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

Issue on Renewable Energy & Net Zero

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *European Country in Focus: Sweden*
- *Interview with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of the Philippines
H.E. Annika Thunborg*
- *Interview with the Department of Energy Secretary Hon. Raphael P.M. Lotilla*
- *Prime Infra: Building Critical Infrastructure For A Resilient, Sustainable Future*

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Editorial

Dear reader,

A busy first half of 2023 is already behind us, and we are looking forward to an equally exciting H2 in the chamber, full of meaningful events and activities. In this issue, we highlight one of the many key sectors of the Chamber and one that is more than ever relevant to the country as a whole – energy.

With the current challenging global energy situation, the energy industry continues to research and develop innovative and sustainable solutions and alternatives to fossil fuels. The equally ambitious and necessary targets on mitigating climate change as well as achieving affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all requires involvement and collaboration across all stakeholders. With that, we are proud to release this EuroPH Connect issue on Renewable Energy and Net Zero to center on the issues of renewable energy and the ways forward to achieving carbon net zero.

In this issue, we feature the Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden and H.E. Ambassador Annika Thunborg in an in person interview. In what was a stimulating discussion on the business relations between Sweden and the Philippines, Ambassador Thunborg shares her views on sound renewable energy practices and short as well as long-term initiatives to help achieving carbon net zero.

We also have the Department of Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla as he shares the initiatives and programs of his department towards renewable energy and addressing the energy crisis in the country.

We are likewise pleased to put the spotlight on our cover story for this issue, Prime Infra, as they share their story on building critical infrastructure for a resilient and sustainable future. Read more of this story on page 18.

Take a look at the stories from our ECCP members on pages 23 to 35. Our Corporate Partner ING shares how they won the best Green Project deal award in the Philippines while KPMG discusses how going zero is no longer an option. Among initiatives from our Premium Members, Nestlé Philippines is focusing on empowering coffee farmers to go beyond sustainability and ICTSI expands their large vessel capability of their Manila flagship. Read more stories from Alaska, Cebu Land Masters, HSBC, and our other content partners in this edition of the EuroPH Connect.

In terms of Chamber activities, we organized two milestone events last June 1. First, was our Annual General Membership Meeting at Ascott, BGC wherein we elected our new Board of Directors. We warmly welcome our new Board of Directors led by ECCP President Mr. Paulo Duarte and are excited to see the continuation of a strong business support for European and Filipino companies alike. Second, as one of the oldest foreign chambers here in the Philippines, we celebrated our 45th Anniversary with the theme, “A Champion for the European-Philippine Business Community” at the Manila House Private Club. We capped the night with an anniversary reception with our members, guests, partners, and stakeholders. It was a night filled with networking, fun, and camaraderie. It was truly a celebration of the long-standing ties of our European-Philippine Business Community. My sincerest gratitude to all those who attended and were part of these momentous



Florian Gottein
ECCP Executive Director

occasions. The ECCP will continue to champion for the advocacies of our members, provide our stakeholders with an avenue for networking opportunities, and be the premier gateway for doing business in the Philippines with our partners in Europe.

On the advocacy side, the Chamber also held its flagship event, the European-Philippine Business Dialogue (EPBD) in partnership with the EU-Asean Business Council (EU-ABC) last May 25. Key government figures discussed the business environment and investment opportunities. This was followed by a Gala Dinner attended by His Excellency, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. For the duration of their visit, the EU-ABC delegation, together with its 70 participants and ECCP, had meetings with various government officials and offices.

To read more of these highlights, our Advocacy Corner found on page 65 details the many meetings held with key government representatives and the discussions that took place regarding developments of relevant policies and initiatives.

Join us in welcoming our newest members for this month of July by reading up on them on page 82. We hope to see them in future activities as well as maximize their membership with us in the coming new year.

Meanwhile, updates on Chamber activities over the past two months spanning our branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Clark, and Iloilo are all available on page 46. Keep yourself updated with the latest business opportunities on page 85.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of the EuroPH Connect, and as always, thank you for your continuous trust and support in partnering with your chamber of choice.

European Country in Focus

Sweden



447,425
square kilometers

POPULATION
10.6 M
approximately

CAPITAL
Stockholm

SWEDEN TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Since 1995 when Sweden entered the European Union, the country has been integrated into the EU's internal market under the Single Market Program (SMP) where there is a free movement of labor, goods, services, and capital within the EU. It was a critical step for Sweden in order to expand into the European market since non-members states of the EU are excluded from economic benefits. Sweden was industrialized in the second industrial revolution in the late 19th century, developed its economy and welfare state after World War II and was highly developed and integrated into the world market based on free trade also before joining the EU in 1995. Sweden's entry into the EU in 1995 resulted in lowering tariff barriers between Sweden and other EU member nations, which increased competition from abroad. It enabled Swedish companies to boost their efficiency and strengthened their competitiveness in the EU market. Due to the 2003 Swedish Referendum, Sweden is not willing to give up its economic sovereignty which somehow resulted in a "twin-faced approach" where Sweden only has limited supranational cooperation with the EU. Still, Sweden's economic integration with the EU increased its economic prosperity. Sweden is seen to have one of the most competitive economies and an export-oriented nation where its key components to trade are openness and a liberal approach to doing business.

The Swedish economy is very advanced and export-oriented with about one-third of Sweden's GDP coming from exports, which have shifted from exporting raw materials and semi-manufactured goods at the beginning of the 20th century to exporting finished goods, which are primarily engineering products (motorized vehicles, telecommunications equipment, hydroelectric power plant equipment, advanced machinery and industrial solutions), as well as high technology, chemical, and biotechnology.

Geographical Location: Sweden is located in Northern Europe and is the largest country on the Scandinavian Peninsula. It is bounded by Denmark (by bridge), Finland and Norway, the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Bothnia, the Kattegat, the Skagerrak, and the Oresund Straits.

Climate: The Swedish climate has all 4 major seasons although it varies throughout the country. Spring in Sweden is rather chilly with a few showers, its summers are warm with bright sunshine all day, its autumns are cold compared to other European countries, with frequent showers, and its winters can be harsh with heavy snowfall.

Official Language: Swedish

Government Type: Sweden is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy. The constitution is based on the following four fundamental laws: the Instrument of Government, the Act of Succession, the Freedom of the Press Act, and the Riksdag or Parliament Act. The head of the government is the prime minister and the head of state is the monarch with ceremonial powers. The government exercises executive power while the legislative powers are vested in the single-chamber parliament.

Standard of Living: Sweden's average household net-adjusted disposable income per capita is USD 33,730 a year. Sweden attains a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.947, performing better than average, and is considered as having one of the most highly developed economies by UN definition.

Organizations:

- United Nations (since 1946)
- European Union (since 1995)
- Nordic Council (since 1952)
- World Health Organization (since 1948)
- International Labour Organization (since 1919)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (since 1950)
- World Trade Organization (since 1995)
- International Monetary Fund (since 1951)
- International Criminal Court (since 1998)
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (since 1960)
- International Organization for Migration (since 1990)

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden, accounts for one-third of the Swedish economy. It is also deemed as the leading Nordic financial center that has strengths in the area of innovation, technology and with the headquarters of four major Nordic banks and the largest stock exchange. As one of Europe's biggest cities which includes banking, corporate finance, capital markets, and financial data analytics, this sector in Sweden is rapidly augmenting and growing its global investments across the globe. Sweden alone has contributed to 50% out of the total 53% Nordic exit value of Europe's overall billion-dollar exits. Stockholm plays a critical role in being the Nordic region's leading financial center and holds a fundamental role in the ecosystem that transforms conditions for growth.

TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



JUKKASJÄRVI ICE HOTEL
IN SWEDISH LAPLAND

Jukkasjarvi is the first ice hotel in the world created in 1989. It is located 200 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle in Sweden. Ice Hotel is open from December to April where tourists can experience a hotel made up of ice and even sleep in a bed made up of pure ice. Every year Jukkasjärvi has been reborn in a new guise since 1989 and serves as an exhibition of art made by artists all around the world.



SKÄRGÅRDEN STOCKHOLM
ARCHIPELAGO

Stockholm Archipelago is made up of 30,000 islands that stretch 80 kilometers east into the Baltic Sea. One of the best ways to tour the largest archipelago in Sweden is by riding a ferry in order to explore the inhabited islands of Sweden. Some activities also include kayaking, sailing, swimming, cycling, and hiking while touring various small towns around the archipelago.



GOTHENBURG

Gothenburg is one of the main and second-largest cities of Sweden situated on the west coast. It is the largest port in the country and has been strategically built to be the center of trading industries and a ship-building hub. A maritime town that is full of cultural scenes, vibrant houses, world-class restaurants, and vast landscapes.

SWEDEN



STOCKHOLM

INTERESTING FACTS

- One of the larger EU nations with a low population density is Sweden. The nation has huge forests, more than 90,000 lakes, and more than 3,000 kilometers of coastline.
- Approximately 57% of Sweden is covered in forests. That is specifically 23 million hectares of land, which covers more than half of the country. Sweden established the Swedish Forestry Act which governs how to manage these forests in terms of both production and environment.
- The Sarek National Park in Sweden, established in 1909, is the oldest national park in Europe. The park was constructed in an effort to preserve Europe's natural environment. With this, the first Nature Conservancy Act was established in 1909 leading to a succession of modern environment protection policies to mainly protect and set aside its nature reserves.
- Sami people are one of the official national minorities of Sweden. They are the indigenous group of the northern part of the Scandinavian Peninsula that are descendants of nomadic people who now live in Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Russia. Sami people are known as intricate designers for fashion and crafts.

Interview with the Ambassador of Sweden to the Philippines

H.E. Annika Thunborg



In an exclusive interview, H.E. Ambassador Annika Thunborg discussed the growing progress in bilateral relations between Sweden and the Philippines, and emerging opportunities for synergies and collaboration. The interview, conducted by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), also provided valuable perspectives on the critical role of renewable energy in sustainable development and the ambitious goal of reaching net-zero emissions.

Strengthening Relations Between Sweden and the Philippines

Ambassador Thunborg commended the strides made in the bilateral relations between the two countries since President Marcos assumed office, citing his administration's ambitious endeavors to elevate the Philippines' global standing.

"We have been deeply impressed by President Marcos' commitment to international engagement, evident through extensive overseas trips and official visits, which have bolstered the renewed interest in political ties," said the Ambassador.

Ambassador Thunborg further lauded the continuity of economic reform programs initiated under previous administrations, particularly President Aquino and President Duterte. The Build, Build, Build (BBB) program and the current administration's Build Better More (BBM) program have been instrumental in fostering a favorable business environment and have drawn commendation from Sweden. The reforms have contributed to an increased influx of foreign direct investment and have positioned the Philippines as an attractive market for Swedish multinational companies.

"We are very supportive of the efforts by the current administration to move the Philippines into higher middle-income status and bolster efforts to eradicate poverty – which are really crucial for socioeconomic development and for opening new markets for trade," the Ambassador said.

Notably exemplifying such presence was the establishment of large multinational companies like H&M and IKEA. Ambassador Thunborg revealed how these retail giants' successful entry into the Philippine market signaled a growing middle class and a promising consumer market. As a result, smaller and medium-sized Swedish companies have also begun venturing into the Philippines, enriching the local business landscape.

Moreover, the discussion also delved into the significance of the Philippines' services sector, particularly its Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry. The Ambassador highlighted the thriving collaboration between Swedish BPO companies and the Philippines and mentioned that the largest Swedish employer in the Philippines is TransCom with over 14,000 employees in Manila, Iloilo, Bacolod and Davao.

The conversation also emphasized the potential for future collaboration in infrastructure development, digitalization, and sustainable transportation. Ambassador Thunborg expressed Sweden's support for the Philippines' efforts to

improve roadways, railways, and other sustainable public transportation systems.

"What we hope to see is a strong focus on enhancing the Philippines infrastructure. Improved connectivity through well-developed roads, railways, and land transportation is a key aspect of this vision. Additionally, we recognize the importance of modern and sustainable public transportation, including ferries that efficiently cater to both passengers and cargo," said the Ambassador.

"By investing in these crucial areas, the country can address the challenge of high transportation costs. A well-integrated and efficient transportation system would lead to cost reductions, benefiting both businesses and consumers."



L-R: H.E. Annika Thunborg, Embassy of Sweden in Manila Senior Trade Promotions Officer Ms. Giselle Yap, ECCP Marketing Officer Samantha Ferrer, and ECCP Communications Officer Shyle Juaneza

Highlighting the Philippines' Potential for Sustainable Development and Business Growth

During the interview, Ambassador Thunborg emphasized that the Philippines' greatest strengths lie in its young and well-educated labor force, proficiency in the English language, and the abundance of natural resources that are still underutilized. She stressed the importance of sustainable development, stating that combining the country's resources with high-tech solutions, innovation, and knowledge transfer could lead to significant growth and development.

"We [Sweden] have the knowledge, we have high tech solutions, we have innovation. And to combine that with the young and capable population and the abundant natural resources here is of course a perfect match for development," she said.

However, while acknowledging the country's focus on services and its competitiveness in the region, she also encouraged exploring opportunities to develop an industry based on its current resources. The need for a robust supply chain and lower transportation costs were emphasized, and the Ambassador expressed Sweden's interest in sustainable mining, a sector where the country has excelled.

The Ambassador also praised the ongoing market reforms in the Philippines but underscored the necessity of solid rule of law and environmental regulations to protect the environment but also to create an even playing field for businesses, both foreign and domestic. She highlighted that Sweden's own journey from a less developed country to a developed nation gives them a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities for the Philippines.

"One of the keys to ensuring growth lies in synergies between utilizing the abundant natural resources and establishing industries around them, all within the framework of a free and deregulated market and solid rule of law to protect for example the environment and the labor force. We express our contentment with the ongoing reforms in the Philippines, but we recognize the need for further measures. It is well understood that countries thriving in free, open, and deregulated markets tend to excel. Therefore, by continuing to foster an environment that encourages entrepreneurship, investment, and fair competition, the Philippines can unlock its true potential for economic growth and prosperity."



Envisioning The Future of Business and Trade Between Sweden and the Philippines

Looking ahead into the future, the Ambassador touched on the important aspect of public-private partnerships and collaboration. She cited Sweden's expertise in working collaboratively, which has been a hallmark of their success. She further cited examples of Swedish companies, including Scania, Electrolux, and Tetra Pak, that have embraced best practices and innovative approaches.

"And I would say that part of the success of Sweden is collaboration. Large companies collaborate with small and medium-size companies including in the energy sector. And large companies collaborate with large companies. A good example is ABB, a Swedish-Swiss technology leader in electrification and automation, collaborating with Ericsson, one of the global leaders in telecommunication and digitalization. Together they can do even better."

Moreover, the Ambassador noted that such synergies can go further and across boundaries. In the spirit of collaboration, the Ambassador also lauded the Philippines' strides in renewable energy and commended the Nordic countries, particularly Denmark's investments in wind

energy, where Swedish companies such as SKF play a crucial role by providing advanced technology and solutions for their windmills.

"Public-private partnerships encompass academia and civil society, both of which contribute a wealth of great ideas, particularly when we go into discussions of addressing climate issues and facilitating green transitions," said the Ambassador.

"The involvement of civil society is crucial as it ensures inclusivity and fosters a sense of collective responsibility. The idea of inclusion means that everyone can actively participate, making it a fundamental aspect of our approach. This is also why we firmly believe in and encourage healthy competition, as we see this as a main driver for progress and positive outcomes."

Green Transition and Sustainability: Sweden's Plans and Initiatives

On to the topic of Renewable Energy and Net Zero, Sweden has achieved remarkable results in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2021, around 60 per cent of Sweden's energy production came from renewable sources, a leader among EU countries. For the power sector, the target is 100 per cent renewable electricity production by 2040. This is a result of the country's commitment to innovation, public-private partnerships, and forward-looking policies.

Ambassador Thunborg expressed that she is pleased with the recent reforms such as the passing of 100% foreign ownership in renewables in the Philippines as this will "attract even more Swedish investments in this area."

"Sweden is big on sustainable energy solutions, and is keen on sharing its expertise with the Philippines. We excel in hydropower, offshore wind, geothermal, solar, biofuel, and waste to energy, and we aim to leverage our experience to support the Philippines' green transition."

Start Best Practices at the Local Level

To promote green initiatives and incentivize businesses to adopt sustainable practices, the Ambassador stressed that transforming the mindsets and behaviors of citizens towards such actions should also start at a local level.

The Ambassador highlighted Sweden's experience with public education campaigns as a successful example, with the 'Keep Sweden Clean' campaign being an integral part of the country's culture. The Ambassador emphasized the importance of integrating waste management education in the curriculum from an early age to instill a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

"It became ingrained in Swedish people to never litter, and it even became second nature for us to pick up trash and place them in proper garbage cans. Today recycling and upcycling is part of this culture. We don't see this in the Philippines yet, so there is an opportunity to try and integrate this."

Recognizing the potential of the waste management industry, the Ambassador underscored the importance of government support, backed by financial solutions from organizations like the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank. This collective effort is essential to make sustainable practices more economically viable and to encourage widespread adoption.

One of the Swedish Embassy's recent collaboration on waste management was done in partnership with the Swedish Alumni Network and Swedish companies. Collaborative activities such as "plogging," which combines jogging with litter picking, were organized in the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park. "We were able to pick up a thousand tons of garbage with a lot of volunteers."

The Embassy plans to extend such initiatives to other regions in the Philippines, including Laguna and Iloilo, in partnership with local communities and Swedish companies like Volvo Buses and Atlas Copco.

Ambassador Thunborg further shared an example of Iloilo's governance and leadership as a positive model for sustainable development. Iloilo's successful initiatives in cleaning up the river, creating a boardwalk adorned with local art, and preserving heritage buildings serve as an inspiring example of how good governance and private sector investment can drive sustainable growth.

"I was personally very impressed by what I saw and I could really see what we could do with good governance and leadership by the public sector," said the Ambassador. "Though there is a significant need for investment, the commitment of the mayor of Iloilo City as well as the governor's vision and cooperation with local mayors have been commendable in driving progress. I believe they have the potential to succeed in their sustainability endeavors. We look forward to extending our collaboration with them in the area of sustainable transportation as well as other areas."



Meeting Energy Sustainability Goals while Maintaining Its Competitive Nature

According to Ambassador Thunborg, the key to Sweden's remarkable success lies in the realization that sustainability and economic growth are not contradictory but, in fact, complementary.

"This is how we reduce emissions by 40% and achieve economic growth. By utilizing technology, energy efficiency, and utilizing resources better, it resulted in increased growth and decreased emissions," she said.

Indeed, Sweden has demonstrated the feasibility of this approach. Between 1990 and 2017, the Swedish GDP increased by an impressive 71%, while emissions declined by 26%. This exemplary case underscores the potential to balance environmental concerns with sustainable economic development.

As part of Sweden's unwavering commitment to a sustainable future, the nation has set a groundbreaking goal of achieving zero net emissions by 2045. The road to this ambitious target includes individual climate goals for various industries, such as reducing transportation emissions by 70% by 2030.

"Imagine being the first OECD country to achieve such a goal. We firmly believe it's entirely possible, and moreover, it won't impede economic growth; quite the contrary, it will foster growth," she said.

"Embracing sustainability will, in fact, boost economic prosperity due to the multitude of associated advantages. By reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, we'll witness improved public health with cleaner air and reduced illness, alleviating burdens on the healthcare system. The benefits are manifold, often overshadowed by short-term perspectives."

When asked about the transition from fossil fuels to renewables, the Ambassador acknowledged the unique challenges faced by the Philippines, including energy shortages. However, she highlighted the positive impact of recent reforms, such as 100% foreign ownership in renewables, as crucial steps towards a more sustainable future in an area in which the Philippines with its abundant natural resources has a comparative advantage. "It takes time, patience and collaboration for a successful transition," she said, underlining the need for a careful balance between energy demands and environmental considerations.

On the topic of collaboration, the Ambassador reiterated that realistic action plans have been devised to set achievable goals and targets for industries in Sweden to meet their climate goal.

"A prime example of a successful public-private initiative led by the government is the close collaboration among various industries, including shipping, transportation, health, and mining, to achieve a fossil-free and green transition," she said. "Waste management including recycling and waste-to-energy solutions are exemplary cases in point."

On Waste-To-Energy Solutions

Addressing the issue of waste management, Ambassador Thunborg notes that waste is a universal challenge for all countries, and the Philippines is no exception. She emphasized the need for strong government involvement, as waste management may not be a profitable business

and requires significant investments. The challenge lies in finding a balance, particularly with Local Government Units (LGUs) facing financial limitations.

“Sweden has made significant strides in adopting circular economy practices, and waste-to-energy solutions play a crucial role in this endeavor,” she said. “In Sweden, we banned landfills twenty years ago because it was a problem for nature and preservation of biodiversity. Instead, we reuse the waste fuel.”

In fact, a considerable portion of residential heating in Sweden is generated through waste-to-energy solutions, said the Ambassador. This not only ensures sustainable energy usage but also fosters a circular economy. It is important to note that while incineration is banned in the Philippines, waste-to-energy plants today employ advanced filter technology, resulting in emission-free operations.

“As an inhabitant of a sustainable borough in Stockholm, Sweden, I can personally attest to the success of waste-to-energy plants. The air in the residential area remains clean due to the utilization of cutting-edge filter technology, showcasing the potential of high-tech solutions in waste management,” she said.

The Ambassador also touched on sustainable construction, expressing the wish that construction projects in the Philippines would include stronger sustainability features. She mentioned that sustainable construction, including the incorporation of solar panels and waste management systems in buildings, could be promoted through a combination of government regulations and incentives.

For comparison, the Ambassador underscored Sweden’s commitment to providing tax breaks and investing in sustainable practices. She emphasized that while these practices may require initial investments, they offer long-term benefits in terms of lower energy costs, increased building longevity, and improved health and well-being for occupants.

“We don’t always have to reinvent the wheel,” Ambassador Thunborg stated. “We have the solutions, we know how to do it. Yes, it might be a bit more expensive initially, but in the long run, it’s actually much more economical, and everyone benefits.”

“Moreover, the collaboration between the public and private sectors, coupled with innovative technology and pragmatic action plans, serves as an excellent model for fostering sustainable practices. This collaboration allows us to address environmental challenges effectively and chart a path towards a greener and cleaner future.”



Parting Message



Both Sweden and the Philippines have a shared goal of achieving sustainability and transitioning to a greener future. Through collaborative efforts and the exchange of experiences and practices, they aim to develop solutions that positively impact the environment, economy, and society.

In her closing message, the Ambassador stated that she looks forward to continued cooperation with the Philippine government, private sector, academe and civil society in achieving sustainable goals.

“I would like to extend my gratitude to the readers of EuroPH Connect’s Renewable Energy and Net Zero issue. Our journey towards a sustainable future relies on collaborative efforts, shared experiences, and mutual practices. The Philippines holds immense potential, and our collective strengths and ideas can complement one another,” she stated.

“Let us forge ahead together, knowing that we may be diverse in culture and origin, but ultimately, we are one world and one people. By uniting our forces, we can make a significant impact in all areas of sustainability and environmental stewardship”.

“I firmly believe that with determination and cooperation, we can overcome challenges and pave the way for a brighter, greener future. So, let us work hand in hand, aspiring for a world where renewable energy and net-zero goals are not just visions but a reality for all.”



Hon. Raphael P.M. Lotilla



What are the projections for the Philippine energy sector in the next five to ten years, especially with the increasing call for sustainability and inclusive development?

The Philippines has a forecasted peak demand of 25,085 megawatt (MW) by 2028. To meet this projected demand, the country expects to build about 8,460 MW of additional capacities for the grid by 2028. These committed capacity additions will come from the following: 1) 43.3 percent from renewable energy (RE); 2) 28.5 percent from natural gas; 3) 27.2 percent from coal; 4) 0.9 percent oil-based plants; 4); and 5) 2,084 MW from the battery energy storage systems (BESS) technology.

To date, the country's total installed capacity stands at 28,932 MW. Of this, coal accounts for 42.9 percent, renewable energy at 28.6 percent, oil-based at 15.6 percent and natural gas at 12.8 percent, while the BESS technology accounts for 145 MW.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is working double time to achieve its target of RE share in the power generation mix of 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040, in line with the international commitment of transition towards the development of indigenous and clean sources of energy.

Can you share the Department's goals and visions for energy efficiency and the move to develop renewable energy?

The DOE is putting more efforts to effectively implement energy efficiency and conservation (EEC) measures to bring down the overall energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in various sectors and reduce energy intensity in the production of goods and services.

An energy efficiency investment increase of 1% serves to meet 8% of the forecasted increase in primary energy consumption. EE is the least cost method to address the growing energy demand. ASEAN targets 20% energy intensity reduction by 2020 and 32% increase by 2025 relative to 2005 levels. The Philippines has set intensity reduction of 25.4% in 2020 and 25.8% in 2021 based on 2005 levels.

The EEC Act of 2019 contains provisions on Minimum Energy Performance Standards for energy consuming devices and mandatory energy labeling for the benefit of consumers. The Department is also monitoring the compliance with energy labeling requirements for all covered energy consuming products to promote energy efficiency among industries and households.

Meanwhile, pursuant to the directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. during his 2022 State of the Nations Address (SONA), the DOE has been actively working on the development and utilization of RE in the country to help provide our people with stable, sustainable and affordable energy.

This is also aligned with the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) 2020-2040, Power Development Plan (PDP) 2022-2040 and the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) of the government which has adopted a clean energy scenario targeting an RE share in the power generation mix at 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

Currently, RE accounts for 22 percent share of our power generation mix. This is expected to increase with the implementation of new RE projects. Additional 126 RE contracts with potential capacity of 31,131.7 MW were awarded from July 2022 to 26 June 2023, bringing the total of 1,025 active RE contracts. These cover 299 solar, 187 wind, 436 hydro, 9 ocean, 36 geothermal and 58 biomass RE contracts.

We are exerting enormous efforts towards the path to sustainable energy. We have eased foreign ownership restrictions for renewable energy projects. The development of RE sources in the Philippines is now open to 100% foreign ownership, in fact, three Offshore Wind (OSW) contracts with a combined capacity of 2,000 MW were awarded early this year to Copenhagen Infrastructure New Markets Fund (CINMF), the first wholly owned foreign company following the lifting of the restrictions on foreign ownerships. Several OSW contracts were also awarded to RE developers with foreign ownership or participation.

Meanwhile, the preferential dispatch of power from renewable energy sources has been implemented while the mandatory percentage utilization of renewable energy was increased from 1% to 2.52% beginning 2023. All these are intended to encourage more investors and end-users to develop and utilize indigenous and renewable energy sources.

What other emerging technologies and priorities does the agency have in line with its energy targets?

The energy sector has been actively exploring the potential development and utilization of alternative and emerging energy resources and technologies. The passage of the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA) in April 2022 has placed the Philippines in a stronger position to further attract technology investments. The DOE recently developed the Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI), following the promulgation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of EVIDA. The CREVI serves as the national development plan to accelerate the development, commercialization, and utilization of EVs. These shall be achieved through various initiatives such as the phased approach to improve EV utilization, promoting EV manufacturing, EV research and development, human resource development, and improving relevant policies and credit programs. To date, there are at least 8,856 EVs and 338 EV charging stations (EVCS) available nationwide.

On the use of hydrogen and fuel cell technology, the DOE is currently creating a steering committee which will harmonize and coordinate the efforts in the assessment and evaluation of proposals for hydrogen, ammonia, deuterium, and other emerging technologies. Recently, the DOE and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) launched a development and testing facility for fuel cell technology. Fuel cell technology can use hydrogen to produce electricity. This joint project seeks to promote the use of green hydrogen, which can be harvested from renewable sources of energy, such as solar and wind powers. We expect that by the end of the term of President Marcos Jr, alternative fuel vehicles such as EVs have penetrated the market supported by needed infrastructure while hydrogen and fuel cell technology along with other emerging technologies will be locally adopted and developed.

Particularly on the waste-to-energy, do you see this technology supporting the country's waste management agenda?

Early this month, the DOE conducted the Second Round of the Green Energy Auction or the GEA2. Unfortunately, there were no takers for the biomass and waste-to-energy (WTE) technologies. We see this as a message to the DOE and to our local government units (LGUs) -- that the stability of supply of waste-to-energy is crucial, which is within the control of the LGUs. If an investor puts up the waste-to-energy facility that will be able to recover its investments over a fifteen (15) year period, it will need a stable supply of waste. But if the supply of

waste is not assured, then there is an investment risk involved. So, this is something that the DOE is now looking into.

What challenges does the DOE foresee in terms of the private sector, communities, and individuals transitioning to clean energy? What policies and initiatives are available to help alleviate these?

As underscored by President Marcos Jr. on the importance of energy in the country's development, the DOE is working closely with concerned government agencies to speed up the processing and approvals of permits for energy projects to facilitate energy investments.

In fact, the DOE has streamlined the permitting processes for energy projects through the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop (EVOSS) System. The timeframe for a number of permitting processes of various government agencies were adjusted from working days to calendar days to align with Republic Act No. 11234 or the EVOSS Act.

The EVOSS Steering Committee, chaired by Executive Secretary Lucas P. Bersamin has directed national government agencies and local government units to closely coordinate with the DOE, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and Anti-Red tape Authority (ARTA) to streamline their permitting processes and requirements for energy projects and integrate the same into the EVOSS System.

ARTA was also directed to develop a model or an ordinance that will be adopted by the LGUs, including the integration of the national energy plans into the local government plans and establish a unified and streamlined permitting processes to enable the LGU to maximize the benefits of hosting energy projects.

What is the agency's timeline in issuing the remaining policies in line with the enactment of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act of 2019?

We expect that all issuances are in place by the end of this year. These are the following:

1. National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan (NEECP). The NEECP and EEC Roadmap 2023-2050 was signed on 25 May 2023 and adopted as Department Circular No. DC2023-05-0018. We continue to conduct information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns for all stakeholders for this roadmap.
2. Visitorial Powers and On-Site Inspections for Designated Establishments and Energy End-Users. The draft Department Circular for the guidelines on the conduct of on-site inspections for Designated Establishments is scheduled for public consultations in the 3rd - 4th Quarter of 2023. We continue to conduct inspection/visitorial powers in the implementation of existing Department Circulars and Implementing Guidelines for Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), Recognized Testing Laboratories (RTLs), Recognized Training Institutions (RTIs), and industry stakeholders under the Philippine Energy Labeling Program (PELP) and Minimum Energy Performance for Products Program (MEPP).
3. Minimum Energy Performance for Sectors (MEPS). Under the NEECP and EEC Roadmap 2023-2050, MEPS is part of the long-term goals as it requires extensive study for the setting of the appropriate baseline energy performance measurement. We are awaiting the results of the on-going activities under the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Technical Assistance as input for a

possible MEP for the Cold Chain Sector in the 3rd to 4th Quarter of 2023. To expedite the development of baseline energy performance for the commercial sector, the draft Department Circular updating the requirements of Designated Establishments contains specific information to allow for the setting of a building energy efficiency index, a MEPS for the building sector.

4. Waste Management Collection, Recycling, and Disposal (WMCRD). In addition to the continued coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EUMB) on the update to the WMCRD portion of their Guidelines on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEE) aligned with the EEC Act and its IRR, a draft issuance for the updating of the Joint DENR - DOE Administrative Order No. JAO2013-09-0001 on Lighting Industry Waste Management Guidelines. This draft issuance aims to provide a similar mechanism to cover all energy consuming products covered by the PELP and MEPP and scheduled for public consultations in the 3rd - 4th Quarter of 2023.

What are the opportunities for partnerships between the government and the private sector to help achieve the country's energy goals?

The exploration, development, and utilization of our inexhaustible RE sources are now open to 100 foreign ownerships. This also covers new areas in energy such as gas pipelines for private or own use, incidental to the operations of a distinct business, or not offering their services to the public.

This is also the same with non-internal combustion engine vehicles, including electric vehicles (EVS), which offer services to the public. Public-private partnerships will be intensively pursued in support of the EV industry such as the establishment of EV charging stations and other necessary infrastructure.

In anticipation of the influx of investments in the power sector, we are closely monitoring the completion of major transmission projects, including the Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection Project that will integrate the three major islands of the country to create a "one country, one grid" and ensure a stable electricity supply nationwide.

Recently, the DOE and the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy (MENRE) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) signed the Intergovernmental Energy Board (IEB) Circular on the Joint Award of Petroleum Service Contracts (PSCs) and Coal Operating Contracts (COCs) in the BARMM.

The Circular aims to facilitate the growth of the energy sector and attract foreign investments in the region. Once implemented, these will kickstart the application process for PSCs and COCs in the BARMM.

For petroleum contracts, an applicant may be any local/foreign individual company or group of companies forming a joint venture/consortium, organized, or authorized for the purpose of engaging in petroleum exploration and development.

For coal contracts, an applicant must be a corporation or partnership with at least sixty percent (60%) Filipino-owned capital and duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), or a cooperative organized and authorized for the purpose of engaging in coal exploration and development. Any applicant must also comply with Section 2-A of Commonwealth Act No. 108 or the Anti-Dummy Law, as well as the Foreign Investment Act.



Prime Infra: Building Critical Infrastructure For A Resilient, Sustainable Future

In 2017, Filipino businessman Enrique Razon Jr. made a major investment decision—to form a sustainability-driven company that would bridge the massive infrastructure gap in the Philippines and around the world. Since then, Razon’s Prime Infrastructure Capital Inc. (Prime Infra) has been relentless in developing and operating assets in its core segments of sustainable energy, water, and waste management.

“We established Prime Infra with a clear purpose: build better lives and resilient economies through the development of critical infrastructure,” says Razon, chairman of Prime Infra.

“Even with the challenges posed by the pandemic, the company has grown to be a leading developer and operator of an asset portfolio that highlights our commitment to a resilient and sustainable future,” Razon adds.

Razon, a global business owner whose experience in large complex project delivery experience is unquestionable, says Prime Infra has a customer-centric mindset in pioneering game-changing projects.

Three-Point ESG Strategy

Prime Infra’s overall strategy ensures that it enables its stakeholders to achieve decarbonization goals, multiply social benefits, and promote inclusive economic growth both in the interim and in the long term.

Prime Infra President and CEO Guillaume Lucci explains that, in a more specific manner, “we look at three critical aspects when it comes to ESG. One, we look at the sustainability of the business, taking into account factors such as resource utilization and environmental impact. Then we look at partnerships with communities, recognizing the importance of social relevance. We cannot build projects that are not embraced commercially, socially, and environmentally. And third, we look at whether an investment is purpose-driven and contributes to making an impact to our communities across core segments.”

Lucci, having worked in numerous emerging markets, has seen first-hand the impact of quality infrastructure in achieving sustainable growth.

By integrating ESG principles into its operations in three core segments—water, sustainable energy, and waste management and sustainable fuels, Prime Infra is able to respond to market needs in ways never done before.

Transition To A Low-Carbon Economy

Specifically on energy, investments are focused on effectively addressing the spectrum of power requirements, encompassing the critical baseload space, as well as mid-merit and peaking generation.

Part of Prime Infra’s decarbonization strategy is the use of sustainable energy to address demand-supply gaps while supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy. For baseload requirements, Prime Infra turned to the only viable transition fuel the world currently has, natural gas. Prime Infra, through Prime Energy, took over operations of the Malampaya gas asset, and has committed to drill new wells following the approval of a 15-year license extension of Service Contract 38.

“We optimistically look forward to the continued production and utilization of the remaining reserves of the Malampaya gas field, as well as further exploration and development of its untapped potential,” President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said of the service contract.

In the case of mid-merit, Prime Infra is developing large scale renewable energy projects, including pumped storage (hydropower) plants that recycles excess power that would have otherwise been wasted. On the peaking side, Prime Infra looks at solar plants, as well as providing proper ancillary services of the system grid as supply of variable renewable generation increases.

“In bridging the nationwide energy demand-supply gap, we identify opportunities for renewable energy projects that are critical to the transition towards a clean and sustainable future,” says Lucci. “Through these projects, we are able to support the national government’s energy plan and infrastructure goals while creating meaningful value for our customers and communities.”



The Shallow Water Platform is a vital part of the Malampaya Deepwater Gas-to-Power project which supplies up to 20% of Luzon’s electricity requirements.



Lucci (fourth from left) and Solar Tanauan Corporation Chair Katrina Razon, together with provincial and local government officials, lead the groundbreaking of the 140-megawatt solar plants in the Calabarzon region.

By year end, Prime Infra, through Solar Tanauan Corporation, will be completing its 140-megawatt solar power plants in Tanauan, Batangas and Marogondon, Cavite. This project is expected to power over 84,000 households and displace over 100,000 tons of coal per year.

Beyond Sustainable Energy

In addition to sustainable energy, Prime Infra looks at fundamental sectors such as ensuring water availability across the nation, and proper management of waste to mitigate methane emissions.

Its key operating subsidiary in the water business, Prime Infra-led Manila Water is already an industry pioneer in sustainability practices as it continues to maintain universal and equitable access to safe, affordable and reliable water services and sanitation for communities it serves.

In October 2022, the company’s WawaJVCo also delivered the first phase of a critical water infrastructure, the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project. Once completed, the project will be the biggest water source built since 1967 and will supply at least 518 million liters per day to over 500,000 households in the East Zone concession area.



Phase 1 of the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project started commercial operations in October 2022. It supplies the initial 80 million liters per day of raw water.

“Prime Infra’s approach to water security also includes science-based strategies on reforestation, watershed protection and biodiversity management,” notes Lucci.

In line with Prime Infra’s ESG framework and the vision and mission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), WawaJVCo embarked on a milestone partnership with DENR for the reforestation of a 1,800-hectare area within the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL).

DENR and WawaJVCo will “design, develop, and establish Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation programs” within the UMRBPL. The milestone partnership will also serve as a blueprint for a wider implementation of Prime Infra’s nature-based solution program to create value in Prime Infra’s two other key sectors – energy and waste management.

In the case of waste management, Prime Infra is operating a site in Cebu province and will be developing two more waste facilities in Luzon. These facilities are semi-automated and focused on resource recovery and is part of a broader strategy to capture methane emissions by converting waste into sustainable fuels.

“By harnessing the potential of waste as a valuable resource, Prime Infra plays a pivotal role in advancing the goals of a more sustainable and environmentally conscious society,” says Lucci.

“Through our projects and long-term community partnerships that both create a strong positive environmental and societal impact, Prime Infra hopes to achieve its vision of delivering critical infrastructure that people can depend on today and tomorrow,” Lucci concludes.



Building today's critical infrastructure for a sustainable future.

With sustainability at the core of its business, Prime Infra is committed to building critical infrastructure that will support the most urgent priorities – sustainable energy, access to clean water, and waste management, benefiting communities today and tomorrow.



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Becoming sustainable doesn't happen overnight. We get it. If you need to balance bold sustainability targets with the complex reality of your business, our experts got your back.



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do your thing

ING deal bags best Green Project deal award in the Philippines

Manila, Philippines, 22 June 2023 – Arthaland Corporation's PHP 3 billion (€49.8 million) ASEAN Green Bond issuance, with ING acting as Green Structuring Advisor, has been recognised as the green project deal of the year in the Philippines. The accolade comes as part of The Asset's Sustainable Infrastructure Awards 2023.

This is the second tranche of Arthaland's PHP 6 billion ASEAN Green Bond Programme first launched in 2020. Substantially, all the proceeds from the bond issuance will go towards investments in new certified sustainable residential projects over the next decade. ING was earlier involved in developing Arthaland's first Green Finance Framework in 2019 and was responsible for reviewing the framework's alignment with the criteria and guidelines of Green Bond Principles, Green Loan Principles and ASEAN Green Bond Standards.

Jun Palanca, Country Manager, ING Philippines said: "The building and construction sector generates nearly 40% of annual global emissions. Hence deals like the one we helped close with Arthaland are significant as they represent the commitment real estate developers have towards ensuring that new developments are carried out in a sustainable manner. That this transaction was recognised as best-in-class is simply the icing on the cake. We hope that this will

spark more firms into pursuing sustainable financing in the Philippines and accelerate the growth of the ESG market."

Christopher Po, Arthaland Director said: "We are extremely pleased that this deal has clinched top honours. The ASEAN Green Bonds carry our commitment to use the proceeds only toward projects that meet minimum green building certifications and to be transparent in disclosing the environmental impact of these projects through energy savings and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We hope investors see this as an opportunity to get a good return on their capital, at the same time, have the satisfaction of knowing that they are investing in more sustainable projects for a better future."

The Asset's annual Triple A recognition represents the industry's most prestigious awards for banking, finance, treasury, and the capital markets.

Since introducing the world's first sustainability-linked loan in 2017, ING continues to lead the ESG agenda as a sustainability pioneer helping clients transition to a more sustainable way of doing business. In 2022, ING mobilised a total of over €100 billion in sustainable finance globally, with the target of reaching €125 billion annually by 2025.



HSBC Philippines Supports Prime Infra Unit in Acquiring Cebu-Based Local Waste Management Facility

HSBC Philippines announced today that a PHP1.35 billion (approximately US\$24.5 million) green loan was arranged for Prime Integrated Waste Solutions Inc. (PWS), a subsidiary of Manila, Philippines-based Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc. (Prime Infra), as PWS acquired Cebu-based ARN Central Waste Management, a facility specializing in waste management and materials recovery. The financing will help PWS to scale up the facility to process around 2,000 tons of municipal solid waste daily.

“Aligned with our vision to develop critical infrastructure that impact communities across our core segments of water, sustainable energy, and waste management, Prime Infra established PWS to answer the increasing demand for waste management solutions especially in industrialized and fast-growing cities,” says Prime Infra President and CEO Guillaume Lucci. “PWS’ business model covers the full value chain once the waste is delivered to our facility from treatment, disposal, resource recovery, to conversion. It changes the municipal solid waste and industrial solid waste management landscape for the better as we relentlessly pursue positive social and environmental initiatives that align with our purpose of making better lives and resilient economies through critical infrastructure.”

The 17-hectare site currently receives and processes around 1,000 tons of municipal solid waste daily. PWS plans to double that capacity to 2,000 tons while bringing the quality of operations at par with world-class materials recovery facilities.

PWS’ transformation strategy focuses on resource recovery using state-of-the-art equipment, significantly reducing the amount of trash that is ultimately landfilled, as well as operationalizing the recyclables business by producing refuse-derived fuel.

PWS fully employs material recovery attendants from surrounding indigent communities and upholds high standards of safety to ensure the well-being of its entire workforce.

Prime Infra’s investment in waste management is part of a broader strategy to optimize the value created from waste through its complementary sustainable fuels business.

Meanwhile, HSBC is committed to achieving net zero in its operations and supply chain by 2030, and in its financing portfolio by 2050. The Bank is working with clients to help reduce their emissions and scale up low-carbon solutions, as it reduces its own.

“In the Philippines and around the world, we stand ready to support our clients on their transition journeys,” says HSBC Philippines Head of Wholesale Banking Mimi Concha. “This one of the notable ‘green’ loans that the Bank has extended in the country and by supporting PWS in its waste management efforts, this is clearly in line with HSBC’s overall climate strategy given the expansion of the facility will bolster sustainable waste management capacity, limiting the amount of waste that ends up in landfill and creating new jobs in an emerging sector,” she concludes.

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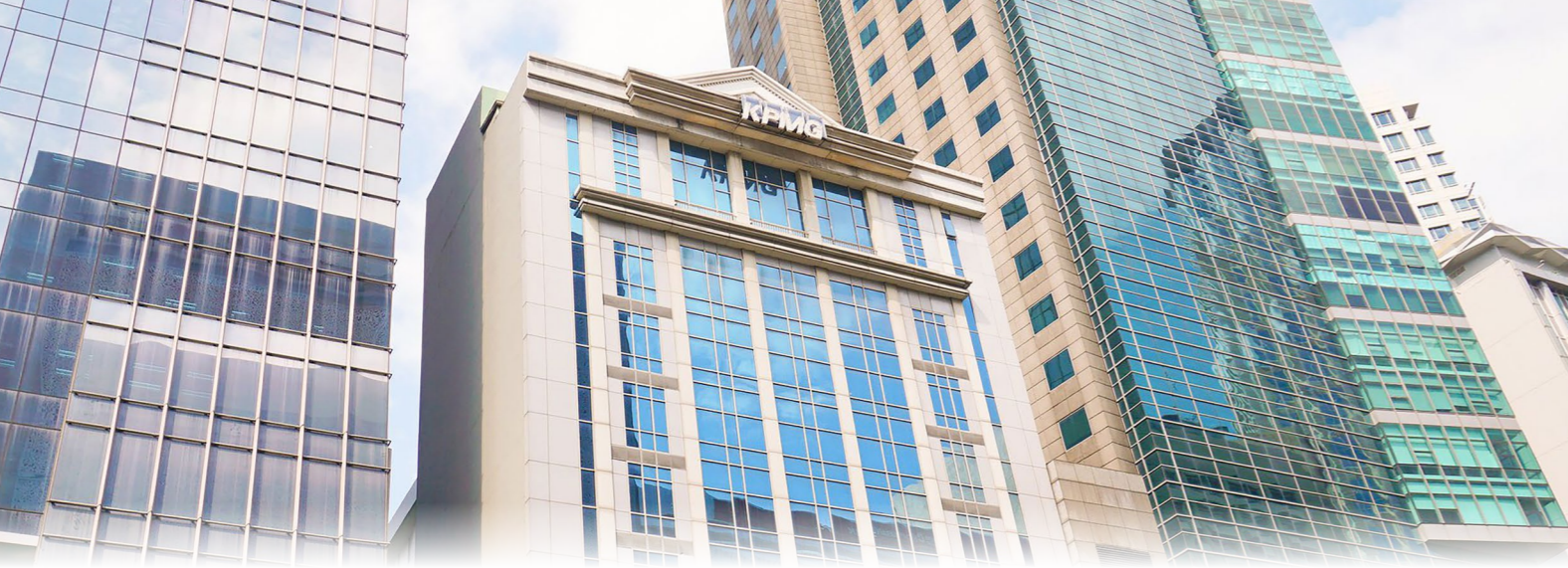
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Going zero is no longer an option

By Kristine Aguirre,
KPMG in the Philippines Advisory Partner and ESG Lead

Going zero has now become a global movement. The commitment to achieving net-zero emissions has gained significant momentum in recent years, with various initiatives and commitments being undertaken at both national and international levels.

Many countries have embraced the goal of net-zero emissions and have set targets and plans to achieve it. In terms of the environment, companies are now addressing their environmental impact, reducing emissions and promoting climate resilience through natural resource management that adopts sustainable practices to minimize environmental degradation. Socially, companies are giving due focus to labor rights, fair wages, diversity and engagement with their local communities. Moreover, good governance is emphasized, including transparency, accountability, ethical conduct and diverse and independent boards.

The global movement

One notable global initiative is the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.¹ It calls for countries to develop and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, which often include the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century.

Moreover, in October 2021 at the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP 26), approximately 5,200 businesses representing 40 percent of the world's private capital mutually committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.² This collective goal now acts

as the true north for many organizations and acts as the benchmark for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) success.

Philippines' Journey to Renewable Energy and Net Zero

The regulatory bodies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) in the Philippines have issued guidelines and frameworks to promote ESG integration and disclosure.³ Investors, both domestic and international, are increasingly considering ESG factors in their investment decisions, rewarding companies with robust ESG practices.

The country's business landscape has recognized the value of integrating sustainable practices and responsible investment considerations into corporate strategies. Leaders in the industry, given the internal and external demands of ESG and implementation of green practices, realized that going zero is longer an option - but a necessity and can be used as competitive advantage.

Furthermore, we see a positive trend in terms of adoption of renewable energy sources in the Philippines. In 2017, the Department of Energy (DOE) released the Energy Efficiency Roadmap 2017-2040, which outlined the goal of achieving a 24% reduction in energy consumption across various sectors by 2040.⁴ Specifically, the DOE aims to increase the renewable energy share in the power generation mix to 37.3% by 2030, with a long-term target of 55.8% by 2040.⁴ These goals represent a significant increase from the 21.2% renewable energy share recorded in 2020.

The Abyss of ESG negligence

In the present market environment, companies that neglect to embrace ESG practices may encounter diverse detrimental outcomes.

- **Reduced trust from investors:** Investors are progressively incorporating ESG considerations into their investment choices. A company that disregards ESG principles could experience diminished investor trust and encounter challenges in attracting investments.⁵ By prioritizing sustainable practices, businesses can uphold shareholder satisfaction with board governance. As an increasing number of investors with larger asset portfolios embrace ESG investing, they gain greater influence in implementing transformative measures through their voting power.
- **Legal and regulatory risks:** Governments and regulatory bodies worldwide are placing greater emphasis on ESG-related regulations. Non-compliance or insufficient adoption of ESG practices can expose businesses to legal and regulatory risks including fines, penalties and potential limitations on operations. To mitigate these risks, businesses are encouraged to proactively adopt ESG practices and ensure compliance with relevant guidelines.
- **Reputational damage:** Failure to adhere to ESG practices can have detrimental effects on a business's reputation.⁶ It can result in adverse consequences such as negative media coverage, heightened public scrutiny and disapproval from stakeholders. As a result, the company may experience a loss of trust, credibility and integrity. These repercussions can significantly impact the perception of the brand, customer loyalty and the overall position of the business in the market.
- **Talent attraction and retention challenges:** In recent times, employees have undergone a significant shift towards being more value-driven in their career choices. They are seeking organizations that align with their personal values and offer opportunities to contribute to a larger purpose. As a result, employees are actively looking to join companies that share their vision and demonstrate a commitment to making a positive impact on society and the environment.⁷

ESG is a multi-year journey

An ESG transformation is a long-term endeavor that cannot be accomplished overnight or treated as a secondary project pushed off to a single department or team. Fulfilling ESG commitments entails charting a multi-year journey with well-defined roadmaps, roles and progress measurement processes. Furthermore, it necessitates the continuous dedication of all internal stakeholders, including board members, C-suite executives, frontline professionals, and everyone in the organization.⁸

However, this does not imply that the journey must be arduous or expensive. Often, acting on ESG involves implementing small yet impactful changes in operational practices or supply chains. When executed effectively, these changes can yield significant improvements in efficiency and cost savings.

The business community has been under increasing pressure to adopt effective ESG strategies, aiming to enhance business resilience and contribute to a sustainable future. Numerous organizations have proactively and successfully embraced these strategies, choosing not to rely solely on government or regulatory mandates. As these ESG strategies gain traction, industry participants face the challenge of further exploring technologies, frameworks and processes that align with their specific environmental, social and governance objectives. While the journey may be extensive, it promises significant benefits for all those who embark upon it.

¹<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

²<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/cop26>

³<https://sustainability.pse.com.ph/>

⁴<https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/media/press-releases/2022/11/kpmgs-report-explores-renewable-energy-as-a-key-enabler-of-decarbonization.html>

⁵<https://hbr.org/2020/09/social-impact-efforts-that-create-real-value>

⁶<https://vakilsearch.com/blog/impact-of-esg-on-corporate-reputation-financial-performance/>

⁷<https://home.kpmg/ca/en/home/insights/2022/12/decarbonization-in-deals.html>

⁸<https://kpmg.com/ph/en/home/insights/2023/01/from-words-to-action.html>

SUSTAINABLE TRAVELING IN THE PHILIPPINES

NET ZERO GREEN PROPERTIES AND THEIR BEST PRACTICES



MINDFUL USE OF WATER AND ENERGY

Hotels have found ingenious ways to cut down on water and energy use such as recycling shower wastewater for gardening, encouraging guests to reuse towels, or washing linen every other day. Some, like TAG Resort in Coron, Palawan, also use solar energy to power 30% of its daily operations. Look out for these sustainable practices when you book a visit.



Sustainable traveling isn't just a trend anymore, it's a necessity. In a study conducted by Intrepid Travel and OnePoll, 77% of young travelers say that sustainability impacts their decision to travel - a close second to affordability as a priority for booking destinations.



FARM-TO-TABLE DINING

Many hotels offer farm-to-table dining experiences that help local farming communities and reduce the need for food transport. A few also maintain their own organic gardens to source fresh ingredients.

And sustainable travel really does matter.

For one, the global tourism industry accounts for roughly 8% of the world's carbon emissions. From transportation, tours, to lodging, everything adds up.

In the Philippines, where the impact of climate change and extreme weather events are felt more frequently, and where tourism relies heavily on the allure of natural wonders, sustainable travel counts. And hospitality properties are stepping up their sustainability game, offering immersive experiences that leave little to no negative impact on the environment.

So if you are planning on taking a trip to the Philippines soon, consider the following factors when choosing a hotel:

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Going local reduces carbon emissions and contributes to the local economy. Discover how your hotel supports indigenous communities by showcasing local produce and crafts, and promoting local culture.



TAG Resort is the first green hotel in Coron, Palawan

BUY LOCAL BUY FILIPINO TOGETHER TOWARDS A STRONGER REPUBLIC





AlasKalikasan: Championing Sustainability, Impacting Lives of the Community

With years worth of calluses in our minds by understanding that climate change is real and in our hands by creating ways to stop it, Alaska Milk Corporation (AMC) fulfills its commitment to contribute to nation-building and to society through its sustainability program called AlasKalikasan to slow down the perils of global warming gradually.

Through Alaska Milk's goal of attaining net zero plastic neutrality and lessened carbon footprint, we not only develop aspects of environmental awareness by employing scientific, realistic, and practical solutions, but we also grow to understand this is not a fight of our own. Because in terms of the holistic welfare of the people and the environment, no company can claim to have a significant impact alone. As vanguards of environmental preservation and sustainability, we redirect our ways to building on our brand's strengths and competitive attributes to develop its optimum production potential and recalibrate our mindsets to be responsive to the ever-changing and growing needs of the planet – and use it to create a more notable and better impact.

“AlasKalikasan,” a play of words between “Alaska” and “Nature,” is our purpose-in-action of AMC's vision of greener environmental impact. To further this objective of attaining Net Zero Plastic Waste, AMC is vigorously implementing relevant environmental sustainability initiatives, namely the Wrapper Redemption Program, a partnership with D&G Pacific Corporation for the establishment of the multi-layered upcycling facility – a first in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia; a collaboration with Plastic

Credit Exchange (PCX) for the Net-Zero Plastic Waste (NZPW) Brand certification; installation of solar panels on the roofs of AMC's manufacturing plant in Laguna; and partnership with Isla LPG Corporation for LPG usage instead of fossil fuel for the ultimate purpose of reducing the company's carbon footprint.

The impact of Alaska Milk's sustainability initiatives on communities has been significant. Alaska Milk's commitment to sustainability goes beyond mere corporate responsibility – it is a testament to the company's core values and its dedication to making a lasting positive impact on communities. By driving sustainable practices, AMC sets an example for other businesses. Through its efforts, the company nourishes bodies with quality milk products, nourishes lives, and fosters a sustainable future for generations.

Alaska Milk's story is every Filipino family's story – from parents who want the best for their children to entrepreneurs trying to make the world better. For over 50 years, Alaska Milk has been there to spark inspiration, ignite change, and fuel the passion of the nation.

And for the next 50 years or so, Alaska Milk will still strive and continue the unceasing mission to make the world greener – one wrapper at a time.

This mission, together with the vision for the people and the planet, is what makes Alaska uniquely Alaska – a company not only for the people but also for the environment.

Indeed, wala pa rin tatalo sa Alaska.



Latitude Corporate Center is Cebu's first green office building to receive five-star BERDE certification



Responsive Design Excellence (BERDE) system for its 24-storey office building Latitude Corporate Center located in Cebu Business Park.

With a BERDE (Building for Ecologically Responsible Design Excellence) Certification, Latitude Corporate Center guarantees a master plan of world-class green building standards.

Its green building design particularly highlights sustainable features of ample LED lighting, high-performance building envelope, operable windows for natural ventilation, rainwater collection system,

Leading developer in Vismin Cebu Landmasters, Inc. (CLI) in a joint venture with Borromeo Brothers Estate Inc. under BLCBP Ventures, was recently awarded Cebu City's first prestigious five-star certification under the Building for Ecologically

stub-outs for fresh air provision, material recovery facility, plaza with tree sanctuary, live wall at main lobbies, 60% glass ration, and 20% vegetated green spaces. Its schematic building design follows a unique “stacked building blocks” form to mirror a minimal, elegant and timeless facade.

“Achieving the 1st 5-star BERDE Certification in Cebu City shows our commitment to the highest industry standards to create more world-class, sustainable developments,” says Jose Franco Soberano, CLI Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Masterfully crafted for local and multinational businesses, Latitude Corporate Center's design can accommodate small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large-scale businesses with spaces tailor fit for BPO offices (8th-12th floors), Enterprise offices (14th-16th floors) and Executive offices (17th-24th floors).

In its second consecutive year, Cebu Landmasters received Special Recognition in ESG and Special Recognition in Sustainable Design and Construction during the 2022 PropertyGuru Philippines Property Awards.



MOMENTUM WHERE IT MATTERS

Building from a one-country operation at the Port of Manila in the Philippines, ICTSI has pressed forward across 35 years. On six continents, currently in 20 countries, we continue developing ports that deliver transformative benefits.

All across our operations, we work closely with our business and government partners, with our clients and host communities: to keep building momentum where it matters, in and through ports that keep driving sustainable growth.



ARGENTINA • AUSTRALIA • BRAZIL • CAMEROON • CHINA • COLOMBIA • DR CONGO • CROATIA • ECUADOR • GEORGIA • HONDURAS • IRAQ
INDONESIA • MADAGASCAR • MEXICO • NIGERIA • PAKISTAN • PAPUA NEW GUINEA • PHILIPPINES • POLAND

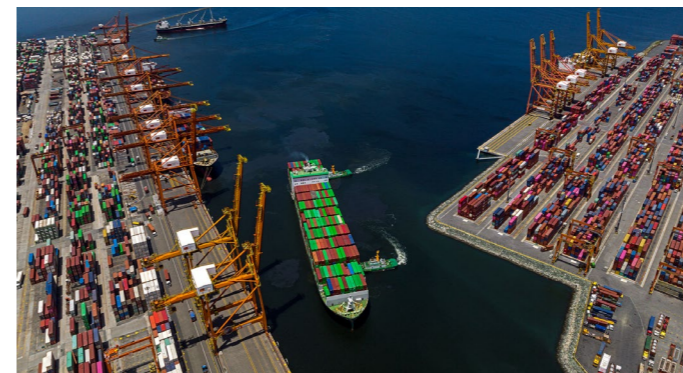


www.ictsi.com



ICTSI expands large vessel capability of Manila flagship

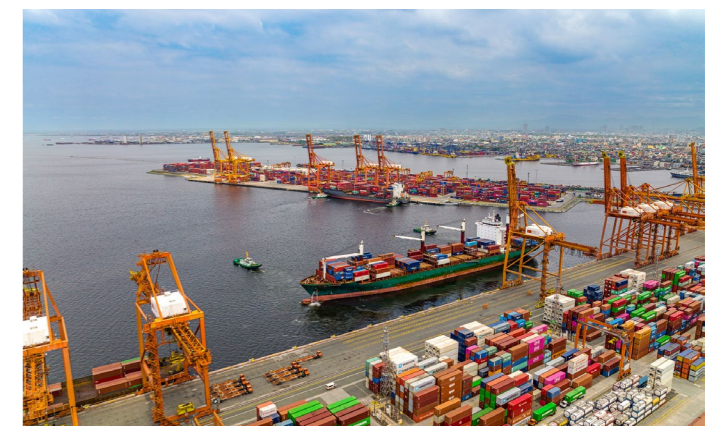
International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) continues to go above and beyond its concession obligations with the Philippine Ports Authority by adding another berth at the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) – the Philippines’ premiere gateway for international trade.



Currently under phase two development, MICT’s berth 8 has a design depth of 15 meters that will enable the terminal to handle foreign ultra large container vessels with capacities of up to 18,000 TEUs. MICT can handle neo-Panamax ships through berths 6 and 7, which are operated by five ship-to-shore (STS) cranes. A sixth crane is arriving in July and will be operational within the year. Berth 8 will have four STS cranes – two of which will be delivered in 2025.

“We are optimistic of the prospect of welcoming ultra large container vessels at the Port of Manila and are preparing to accommodate the added volume that these more efficient ships will bring. Our goal is to

outpace demand and ensure the efficient flow of trade from the port to the local supply chain,” said Christian R. Gonzalez, ICTSI Executive Vice President.



The expansion will also increase MICT’s capacity by 200,000 TEUs to 3.5 million TEUs, which will be key in addressing the increase in cargo volume. The new berth will add 400 meters of quay along with 12 hectares of yard space.

Aside from infrastructure developments, ICTSI continues to invest in technology to make MICT’s operations more efficient.

ICTSI launched a mobile app last year that grants port users visibility over their cargo by enabling them to monitor the status of their shipment across ICTSI’s network of terminals in the Philippines, which include MICT, NorthPort, Subic Bay International Terminals (SBITC), and Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT). Other ICTSI terminals in the country will soon be covered by the app.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Empowering coffee farmers to go beyond sustainability

October to November marks the coffee harvest season, when coffee cherries reach the ideal stage for picking, particularly for farmers in Mindanao where majority of the country's supply is produced. As the country's biggest buyer of green coffee beans, Nestlé hopes to continuously grow its volume purchase in the Philippines. It uses as much locally sourced Robusta coffee as possible in making NESCAFÉ, to ensure that it delivers *Kapeng Pilipino Para Sa Pilipino*¹.

However, locally grown coffee will become harder to source if the country's production continues to decrease. Various factors causing this decline, with inefficient land use and degraded soil from conventional farming practices, and climate change, as major concerns. Nestlé seeks to address the impact of outdated traditional farming methods by introducing regenerative agriculture principles to smallholder farmers.

In a nutshell

Regenerative agriculture is a method of farming that aims to reverse the effects of climate change by improving soil fertility and restoring degraded soil biodiversity. Not only does it result in systemic crop health, regenerative agriculture also reduces carbon emissions and improves water systems to create an ecosystem in which a wider variety of plant and animal life can thrive. Most importantly, it mitigates the adverse consequences for the planet of food production, so that humans can continue to harvest nourishing food for many years to come.

Through the NESCAFÉ Plan program, Nestlé works closely with coffee farmers and their communities, the national and local governments, development agencies, and other partners to promote a comprehensive regenerative agriculture model that protects the three key resources of any agricultural system: soil, water, and biodiversity.

While fostering economic viability in coffee farming, the NESCAFÉ Plan also seeks to support farmers in crossing the threshold from sustainability to regeneration. To this end, the program has been sharing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in coffee production with farmers, and introducing them to regenerative farming principles that will help make coffee-growing more viable for the long term. This is

a crucial step in achieving resiliency against the threat of climate change.

Rising temperatures, extreme weather conditions, soil erosion, and other effects of climate change are increasingly impacting Filipino farming communities and putting food security at risk. Action is urgently needed to help farmers future-proof their farms and ensure adequate food for coming generations.

This is the reason behind the recent launch of Nescafé Plan 2030, an extensive strategy to accelerate coffee farmers' adoption of regenerative agriculture, with Nestlé Global to invest over one billion Swiss francs by 2030. Farmers will be provided training, technical assistance, and high-yielding coffee plantlets to help them transition to regenerative coffee farming practices with these key components:

Cover Crops

Planting cover crops protects the soil. It also helps add biomass that can increase soil organic matter and thus soil carbon sequestration. A good example of a cover crop is peanut grass (*Arachis pintoi*), an ideal option for its efficiency in nitrogen fixation.

Composting

By using compost, farm waste is reduced and finds good use, contributing to fertility which is essential for good soil health. Compost can be made by mixing organic matter such as grass cuttings, leaves or stems, allowing decomposition into a form of soil in a pile or containers. To accelerate decomposition, earthworms such as African Night Crawlers can be added to quickly convert organic farm waste into compost. This is called vermicomposting.

Agroforestry

Agroforestry involves planting large shade trees around a farm to act as a natural barrier that protects it from wind and rain and helps preserve biodiversity. Falcata, *ipil-ipil*, and fruit trees such as *langka* and *avocado* are commonly used trees on Philippine farms.

Intercropping

The practice of growing two or more crops simultaneously, intercropping is a useful way for farmers to diversify incomes. It maximizes the use of land and other resources and increases soil health while contributing to

climate resilience. Vegetables for intercropping include eggplant, *chayote*, pepper, banana (*lakatan* or *saba*), and peanut.

The NESCAFÉ Plan is one of the most successful and longest-running public-private partnerships in the country's coffee industry. Under a banner project of the program, since 2018, some 1,500 selected coffee farmers have been introduced to these four regenerative agriculture practices.

Today, most coffee farms involved with the NESCAFÉ Plan have implemented intercropping planting systems. With the help of regenerative practices, farmers' livelihoods have been positively impacted.

Regenerative agriculture contributes to drawing down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Nestlé sees sustainability as the first step on the road to Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions. This is an exciting time in a shared journey from sustainability towards regenerative agriculture, one that looks at renewing the world of coffee to uplift farmers' livelihoods and lives with every cup.

When coffee enthusiasts choose coffee that is home-grown in the Philippines, they are supporting coffee farmers as they strive to practice regenerative agriculture, to become more productive, profitable, and resilient.

NESCAFÉ
Plan



SNAP powers a sustainable future for Filipinos

Sustainability will always be at the core of SN Aboitiz Power's (SNAP) operations. As one of the country's leading renewable energy providers, SNAP ensures that every Filipino household has access to reliable, sustainable, and modern energy.

But for SNAP, sustainability is more than just corporate social responsibility. It is a long-term commitment to the people, the planet, and its partners. And by integrating it into the company's core strategies, SNAP makes sustainability its way of life.

In 2022, SNAP hydropower plants generated a total of 1.7 TWh, ensuring the continuous generation of clean energy to support the country's current need for reliable and responsibly produced supply. As an RE producer, the GHG emission from the company's generation is 99.97% lower than the current GHG emission in the Luzon-Visayas grid. From 2019 to 2022, the company's GHG emission factor is just 0.03% of the spot market's emission factor.

In addition to operating hydropower plants, SNAP is expanding to other renewable and complementary technologies such as floating solar and battery energy storage, proactively promoting the transition to renewable energy.

On the retail electricity side, SNAP offers renewable, reasonable, and reliable energy solutions to its customers and supports government policies and programs that promote the use of renewable energy. Likewise, SNAP continues to foster meaningful synergies with industry partners to pursue its unwavering commitment of providing responsible energy for businesses and communities.

Apart from these, SNAP continued caring for their communities and the environment with CSR efforts designed largely around community needs and development. These range from environmental and education projects to capacity-building programs on governance and development management.

SNAP's partnership with its communities in Benguet, Isabela, Ifugao, and Nueva Vizcaya has been stronger than ever. In 2022, the company deployed Php33.5 million for 76 projects on infrastructure, education, livelihood, indigenous culture, governance, health, and the

environment in partnership with local government units, host communities, and indigenous peoples' organizations.

In terms of contribution to climate change mitigation and carbon sequestration, approximately 186 hectares of forest and denuded grasslands are rehabilitated and maintained under SNAP's flagship watershed management program, PUNLA ("seedling"), and the Aboitiz Group's nationwide reforestation initiative called the Aboitiz Passion on Agroforest and Reforest to Keep (APARK) program, to which SNAP contributes.

In 2022, the company signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the Luzon Watershed Project, a reforestation program under APARK that involves the planting of 18,750 forest trees and fruit bearing seedlings over a 10-hectare area within the Dupax Watershed Forest Reserve in Nueva Vizcaya.

On the education front, BRIGHTS (Bridging Gaps in Higher Education through Tertiary Scholarships) which is SNAP's flagship program for deserving students from the company's immediate host communities kept going. The program aims to provide financial support to students and develop future leaders by encouraging scholars to participate in community and environmental outreach programs and leadership seminars. Since 2018, a total of 79 college scholars have received educational assistance through the program. For the school year 2021-2022, BRIGHTS has graduated 17 students, with nine receiving Latin honors – one magna cum laude and eight cum laude.

SNAP also takes pride in creating a workplace that inspires meaningful and rewarding work. With safety as a core value, SNAP adheres to the principle that safety is everyone's responsibility; its combined year-to-date record of 8.2 million Lost Time Injury-Free man-hours is a testament to a strong safety culture. SNAP has also provided significant value in terms of local employment, generating over 5,500 jobs in its communities since 2008.

For the past decade and a half, SNAP has kept its commitment to powering a sustainable future. And with its employees and stakeholders, SNAP will continue to hold true to its promise of powering a sustainable future.

¹ Philippine coffee for Filipinos



A City without Equal

To live in it is to live in a place where it doesn't feel like a pressure cooker of stress, pollution, high cost of living, traffic, and long working hours.

It is a city that has been built for people and not for cars or for things.

To experience this city is to know a place where everything actually works—from the transport system to the work and business processes, among other things.

It is an integration of our modern districts—Clark Freeport Zone, Clark International Airport, and New Clark City—woven together to establish a smart, resilient, sustainable, and competitive Philippine city.



ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH

ARTHALAND: Advancing Net Zero in Cebu with CEBU EXCHANGE

ARTHALAND, the foremost green property developer in the Philippines, is revolutionizing the real estate landscape with its unwavering commitment to sustainability and a vision for a better future. With a portfolio that is 100% certified as sustainable, ARTHALAND is at the forefront of the green building movement, setting new standards for design, quality, and environmental responsibility.

ARTHALAND's dedication to fighting climate change is reflected in its Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment. The company is striving to decarbonize 100% of its portfolio by 2030, leading the way in constructing Net Zero carbon offices and homes. The company's portfolio has achieved 78% greenhouse gas reduction for 2022, which signifies that it is on track toward its 2023 goal. The Arthaland Century Pacific Tower, ARTHALAND's

flagship office project, holds the distinction of being recognized as the world's first Net Zero Carbon certified development under the Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies Green Building Program of the International Finance Corporation.

One of the country's most cutting-edge sustainable buildings and the latest addition to Cebu city's ever-changing skyline is Cebu Exchange.

With this Cebu Exchange tower,



Blossoming tranquility at The Garden of Simples, nestled within the stunning Arthaland Century Pacific Tower.

businesses enjoy lower operating costs, thanks to the lowest CUSA Fee among newly completed developments in Cebu's premier business districts. It is also a PEZA-accredited I.T. Center that is now ready for occupancy. The building's sustainable certifications, including LEED™ Gold certification and a 5-Star BERDE rating, ensure a healthy and productive work environment that promotes employee wellness and higher productivity.

Cebu Exchange's strategic location provides access to key opportunities, networking events, and a talented pool of professionals. The building's state-of-the-art facilities, efficient elevators, backup generators, and fiber-optic telecommunications ensure a reliable and efficient workspace that meets the needs of businesses.

The Tan siblings of Cebu, a family also involved in the construction industry, shared their excitement about Cebu Exchange: "We are very excited for the unit turnover knowing about the sustainable features of Cebu Exchange. Being in the construction industry too, we truly appreciate the green building features and how they contribute to the well-being of the building and the environment."

Cebu Exchange represents a new era of sustainable, innovative, and future-ready workspaces. By choosing Cebu Exchange, businesses gain access to premier office space and become part of a community that values sustainability, productivity, and well-being. As ARTHALAND continues to lead the way in sustainable development, Cebu Exchange stands as a testament to the company's unwavering commitment to creating thriving communities and a better tomorrow.

For more information about Cebu Exchange, call **0917-772-7842** or visit **www.arthaland.com**. Cebu Exchange is located at the gateway of Cebu I.T. Park, along Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City. DHSUD LTS No. 032788



Step into elegance and innovation at the mesmerizing Cebu Exchange Lobby, where timeless design meets cutting-edge technology, leaving visitors in awe.

Choose renewable energy.

Businesses in the Philippines can enjoy savings on power by opting for renewable energy and choosing their retail electricity supplier.

Contact us at acenres.com for a free, no-commitment consultation.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ECCP COMPETENCY HUB.

ECCP COMPETENCY HUB

Through the ECCP Competency Hub, ECCP Members & clients are able to access talent management programs that will allow for the continuous improvement of your most important asset: your people.

For inquiries, you may contact us at kamyr.catapang@eccp.com





EU and ASEAN delegates, biz execs call to strengthen PH as a business destination

Key government figures, EU and ASEAN member states heads of mission, members of the diplomatic corps, and high-level European and Philippine business executives gathered at the 2023 European-Philippine Business Dialogue hosted by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) last May 25.

With the theme “Taking the Philippines Centrestage”, the forum sought to provide a platform for sharing insights and exchanging meaningful discussions on how the Philippines can maximize its competitive advantage as a business destination and bring the country’s economy to new heights.

Attended by more than two hundred delegates physically and online, the forum featured messages and presentations from various speakers.

In his opening remarks, ECCP President Lars Wittig expressed optimism that the Philippines would see an increase in trade and high-value investments following the enactment of economic reforms along with the recent establishment of green lanes for strategic investments.

“With all these positive developments, I say this with strong conviction – the time for increased trade and bigger investments is NOW,” said Wittig. “It is incumbent upon us to champion the Philippines as an investment destination, and to put the Philippines on the spotlight.”

Ambassador to the Philippines Luc Veron also echoed the same sentiments, stating that the Dialogue’s theme of taking the Philippines centre stage is “timely and essential”. “As a foreign observer I am optimistic that the Philippines has the potential to reach greater heights,” he added.

In his speech, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin reaffirmed the current administration’s commitment to continue working with private sectors and relevant

sectors, particularly in the agricultural sector, to address economic concerns.

“The government aims to revitalize and transform agriculture into a significant generator of economic growth by raising overall productivity moving the Philippines’ products up the value chain promoting diversification and thereby ensuring food security,” Bersamin said.

Meanwhile, Antonio Ernesto Lagdameo, Jr., Special Assistant to the President to the Office of the President also added that partnerships across regions will remain a priority as “the desire to increase our exchange of culture, knowledge, services and products of others has always been part of our goals for the nation”.

The forum also covered discussions on leveraging the Philippine economy as a more competitive trade and investment destination. Trade Undersecretary Maria Blanca Kim Lokin, on behalf of Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Alfredo Pascual, noted that the country remains soundtrack to becoming an upper middle-income nation. “We [the Philippines] are set on building up on the momentum of economic reforms, a vital component of the government’s strategies to strengthen the economy and promote trade and investments which contributes substantially to national growth,” she said.

Furthermore, guest panelist and Head of Commercial Banking for South and Southeast Asia at HSBC Ms. Amanda Murphy emphasized the bank’s longstanding relations with the PH, stating that the company is well-positioned to connecting foreign companies to opportunities in the Philippines, and vice versa. “HSBC is bullish on the Philippines; it is bullish on Southeast Asia. The Philippines is in growth mode and has strong long-term fundamentals. We share our clients’ confidence in increasing trade with and investment in the Philippines,” said Murphy.

Meanwhile, Mr. Anand Stanley, President and Head of Region at Airbus Asia-Pacific stressed the importance of partnerships as a vital catalyst in assuring a sustainable future.

“Airbus is a company with European roots but a global presence, and we build on partnerships to ensure we maintain local capability and relationships,” said Mr. Stanley. “Partnerships will also be key to meeting one of the greatest challenges we face, which is to work towards the decarbonisation of our industry.”

During the plenary session, the ECCP released its newest set of Advocacy Papers. The annual publication of the Chamber aims to provide an overview of industry perspectives on pressing issues, concerns, as well as our corresponding policy recommendations. “We are hopeful that these advocacy papers will serve as a constructive tool for stakeholders to identify the areas for further collaboration and enhanced economic outcomes,” said Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director.

Meanwhile, the following panel discussion featured Hon. Gerald Divinagracia, Deputy Director General for Operations at Anti-Red Tape Authority; Mr. Ruben Pascual, Secretary-General of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Celeste Ilagan, Chief Policy And Regulatory Affairs Officer of the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines; Dr. Danilo Lachica, President of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines; Mr. Rodney Van Dooren, Director for Illicit Trade Prevention at Philip Morris Asia Limited; and moderator CNN Philippines Anchor Ms. Lois Calderon.

On ease of doing business, ARTA DDO Divinagracia stated that the agency is “actively streamlining and harmonizing regulatory frameworks from the national to local levels leveraging technology government agencies and creating a convenient, efficient and effective system.” “We aim to enhance the ease of doing business in the Philippines to unlock new opportunities for economic growth and prosperity,” he added.

Christina Stieber, Commercial Counsellor at the Austrian Embassy in Manila and Head at Advantage Austria served as the Master of Ceremonies of the event.

The 2023 European-Philippine Business Dialogue is co-presented by HSBC Philippines and Airbus. The event is also supported by Event Partners I.T. & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) and the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI); Platinum Partner Philip Morris International; Gold Partners Prime Infra and Alaska Milk Corporation; Silver Partners Grab, SGV and Co., Roche (Philippines), Inc., Royal Cargo Inc., and Nestlé; Event Supporters Advantage Austria, British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, CCI France Philippines, Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, and Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; and Beverage Partner, Le Cellier.

This year marks the 10th run of the European-Philippine Business Dialogue. Launched in 2014, this event brings together industry experts, government leaders, and relevant stakeholders to celebrate and strengthen the European-Philippine economic ties.





ECCP, EU-ABC host gala dinner for EU and ASEAN delegates, govt officials, and biz leaders

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) hosted a Gala Dinner for European and ASEAN member state heads, delegates, and business executives currently in the country for the 2023 European-Philippine Business Dialogue.

Held last May 25 in Makati, the gathering of more than 200 attendees was graced by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., who served as the event’s keynote speaker.

Other esteemed speakers of the Gala Dinner include Office of the President Executive Secretary Hon. Justice Lucas Bersamin, Ambassador to the EU Delegation to the Philippines H.E. Luc Véron, EU-ASEAN Business Council Incoming Chairman Mr. Jens Ruebbert, and ECCP President Mr. Lars Wittig.

In his welcoming remarks, newly-elected EU-ABC Chairman Jens Ruebbert welcomed the local and foreign delegates while highlighting the significance of their visit and engagements in the country.

“At the Council, we believe firmly in the need to enhance and positively evolve relations between ASEAN, its Member States, including the Philippines, and all of Europe. Not just on trade and investment issues, but more broadly on ensuring just and equitable economic development, and on securing a sustainable future for all of us,” said Ruebbert.

“From our meetings this week, and from our previous engagement with the President during our ASEAN-EU Business Summit in Brussels in December 2022, it is clear to me and to our members, that the Philippines should be a leading candidate for the recommencement of Free Trade Agreement negotiations with the EU,” he added.

Meanwhile, ECCP President Lars Wittig also addressed the attendees and the President in his opening remarks, and further reaffirmed the Chamber’s commitment “to

continue working with the Philippine government to contribute towards achieving a greener, more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable Philippines.”

“There is no better time to invest in the Philippines than NOW. It is incumbent upon us to champion the Philippines as an investment destination, and to put the Philippines on the spotlight,” emphasized Wittig.

On his part, H.E. Ambassador Luc Véron also spoke in regard to the 60 years of diplomatic relations between the EU and the Philippines. The Ambassador expressed his optimism towards the many milestones achieved and collective efforts done to improve the ease of doing business.

“In the economic field, we acknowledge the efforts of the Philippine government to create a more conducive investment climate, notably the passage of a number of legal reforms that further open up the economy to foreign investment,” said Véron.

“My EU colleagues and I, as well as the Chamber are committed to help smoothen the path for the Philippines for more prominence on the EU map, but it is only your government that can keep the country on this path through effective implementation of its planned reforms. In the end, we are all working towards the same goal: to further strengthen our ties and uphold our common values,” he concluded.

Following the 2023 European-Philippine Dialogue held earlier the same day, the Gala Dinner was an excellent avenue to further discuss ways of championing the Philippines forward, and for celebrating camaraderie and the long-standing relations between Europe and the Philippines.

The dinner was also attended by House Speaker Hon. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Director General Ernesto Perez, Bureau of Internal

Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Atty. Romeo Lumagui Jr., Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Ivan John Uy, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary Elmer Sarmiento, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Maria Blanca

Kim B. Lokin and Assistant Secretary Glenn Peñarada, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Assistant Secretary Lilian De Leon, and other government representatives, as well as the Excellencies and members of the diplomatic corps, and Business and industry representatives.





ECCP commemorates 45th anniversary, announces new BoD

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) marked its 45th year as the Voice of the European-Philippine Business Community during an evening celebration on June 1 at the Manila House Private Club.

Joined by close to 300 new and long-standing members, trusted partners, and special guests of the Chamber, the event was a testament to the ECCP's longstanding commitment to facilitating market access and working on creating a level playing field for both European and Filipino companies alike.

In his opening remarks, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein highlighted the remarkable growth of the Chamber, expanding from 40 members in 1978 to a robust membership base of over 700 today.

"It has been an inspiring journey since the Chamber's inception. Over the years, ECCP has emerged as a key partner of the Philippine and European governments and the business sector, nurturing and strengthening business and government relations," said Mr. Gottein.

"In the years to come, ECCP remains dedicated to supporting its members and partners in achieving their business goals and advocacies, and to collaborating with stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to ensure a thriving and prosperous business landscape in the country."



On the same day, ECCP held its Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting, where they announced the newly-elected Board of Directors who will lead and champion the Chamber and its business community from 2023 to 2024.

In his President's report, Mr. Paulo Duarte, current President of ECCP, outlined the achievements of the previous year and his vision for the future.

"Reflecting on this year's theme, ECCP at 45: A Champion for the European-Philippine Business Community, the

ECCP will relentlessly strive to be at the forefront of promoting a competitive, environmentally friendly, and inclusive socio-economic development driven by fair market conditions, responsible economic stakeholders, and open markets," said Mr. Duarte.

To maintain the Chamber's excellent performance, Mr. Duarte emphasized the continuation of efficient hybrid operations and continuous innovation across platforms, topics, engagements, and initiatives.

"I wish to express my sincere thanks to our Board Directors who have been very active and supportive of ECCP initiatives, advocacies, and events," added Mr. Duarte. "We also thank all our ECCP Committee and ECCP Business Council chairpersons, as well as their respective committee or council members, for their untiring work to keep the voice of ECCP heard in the different business sectors as well as in their respective regions."

The event featured guest keynote speaker, Senator Mark Villar, who emphasized the pivotal role of private, public, and government partnerships in driving economic progress.

Moreover, the meeting concluded with the announcement of the ECCP's newly-elected Board of Directors.

The 2023 ECCP Board of Directors is led by the following ECCP Members, Roman Menz, CEO of Republic Cement Services, Inc.; Jonathan Webster; Director, Head of Multinationals and International Subsidiaries Banking of HSBC Philippines; Albert Perez, Regional Director & Country Head of Michael Page Philippines; Dr. Diana Edralin, MD, DPCOM, General Manager of Roche Philippines; Tarang Gupta, Managing Director of Alaska Milk Corporation; and Bernd Schneider, Area General Manager Philippines of Raffles Fairmont Makati.

Meanwhile, the ECCP Officers for 2023-2024 are Paulo Duarte, ECCP President; Helen Grace Baisa, ECCP Vice President; Francisco Romero Milán, ECCP Vice President; Roman Menz, ECCP Vice President; Jonathan Webster, ECCP Treasurer; Judge Cesar Cruz, Corporate Secretary; and Atty. Peter Calimag, Asst. Corporate Secretary.



Inside ECCP: Manila

ECCP Vice President and Bosch Philippines Managing Director Paolo Duarte present at SEIPI's Q1 General Membership Meeting (GMM) and Partner of the Industry Award

1 March 2023 | Sheraton Manila Hotel

ECCP Vice President and Bosch Philippines Managing Director Paolo Duarte was present at SEIPI's Q1 General Membership Meeting (GMM) and Partner of the Industry Award held last 1 March 2023 at the Sheraton Manila Hotel.

The ECCP, represented by Mr. Duarte, was among the organizations inducted into SEIPI. The induction ceremony was led by Atty. Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo, Chairperson and President of Angat Buhay NGO.

In line with SEIPI's vision for the Philippines to improve its competitiveness as a business environment for semiconductors and electronics technologies in the global market, the ECCP greatly welcomes this partnership and is excited to further promote the advocacies and needs of the Philippine electronics industry!



ECCP joins other industry players and businesses during the I.T. & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) Annual Membership Meeting and 2023 Board of Elections

2 March 2023

ECCP joins other industry players and businesses during the I.T. & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) Annual Membership Meeting and 2023 Board of Elections.

The Chamber, represented by ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Ms. Gen Anaquita (front row, in green), was inducted as one of the newest members of the organization.

With ICT-BPM-KPM as one of the Chamber's priority sectors, the ECCP looks forward to this new partnership and to working closely with IBPAP to promote shared advocacies and the needs of the growing sector!



Identifying Your Next Breakthrough Idea

31 March 2023

To grow and scale your business, start by understanding how innovation can add greater value to your company and lead to long-time success.

This was just one of the key takeaways from our recent webinar with Embiggen Innovation Institute, entitled "Identifying Your Next Breakthrough Idea".

Joined by more than 60 participants, the discussion was led by Embiggen Innovation Institute Managing Director Masaki Mitsuhashi, MSc, CIP, who tackled the best practices in business innovation and how they can be applied to real-life opportunities and challenges.

We were also joined by Cherrie Magbanua, Head of Business Development of Embiggen Innovation Institute, who shared about Embiggen's programs to help one become a Certified Innovation Professional!



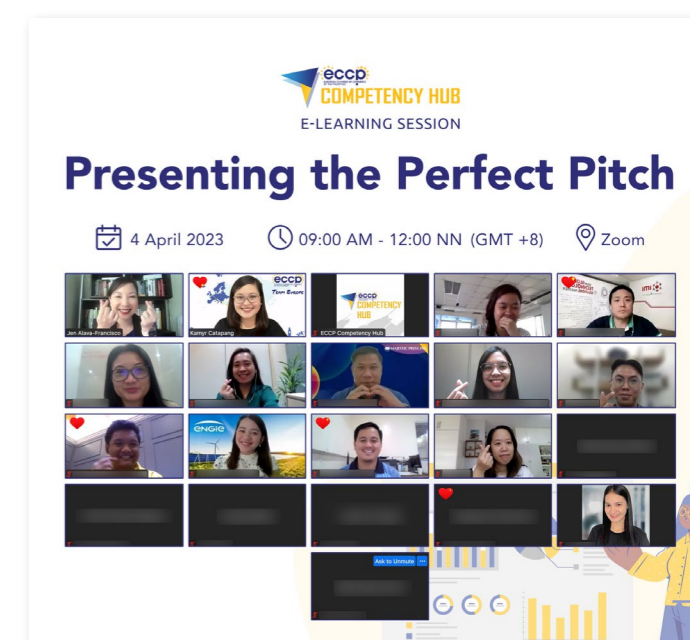
Presenting the Perfect Pitch

4 April 2023

Whether you're running a start-up or a long-time business, having the right storytelling skills can greatly impact any business. This is why it is essential to learn how to craft and present a winning pitch deck!

Last April 4, our ECCP Competency Hub held a learning session on "Presenting the Perfect Pitch" where our participants learned the skills and techniques to create a business pitch and how to customize it to their specific goals and needs.

The training was led by professional consultant Ms. Jen Alava-Francisco and featured topics such as websites and applications to help you get started and even the best communication tactics when presenting!



ECCP meets with Czech Delegates

17 April 2023

The ECCP in partnership with the Czech Embassy Manila hosted the delegates of the Czech Chamber of Commerce as well as representatives of Czech companies during a business mission to the Philippines. Eight companies represented by the delegation are looking to expand their business in the ASEAN region.

This is the second group to visit the country following the initial visit in February.

Present from the Chamber were Director for Projects, Events, and Training Gerry Constantino, Business Consultancy and Research Officer Catherine Anne Lee, and (not seen in photo) Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña.



Data Privacy Compliance: Masterclass Edition

19, 20, 25, 27 April 2023

In order to truly protect your company's and employees' data and privacy, it pays to meet and comply with the legal and regulatory requirements.

Last April 27, the ECCP Competency Hub together with partner Premier Value Provider Inc. concluded its four-session Data Privacy Compliance: Masterclass Edition. The workshop was a great opportunity to understand the importance of data security and the steps that need to be taken to ensure compliance!

It's not too late for you and your business to comply with the requirement of the Data Privacy Act (DPA) of 2012!



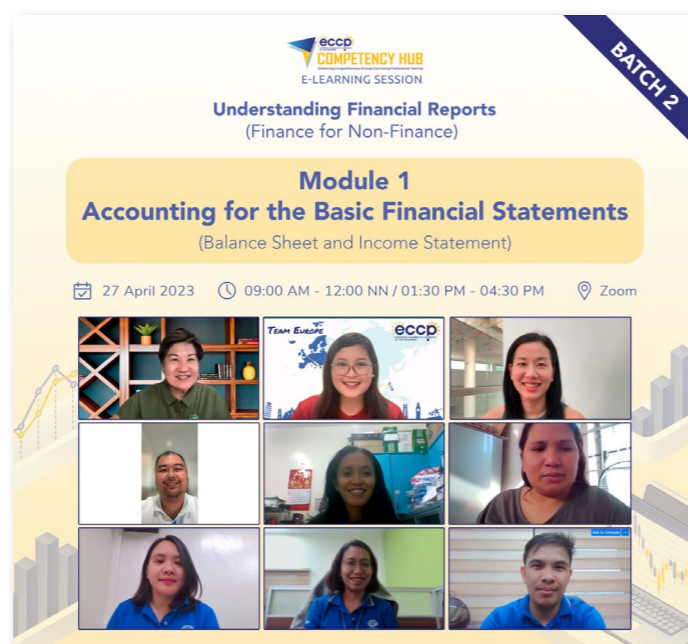
Understanding Financial Reports (Batch 2)

27 April 2023

A fundamental financial objective of all organizations is to be healthy and stable. The financial reports are the means of the company to summarize and communicate financial performance.

Last April 27, the ECCP Competency Hub had the second batch of its Understanding Financial Reports (Finance for Non-Finance) e-learning series on the topic of "Accounting for the Basic Financial Statements". Facilitating the training workshops was Ms. Ma. Victoria "Porky" Calaquian, ECCP training consultant.

During the class, participants learned how to identify the basic elements of the basic financial statements and engaged in learning exercises to teach them how to prepare financial statements.



Dealing with Workplace Bullying

11 May 2023

Last May 11, the ECCP Competency Hub, together with MindNation, held a talk to discuss how to properly manage and deal with workplace bullying, as well as ways to create safe spaces at work.

Facilitated by Lead Psychologist and Chief Wellbeing Officer at MindNation, Eizaleen Fusingan-Lappay, the session tackled the different types of bullying one might experience, the reasons why such instances might occur, and the concrete actions that companies can take to collectively advocate for equal and safe treatment at work.



The 5S + 2S Process (with Files and Record Management)

15 & 17 May 2023

Last May 15 & 17, the ECCP Competency Hub held its staple e-learning session titled "The 5S + 2S Process (with Files and Record Management)".

Facilitated by HR Solutions & Business Management, Inc. consultant Mr. Stephen Bañares, the webinar introduced the attendees to the fundamentals of good housekeeping and files and records management. Throughout the program, the attendees also learned the importance and benefits to be derived from properly and effectively implementing the 7S as well as on how to improve their productivity and help enhance the company's image by consistently practicing the 7S in the workplace.



ECCP met with H.E. Ambassador Christian Halaas Lyster of The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila

16 May 2023

The ECCP met with H.E. Ambassador Christian Halaas Lyster of The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila last 16 May 2023.

The Chamber and the Embassy explored partnership opportunities to maximize the Philippines' competitive advantage as an investment destination for European businesses through investment and trade promotion activities. The ECCP was represented by Former ECCP President Lars Wittig and Executive Director Florian Gottein.



Train-the-Trainer

18 May 2023

Earlier this month, the ECCP Competency Hub organized another Face-To-Face Training on the topic of the crucial role of Trainers and Training in any organization!

The session was held at Dusit Thani Manila and was facilitated by Allan Allas, AFPM, Consultant at HURIS Inc.

Together, the class tackled the fundamentals of the training process as well as the key competencies of making effective trainers.



Joint Foreign Chambers Meeting

23 May 2023

The ECCP was represented by Mr. Lars Wittig, President, and Mr. John Januszcak, Special Committee on Open Finance and Financial Inclusion Chairperson, at the Joint Foreign Chambers meeting with BSP Governor Felipe Medalla last 23 May.

At the said meeting, the group talked about economic updates and projections, foreign direct investments, as well as promotion of digitalization of payments, among others.



Effective Business Writing

8 & 9 June 2023

A big thank you to all the participants who joined our Effective Business Writing online class, organized by the ECCP Competency Hub.

Under the expert guidance of Stephen Bañares, Consultant at HR Solutions & Business Management, Inc., the course provided valuable insights and practical tips to elevate our attendees' business writing skills and equip them with the tools to convey ideas clearly and concisely.



Finnish Innovations in Education

14 June 2023

Last June 14, 2023, the Finnish Embassy in Manila and the ECCP co-organized the "Finnish Innovations in Education" hybrid advocacy event at SPACES BGC to discuss new areas of synergies between Finnish and Philippine education.

We were joined by an esteemed line-up of speakers and panelists who delved into Finland's strengths and exemplary learning practices, which opened further discussions on the transformative potential that lies within the adoption of innovative approaches in our own educational landscape.

As we strive to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world, it is crucial to embrace forward-thinking methodologies, leveraging Finland's successful model as inspiration. By fostering a culture of innovation, we can empower our educators and equip our students with the skills, knowledge, and adaptability needed to thrive in the 21st century!

Our sincerest thanks to Embassy of Finland to the Philippines Ambassador Juha Pyykkö; Embassy of Finland in Singapore - Suomen suurlähetystö Singaporessa Counsellor for Education and Science Ms. Anna Korpi; Aalto Executive Education Academy Pte Ltd Executive Director for Asia Pacific Region Mr. Jukka Majanen; HEI Schools Head of Global



Partnerships Ms. Tiina Daifi; and Tespack Ltd Co-Founder and COO Caritta Seppä.

We likewise thank Holy Cross of Davao College, Inc. President Br. Noelvic Deloria; Ateneo de Manila University John Gokongwei School of Management Chair for Leadership and Strategy Dr. John Luis Lagdameo, PhD.; Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas Executive Director for Strategic Communications Dr. maribeth Gualberto-buenviaje; and ECCP Vice President and Food and Beverage Committee Chair Ms. Helen Grace Baisa and Honorary Consul of Finland and Chair of the ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council and of the ECCP Education Committee Mr. Tony Peralta for gracing the event!

Fundamentals of Human Resource Analytics

15 & 16 June 2023

Last June 15-16, 2023, the ECCP Competency Hub had its "Fundamentals of Human Resource Analytics" e-Learning session to deep dive into the pivotal role of HR analytics in strategic human resource management.

Led by Dr. Marshall Valencia, Director for Research & Analytics of Premier Value Provider Inc., the class tackled topics such as the 8-step Model for Purposeful Analytics, Descriptive Analytics and using Power BI as an HR Analytics Tool.



Luncheon Meeting with the Department of Agriculture 21 June 2023

On June 21 at Dusit Thani Manila, the ECCP together with Advocacy Partner Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA), held a Luncheon Meeting with the Department of Agriculture.

Representing Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Research Mercedita Sombilla illuminated on the agency's plans and priorities in pursuit of a sustainable and high-growth Philippine agriculture sector.

In her keynote speech, the Undersecretary highlighted the government's priority of achieving food security and improving the farm and fisheries production through further investments in research, infrastructure, production technologies, and Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs).

Moreover, during the forum discussion, the Undersecretary also touched on points covering production of high-value crops such as sugarcane and rice.

Adding their much-needed insights to the forum were ECCP Agriculture Committee Chair Ruth Novales who served as one of our panelists, and PPSA Country Director Amy Melissa Chua who was our host and moderator.



Effective Internal Controls to Achieve Business Objectives 21 & 22 June 2023

Once properly navigated, internal controls can have a significant impact on business success in the long run!

Last June 21 and 22, the ECCP Competency Hub held a two-part e-Learning session on the topic of "Effective Internal Controls to Achieve Business Objectives" with HR Solutions & Business Management Inc. Consultant Stephen Bañares!

This best-selling training covered topics such as the types of internal controls and the basics of an internal control framework, as well as featured activities that helped participants define their respective companies' internal control activities.



Winning the Customer: Emotional Intelligence and Customer Service 23 & 29 June 2023

Providing customer service excellence is what will keep your customers coming back!

Last June 23 and 29, the ECCP Competency Hub held its "Winning the Customer: Emotional Intelligence and Customer Service" e-Learning session to redefine what makes great customer service in changing times.

The 6-hour virtual workshop tackled topics such as:

- The new role of Customer Service
- Defining Exceptional Customer Service
- Managing Customer Expectations
- Emotional Intelligence and the Customer



Innovation Lecture Series: Ideation and Foresight 27 June 2023

Driving innovation and unlocking limitless possibilities!

Last June 27, the ECCP Competency Hub in partnership with Embiggen held the first session of the "Innovation Lecture Series" on the topic of Innovation and Foresight.

Led by Masaki Mitsuhashi, Managing Director of Embiggen Innovation Institute, the class delved into the ways of nurturing employees to become corporate entrepreneurs and how companies can empower their people to transform fresh ideas into actionable projects.



Designing Digital Products for the Philippine Market 29 June 2023

Last June 29, the ECCP Competency Hub and Embiggen held a free webinar entitled, "Designing Digital Products for the Philippine Market", with Carlos Silva, Product Designer at Trusting Social as guest speaker.

The session tackled the revolutionary impact of digital products and services in the Philippines - from bringing convenience to reinventing how businesses and companies operate, as well as the tough-process behind developing such innovating products.



Inside ECCP: Cebu

Embiggen's Courtesy Visit to Cebu 18 April 2023

A dinner meeting between Embiggen and ECCP Cebu branch was held last April 18, 2023 at The Weekend restaurant. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current business ecosystem, specifically the startup community of the region, and ideas of potential collaborations.

Present in the meeting for ECCP were the CEO of Central Asia BPO Services INC. (OPKO Finance) Mr. Marc Levy, Sales Executive of WORK ESSENTIALS Ms. Victoria Melgazo, Owner and Principal Architect of Bottega 8290 Architectural Design Services Mr. Robert Malayao, ECCP Cebu Assistant Branch Officer Ms. Patricia Salve, Ms. Melissa Lagat and Ms. April Ong Vaño of DOHE Philippines.



1st ECCP Cebu Business Council Meeting of 2023 15 May 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Cebu held its 1st Cebu Business Council Meeting of 2023. The event took place last May 15, 2023, at the Harolds Evotel Cebu.

The meeting was attended by business leaders from different sectors including Asia Select, AWC Philippines, Belmont Hotel Mactan, Bottega 8290 Architectural Design Services, Dusit Thani Mactan Cebu, Eastern Communications, FPT Software, Harolds Hotel, IONOS (Philippines) INC., RAFI - Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc., Regus Philippines - Cebu, RISE, Citadines Cebu City, Spring Rain Global Consultancy, and SYCIP Gorres Velayo & CO. (SGV & CO.) - Cebu office.



Courtesy Meeting with Lapu-Lapu City LEIPO Head Mr. Kim Francisco 3 May 2023

Last 03 May 2023, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Cebu had a courtesy meeting with Lapu-Lapu City LEIPO Head Mr. Kim Francisco to discuss potential collaboration with the Chamber in promoting Lapu-Lapu City as an investment hub to European and foreign businesses as well as local investors.

The ECCP recognizes the importance of local government units (LGUs) in helping bridge people to businesses and further allowing investment opportunities to thrive in the region.

In photo (from L-R): ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Ms. Jillian Sitchon; Lapu-Lapu City LEIPO Head Mr. Kim Francisco, CGADH II; ECCP Cebu Assistant Branch Officer Ms. Patricia Salve; OIC - MHDTC Mrs. Maricon G. Sevilla; and Admin Officer Ms. Rochel O. Lugo.



Expanding Stronger Potentials and Fostering New Ideas and Partnerships 15,16 May 2023

Last May 15 to 16, Senior International Trade Fairs Officer Ms. Dawn Cabigon of ECCP subsidiary FMI - Fairs & More, Inc. conducted a series of courtesy meetings with Cebu companies to discuss potential collaborations and shared advocacies. These companies are Cebu Furniture Industries Foundation, Inc., CEBU HOMECRAFTS CONSOLIDATED INC., TRI-GOLD VENTURE INTERNATIONAL CORP., and PROFOOD INTERNATIONAL CORP.

She was joined by ECCP Cebu Branch Officers Ms. Jillian Sitchon and Ms. Patricia Salve.



Courtesy Meeting with the Director, Head of Multinationals and International Subsidiaries Banking Mr. Jonathan Webster

15,16 May 2023

Last 16 May 2023, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC), represented by its Director, Head of Multinationals and International Subsidiaries Banking Mr. Jonathan Webster, paid a courtesy visit to the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Cebu Office in Regus, Park Centrale.



Digital Marketing: From Zero to Hero Module 1

31 May 2023

Last May 31, 2023, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Cebu branch organized the “Digital Marketing: From Zero to Hero” training in partnership with Kapwa Marketing. The training delved into the fundamentals of creating a strong online presence through exploring webspace and domains and serves as the foundation of web development and digital marketing for beginners to learn.



Courtesy Visit to the New General Manager of Dusit Thani Mactan Cebu, Mr. Laurent Betourne

30 May 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Cebu paid a courtesy visit to the new general manager of Dusit Thani Mactan Cebu, Mr. Laurent Betourne to welcome his appointment.

The visit was conducted to formally meet the newly appointed general manager of Dusit Thani Mactan Cebu.



Opening of BLS International-Philippines Poland Visa Application Center in Cebu

1 June 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Cebu joined the opening of BLS International-Philippines Poland Visa Application Center at Apple One Equicom Tower in Cebu Business Park.

The Chamber was represented by ECCP Cebu Business Council Chairperson Ms. Valeiry Flores (3rd from the left) and ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Ms. Jillian Sitchon (1st from the left). The opening of the center served as an opportunity to ease the processes of Polish Visa Applications for applicants coming from the Visayas and Mindanao.



I-Am Consulting Alignment Meeting

30 May 2023

Chief Executive Officer Ms. Maria Wilvenna Añora of I-AM Consulting had a courtesy meeting with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Cebu at its office in Regus, Park Centrale. The meeting allowed room to discuss potential training partnerships and other possible collaborations set in the Visayas region.



Inside ECCP: CDO

Urban and Regional Planning: Vital Role Towards Economic Growth

7 March 2023

ECCP Cagayan de Oro and Davao jointly conducted a webinar on "Urban and Regional Planning: Vital Role Towards Economic Growth" with Environmental Planner & Business Development Consultant Mr. Fercy Cavan.

Mr. Cavan gave an informative presentation on the concept and framework of urban and regional planning, the role it plays towards economic growth, and the current challenges and issues of urban and regional planning.

During the panel discussion, he further shared short-term and long-term urban planning strategies, as well as, other insights on how to potentially address current urban planning issues.

He was joined by host and moderator Mr. Tony Peralta, Executive Director at FREEDOM, Inc. and Chairman of ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council.



Behavior Based Safety Training

7,8 March 2023

Behavior Based Safety is a relatively new approach using a combination of behavioral science and industry safety to promote safety culture in an organization. The approach has created impressive records of increasing safe behaviors and decreasing incidents/accidents. It focuses on measuring safe behaviors of workers (leading indicators) rather than measuring number of incidents (lagging indicators). The continuing cycle of observation and feedback in BBS predicts upcoming safety problems, therefore, prevents incidents/accidents when right intervention is done.

The e-learning session was in partnership with J3 Trainers and Consultants Inc. and was attended by 25 participants from various industries.

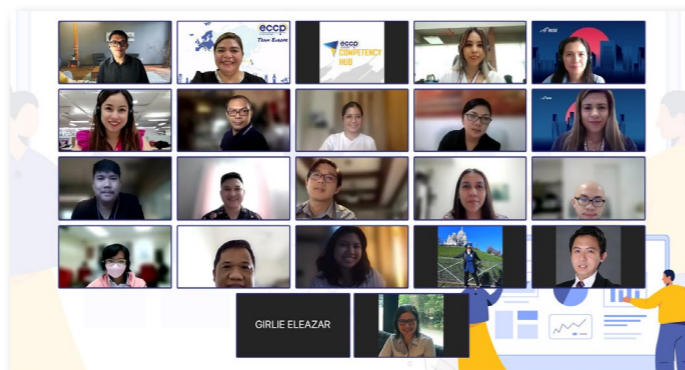


How Data Analytics Works in Business Decision Making

29 March 2023

The ECCP Competency Hub, spearheaded by the CDO - Northern Mindanao Chapter, successfully conducted the second part of the Data Analytics Program called How Data Analytics Works in Business Decision Making which concentrated on how data analytics functions in corporate decision making, following the extensive discussion on the foundations of data analytics given in the first part of this program. The program allowed the participants to also exchange best practices, seek the facilitator's advice on various statistical tools, and more insightful exchanges.

The training was attended by 19 participants from various sectors: Logistics, Manufacturing, Industrial, Real Estate, and Healthcare and was facilitated by Mr. Fercy Cavan, a Statistician and Business Development Consultant.



ECCP Northern Mindanao Continues its Initiatives for the Bamboo Industry

31 March 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines - Cagayan De Oro/Northern Mindanao organized a virtual Bamboo forum last May 31, 2023, providing an invaluable platform for industry professionals and enthusiasts to delve into the various aspects of the thriving bamboo industry. Supported by Rizome Philippines, who is a prominent player in the field, as the Bronze Partner, the event featured renowned bamboo specialists who offered their thoughts, experience, and innovative ideas to promote market sustainability. With a promising opening, the stage was set for Mr. Florian Gottein, the ECCP's Executive Director, to make his much-anticipated introductory remarks and kick off the enlightening discussion regarding the potential of the bamboo industry and its future.

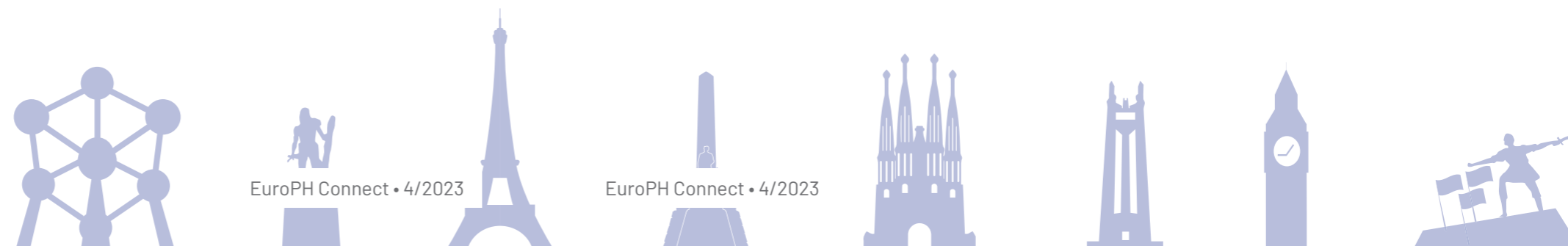
The online bamboo workshop event started with one of the event's invited speakers, Engr. Christian S. Camacho of the Department of Science and Technology - Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) discussing "Innovations in the Bamboo Industry on Product Manufacturing - Modern Bamboo Connector & Engineered Bamboo Products." Engr. Camacho, a Senior Science Research Specialist at FPRDI, shared his expertise in the use of bamboo as a construction material and his involvement in developing standards for engineered bamboo products. He introduced the Modern Bamboo Connector, a jointing technique developed by the institute to address construction challenges posed by bamboo's unique features.

Following Engr. Camacho's presentation, Prof. Love Jhoye Raboy, an experienced academician and Dean of the College of Information Technology and Computing at the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines, took the virtual stage. Prof. Raboy shed light on the Bamboost App, an online marketplace for bamboo funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development. She delved into the topic of "Innovations in the Bamboo Industry on R&D and Technology Transfer - Bamboost App," highlighting the app's role in promoting bamboo products and facilitating sustainable growth within the industry.



The event reached its finale with the last invited guest speaker, Ms. Amy Villanueva, the Co-Founder of Kawayan Collective where she shared her knowledge and insights on "Sustainable Earning in the Bamboo Industry." With a background in international studies and business administration, Ms. Villanueva has dedicated herself to propelling the bamboo industry forward and promoting its application in affordable housing. She discussed the mission of Kawayan Collective, a social venture with the goal of increasing the use of bamboo in ecological architecture and affordable housing projects across the country.

The event concluded with an open forum wherein participants had the opportunity to engage directly with the speakers by asking further inquiries regarding bamboo and the industry. The speakers, Engr. Christian S. Camacho, Prof. Love Jhoye Raboy, and Ms. Amy Villanueva, graciously addressed the participants' queries, ensuring that the event ended on a high note of knowledge-sharing and engagement, boosting the interest of the attendees on the bamboo industry.



Inside ECCP: Davao

Tapping into the Thriving Philippine Halal Industry and its Prospects for Economic Development

24 April 2023

ECCP Davao hosted a webinar, "Tapping into the Thriving Philippine Halal Industry and its Prospects for Economic Development," via Zoom.

The speaker was Ms. Marilou Ampuan, Al Hajj who is the Founder and President of the Universal Islamic Center and Philippine Halal Trade and Tourism Expo. Ms. Ampuan provided an overview of what Halal is, its many benefits, as well as, the ways to leverage the country's existing Halal industry to bolster nationwide economic development.

During the panel discussion, Ms. Ampuan further answered questions regarding regional initiatives that can be undertaken to support the Halal industry and also the process for agencies to acquire a Halal Certification. She was joined by host and moderator Mr. Tony Peralta, Executive Director at FREEDOM, Inc. and Chairman of ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council.

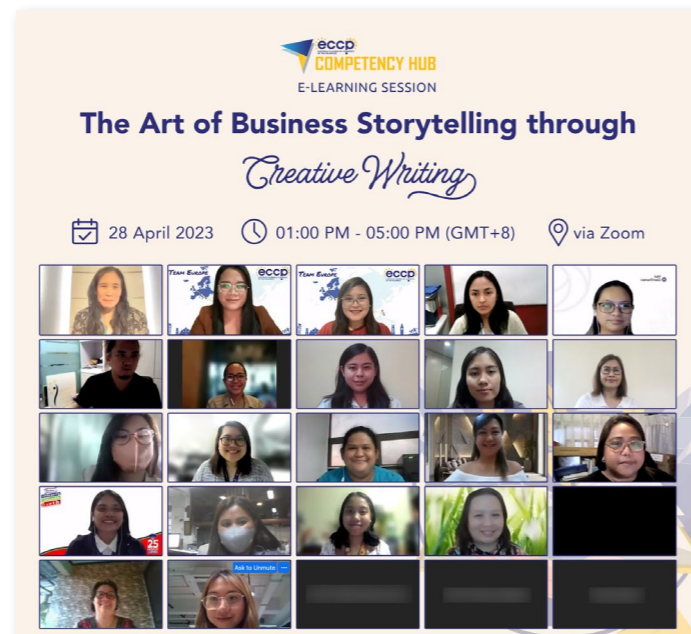


The Art of Business Storytelling through Creative Writing Part 1

28 April 2023

An e-Learning on, "The Art of Business Storytelling through Creative Writing Part 1" was successfully conducted by the Davao Branch, through the ECCP's Competency Hub. The whole afternoon session was facilitated by Ms. Katrina Angela Posadas of the Holy Cross of Davao College.

Participated in by 24 employees from different companies, the training was aimed at equipping them on the basic concepts, different writing techniques and styles of creative writing that will better promote their products and services to wider audience, get broader exposure, and engage clients/customers.



ECCP Davao Supports 30th World Press Freedom Day

6 May 2023

In celebration of the 30th World Press Freedom Day, ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Chairman Antonio Peralta served as one of the guest speakers during the "How We Cover News" forum at the Holy Cross of Davao College.

Speaking before the media practitioners and students from various schools and universities, Chairman Peralta urged them to exercise responsible and ethical journalism in their respective fields so as to significantly contribute to the development of the country. He also underscored the important role of Foreign Chambers such as ECCP as allies of the government in communicating and propagating positive stories of progress in the areas of business and investment.

Furthermore, he zeroed in on the need for a collaborative effort by all stakeholders to rectify the negative narratives about the peace and security situation in Mindanao hence attract better opportunities for growth.

After the forum, he also joined the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the "How We Cover News" Photo Exhibit at SM City Ecoland.



ECCP, DCCCI, Philippine Exporters Confederation Region XI, and Kennemer Foods International met with the EU Delegation

17 May 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Exporters Confederation Region XI, and Kennemer Foods International met with the EU Delegation led by His Excellency Ambassador Luc Véron at Dusit Thani Davao.

The meeting zeroed in on Mindanao's investment and business climate and other possible areas of collaboration.

The ECCP team was represented by Director for Projects, Events, and Training Mr. Gerry Constantino and Southern Mindanao Business Council Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta.

Photo courtesy of the EU Delegation.



ECCP Davao Attended the 2nd Mindanao Development Forum (MDF)

18 May 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) attended the 2nd Mindanao Development Forum (MDF) at Acacia Hotel Davao.

Graced by Ambassadors, international development partners, national and local government agencies, private sector/business community, and other stakeholders, the event served as an avenue for meaningful dialogues and strategic partnerships for the inclusive peace and development of Mindanao.

The ECCP was represented by the Bangsamoro Agri Enterprise Program - Creating REsponsible, Sustainable and Competitive ENTERprises (BAEP-CRESCENT) Project Team led by ECCP Director for Projects, Events, and Training Mr. Gerry Constantino, Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta, Davao Branch/SMBC Officer Ms. Rosemarie Baguio and Consultants Mr. Daryl Valdez, Mr. Cesar Cuyugan, and Mr. Fercy Cavan.

The BAEP-CRESCENT is an EU-funded project for BARMM which is being implemented by ECCP.



Ambassador Christian Halaas Lyster and ECCP-SMBC Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta Met with Davao Seafoods Importers and Exporters

30 May 2023

A delegation from The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila led by Ambassador Christian Halaas Lyster and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines - Southern Mindanao Business Council (ECCP-SMBC) Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta met with the Davao seafoods importers and exporters at Dusit Thani, Davao City.

In a bid to promote and increase awareness, Ambassador Lyster talked about the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) and explored possible areas of collaboration. Together with the business owners and industry leaders, the group had a fruitful dialogue and learned the best practices of Norway's fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of the Philippines recently celebrated its close and long-standing bilateral relations in early May this year.

The EFTA states which include Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Iceland signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Philippines in 2016 and entered into force in June 2018. The agreement is seen to increase the country's trade and investments and expand foothold in the European market and vice versa.



Getting Your Business Stories Out

20 June 2023

The ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council successfully conducted the second part of the Creative Writing e-learning series entitled, "Getting Your Business Stories Out."

Facilitated by Mr. Derf Hanzel Maiz of the Holy Cross of Davao College, the online training equipped the participants with necessary knowledge and skills in generating compelling stories for wider audience, broader exposure, and increased visibility across digital channels and social media platforms.



ECCP-SMBC Participated in an FGD on the Proposed Establishment of the Institute of Peace Communication Studies of the Holy Cross of Davao College

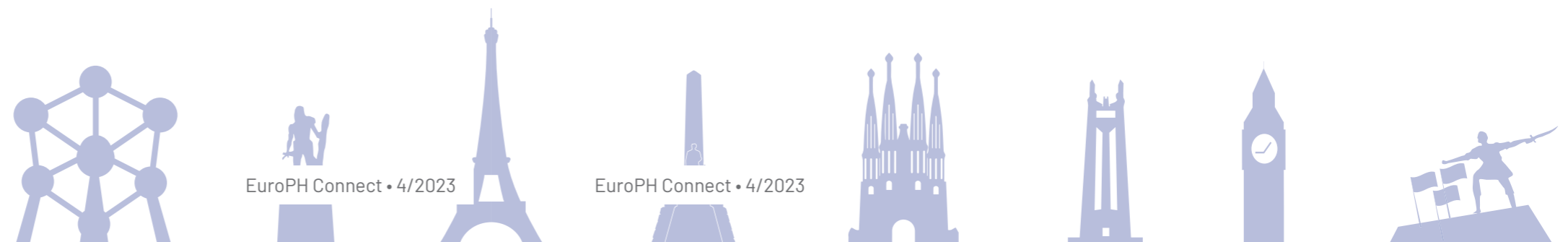
21 June 2023

ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta actively participated in a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the proposed establishment of the Institute of Peace Communication Studies of the Holy Cross of Davao College.

In his talks, Mr. Peralta underscored the role of responsible media and practical peace studies in helping rectify the negative perceptions on Mindanao's peace and security situation. These perceptions have had an adverse impact on the business and investment climate, as well as the overall development of the region.

Furthermore, Mr. Peralta commended HCDC for their ongoing peace efforts, which include capacity-building, research, and advocacy. These efforts serve as integral components of the proposed Institute.

The event was aimed at gathering insights and opinions from the stakeholders that will significantly help improve the vision, objectives, and strategies of the proposed Institute and ensure that it is responsive to the needs of the community.



Inside ECCP: Iloilo



ICT-BPM in Western Visayas: Potential Expansion in Roxas City

Starting the second half of the year right, ECCP Western Visayas organized a pocket learning session last June 1, 2023 at Cafe Terraza Pavilion, highlighting the growing ICT-BPM industry in Roxas City.



“Accelerating Progress: A Round-table Discussion on ICT-BPM Industry” is a physical event that revolves around Roxas City as a leading city in ICT-BPM. The main agenda features Roxas City as an ideal place to invest and work in. With its promising, highly-skilled workers, supported well by its local government, the private sector and local community are bound to make promising collaborations in the future, to further enhance ICT-BPM.



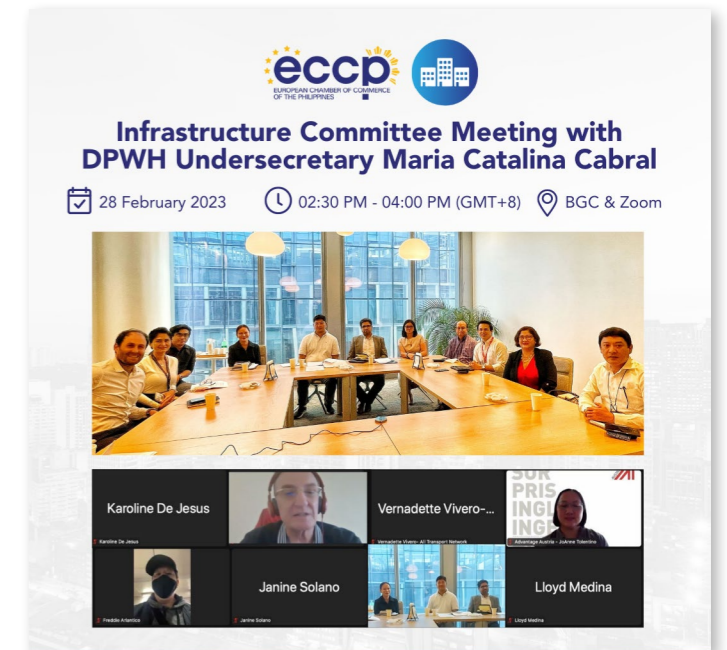
ICT Experts, including **Mr. Jose Nery Ong**, CEO and President of Pueblo de Panay Inc. and **Mr. Jack Madrid**, the CEO and President of IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) took charge of the discussions. They presented the competencies of Roxas City in ICT-BPM, as well as the strategic plan of action that the City will traverse to succeed as one of the promising hubs of ICT-BPM services in Western Visayas. **Mr. Joe Bantiling**, the Business Council Chairman of ECCP Western Visayas closed the event through meaningful remarks.

Advocacy Corner

ECCP Infrastructure Committee Meeting 28 February 2023

The ECCP Infrastructure Committee met with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary for Planning and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Service Dr. Maria Catalina Cabral on 28 February 2023 at SPACES World Plaza in Bonifacio Global City and Zoom. The Undersecretary discussed the impacts of the Mandanas-Garcia ruling implementation on the Philippine infrastructure development as well as the priority infrastructure projects of the Agency for 2023. In addition, the group discussed this year’s key committee advocacies including the prioritization and allocation of funds for green infrastructure, among others.

To join or inquire regarding the ECCP Infrastructure Committee, please contact Chin Nethercott at chienie.nethercott@eccp.com.



ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee Meeting 2 March 2023

The ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee held a hybrid committee meeting last 02 March 2023 at SPACES World Plaza in Bonifacio Global City and via Zoom. The group received updates and exchanged views on various sector developments, including the policy proposals on Ease of Paying Taxes, Promotion of Digital Payments, as well as the packages under the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP). The members also shared their insights on the Committee’s priority advocacies for 2023, as well as recommended engagements with policymakers and other stakeholders.

To join or inquire regarding the ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee, please contact Katt Baligod at katt.baligod@eccp.com.



JFC Meeting with BIR Commissioner Lumagui Jr.

14 March 2023

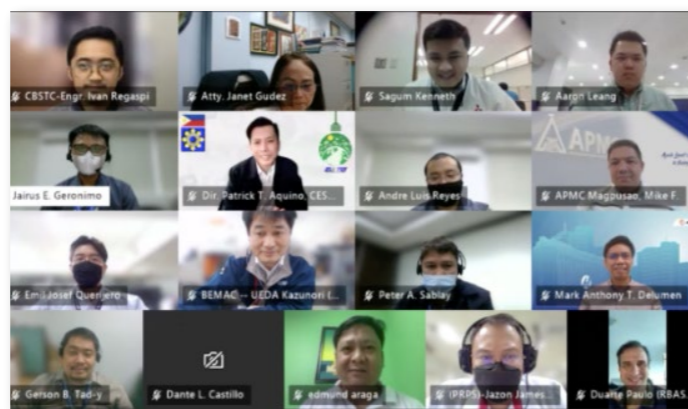
On 14 March 2023, the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines had a courtesy meeting with Atty. Romeo Lumagui Jr., Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). At the said meeting, the group discussed updates on BIR policies and priorities, including digitalisation, VAT refund system, audit process, as well as legislation such as the Ease of Paying Taxes bill. ECCP was represented by Ms. Helen Grace Baisa, Director and Treasurer, as well as Atty. Kristine Mercado-Tamayo, Tax and Financial Services Committee Co-Chair.



Public Consultation on EV-related Department Circulars and Presentation of Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI)

20 March 2023

Last 20 March 2023, the ECCP participated in the virtual public consultation of the Department of Energy (DOE) on the electric vehicle-related department circulars as well as the presentation of the Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI) pursuant to the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA). For updates and other inquiries in relation to the EVIDA and CREVI, you may email doe.EVoffice@gmail.com.



Food and Beverage Committee Meeting

21 March 2023

The ECCP Food and Beverage Committee held a virtual committee meeting with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Ruth Castelo to discuss the DTI's Plans and Priorities to improve business operations in the Food and Beverage Industry. The committee received updates on the ongoing proposed amendments to the consumer act, plans to amend the price act, and Standard Retail Price (SRP) bulletin release, among others.

To join or inquire regarding the ECCP Food and Beverage Committee, please contact Elena Tabbu at elena.tabbu@eccp.com.



ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting with DOTr Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports Roberto Lim

22 March 2023

The ECCP and its Aviation Committee met with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports Roberto "Bobby" Lim last 22 March at the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) Administration Building and Zoom. During the meeting, the Undersecretary discussed the plans and priorities of the administration for the aviation industry. Moreover, the attendees tackled the committee priorities and advocacy recommendations for the sector including the formulation of a National Aerospace Plan, upgrading airport infrastructure, restructuring the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) into a regulatory body, the establishment of the Philippine Airports Authority, and the creation of the Philippine Transportation Safety Board (PTSB), among others. The group also discussed areas of collaboration for the upcoming Aviation Summit in September.

Present at the meeting were DOTr Undersecretary Bobby Lim, Chief of Staff Director Joel Laguerta, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, Quisumbing Torres Partner and ECCP Aviation Committee Chairperson Atty. Marvin Masangkay, Aviation Committee Co-Chairperson Lourdes Cariño-Angeles, SITA Country Head Philippines Junard Cruz, NavFix Flight Services General Manager Penny Lim, ECCP Industry and Government Affairs Manager Katt Baligod, and ECCP Advocacy Officer Chin Nethercott. International Jet Management Asia CEO Max Motschmann, AsBAA Chapter Chair for the Philippines Captain Patrick Roa, and AsBAA Director Anthony Lam also joined virtually.



Automotive Committee Meeting

27 March 2023

The ECCP Automotive Committee met virtually on 27 March to discuss the recently presented Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI). The CREVI refers to a national development plan for the EV industry with an annual work plan to accelerate the development, commercialization, and utilization of EVs in the country. During the session, the participants shared their position and input on the roadmap, as well as the advocacy recommendations of the committee under the 2023 edition of the Automotive Advocacy Paper to be released in May.

To join or inquire regarding the ECCP Automotive Committee, please contact Chin Nethercott at chienie.nethercott@eccp.com.



Environment and Water Committee Meeting

28 March 2023

The ECCP Environment and Water Committee held its first meeting for the year last 28 March 2023 together with guest speaker, Atty. Ivy Joyce de Pedro from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau who discussed the salient points of the Extended Producers Responsibility Act and shared updates on the law's implementation. During the meeting, the committee members were able to raise their concerns and voice their suggestions relevant to the legislation.



JFC Meeting with DOT Sec. Frasco

30 March 2023

The Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines met with the Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Frasco last 30 March at the New DOT Building in Makati City. The group discussed the legislative priorities of the JFC including the CAAP Charter Amendments, Philippine Airports Authority creation, and the Philippine Transportation Safety Board establishment. The Secretary also presented the DOT Promotions post-COVID as well as the Agency's initiatives to improve tourism-related infrastructure in the Philippines. During the session, the ECCP, represented by Aviation Committee Co-Chairperson Ms. Lourdes Cariño-Angeles, discussed the upcoming ECCP x AsBAA Aviation Event in September.



Alliance of Tech Innovators for the Nation (ATIN) Media Launch

12 April 2023

The ECCP attended the media launch of the Alliance of Tech Innovators for the Nation (ATIN) last 12 April at Diamond Hotel Manila. ATIN is a loose coalition of tech industry players in the Philippines which aims to promote inclusive growth and development through the digital economy. Following the launch, ATIN will be organizing its Digital Economy Summit 2023 which will be crucial in sustaining discussions and dialogues to improve the country's digital infrastructure, assist MSMEs in adopting digital technology, and promote ease of doing business through technology.

Present at the event are the keynote speakers: Mr. Monchito B. Ibrahim, ATIN Lead Convenor, and Hon. David Almirol, Department of Information and Communications Technology Undersecretary for E-Government; as well as the panelists:



Hon. Mary Jean Pacheco, Department of Trade and Industry Assistant Secretary, Mr. Rainer Alvarado, House of Representatives Legislative Committee Secretary, Mr. Lito Villanueva, Fintech Alliance Chairman, and Ms. Michelle Alarcon, Analytics Association of the Philippines President.

ECCP Agriculture Committee Meeting

14 April 2023

Last 14 April, the ECCP Agriculture Committee held its first hybrid committee meeting for the year. The committee meeting featured presentations from guest speaker, Ms. Tisha Pia De la Rosa on the impact of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) for the Philippine Agriculture Sector, focusing on the agricultural opportunities under the trade agreement and from the Committee's Chairperson, Ms. Ruth Novales, on regenerative agriculture. The committee also discussed its 2023 advocacy priorities as well as its plans and programs for the year, particularly the 2023 installment of the Chamber's pillar event for the sector, the Sustainable Agriculture Forum tentatively scheduled in September.



ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting with MIAA General Manager Cesar Chiong

19 April 2023

Last 19 April at the MIAA Administration Building and Zoom, the ECCP and its Aviation Committee met with the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Cesar Chiong. During the session, the General Manager discussed updates on the Philippine airport operational efficiency as well as the importance of digitalization to improve connectivity. Moreover, the group presented the committee priorities and advocacy recommendations for the sector including the formulation of a National Aerospace Plan, upgrading airport infrastructure, restructuring the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) into a regulatory body, the establishment of the Philippine Airports Authority, and the creation of the Philippine Transportation Safety Board (PTSB), among others. The group also discussed areas of collaboration for the upcoming Aviation Summit in September.

Present at the meeting were MIAA General Manager Cesar Chiong, Senior Assistant General Manager Bryan Andersen Co, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, SITA Country Head Philippines Junard Cruz, International Jet Management Asia CEO Max Motschmann, Turkish Airlines Regional Station Manager for the Philippines Tolga Aykurt,



Sales and Operations Representative Assistant Rea Banaban, NavFix Flight Services General Manager Penny Lim, ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña, and Advocacy Officer Chin Nethercott. Quisumbing Torres Partner and ECCP Aviation Committee Chairperson Atty. Marvin Masangkay and AsBAA Director Anthony Lam also joined virtually.

JFC Meeting with DTI Secretary Alfredo Pascual

24 April 2023

The Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC) met with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo Pascual on 24 April 2023 to discuss DTI's plans and programs to attract foreign investments and to ease the doing of business in the country. The group also tackled some updates on the legislative economic reforms as well as relevant trade and investment agreements like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).



Environment and Water Committee Meeting

25 April 2023

The ECCP Environment and Water Committee Meeting held its second committee meeting on 25 April and discussed the group's advocacy priorities and direction for 2023. The meeting, which was essentially a continuation of the meeting last 28 March, also featured updates on various developments in the environment and water sector as well as the proposed activities for the year.

For more information or to be part of the ECCP Environment and Water Committee, please contact Elena Tabbu at elena.tabbu@eccp.com.

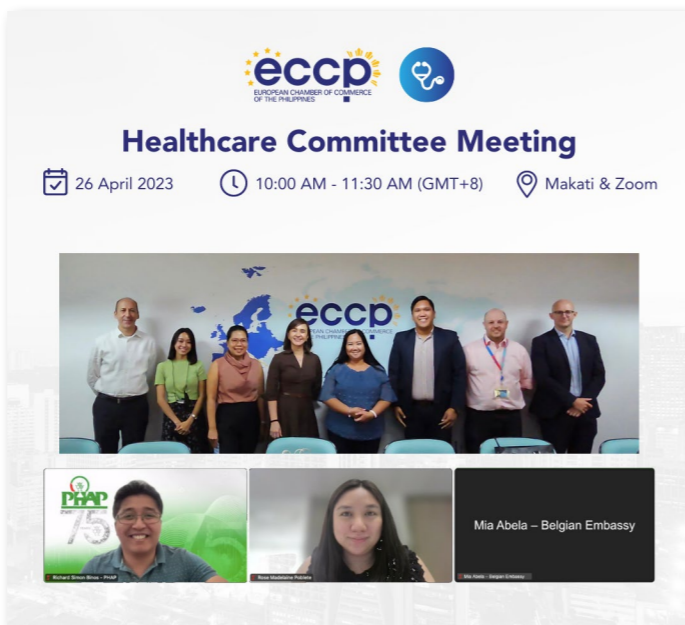


Healthcare Committee Meeting

26 April 2023

Last 26 April, the ECCP Healthcare Committee gathered for a hybrid meeting to talk about the various developments in the healthcare sector, including legislative proposals to be monitored, as well as regulations for the medical devices sector. The group also shared further recommendations on the committee's key messages for 2023.

For more information or to be part of the ECCP Healthcare Committee, email katt.baligod@eccp.com.



Luncheon Meeting organized by Consular of Spain

26 April 2023

Former ECCP President Lars Wittig participated as a speaker at the Luncheon Meeting organized by the Consular Corps of the Philippines last 26 April 2023 at Fairmont Hotel, Makati City. At the luncheon, Mr. Wittig presented the overview of the Philippine trade and investments as well as his insights on doing business in the country.

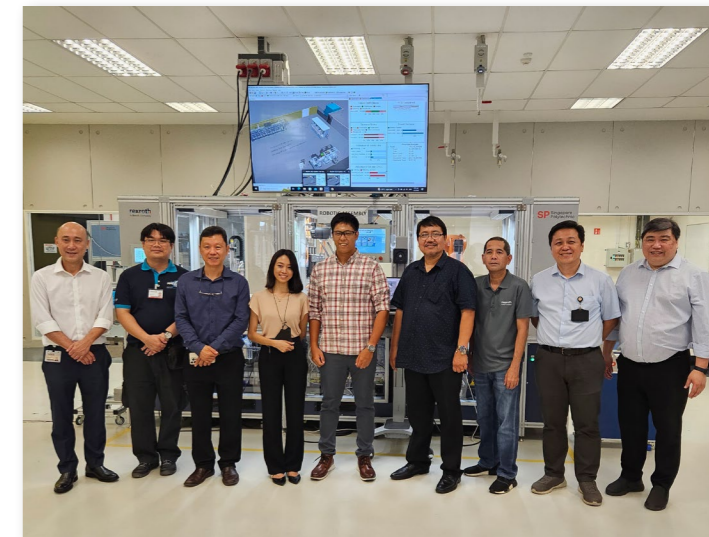


Philippines Business Visit to the Bosch Rexroth Regional Training Center

4-5 May 2023

Together with Bosch Philippines, the ECCP participated in the Philippine delegation visit to the Bosch Rexroth Regional Training Center (BRRTC) in Singapore last 4-5 May 2023, which showcased Bosch initiatives in supporting Industry 4.0, including its collaboration with public and private stakeholders.

During the two-day session, the participants met with representatives of technical schools and small and medium-sized businesses that presently use Rexroth solutions to train students and improve business operations. The group also had the opportunity to meet with Atty. Carla Regina Grepo, Commercial Counsellor of the Philippine Embassy in Singapore.



JFC meeting with the International Monetary Fund

8 May 2023

The Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines met with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission last 8 May 2023 at the Robert Sears Hall, American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Office. The group discussed the Philippine economic outlook for 2023 and the medium term, business environment in the country, FDI developments, as well as key structural reforms to raise growth potential. The IMF also presented its views on effective tax rates on mining.



ECCP Automotive Committee Meeting 10 May 2023

Last 10 May 2023, the Automotive Committee Members had a meeting with Philippine Board of Investments Acting Director for Manufacturing Industries Service Hon. Reynaldo Lignes and Acting Division Chief of Heavy Industries Division Mr. Elvin Raymond Garcia at the ECCP Board Room in Makati City. The group discussed the overview of the Philippine automotive industry as well as updates on the Electric Vehicle Incentive Strategy (EVIS). The session was chaired by Automotive Committee Co-Chairpersons Mr. Willy Tee Ten and Mr. Paulo Duarte who also serves as ECCP Vice President.

To join the committee and its future engagements, please reach out to Ms. Chin Nethercott at chienie.nethercott@eccp.com.



Courtesy meeting: ECCP x H.E. Ambassador Niyazi Evren Akyol of the Embassy of Turkey 15 May 2023

Last 15 May 2023, Former ECCP President Mr. Lars Wittig and Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein discussed with Turkish Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Niyazi Evren Akyol about how the Embassy of Turkey and the Chamber can collaborate in strengthening European-Philippine business relations.

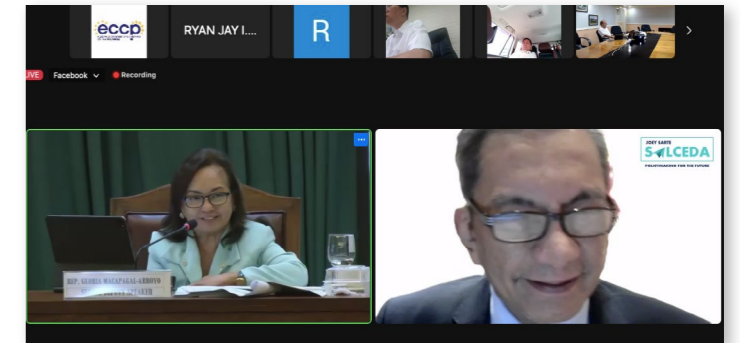


Courtesy visit: ECCP x H.E. Ambassador Răduța Matache of the Embassy of Romania 15 May 2023

The ECCP had a courtesy visit to H.E. Ambassador Răduța Matache of the Embassy of Romania on 15 May 2023. ECCP President Mr. Lars Wittig, Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein, and Board Member Mr. Roman Menz presented the Chamber's advocacies and initiatives in bolstering economic ties between the Philippines and Europe. The group also discussed potential areas of collaboration with the Embassy.

House Committee on Ways and Means Hybrid Meeting 16 May 2023

The ECCP virtually took part in the House Committee on Ways and Means Hybrid Meeting about the pending bills on fiscal regime for the mining industry on 16 May 2023. The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda.



Courtesy visit: ECCP x Ambassador Dr. Titanilla Tóth of the Embassy of Hungary 16 May 2023

The ECCP met with Ambassador of Hungary to the Philippines Dr. Titanilla Tóth and Head of Commercial Section Mr. Máté Kiss on 16 May 2023. The Chamber and the Embassy explored partnership opportunities to maximise the Philippines' competitive advantage as an investment destination for European business through investment and trade promotion activities. The ECCP was represented by Former President Lars Wittig and Executive Director Florian Gottein.



Norwegian Constitution Day and the 75th Anniversary 17 May 2023

Last May 17, we joined in commemorating Norway, its people, history, and traditions, as well as its contributions to the world.

Pictured below are Former ECCP President Mr. Lars Wittig and ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein, who had the honor of taking part in the festivities at a grand celebration hosted by H.E. Christian Halaas Lyster, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila at the Grand Hyatt Manila yesterday evening. The event, attended by foreign diplomatic corps and delegates, was also in commemoration of the 75-year anniversary of Philippine-Norway bilateral relations!

Our warmest congratulations to the Norwegian Community here in the Philippines, and wishing you all a meaningful Constitution Day!



ECCP and EU-ABC Mission Trip Meetings 10 May 2023

The ECCP and the EU-ASEAN Business Council kicked off the EU-ABC Mission Trip with meetings with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Tourism (DOT), and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) last 22 May 2023.

Particularly, the group met with DTI Secretary Alfredo Pascual, along with Undersecretaries Ana Carol P. Sanchez and Ruth B. Castelo, Assistant Secretary, Glenn G. Peñaranda, Department Chief Cynthia Dela Cruz.

As well as DOT Secretary Maria Esperanza Christina Garcia Frasco.

Finally, the delegates met with DICT Secretary John Ivan Uy and Undersecretary David Almirol, Jr.

Joined by over 70 delegates from ASEAN countries, the EU-ABC and ECCP Mission Trip is a series of high-level meetings with key Philippine government decision makers, with the objective of providing policy updates and insights, exploring investment and partnership opportunities, as well as sharing recommendations and best practices.



JFC Meeting with BSP Governor Felipe Medalla 23 May 2023

23 May 2023

The ECCP was represented by Mr. Lars Wittig, Former ECCP President, and Mr. John Januszcak, Special Committee on Open Finance and Financial Inclusion Chairperson, at the Joint Foreign Chambers meeting with BSP Governor Felipe Medalla last 23 May. At the said meeting, the group talked about economic updates and projections, foreign direct investments, as well as promotion of digitalisation of payments, among others.

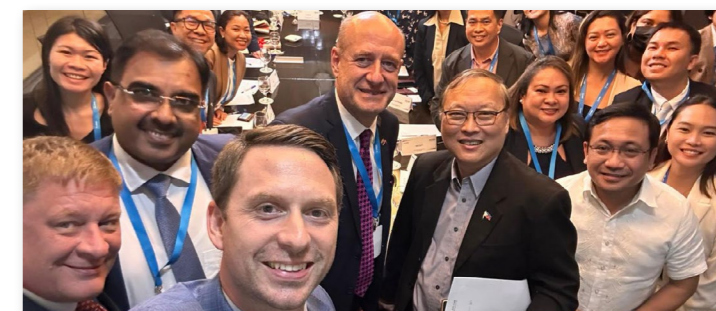


EU-ABC and ECCP Mission Trip Meetings 23-25 May 2023

The ECCP and the EU-ASEAN Business Council continued with the Mission Trip meetings with government representatives from 23 to 25 May.

The delegates met with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Felipe Medalla, Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Felix William Fuentesbella, House Speaker Martin Romualdez, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary Lea Buendia, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime Bautista, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Public-Private Partnership Center (PPP), Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary Kristine Evangelista and Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) representatives, Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary Mark Dennis Joven, and Bureau of Customs (BOC) Deputy Commissioner Vener Baquiran.

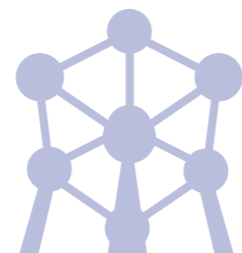
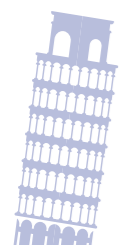
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EU Trade Counsellors and Business Chambers Meeting 30 May 2023

30 May 2023

The ECCP participated in the EU Trade Counsellors and Business Chambers Meeting held last 30 May, which was also attended by European Embassy and chamber representatives. At the said meeting, the group received a presentation from Atty. Rowel Barba, Director General of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines. The attendees also had an exchange on EU-PH bilateral trade relations with sub-topics on market access issues and taxation, as well as trade and sustainable development.



EU Delegation Meeting with ECCP Automotive Committee

30 May 2023

The Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines met with the ECCP Automotive Committee at the ECCP Board Room and Zoom. During the session held on 30 May, the group discussed market access issues on automotive products including the matters related to the obtention of the Philippine Standard (PS) Quality and/or Safety Mark and Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) Sticker. The Committee and the Delegation also tackled the draft guidelines for the Vehicles Fuel Economy Labeling Program (VFELP) in the Philippines.



ECCP Tourism Committee Chairpersons Meeting with Committee Regional Representatives

31 May 2023

The Tourism Committee Chairpersons had an introductory call with the regional representatives of the committee last 31 May via Zoom. During the session, the committee leaders presented an overview of the committee, its operations, recent activities, and policy recommendations. Each representative also shared recent tourism industry updates in their respective area/region.



ECCP Infrastructure Committee Meeting with PHILGBC Technical Coordinator Mr. Mario Suelto

1 June 2023

For its second quarter meeting held on 1 June at the ECCP Board Room, the Infrastructure Committee engaged with Mr. Mario Suelto, Technical Coordinator of the Philippine Green Building Council. The group had a productive exchange about green infrastructure and net zero buildings and construction.



ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting with Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Executive Director Atty. Carmelo Arcilla

6 June 2023

The ECCP Aviation Committee had the opportunity to meet Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Executive Director Atty. Carmelo Arcilla last 6 June 2023 at the CAB Office in Pasay City and Zoom. During the session, Atty. Arcilla shared the plans and priorities of CAB and investment opportunities in the Philippine aviation industry. The committee members led by co-chairpersons Atty. Marvin Masangkay and Ms. Lourdes Cariño-Angeles handed over the 2023 ECCP Advocacy Paper containing the Aviation Committee's policy recommendations as well as discussed the forthcoming Aviation Summit in September.



Meeting with MEP Reinhard Bütikofer

6 June 2023

Last 6 June, ECCP President Paulo Duarte, former President Lars Wittig, and Executive Director Florian Gottein, met with MEP Reinhard Bütikofer to exchange updates and insights on EU-PH relations. Particularly, the ECCP representatives and Mr. Bütikofer talked about reforestation initiatives, EU-China relations, Free Trade Agreement and foreign direct investments, as well as the EU Green Deal and climate change mitigation efforts.



UK Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) Launch Event in the Philippines

7 June 2023

The ECCP was represented at the UK Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) launch event organised by the British Embassy in Manila last 07 June. The DCTS will replace the UK's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) and is aimed to boost trade from countries such as the Philippines to support growth and help strengthen and diversify UK supply chains.



JFC monthly meeting hosted by ECCP

8 June 2023

On 8 June 2023, the ECCP hosted the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines Meeting at Dusit Thani Manila. The group discussed updates on the JFC-PBG policy advocacies and legislation. These include the matters on Ease of Paying Taxes, Public-Private Partnership Act and Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) amendments, and market access issues on automotive products, among others. The session was chaired by the newly appointed ECCP President Mr. Paulo Duarte.



FDA Kapihan Session

13 June 2023

On 13 June, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) held its first in person Kapihan Session since the outbreak of the pandemic. During the session, invited industry associations were able to raise their concerns and seek clarifications from the FDA on issues related to product registration, payment process, digitalisation of FDA system, and labeling of products among others. The Chamber was represented by Ms. Helen Grace Baisa, ECCP Vice President and Food and Beverage Committee Chairperson along with Ms. Elena Tabbu, ECCP Advocacy Officer and Food and Beverage Committee Coordinator.



Finnish Innovations in Education

13 June 2023

Last 13 June, the Embassy of Finland Manila, together with the ECCP as well as its Education and Human Capital Committees, hosted a hybrid event entitled Finnish Innovations in Education at SPACES, World Plaza, BGC and via Zoom. The event brought forward the discussion on how we can further bolster our country's education system through innovations and best practices of Finnish education. An amazing roster of Finnish and Filipino speakers and panelists shared their insights on Finland's best education and learning models, its strengths, and the different areas of possibilities that the Philippines can adopt and apply in local schools.



ECCP Q2 Human Capital Committee Meeting

14 June 2023

The ECCP Human Capital Committee held its second quarter meeting last 14 June at Quisumbing Torres Office. During the session, the Committee discussed its recent activities and policy recommendations, as well as identified its focus areas, plans and activities for the medium- or long-term. The group also had a productive exchange on the developments and challenges in their respective industries.



Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship (Subcommittee on Protected Geographical Indications Act)(TWG)

15 June 2023

Last 15 June, the ECCP participated in the Technical Working Group on the Protected Geographical Indications Act held by the Senate Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship Committee. During the meeting, resource persons from different industry organizations shared their experiences when it comes to applying for GI protection and their comments/feedback on the proposed "Protected Geographical Indications Act". The ECCP has long advocated for the use of the EU system in protecting geographical indications.



European Business Organization Worldwide Network Annual Meeting

19-21 June 2023

ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein took part in the series of meetings with the European Business Organization Worldwide Network (EBOWWN) in Brussels, Belgium last 19-21 June 2023. The engagements cover updates on European multilateral economic relations as well as future plans and activities for deepened collaboration.



On its Annual Meeting held last 20 June, the EBOWWN also had the pleasure to meet with Mr. Michael Hager, Head of Cabinet to European Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis and Mr. Peteris Ustubs, Deputy Director for Middle East, Asia and Pacific, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA). Mr. Gottein also handed over the 2023 ECCP Advocacy Papers to the said Officials from the European Commission. Among the other meetings are with Mr. Taneli Lahti, Head of Cabinet to Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships and Mr.

Camilo Villarino, Head of Cabinet to Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell Fontelles.

The EBOWWN representatives also met with Mr. Erik Jonnaert, Chairman, FIPRA (Global Public Affairs); Mr. Antti Karhunen, Director - Sustainable Finance, Investment and Jobs, DG International Partnerships; Mr. Denis Redonnet, Deputy Director General and Chief Trade Enforcement Officer, DG Trade; and Mr. Valere Moutarlier, Head of Cabinet to Commissioner Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for Internal Market.

Meetings with Business Europe and the Philippine Embassy in Belgium

23, 26 June 2023

ECCP Executive Director, Mr. Florian Gottein, met with various European and Philippine government and business representatives to have exchanges on policy perspectives and priorities, as well as areas for collaboration.

Last 23 June, Mr. Gottein met with Ms. Luisa Santos, Deputy Director General, and Ms. Eleonora Catella, Deputy Director for International Relations of Business Europe. Meanwhile, on 26 June, he met with H.E. Jaime Ledda, Ambassador, and Mr. Charles Macaspac, First Secretary and Consul of the Philippine Embassy to Belgium.

At the said meetings, Mr. Gottein also handed over copies of the Chamber's publications: Doing Business in the Philippines, Advocacy Papers, as well as EuroPH Connect.



Meeting with Safe Travel Alliance

29 June 2023

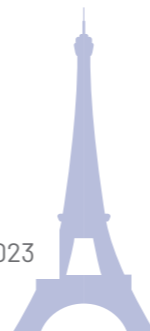
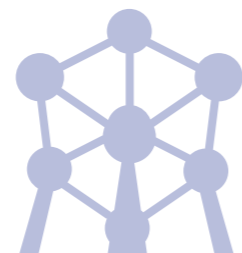
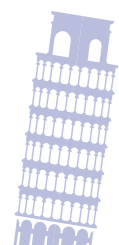
The ECCP, represented by Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Ms. Sophia Ordoña, took part in the meeting with Safe Travel Alliance (STA) last 29 June at Discovery Primea, Makati City. This meeting convened its members and allies in preparation for the 2023 State of the Nation Address and the resumption of House and Senate sessions. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an update on the status of our transportation bills and engage in discussions regarding potential strategies for lobbying these reforms.



Philippine Business Forum on Green Energy and Digital Technologies

27 June 2023

The Philippines Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in cooperation with the EU-ASEAN Business Council and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), held the Philippine Business Forum on Green and Digital Technologies in Brussels, Belgium. Trade and Industry Secretary Fred Pascual delivered his keynote address highlighting the favorable investment climate in the Philippines, emerging market trends, and its commitment to energy transition and digital transformation. The Forum, organized by the Philippine Trade and Investment Center-Brussels (PTIC-Brussels), was attended by business leaders based in the Philippines and Belgium. ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein hosted the said event.



New Members Corner

Regular Members



FPT Software Philippines Corp.

FPT Software is a part of FPT Corporation, a Vietnamese technology, and IT services provider company. FPT Software has established itself as one of the leading tech outsourcing companies. Serving over 1,000 customers worldwide, the company has earned a strong reputation for being a trusted technology and IT services provider. FPT Software proudly holds partnerships with world-leading organizations, such as being an AWS Well-Architected Partner, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, and the first strategic partner of Mila AI Research Institute based in South East Asia.



Ease Solutions Pte Ltd Representative Office

“Delivering IT Solutions that Help Streamline Your Business”
From arranging versatile solutions for IT problems to consulting, software development, and even training courses, Ease Solutions is an IT support company that offers businesses with well-rounded IT management to transform their overall performance. With branches in Germany, Colombia, Singapore and the Philippines, Ease Solutions have accumulated extensive experience in creating multiple IT success stories.

Hafele Philippines Inc.

Hafele Philippines Inc.

German-quality hardware fittings to the local furniture and construction industries. Since then, our market has grown steadily as we've partnered with dealers and supplied major hardware depots across the country to cater to end-users. Our brand now signifies durable and innovative products that are trusted not only by builders, architects, and designers, but by homeowners as well.



Tetra Pak

A pioneer and world leading food processing and packaging solutions company. Working closely with our customers and suppliers, we provide safe, innovative and environmentally sound products that each day meet the needs of hundreds of millions of people in more than 160 countries.

Associate Members



AtoANI Agriventures, Inc.

Supplying customers with fresh produce free from harmful chemicals, AtoANI gathers fruits and vegetables from their own farm as well as from their partner farmers to ensure the utmost quality for their customers. They advocate for sustainable farming practices to be adopted by more Filipino farmers to lessen oversights such as crop wastage that negatively impact the environment. In addition to this, they also create biodegradable packaging from agro-industrial waste such as corn husks, sugarcane bagasse, and rice straws to lessen unnecessary plastic production. AtoANI's mission is to make timely and convenient product delivery to customers as well as taking sustainable agricultural practices to prosper farming communities and the environment for everyone.



Davao Bioskin Tech. Laboratories Inc.

Davao Bioskin Tech. Laboratories Inc. is a Mindanao-based one-stop shop of FDA approved, plant-based, and cruelty-free skin care and cosmetics products with over 10 years of manufacturing experience.

They customize and personalize client's brand and offer a wide range of packaging materials from bottles, jars, and canisters to diversified active ingredient.



DATEM, Inc

DATEM is one of the leading construction firms in the country, accredited as a Quadruple A contractor by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), the implementing agency of the Construction Industry Association of the Philippines (CIAP). With almost four decades of experience in the industry, it offers value-driven engineering services through the confluence of technical expertise, innovation, and technology.



Cebu Homecraft Consolidated Inc.

Adorning Cebuano homes while giving second life to deserted materials, Cebu Homecraft is a company that creates environmentally-safe furniture with designs that are nothing short of chic and classy. Their core material is driftwood which is often discarded despite its untapped strength that can contribute to the foundation of upholstery. The vision of Cebu Homecraft is for furniture and functional art to go hand-in-hand, standing the test of time as a labor of love passed down through future generations' homes.



Harbor Star Shipping Services, Inc.

Harbor Star Shipping Services, Inc. provides tugboat harbor assistance, lighterage, towage, ship salvage, ship management, diving, dredging, underwater marine works, and other specialized services. The Company is capable of deploying its assets and personnel anywhere in the Philippines and East Asia.



Santos du Monde Commercial

Sales and Marketing of High- End Luxury Villas

Associate Members



Spring Rain Global Consultancy Inc.

Spring Rain Global is a consultancy group dedicated to fostering sustainable development among donors and organizations that are geared towards financial strategizing and philanthropy. Leveraging a team of skilled professionals in the areas of development, philanthropy, and financial planning, SRG helps facilitate its clients in establishing connections, procuring funding, garnering support, and acquiring other essential resources needed for the uninterrupted provision of aid to communities in need.



iONTEK Power Solutions Corporation

iONTEK-Power-Teamwork, Power Engineering Innovation
Why Choose Us? Why Not?The Power Store that deals with power voltage fluctuations. Stability on voltage output crucial on protection from fluctuations and surges. Assembling the good rolls of pats and components to overcome voltage fluctuation & voltage drop instantly.

Foreign-Based Member



Eurora solutions OU

We've developed the world's most advanced machine learning technology to manage cross-border taxes, goods descriptions, and electronic declarations.

Combined with our innovative customs clearance and fiscal representation services, we give secure and fast access to the EU market.



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.



Virtual Business Mission for Manufacturing Industry

The ECCP Business and Consultancy Services (BCS) would like to welcome all European companies in the Manufacturing Industry for a Virtual Business Mission in the Philippines!

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

EVENTS CALENDAR 2023



E-LEARNING SESSION

CYBERSECURITY MASTERCLASS

July 20 - September 22 | 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM | via Zoom

LUNCHEON MEETING WITH DOLE SECRETARY LAGUESMA

July 20 | 12:00 NN - 02:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

COMPETITIVE FUTURE WORKFORCE: STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONALIZATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

July 20 | 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM | Iligan City

E-LEARNING SESSION

THE ULTIMATE PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PIA) GUIDE: A COMPREHENSIVE MASTERCLASS

July 25, 27, August 1 | 01:00 PM - 05:00 PM | via Zoom

BUILDING A HEALTHIER PHILIPPINES

July 27 | 01:00 PM - 06:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

LUNCHEON MEETING WITH DOT SECRETARY FRASCO

August 16 | 01:00 PM - 05:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

TRAINING WORKSHOP

HOW TO IMPORT GOODS INTO THE PHILIPPINES: ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR COMMERCIAL IMPORTERS

August 30 | 08:00 AM - 05:00 PM | Marriott Hotel Manila

ENERGY SMART FORUM

August 31 | 09:00 AM - 04:30PM | Dusit Thani Manila

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FORUM

September 7 | 09:00 AM - 04:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

AVIATION SUMMIT

September 27 | 09:00 AM - 04:00 PM

September 28 | 09:00 AM - 08:00 PM (with Networking Night)

Manila Marriott Hotel

2023 EUROPA AWARDS

October 11 | 04:00 PM - 08:00 PM | Raffles Makati

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

November 9 | 01:00 PM - 05:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

November 23 | 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Dusit Thani Manila

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