included vital updates on the organization's ongoing initiatives, projects, and events across its offices, were also discussed.

The meeting also highlighted discussions surrounding Year-End Projections and the Outlook for 2024 to further define the ECCP's strategic focus for the upcoming year and setting the direction for new initiatives.



In attendance (from L-R) were ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, ECCP Director Bernd Schneider, ECCP Executive Assistant Gigi De Leon, ECCP President Paulo Duarte, ECCP Vice President Helen Grace Baisa, ECCP Vice President Roman Menz, ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña, ECCP Treasurer Jonathan Webster, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Gen Anaquita, and ECCP Director Albert Perez.

## ECCP Meeting with the Ambassador of the European Union in ASEAN

23 October 2023

Last October 23, the ECCP had the honor of meeting with His Excellency Sujiro Seam, the Ambassador of the European Union in ASEAN. The discussions were centered around the opportunities in trade and the EU's Global Gateway Programme. The Chamber also had a valuable exchange of perspectives on the outlook of European businesses in ASEAN and the Philippines.

These conversations underscore the ECCP's unwavering commitment to strengthening the EU's economic relations with ASEAN and the Philippines. The horizon looks promising, and ECCP looks forward to advancing a future that's digital, green, inclusive, and more interconnected.



## Customer Churn Rate Reduction

23 October 2023

Last October 23, the ECCP and Whitehall Consulting introduced its newest program, "Customer Churn Rate Reduction."

Led by certified consultant Arlaine V. Ostonal MBA, CLSSBB, PMP®, CSM, Agile Coach, the class learned how to identify factors influencing churn, as well as different techniques and strategies to develop and implement action plans for churn reduction.

Now, companies can have a full-proof way of reducing customer churn while boosting profits!



## ECCP Joins the 12th Arangkada Philippines Forum 25 October 2023

Held on 25th October 2023 at the Marriott Hotel, the Arangkada Philippines Forum brings together experts and industry leaders in exploring perspectives to facilitate and further integrate the principles of sustainability in accelerating inclusive growth and development.

Notable speakers include National Economic Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga.

With the theme “ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES: Towards Sustainable Transformations”, the event puts the spotlight on opportunities for the public and private sectors to engage and collaborate in leveraging trade for sustainable growth, boosting green investments, building the momentum for sustainability in doing business, and advocating for responsible management and utilization of natural resources amid the long-term social, economic, and environmental impacts of climate change.

With sustainability and green and circular economies being part of the Chamber’s advocacies, we are honored to be included in robust discussions that embrace innovative business solutions in attaining sustainable development goals and in creating a more inclusive and clean future for the Philippines.



## Business and Beers: ECCP and Kickstart Ventures Mixer 7 November 2023

Never a dull moment when our lively ECCP Community comes together!

On November 7, the ECCP and Kickstart Ventures organized the “Business and Beers: ECCP and Kickstart Ventures Mixer” to bring together industry professionals and leaders for an exciting afternoon of networking and exploration of new business ventures and potential areas of collaboration.

Over delicious food, refreshments, and of course, beer – the day was truly a stark reminder of the opportunities brought by genuine connection, collaboration and growth. We had the opportunity to reconnect with old colleagues and meet new ones, as well as learn more about Kickstart Ventures and the expanding Philippine startup ecosystem.

As our ECCP Director and Treasurer Mr. Jonathan Webster highlighted in his welcoming remarks, “This event is a chance for us to connect, collaborate, and explore new horizons for your business. The potential for growth and innovation is boundless, and it begins right here, right now.”



Our sincerest thanks to Kickstart Ventures for partnering with us on this event, and to our attendees who spent the enjoyable afternoon with us.

## Joint Luncheon Meeting with the Bureau of Customs and the Food and Drug Administration Philippines 14 November 2023

On November 14, the ECCP, together with Nestle Philippines and Unilever Philippines, hosted a Joint Luncheon Meeting with the Bureau of Customs PH and the Food and Drug Administration Philippines.

The dialogue featured keynote speeches from guest speakers BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio and FDA Deputy Director General Dr. Oscar G. Gutierrez, Jr.

It was followed by a panel discussion joined by BOC Deputy Commissioner Vener Baquiran, BOC Deputy Commissioner Krident Balgomera, and BOC Director Clarence Dizon and moderated by ECCP Vice President Helen Grace Baisa.

The event was hosted by Mr. Christopher Ilagan, Corporate Affairs Lead at PepsiCo Inc.



## Finance in the Climate-Health Nexus: Closing the Financial Gap for Climate Health Resilience

15 November 2023

On November 15, the ECCP, together with its Special Committee on Open Finance and Financial Inclusion and Pru Life Uk, organized a special forum on the topic of climate change and the role of financial institutions in ushering capital towards sustainable solutions.

Dubbed, "Finance in the Climate-Health Nexus: Closing the Financial Gap for Climate Health Resilience", the forum featured speakers from the finance, banking, and health sectors to discuss how we can collaborate in creating climate-resilient health systems and communities.

Speakers included Department of Finance Undersecretary Maria Luwalhati C. Dorotan-Tiuseco, Insurance Commissioner Reynaldo Regalado, Pru Life UK's Atty. Emeren Vallente, St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine Dr. Renzo Guinto, and Philippine Life Insurance Association Incorporated Dr. Hak Hong Soo.

To our partners, speakers, and attendees – thank you for joining us in our call to mitigate the impacts of climate change on Philippine public health!



## Vaccination 360: The Need to Protect Adults and Children against Pneumonia

16 November 2023

On November 16, the ECCP and Pfizer hosted a virtual forum, "Vaccination 360: The Need to Protect Adults and Children against Pneumonia".

The illuminating discussion emphasized the urgency to raise further awareness on vaccination, which should be a collaborative effort among sectors and governments.

The session featured distinguished speakers and medical experts Dr. Lulu Bravo, Professor Emeritus at the College of Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila; and Dr. Gwen N. Dy-Agra, Chairperson for the Council on Health Informatics and Social Media at the Philippine College of Chest Physicians.

It was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Chito Maniago, Policy & Public Affairs Director of Pfizer Philippines and Vice Chairman of the Health Committee of the Management Association of the Philippines.

Further, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein provided his opening remarks, and with ECCP Associate Director Gen Anaquita serving as host.



## ECCP and Pomeranian Delegation

16 November 2023

Earlier this week the ECCP met with a delegation from the Pomorska Specjalna Strefa Ekonomiczna (Pomeranian Special Economic Zone) to discuss the process of doing business in the Philippines, especially from the perspective of foreign companies.

In attendance from (L-R) were ECCP Director for Projects, Events, and Training Gerry Constantino, Polish Trade and Investment Agency Business Development Manager Miguel Santos, Pomeranian Special Economic Zone Investment Department Director Jacek Formela, Pomeranian Special Economic Zone CEO Przemysław Sztandera, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, Pomeranian Special Economic Zone Head of Investors and International Relations Team Igor Nagraba, Pomeranian Special Economic Zone Project Manager Weronika Leszniewska, ECCP Business Consultancy and Research Officer Catherine Lee, and ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Gen Anaquita.



## ADB Meeting

17 November 2023

Last November 16, the ECCP had a meeting with the Asian Development Bank where they met with ADB Country Director Mr. Pavit Ramachandran and ADB Southeast Asia Department Director General Mr. Winfried F. Wicklein.

Present from the Chamber were ECCP President Paulo Duarte and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein.



## 18th JFC Networking Night

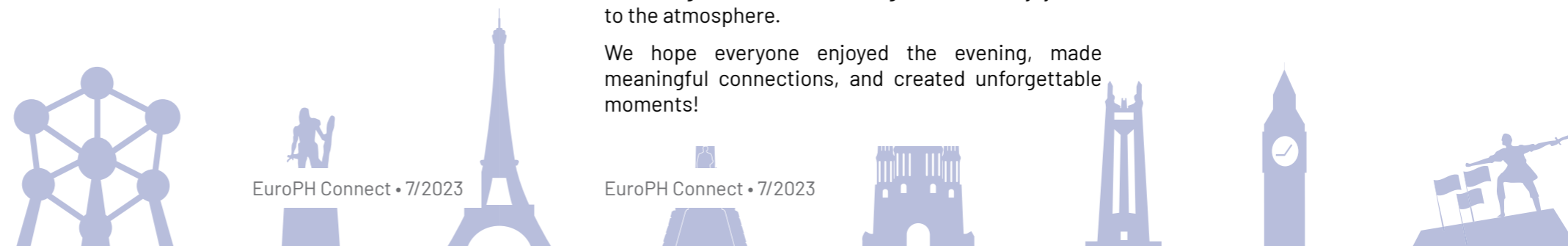
21 November 2023

It was a momentous evening on November 21 at the 18th JFC Networking Night held at COLLAB, Sheraton Manila Hotel!

Hosted by the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce, the event brought together members of the different chambers, as well as distinguished guests from the diplomatic and business world.

The evening was not only productive but also fun-filled, with delightful cocktails adding a touch of enjoyment to the atmosphere.

We hope everyone enjoyed the evening, made meaningful connections, and created unforgettable moments!



## Navigating the World of Work through Enhanced Human Capital Strategies

22 November 2023

In order to help organizations strengthen their human resource management, the ECCP Competency Hub and ECCP Human Capital Committee, in collaboration with LHH, InCorp Philippines, and SGV & Co, hosted the “Navigating the World of Work through Enhanced Human Capital Strategies” learning session on November 22.

The session featured distinguished speakers, Sherwin Urbano, Head, Business Growth at In.Corp Corporate Services Philippines, Inc.; Joffre Enrico Dominguez, Managing Director of Lee Hecht Harrison (LHH) Philippines; and Marivic Rebulanan, Senior Director – Tax Services of SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV).

Covered topics included HR 101: Hiring to Firing – An Essential Guide for Effective Human Resource Management, Personal Finance Planning Taxation



of Employee Benefits, and Separation Pay due to Retrenchment / Redundancy / Retirement.

During the course, attendees got to hear firsthand case studies from our trainer’s extensive experience, and as well as gain added knowledge and confidence to better practice strategic resource management that is sure to add value.

## The ECCP holds its final board meeting for 2023

23 November 2023

The ECCP holds its final board meeting for 2023.

On November 23, the ECCP Board gathered for the last in-person meeting for the year to discuss significant gains and milestones, as well as strategic plans for the upcoming new year.

In attendance (from L-R) were ECCP Executive Assistant Gigi De Leon; ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Gen Anaquita; ECCP Director Tarang Gupta; ECCP Vice President Francisco Romero Milan; ECCP Director Dr. Diana Edralin; ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein; ECCP Director Albert Perez; ECCP Vice President Helen Grace Baisa; ECCP Vice President Roman Menz, ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña; ECCP President Paulo Duarte, and ECCP Asst. Corporate Secretary Atty. Peter Calimag.

They were also joined by executives from Ayala Corporation, headed by their President and CEO Cezar P. Consing.

The ECCP extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Ayala Corporation for hosting the last board meeting of the year.



With 2023 being a successful year in terms of activities, seeing the return and staging of key flagship events, webinars and in-house trainings, as well as collaborative networking events - 2024 is surely to become another fruitful and exciting year ahead for the Chamber.

It has been such a great year at the Chamber – and thus, we sincerely look forward to an equally rewarding 2024 under the continued leadership of our esteemed Board of Directors!

## ECCP Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines

24 November 2023

On November 24, ECCP President Paulo Duarte, ECCP Vice President Roman Menz, and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Nicolas Brühl, the Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the Republic of the Philippines.

Accompanied by Deputy Head of Mission Tim Fürst, the exchange centered on discussions exploring potential collaborations to strengthen the relations between Switzerland and the Philippines.



## 3rd ECCP Community Connect

28 November 2023

The ECCP, together with venue partner NEO Office, held its last ECCP Community Connect for the year!

The session was an enlightening one as new members had the opportunity to introduce their respective companies, as well as connect with long-standing members. Aside from presenting an overview of the ECCP, the Chamber was also able to share about the various services and perks that members can avail.

This event would not be possible without the support of our venue partner NEO and session partners Asian Institute of Management, Du-Baladad and Associates (BDB Law), B. Braun, EastWest Ageas Insurance, iONTEK, JCVA, Kerry Logistics, MATEC Solar Power, Mazars, MR Travel Services, Inc., and Nord Anglia International School Manila. Our special thanks as well to beverage partner, WA Marketing Inc (Radeberger and Schofferhofer).

A huge thank you to all our attendees, partners and speakers for attending the last ECCP Community Connect for 2023. Stay tuned for more events next year!



## Mixin' and Minglin' Networking event

29 November 2023

With an exciting crowd of go-getters and professionals paired with expertly crafted cocktails, the Mixin' and Minglin' Networking event held last November 29 at Señorita Sunae, BGC was definitely one to remember!

Organized by the ECCP Young Professionals Committee, together with Trends And Concepts and JCVA, the event was just the right vibrant environment for young professionals to connect and make connections, while picking up a few tips and tricks on how to craft delicious cocktails.

But we're only starting! The ECCP Young Professionals Committee has more exciting events in store for the upcoming year!



## 2024 Economic Outlook

6 December 2023

On December 6, 2023, the ECCP together with Trends And Concepts organized the 2024 Economic Outlook to unveil the country's current state of economic health and provide insights on trade and investments in the country for the year ahead.

In his speech, keynote speaker NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan provided the current administration's plans and priorities for 2024. He expressed his optimism that agencies should be able to deliver on the expectations for the Philippine economy, though global and external risks still remain.

He also highlighted that the economy is expected to grow further in 2024 if investments to boost productivity can be further brought to the country.

On the other hand, World Bank in the Philippines Senior Economist Mr. Ralph van Doorn stressed important key messages in his presentation. He highlighted that fiscal consolidation, implementing investment reforms, investing in physical and human capital, and strengthening water security and sanitation are key to safeguard growth, reduce poverty, and increase the country's growth potential.

Moreover, Advent Manila Hospitality Group, Inc Founder and CEO Mr. Andrew James Masigan moderated a



panel discussion joined by NEDA Undersecretary Hon. Rosemarie Edillon and Senior Economist Mr. Ralph van Doorn. Usec. Edillon expounded on the government's initiatives to further bolster the country's human capital sector. Mr. van Doorn, meanwhile, further shared his insights on what sectors in the Philippines are becoming more attractive to foreign investors.

The event was hosted by Divina Law Senior Partner and ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee co-chair Atty. Jose M. Layug.

# Inside ECCP: Cebu

## Kaizen Leadership: Empowering Executives for Continuous Growth

7 September 2023

Ms. Angela Schloer, a seasoned leadership coach, spearheaded an empowering one-day training event at the prestigious Golden Prince Hotel & Suites. In collaboration with esteemed partners, Financial Executives Institute of Cebu, Inc. (FINEX), ECCP-Cebu, and ECCP Competency Hub, this event exuded a dynamic gathering of participants delving deep into a spectrum of crucial leadership topics – from refining decision-making skills to fostering enhanced team collaboration.

The event wasn't merely a gathering; it was a pivotal experience that encapsulated the essence of Kaizen Leadership's commitment to guiding executives in their journey toward personal and professional growth within their respective organizations. The central focus of the day was understanding the innovation process, a cornerstone of Kaizen Leadership's mission, which centers on nurturing leadership development and enhancing performance for executives in established companies.



Participants were offered a refreshing opportunity to absorb and apply quantifiable, sustainable improvements through proactive training, all expertly facilitated by Kaizen Leadership. It was a day where theory met practice, and it left a resounding impact on all attendees, serving as a testament to the effectiveness of Kaizen Leadership's transformative approach to leadership training and development.

## Back-to-Back Meetings from Marketing Events to Potential Partnerships

8 September 2023

The ECCP Cebu Branch had a busy day filled with significant meetings and engagements. One noteworthy event during the day involved an in-depth discussion with Bureau Veritas Business Development Specialist, Ms. Faith Lumban, and ISO 30414 Registered Expert, Mr. Juan Paolo Arao. The focus of their conversation was on the upcoming ISO 30414:2018 awareness course, particularly its significance in ensuring the compliance of Sustainability Reporting for publicly listed companies. This course is set to take place on September 28-29, 2023, at the Golden Prince Hotel and Suites.

Simultaneously, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer, Ms. Jillian Sitchon, paid a visit to TecSurge, engaging in productive discussions with their Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Rahgu Krishnamoorthy. Their talks revolved around exploring potential partnerships and collaborations within the technology and engineering industries.



In Photo (from L-R): Ms. Faith Lumban, Bureau Veritas Business Development Specialist; Mr. Juan Paolo Arao, ISO 30414 Registered Expert; Mr. Rahgu Krishnamoorthy, TecSurge Chief Operating Officer; and Ms. Jillian Sitchon, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer.

## PRP + HACCP Training Program in the Works through a Meeting at The Chocolate Chamber, Summit Galleria 7 September 2023

ECCP-Cebu and Bureau Veritas recently convened at The Chocolate Chamber, Summit Galleria to discuss the forthcoming PRP+HACCP Training Program scheduled Feb 28 - March 1 of 2024 at the Bellevue Resort, Panglao, Bohol. This training on ISO/TS 22002 Prerequisite Programmes on Good Safety and Understanding & Implementing Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Awareness Course, plays a pivotal role in ensuring food safety. In attendance were ECCP Cebu Branch Officer, Ms. Jillian Sitchon, and Bureau Veritas Business Development Specialist, Ms. Faith Lumban, along with Ms. Cleofe Algoson, Technical Expert who led the coordination efforts for this event.



## Digital Marketing: From Zero to Hero Module 5 26 September 2023

Digital Marketing: From Zero to Hero, a transformative program initiated on May 31, 2023, reached its culmination on September 26, 2023. This comprehensive online initiative was orchestrated through a collaboration between ECCP Cebu, the ECCP Competency Hub, and Kapwa Online Solutions, Co., the training provider. The final module, which marked the completion of this informative series, was facilitated by Mr. John Reuth, CEO of Kapwa Marketing, and Mr. Melvin Reuth, the General Manager.

Module 5 of Digital Marketing: From Zero to Hero delved into essential strategies for web tracking, emphasizing the use of tools such as Google Analytics and Google Search. Mr. John Reuth initiated the discussion by shedding light on how web tracking, particularly with Google Analytics, can empower companies to better understand their audience's interests and engagement on their websites. The key question addressed was how



companies can maintain their audience's interest and keep them engaged with their products. Subsequently, Mr. Melvin Reuth explored alternative web tracking tools beyond Google Analytics.

The insights shared by Kapwa Marketing captured the attention of marketing specialists from diverse companies. In today's fast-evolving digital landscape, businesses must remain current with digital marketing strategies. This knowledge is paramount for effectively communicating their products and expanding their target audience. Notably, the growing accessibility of social media has made digital marketing both cost-effective and impactful.

## Spring Rain Global's EcoSystem Building: ECCP Shares the Value of Being in a Network 8 September 2023

On September 28, 2023, Spring Rain Global showcased its EcoSystem Building initiative, a platform that empowers organizations to achieve mission readiness and enhances their capabilities. This event focuses on elevating staff expertise to better serve their advocacies.

Jillian Sitchon, from ECCP Cebu, shared insights about the ECCP's role within a network, emphasizing their transition from marketing services to advocacy promotion. This strategic shift positions ECCP as a vital player, especially in matters of Sustainability. The partnership between ECCP and Spring Rain Global serves as a bridge between the "S" and the "G" in EESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) principles, paving the way for a sustainable future.

Participating in a network offers numerous benefits, including access to valuable resources, information, and opportunities, fostering knowledge exchange, professional growth, and collaborative innovation.



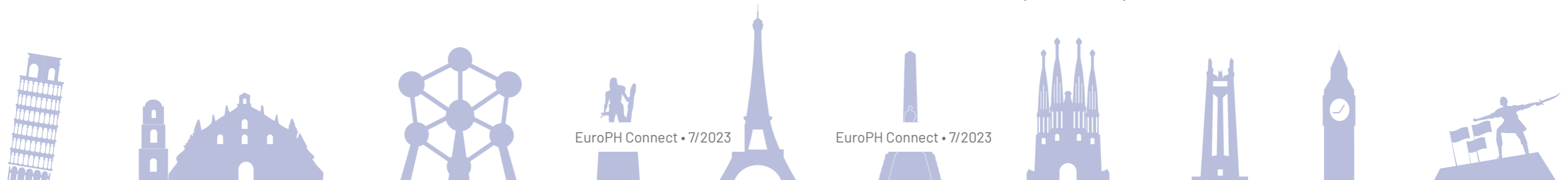
It also enhances visibility within one's industry or community, opening doors to recognition and fresh prospects.

In summary, ECCP's involvement in this high-value network exemplifies ecosystem building, serving as a testament to the potential for personal and professional growth, as well as the strong sense of community and support networks can provide.

## ISO 30414:2018 Human Resource Management - Guidelines in Internal and External Human Capital Reporting Awareness Course 28 - 29 September 2023

During a concise and enlightening two-day event, Human Capital representatives from diverse sectors converged to explore the invaluable content of ISO 30414:2018. This awareness program served as a vital resource for HR professionals, equipping them with the insights and knowledge required to adeptly navigate the evolving HR, now called as Human Capital, landscape.

ISO 30414:2018 Human Resource Management - Guidelines in Internal and External Human Capital Reporting, stands as a pioneering benchmark. This singular standard unearths the genuine worth of an organization's human assets, offering a structured framework to assess and report human capital.



## Courtesy Meeting with Securities and Exchange Commission, Diamond Suites and Residences, and CED 23 - 24 September 2023

ECCP Cebu recently held back-to-back courtesy meetings with incoming ECCP members of Diamond Suites & Residences, GMCAC, and Cebu Medical Tourism Board. During these meetings, the discussions focused on the exciting potential of expanded partnerships in the domain of shared advocacies, with a specific emphasis on promoting the tourism and ICT industries. The conversations also delved into promoting prospects, ranging from sustainable tourism practices to the promotion of local attractions. These collaborative efforts highlight the growing synergies between ECCP Cebu, GMCAC, Diamond Suites & Residences, and Cebu Educational Development Foundation for Information Technology to bring in brand new initiatives in the region.

A courtesy visit to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was recently conducted by ECCP Cebu, during which they reaffirmed their dedication to strengthening the financial sector. The significance of this visit, which took place on October 24th, was crucial for fostering collaborative dialogues regarding two major initiatives that are primed to transform the financial sector.

Florian Gottein, the Executive Director of ECCP, Jillian Sitchon, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer, and Atty. Sheara Lupango-Tamayo, Director of SEC-SEBEO, were all present at this important meeting. The introduction of the SEC Communication, Advocacy, and Network (CAN) Campaign, which is going to be released in November, served as one of the conversation's most significant highlights. Representatives from the ECCP Cebu and the SEC met to discuss ways to improve communication channels, advocacy activities, and network growth in the interest of bolstering the integrity of the financial industry.

Alongside the SEC CAN Campaign, both groups had comprehensive discussions on additional development, the Securities and Exchange Commission's Anti-Scam and Illegal Taking of Investment Group (ASTIG). Given its capacity as a defense mechanism against fraudulent actions, ASTIG is well-positioned to protect shareholders' investments and aspirations. Investor confidence and trust remain of the highest significance, and the joint effort of ECCP Cebu and the SEC represents a coordinated advancement in the right direction toward a more reliable and secure financial sector.

Additionally, ECCP Cebu paid the prestigious Diamond Suites & Residences a courtesy visit on October 24, 2023. Talks circulated the promising prospects for increased cooperation, specifically in the realm of shared causes, with a particular emphasis on the progression of the regional tourism sector.



The courtesy visit, which took place in the heart of Cebu City, sparked engaging conversations centered on the potential for collaborative initiatives in promoting local sights and sustainable tourism practices. Together, ECCP Cebu and Diamond Suites & Residences underscored their mutual dedication to fostering a revitalized inclination towards exploration and adventure among travelers and explorers through a productive interchange of concepts and ambitions.

By implementing fresh approaches, this partnership between ECCP Cebu and Diamond Suites & Residences aims to revolutionize the tourism industry while also supporting the sustainable growth of the local community and augmenting the visiting experience. The dialogues that took place throughout the courteous visit established the foundation for forthcoming endeavors that aim to enhance the tourism sector and cultivate a more profound affinity between tourists and the dynamic attractions of Cebu.

## ECCP x Messer Group (Germany) Due Diligence Visit 7 November 2023

On 7 November 2023, ECCP Cebu welcomed the Messer Group, a foreign investor from Germany. As part of their planned expansion in the Philippines, the Messer Group explored local industrial parks in Balamban and Lapu-Lapu City. The meeting commenced at the Misto Restaurant of Seda Ayala Center Cebu.

Messer Group is a globally renowned company specializing in industrial, medical, and specialty gases, with a history dating back to 1898. They operate on a global scale, providing their products and services in Europe, Asia, and America. Messer is known for manufacturing and supplying a wide range of gases, including oxygen, nitrogen, argon, carbon dioxide, hydrogen, helium, shielding gases for welding, specialty gases, medical gases, and food gases, along with various gas mixtures. The international operations are managed from Bad Soden near Frankfurt am Main in Germany, with a workforce of over 10,000 employees.

Mr. Steffan Messer, Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Messer Group, was the sole representative during this visit. He is particularly keen on engaging with the private sector in Cebu, especially European stakeholders, to gain insights into business viability.



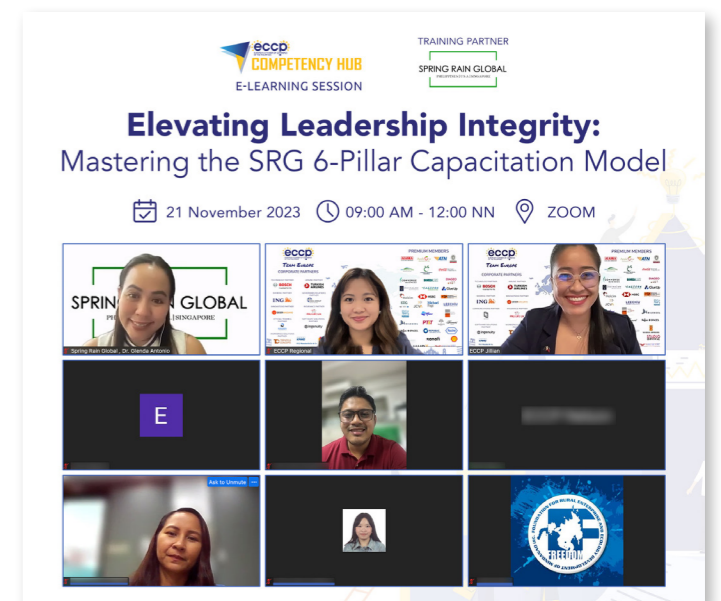
## Elevating Leadership Integrity 21 November 2023

The ECCP's training program, titled "Elevating Leadership Integrity: Mastering the SRG 6-Pillar Capacitation Model," concluded on November 21, 2023.

In today's dynamic and ever-evolving business landscape, integrity is the linchpin that fortifies trust, fosters collaboration, and propels organizations toward sustainable success. The Elevating Leadership Integrity: Mastering the Spring Rain Global 6-Pillar Capacitation Model is a transformative training program that shines a spotlight on the indispensable role of integrity in leadership.

Rooted in the Spring Rain Global 6 Pillars Capacitation Model, this training delves into the six fundamental facets of integrity – honesty, ethics, transparency, accountability, empathy, and authenticity. Participants will not only gain a deep understanding of these pillars but also learn how to seamlessly integrate them into their leadership practices to elevate their credibility, inspire their teams, and drive meaningful change.

A key highlight was the introduction of the Philanthropic Development Office, a dynamic



initiative aimed at bolstering a company's support for advocacies, thereby enhancing corporate social responsibility and promoting elevated leadership integrity. Participants gained insights into the significance of integrity in their professional endeavors, understanding how it can significantly enhance their roles as leaders.



## ISO27001:2022 Information Security Management System Awareness Training 28 - 29 November 2023

Information security measures are implemented to safeguard sensitive data against unauthorized access such as alteration, destruction, interruption, or recording. The primary goal is to ensure the protection and confidentiality of sensitive data, which may consist of consumer account information, financial data, and intellectual property.

The ECCP Cebu and the ECCP Competency Hub recently concluded an insightful e-learning session on 'ISO 27001:2022 Information Security Management System Awareness Training' on November 28-29, 2023.

For two days, attendees gained a comprehensive understanding of information security management and the requirements on adhering to the ISO 27001:2022 standard. The topics covered spanned from fundamental information security management principles to the recently established criteria and benchmarks of ISO 27001:2022.

In addition, participants also engaged in discussions on how to best implement a system for managing information security, how to conduct risk assessments, and how to guarantee compliance with current industry standards.

The webinar also consistently emphasized the importance of adopting a proactive approach toward information

## Alignment Meeting with Go Global Holdings Inc. 28 November 2023

On November 28, 2023, the ECCP Cebu successfully concluded an alignment meeting with Mr. Chris Go of JI Printers Inc. and CEO of Go Global Holdings, Inc. regarding ECCP services, advocacies, and partnerships.

This engaging meeting provided an opportunity to explore the many advantages and opportunities that ECCP offers, designed to match the various needs and purposes of notable businesses such as JI Printers Inc. and Go Global Holdings, Inc.

The conversations emphasized the benefits of ECCP Membership, including its comprehensive network of industry professionals, access to exclusive events, critical resources, and advocacy initiatives that empower businesses to thrive and expand. The dynamic exchanges also highlighted the possibilities for mutual development and cooperation between the ECCP and visionary companies represented by Mr. Chris Go.

From L-R: Sales Consultant from Leechiu Properties Consultant Inc Mr. Mitch Tabor, ECCP Assistant Cebu Branch Officer Ms. Sheridan Tan, CEO of Go Global Holdings Inc Mr. Curtis Go, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Ms. Jillian Sitchon, Head Sales Consultant from Leechio Properties Consultant Mr. Bobby Apas.



security. Participants realized that a reliable information security management system is not merely a compliance obligation, but rather a strategic asset that safeguards the integrity of data and cultivates confidence among stakeholders.



## Alignment Meeting with Finnish Ambassador Juha Pyykkö 1 December 2023

On December 1, 2023, the ECCP Cebu helped facilitate a significant alignment meeting with distinguished guests from diverse industries alongside Finland's Ambassador Juha Pyykkö, who represents the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Philippines.

The event was a great opportunity to discuss significant developments and projections about Cebu's rising business and economic environment. The discussions that developed quickly progressed to a detailed analysis of the present state of the industry, the dynamics of the market, and the projected economic prospects of the region.

In attendance were notable figures which included Ms. Floreza Alpuerto, Head of the Board of Investments - Cebu Extension Office; Mr. Curtis Go of JI Printers, Inc & Go Global Holdings, Inc.; Mr. Robert Cheng, CEO of Alliance Outsourcing & Software Development, Inc.; Mr. Fabrice Cools, CEO of Hitech Lighting World; Mr. Marc Cools, Chairman of Hitech Lighting World Corporation; Mr. Jochen Bitzer, CEO & President of Mercedes Benz Group Services Philippines, Inc.; and Ms. Jillian Sitchon, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer.



Moreover, the insightful viewpoints of Ambassador Juha Pyykkö propelled the discussion to a global level, underscoring the criticality of international partnerships in advancing the economic development of Cebu. Utilizing the expertise and collective knowledge of these diverse industry leaders, the alignment meeting fostered a fruitful exchange of ideas and insights. Through this event, the ECCP Cebu continues to demonstrate its commitment to developing such partnerships and building key connections for the region's sustainable prosperity.

## DAAD Alumni Mixer 2 December 2023

In collaboration with Sprach Institut-Cebu, Inc. and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines-Cebu, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) hosted the DAAD Alumni Mixer at The BMW Showroom, Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City, on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

Maintaining relationships with its alumni is vital for the DAAD. The purpose of this event is to promote collaboration and international academic exchange in higher education. Attendees and alumni are presented with the opportunity to honor accomplishments, and network with the organization, ECCP members, and guests who share their passions while enjoying exquisite canapés and cocktails.

Attendees of the DAAD Alumni Mixer included government officials, DAAD alumni, representatives from German and European businesses, international relations professionals, and influential business and diplomatic figures.



# Inside ECCP: CDO

## ECCP Drive: Maximizing the Foreign Network

31 August 2023

Another successful event from our team in Northern Mindanao!

Last August 31, more than 40 attendees, including ECCP members and non-members, attended the "ECCP Drive: Maximizing the Foreign Network" with guest speaker, ECCP Vice President and CEO of Republic Cement Mr. Roman Menz.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the attendees for their active participation and for being integral members of our dynamic ECCP community. Your presence and engagement play a crucial role in our collective effort to shape a brighter and more prosperous future for business and development!



## Empowering Executive Assistants: ECCP CDO Organized an e-Learning for Navigating the Role to Success

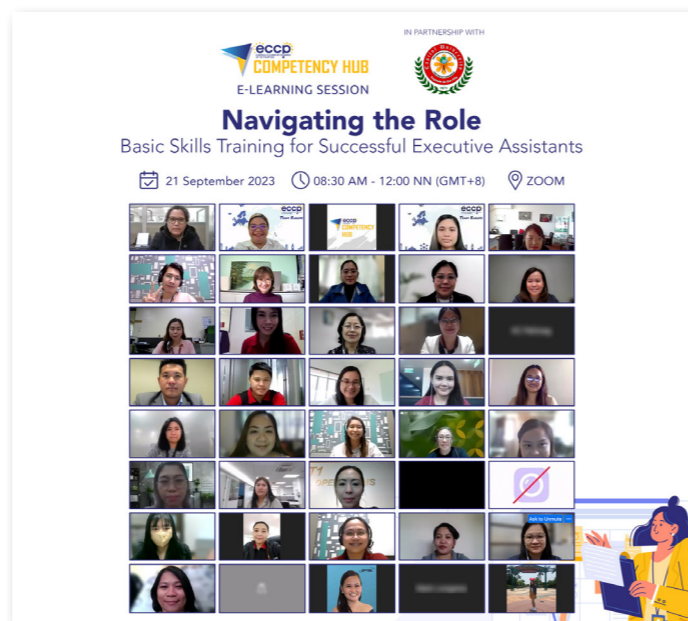
21 September 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines - CDO recently organized a highly successful online training entitled "Navigating the Role: Basic Skills Training for Executive Assistants." This engaging session took place on September 21, 2023, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 NN, with a total of 36 participants.

Ms. Heidi Grace P. Mendoza, a renowned speaker and facilitator from Capitol University Graduate School, led the training session and provided valuable insights into the essential skills and knowledge required to excel in the dynamic role of an executive assistant.

The objective of the training session was to provide executive assistants with the essential skills and knowledge required to effectively fulfill their roles. Ms. Mendoza, with her expertise in the field, explored several essential factors that play a pivotal role in achieving success in this challenging role.

The training for executive assistants will have a second run on October 20, 2023. After a successful first run, participants can look forward to another opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge in this upcoming session. Looking ahead, ECCP-CDO aims to continue organizing similar training sessions and events to empower professionals in the field.



## Mindanao Stakeholders Consultation Meeting: Collaboration for Development

The recent Mindanao Stakeholders Consultation Meeting, organized by the Mindanao Development Authority (Minda), brought together influential stakeholders to discuss and collaborate on the development of Mindanao. Notably, Mr. Jaime Rafael Paguio, the Chairman of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines - CDO, attended the event.

The Mindanao Stakeholders Consultation Meeting aimed to foster collaboration and engagement among stakeholders from different sectors. By bringing together a diverse range of perspectives, experiences, and expertise, the meeting facilitated fruitful discussions on various aspects of Mindanao's development.

The presence of Mr. Paguio and the ECCP CDO allowed for the exploration of joint initiatives that can drive economic growth and attract investments in Mindanao. By connecting local and international stakeholders, the meeting aimed to foster relationships that can lead to mutually beneficial projects and contribute to the overall development of the region.

The Mindanao Stakeholders Consultation Meeting serves as an important platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, explore partnerships, and collectively work towards the progress of Mindanao.



## Oro Best Expo Showcases Northern Mindanao's Finest!

4 - 8 October 2023

The Oro Best Expo was held in EDSA Shangri-La last October 4-8, 2023. The event consists of the city's premier exposition that unveils a dazzling array of products and services from a wide range of industries, and among the exhibitors, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Northern Mindanao members are making a significant impact.

The ECCP Northern Mindanao chapter, known for its commitment to fostering business development and collaboration, joined some of its most prominent member companies to participate in this year's Oro Best Expo. Among these esteemed members are Phividec Industrial Authority, UC-1 Corporation (Dahilayan Adventure Park and Seven Seas Waterpark), and Eastern Communications; all of whom were showcasing their services, expertise, and innovation to the annual expo.

These are just a few of the standout ECCP Northern Mindanao members who have chosen Oro Best Expo as the platform to highlight their contributions to the region's growth. Their presence underscores the importance of collaboration and innovation in driving economic progress.

In addition to the ECCP members, Oro Best Expo features an extensive array of exhibitors from various industries, including technology, agriculture, tourism, and more. Visitors had a captivating experience that offered a glimpse into the future of Northern Mindanao's economic landscape.

Oro Best Expo, organized by the Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. in partnership with the LGU of Cagayan de Oro, is not just a showcase of products and services; it's a celebration of collaboration, innovation, and the bright future of this dynamic region.



## Fostering Investment Opportunities: ECCP CDO-Northern Mindanao at the Cagayan de Oro City Investment Forum

5 October 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) CDO-Northern Mindanao chapter recently took part in the Invest in CDO Forum held at EDSA Shangri-La Manila last October 5, 2023. This significant event aimed to spotlight Cagayan de Oro as a prime investment destination in Mindanao. Here's a glimpse of the forum's highlights:

**Showcasing Investment Potential:** The Invest in CDO Forum served as a remarkable platform for businesses and investors from outside Cagayan de Oro to explore the city's immense investment potential. The event boasted an impressive lineup of speakers representing both the private and public sectors.

**Facilitating Business Partnerships:** The forum facilitated crucial business matching activities, fostering connections between entrepreneurs and potential investors. These interactions laid the groundwork for promising partnerships that can drive economic growth.

**A Thought-Provoking Panel Discussion:** ECCP Northern Mindanao Business Council Chairman, Mr. Jaime Rafael U. Paguio, skillfully moderated an engaging panel discussion. This allowed for a deep dive into the region's investment landscape and the opportunities it presents.

In conclusion, ECCP CDO-Northern Mindanao's participation in the Cagayan de Oro City Investment Forum underscores the city's growing prominence as an investment hub. These collaborative efforts open doors to a brighter future and numerous possibilities for all involved.



## USTP Summit: Unlocking Sustainable Futures through Research and Innovation

10 - 11 October 2023

In a world grappling with pressing environmental and societal challenges, the need for innovative solutions has never been more urgent. Last October 10-11, 2023, the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines held its Research and Innovation Summit with the theme of "Nexus of Sustainability: Democratizing Research-driven Innovations for Sustainable Futures." The summit brought together a diverse array of experts, scholars, and visionaries from various fields, all united by a common goal, to explore the intersection of sustainability and innovation.

Among these experts, ECCP's Northern Mindanao Business Council Chairman Mr. Jaime Rafael Paguio was invited as the Plenary Speaker, shedding light on the vital role of university-industry-government collaboration in driving innovation for a sustainable future. Multi-sector collaboration is important as it allows society to harness the full potential of research-driven innovations, making these solutions accessible to all, each sector playing a unique and indispensable role in the journey towards a sustainable future.

USTP's Research and Innovation Summit was a testament to the power of ideas, collaboration, and shared vision. It served as a catalyst for change, providing a platform for individuals and organizations to converge, exchange ideas, and collectively chart a course toward a future characterized by sustainability and innovation, ensuring a brighter and more inclusive tomorrow for all.



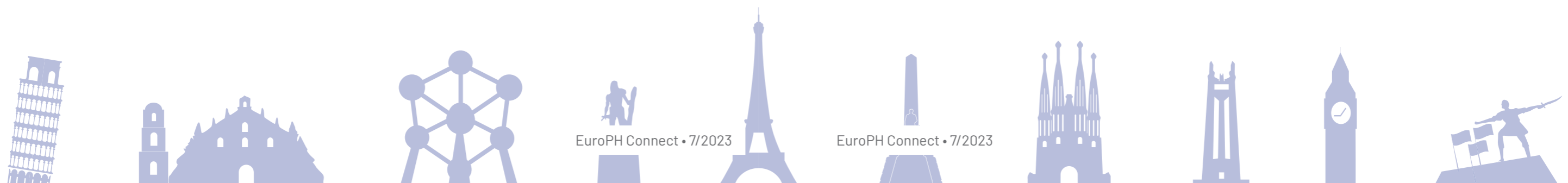
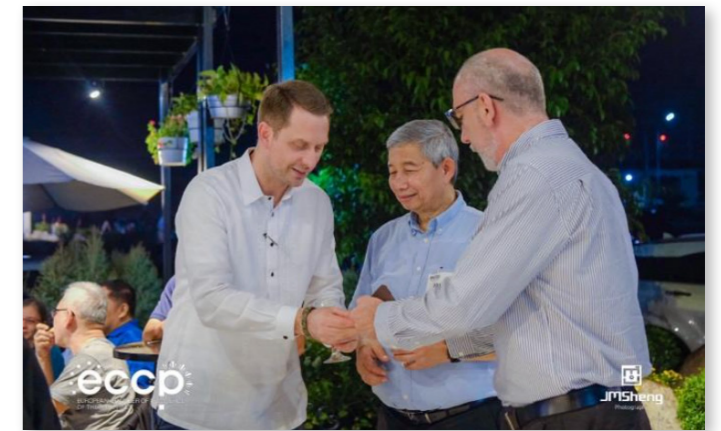
## CCP CDO Welcomed its New Members with Business & Beers

16 October 2023

The ECCP CDO Northern Mindanao branch organized a memorable evening that combined the best of both worlds – business and camaraderie. The Business & Beers: Induction of New Members and Networking Socials was graced by the presence of Mr. Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director, opening the night with a notable message as a warm welcome to the newest members of the growing ECCP network in region. The program proceeded then with the induction of members led by Northern Mindanao Business Council Chairman Jaime Rafael Paguio.

Another highlight of the event was the ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ECCP Northern Mindanao and the Iligan Chamber of Commerce with President Reggie Punongbayan. The partnership of both chambers would strengthen collaborations on advocacy-driven events, learning programs and initiatives that could even strengthen the voice of Mindanao.

This event is brought to you together with Platinum Partner and ECCP Premium Member Eastern Communications, Gold Partner Kerry Logistics, Beverage Partners Schöfferhofer, Radeberger Pilsner and San Miguel Beer, Raffle Partners Atlantis Dive Resort, Dahilayan Adventure Park, and Seven Seas Waterpark, Event Supporter 2GO Express, Inc. and Coverage Partner JMScheng Photography.



## ECCP Northern Mindanao Broadening its Network in the City of Waterfalls – Iligan City

17 October 2023

The ECCP Northern Mindanao's decision to broaden its reach to Iligan City reflects the region's growing significance as a hub for business and economic development. With its strategic location and thriving industries, Iligan City presents a wealth of opportunities for collaboration and growth.

Last October 17, ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein, Northern Mindanao Business Council Chairman Mr. Jaime Rafael Paguio, USTP Presidential Asst. for External Affairs Engr. Reuel Pallugna, and Northern Mindanao Branch Officer Ms. Joanne Natindim conducted a membership visit at St. Michael's College in Iligan City, solidifying their partnership. This visit allowed ECCP and SMC to discuss future collaborations and programs for the institution's internationalization efforts, educational advancement, research excellence, and mutual support in all undertakings.

The discussions revolved around future collaborations and programs that will bolster St. Michael's College's pursuit of educational excellence, research achievements, and internationalization efforts. A symbolic flag-raising ceremony featuring the EU flag was held, symbolizing St. Michael's College's strong endorsement of these collaborative aspirations.

Furthermore, ECCP Northern Mindanao Business Council, along with Executive Director Florian Gottein and Northern Mindanao Branch Officer Joanne Natindim, recently paid a courtesy visit to City Mayor of Iligan Hon. Frederick Siao and City Administrator Dr. Darwin Manubag, serving as another catalyst for this expansion. The lunch meeting provided an excellent platform for an exchange of ideas, where the Chamber had the privilege of gaining valuable insights into the City of Waterfalls' current strengths, challenges, and plans to become one of the prime investment hubs in Mindanao. The City Mayor's Office also expressed its interest in joining the growing membership of ECCP Northern Mindanao, further cementing the partnership.

Additionally, the business council embarked on another significant membership visit at St. Peter's College in Iligan City. The meeting at St. Peter's College provided a valuable platform for both parties



to engage in discussions about potential future collaborations and joint programs, with a primary focus on the Education and Energy sectors. This visit was a testament to the strong and enduring relationship between ECCP and St. Peter's College, emphasizing their shared commitment to mutual growth and success.

As ECCP Northern Mindanao continues to broaden its network in the City of Waterfalls, the potential for growth, innovation, and economic development is evident. The city's unique blend of natural beauty and industrial potential is a testament to the opportunities that lie ahead, and ECCP's active participation will undoubtedly be a key driver in nurturing these possibilities.

The ECCP's expansion into Iligan City not only underscores its commitment to fostering economic growth but also its recognition of the region's vibrant potential. As these partnerships flourish, we can anticipate a bright future for both Iligan City and the broader Northern Mindanao region.

## Inside ECCP: Davao

### ECCP Participates in the Mindanao Agenda 2023-2028 Stakeholders' Consultation and Validation Workshop hosted by the Mindanao Development Authority

27 - 28 September 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines represented the Joint Foreign Chambers, playing a pivotal role in representing the interests of the private sector in shaping the government's agenda, policies, and research for the development of Mindanao. The collaborative effort aimed to address concerns and prioritize initiatives that will contribute to the region's progress for the next few years.

In the agenda for Trade and Industry Development towards Job Creation, which Daryl Valdez and Cyril Almanzor of BAEP CRESCENT, Branch Officer Sam Gura and Chairman Tony Peralta of ECCP SMBC



participated, ECCP underscored the importance of fostering private-public partnerships. Mr. Peralta emphasized that such collaborations are essential to attract foreign investments, a critical factor in driving economic growth in Mindanao. The envisioned outcomes of these efforts include establishing a globally competitive industry, fortifying trade and supply chains, and creating a conducive business environment.

### ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Meeting: Introduction of ECCP & President Paulo Duarte

5 October 2023

ECCP Davao proudly hosted the Southern Mindanao Business Council Meeting, a significant event graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Paulo Duarte, our newly-elected ECCP President.

Chaired by Mr. Antonio Peralta, the meeting was a showcase of ECCP's commendable progress throughout the year. Notably, ECCP SMBC played a pivotal role in facilitating ongoing dialogues among stakeholders and members, contributing to the advancement of economic development in Mindanao. One prominent initiative involved is ECCP's active participation in the Joint Foreign Chambers, advocating for the lifting of Presidential Proclamation 55 – a move poised to greatly drive foreign investments in Mindanao.



The discussions also provided invaluable member insights focused on the direction for the agribusiness and tech sector. Additionally, Project Consultant Mr. Cuyugan and Project Officer Mr. Almanzor gave a briefer of the EU-funded BAEP CRESCENT Project, its promising prospects, emphasizing how businesses can actively contribute to this shared objective.

ECCP SMBC extends its utmost gratitude to the Holy Cross of Davao College, led by Bro. Noelvic Deloria, for their gracious support throughout the event.



## ECCP Participates in the Mindanao Agenda 2023-2028 Stakeholders' Consultation and Validation Workshop hosted by the Mindanao Development Authority

13 October 2023

Last October 13, the ECCP SMBC convened its 3rd Education Advocacy Committee Meeting with the honor and presence of Ms. Veera Kaarela, Deputy Head of Mission of the Finnish Embassy.

Ms. Veera's introductory visit not only shared valuable insights into the Finnish education system but also expressed a strong interest in connecting with Finnish education experts to foster meaningful partnerships between Philippine and Finnish schools. In the meeting, our members shared the same sentiments expressing the aspiration for the Philippine education system to emulate the success of Finland's.

Another meeting highlight was the Head of IAES and LINK-IN Ms. Sheryl Urdaneta, sharing Holy Cross of Davao College's milestone in participating



in the European Higher Education Fair Philippines (EHEF) 2023. HCDC stands as one of the educational institutions selected to benefit from the Erasmus+ program, an initiative supported by the European Union.

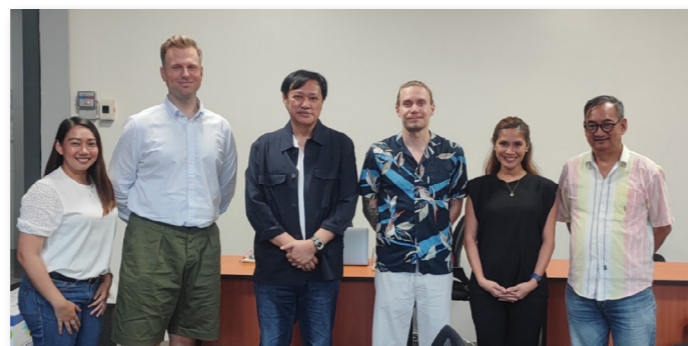
This gathering provided a valuable platform for member institutions to engage in a fruitful exchange of ideas, aimed at enhancing the internationalization efforts of their respective schools. ECCP is dedicated to expanding its Higher Education Institution (HEI) network, aiming to create more opportunities for international education, including scholarships, exchanges, and immersive programs for Mindanao.

## Meetings with Prospect Members

24 October 2023

ECCP Davao initiated an introductory meeting with IONA Philippines, also known as Codersforhire Inc. The Finnish-owned digital consultancy has been operating in Davao since 2015 and is making a big move to strengthen its ties with the local business community.

The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibility of becoming a valued member of the Chamber. By doing so, they aim to amplify their presence in Mindanao and provide their cutting-edge tech solutions and services to ambitious Filipino brands.

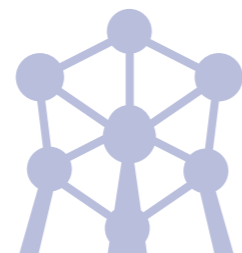
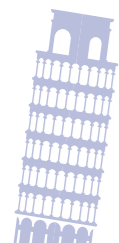


## ECCP Davao hosts its first ECCP Competency Hub e-Learning on VUCA

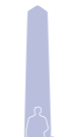
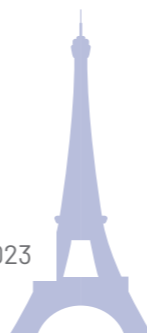
21 November 2023

This program honed professionals with critical competencies in adaptive leadership, strategic thinking, and change management. Attended by managers and business executives, the participants learned the concepts of VUCA 1.0 as well as the strategies to thrive in a VUCA environment. In the end, the program initiated to develop their skills to lead effectively in times of uncertainty and change.

This training was facilitated by Mr. Rommel Momo, Vice President for Operations of Holy Cross of Davao College, this program further equipped professional leaders in guiding their teams towards success in today's complex business landscape.



EuroPH Connect • 7/2023



EuroPH Connect • 7/2023



# Inside ECCP: Iloilo

## ECCP in Bacolod City!

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) orchestrated a vibrant convergence of collaboration and connection during their recent visit to Negros Occidental. Led by ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, alongside him was the ECCP Western Visayas Business Council Chairperson, Joe Bantiling, and ECCP Western Visayas Branch Officer, Angelluz Aguirre, the delegation engaged in pivotal courtesy visits with Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson and Bacolod City Mayor Albee Benitez. These meetings, marked by insightful dialogues, aimed to strengthen ties and explore avenues for economic growth.

Following these impactful visits, ECCP continued their mission by hosting "Sunset Sips: A Networking Socials" in Bacolod City. Against the backdrop of a picturesque Bacolod sunset, industry leaders, professionals, and enthusiasts gathered for an evening of meaningful exchanges. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions, sharing perspectives on the burgeoning opportunities within Western Visayas and the broader business landscape. The event not only showcased the vibrancy of the local business community but also underscored the ECCP's commitment to facilitating growth, collaboration, and innovation in the region.

The synergy between the courtesy visits and the Sunset Sips event encapsulated ECCP's dedication to bridging gaps and nurturing a thriving business ecosystem. Discussions during the visits laid the groundwork for future collaborations, while Sunset Sips provided the perfect platform for attendees to forge new connections and deepen existing relationships. Together, these initiatives highlighted ECCP's pivotal role in fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainable growth within Negros Occidental's dynamic business landscape.



# Advocacy Corner

## ECCP Courtesy Visit to PhilSA 8 September 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) had the opportunity to meet with the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) on 8 September 2023 at the PhilSA office in Quezon City. PhilSA Director General Dr. Joel Joseph Marciano, Jr. discussed the plans and priorities of the agency as well as tackled local space manufacturing market opportunities in the Philippines. Likewise, the group identified how the Chamber can help strengthen space-based cooperation between the Philippines and Europe.

Present at the meeting were PhilSA Director General Dr. Joel Joseph Marciano, Jr., Director Atty. Noelle Castillo, Director Dr. Marc Talampas, Project Development Officer V Fernando De Villa, Space, Project Development Officer III Idona Porlaje, Supervising Science Research Specialist Ma. Angelie Sto Domingo, and Executive Assistant III Princess Angela Young.



ECCP President Paulo Duarte, Executive Director Florian Gottein, Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña, and Advocacy Officer Chin Nethercott also attended to represent the Chamber.

## House Committee on Ways and Means meeting/public hearing 12 September 2023

The ECCP was represented at the House Committee on Ways and Means public hearing on proposed measures: House Bill Nos. 8598 and 8968. With a particular focus on House Bill No. 8968 or the CREATE More Act, the group deliberated the various proposals under the measure. At the said hearing, resource persons from the Department of Finance, Fiscal Incentives Review Board, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Board of Investments, among others, expressed their positions on the proposal. The recommendations of the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) were also presented.



## JFC Meeting hosted by JPCCI 12 September 2023

The ECCP participated at the Joint Foreign Chambers meeting hosted by the Japanese Chamber last 12 September 2023. At the said meeting, the group discussed the JFC's plans and updates on joint activities, as well as exchanged views on recent policy developments.



## JFC Meeting with Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin

14 September 2023

The ECCP organized a meeting with Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin on behalf of the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC) on 14 September 2023 at the Malacañang Palace.

Chaired by ECCP President Paulo Duarte, the discussion covered the socioeconomic priorities of the Office of the President. The group also tackled the advocacies of the JFC to improve the business climate in the Philippines and promote ease of doing business in the country.



Joining Executive Secretary Bersamin and the JFC at the meeting were Undersecretary and Chief of Staff Atty. Roy Cervantes and Assistant Secretary Al-Azree Mohammadsali.

## Meeting with TESDA Director General Suharto Mangudadatu

15 September 2023

Last 15 September, ECCP met with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Secretary Suharto Mangudadatu, along with Executive Director Lorenzo Emanuel L. Guillermo of the Information and Communication Technology Office, as well as other representatives of the agency. Together with ECCP's Technology Partner, Bosch Philippines, the group discussed the Chamber and TESDA's priorities on technology learning, including digital transformation and industry 4.0.



## Signing of R.A. No 11962 or the Trabaho Para sa Bayan Act

27 September 2023

ECCP attends the Ceremonial Signing of the Trabaho Para sa Bayan Plan Act

On 27 September, ECCP Vice President Roman Menz was present at the Ceremonial Signing of the Trabaho Para sa Bayan Plan Act at Kalayaan Hall, Malacañang Palace.

The Act aims to stimulate national and local economic growth, enhance industry collaboration, and provide support to workers and businesses. The measure is also geared towards employment generation and job quality improvement in order to address the recovery of the labor market after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sharing the same vision, the ECCP has long implemented advocacy initiatives geared towards the enhancement of employability, such as its PATHWAY Project, which aims to help Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) meet labor market demands and



governmental reforms. Likewise, the Chamber is also currently working with MSMEs in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), as well as other cross-sectoral collaborations.

Pictured is Mr. Menz with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, alongside other key government officials and industry representatives.

## ECCP Automotive Committee Meeting

10 October 2023

On 10 October at the ECCP Board Room, the Chamber's Automotive Committee met to discuss recent industry developments, including those on electric vehicles (EVs) and motor vehicles road users tax. Led by ECCP President and Automotive Committee Co-Chairperson Mr. Paulo Duarte, the Committee delved into their updated recommendations to the Department of Energy (DOE) based on the input of European Chamber counterparts on the EV industry in Asia. The group also explored potential areas of collaboration with the ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee in pushing for EV industry development.



## Food and Beverage Committee Courtesy Meeting with the Anti-Red Tape Authority

17 October 2023

The ECCP, led by its Food and Beverage Committee, held a courtesy meeting with the Anti-Red Tape Authority last 17 October to discuss possible areas of collaboration as well as raise areas of improvement on the ease of doing business in the Philippines. The meeting also featured discussions on the plans and priorities of the Agency and was co-chaired by ARTA Director General, Secretary Ernesto Perez and ECCP Vice President and F&B Committee Chairperson, Ms. Helen Grace Baisa.



## 4th Meeting of the NEDA Stakeholders' Chamber

27 October 2023

The ECCP was represented at the 4th Meeting of the NEDA Stakeholders' Chamber at Pasig City. At the said meeting, the NEDA Secretariat and its members talked about the extension of the Stakeholders' Chamber, as well as the implementation of Priority Actions under the Priority Actions under the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production. Additionally, NEDA shared information on SDG Summit, and the UNDP presented the mock Stakeholder Partnership Accelerator for Convergence and Engagement (SPACE) Web Application.





## JFC Meeting with Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo

27 September 2023

The ECCP participated at the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) Meeting with Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo last 27 October 2023. At the said meeting, efforts towards the digitalisation of court documents and proceedings, status of legal opinions that have been bases of recent policy reforms, as well as possible collaboration between the private sector and the judiciary, among others, have been discussed. The group likewise touched on the Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations 2022-2027 (SPJI).

The meeting was also joined by Associate Justice Jose Midas P. Marquez; Deputy Clerk of Court and Chief Technology Officer Atty. Jed Sherwin G. Uy; Philippine Judicial Academy Research, Publications and Linkages Office Chief Dean Sedfrey M. Candelaria; and Atty. Antonio Ceasar R. Manila from the Office of the Chief Justice.

The JFC representatives present were: Mr. Julian Payne and Atty. Phillip John Yap of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.; Mr. Ebb



Hinchliffe of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.; Ms. Kimmi Siu Dewar and Ms. Jo-Ann Vidal of the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.; Mr. Paulo Duarte and Atty. Peter Calimag of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.; Mr. Nobuo Fujii of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Philippines, Inc.; Mr. Joseph Um of the Korean Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Philippines, Inc.; Mr. Safdar Qurashi and Mr. Don Felbaum of the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters Inc.; and Mr. Randall Garcia and Ms. Nadine Gatdula of The Arangkada Philippines Project.

## House Ways & Means Committee Hearing on CREATE More

7 November 2023

The ECCP was represented by Ms. Sophia Ordon, Associate Director for Government and International Affairs, at the House Ways and Means Committee Hearing on 07 November 2023. Chaired by Representative Joey Salceda, the hearing covered the House and resource speakers' views on the unnumbered bill which seeks to amend several sections of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, particularly, to align the provision of incentives, as well as promote competitiveness and ease of doing business.



## ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting

8 November 2023

Chaired by Committee Leader Ms. Lourdes Cariño-Angeles, the ECCP Aviation Committee met last 8 November to introduce the new committee co-chairperson Ocampo & Manalo Law Firm Managing Partner Atty. Manolito "Mannix" Manalo. He oversees the firm's labor and commercial litigation practice and represents various corporate clients before regulatory and quasi-judicial bodies. For several years now, Atty. Manalo has consistently been described as a leading individual and market leader in the practice areas of dispute resolution, aviation, and real estate by several respected publications.

The group also discussed the highlights of the 2023 Aviation Summit that was co-organised by the ECCP and AsBAA, with the Department of Transportation

## CLIMACTION Towards a Net Zero Philippines

11 November 2023

The ECCP was represented at the event entitled "CLIMACTION Towards a Net Zero Philippines", held last 11 November 2023, which was organised by the Climate Change Commission and Nestlé Philippines.

The said event covered discussions on fostering collective efforts from the youth sector and the business sector towards achieving the country's climate goals (National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The event also featured a design thinking workshop for climate action for the youth in the morning and a forum for the business sector in the afternoon.

## 2023 Intellectual Property Enforcement Summit

14 November 2023

On 14 November 2023, ECCP Intellectual Property Rights Committee Chair Atty. Reena Mitra-Ventanilla attended Day 1 of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Summit organized by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) and the National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights.

The Summit's objective is to strengthen collaboration among the IP enforcement agencies, IP rights holders and other stakeholders, as well as to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices in the fight against IP crimes and violations. Members of the NCIPR, representatives from IP enforcement



as event partner. During the meeting, the committee identified key issues to be incorporated in the next leg of the Summit as well as the action plans in preparation for the said event scheduled in October 2024.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINES

agencies and organizations in the Philippines and abroad (i.e., WIPO, INTA, USPTO, US Customs and Border Protection, JPO, EUIPO, KCOPA, etc.), private companies and organizations, law firms, and other stakeholders attended the event.

## Tourism Committee Meeting

21 November 2023

Chaired by Committee Leader Ms. Gwen Dela Cruz, the ECCP Tourism Committee met virtually last 21 November 2023 to discuss updates in the tourism industry. Committee members also shared region-specific issues and opportunities in the sector. Likewise, the group delved into the progress of the 2023 committee advocacies as well as identified the priority areas for next year.

To join and know more about the committee, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



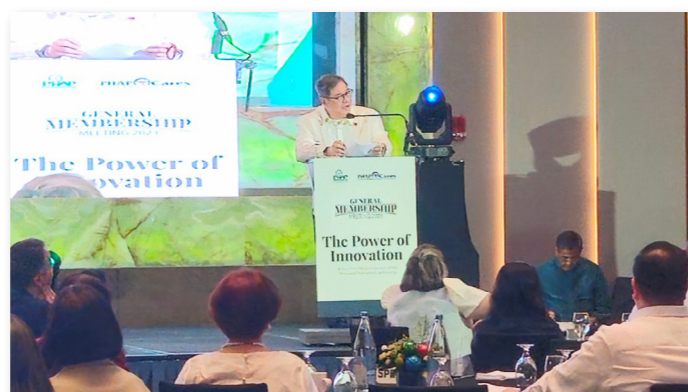
## The Power of innovation: A Report on the Contributions of the Philippine Pharmaceutical Industry

22 November 2023

The ECCP was represented at the event organised by the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) last 22 November, which launched the publication entitled “The Power of innovation: A Report on the Contributions of the Philippine Pharmaceutical Industry.”

The event was attended by healthcare experts, industry representatives, as well as policymakers, among others. Video and live keynote speeches were delivered by Senator Bong Go, Rep. Ciriaco Gato Jr., DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa, FDA Director General Dr. Samuel Zacate, IPOPHL Director General Atty. Rowel Barba, and PhilHealth Vice President Dr. Francisco Z. Soria.

In his keynote address, Health Secretary Herbosa outlined five priorities of the Agency, including immunisation of children, addressing stunting and under/malnutrition, reducing maternal mortality as well as burden of tuberculosis and HIVs, as well as promoting road safety.



## Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Convention

29 November - 1 December 2023

The ECCP was represented at the 3-day Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Convention held from 29 November to 1 December, the PICC Complex. The event highlighted the achievements of the Philippine Government in promoting EODB, and in showcasing the latest innovations in streamlining services. The convention was attended by representatives from the Philippine government, private sector, and media, among others.



## ECCP Healthcare Committee Meeting

29 November 2023

The ECCP Healthcare Committee held its last committee meeting on 29 November, to discuss healthcare sector updates, including policy priorities and thrust of the Department of Health and the Food and Drug Administration, as well as legislative measures at both Chambers. The committee members likewise had an exchange of views on procurement and waste management measures and their potential impact on the Philippine healthcare system.



## EU-Philippines Partnership Conference 2023

5 December 2023

The ECCP was represented at the EU-Philippines Partnership Conference organised by the Department of Trade and Industry and the EU Delegation in the Philippines, held on 05 December. With the theme “Digital Transformation: Unlocking Sustainable and Green Growth Opportunities for Philippine MSMEs,” talked about the impact of embracing digital transformation in the Philippines, as a way to unlock new trade opportunities for business and support a more sustainable and green economy.



## Joint Foreign Chambers Meetings with the Presidential Management Staff and Secretary Frederick Go

7 December 2023

The ECCP, along with its Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) partners, participated at the meeting organised by the Presidential Management Staff together with the Anti-Red Tape Authority last 07 December. This meeting was followed by the JFC Meeting with Secretary Frederick Go, Presidential Adviser on Investment and Economic Affairs. These meetings covered discussions on the Philippine government's plans and priorities, as well as the business groups' policy recommendations.



## ECCP Meeting with the Department of Energy (DOE)

11 December 2023

On 11 December 2023, the ECCP Automotive and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) Committees met with Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella and DOE-Energy Utilization Management Bureau (EUMB) Assistant Director Lana Rose Manaligod at the DOE Office in Taguig. During the meeting, the participants discussed the policy thrusts of the Agency towards advancing the electric vehicle (EV) industry along with the necessary infrastructure development in the sector. Moreover, both committees shared its policy advocacies including ECCP's updated recommendations on the Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI).



Representing the Chamber are ECCP President and Automotive Committee Chairperson Paulo Duarte; RE&EE Co-Chairpersons Ruth Yu-Owen and Atty. Jose Layug Jr.; Government and Industry Affairs Manager Katt Baligod; and Advocacy Officer Chin Nethercott.

# New Members Corner

## Corporate Partner



### Kaizen Leadership Asia

The Certification in Kaizen Leadership Program is a hands-on 6-week, 30-hour online leadership and management course that prepares participants to lead the complex challenge of driving effective organizational change in the simplest, fastest and most sustainable way possible.

The program leverages self-assessments, 360° feedback from colleagues, and the perspectives of fellow learners to enable participants to build greater self-awareness and enhance the versatility of their leadership style and approach.

The curriculum is extremely hands-on, with 75% of participants' time is focused on practical and relevant situations from their work. Certification is dependent on completing the assignments and documenting the outcomes of actions taken that are verified by their organization.

The program is delivered in an active, peer-to-peer learning environment led by trained business and leadership coaches to create the supportive environment required to not only help participant-leaders make breakthrough realization on what they need to do differently but also create the accountability they need to take action and follow through on their commitments.

## Premium Members



### Michael Page International Recruitment (Philippines) Inc.

Michael Page International is a leading professional recruitment agency specializing in the recruitment of permanent, contract and temporary positions on behalf of the world's top companies.

The quality of our service is demonstrated by the fact that over 90% of our current business comes from referrals and repeat clients.



### NEO

NEO is the owner, developer, and manager of seven of the Philippines' top certified green buildings located in Bonifacio Global City (BGC). NEO has achieved various certifications for all buildings in its portfolio by implementing green building operations and design elements, nurturing tenant connection, and continual management improvement. Placing great value on tenants, their well-being, and the environment, NEO has evolved to be a recognized leading sustainable developer in the Philippines.

## Premium Members



### Roche (Philippines) Inc.

Roche was founded in 1896 in Basel, Switzerland with a clear focus on a unique innovation model. It is now one of the world's largest biotech companies with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism and neurology; and a leader in in-vitro diagnostics, and a pioneer in diabetes management.

Roche has been in the Philippines for more than 57 years and continues to find and develop ways to help prevent, diagnose and treat diseases, and make a sustainable contribution to the Filipino society.

Recently, Roche has changed its engagement model to focus on health system shaping where its employees work with patient groups, health care professionals, government, and other stakeholders to try to help create an environment and system where each person can better access innovative medicines to help save or improve lives. We hope to impact all Filipinos whether they are engineers in the city or farmers in the country-side.



### Unilever Philippines

Known until a few years ago as Philippine Refining Company (PRC), Unilever in the Philippines started as an oil milling business which at its peak produced nearly 100,000 tons of coconut oil annually. Today the company is a leading manufacturer of home and personal care products, foods, and ice cream. With an annual sales of over Php 22 billion, Unilever in the Philippines employs over 2,000 people nationally.

The company has been a leader in introducing new technologies into the country since the early days of its existence - margarine production in the 1930's, non-soap detergents, shampoos and toothpaste in the 1960's and 1970's and state of the art sulphonation technology and cogeneration power plant in the 1980's. The nineties has seen the company focusing on several improvements in the Environment front one of which was the introduction of the first 100% biodegradable detergent bar in the Philippines. Unilever works closely with the community and other NGO's to protect and improve the environment. In 2000, the company received recognition for its environment management systems with an ISO 14001 accreditation.

Unilever is proud of its 77 years of heritage in the Philippines and is dedicated to growing its operations in the country in the future.

## Regular Members



### Fresenius Kabi Philippines

Fresenius Kabi is a global healthcare company that specializes in lifesaving medicines and technologies for infusion, transfusion and clinical nutrition. Our products and services are used for the therapy and care of critically and chronically ill patients.



### Kerry Logistics (Phils.), Inc.

Kerry Logistics, founded in 2009, has rapidly emerged as a dynamic and comprehensive logistics solution provider with a global footprint. Specializing in Freight Forwarding, Warehouse Management, and Customs Clearance Brokerage, the company has garnered a reputation for its commitment to excellence and innovation in the logistics industry.



Embassy  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Manila

### Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Manila

The Embassy of Poland in Manila is the diplomatic mission of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of the Philippines. The embassy was opened on January 4, 2018, although a previous embassy was also established in the early 1990s. The current chargé d'affaires is Jarosław Szczepankiewicz, who had previously served as the Polish ambassador to Ethiopia between 2008 and 2012.



### MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company Philippines Inc

MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company Philippines Inc serves as the local representative for MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company SA, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. MSC is actively involved in international shipping, facilitating the transportation of client goods across the globe through its expansive shipping network.



### Freya Renewables Inc.



HONORARY CONSULATE OF PORTUGAL IN MANILA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### Honorary Consulate of Portugal in Manila

The Honorary Consulate serves as a representative of the Embassy of Portugal in the Philippines. It monitors and reports on political, economic and social developments in the Philippines, focusing on the promotion of trade and cultural exchanges between Portugal and Philippines and the promotion of Portugal business, tourism, and culture.

# Associate Members



## A&L Marketing Solutions Hub, Inc.

A&L is a Marketing Services & Rentals company owned by spouses Lijun & Arlen Mendoza. Organized in March of 2011. By 2017, it became a Corporation and named A&L Marketing Solutions Hub, Inc.

For years now, A&L Marketing Solutions Hub have handled Activation Projects in Mindanao mainly engaged with the different Dealers and Retailers for Client.



## Crimson Resort & Spa Mactan

Conveniently located twenty minutes away from the international airport, the resort boasts a land area of 6 hectares, expansive tropical scenery, and 40 villas, with individual plunge pools and furniture designed by some of Cebu's renowned designers. Each of their 250 guest rooms features a unique combination of modern amenities, neo-Asian style, and native touches – creating a cozy and rich cultural ambiance. It is no wonder why it was crowned the Best Luxury Resort in the Philippines by the 2020 World Luxury Hotel Awards with its island package deals, scuba diving adventures, breathtaking sea views, and so much more.



## Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants - CDO/Misamis Oriental Chapter

PICPA is an organization of certified public accountants committed toward the professional excellence of its members, nation building and with a global perspective.



## BauerTek Corporation

In 2009, the Filipino Scientist, Inventor, and Certified Naturopath, Mr. Richard Nixon Gomez established a pharmaceutical trading company The GlobalLeader Inc. (TGLI), located at Ortigas Center. This company markets food supplements and related pharmaceutical products.

BauerTek Corporation was registered under the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2017. Afterward, the production building was established and inaugurated on 16 December 2019 at its main facility located at 9001 Kabilang Bakood, Sta. Rita, Guiguinto, Bulacan. It started operation in 2020.

BauerTek Corp. is a pharmaceutical facility licensed to manufacture drugs, food supplements, cosmetics, disinfectants, and other related products by the FDA of DOH. It is also GMP certified for Food and Drug Manufacturing, and Halal certified.



## Capili Trading

Recognizing the potential of waste hair, Capilli aims to contribute to the circular economy by seeking opportunities for material innovation. Hopefully creating a ripple effect of positive change to the community through employment generation and the environment through sustainable strategies – one hair strand at a time.



## First Community Cooperative

Founded in 1954, FICCO envisions to be a dynamic and digitally innovative cooperative of empowered and satisfied members by 2026. The cooperative is also committed to uplift the socio-economic condition of its members by providing excellent financial and non-financial services.



## Harbest Agribusiness Corporation

Harbest Agribusiness Corporation was established in 1997, then as a distributor of high quality hybrid seeds. From there, the various difficulties and challenges faced by the Filipino farmer were revealed to us, pushing our development of various products as solutions for each one. Today, our catalog of solutions includes quality seeds for better productivity, agri-plastics for soil and seedling health, sustainable crop nutrition and protection inputs, climate-resilient greenhouse and irrigation systems, labor efficient machines like tractors and drones, and many more. With 8 branches and over 100 dealers and partners throughout the Philippines, we bring these solutions to Filipino farmers nationwide.



## Shinagawa Healthcare Solutions Corporation

FROM LASIK TO DIAGNOSTIC AND PREVENTIVE CARE

In 2023, Shinagawa embraces a new chapter, expanding its expertise into diagnostic and preventive care. Our range of services now includes Japanese-style medical check-ups, advanced diagnostic imaging, and early disease detection.

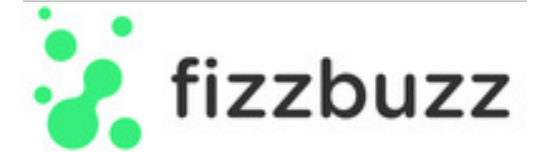
Shinagawa's objective is to provide top-quality diagnostic and preventive services at reasonable prices. We prioritize complete and accessible medical care, combining Japanese medical standards with Filipino hospitality.

We aim to address the lack of facilities dedicated to preventive medicine in the Philippines. Shinagawa Diagnostic & Preventive Care serves as the first one-stop medical hub, offering comprehensive Japanese-standard health services. Our globally competitive medical specialists deliver convenient, efficient, and affordable preventive diagnostics.



## LifeQuest Training and Consultancy

Founded on April 1, 2014 by spouses Jose Roberto L. Del Rosario, Jr. and Carolina M. Del Rosario.



## Fizzbuzz, Inc.

Fizzbuzz, Inc. is a comprehensive one-stop shop digital company based in Cebu City, Philippines. Specializing in game development, web & app development, and animation services, Fizzbuzz brings together a team of experienced professionals, including former employees of renowned companies like NatGeo, Venus Williams's game, and Zing Toys (Zing Global Limited) Stop motion animation app. Our successful projects in 2D, 3D, and stop-motion animation have gained recognition, and we take pride in delivering innovative and engaging experiences for our clients.

Fizzbuzz, Inc. is dedicated to showcasing the skills and talents of our employees while leveraging our expertise and passion for creating digital content.



## Hotel101 Management Corp.

HOTEL101 GROUP, the hospitality arm of DoubleDragon Corporation, offers mid-class hotel accommodation for both leisure and business travelers under the homegrown HOTEL101 and INJAP TOWER HOTEL brands and JINJIANG INN, the franchised international hospitality brand from China.

The brands promise to be the preferred Filipino middle class hotel chain that provides the needs of both business and leisure travelers, promoting the Filipino brand of service and sustainability in the hotels.

HOTEL101 is the first ever Filipino homegrown hotel chain to expand in other countries outside the Philippines. The first three overseas Hotel101 projects will be in Niseko Hokkaido Japan, Madrid Spain, and California USA. Hotel101 aims to have 500,000 rooms in 100 countries by 2040.



## Ampersand Design Think LabCorp

Ampersand provides the space for conversations that matter to companies and their stakeholders, establishing a clear line of sight from purpose to performance.

Engaging with Ampersand results in clear, coherent leadership thinking and confident communications.

# Associate Members



## Infinivan, Inc.

InfiniVAN, Inc. is a Japan-affiliated digital solutions and telecommunications company in the Philippines that offers and delivers: World-class Connection, Guaranteed and Real Fiber Speed, Reliable Access and Services



## FAST Logistics Group

FAST Logistics Group is the leading company in end-to-end logistics and supply chain management in the Philippines. With 50 years of industry leadership and a vast network, it provides a wide array of logistics, selling distribution, and SME solutions.

With access to state-of-the-art technology and well-equipped facilities, we can ensure that our clients can effortlessly navigate the farthest reaches of the country with the respective service they need. This includes inland, air, and sea forwarding, as well as cold storage and value added services.

As we forge ahead, solving your challenges of today and anticipating the needs of tomorrow, our resolute motto 'We Solve For Tomorrow To Get You Ahead!' guides our every endeavor.



## HFP Consulting, Inc.

HFP is a Development Consulting firm that collaborates with both local and foreign businesses, government, and investors in the strategic planning, facilitation and implementation of development initiatives in the Philippines.

With a comprehensive selection of highly efficient services, we enable private and government entities to fully integrate plans and turn their vision into reality. This allows them to ultimately transform the lives of the communities they operate and serve in, and elevate the country as a whole. This is how we stay true to our name, HFP, or Hassle Free Philippines.



## Twin Lakes Hotel, Inc.

Twin Lakes Hotel is one of the 12 properties of Megaworld Hotels and Resorts under Megaworld Corporation. A natural paradise, invigorating air, and a majestic view of Lake Taal await you and part of the 1200 hectare township of Twin Lakes Estate.

Twin Lakes Hotel is inspired by European architecture to give it an air of elegance. It also features 122 rooms with balconies, a heated outdoor infinity pool, a cafe with a viewing deck, and function halls for your events.



## Sy & Partners

Sy & Partners entered into a strategic alliance with Nishimura and Asahi in 2023. Sy & Partners is helmed by Felix Sy, a leading lawyer with over 20 years of experience and expertise in advising and assisting corporates, project developers, and financial institutions (both international and domestic) in the banking, financing, energy / renewables, infrastructure, and insurance sectors. From complex financing and security transactions to developing infrastructure and energy /power /renewable projects, to mergers and acquisitions and bancassurance transactions among banks and insurers, to real estate joint ventures, our extensive experience and expertise as well as excellent working relationships with market players and regulators equip Sy & Partners to provide clear, concise, responsive, timely, and innovative advice to allow its clients to find working solutions to their business concerns so the clients can continue to focus on entering and expanding exponentially in their markets within the Philippines and beyond into the region and the world.



## Jena Fetalino Public Relations Consultancy

Jena Fetalino Public Relations Consultancy is a PR agency specializing in media placements that are comprehensive, compelling, and client-customized.

Our core competence is staging media campaigns that seek to reframe public debates on socio-economic and political issues, especially those which impact greatly on specific business or industry while ensuring that the client's message is cascaded through and public sentiment won over.

We organize press conferences, local and international media tours and coverage with exceptional results by way of published articles and carefully crafted, credible, and compelling stories broadcast on preferred platforms (radio, TV, online media, etc.)

We handle PR requirements of local and international events that include press briefings, tapping key opinion leaders, and maximizing use of various social media platforms and their in-house influencers for total profiling and projection of activities/events/undertakings.



## Alsons Development & Investment Corporation

Alsons Development and Investment Corporation (Alsons Dev) is Davao City's premier property developer and real estate pioneer. As one of the most trusted companies in the region, Alsons Dev has earned its reputation by consistently manifesting its deeply rooted values and beliefs in the many communities and projects it has developed. With over fifty years of track record and experience, Alsons Dev is recognized for creating well-developed, green, livable communities of permanence and lasting value.

Alsons Dev was founded in 1962 by the late Conrado C. Alcantara, one of Davao's industrial pioneers. It is a member of the Alcantara Group, a Mindanao-based diversified conglomerate composed of more than 20 corporations. The Alcantara Group has interests in some of the country's major industries, including aquaculture, agriculture, construction, power generation and wood processing.

# Individual Member



**Christine Fajardo**  
Country Communications and Engagement  
Head of Novartis



## 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.



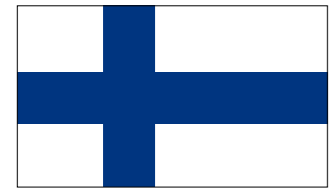
### Australian Software Company is looking to partner with local IT companies

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).



### German recycling company is looking for suppliers of plastics or flakes for export

A German recycling company is in search of local suppliers (collectors, recyclers, traders, etc.) of plastics (PET, HDPE, PP, etc) or flakes for export to Taiwan.



### A Finnish software solutions company is seeking to establish partnerships and have dialogues with Philippine enterprises to exploring supply chain solutions.

A Finnish software solutions company specializing in unified supply chain and retail planning services is seeking to establish partnerships and have dialogues with Philippine enterprises to exploring supply chain solutions.

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.

### JANUARY

- DVO 17 VUCA 2.0 Leadership Training
- CEB 18 How to Develop an Impactful and Sustainable Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy for Business Success
- ILO 18 Time Management and Productivity Training
- ILO 23 Tax Savvy: Strategies and Planning for MSME Financial Health
- CEB 24 Estate Tax in the Philippines: Strategies, Compliance, and Planning
- DVO 25 Quality Quotient: MSME Product Certification & Approval
- CDO 24 Mindanao Economic Landscape: A Forecast
- CDO 29 Advanced Skills Training for Executive Assistants: Business Correspondences
- MNL 31 Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook Launch / Ambassadors' Meeting / New Year's Reception

### FEBRUARY

- CEB 1 Visayas Honorary Consuls' Meeting and 2024 Kick-Off Reception
- MNL 6 Luncheon Meeting
- CEB 14 How to Develop an Impactful and Sustainable Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy for Business Success (Module 3)
- DVO 15 Strategic Human Resource Leadership Training
- CDO 20 Professional/Executive Meeting Management for EAs
- ILO 21 RE Forum and Networking Socials
- MNL 22 ECCP Community Connect
- DVO 22 Truths & Tales: Responsible Journalism Forum
- CDO 22 Management Training for New Managers
- CDO 23 Redefining Sustainable Construction: Future Green Building with Bamboo
- ILO 27 SOS: Success on Sales Program
- CEB 28-29 PRP x HACCP with Bureau Veritas
- MNL 29 Tasting Masterclass

### MARCH

- CEB 1 PRP x HACCP with Bureau Veritas
- ILO 6 GreenBiz: Strategies for Embedding Sustainability in Business Operations
- MNL 6 Luncheon Meeting
- CEB 7-8 #UniFair: Career Opportunities in EU
- DVO 8 Agripreneurship & Business Continuity Accelerator
- ILO 13 GHG Inventory for Corporate Businesses
- MNL 14 Water Challenge Forum
- CDO 15 Personality Development for Executive Assistants
- ILO 18 Supervisory Leadership
- CEB 18 ECCP X AHG Lab FL Regional Roadshow
- MNL 19 ECCP Competency Hub & Advocacy Forum Workshop
- CEB 20-22 Complete Warehouse Management Course
- MNL 21 Women's Month by Women in Business Committee
- CDO 21 Building a Strong Future: Succession Planning Strategies for Organizational Continuity
- DVO 22 Sunset Jazz Networking Night
- DVO 26 NOW: New Opportunities Waiting (Investment Promotion)
- CEB 27-28 Design Thinking Training
- CDO 28 2nd Mindanao Business Dialogue/Forum (Logistics, Energy, Agriculture)

### APRIL

- ILO 11 Start-up Fyrchat
- DVO 11 Customs Administration Training
- MNL 13 Membership Networking Event
- ILO 16 E-Commerce Management
- CDO 17 Events Management Facilitation Workshop
- MNL 18 Luncheon Meeting
- DVO 24 Beyond Profit: CSR Summit of Philippine Corporations
- MNL 25 Sustainable Agriculture Forum
- ILO 25 Visayas Investment Forum
- CEB 27 ECCP Football Cup
- CEB 30 Labor Day Celebration: Exploring Employee Benefits
- CDO 30 Leveraging Opportunities in ECCP: Networking and Nibbles

### MAY

- MNL 3-9 Europe Week / Golf Cup with The Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines / European-Philippine Business Dialogue
- ILO 8 Sustainable Tourism
- ILO 16 Specialty Coffee Workshop
- DVO 16 Mental Well-being in the Workplace
- CEB 16 Investment Brief Writeshop
- CEB 21 Revolutionizing Business Growth: Cutting-Edge Tactics to Master Lead Generation
- MNL 23 Luncheon Meeting
- ILO 23 Cacao Production Training
- CEB 23-24 In-house training with Gothong Southern Freight Services on Digital Marketing
- CDO 23-24 Bamboo Production Workshop
- ILO 27 Iligan City Investment Forum
- DVO 28 Canvas to Capital: Diving Into Creative Entrepreneurship
- MNL 30 Tasting Masterclass

### JUNE

- ILO 6 Aquaculture Innovations: Strengthening Food Security and Sustainability
- CEB 8 Connect with Converge Visayas Road Show
- CDO 10 Education Advocacy Forum
- DVO 13 Product Costing & Inventory: Business Optimization Training
- MNL 15 2024 Annual General Membership Meeting
- MNL 18 ECCP Competency Hub & Advocacy Forum Workshop
- ILO 18 Sunset Sips: A Networking Socials
- CEB 18 ECCP Community Connect
- DVO 19 Talks on Inclusive Workplace Strategies
- MNL 20 Luncheon Meeting
- CDO 21 Basic Accounting and Taxation Workshop
- ILO 25 Franchising Business 101
- CDO 26 Professional Imaging Workshop
- DVO 26 JFC Mindanao: Peace & Development Roundtable Discussion
- MNL 27 Waste Management Forum / Circular Economy
- CEB 27-28 Navigating the Green and Blue Future: Exploring Sustainable Career Opportunities in the Eco-Economy

# EVENTS CALENDAR 2024

## JULY

- 1 Harvesting Prosperity: Cultivating Innovation in Food Production for National Wealth and Sustainable Futures
- 9 Smart Spaces and Property Outlook 2024
- 11 Luncheon Meeting
- 16 Visayas Investment Forum
- 16 Power Play: Balancing Competition Laws and Public Interest in the Energy Market
- 17 Madayaw Mindanao: AgriTourism Potential and Opportunities
- 18 Nutrition Forum
- 24 Ozamis City Investment Forum
- 25 Tasting Masterclass
- 26 Strategic Outsourcing for HRs
- 29 Professional Imaging Workshop
- 31 NOW: New Opportunities Waiting (Investment Promotion)

## SEPTEMBER

- 6 Circular Economy Forum
- 11 Disaster Preparedness & Business Continuity Training
- 11 ECCP Competency Hub: Learning Through Play Event
- 12 Luncheon Meeting
- 16-18 Bamboo Forum
- 17 Investment Brief Writeshop
- 17 Brand Builders: UX/UI Masterclass
- 19 Transforming Industries: Roadmap to Net Zero - Decarbonizing Business Operations and Innovating Sustainable Financing
- 23 Organizational Development Effectiveness
- 26-27 Bamboo Production Workshop
- 26 Optimizing Financial Potential: Empowering Growth via Human Capital Investment
- 27 ECCP Community Connect
- 27 Education Advocacy Dialogue: Gateway to Internationalization

## NOVEMBER

- 7 2024 Europa Awards
- 11 Virtuality Unveiled: Exploring the World of Virtual Reality and Beyond
- 12 Advanced Skills Training for Successful EAs
- 12 Luncheon Meeting
- 14 Membership Networking Event
- 15 Basic Accounting and Taxation Workshop
- 19 Medical HEIs Convention
- 20 Optimizing Sustainable Value Chains: Harnessing Circularity for Environmental and Economic Impact
- 21 Economic Outlook
- 28 Tasting Masterclass / Community Connect
- 28 Mindanao Logistics Conference
- 28 Growth & Cityscapes: Metro Davao Realty Forum

## AUGUST

- 6 Organizational Leadership Training for NextGen Executives
- 6 Export Training in Roxas City
- 9 Visayas Foreign Chambers Mixer
- 14 Panublion: Showcasing the Slow Fashion Industry of Iloilo
- 15 Luncheon Meeting
- 16 Kadayawan Fest Sunset Jazz & Art Night
- 16 Doing Business in Metro CDO: An Investment Forum
- 20 Embassy-Partnered Event
- 20 ECCP Competency Hub & Advocacy Forum Workshop on Human Capital
- 22 ECCP Community Connect
- 23 Communication Skills Program
- 26 Advanced Skills Training for Executive Assistants
- 28 How To Import Goods Into The Philippines
- 29 Energy Smart Forum
- 30 LPC - Partnered PLS

## OCTOBER

- 1 Strategic Alliances Unveiled: Mastering the Art of First Impressions for Successful Deal-Making in Business Networking 101
- 9 - 10 Aviation Summit
- 10 Education Advocacy Forum
- 11 CDO Business Mixer
- 11 Women's Flair in STEM
- 15 Sustainable Agriculture Forum
- 15 Sunset Sips: A Networking Socials
- 22 ECCP Competency Hub & Advocacy Forum Workshop
- 23 Professional Imaging Workshop
- 23 Basic Excel Workshop
- 23 Eco-Innovation & Green Technology: Dialogue on Energy & Connectivity
- 24 Luncheon Meeting
- 25 Succession Planning Workshop
- 25 ECCP Community Connect

## DECEMBER

- 3 ECCP Community Connect
- 5 Luncheon Meeting
- 4 Northern Mindanao 2022-2024 Economic Status
- 5 Events Management Training
- 2 Small Business Bookkeeping Workshop
- 9 Business and Marketing in Aquaculture
- 4 Basic Language Learning
- 6 ECCP Festive Socials

