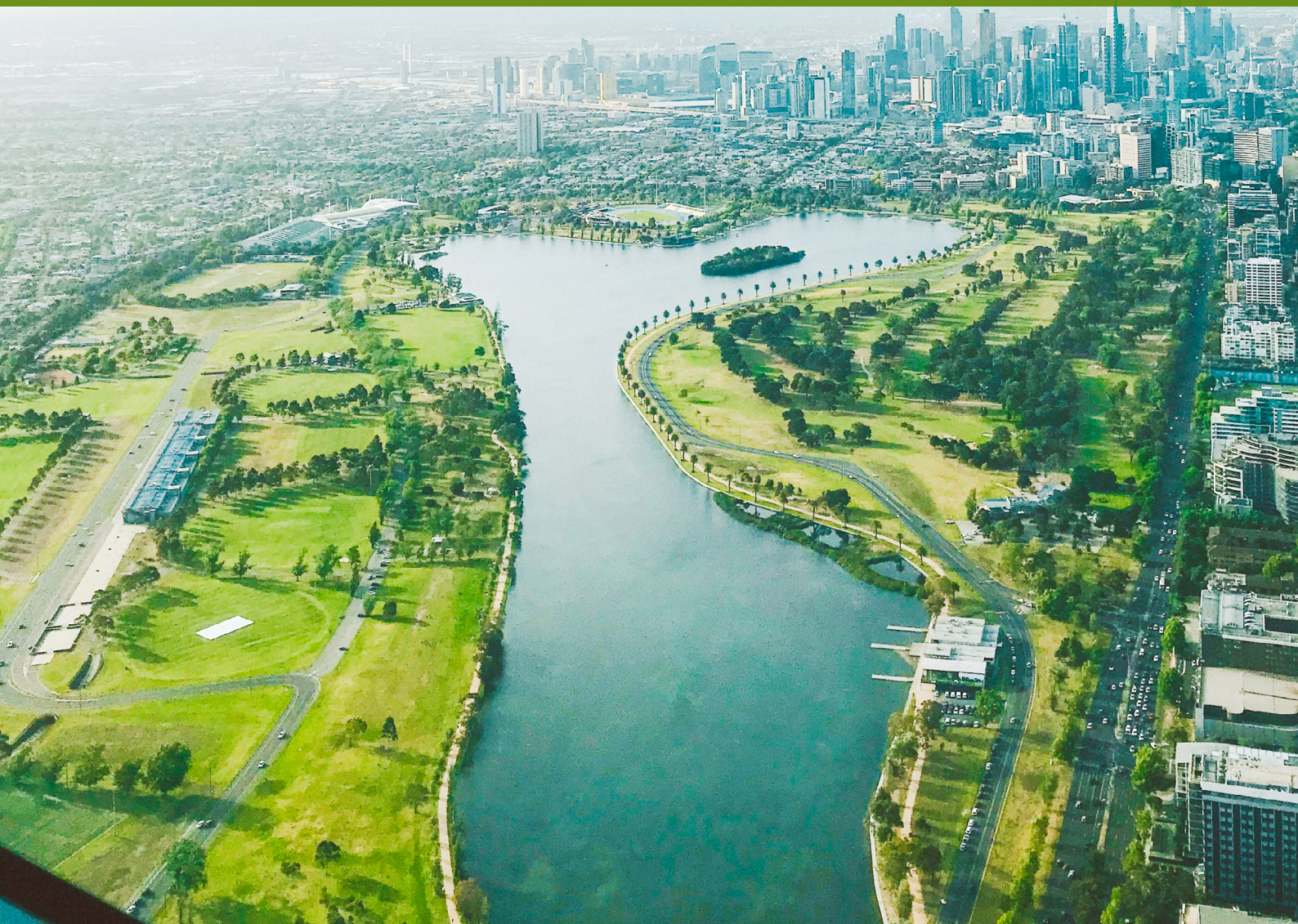




SUSTAINABILITY WHITEBOOK 2022



ABOUT ECCP

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) is a service-oriented organization whose main goal is to foster close economic ties and business relations between the Philippines and Europe. The ECCP does this by providing a wide range of consultancy services and by creating linkages between companies, organizations, and individuals with existing or potential business interests in Europe and the Philippines. It is also at the forefront of pro-business, pro-growth advocacy in the Philippines, representing European business interests for increased market access and trade facilitation, at the highest level of Philippine political discussions.

The ECCP sees itself as the stepping stone for Europeans into the Philippine market and for Filipinos into the European market.



SUSTAINABILITY WHITEBOOK 2022



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Message from the ECCP President

Achieving the Global Goals requires the participation of all. It takes a whole-of-nation approach to address many of today's complex environmental, economic and social challenges as well as ensure sustainable and inclusive growth. Turning these Global Goals into reality also requires further conscious and collaborative efforts wherein stakeholders share good practices in developing necessary sustainability frameworks, mechanisms, and innovations.

In the Philippines, great strides have been made in introducing and improving sustainability practices. These developments, together with ECCP's sustainability initiatives, will be further outlined at the beginning of this publication. These efforts include but are not limited to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and waste and water management, among others. From a European perspective, Europe has also shown its commitment to transforming the European Union into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient, and competitive economy through the European Green Deal. Europe shares the Philippines' sustainability aspirations and pursues this Deal as a driver of new economic opportunities for green jobs, clean technologies, and sustainable lifestyles.



On this account, we are pleased to present the Sustainability Whitebook which assesses the current state of play on key themes of sustainability in the Philippines. Namely, smart and safer mobility, clean and green energy, energy efficiency and conservation, waste management, sustainable agri-food, green & inclusive finance solutions, water resource management, green buildings, green workforce, and start-up for sustainability. The Whitebook draws on the Chamber's various advocacies and policy recommendations aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals in order to tackle current and emerging sustainability issues concerning the business community.

On behalf of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, I would like to thank our various sector committees, member companies, and the team behind this publication. Recognizing its crucial role to play in achieving the SDGs, the European-Philippine business community remains committed to doing its part in contributing to a sustainable future.

Lars Wittig
ECCP President



SUSTAINABILITY WHITEBOOK: SDGs IN THE PHILIPPINE CONTEXT

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Philippine government is a steadfast partner of the United Nations in accomplishing national development objectives and the 2030 Agenda, which includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their accompanying targets. Also known as the Global Goals, the SDGs are a universal call to action aimed at ending poverty, combating inequalities, promoting social inclusion, fighting climate change, and stimulating environmentally conscious impact.¹

In accordance with the Philippines' commitment to achieving the SDGs, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Board issued PSA Resolution No. 04 Series of 2016, enjoining Government Agencies to Provide Data Support to the SDGs. In this Resolution, all responsible government agencies are urged to provide the required data assistance to monitor the country's performance in relation to the SDGs using the indicator framework defined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), PSA, and other government agencies. Furthermore, the PSA was recognized as the official repository of SDG indicators in the Philippines by the Resolution.²

In addition, as part of its efforts to provide sound metrics to deliver the Global Goals, PSA publishes the baseline and most recent SDG data through the SDG Watch. This index calculates how much progress toward the goal will still be required by the end of the target year, assuming the current rate of progress is maintained. While there have been commendable leaps toward sustainability, there is still a lot of work to be done collaboratively by stakeholders.

As illustrated in the PSA online presentation dated 17 May 2021 regarding the Philippine Pace of Progress, the Anticipated Progress Index toward the SDGs Targets shows that 4 Targets (11.8%) are on-track, 22 Targets (64.7%) are accelerating, and 8 Targets (23.5%) are regressing. The Philippines' progress in sub-target goals namely food security, non-communicable disease (NCD) and mental health, road traffic accidents, early marriage, eliminating violence against women and girls, water resources management, employment and decent work, and the establishment of legal identity are all regressing. Meanwhile, progress in addressing poverty, expanding health coverage, women in leadership, and economic growth are deemed on track.³

1 Philippine Statistics Authority. (n.d.). Sustainable Development Goals. Retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/sdg>

2 Ibid.

3 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, May 17). Tracking the Progress of the Philippine Sustainable Development Goals. Retrieved from https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/Philippines_SDG_Pace_of_Progress_Stats_Cafe_17May2021.pdf

In conjunction with the SDG-related initiatives of the government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines has also stressed the critical role that the private sector plays in accomplishing these Goals' large-scale ambition. The Transformational Business Report published in 2017 highlights the preliminary findings of an online portal survey on how firms are aligning their core business processes, operations, and initiatives with the SDGs. The study features 139 projects from 75 companies that participated in the poll. As reported in the publication, a total of PHP 40.7 billion has already been invested in SDG-aligned core business practices and programs in the Philippines.⁴

According to the Sustainability Development Report 2021, the country ranked 103rd out of 165 countries in terms of SDG performance, with a score of 64.5 and a statistical performance index of 75.7.⁵ While the pandemic poses a setback for sustainable development, the SDGs, as well as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement, give the appropriate direction for "building forward better." Prior to the pandemic, tremendous progress had been made on the SDGs in several areas and targets, particularly in East and South Asia, which has made the most progress on the SDG Index since the goals' adoption in 2015. Certainly, COVID-19 should not result in a long-term reversal of SDG progress. International commitments, such as those to achieve climate neutrality, must be rapidly accompanied by innovative actions and investments, as well as fiscal packages that provide a chance to build a green and inclusive recovery.⁶

From a European perspective, there has been a massive effort to transform the European Union (EU) into "a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy" through the European Green Deal.⁷ In 2019, the Deal was laid out for its member states in a bid to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 as well as shift away from high-polluting industries and technologies. The initiative serves as a driver of new economic opportunities for green jobs, clean technologies, and sustainable lifestyles. Among the focus areas are climate, environment and oceans, energy, transport, agriculture, finance and regional development, industry, as well as research and innovation.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

Since the adoption of the SDGs, the Philippine government has undertaken a number of measures aimed at establishing an enabling environment for SDG implementation. Further initiatives have been carried out in terms of data gathering and analysis in order to track the country's progress towards SDG achievement. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the socio-economic planning agency of the Philippines, assesses the synergies of the SDG indicator framework with regard to monitoring the country's medium- and long-term development plans.

Executive Order (EO) 27⁸, series of 2017, highlights the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the foundation for crafting the PDP 2017-2022, alongside the AmBisyon Natin 2040, as well as President Rodrigo Duterte's 0 to 10 Point Socio-Economic Agenda. The Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (PFSD) supports the national long-term vision and maps directly and indirectly into the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) goals. The framework categorizes its strategic contributions into three pillars: "People," "Prosperity and Planet," and "Peace."⁹ Also, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) already consists of the majority of the SDG indicators and accordingly, assessing the SDG indicators entails monitoring the Philippine government's initiatives and policies.

4 United Nations Development Programme Philippines. (2017). Transformational Business. Retrieved from <https://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/library/privatesectorsustainabledevt/transformationalbusiness.html>

5 Sachs, J., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. (2021). The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals:

Sustainable Development Report 2021. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. DOI: 10.1017/9781009106559

6 Ibid.

7 European Commission. A European Green Deal. Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en#thematicareas

8 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2017). Executive Order No. 27. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2017/06jun/20170601-EO-27-RRD.pdf>

9 United Nations Philippines. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://philippines.un.org/en/sdgs>

Through public consultations, NEDA started preparing AmBisyon Natin 2040 in 2015, which serves as a guide for development planning over the next 25 years spanning four presidential administrations. Issued in 2016, the Executive Order (EO) No. 055¹⁰ approves and adopts this strategic framework, which articulates the collective long-term aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country. Finally, the current administration's 0 to 10 Point Socio-Economic Agenda emphasizes regional or subnational equality and improving rural access to services. This is consistent with the SDG's basic tenet of "leaving no one behind."¹¹

The Philippine government, in cooperation with UNDP Philippines, maintains that stakeholder collaboration and involvement are imperative for SDG attainment. The business community is now viewed as a primary accelerator for social and environmental development because industry players have the technology and resources required to create innovative and long-term solutions at scale. As reported by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), attaining the SDGs will increase employment and generate USD 12 trillion in business value each year across four economic systems globally: energy and materials (USD 4.3 trillion), food and agriculture (USD 2.3 trillion), cities and urban mobility (USD 3.7 trillion), and health and wellbeing (USD 1.8 trillion).¹²

Certainly, effective collaboration is key to strengthening commitment to achieve the Global Goals. As such, the ECCP has been heavily involved in establishing an impactful space to push forward policy reforms on sustainability, raise public awareness, and maximize our impact on sustainable development. The Chamber has also been selected by NEDA as among the 42 members of the Stakeholders' Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals (SC-SDG). The SC-SDG is composed of various representatives from the Philippine government, academe, development organizations, and private sector, among others, to achieve the SDGs in the Philippines. In line with this, the ECCP remains committed to provide a partnership platform for stakeholders to advance its sustainability-related advocacies, which will be featured in the succeeding pages.

10 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2016). Executive Order No. 05. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2016/10oct/20161011-EO-5-RRD.pdf>

11 National Economic and Development Authority. (2021). Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. Retrieved from https://pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/122421_Updated-PDP.pdf

12 United Nations Development Programme Philippines. (2017). Transformational Business. Retrieved from <https://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/library/privatesectorsustainabledevt/transformationalbusiness.html>



SNAPSHOT: SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Theme	Several Initiatives by the Philippine Government	ECCP Advocacies & Initiatives
Smart and Safer Mobility	<p>The National Transport Policy (NTP)¹³, devised by the National and Economic Development Authority (NEDA), aims to actualize the government's vision for a national transportation system that improves people's quality of life.</p> <p>The Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act, which lapsed into law last 15 April 2022, promotes the expansion of the electric vehicle industry, which could result in more employment possibilities for local skilled workers and lessen the country's dependency on imported gasoline. Aside from the economic benefits of the law, the health and environmental gains of switching to EVs in the Philippines are more crucial than ever. The new law requires the establishment of a Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI) to stimulate the development, marketing, and use of EVs in the country, which includes the construction or installation of charging stations in designated parking slots and spaces. It also gives tax incentives to EV manufacturers and assemblers, charging station operators, and other EV-related businesses.¹⁴</p> <p>In recent years, there has also been an emerging interest in biking infrastructure. Issued by the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department Order No. 88, series of 2020 or Prescribing Guidelines on the Design of Bicycle Facilities Along National Roads¹⁵ aims to integrate bicycle facilities into new roads, new bridge construction, and future expansions to make roads safer and more inclusive for bicycle riders.</p> <p>The Department of Transportation (DOTr) announced in June 2021 that its 500-kilometer bike lane network in Philippine urban areas has been completed. The bike lane network has already been built in Metro Manila (313.12 kilometers), Metro Cebu (129.47 kilometers), and Metro Davao (54.74 kilometers). The Bayanihan to Recover as One Act provided funding for the P1.3 billion (USD26.6 million) bike lane network project.¹⁶ In July 2021, the DOTr and DPWH officially launched the Metro Manila Bike Lane Network, the country's longest bike lane network, offering dedicated, safe, and quality bike lanes for cyclists.¹⁷</p>	<p>The ECCP has been at the forefront of advocating for policy reforms and best practices that will promote sustainable mobility solutions. The Chamber held various dialogues, be it physical or online sessions, to help provide clarity and guidance to business leaders on the trends, challenges, and opportunities in the future of mobility. These information-sharing sessions include Safer Mobility and Logistics Conference and the Smart Mobility Forum. In the first quarter of 2022, the ECCP, together with the European Business Organisations Worldwide Network, also co-organized the Webinar Series on the Electric and Connected Vehicles Industry in ASEAN.</p> <p>The policy recommendations of the Automotive Committee on the further promotion and use of measures toward cleaner emissions and improved roadworthiness testing, institutionalization of vehicle and road safety, and creation of a Philippine Transportation Safety Board are aligned with the three specific SDG mobility targets, namely Targets 3.6, 9.1, and 11.2. With the enactment of the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act, the ECCP lauds the government in pushing for this measure as it would allow the Philippines to partake in the global transition to electric vehicles.</p> <p>The ECCP was also recently commissioned to develop a report on Smart Cities which also featured the policy landscape in the Philippines as well as good practices on smart and safer mobility.</p>
Clean and Efficient Energy Related SDG: SDG #7 Affordable and Clean Energy	<p>By establishing a framework to institutionalize energy efficiency conservation, Republic Act No. 11285¹⁸ or Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act aims toward effective and sensible energy use, through the active involvement of private sector players, local government units, and national government offices and agencies.</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11234 or the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop (EVOSS) Act allows for the coordinated submission and processing of data and information connected to energy project proposals¹⁹.</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11371²⁰, otherwise known as the Murang Kuryente Act attempts to cut power prices by transferring part of the net national government share from the Malampaya Natural Gas Project as payment to compensate for stranded contract costs and obligations.</p> <p>The Green Energy Option Program (GEOP)²¹, launched by the Department of Energy, allows end-consumers to choose renewable energy as their energy source.</p> <p>In 2019, the government-funded Pulangi 4 Selective Dredging Phase 3²² Project was completed. The project "involved dredging or removal of siltation in selected sections in the Pulangi river reservoir affecting the energy generation of Pulangi hydroelectric power plant."</p>	<p>The ECCP and its Renewable and Energy Efficiency Committee continue to advocate for the promotion of energy-efficient technologies and systems, energy conservation, and the use of clean, sustainable power sources, as well as increased energy production and capacity in the country. The diversification of energy supplies and the design of a sustainable energy mix strategy, as well as the effective execution of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, are among the Committee's primary policy recommendations. In order to encourage its adoption, the Chamber has also conducted fora. Since 2010, the ECCP has hosted annual energy stakeholder conferences and exhibits, including the Philippine Energy Efficiency Forum (2010-2011) and Energy Smart Philippines (physically since 2012 and virtually since 2020).</p> <p>Clean and sustainable practices should be maintained as stakeholders collaborate to fulfill increased energy demand. This helps to create a balance between satisfying energy needs and achieving environmental goals. For this reason, in 2020, the ECCP unveiled its REPH100 Initiative. The REPH100 movement is a private-sector-led effort to promote the Department of Energy's Green Energy Option Program and to assist businesses dedicated to and interested in working towards 100% renewables. It takes a whole-of-society strategy to accelerate the Philippine energy transition in order to achieve a more inclusive economic recovery.</p> <p>To attract more players in the sector, thereby further promoting the energy transition objective, the ECCP has likewise engaged in dialogues on relaxing foreign participation limitations in the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>The ECCP was also recently commissioned to develop a report on Smart Cities which also featured the policy landscape in the Philippines as well as good practices on energy efficiency.</p>

¹³ National Economic and Development Authority. (2020). National Transport Policy and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Retrieved from <https://neda.gov.ph/national-transport-policy/>

¹⁴ Torregoza, H. (2022, April 28). Gatchalian: Electric vehicles now a more viable option with EVIDA law. Manila Bulletin. Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2022/04/28/gatchalian-electric-vehicles-now-a-more-viable-option-with-vidia-law/>

¹⁵ Department of Public Works and Highways (2020). Prescribing Guidelines on the Design of Bicycle Facilities Along National Roads. Republic of the Philippines Department of Public Works and Highways. Retrieved from https://www.dpwh.gov.ph/dpwh/sites/default/files/issuances/DO_88_s2020.pdf

¹⁶ Rey, A. (2021, June 30). DOTr's 500-km bike lane network completed. Rappler. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/business/dotr-bike-lane-network-completed-june-2021/>

¹⁷ BusinessMirror. (2021, July 27). DOTr inaugurates Philippines' longest bike lane network. Retrieved from <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/07/27/dotr-inaugurates-philippines-longest-bike-lane-network/>

¹⁸ Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). Republic Act No. 11285. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/04/12/republic-act-no-11285/>

¹⁹ Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). Republic Act No. 11234. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/03/08/republic-act-no-11234/>

²⁰ Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). Republic Act No. 11371. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/08/08/republic-act-no-11371/>

²¹ Department of Energy. (2021). Green Energy Option Program (GEOP). Retrieved from <https://www.doe.gov.ph/renewable-energy?q=%2F%2Frenewable-energy%2Fgeop>

²² National Economic and Development Authority. (2019). Infrastructure Flagship Projects Matrix. Retrieved from <https://www.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Infrastructure-Flagship-Projects-Matrix-ao-April-2019.pdf>

<p>Circular Economy</p> <p>Related SDG: SDG #12 Responsible Consumption and Production</p>	<p>The Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP), created by the National Economic and Development Board with technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), supports the achievement of the country's AmBisyon Natin 2040 goal by serving as a guiding framework to influence and steer sustainable behavior and practices across sectors and levels of government²³.</p> <p>Likewise, the Philippine Circular Economy Act of 2020²⁴ has been proposed in an effort to promote recycling and reduce plastic consumption to foster a circular and sustainable economy.</p> <p>Last 12 February 2020, the National Solid Waste Management Commission through Resolution No. 1363 Series of 2020 issued the ban on unnecessary single-use plastics covering national government agencies, local government units, and all other government controlled-offices.²⁵</p> <p>On 28 July 2021, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 9147, otherwise known as the Single-Use Plastic Products Regulations Act²⁶. It established three tiers of single-use plastic products to be phased out in varying periods.</p> <p>In late May 2022, the bicameral conference committee approved the bill institutionalizing the practice of Extended Producer Responsibility on plastic packaging waste.</p>	<p>The ECCP has actively engaged stakeholders in the circular economy, particularly with regard to concerns on single-use plastics and marine litter. It has also carried out a number of EU-funded initiatives that enhance resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP), which aids sustainable consumption and production (SCP). In addition, the ECCP conducts the Waste Management Forum that brings together policymakers, business stakeholders, and solution providers. Given the complexities of plastic pollution, the Chamber advocates for a tailored strategy based on rigorous scientific studies and open interaction with the industry, rather than a unitary sweeping ban on plastics, especially in the absence of affordable, viable alternatives.</p> <p>With this in mind, the ECCP also continues to strongly advocate for the establishment and implementation of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme that is inclusive, target-based, and implementable. When done right, this will massively help increase collection and recycling rates as well as enable obliged companies to share responsibility and resources for waste management with the ultimate goal of achieving plastic neutrality.</p>
<p>Sustainable Food and Nutrition</p> <p>Related SDG: SDG #2 Zero Hunger</p>	<p>Signed and enacted in 2018, Republic Act No. 11148 or Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act²⁷ provides "comprehensive, sustainable, multisectoral strategies and approaches to address health and nutrition problems of newborns, infants and young children, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent females."</p> <p>Executive Order No. 101 s. 2020²⁸ mandated the formation of an Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger. One of their responsibilities was to draft a National Food Policy (NFP) that outlines national goals and lays forth a plan for eradicating hunger. They launched the NFP last October 16, 2020²⁹.</p> <p>Pilipinas Kontra Gutom is a multi-sectoral initiative between the government, NGOs, the academe, and the private sector, with the objective of ending hunger and malnutrition in the Philippines by 2030³⁰.</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11203³¹ or the Rice Tariffication Law attempts to decrease rice prices by eliminating quantitative constraints on rice trade and imposing a minimum 35% tariff on grain imports.</p> <p>In order for agricultural public land to be effectively used, The Agricultural Free Patent Reform Act, officially known as Republic Act No. 11231³², removes restrictions on free patents.</p> <p>The Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise-Development Program, Enterprise-Development Council, and Development Information System were established by Republic Act No. 11321³³, or the Sagip Saka Act, with the goal of promoting the establishment of enterprises involving agricultural and fishery products.</p>	<p>The Agriculture and Food and Beverage Committees are the main drivers of the Chamber's fundamental advocacies for advancing a sustainable agri-food sector. Both Committees serve an important role in facilitating collaborative involvement among stakeholders through policy lobbying, information awareness events, and collaboration with like-minded groups.</p> <p>One of ECCP's pillar events is its annual Sustainable Agriculture Forum, which spotlights megatrends, best practices, and concrete solutions to some of the sector's most pressing concerns, such as food security and increasing trade and investment. The ECCP also continues to hold a number of luncheon gatherings, webinars, roundtable discussions, and other online engagements to raise awareness of the varied difficulties affecting the agriculture, food, and beverage industries and to facilitate interaction among various stakeholders.</p> <p>With the aim of bringing policymakers, the corporate sector, development partners, and other stakeholders together, the Chamber also organized a hybrid advocacy program focused on Nutrition and Wellness for the community of Muntinlupa City last December 2021. The engagement seeks to accomplish Europe and the Philippines' shared aspirations of enhancing food security and nutrition.</p> <p>Furthermore, the ECCP has participated in various consultations with the government, such as <i>kapihan</i> and training sessions with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as the development of relevant policies and measures, such as the National Food Policy and measures to combat the African Swine Fever epidemic.</p>

23 National Economic and Development Authority. (2020, February 18). *Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and production (PAP4SCP)*. Retrieved from [https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/philippine-action-plan-for-sustainable-consumption-and-production-pap4scp/#:~:text=The%20Philippine%20Action%20Plan%20for,term%20\(2030%2D2040\)](https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/philippine-action-plan-for-sustainable-consumption-and-production-pap4scp/#:~:text=The%20Philippine%20Action%20Plan%20for,term%20(2030%2D2040)).

24 Luci-Atienza, C. (2020, November 12). *Legarda bats for promotion of circular economy, transition toward Sustainable Future*. Manila Bulletin. Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2020/11/12/legarda-bats-for-promotion-of-circular-economy-transition-toward-sustainable-future/>

25 Department of Environment and Natural Resources. (2021, February 24). *Cimatu-Led Nswmc Bans "Unnecessary" Single-Use Plastics In All Gov't Offices Nationwide*. Retrieved from <https://www.denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases/1457-cimatu-led-nswmc-bans-unnecessary-single-use-plastics-in-all-gov-t-offices-nationwide#:~:text=NSWMC%20Resolution%20No.,all%20other%20government%2Dcontrolled%20offices>.

26 House of Representatives. (2021). *HB09147*. Retrieved from https://hrep-website.s3.ap-southeast-1.amazonaws.com/legisdocs/basic_18/HB08761.pdf

27 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2018). *Republic Act No. 11148*. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2018/11/29/republic-act-no-11148/>

28 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2020). *Executive No. 101, s. 2020*. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2020/01/10/executive-order-no-101-s-2020/>

29 Department of Agriculture Communications Group. (2020, October 17). *PHL launches Nat'l food policy, Capping World Food Day celeb*. Retrieved from <https://www.da.gov.ph/phl-launches-natl-food-policy-capping-world-food-day-celeb/>

30 Pilipinas Kontra Gutom. (2020). Retrieved from <https://pilipinaskontragutom.com/>

31 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). *Republic Act No. 11203*. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/02/14/republic-act-no-11203/>

32 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). *Republic Act No. 11231*. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/02/22/republic-act-no-11231/>

33 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). *Republic Act No. 11321*. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/04/17/republic-act-no-11321/>

<p>Green and Inclusive Finance Solutions</p> <p>Related SDG: SDG #13 Climate Action</p>	<p>In February 2021, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas launched the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2022-2028. It serves as a six-year blueprint to achieve the vision of driving financial inclusion toward broad-based growth and financial resilience. Likewise, it promotes inclusive digital finance, enhances access to social protection and safety nets, improves the agriculture and MSME financing ecosystem, and strengthens financial education and consumer protection.³⁴</p> <p>In 2018, the Securities and Exchange Commission released Memorandum Circular No. 12³⁵, which establishes guidelines for the issuance of green bonds in the Philippines in accordance with the ASEAN Green Bonds Standards. According to the guidelines, both ASEAN member and non-member issuers are eligible to propose bonds for as long as they would be utilized for green initiatives in Southeast Asia. The Philippines also joined the new Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action and its Helsinki Principles 2019, which supports national climate action through fiscal policy and the use of public finance.³⁶ Furthermore, the Philippine SEC has announced a new regulation of ‘comply or explain’ that requires publicly-listed companies to start disclosing their environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance by 2019. Otherwise, said companies must provide reasons to account for their failure of disclosure.³⁷</p> <p>In 29 April 2020, the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) issued Circular No. 1085³⁸ which approved the Sustainable Finance Framework. This framework expects banks to incorporate sustainability principles, such as those addressing environmental and social risk areas, into their corporate governance framework, risk management systems, and strategic objectives.</p> <p>Republic Act. No. 10174³⁹, established the People’s Survival Fund, and amended RA No. 9729, otherwise known as the Climate Change Act of 2009. The People’s Survival Fund is a special fund in the National Treasury for the financing of adaptation programs and projects based on the National Strategic Framework.</p> <p>Anchored on RA No. 9729 or the Climate Change Act (CCA) of 2009 and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET)⁴⁰, promotes the incorporation of climate adaptation and mitigation into the planning processes of local government units (LGUs) and serves as a baseline for measuring success in the implementation of climate change initiatives.</p> <p>Project NOAH⁴¹ provides a precise, integrated, and responsive disaster prevention and mitigation system, particularly in high-risk locations across the Philippines. Until 2017, it was led by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). At present, it is managed by the University of the Philippines.</p>	<p>The ECCP and its Special Committee on Open Finance and Financial Inclusion support the efforts of the <i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i>, Insurance Commission, and other relevant government partners in promoting open finance and achieving the country’s financial inclusion target, including the implementation of initiatives on knowledge-sharing on financial wellness, digitalisation, streamlining processes, and increased market penetration.</p> <p>The Chamber is also organizing a series of learning sessions on responsible investing, sustainable finance as well as environmental, social, and governance (ESG) reporting.</p>
<p>Water Resource Management</p> <p>Related SDG: SDG #6 Clean Water and Sanitation</p>	<p>Launched in 2021, the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP) “serves as the national action plan to achieve universal access to safe, sufficient, affordable, and sustainable water supply, hygiene, and sanitation by 2030.”⁴²</p> <p>House Bill 9948⁴³, a consolidation of several bills, aims to establish the National Framework for Water Resource Management, the Department of Water Resources and Water Regulatory Commission. This defines the mandates, powers, and functions and appropriates funds in the sector.</p> <p>The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is also advocating for the transformation of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB)⁴⁴ to the National Water Management Council (NWMC), which can be achieved through an executive order.</p> <p>The New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project, spearheaded by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) aims to develop a “new water source in order to meet the increasing water demand” and reduce dependency on the Angat Dam. The project started in 2019 and is expected to be completed by 2025.⁴⁵</p> <p>In June 2021, the DENR issued the Department Administrative Order No. 2021-19 on “Updated Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards for Selected Parameters.”⁴⁶ This partially amends DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-08, updating water quality guidelines and/or general effluent standards for select parameters.</p> <p>On 16 September 2021, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) launched the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PSWSSMP),⁴⁷ which “serves as the national action plan to achieve universal access to safe, sufficient, affordable, and sustainable water supply, hygiene, and sanitation by 2030.”</p>	<p>The ECCP welcomes the government’s proposals to establish an overseeing, apex body mandated to formulate policies for the water sector and manage the usage of water resources. Creating a Department to oversee the Philippine Water Sector, at the very least, will ensure that issues and concerns in the sector are being handled by a line agency led by a member of the Cabinet of the President of the Philippines. This will allow for a better venue for the coordination of overall policy and program implementation on all matters relating to water. Such a move is crucial in achieving water security in the Philippines and will also help the operations of businesses, as well as attract new investors given the improved governance of the said sector.</p>

34 BusinessMirror. (2022, February 8). National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2022-2028. Retrieved from <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/02/08/national-strategy-for-financial-inclusion-2022-2028/>

35 Securities and Exchange Commission. (2018, August 31). SEC Memorandum Circular 12 Series of 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.sec.gov.ph/mc-2018/mc-no-12-s-2018-guidelines-on-the-issuance-of-green-bonds-under-the-asean-green-bonds-standards-in-the-philippines/>

36 Asian Development Bank. (2020). Green Infrastructure Investment Opportunities - Philippines. Retrieved from <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/653566/green-infrastructure-investment-philippines-2020.pdf>

37 Security Exchange Commission (2019). SEC Memorandum Circular No. 4 - Sustainability Reporting Guidelines for Publicly Listed Companies. Retrieved from <https://www.sec.gov.ph/corporate-governance/sustainability-report/>

38 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. (2020, April 29). Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Circular No. 1085 Series of 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.bsp.gov.ph/Regulations/Issuances/2020/c1085.pdf>

39 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2012). Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2012/08/16/republic-act-no-10174/>

40 Department of Budget and Management. (2015). Retrieved from https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Issuances/2015/Joint%20Memorandum%20Circular/NEW_JMC_DBM-CCC-DILG%20NO.%202015%20-%202001%20DATED%20JULY%2023,%202015.pdf

41 University of the Philippines. (n.d.). Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards. NOAH. Retrieved from <https://noah.up.edu.ph/>

42 National Economic and Development Authority. (2022, March 22). Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP). Retrieved April 19, 2022, from <https://neda.gov.ph/pwssmp/#:~:text=The%20Philippine%20Water%20Supply%20and,hygiene%2C%20and%20sanitation%20by%202030.>

43 House of Representatives. (2021). Retrieved from https://hrep-website.s3.ap-southeast-1.amazonaws.com/legisdocs/first_18/CR00137.pdf

44 Domingo, R. W. (2019, April 1). EO sought for NWRB transformation. Inquirer.net. Retrieved from <https://business.inquirer.net/267784/eo-sought-for-nwrbs-transformation>

45 Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. (n.d.) Retrieved from <https://mwss.gov.ph/projects/new-centennial-water-source-kaliwa-dam-project/>

46 Environmental Management Bureau - DENR. (2021, Jun 30). Retrieved from <https://emb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/DAO-2021-19-UPDATED-WQG-AND-GES-FOR-SELECTED-PARAM.pdf>

47 National Economic and Development Authority. (2021). Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan. Retrieved from <https://neda.gov.ph/pwssmp/>

Other Sustainable Development Goals

Theme	Several Initiatives by the Philippine Government	ECCP Advocacies & Initiatives
<p>SDG #1 No Poverty</p> <p>SDG #8 Decent Work and Economic Growth</p> <p>SDG #10 Reduced Inequalities</p>	<p>Republic Act No. 11310 otherwise known as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program⁴⁸, which was enacted in 2019, is both the national poverty reduction strategy and a human capital investment program. This program provides conditional cash transfers to impoverished households over a maximum period of seven (7) years, to aid in the improvement of their health, nutrition, and education. The coverage period may be extended given exceptional circumstances are being faced and upon the recommendation of the National Advisory Council (NAC).</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10771 otherwise known as the Green Jobs Act⁴⁹ was enacted to further promote sustainable growth and decent job creation while incentivizing businesses that generate green jobs in order to build resilience against the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11230 otherwise known as the Tulong Trabaho Act⁵⁰ enforces a Philippine Labor Force Competencies Competitiveness Program and the Tulong-Trabaho Fund, which provides qualified recipients access to technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs under the selected training programs (STPs).</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11261⁵¹ otherwise known as the First Time Job Seekers Assistance Act exempts first-time job seekers from paying government fees from local government units (LGUs) and government hospitals for the issuance of necessary documents in the employment application.</p> <p>Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act or the Republic Act No. 10963⁵² provides significant income tax cuts to the majority of Filipino taxpayers while simultaneously generating additional money to support the government's increased spending on "Build, Build, Build" and social services projects.</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11232 or the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines⁵³ introduces new and advanced principles aimed at conducting business in the country easier and supporting good corporate governance. While protecting enterprises, investors, and consumers in the face of a constantly changing business environment.</p> <p>DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP)⁵⁴, also known as the KABUHAYAN Program is a flagship initiative of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) that offers financial support for the vulnerable and marginalized through grant assistance for capacity-building on livelihood and entrepreneurial enterprises.</p> <p>Republic Act No. 10524 or the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability⁵⁵ states that "no person with disability be denied access or chances to opportunities for suitable employment." They are also entitled to the same benefits enjoyed by a qualified able-bodied person.</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11199, otherwise known as the Social Security Act of 2019⁵⁶, strengthens the Social Security Commission's powers and obligations in order to preserve the Social Security System's long-term stability.</p> <p>Republic Act 11291, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for the Poor⁵⁷, established the National Poverty Reduction Plan (NPRP) and Enhanced Coordination and Convergence, a comprehensive and convergent plan that establishes the benchmarks that the government must meet for the rights of the poor.</p> <p>Signed on 10 December 2021, Republic Act No. 11595 otherwise known as the Retail Trade Liberalization Law⁵⁸ amends Republic Act No. 8762 or the Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000. It reduces the required paid-up capital for overseas retail firms.</p> <p>Foreign Investments Act otherwise known as Republic Act 11647⁵⁹ promotes foreign investments by prescribing the procedures for registering enterprises that are interested in doing business in the Philippines.</p> <p>The amendments to the Public Services Act (PSA) were approved on third and final reading in the Senate last 15 December 2022. This measure allows 100% foreign ownership on telecommunications, air carriers, domestic shipping, railways and subways, canals, and irrigations which were previously restricted from foreign ownership.⁶⁰</p>	<p>The Chamber collaborates extensively with stakeholders to enhance the investment and business climate in the Philippines. Through increased trade and investment, the ECCP has been a prominent advocate for more inclusive and sustainable growth in the country. Increasing competitiveness, improving ease of doing business, and relaxing restrictions on foreign ownership are among its key priorities.</p> <p>As such, the Chamber applauds the efforts in recently enacting landmark legislation such as the amendments to the Foreign Investments Act, Public Service Act, and Retail Trade Liberalization Act. We believe that pushing forward these economic reforms will stimulate economic development and provide additional employment opportunities among Filipinos.</p> <p>Human capital development is one of the Chamber's primary policy priorities, as it is with any organization. The ECCP Human Capital Committee, in particular, provides six major policy recommendations to achieve the objective of providing fair and decent employment while adjusting to the difficulties posed by the future of work. These proposals include the construction of a more pragmatic K12 program through public-private partnerships and the passage of an apprenticeship reform law, both of which seek to strengthen skills and capacity development.</p> <p>Similarly, the Committee and the Chamber advocate for the relaxation of restrictions on foreign employment in economic zones, as well as the establishment of a one-stop-shop for administrative processes for foreign nationals working in priority sectors. Finally, the ECCP urges policymakers to safeguard and incentivize employers who engage in competitive training programs, as well as to tighten enforcement of laws against contractualization while allowing for a more flexible work environment.</p> <p>EU- Philippines Business Network (EPBN) The EU- Philippines Business Network (EPBN), established in January 2014, is a project co-funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium of European business organizations led by the ECCP. The overarching objective of EPBN was to support European companies, especially small-medium enterprises, to increase exports to and investment in the Philippines by facilitating market access and ensuring a level playing field for all companies. Adopting a threefold approach of outreach, support services and advocacy, EPBN provides a strong support system at every stage of entry to the Philippine market for European businesses. In delivering these services, EPBN cooperates closely with its partner organizations in other ASEAN countries to provide information on ASEAN as a market, promoting the Philippines as a gateway to the region.</p>

48 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). Republic Act No. 11310. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/04/17/republic-act-no-11310/>

49 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2016). Republic Act No. 10771. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/04/29/republic-act-no-10771/>

50 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). Republic Act No. 11230. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/02/22/republic-act-no-11230/>

51 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). Republic Act No. 11261. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/04/10/republic-act-no-11261/>

52 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2017). Republic Act No. 10963. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2017/12/27/republic-act-no-10963/>

53 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). Republic Act No. 11232. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/02/20/republic-act-no-11232/>

54 Department of Labor and Employment. (n.d.). Dole Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) or Kabuhayan. Retrieved from <https://car.dole.gov.ph/news/dole-integrated-livelihood-program-dilp-or-kabuhayan/#:~:text=DILP%20or%20the%20Kabuhayan%20Program,displaced%2C%20marginalized%20and%20landless%20farmers%2C>

55 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2013). Republic Act No. 10524. Retrieved <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2013/04apr/20130423-RA-10524-BSA.pdf>

56 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). Republic Act No. 11199. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/02/07/republic-act-no-11199/>

57 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2019). Republic Act No. 11291. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/04/12/republic-act-no-11291/>

58 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2021). Republic Act No. 11595. Retrieved <https://mirror.officialgazette.gov.ph/2021/12/10/republic-act-no-11595/>

59 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2022). Retrieved <https://mirror.officialgazette.gov.ph/2022/03/02/republic-act-no-11647/>

60 Tan, A. N. (2021, December 16). Bill amending PSA gets Senate nod. *BusinessWorld*. Retrieved from <https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2021/12/16/417870/bill-amending-psa-gets-senate-nod/>

<p>SDG #3 Good Health and Well-being</p>	<p>The Universal Health Care Act, or Republic Act No. 11223⁶¹, which was signed into law in February 2019, assures that all Filipinos have fair access to high quality and inexpensive health care goods and services, as well as financial protection.</p> <p>During the midst of the pandemic, the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act or Republic Act No. 11469⁶², declared the existence of a national emergency arising from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation and authorized the President of the Republic of the Philippines to exercise powers necessary to carry out the declared national policy for a limited time and subject to restrictions. Consequently, the Republic Act No. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act⁶³ also known as the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, was passed to strengthen the healthcare system and to continue efforts to test, track, isolate, and treat COVID-19 patients.</p> <p>The National Task Force Against COVID-19 was also reformed by Resolution No. 83 Series of 2020 to establish the COVID-19 Vaccine Cluster, with the Vaccine Czar as chair. Various Task Groups with particular tasks and duties were also formed.</p> <p>The Department of Health issued the Suggested Retail Price (SRP) for selected essential emergency medicines and medical devices⁶⁴. The DOH states that the SRP shall be the reasonable retail price of essential medicines and medical devices for the information and guidance of producers, manufacturers, traders, sellers, retailers, and consumers.</p> <p>The Department of Health (DOH) is currently implementing various public health programs that would provide interventions on addressing the triple burden of diseases in the country – morbidity caused by infectious diseases; mortality by non-communicable diseases (NCDs); and emerging incidence of injuries, mental health, and alcohol and drug abuse. These programs are: a) National Immunization Program, b) Women, Men, and Children’s Health Development Programs, c) HIV/AIDS and STI Prevention, Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Disease, Integrated Helminth Control, Food and Waterborne Diseases Prevention and Control, and National Dengue Prevention and Control Programs, d) Tuberculosis Control Program, e) Malaria Control, Schistosomiasis Control, Leprosy Control, and Filariasis Elimination Programs, f) Rabies Control Program, g) Lifestyle Related Diseases Prevention and Control, and Essential NCDs Programs.⁶⁵</p> <p>In order to improve access to quality basic health services, there should be adequate healthcare professionals and workers across the country who will provide these services. One of the strategies that may contribute to addressing this issue is the deployment of the health workers through the DOH Human Resource for Health (HRH) Deployment Program. The program hires cadres of health professionals who will support and complement HRH at the local level, particularly in rural, unserved, and underserved communities. The majority of the health workers are deployed to LGUs that are not able to hire or retain health workers and often these are low-resource municipalities in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. The HRH deployed includes doctors, nurses, midwives, medical technologists, dentists, and public health associates, among others.⁶⁶</p> <p>The Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) of the Department of Health (DOH) aims to improve public health facilities by constructing new and upgrading and rehabilitating existing public health facilities across the country, such as barangay health stations, rural health units/urban health centers, and LGU hospitals. The program assists in enabling government health facilities in providing affordable quality care and specialized treatments. Strengthening the health system through HFEP can contribute to ensuring the delivery of health services towards achieving health-related SDG targets.⁶⁷</p>	<p>Certainly, population health is at the heart of any country’s growth and development. This emphasizes the critical role that public health plays in our lives. As a result, the ECCP considers Healthcare to be one of its high-priority sector committees. Among the ECCP’s and its Healthcare Committee’s primary objectives are the effective implementation of the Universal Health Care Act for all Filipinos and the facilitation of access to medicines and medical devices. Furthermore, and in accordance with the COVID-19 pandemic, the ECCP intends to further assist and engage with various stakeholders on initiatives to improve the health workforce and skills, strengthen health regulatory management, and effectively implement laws and institutionalization of policies that govern the mobile and telehealth services of the Philippines.</p> <p>The ECCP, together with its Healthcare Committee, has released various position papers and publications with regard to universal healthcare.</p>
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61 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2022). Republic Act No. 11223. Retrieved <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2019/02feb/20190220-RA-11223-RRD.pdf>

62 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2022). Republic Act No. 11469. Retrieved <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/03mar/20200324-RA-11469-RRD.pdf>

63 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2022). Republic Act No. 11494. Retrieved <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/09sep/20200911-RA-11494-RRD.pdf>

64 Department of Health. (2021, July 6). Suggested Retail Price (SRP) of selected essential emergency medicines and medical devices. Retrieved from <https://pharma.doh.gov.ph/suggested-retail-price-srp-for-selected-essential-emergency-medicines-and-medical-devices/>

65 National Economic and Development Authority. (2019, January 21). Public health programs - SDGs - Philippines. Retrieved from <https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/public-health-programs/>

66 National Economic and Development Authority. (2019, January 8). Human Resources for Health (HRH) deployment program - SDGs - Philippines. Retrieved from <https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/human-resources-for-health-hrh-deployment-program/>

67 National Economic and Development Authority. (2019, January 8). Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) - SDGs - Philippines. Retrieved from <https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/health-facilities-enhancement-program-hfep/>

<p>SDG #4 Quality Education</p>	<p>The Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act or the Republic Act No. 1093139 promotes education through free tuition fees, providing students to study in state universities or technical-vocational educational institutions that are run by the state, tertiary-education subsidies, and student loan programs.⁶⁸</p> <p>The Alternative Learning System Act, also known as Republic Act No. 11501⁶⁹ aims to give out-of-school children and adults the chance to enhance their knowledge, hone values, and life skills, in preparation for further education, work, or self-employment.</p> <p>In addition, Republic Act No. 11650 institutionalizes policies and services for learners with disabilities. This provides support for inclusive education and establishes inclusive learning resource centers in all school districts, municipalities, and cities. It also focuses on providing special education students with the appropriate assistance that specifically caters to their needs.⁷⁰</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11551 or An Act Integrating Labor Education in the Tertiary Education Curriculum provides the future workers, employers, and entrepreneurs the education on their rights, duties, and responsibilities to create a harmonious work environment, while also creating social progress in society.⁷¹</p>	<p>The ECCP and its Southern Mindanao Business Council (ECCP-SMBC) launched the Education Advocacy Committee last October 2020 to provide its educational institution members with a platform to exchange ideas on education issues and development, as well as to promote institutional partnerships between higher educational institutions (HEIs) and enterprises. This initiative reiterates the Chamber's commitment to strengthening collaboration between the academe and the private sector.</p> <p>The committee also seeks to strengthen ties between its 22 HEI members and their counterparts in the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area, as well as potential European partners, for visiting professor and student exchange programs, joint research projects, and cultural exchange initiatives.</p> <p>The latest move follows several education/training initiatives undertaken by the Chamber to address industry needs, such as the "English is Cool" program, which aimed to improve Filipinos' English proficiency for call center jobs, the adoption of the German Dual Training model at the university level to promote practical skill development and is now known as the Applied Corporate Management Program of De La Salle University, and the establishment of an Academe-Industry Consortium in Cebu to promote collaboration partnership between companies and universities.</p> <p>Furthermore, the ECCP has partnered with HEIs in the Philippines and Europe through the PATHWAY project since February 2021. The PATHWAY Project, an Erasmus+ funded project, aims to enhance the entrepreneurial and employability culture of HEIs in the Philippines in order to meet labor market demands and governmental reforms. To foster industry-academe cooperation, the Chamber plays an active role in the effective implementation of the three phases of the program, which include the creation of a task force, facilitation of capacity-building programs, and drafting of a white paper containing policy strategies and recommendations.</p> <p>Additionally, as a result of the disruptions to the country's educational system, the ECCP took the initiative to lead the technical working group (TWG) on the gradual and safe re-opening of international schools against the backdrop of an ongoing pandemic. The ECCP, along with the Joint Foreign Chamber of the Philippines, recommends developing risk management plans, robust information dissemination campaigns, and mechanisms for regular dialogue between stakeholders and partners.</p>
<p>SDG #5 Gender Equality</p>	<p>Republic Act No. 11210, also known as the 105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law⁷², increases paid maternity leave for female workers in the public and private sectors from 60 to 105 days.</p> <p>The overall framework of The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) 2019-2025⁷³ was informed by the Magna Carta of Women, the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, and the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development based on the SDGs. The GEWE Plan 2019-2025 is the government's key reference in formulating Gender and Development (GAD) plans and budgets. Furthermore, it identified targeted and catalytic steps to reduce, if not eliminate, gender disparity in all aspects of life.⁷⁴</p> <p>The creation and strengthening Violence Against Women (VAW) Desks serve as a physical facility that addresses VAW cases in a manner that is gender-sensitive. These are present in barangays to act as the first responders once contacted by victims.⁷⁵ As of August 2018, around 42,036 barangays or roughly 90% of all barangays in the country, have created their VAW desks, according to DILG.⁷⁶</p> <p>The establishment of an integrated VAW referral system at the national and local levels is intended to strengthen the services being provided by various organizations for VAW victim-survivors. Its mapping covers RA 9262, RA 8353 and RA 8505, RA 9208 and RA 10364, RA 7877, RA 9995, RA 9710, RA 7610, RA 9775, and Articles 336 and 334 of the Revised Penal Code.⁷⁷</p>	<p>Established in 2015, the ECCP Women in Business Committee (WBC) is aimed at bringing together business leaders from the ECCP Membership and the wider business community, that aspire to deepen understanding on and participate in women empowerment and gender parity initiatives.</p> <p>In recent years, the ECCP WBC has provided a special dynamic platform by conducting information-sharing sessions to discuss issues affecting the professional growth of women, as well as engagements intended to expand women's network and opportunities for their overall development. It is in this regard that the Committee provided an avenue for women leaders prevailing across different industries, to discuss the significant changes women contribute to society, and to promote women's participation in world-advancing gender empowerment during the "Empowering Leadership for Women in Society" last 22 April 2021. As a post-event campaign, the ECCP WBC also invited women from different walks of life and profession to give their personal definitions of 'empowerment.' This was later on posted on a weekly basis on ECCP's official social media accounts from May to August of last year.</p>

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69 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2022). Republic Act No. 11510. Retrieved <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/12dec/20201223-RA-11510-RRD.pdf>

70 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2022). Republic Act No. 11650. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2022/03/11/republic-act-no-11650/>

71 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2021). Republic Act No. 11551. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2021/05/27/republic-act-no-11551/>

72 Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2022). Republic Act No. 11210. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2019/02feb/20190220-RA-11210-RRD.pdf>

73 National Economic and Development Authority. (2019, September 9). Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the GEWE plan 2019-2025 - sdgs - philippines. SDGs - Philippines. Retrieved from <https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/strengthen-monitoring-and-evaluation-of-the-implementation-of-the-gewe-plan-2019-2025/>

74 Philippine Commission on Women. (2022, January 19). Gender equality and women empowerment plan. Retrieved from <https://pcw.gov.ph/gewe-plan/>

75 National Economic and Development Authority. (2019, January 8). Making violence against women (VAW) desks functional - SDGs - Philippines. Retrieved from <https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/making-violence-against-women-vaw-desks-functional/>

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<p>SDG #9 Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure</p>	<p>Infrastructure development is required to facilitate economic recovery and ensure green infrastructure will serve to increase the nation's capacity to address future crises and contribute to the development of a more sustainable society. The Build Build Build (BBB) Program⁷⁸ intends to boost public infrastructure investment from 2.9% of GDP on average under the Aquino administration to roughly 7.3% by the end of the Duterte administration. As the project raised infrastructure funding dramatically, the government is considering more unsolicited public-private partnership (PPP) applications from the private sector. Ideally, the government's focus on infrastructure investment and economic reforms would attract more private investments into the country especially for smart and green infrastructure, despite the current economic downturn brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁹</p> <p>In an effort to provide benefits and programs to strengthen, promote and develop the Philippine Startup ecosystem, Republic Act No. 11337 otherwise known as the Innovative Startup Act⁸⁰ was also enacted.</p> <p>In recognition of the importance of innovation in driving inclusive development, Republic Act No. 11293 or the Philippine Innovation Act⁸¹ likewise encourages inclusive development and the growth and national competitiveness of micro, small, and medium firms (MSMEs).</p> <p>The Philippine Space Development and Utilization Policy, or the Philippine Space Policy, will serve as the country's primary strategic roadmap for space development and will embody the country's central goal of becoming a space-capable and space-faring nation within the next decade. It shall focus on areas of space science and technology applications (SSTA) that would address related issues on the national level, promote the efficient utilization of space assets and resources, establish capacity-building measures for human resources development, strengthen national defense, and enhance international cooperation.⁸²</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11035 also known as the Balik Scientist Act was enacted into law to formalize the Balik Scientist Program and encourage Filipino scientists, technicians, and specialists to share their knowledge and experience with interested individuals.⁸³ The program shall aim to strengthen the scientific and technological human resources of the academe, public and private institutions, including locally registered enterprises in order to promote knowledge sharing and accelerate the flow of new technologies into the country.⁸⁴</p>	<p>The Innovation Committee hosts a community of member companies from different industries with the thrust to and drive for innovative approaches in their business management, operations, and strategies. As such, the committee's overarching advocacy is to provide thought leadership that will enable other enterprises to inject novelty and dynamism into their work. Recently, the Committee has already hosted and engaged in a variety of events aimed at promoting best practices, raising awareness of emerging trends, and exchanging actionable solutions and policy recommendations in the innovation landscape.</p> <p>To promote digitalisation, particularly in the finance, services, and automotive/mobility sectors, the projects of the ECCP Innovations Committee include the Sandbox webinars, which cover topics such as financial technology, healthcare, and e-commerce. In addition, the Committee has held topical sessions on, among others, energy development, cryptocurrencies, urban infrastructure, and sustainable business practices. The ECCP also supports the move to bring into effect the Philippine Creative Industries Act, which advances the country's thrust to encourage innovation, and science and technology development, among others.</p> <p>Similarly, the ECCP and its Infrastructure and Transportation Committee have advocated for the opening of the construction sector to fully foreign-owned contracts through the removal of the nationality distinction on licensing. This limits the ability of foreign contractors to enter the market and compete with domestic competitors on the basis of a level playing field.</p>
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<p>SDG #11 Sustainable Cities and Communities</p>	<p>To provide Filipinos with access to quality, affordable, resilient, and sustainable housing communities, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), established by Republic Act No. 1120146⁸⁵, serves as the primary national government institution responsible for housing, human settlements, and urban development management.</p> <p>Similarly, the establishment of a National Resettlement Policy Framework (NRPF) will streamline standard resettlement processes and rules for all infrastructure agencies, knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs), LGUs, and other governmental entities conducting projects with resettlement and housing components.</p> <p>The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) firmly supports the smart city program in the country as it will inspire cities to embrace science, technology, and innovation (STI) for smart governance and smart solutions. It seeks to address issues associated with sustainable urban development growth and smarter cities with the application of STI. The Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) recently launched in 2021 its Framework for Smart Sustainable Communities and Cities, which intends to improve research collaboration, as well as fund quality research with long-term effects.⁸⁶</p> <p>Additionally, the enactment of the proposed Sustainable Cities and Communities Act assigns the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to provide technical assistance to local government units in harnessing their capacity as smart and sustainable municipalities/cities.⁸⁷ This Senate Bill No. 65 envisions urban centers and human settlements that are ‘inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,’ in accordance with the country’s obligations under Goal 11 of the SDGs. The proposed measure requires local governments, among others, to assure public access to social services, preferential use of renewable resources, effective waste management systems, and reliable mass transportation.⁸⁸ As of writing time, the measure is still pending in the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement.⁸⁹</p> <p>The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), established by Republic Act No. 11201, is the primary national government institution responsible for the management of housing, human settlements, and urban development. With the goal to push for innovative, green, and smart housing initiatives, the DHSUD partners with the members of the private sector to discuss how they can work together to restructure the housing industry through innovation and sustainability efforts, with the ultimate objective of creating smart subdivisions, which is perceived as an essential component in making smart cities possible.⁹⁰</p> <p>Likewise, the adoption of a National Resettlement Policy Framework (NRPF) streamlines standard resettlement processes and guidelines for all infrastructure agencies, LGUs, and other governmental entities conducting projects with resettlement and housing components.⁹¹</p>	<p>Last February 2022, the ECCP published the Review of Smart City Business Opportunities in the Philippines. The report was prepared by the Chamber as part of its partnership with the Embassy of Finland - Manila in conceptualizing smart city programs and business events/services to support the engagement of Finnish companies in the Philippine market.</p> <p>The ECCP has also organized a series of Future Cities policy conversations on topics such as urban and transport infrastructure, waste management, and water security. These aim to promote a better understanding of the challenges that cities face, explore policy and regulatory changes, and highlight innovative solutions that are required to address challenges in key operational aspects of cities in order to draw them into the smart, resilient, and sustainable path. Similarly, the Chamber has held technological briefings on flood control technologies and other similar topics.</p> <p>In early 2021, the ECCP established its Defense and Disaster Response Committee with the purpose of increasing collaboration among industry participants in order to exchange best practices and technology for advancing national security and improving disaster risk response and management in the country. It also strives to promote the Philippines’ potential as an internationally competitive destination for security and defense solutions, in support of the Philippines’ objective of modernized and well-respected armed forces among its peers in Asia, and eventually, globally.</p>
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91 National Economic and Development Authority. (2017). Chapter 12: Building Safe and Secure Communities. Retrieved from <http://pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Chapter-12-462017.pdf>

<p>SDG #14 Life Below Water</p> <p>SDG #15 Life on Land</p>	<p>The Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act or the Republic Act No. 11038⁹² added 94 more protected areas to the Constitution's list of national parks. The Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will oversee the protected areas.</p> <p>Likewise, the Enhanced National Greening Program⁹³ is an initiative by the DENR – Forest Management Bureau (FMB) that aims to reforest the estimated 7.1 million hectares of unproductive, denuded, and degraded forestlands through the participation and investment of the private sector towards enabling companies to achieve carbon neutrality. This is consistent with the updated Master Plan for Forestry (2016-2028) to harmonize all forest development activities that will encourage and enhance the development of forest plantations with the participation of the private sector, local government units, and people's organizations. This program will directly contribute to SDG target 15.2, which is to promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation.</p> <p>The Protection and Conservation of Wildlife⁹⁴ program of the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) deals with the preservation, conservation and protection of wildlife, and/or maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of their habitats. Priority activities under this program include enforcement of wildlife laws, rules and regulations, establishment and management of critical habitats, and conservation of threatened wildlife species. This program will contribute to SDG target 15.5, which aims to protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p> <p>The Protected Area Development and Management⁹⁵ covers the main in-situ measures to conserve biodiversity within and adjacent to protected areas. It will ensure that the current national integrated protected areas system (NIPAS) coverage is rationalized by retaining and prioritizing those with high biodiversity values while providing an appropriate governance regime for the protection of key biodiversity areas (KBAs) such as through local conservation areas (LCAs) with the LGU concerned and through indigenous community conserved areas (ICCAs). This program will directly support the attainment of SDG target 15.2, which promotes the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation.</p> <p>The Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP)⁹⁶ initiated by the DENR-BMB aims to comprehensively manage, address, and effectively reduce the drivers and threats of degradation of the coastal and marine ecosystems in order to achieve and promote sustainability of ecosystem services, food security, and climate change resiliency. It covers all the NIPAS marine protected areas, marine key biodiversity areas, and adjacent municipal waters. This initiative will provide support to SDG 14.2, which aims to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems and will indirectly support SDG 14.5 targeting to conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the available scientific information.</p> <p>National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP)⁹⁷</p> <p>This program by the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) conducts an assessment of major pelagic and demersal species in major fishing grounds of the county through the establishment of standardized time series and biological data by fishing ground (bays/gulfs/seas), which are fundamental to science-based fisheries management, formulation of policies, plans, and strategies. This will support SDG 14.4 by effectively regulating harvesting and ending overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and destructive fishing practices. This also implements science-based management plans based on their biological characteristics.</p> <p>The National Search for Outstanding Coastal Community Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) (CLEAN AND PLENTIFUL OCEAN)⁹⁸ policy of the DA-BFAR aims to promote fisheries protection and conservation and to center on the significance of sustainably managing our fisheries and aquatic resources. It advances stakeholder engagement in the cause of resource protection and conservation. The Search for Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan also seeks to recognize outstanding initiatives and contributions of coastal municipalities/cities to sustainable fisheries development. With this in mind, this engagement will indirectly support SDG 14.2 to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems and SDG 14.4.</p> <p>Executive Order No. 159, s. 2021 adopts an integrated approach in the ratification and accession to International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions and instruments. Likewise, the Philippine Maritime Strategy on the Implementation of Relevant IMO Instruments for 2020-2024 (PMS 2020-2024), which was developed pursuant to Executive Order (EO) No. 84, s. 2019⁹⁹, aims for the ratification or accession to IMO conventions to realize the objectives of priority programs that relate to strengthening the safety operations of Philippine-registered fishing vessels in order to transform the country into a global maritime hub. This would enhance maritime safety and modernize maritime security. It also targets the role of the ICCRIMC in monitoring international developments in the maritime industry.¹⁰⁰</p>	<p>With over 700 members all over the Philippines, ECCP as a service-oriented organization has members with initiatives committed to conserving marine resources and protecting terrestrial ecosystems.</p>
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<p>SDG #16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</p>	<p>The Republic Act No. 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law¹⁰¹ was enacted in an effort to bring peace by addressing the concerns of Muslims in the region. It formed the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BAR) as a new autonomous political entity.</p> <p>Executive Order No. 70¹⁰² established a National Task Force to stop local communist armed conflict and directed the establishment of a National Peace Framework in order to achieve inclusive and lasting peace.</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 (EOBD & EGSD)¹⁰³ amends the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2017 and creates a program for the adoption of streamlined rules and procedures in the government that will remove red tape and accelerate transactions.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Joint Memorandum Circular 2019-001 Series of 2019¹⁰⁴ released implementing rules and regulations to guide all pertinent departments, in the execution of RA No. 11032.</p> <p>Through its Creative Economy Roadmap, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) anticipates the country's creative industry to leading the ASEAN region by 2030, with a concentration on the following subsectors: advertising, cinema, animation, game development, and design.</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11055 or the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) Act was enacted to provide a valid proof of identity for all citizens and resident aliens to simplify transactions. It serves as the link in the promotion of seamless service delivery, enhancing administrative governance, reducing corruption, strengthening financial inclusion, and promoting ease of doing business.¹⁰⁵</p> <p>Memorandum: Freedom of Information (FOI) Manual¹⁰⁶ highlights Executive Order (EO) No. 2, issued on 23 July 2016, to specifically direct all government offices under the executive branch to prepare their own People's FOI Manual and formulate implementing details within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days upon effectivity of the EO. LGUs are encouraged to observe and be guided by the EO.</p> <p>Freedom of Information (FOI) Program¹⁰⁷</p> <p>Enabled by Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016, the FOI Program of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) is the government's response to the call for transparency and full public disclosure of information. Through FOI, citizens are empowered to make a formal request to get information held by the government, barring certain sensitive and important data related to the nation's security. FOI complements continuing proactive information disclosure efforts where agencies are duty-bound to publish information in the spirit of openness and transparency. The implementation of the FOI program will ensure public access to information, a key SDG indicator under this Goal. It will also contribute partly to ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels. This enables citizens to participate in the democratic process through readily available and accessible government data.</p>	<p>Integrity Initiative</p> <p>The Integrity Initiative, spearheaded in late 2009 by the Makati Business Club and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, pushes for collective action among ethical foreign and local business businesses seeking fair market conditions. As designed, the project will benefit all market players willing to embark on a business culture transformation that will redefine how firms conduct business in the Philippines. It is a process that will initiate a change from the inside and will radiate outward on a collective level, resulting in a new ethical business norm and stronger institutions.</p> <p>With this in mind, the effort hopes to earn the country more foreign investments, more job opportunities, and reduced poverty as a consequence of international recognition that the Philippines is serious about combating corruption. Through the Integrity Initiative, the Philippines will become a model for the transition from extremely corrupt to ethical corporate practices.</p> <p>LoGIC Network</p> <p>A locality that has integrity and is competitive is a more appealing and investment-ready province, city, or municipality. As such, the Chamber formed Multi-sectoral Local Government Integrity Circles (LoGIC). In this initiative, ECCP was entrusted with two tasks: 1) promoting LoGIC Network partner LGUs and localities as preferred investment destinations, and 2) having integrity building activities counted in the overall assessment of a locality's investment readiness and/or competitiveness. The project's goal is to develop a system for gauging municipalities' integrity initiatives and include it in the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index.</p> <p>ECCP KAS BARMM Project</p> <p>In partnership and with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the ECCP launched the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Initiative in late 2020. The Project seeks to engage the political/government, economic/business, scientific/academic and civil society actors in a discussion on building the stronger socio-economic development prospects of the Bangsamoro region on the basis of development and regulatory principles that can support BARMM MSME business growth.</p> <p>This includes the conduct of a survey from October to December 2020 to understand better how BARMM MSMEs can be assisted as far as strengthening and enhancing their role as contributors to the socio-economic progress of the BARMM region. On top of the survey, a series of focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted from February to March 2021 to determine the views of BARMM stakeholders on the results of the survey, the actions that need to be taken as well as the priority areas.</p> <p>The results of the survey/FGDs have led to the formulation of an integrated action program for (i) enhancing the role, capacity, and impact of BARMM MSMEs in key sectors; (ii) identifying key best practices leading to inclusive, sustainable and resilient BARMM socio-economic development; and (iii) promoting a collective action among BARMM enterprises in various sectors, BARMM public institutions, and even international organizations to rally towards building a dynamic and globally competitive BARMM social economy.</p> <p>As part of the continued dialogue and strengthened cooperation between ECCP and KAS, the BARMM Adventure Project Focus Group Discussion was also held in November 2021 to discuss the BARMM Business Perception Assessment Report prepared by the Chamber. The report highlights the results of the BARMM Business Perception survey conducted by ECCP between September and October 2021. The Chamber also published the 2021 BARMM Policy Papers, which provide a backdrop on the sectoral developments in the region, as well as policy recommendations to create an enabling and more conducive environment for trade and investments in BARMM.</p> <p>In 2022, ECCP shall continue working on the other objectives of the project to pursue the SHINE strategy and will build on the continuing work done in 2021. In particular, ECCP will continue to work on brand building, managing the perceptions of stakeholders on doing business in BARMM and with BARMM MSMEs, as well as pursuing the advocacy work of the project when it comes to infrastructure development, logistic, telecommunications/connectivity, and others. In this regard, meetings will be conducted with national and local government officials to help build a conducive business environment for MSME business development.</p>
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<p>SDG #17 Partnerships for the Goals</p>	<p>Official Development Assistance, as defined in Republic Act No. 8182, is a loan or a grant administered to promote sustainable social and economic development and welfare of the Philippines.¹⁰⁸ In 2020, a 46.6% increase in its portfolio was reported from USD 20.9 billion from 2019 to USD 30.7 billion in 2020¹⁰⁹</p> <p>In December 2019, the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) approved the creation of the Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development Goals monitoring the executions and progress of where the SDGs currently stand in the Philippines. They also use it to review programs and policies and submit recommendations to the cabinet-level of the DBCC.¹¹⁰</p> <p>Republic Act No. 11595 or An Act Amending Republic Act No. 8762, otherwise known as the “Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000” lowers the required paid-up capital for foreign retail enterprises, It also reduces the paid-up capital requirements for foreign retailers of any and all categories to PHP 25 million. This would then allow foreign retailers to penetrate the market and further improve the consumer options when it comes to competition in the market.¹¹¹</p>	<p>For more than four decades, the ECCP has worked with a wide range of stakeholders within the government, private sector, academic institutions, civil society organizations, development partners, and international organizations, to make the country a more competitive and appealing destination for trade and investment. Furthermore, the Chamber has been actively involved in sustainability-related advocacies, including but not limited to energy efficiency and conservation, water management, and circular economy, by collaborating with partners to push for policy reforms, raise public awareness, and effect positive change. Our extensive network assists us in achieving our shared goals of promoting a healthy environment and a prosperous economy in accordance with the Global Goals. To that end, the ECCP is dedicated to building on past accomplishments and collaborating with other stakeholders to maximize our impact on sustainable development.</p> <p>The ECCP is likewise honoured to have been selected as among the 42 members of the NEDA Stakeholders’ Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals (SC-SDG). The Chamber remains committed to working with the Philippine government and other stakeholders towards promoting sustainable and inclusive development for all.</p>
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SMART AND SAFER MOBILITY

OVERVIEW

As cities throughout the world, including those in the Philippines, experience increasing urbanization, mobility plays a critical role in providing prosperity and the promise of enhanced quality of life. In line with this, smart and safer mobility has risen to the top of the sustainability agenda in government, business boardrooms, academia, and civil society in recent years. In the Philippine context, various challenges persist such as emissions of both air pollutants and greenhouse gases (GHGs), accidents resulting in injury and loss of life, detriment to the public realm as a result of highways taking up public space, and traffic congestion. These lingering issues are also manifested in the performance of the Philippines by SDG targets on mobility indicators vis-à-vis its ASEAN neighbors (see Table 1).

Table 1. SDG Trends: Performance by targets on mobility indicator of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member-states¹

Country	SDG targets on mobility indicator ^{2 3}					
	3.6 - Traffic deaths (per 100,000 population)		9.1 - Logistics Performance Index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (worst 1-5 best)		11.2 - Satisfaction with public transport (%)	
	Rating	Trend	Rating	Trend	Rating	Trend
Brunei Darussalam	↑	↑	→	●	●	●
Cambodia	↓	↓	→	↓	↗	↗
Indonesia	↗	↗	↗	→	↑	↑
Lao PDR	↓	↓	→	↑	↑	●
Malaysia	↓	→	↑	↑	↗	↓
Myanmar	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑
Philippines	↗	→	↗	↑	→	↓
Singapore	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Thailand	↓	→	↑	↑	↑	↑
Vietnam	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2021⁴

1 Based on current performance on a given indicator, the SDG Trends indicate whether a country is on track to meet a certain goal by 2030.
 2 **Rating** illustrates how far a country is from achieving a particular SDG goal. Thresholds have been set using statistical methodologies and multiple rounds of expert consultations since 2016.
 3 **Trend** means linear annual growth rates (annual percentage improvements) needed to achieve the target by 2030 (from 2015-2030), which are then compared to the average annual growth rate over the most recent period (usually 2015-2019).
 4 Sachs, J., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. (2021). The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals: Sustainable Development Report 2021. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. DOI: 10.1017/9781009106559
 ECCP SUSTAINABILITY WHITEBOOK 2022

Legend	Rating	Trend ⁵
↑	SDG achieved	On track/Maintaining SDG achievement
↗	Challenges remain	Moderately Improving
→	Significant challenges	Stagnating
↓	Major challenges	Decreasing
●	Information unavailable	Information unavailable

According to the TomTom Traffic Index 2021, Metro Manila is the 18th most congested city in the world, down from the 4th spot in 2020. The Philippine capital's average congestion level fell to 43% in 2021, from 53% in 2020, attributable to strict lockdowns and mobility curbs implemented during the second year of the coronavirus outbreak. Although the traffic congestion in the National Capital Region (NCR) further eased last year, pushing it out of the top five most congested metropolises globally, the road ahead remains an uphill fight due to a slew of mobility challenges in the Philippines. Congestion is one of the most apparent issues for urban planners and dwellers alike now that most highly urbanized areas in the country are downgraded or retained to the least restrictive Alert Level 1 as of 29 April 2022.⁶

Congestion has environmental effects as transportation accounts for 15% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the country and is the third-highest contributor by industry (see Table 2). Furthermore, pre-pandemic data show that Metro Manila has greater levels of air pollution than the country's average, both of which exceed World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.⁷

Sector	MtCO ₂ e
Electricity/Heat	70.44
Agriculture	61.37
Transportation	35.64
Industrial Processes	18.68
Manufacturing/Construction	15.39
Waste	13.77
Building	10.03
Other Fuel Combustion	6.48
Bunker Fuels	5.13
Land-Use Change and Forestry	2.48
Fugitive Emissions	0.55

Source: Climate Watch of the World Resources Institute⁸

⁵ **Decreasing** score means country moves in the wrong direction. Stagnating signals that the country's score in an indicator is stagnating or increasing at a rate below 50% of the growth rate needed to achieve the SDG by 2030. Moderately improving suggests that the score increases at a rate above 50% of the required growth rate but below the rate needed to achieve the SDG by 2030. On track or Maintaining SDG achievement trend means the score increases at the rate needed to achieve the SDG by 2030 or performance has already exceeded SDG achievement threshold.

⁶ Balinbin, A. L. (2022, February 15). Traffic congestion eases in Metro Manila in 2021. BusinessWorld. Retrieved from <https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2022/02/15/429971/traffic-congestion-eases-in-metro-manila-in-2021/>

⁷ Swiss-based air quality technology company IQAir noted that the average concentrations of fine particulate matter in Metro Manila read at 18.2 µg/m³ while the country's air quality levels read at 17.6 µg/m³ in 2019. Both readings exceed the World Health Organization's recommended safety guideline limit of 10.2 µg/m³.

⁸ Climate Watch of the World Resources Institute. (2022). Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Retrieved from: <https://www.climate-watchdata.org/data-explorer/historical-emissions>

In relation to the foregoing, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our mobility. It has correspondingly expedited the demand for smart mobility to further enhance health standards, promote safety, and improve reliability and efficiency. It also compelled the Philippine government to implement several green measures in order to make the transportation industry more efficient and ecologically friendly. Starting with lockdowns and a temporary halt in public transportation, policymakers used various instruments to adapt to the situation. As the global health crisis further popularized the use of micro mobility, this urged the administration to cater to the needs of users of bicycles, e-bikes, and e-scooters by developing green infrastructure. These include promoting alternative modes of transportation, allocating lanes for PUVs, cyclists, and light mobility vehicles, and subsidizing operations through service contracts. With the introduction of these new efforts, the government is investing more in sustainable mobility than it has ever done in recent history. Aside from budget insertions in the Bayanihan Recover as One Act in 2020, sustainable mobility has made its way into the Philippine government's yearly fiscal budget, with discussions on the inclusion of funding for initiatives such as bike lane infrastructure, bike-sharing, and PUV modernization.⁹

As reported by the Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade during The Future of Infrastructure: Creating Opportunities for Tomorrow organized by the ECCP, the EDSA Busway was established as a dedicated median lane of city buses in EDSA that significantly reduced travel time from 2-3 hours to 40-50 minutes. The EDSA Greenways Project (Phase 1) is currently undergoing the finalization of bidding documents for procurement. This enhances pedestrian facilities around key rail stations along EDSA. As per active transport, the government has already completed 100% of the 497 km bike lane network in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao, with pavement markings, bollards, curbs, and solar studs. Other projects that are in the pipeline include the Cebu Integrated and Intermodal Transportation System and the Davao Public Transport Modernization Project. Indeed, an effective transport system is vital in delivering prosperity so much as sustainable urban mobility is necessary to fulfill the social, environmental, and economic demands of the citizens, notably in congested places.

Currently, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) is also collaborating with the Philippine Department of Transportation (DOTr) on the Promotion of Low Carbon Urban Transport Systems in the Philippines (LCT) Project. The LCT project, led by the DOTr, joins forces with national and local government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders to foster an enabling environment for low-carbon modes of transportation in the Philippines through policy development, institutional capacity building, and facilitating private sector participation. To ensure sustainability in its attempts to improve public transportation and move toward active mobility, the Project employs both "green" and "behavioral" perspectives.¹⁰

With the purpose of enhancing environmental monitoring, the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP) was likewise devised by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) with assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The overarching purpose of the goal of the PAP4SCP is to encourage more Filipinos to generate green services in order to live more sustainable and climate-smart lifestyles. Infrastructure is one of the PAP4SCP's four action nodes. The strategy proposes to push green infrastructure development with a view to ease prompt environmental monitoring, scale-up sustainable urban mobility solutions, and encourage resource-efficient and climate-smart activities.¹¹

The transportation sector is undeniably critical to reducing emissions in the Philippines. Without a transition to mass transportation and a cleaner source of transportation energy, the sector is anticipated to account for up to 90% of global energy consumption in 2030.¹² Likewise, the Philippines' present traffic condition costs the country PHP 3.5 billion in daily economic loss. Regrettably, if no significant policy interventions are implemented, the economic effect might climb to PHP 5.4 billion by 2035.¹³ At the same time, major highways in the country continue to be accident hotspots, putting the lives of motorists, commuters, and pedestrians at risk. Despite being in compliance with World Health Organization (WHO) best practices in terms of having numerous national legislation associated with road safety in place, the Philippines was classified as having the 4th highest road death rate in Southeast Asia by the same health authority (see Table 3).

⁹ watchdata.org/data-explorer/historical-emissions

¹⁰ Nacino, M. (2021). Making Sustainable Mobility Sustainable. UNDP. Retrieved from <https://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/blog/making-sustainable-mobility-sustainable.html>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Asian Development Bank. (2020). Green Infrastructure Investment Opportunities - Philippines. Retrieved December 22, 2021, from <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/653566/green-infrastructure-investment-philippines-2020.pdf>

¹³ Ibid.

Japan International Cooperation Agency. (20 September 2018). *JICA to help Philippines ease traffic congestion in Metro Manila*. Press release. Retrieved from <https://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english/office/topics/news/180920.html>.

Table 3. Estimated total number of road traffic deaths in member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for the year 2019

Country	Fatalities
Indonesia	30,668
Vietnam	29,475
Thailand	22,428
Philippines	13,017
Myanmar	11,004
Malaysia	7,181
Cambodia	3,223
Lao PDR	1,281
Singapore	121.1
Brunei Darussalam	32.3

Source: World Health Organization¹⁴

In 2019, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) has also reported that motorcycle crashes are the ninth leading cause of death among Filipinos.¹⁵ In relation to the foregoing, the employment of more standard driver-assist technologies is vital in reducing the risk of road crashes. Vehicle manufacturers have started to equip their products with electronic aids, the most popular of which is the anti-lock braking system (ABS). ABS is a type of electronic assistance that modulates braking and prevents wheel lock automatically. Regardless of the rider's brake input or the road condition, the mechanism allows the vehicle to stop within the shortest possible distance.¹⁶ More recently, the Thai Department of Land Transport announced in the government gazette that ABS will become a mandatory part of all new two-wheeler vehicle models from 2024. In the Philippines, exploring a similar move of mandating ABS on two-wheeler vehicles may progress vehicle and road safety.

To further improve traffic management, smart mobility serves as a response to the economic digital revolution, notably in the transportation sector, as well as the demand for increased internet connection. This involves, among other things, the integration of automotive navigation systems, intelligent traffic control systems, mobility surveillance systems, autonomous driving technologies, and fleet and driver management systems. In the country, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) implemented the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) project, which seeks to enhance overall traffic management, thereby increasing travel speed and decreasing travel time, and consequently minimizing greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles for a better urban environment.¹⁷ Adopted in 2019, MMDA's ITS project includes the installation of additional LED traffic signal control systems, vehicle detection systems, variable message signs, speed violation detection systems, traffic signal enforcement systems, and additional closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) for better traffic management.¹⁸

Taking these developments into account, stakeholders, notably industry practitioners and policymakers, are collaborating in advancing policies and solutions on innovative and sustainable mobility systems that will address current transportation concerns. As the mobility ecosystem grows more complex, digital technology enables and supports stakeholders in redesigning it, giving birth to transformative developments such as shared mobility, autonomous technology, automotive production digitization, and e-mobility, among others. With the COVID-19 pandemic ushering in unprecedented growth in e-commerce in the Philippines, a notable shift toward mobility-as-a-service, such as courier services and transport network vehicle service (TNVS), will add demand for urban transport and another layer of complexity to the present situation.

¹⁴ World Health Organization. (2021, February 9). The Global Health Observatory: Road traffic deaths. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/estimated-number-of-road-traffic-deaths>

¹⁵ Diaz, J. (2019, October 6). Motorcycle crashes No. 9 killer in Philippines. Philippine Star. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2019/10/06/1957784/motorcycle-crashes-no-9-killer-philippines>

¹⁶ Universal Technical Institute. (2021, February 4). What Are Anti-Lock Braking Systems (ABS)?. Retrieved from <https://www.uti.edu/blog/automotive/abs-braking-system>

¹⁷ Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. (2021, August 3). MMDA Installs Traffic Signal at EDSA- A. De Jesus U-Turn Slot in Caloocan. Retrieved from <https://mmda.gov.ph/77-news/news-2021/4761-aug-3-2021-mmda-installs-traffic-signal-at-edsa-a-de-jesus-u-turn-slot-in-caloocan.html>

¹⁸ Galvez, D. (2019, June 14). MMDA to fully implement intelligent transport systems in next 3 years. Inquirer. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1130355/mmda-to-fully-implement-intelligent-transport-systems-in-next-3-years>

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In recent developments, the government has enacted policies well within the scope of the mobility sector. Legislative bodies have initiated proposals that push for more active and safer transport in the country. Such measures play a vital role in the establishment of smart mobility framework in the Philippines.

- Three years after the blueprint's original adoption, the government issued the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the **National Transport Policy** in January 2020, with the goal of creating a "safe, secure, reliable, efficient, integrated, intermodal, affordable, cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, and people-oriented national transport system that ensures improved quality of life for the people." Among other significant aspects, the strategy strives to prioritize the movement of people rather than automobiles, as well as to build a foundation for delivering other modes of mobility. According to the IRR, a Philippine Transportation Master Plan would be developed to help transportation agencies and local governments in building the transport network through coordinated planning and execution of projects and programs as an integrated network. The IRR also directs and establishes the parameters for the integrated development and regulation of the Philippine transportation industry.¹⁹
- While the government recently implemented a national transport framework, there is a relatively **lack of alignment between the Philippine government's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in terms of mobility in comparison to its regional peers (see Table 4).

Table 4. Alignment between the Nationally Determined Contributions of the member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals on mobility

Country	Specific SDG targets on mobility		
	3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all	11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
Brunei Darussalam	Not linked	Linked	Linked
Cambodia	Not linked	Linked	Linked
Indonesia	Not linked	Linked	Not linked
Lao PDR	Not linked	Linked	Linked
Malaysia	Not linked	Not linked	Not linked
Myanmar	Not linked	Not linked	Linked
Philippines	Not linked	Not linked	Linked
Singapore	Not linked	Linked	Linked
Thailand	Not linked	Linked	Linked
Vietnam	Not linked	Linked	Linked

Source: Climate Watch of the World Resources Institute²⁰

¹⁹ National Economic and Development Authority. (n.d). Retrieved from <https://neda.gov.ph/national-transport-policy/>

²⁰ Northrop, E., H. Biru, S. Lima, M. Bouye, and R. Song. (2016). Examining the Alignment between the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and Sustainable Development Goals. Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Retrieved from https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/WRI_INDCs_v5.pdf

- With the aim of accelerating infrastructure development in key areas such as transport, the **Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022** was crafted by the NEDA to encourage a shift from private to public transport, especially mass transport. It was formulated to increase the efficiency of the transportation industry by offering sufficient, accessible, reliable, and secure access for persons and goods. The PDP was also prepared to improve road-based mobility to alleviate traffic congestion by “engineering, enforcement, and education,” as well as to enhance the road network to the highest quality standards.²¹
- The **Public Utility Vehicle Modernization (PUVM) Program** was also launched by the Department of Transportation in 2017. This intends to transform the public transportation road sector through the deployment of safer and more environmentally friendly vehicles, enhanced regulation, and industry consolidation. The initiative seeks to enhance urban quality of life, minimize economic losses due to wasted travel time, reduce health expenditures and early deaths, cut down GHG emissions, and improve the operators’ economic status by enhancing service quality standards.²² In relation to this, the Department of Trade and Industry formulated a **roadmap for the electric vehicle industry** aiming for 21% of total cars in the Philippines to be electric by 2030, with a focus on public transportation, and 50% by 2040. This goal will eventually make the country as ASEAN’s third auto production hub and a global manufacturing center for low-cost transportation and commercial vehicles.²³
- Other sets of policies and programs that recognize the importance of the link between urban mobility and climate change are the **Greenways**, which promotes the construction of walkways and bike lanes to connect key areas, and the **Green, Green, Green Programme** that allocated special fund to the local government units (LGUs), allowing them to enhance their open spaces and connectivity.²⁴
- **Electric Vehicle and Industry Development Act (EVIDA):** The Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act, which lapsed into law last 15 April 2022, promotes the expansion of the electric vehicle industry, which could result in more employment possibilities for local skilled workers and lessen the country’s dependency on imported gasoline. The new law requires the establishment of a Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI) to stimulate the development, marketing, and use of EVs in the country, which includes the construction or installation of charging stations in designated parking slots and spaces. It also gives tax incentives to EV manufacturers and assemblers, charging station operators, and other EV-related businesses.²⁵ The ECCP, together with the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines, lauds the government in pushing for this measure as it would allow the Philippines to partake in the global transition to electric vehicles.
- **Philippine Transportation Safety Board (PTSB) bill:** The proposed PTSB bill seeks the creation of a non-regulatory and independent agency attached to the Office of the President to be the primary agency responsible for the conduct of an impartial investigation of transportation-related accidents and incidents. The main objectives of the Board are (a) to improve transportation safety measures that will help in the prevention of transportation accidents and mitigation of dangers to human lives and property, and (b) to ensure the implementation of transportation safety standards.

On 1 June 2022, the bicameral conference committee report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1077 and House Bill No. 9030 has been ratified by the Senate and the House before the adjournment of the 18th Congress. As of writing, The ratified bill is being prepared for transmission to the President for signing. The ECCP, together with its JFC partners, supports the passage of this measure. We believe this will further strengthen industry players and result in a more efficient transportation sector in the country.

- **Safe Pathways Act:** The bill requires the DOTr and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in collaboration with LGUs, to establish and build a network of bicycle lanes connecting to essential

destinations such as businesses, medical facilities, supermarkets, schools, and banks. The legislative proposal also requires the creation of “slow streets” to complement the network of bicycle lanes. The Senate version has been approved on the third and final reading last February 2021, while its counterpart in the House of Representatives (House Bill No. 6804) has been pending with the Committee on Transportation since March 2021.

- **Dashboard Camera Act:** There are four House bills filed requiring the installation of dashboard cameras and other recording devices to deter traffic violations and promote responsible driving. House Bill (HB) No. 4475 is the most comprehensive in coverage, HB 1595 contains heftier fines, HB 3341 only pertains to public utility vehicles including TNVS, while HB 3411 only covers government-owned cars. All proposals filed in the House are pending at the Committee level, while there is no similar measure tabled in the Senate.

The ECCP Automotive Committee expressed support for the bills filed in Congress, requiring the installation of dashboard cameras or dashcams. The Committee believes that mandating the use of dashcams will prevent criminal incidents from happening including kidnapping, road rage, and carjacking. In resolving such cases, dashcams can serve as a great addition to closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) and provide a different angle of incidents for accuracy. The Automotive Committee underlines that the use of such recording devices will be effective for evidence-based recording on the streets and of violations of traffic rules, which will then promote road safety and responsible driving.

- Since 2018, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) has been consulting with relevant sectors regarding the government’s proposal on **restricting car tints on public and private vehicles**. The measure seeks to ban window tints for public transportation vehicles and regulate those of private vehicles for anti-crime purposes.²⁶ The ECCP Automotive Committee supports the move of mandating the front windshield and first row windows of private vehicles to be clear and not dark. Dark tinted windows are more susceptible to causing road accidents, especially at night due to low visibility of roads resulting in a much slower reaction time among drivers. This recommendation will not significantly affect the privacy concerns of passengers as VIPs usually sit in the second row where the tint of the windows can be dark. The Committee maintains its position that safety and security should be the primordial concern for this matter.
- **Motorcycles-for-Hire Act:** Legislators have presented proposals revising the Land Transportation and Traffic Code to legalize and regulate motorcycles-for-hire and motorcycle ride-sharing services in the nation in response to the developing niche of technology- and app-based transport network vehicle service (TNVS) largely employing two-wheeled vehicles. The bill was approved by the House on 31 January 2022 and received by the Senate on 2 February.
- **Road Safety Education Act:** Several pieces of legislation have also been introduced in Congress, proposing the mandatory inclusion of basic road safety and comprehensive driver’s education in the enhanced basic education curriculum, with the goal of developing well-rounded and responsible citizens at a young age. All bills are now pending in their respective House Committees.
- **Alternative Modes of Transportation Act:** Two House proposals have been filed in an attempt to establish a legislative framework to manage the country’s growing ridesharing industry. The legislation, among others, intends to clarify the responsibilities of TNVS support firms with regard to their drivers and passengers. The respective House Committees have yet to act on the measures.
- **Sustainable Transportation System Act:** By developing an integrated and efficient transport system, the proposed legislation aims to alleviate immediate traffic and transport concerns. The legislation’s authors stated that they hope to raise the health consciousness of the riding public by encouraging a culture of walking, cycling, and other low-emission modes of transport. The measures in question are now pending before the Committee.
- **National Road Safety Unit Act:** The bill seeks to establish the National Road Safety Unit (NRSU) as an affiliated agency to the transportation department to guarantee the implementation of the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan. The Act, according to its explanatory note, attempts to address the need

21 Metke, C., Kaenzig, R., & Mariano, P. (2020). Philippine Urban Mobility Programme. Retrieved from https://www.changing-transport.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_Philippine_Urban_Mobility_Programme.pdf

22 Agoot, L. (2019, July 31). PUVMP to professionalize PH transport system. Retrieved January 6, 2022, from PNA website: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1076510>

23 Cahiles-Magkilat, B. (2020, September 27). PH eyes 21% EVs of all vehicles by 2030. Retrieved December 17, 2021, from Manila Bulletin website: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/28/ph-eyes-21-eps-of-all-vehicles-by-2030/>

24 Metke, C., Kaenzig, R., & Mariano, P. (2020). Philippine Urban Mobility Programme. Retrieved from https://www.changing-transport.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_Philippine_Urban_Mobility_Programme.pdf

25 Torrengoza, H. (2022, April 28). Gatchalian: Electric vehicles now a more viable option with EVIDA law. Manila Bulletin. Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2022/04/28/gatchalian-electric-vehicles-now-a-more-viable-option-with-evida-law/>

26 Cabato, R. (2018, January 2). Gov’t proposal restricts car tint on public, private vehicles. CNN. Retrieved from <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2018/01/02/government-proposal-restricts-car-tint.html>

for a more focused, regulated, and effectively managed road safety unit oriented to the effective implementation of the action plan. The Committees on Public Services and Finance are yet to take significant action on this measure.

- **Heavy Vehicle Preventive Maintenance Act:** Another lone bill proposed in the Lower House and has been pending at the Committee on Transportation since August 2019 requires buses, trucks, and other heavy vehicles to undergo preventive maintenance with their respective companies as well as monthly inspections with the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to prevent accidents caused by mechanical malfunction and to ensure road safety.
- Following calls from some lawmakers and the riding public for a suspension, the president ordered the deferment of the implementation of the recently enacted **Child Safety in Motor Vehicles Act** in February 2021, which no longer allows children aged 12 and below to take the front seat and requires the use of child restraint systems. Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Singapore are the only other Southeast Asian states with national child-restraint law. As such, the ECCP Automotive Committee urges the government to initiate dialogues with various stakeholders and address public concerns to fully implement the Child Car Seat Law. This will guarantee the safety and welfare of infants and children, and prevent traffic-related deaths and injuries.
- In March 2021, the DOTr ordered the LTO to temporarily stop the implementation of its memorandum directing all its regional offices to adopt the mandatory Private Motor Vehicle Inspection Centers (PMVICs) until the issue on the Geographic Areas of Responsibility (GAOR) is fully resolved.²⁷ Starting 26 July 2021, the LTO started reimplementing the **Motor Vehicle Inspection System** provided under Memorandum Circular Number MC-SC-2021-02²⁸, which makes vehicle testing procedures on light vehicles and motorcycles mandatory, particularly in areas where PMVICs are already operational. Under the new MVICs, vehicles to be registered must pass a stringent 73-point inspection system to be conducted in three stages with the use of state-of-the-art equipment that sends, automatically and in real-time, the results to the Land Transportation Office's IT (information technology) system.

On this note, the ECCP Automotive Committee recommends bay system independent workshops be appointed as MVICs. This option will enable more MVICs to the country better nationwide coverage and wider options for testing and faster processing by reducing the waiting time to get the inspection done. The Chamber remains committed to public-private sector cooperation that will facilitate the full implementation of the MVIS program and the promotion of global best practices on modern, safe, and sustainable vehicle registration standards.

ECCP ADVOCACIES

It is undeniable that the socioeconomic benefits of a sustainable, seamless, smarter, and safer mobility future have the potential to enable the promise of sustainable cities and communities, as demonstrated by SDG 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The European business community in the Philippines is glad to contribute to the policy discourse with the following cross-sectoral campaign recommendations and their respective alignment with the respective mobility targets under the Global Goals (see Table 4).

ECCP Advocacies recommendations	Specific SDG targets on mobility		
	3.6	9.1	11.2
Further promotion and use of measures towards cleaner emissions and improved roadworthiness testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full and efficient implementation of the motor vehicle inspection system or MVIS (mandatory nationwide) • Improve implementation and enforcement framework of the Euro 4 emission standards 	✓	-	✓
Institutionalize mechanisms to improve vehicle and road safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt compulsory vehicle safety standards for passenger cars and two-wheelers, including anti-lock braking system (ABS) and electronic stability program (ESP) • Incorporate road safety education in basic education curriculum 	✓	✓	✓
Passage of the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act	-	✓	✓
Enactment of the Philippine Transportation Safety Board (PTSB) bill	✓	-	-
Effective Implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act	-	✓	✓

Without action, challenges on mobility in the Philippines will persist and, in all likelihood, intensify in the future. The demands of an expanding urban population and rising wages will drive up motorization rates, worsening congestion, increasing emissions, and a collapsing mobility system. As the Global Goals necessitate the collaborative efforts of all sectors of society, including the business community, so does the overarching goal of increasing the transport sector's sustainability impact. As such, the ECCP is poised to collaborate with stakeholders to realize the benefits of future mobility solutions and make an effective influence on the environment, community, and economy.

²⁷ Fernandez, D. (2021, August 24). DOTr halts LTO order allowing private MVIS centers to inspect motor vehicles. Inquirer. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1477927/dotr-halts-lto-order-for-motor-vehicles-to-undergo-inspection-at-private-emission-centers>

²⁸ Department of Transportation. (2021). Implementation of Geographical Area of Responsibility (GAOR) for Renewal of Registration for Light Vehicles and Motorcycles. Retrieved from <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q81L0tpzQ8Wta2mxvyQpJGFOIE8ACgpb/view>



CLEAN AND GREEN ENERGY

OVERVIEW

A fundamental factor that ensures the continuity of human and economic activities, including the drive towards further investments and innovations, is energy. Likewise, it plays a critical role in advancing governments' sustainability aims and aspirations. Achieving affordable and clean energy has been identified as among the common goals of countries under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.¹

Tracking the progress of the said SDG, The Energy Progress Report 2022 summarised updates on the various indicators:²

INDICATOR	2010	LATEST YEAR
 7.1.1 proportion of population with access to electricity	1.2 billion people without access to electricity	733 million people without access to electricity (2020)
 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology for cooking	3 billion people without access to clean cooking	2.4 billion people without access to clean cooking (2020)
 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption	16.1% share of total final energy consumption from renewables	17.7% share of total final energy consumption from renewables (2019)
 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured as a ratio of primary	5.6 MJ/USD primary energy intensity	4.7 MJ/USD primary energy intensity (2019)
 7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy	11.2 USD billion international financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy	10.9 USD billion international financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy (2019)

Source: IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, WHO. 2022.

¹ United Nations. (n.d.). Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/goal-07/>.

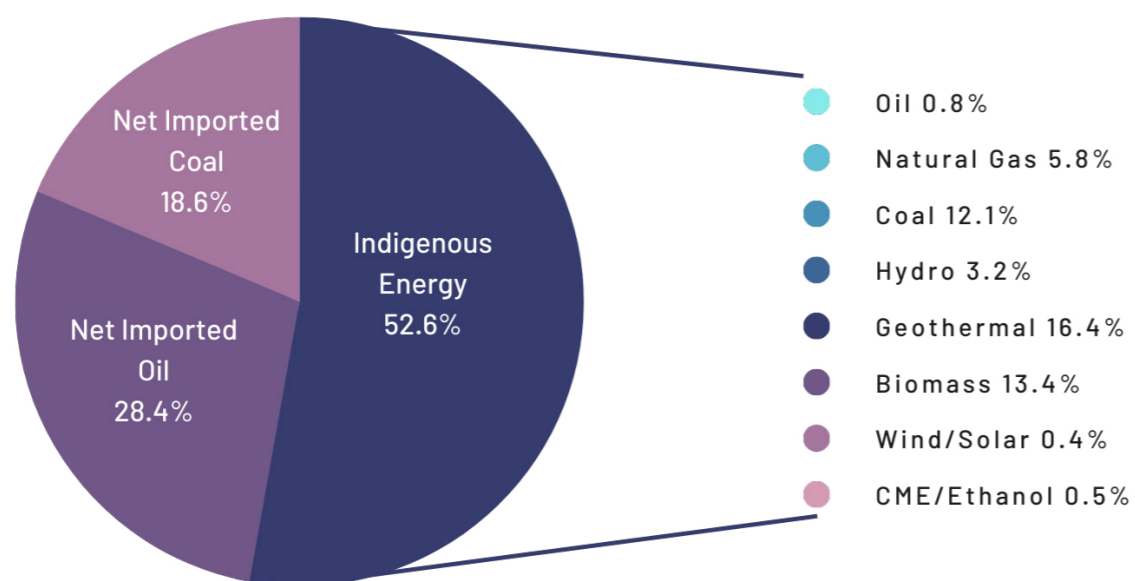
² IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, WHO. 2022. Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report. World Bank, Washington DC. © World Bank. License: Creative Commons Attribution–NonCommercial 3.0 IGO (CC BY-NC 3.0 IGO). Retrieved from <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/c9f4b20c-ba06-4a89-b7c6-4fd8344fec23/TrackingSDG7TheEnergyProgressReport%2C2022.pdf>.

7.a.1 on financial flows to developing countries for energy projects has been reported to still be insufficient in terms of mobilizing clean energy investments. Meanwhile, key points on the remaining indicators have also been identified:

- 7.1.1 on Access to Electricity: The number of people with access to electricity has grown to 1.3 billion in 2020. However, the increased complexity of making electricity available to those in remote and unserved areas, along with the impacts of COVID-19, have slowed down progress in electrification in the past years.
- 7.1.2 on Access to Clean Fuels and Technologies for Cooking: In 2020, 69% of the global population were able to access clean cooking fuels and technologies such as electricity, liquefied petroleum gas, and solar. Meanwhile, around 2.4 billion people or 31% of the population remain to use charcoal, coal, kerosene, and wood, that are considered as polluting technologies and fuels.
- 7.2.1 on Renewable Energy: New electricity capacity accounted for by renewable energy was at 80% in 2020. To further expand the use of renewable energy, intensified policy support and cost reduction have been identified as key factors for all economies.
- 7.3.1 on Energy Efficiency: Due to more focus on energy efficiency practices and policies, the 2021 outlook records a 1.9% rate improvement in energy intensity. An energy intensity of 3.2% needs to be reached to be able to achieve SDG 7. The role of energy efficiency and conservation has also been underscored in reducing energy consumption, which can increase the share of total final energy consumption (TFEC).

Zooming in on the Philippine’s renewable energy sector, 2020 Department of Energy (DOE) data reported that the energy sector’s share in the country’s gross domestic product decreased by 9.6%, from PHP 19,328.8 billion in 2019 to PHP 17,527.2 billion in 2020. TFEC and total primary energy supply likewise dropped by 10.7% and 5.8% accordingly. Latest figures likewise show that coal continues to dominate the country’s energy mix, with a total of 30% – broken down into 12% indigenous and 18% imported – share of the 56.4 MTOE supply as of 2020.

2020



Total: 56.4 MTOE
Self Sufficiency - 52.6%

Source: Department of Energy. 2020

On the other hand, total greenhouse gas emission decreased by 7.7% in 2020, to 120 Million tons of CO₂ Equivalent (MTCO₂e) from 130.1 MTCO₂e in the previous year.³

Relative to the above-stated indicators that support the need to increasingly drive towards renewable energy and energy efficiency, the Philippine government has taken various steps to advance the clean energy agenda.

³ Department of Energy. 2020 Key Energy Statistics. Retrieved from https://www.doe.gov.ph/sites/default/files/pdf/energy_statistics/doe-key-energy-statistics-2020-pocket-size.pdf.

Green Energy Option Program

The Independent Electricity Market Operator Philippines launched the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP) in December 2021. GEOP is an initiative under the Department of Energy which seeks to provide end-users the option to utilise renewable energy sources for their electricity supply. End-users that are eligible to avail of the GEOP are those with monthly peak electricity demand of 100k kilowatts and above for the past twelve months, and those in operation for twelve months upon the effectivity of the GEOP Rules. This Program is towards the government’s objective to contribute to sustainable and competitive practices through the use of clean energy.

This implementation follows the Energy Regulatory Commission’s promulgation of the GEOP in August 2021 through Resolution No. 08, Series of 2021,⁴ and the Department of Energy’s issuance of the Guidelines on issuing permits to renewable energy suppliers through Department Circular No. 2020-07-0017.⁵ As of February 2022, 18 retail electricity suppliers have been granted license by the DOE

Sustainable Finance Framework

Issued in April 2020, this Framework that was launched by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)⁶ provides the fundamental concepts for incorporating sustainability principles and environmental, social, and governance factors into business and risk governance frameworks, plans, and operations. The BSP targets the full implementation of the said Framework by 2023.

The issuance of the said Framework was further strengthened by the release of the Philippine Sustainable Finance Roadmap and Guiding Principles⁷ in February 2022. This Roadmap identifies three Pillars:

- Policy Pillar on Creating a Conducive Environment
- Financing Pillar on Mainstreaming Sustainable Finance
- Investment Pillar on Developing a Sustainable Pipeline

Green Energy Auction Program

The Department of Energy released the Revised Guidelines for the Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP) in November 2021, under Department Circular No. DC 2021-11-0036.⁸ GEAP seeks to promote the growth of renewable energy as among the primary sources of energy and address electricity price volatility, among others. The Program consists of Green Energy Tariff and Green Energy Auction, to provide price signals on commercial value of electricity from RE facilities, and to facilitate the determination of RE facilities that are eligible under GEAP, respectively.

Memorandum Order No. 61, s. 2022

The release of the 2022 Strategic Investment Priority Plan on 24 May 2022 as Memorandum Order No. 61, which includes energy technologies under Tier II classification.⁹

According to the 2022 SIPP, activities under Tier II “are envisioned to promote a competitive and resilient economy and fill in gaps in the Philippines’ industrial value chains, and are deemed critical in promoting green ecosystems...”.

In addition to these policy developments, opportunities in the Philippine clean and efficient energy sector can also be seen in the country’s recognition as one of the Asian countries with high growth potential in the renewable

⁴ Energy Regulatory Commission. (August 2021). Resolution No. 08, Series of 2021, A Resolution Adopting the Rules for the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP). Retrieved from <https://www.erc.gov.ph/IssuancesPage/1/0>.

⁵ Department of Energy. (July 2020). Department Circular No. 2020-07-0017. Retrieved from <https://www.doe.gov.ph/laws-and-issuances/department-circular-no-dc2020-07-0017>

⁶ Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. (April 2020). Circular No. 1085 Series of 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.bsp.gov.ph/Regulations/Issuances/2020/c1085.pdf>.

⁷ Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. (February 2022). Circular Letter No. CL 2022-011. Retrieved from <https://www.bsp.gov.ph/Regulations/Issuances/2022/CL-2022-011.pdf>.

⁸ Department of Energy. (November 2021). Department Circular No. DC 2021-11-0036. Retrieved from <https://www.doe.gov.ph/sites/default/files/pdf/issuances/dc2021-11-0036.PDF>.

⁹ Office of the President. (24 May 2022). Memorandum Order No. 61. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2022/05/24/memorandum-order-no-61-s-2022/>.

energy sector.¹⁰ The said study by HSBC Global Research ranks the Philippines as the 2nd best investment destination for renewable energy in Southeast Asia, next to Vietnam, and followed by Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

The Department of Trade and Industry has likewise underscored its effort to promote the shift to green technology, with its position to boost the flow of capital in the renewable energy sector by removing the 40% foreign equity restrictions on solar, wind, and tidal renewable energy projects.¹¹

Indeed, several advancements in the Philippine energy industry have been put out and formed as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis, anticipated ongoing expansion in energy consumption, and increasing focus on sustainability, among other things. Nonetheless, a multi-stakeholder approach is crucial in maximizing energy prospects and tackling energy sector concerns such as high power costs and a lack of universal electricity access.

ECCP ADVOCACY

Towards achieving the Philippine sustainable energy agenda, the ECCP submits its recommendations on ensuring efficiency in implementation of measures on the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation

Formulation of a Sustainable Energy Mix Policy

The increase of renewable energy in the country's power mix enhances the country's sustainability and self-sufficiency aspirations. This can also support the country's goal of providing more consistent and cost-effective power, as well as electrifying communities in rural and off-grid areas.

To this end, the ECCP recognizes the multiple actions and policies adopted by the Philippine government to boost the use of renewable energy sources, natural gas, other developing clean energy technologies, including the promotion of energy efficiency practices. We likewise acknowledge the national target of increasing the share of renewable energy to 35% in 2030, and 50% by 2040.¹²

Relative to the renewable energy objective, the ECCP remains committed to serving as a forum for further cooperation and engagement with energy stakeholders through the Chamber's REPH100 initiative.¹³ The REPH100 movement is inspired by the worldwide RE100 campaign,¹⁴ which strives to promote the DOE's Green Energy Option Program. It takes a whole-of-society strategy to accelerating the Philippine energy transition in order to achieve a more inclusive economic recovery.

Further Encourage Increased Investments in the Renewable Energy Sector

Numerous steps have been implemented in recent years to liberalise several renewable energy sub-sectors. The Department of Energy has determined that foreign participation in the following renewable energy activities is permitted: (1) geothermal, (2) impoundment hydro, and (3) biomass, including waste-to-energy technology. This comes on the heels of the DOE issuing guidelines for the third Open and Competitive Selection Process (OCSP3) in accordance with DOE DC No. 2020-11-0024, which allows for 100% foreign participation in large-scale¹⁵ geothermal exploration, development, and utilization projects via Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAAs).

However, we note that the same liberalization policy has not yet been extended to solar, tidal, and wind powered projects, despite the fact that Republic Act No. 9513 or the "Renewable Energy (RE) Act of 2008" does not impose any nationality restrictions on the exploration and development of renewable energy resources.

10 Bhatia, R. and Yang, D. (April 2021). ASEAN NEXT Renewables: All aboard for the second growth wave.

11 Lopez, D. (28 May 2022). Philippines Sees FDI Opportunities as World Turns Greener. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-05-29/philippines-sees-fdi-opportunities-as-world-turns-greener>.

12 The National Renewable Energy Program sets a target of at least 35% renewable energy share in the power generation mix by 2030, and greater than 50% by 2040. Additionally, under the Clean Energy Scenario (CES) of the Department of Energy's Philippine Energy Plan 2018-2040, the direction is towards increasing the share of renewable energy to 37.2% and natural gas to 26.6% in the 2040 power mix.

13 ECCP. (2021). Energy Stakeholders and Advocates Gather at the NREB-ECCP REPH100 Launch. Retrieved from <https://www.eccp.com/articles/2392>.

14 Climate Group. (n.d.). REPH100. Retrieved from <https://www.there100.org/about-us>.

15 With capital investment of at least USD 50 million.

The restriction on foreign ownership to 40% is currently only identified in the RE Act's Implementing Rules and Regulations, specifically Section 19 of the IRR, based on the DOE's interpretation of Article XII, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution, which states that the state owns "all forces of potential energy...and other natural resources..."

In this regard, the ECCP submits that solar, wind, tidal or ocean energy are not contemplated by Section XII, Section 2 of the Constitution and thus not subject to the foreign participation limitation. Together with its partners in the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines, the ECCP seeks to continue its engagements with policymakers in advancing this policy recommendation.

To this end, the ECCP welcomes the Department of Trade and Industry's views on relaxing the foreign participation limitation in the solar, wind, and tidal energy sectors, as this will be critical in the promotion of green energy practices and technologies in the Philippines, as well as the provision of foreign capital, employment, and inclusive and sustainable future.

Effective Implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Act, as a policy effort that institutionalizes energy efficiency and conservation in the Philippines, is seen by the ECCP as a major milestone in the country's energy arena. We recognize the critical role that EEC plays in attaining the country's energy security and long-term sustainability goals.

For this reason, we recognize the multiple efforts and programs put in place, which promotes a multi-stakeholder approach in advancing the Philippines' EEC goals. The ECCP looks forward to continuing its engagements with the Philippine government and actors in the energy industry in advancing energy efficiency, to maximise its benefits to the Philippine population, economy, and environment.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

The global population is over seven (7) billion, and with each second that passes, waste is produced. All the waste produced by the seven (7) billion population has to be managed and properly disposed of to make sure they do not harm the environment and us in the long run. It is impossible to continue with urbanized living without sorting out the problem in waste management.

Three-quarters of the world's open dumps are on the coasts, washing hazardous substances into our oceans. Animals are being washed ashore dead due to ingestion or suffocation from plastics and other hazardous waste.¹ These plastics clog our waterways while chemicals and other hazardous substances contaminate our waters, air, and even land resources. This waste is increasing as the population increases. According to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), 99% of purchased items are discarded within six (6) months, while the world produces two (2) billion tons of waste annually.² Should this manner of consumption and unsustainable living not stop, the world will be suffocated and saturated by waste and people will have to deal with waste more than we can manage.

Table I Amount of Waste Generation and Composition of MSW in ASEAN Countries

No.	Countries	Per Capita MSW Generation (kg/capita/day)	Waste Generation		
			Annual MSW Generation (In ton)	Annual Hazardous Waste Generation (In MT)	Annual E-waste Generation (In Metric Kilon ton)
1	Brunei Darussalam	1.4	210480		
2	Cambodia	0.55	1089429		
3	Indonesia	0.70	64000000		
4	Lao PDR	0.69	77380		8.00
6	Malaysia	1.17	12840000	1517434.06	
5	Myanmar	0.53	841508		
7	Philippines	0.69	14660000	1693856.72	39000
8	Singapore	3.763	7514500	411180	110
9	Thailand	1.05	26770000	3300000	368.314
10	Viet Nam	0.84	22020000		1609.775

Source: UN Environment

At the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) has become a major concerns. Indonesia is generating the highest quantity of municipal waste with 64000000 tons per year, followed by Thailand (26770000 tons), Viet Nam (22020000 tons), Philippines (14660000 tons), Malaysia (12840000 tons), and Myanmar (841508), while Lao PDR is generating the lowest quantity of municipal solid waste (77380 tons).³

¹ Lenkiewicz, Z. (11 May 2016). Waste and the Sustainable Development Goals. Retrieved from <https://wasteaid.org/waste-sustainable-development-goals/>

² IISD. (9 October 2018). UN Urge Tackling Waste Management on the World Habitant Day. Retrieved from <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-urges-tackling-waste-management-on-world-habitat-day/>

³ Un Environment. (2017). Waste Management in ASEAN Countries. Retrieved from https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/21134/waste_mgt_asean_summary.pdf?sequence=1&%3BisAllowed=

Surprisingly, in per capita data, Singapore which has the second-lowest population has the highest per capita MSW generation, while the Philippines is at the bottom⁴.

In the Philippines, waste management remains to be a perennial challenge particularly in the urban areas. Among the major concerns of the country are the inadequate number of disposal facilities, inept waste disposal, and inefficient waste collection. According to the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), the country produced over 21 million metric tons of garbage in 2020 with a weighted average per capita generation of 0.4 kilos. Metro Manila is the largest contributor of garbage in the country with its residents producing an estimated weighted average per capita of 0.7 kilos daily, nearly twice of those residing in other provinces.⁵ On a positive note, in 2021, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has announced that the government has finally closed all open dumpsites in the country.⁶

With the aforementioned development in waste management, drastic action is required. Actors of society should stand up in solidarity and rise up to their role in the waste management chain, otherwise, we have a steep pit of wasteland to fall into.

RECENT REFORMS AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP):** In 2019, the National Economic Development Authority with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) released PAP4SCP which aims to serve as a blueprint to encourage sustainable consumption and production in line with the Philippines' long-term goal of Ambisyon Natin 2040.⁷ The plan contains policy reforms and action points for short-term (2020-2022), medium-term (2022-2030), and long-term (2030-2040) which are classified into four categories such as "(i) policy and regulation, (ii) research and development, innovation, and technology, (iii) infrastructure, and (iv) promotion and education".⁸
- **National Plan of Action for the Reduction of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML):** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in partnership with the World Bank, spearheaded the creation of the NPOA-ML with the end goal of achieving zero waste in the Philippine waters by 2040⁹ amidst studies citing the Philippines as among the top contributors of marine litter around the world. The plan was officially launched last November 2021 through DENR Memorandum Circular (MC) 2021-10 and will implement ten strategies to achieve a marine-litter free Philippines.¹⁰
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Bill:** Following the approval of the bill in third reading by both houses of the congress during the first quarter of 2022, a bicameral committee conference was convened to thresh out differences in the Senate and House versions of the legislation. The bill was officially passed by both houses last 26 May following approval of the conference committee report by the Senate and House of Representatives on 23 May and 26 May 2022 respectively.¹¹ The bill will require businesses, especially those in industries that generate plastic waste, to be responsible "for the proper and efficient disposal of their goods after they have been sold to and used by consumers, with the goals of minimizing waste generation and improving waste recyclability or reusability, which includes plastic containers or packaging materials."
- **Policies to mitigate plastic pollution and facilitate proper segregation of health care wastes:** Aside from the EPR bill pending at the Congress, the government has implemented several policies to help mitigate the issue of plastic pollution in the country including Resolution No. 1238 series of 2021 which

4 World Population Review. (2022). ASEAN Countries. Retrieved from <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/asean-countries>

5 Mayuga, J. L. (10 January 2021). The Garbage Conundrum. Retrieved from https://www.denr.gov.ph/images/DENR_News_Alerts/DENR_News_Alerts_10_January_2021_Sunday.pdf

6 DENR. (2021). DENR Delivers Major Feat in Solid Waste Management Implementation with Closure of Dumpsites in 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases/3446-denr-delivers-major-feat-in-solid-waste-management-implementation-with-closure-of-dumpsites-in-2021>

7 Development Asia. (31 March 2020). Developing an Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Philippines. Retrieved from <https://development.asia/case-study/developing-action-plan-sustainable-consumption-and-production-philippines>

8 National Economic Development Authority. (29 January 2020). Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP-4SCP). Retrieved from <https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/philippine-action-plan-for-sustainable-consumption-and-production-pap4scp/>

9 Mirafior, M. (8 November 2021). DENR Adopts National Plan of Action for Reduced Litter in PH Waters. Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/11/08/denr-adopts-national-plan-of-action-for-reduced-litter-in-ph-waters/>

10 Teves, C. (28 September 2021). DENR Spearheads Nat'l Plan of Action vs Marine Debris. Retrieved <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1154911>

11 Senate of the Philippines. Senate Bill No. 2425. Retrieved from https://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lis/bill_res.aspx?congress=18&q=SBN-2425

declared plastic straw and coffee stirrers as non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) as prescribed in Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.¹² The NSWMC has also implemented Resolution No. 1364 s. 2020 containing the proper handling and management of all COVID-19 related healthcare wastes, and Resolution No. 1492 s. 2021 which mandates all National Government Agencies to ensure that yellow bins are provided in their premises for the proper storage and disposal of household healthcare wastes.¹³

ECCP ADVOCACY

On Achieving Net-Zero

Unsustainable plastic production and consumption remains to be a challenge in the Philippines. According to the World Bank, the country produces 2.7 million tons of plastic waste every year, 20% of which ends up as marine litter. In terms of recycling, the Philippines was reported to have a significant recycling gap of 85% in 2019, with the country only being able to recycle 28% of key plastic resins while 78% of the material value is lost as recyclable plastic products are discarded instead of being recycled.¹⁴

One of the main challenges in addressing this issue is the insufficient number of recycling and solid waste management infrastructure in the country. Recent data shows that there are 10,730 materials recovery facilities in the country that can only accommodate 33.3% of the overall Philippine municipalities.¹⁵ The issue of plastic pollution is further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic as the population relies on single-use products such as face masks and gloves to fight the virus.

Furthermore, despite being enacted for nearly two decades, the implementation of Republic Act 9003, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, still remains to be a challenge especially for the local government units (LGUs). Technical, political and financial limitations have been cited as bottlenecks in the implementation. Moreover, many LGUs have yet to comply with the establishment of local solid waste management (SWM) boards, submission of SWM Plans, and establishment of materials recovery facilities (MRFs). Given the status quo, it is crucial that the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 is properly enforced.

In consideration of these challenges, both public and private sectors, as well as other stakeholders, have stepped up and launched various initiatives to curb plastic pollution and marine litter. The right kind of law and policy must complement these efforts. In line with this, we submit the following inputs and recommendations to enhance the Single Use Plastic Bill currently pending in Congress:

- **Banning necessitates affordable and appropriate alternatives**

We reiterate our call to our policymakers to reconsider the outright banning of single use plastics without the existence of affordable, viable alternatives. We believe that a ban on plastic will not properly address the plastic waste issue, and a tax will ultimately burden the consumers who will have to bear the costs of price increases. As such, we advocate reconsidering banning products without clear alternatives that are proven to have better environmental, economic and social impact, especially if research has shown that replacing plastics with available alternatives would have significant negative environmental impact.

Plastics are widely used given their versatile properties including the following: (1) moisture-resistant, providing a barrier against moisture and oxygen, preventing immediate the contamination of a product; (2) widely available and inexpensive; (3) malleable, easily be shaped in different forms (4) lightweight but

12 DENR. (15 December 2021). DENR Delivers Major Feat in Solid Waste Management Implementation with Closure of Dumpsites in 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases/3446-denr-delivers-major-feat-in-solid-waste-management-implementation-with-closure-of-dumpsites-in-2021>

13 National Solid Waste Management Council. (2 February 2021). NSWMC Resolution No. 1429, Series of 2021. Retrieved from <https://nswmc.emb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-NSWMC-RESO-NO.-1429-series-of-2021-Yellow-Bins-and-Bags-for-Household-Health-Care-Wastes.pdf>

14 World Bank. (21 March 2021). Market Study for the Philippines: Plastic Circularity Opportunities and Barriers. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/publication/market-study-for-philippines-plastics-circularity-opportunities-and-barriers-report-landing-page>

15 Envilience Asia. (n.d.). Philippines, Plastic Pollution Issue. Retrieved from <https://envilience.com/regions/southeast-asia/ph/plastic-pollution-issues#:~:text=Currently%2C%20there%20are%20only%20five,country%20%5B14%2C%2017%5D.>

highly durable, making it an excellent packaging material; (5) protection of product when transported, and transferred from one transport mode to another; and (6) resistant to corrosion and chemicals. As such, the alternatives must meet (1) the desired quality, (2) minimum specifications; and (3) circumstances for the use; (4) supply of materials; (5) policy side; and (6) competitive cost.

Any alternative material that fails to meet the aforementioned criteria could do more harm than good. It is feared that hastily banning plastics without an appropriate alternative will lead to proliferation of untested substitutes. This could ultimately compromise consumers' health and safety as products could potentially get contaminated or spoiled. Also, apart from the health safety reasons mentioned earlier, there are no commercially viable large-scale alternatives to sachets and multi-layer packaging as well as film wrap or packaging less than 50 microns.

The ECCP looks forward to collaborating with the government and other industry stakeholders to help develop sound, data-based or researched-based programs, solutions, regulations and legislation to help curb the persisting issue of plastic pollution. We believe that further collaboration between stakeholders will create better environmental and economic outcomes instead of unintended consequences that will promote the use of less recoverable/recyclable/reusable, unstudied alternatives.

- **Extended Producer Responsibility**

The ECCP supports the implementation of an Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) scheme instead of an outright, sweeping ban of sachets and multi-layered packaging. As such, we appreciate the initiative of the government to conduct public consultations with stakeholders to develop an inclusive, target based, phased, achievable, and implementable EPR scheme, and welcome the passage of the legislation.

It is worth noting that an EPR scheme requires significant public and private sector investment towards the establishment of a sustainable waste management infrastructure involving many players that will divert, reuse, reduce, and recycle waste. We also wish to note that the viability of an EPR system will depend on the availability of feedstock for diversion, reuse and recycling. If sachets, multi-layer packaging, and other single-use plastics are banned, a significant portion of the feedstock for an EPR system will be lost which affects the viability of the EPR scheme.

When done right, we believe that this will massively help increase collection and recycling rates as well as enable obliged companies to share responsibility and resources for waste management with the ultimate goal of achieving plastic neutrality. We look forward to working with the government and other stakeholders in crafting the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the law to effectively and efficiently implement this measure.

Integrating Environmental Education in the formal curriculum

The Philippines reliance on the plastic industry is rooted from the consumers' preference to buy goods in smaller quantities and at lower prices, most commonly in 'sachet' types, on a regular basis. This is particularly true for poor and middle-income families who mostly prefer buying from sari-sari stores which hold a significant portion of the domestic retail market in the Philippines.

In order for the country to address its high dependence on single-use plastics, there is a need to implement solutions at the fundamental level to facilitate a paradigm shift in the buying habits of Filipino consumers. As such, the ECCP reiterates its long-term advocacy to introduce and integrate environmental education in the formal curriculum in recognition of the undoubtedly crucial role that education plays in shaping and motivating positive behavior change. In line with this, we advocate for the proper implementation of the Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008 which provides for the introduction of environmental education in school curricula across the board.

The Chamber also welcomes the inclusion of waste minimization education in the K-12 Program. To further augment this initiative, we recommend that the curriculum be introduced at an earlier stage instead of the current set up wherein the said course is only introduced at Fourth Grade. The government can look at how other countries are implementing the integration of environmental education in their curriculums and adapt good practices from them. Some countries that the government consider are New Zealand which offers introductory

waste minimization courses as early as pre-school¹⁶ and Japan which have developed diverse approaches to environmental education and have incorporated this into each subject, special activity, and even its moral education.¹⁷

Facilitate Multi-Sector Collaboration and Establish Regular Dialogue Between Stakeholders

Waste management is a universal issue affecting numerous, if not all, sectors of society. As such, the ECCP highly recommends the establishment of a platform to facilitate regular collaboration and discussions between stakeholders from different sectors including but not limited to the government, private sector, and civil society organisations to ensure that the measures are holistic, efficient and responsive to the diverse facets of the issue. The ECCP, through its Environment and Water Committee, warmly welcomes any engagement with the DENR, National Solid Waste Management Commission and other concerned government agencies and stakeholders to discuss possible solutions and areas of collaboration towards the attainment of common goals.

16 Zero Waste Education Program (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.zerowasteeducation.co.nz/howitworks>

17 Kodama (2017). Environmental Education in Formal Education in Japan. Retrieved from <https://www.eubios.info/EJ94/ej94i.htm>

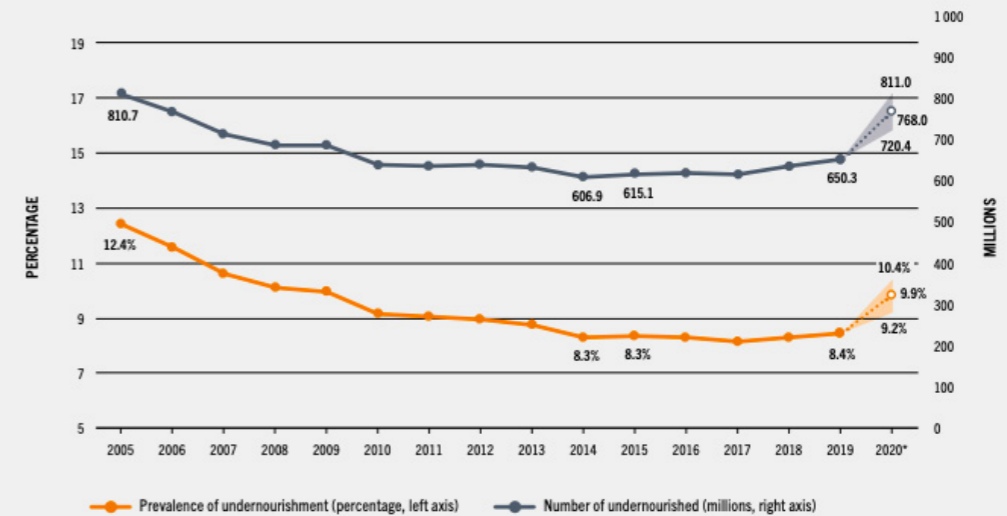


SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD

OVERVIEW

One of the main pillars of sustainable development that has increasingly gained traction is food security and nutrition. Over the years, agri-food systems have played a central role in the discussion on sustainable development particularly due to the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change that have exacerbated the challenges in achieving food security. According to the United Nations - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as much as 811 million people or 10% of the world population suffer from hunger worldwide at the start of the pandemic in 2020.¹ Similarly, in the first eight month of 2021, an estimate of 161 million people were reported to have suffered acute food insecurity despite there being sufficient food to feed the world population.²

FIGURE 1 THE NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD CONTINUED TO RISE IN 2020. BETWEEN 720 AND 811 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD FACED HUNGER IN 2020. CONSIDERING THE MIDDLE OF THE PROJECTED RANGE (768 MILLION), 118 MILLION MORE PEOPLE WERE FACING HUNGER IN 2020 THAN IN 2019 – OR AS MANY AS 161 MILLION, CONSIDERING THE UPPER BOUND OF THE RANGE



NOTES: * Projected values for 2020 in the figure are illustrated by dotted lines. Shaded areas show lower and upper bounds of the estimated range. SOURCE: FAO.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization³

Access to healthy diets also remains to be an issue as malnutrition continues to manifest in all its forms with children having to bear the brunt of the issue. According to the World Health Organisation, in 2020, an estimate

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization. (2021). The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf>
² Action Against Hunger. (2022). World Hunger: Key Facts and Statistics in 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/world-hunger-facts-statistics>
³ Food and Agriculture Organization. (2021). The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf#page=36>

of 149 million children under the age of five were reported to have been stunted while over 45 million suffered from wasting⁴. FAO also reported that the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) increased from 8.4% in 2019 to 9.9% in 2020, making it the most significant increase in PoU since 2014.⁵ On the other end of the spectrum, obesity also persisted with at least 39 million children under the age of five having reported to be overweight⁶.

Today, more than two years into the pandemic, the road to achieving the goal of ending hunger and achieving food security remains to be challenging as the impact of the war on Ukraine further threatens global food security. Recent report from the World Bank indicates the Agricultural Commodity Price Index increased by 29% as of 8 April 2022 in comparison to the data in January 2021. Among the commodities that showed a significant increase are maize and wheat which are respectively 48% and 60% higher in comparison to January 2021 due to the increase in input prices in combination with transportation costs and trade disruptions. The increasing global food prices is of significant concern to poor and developing countries as they mostly rely on food imports.

In the case of the Philippines, a recent report from the Social Weather Station⁷ released last 25 March 2022 showed that the hunger rate of the country increased to 11.8% or at least 3 million Filipino families suffering from hunger during the last quarter of 2021, which is 1.8% higher than the reported rate of 10% in the third quarter of the said year.⁸ For the year 2021, the annual average hunger rate is reported to be 13.1% which is significantly lower than the 21.1% rate in 2020 but is still higher than the annual average for 2019 at 9.3% prior to the outbreak of the pandemic.⁹

Food production is also of concern as the agriculture sector, in addition to the pandemic, dealt with several challenges including the adverse impact of the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak, global price increase of inputs (i.e., fertilizer, petroleum, corn, etc.), and the series of calamities that hit the country. While the Philippine Statistics Authority reported that agricultural output increased by 0.6% during the fourth quarter of 2021¹⁰, the overall output for the year was reported to have declined by 1.7% as the livestock sector continued to struggle to deal with the impact of the ASF outbreak¹¹ and the typhoons. According to the Department of Agriculture, the report for the fourth quarter would have been significantly better had Typhoon Odette, the fifteenth and strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines in 2021, not occur and damaged PhP 13.3 billion worth of agricultural output¹².

Indeed, agri-food systems are under extreme pressure as the world faces the challenge of achieving sustainable food security and nutrition in the midst of the pandemic, climate change, human population growth, resource scarcity, military conflict, and ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss. Ironically, while agri-food systems are notably affected by these sustainability challenges, they are also among the major contributors to these issues (i.e. climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, etc.).¹³ As such, in order to fully address the challenges to food security, international organisations and think tanks have put emphasis on the need for a 'profound transformation in approaches to food production' and the agri-food value chain as a whole¹⁴.

Adaptation of innovative products and services such as technologies to make crops more resilient to impacts of climate change and more resistant to diseases can help increase food production with fewer resources and less impact to the environment¹⁵. Such innovations will be crucial in transforming agri-food systems to one that does not only damage the environment but more so, aid in replenishing the already limited resources that we have as it minimises food loss and increases food production.

4 World Health Organization. (12 July 2021). UN Report: Pandemic Year Marked by Spike in World Hunger. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-07-2021-un-report-pandemic-year-marked-by-spike-in-world-hunger>

5 Food and Agriculture Organization. (2021). The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021: The World is at a Critical Juncture. Retrieved from <https://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition>

6 Ibid.

7 Established in August 1985, SWS is a private non-stock, nonprofit social research institution. Its members, called Fellows, are social scientists in economics, political science, sociology, statistics, market research, and other fields

8 Social Weather Station. (25 March 2022). Fourth Quarter 2021 Social Weather Survey: Hunger rises from 10.0% to 11.8%. Retrieved from <https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldisppage?artcsyscode=ART-20220325064813>

9 Ibid.

10 Philippine Statistics Authority. (26 January 2022). Value of Production in Agriculture and Fisheries Increased by 0.6 Percent in the Fourth Quarter of 2021. Retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/value-production-agriculture-and-fisheries-increased-06-percent-fourth-quarter-2021>

11 Lagare, J. (27 January 2022). Agri output shrank 1.7% in 2021, says PSA. Retrieved from <https://business.inquirer.net/339597/agri-output-shrank-1-7-in-2021-says-psa>

12 Jocson, L. (27 January 2022). 2021 agri output contracts by 1.7%. Retrieved from <https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2022/01/27/426141/2021-agri-output-contracts-by-1-7/>

13 MDPI. (26 September 2022). Special Issue "Sustainable Agri-Food Systems: Environment, Economy, Society and Policy". Retrieved from https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/agri-food_systems

14 <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/026/35/PDF/N2102635.pdf?OpenElement>

15 Ibid.

Additionally, experts have also highlighted the role that agri-food systems play in solving the issue of nutrition as they help shape the food environment of the countries. It is therefore important to ensure that agri-food systems are transformed in a way that healthy diets are more readily available and affordable, especially for vulnerable groups.

RECENT REFORMS AND DEVELOPMENTS

In view of the increasing challenges to attain food security and as part of the country's commitment to achieve Zero Hunger in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, a number of policy measures and initiatives have been implemented in the Philippines, including the following:

- **Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger (IATF-ZH):** Established on 10th January 2020 through Executive Order No. 101,¹⁶ the Task Force is a dedicated government body responsible to "ensure that government policies, initiatives, and projects on attaining zero hunger shall be coordinated, responsive and effective". Two years since its creation, then Cabinet Secretary Nograles reported that the IATF-ZH has since launched various initiatives including the "implementation of the Kasapatan at Ugnayan ng Mamamayan sa Akmang Pagkain at Nutrisyon (KUMAIN) Webinar Series, pilot feeding programs under the First 1000 Days of Life, launching of Pilipinas Kontra Gutom (PKG), formulation of the Philippine Multi-sectoral Nutrition Project Proposal for the World Bank, Gulayan sa Barangay at sa Pamayanan programs and various livelihood projects aimed at uplifting the lives of farmers and fisherfolk."¹⁷
- **Pilipinas Kontra Gutom Movement:** Formally launched last February 2021, the initiative is a national anti-hunger multi-sectoral movement¹⁸ with the main objective of ensuring food availability and accessibility, as well as adequate nutrition and support for farmers and fishermen, and reducing the number of Filipinos suffering from hunger to 1 million by 2022¹⁹. Among the key programs and milestones that the initiative has done since its inception include TESDA-Nestle's Coffee Farmer Scholarship Program, Nestle and GIZ's Project Coffee+, Learning Series held by Jollibee Group Foundation in partnership with Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA)²⁰ and Harbest, and Cargill's Yellow Corn Project done in collaboration with Aboitiz, Bayer, Pilmico, Vitarich, Save the Children and PPSA which have benefited over 4,000 farmers and agripreneurs. Aside from these, the initiative has also launched "Kain Tayo Pilipinas" and "Kain Tayo sa Pasko Hot Meals" last November 2021 to February 2022 with the help of the private sector in line with its nutrition adequacy objectives.²¹
- **Philippines Food Systems Transformation Pathway:** After a series of subnational and national dialogues, the Philippine government has developed the Philippines Food Systems Transformation Pathway which aims to act as a blueprint for the country in its pursuit of food sustainability and serves as the country's contribution to the United Nations Food Systems Summit. The document presents an "an overview of the current Philippine food systems and provides strategic areas and partnership and governance mechanisms that have been agreed upon during various multi-stakeholder food systems dialogues".²²
- **Bangsamoro Food Security and Nutrition Plan (BFSNP):** In line with the Bangsamoro government's advocacy to attain food security in the region, the plan aims to be a blueprint for the regional government to ensure that BARMM is "self-reliant, food-secured, and resilient, with prosperous farmers and fisherfolks". BFSNP was accomplished last 16-18 March 2022 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) and the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP).²³

16 Official Gazette. Executive Order No. 101. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/01jan/20200110-EO-101-RRD.pdf>

17 Presidential Communications Operations Office. (6 May 2022). Nograles lauds resounding success of Zero Hunger Task Force. Retrieved from https://pcoo.gov.ph/news_releases/nograles-lauds-resounding-success-of-zero-hunger-task-force/

18 Philippine News Agency. (22 February 2021). Gov't, Private Sector Formally Launch Pilipinas Kontra Gutom. Retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1131490>

19 Department of Agriculture (27 January 2021). Meeting with Pilipinas Kontra Gutom. Retrieved from <https://www.da.gov.ph/gallery/meeting-with-pilipinas-kontra-gutom-jan-27-2021/>

20 Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture. <https://www.ppsa-ph.org/>

21 Manila Bulletin. (12 April 2022). Pilipinas Kontra Gutom helps lower Hunger Incidence in the Country . Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2022/04/12/pilipinas-kontra-gutom-helps-lower-hunger-incidence-in-the-country%E2%BF%BC/>

22 UNFSS. (21 September 2021). Philippines Food Systems Transformation Pathway. Retrieved from <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Philippines-National-Food-Systems-Transformation-Pathway.pdf>

23 Usop, Jr. K. (22 March 2022). BPDA, MAFAR, WFP Finalize Bangsamoro Food Security and Nutrition Plan. Retrieved from <https://bangsamoro.gov.ph/news/latest-news/bpda-mafar-wfp-finalize-bangsamoro-food-security-and-nutrition-plan/>

- **“Plant, Plant, Plant Program Part 2”.** Following the initial implementation of the Plant, Plant, Plan program in 2020 in response to the pandemic, the Department of Agriculture launched the part 2 of the program last 7 March 2022 as part of the measures of the government to address the economic challenges posed by the pandemic and exacerbated by the Ukraine crisis. The flagship program on food security will be composed of urban and peri-urban agriculture with a budget of PhP 1 billion, aquaculture and mariculture fisheries with a budget of PhP 1 billion, food mobilisation with a budget of PhP 1 billion, local feeds production with a budget of PhP 1 billion, and fertiliser subsidy with a budget of PhP 20 billion.²⁴
- **Agri-Agra Law amendments:** Both houses of Congress have approved on third and final reading the bills seeking to amend the agri-agra credit provisions on an older law Republic Act (RA) No. 10000 or the Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009 (Agri-Agra Law).²⁵ Following this, a bicameral conference committee was called last 4 May to reconcile disagreeing provisions of the bill. Last 23 May, upon the resumption of the 18th Congress, the conference committee report was approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.²⁶
- **Policy response to African Swine Fever (ASF):** The government has rolled out various policy interventions to contain the spread of the ASF which has already affected 50 provinces since 2019.²⁷ Among the initiatives include the Bantay ASF sa Barangay Program (BABay ASF) which aims to enhance biosecurity and control the spread of the virus²⁸, and the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery (INSPIRE) which seeks to repopulate hog production in the country²⁹. Both initiatives were launched in February 2021 and have a combined budget of PhP 29.6 billion.³⁰ To further boost the recovery of the hog industry, the Department of Agriculture is currently drafting the Hog Industry Roadmap for 2022-2027 in partnership with the academe and the private sector. Additionally, last March 2022, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca), together with the Department of Agriculture, hosted a workshop attended by at least 50 multi sector stakeholders to facilitate a policy roundtable discussion on the creation of the Philippine Processed Pork Roadmap (PPPR) which is intended to supplement the government’s Hog Industry Roadmap.³¹

ECCP ADVOCACY

1. Promote a constructive, regular, and inclusive dialogue between public and private sector stakeholders

We believe that the issue of food insecurity can only be resolved through the cooperation of multiple stakeholders. The Chamber recognizes and commends the efforts of the government to involve the private sector in the formulation and execution of its policies and programs. In particular, the creation of the IATF-ZH and the launching of the “Pilipinas Kontra Gutom Movement”, wherein a good number of ECCP members are involved, are welcome developments and are testaments to the positive impact that multi-sectoral cooperation can have to end the prevalence of food security in the country.

In line with this, we advocate for the government to continuously strengthen its outreach and actively support multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue and implementation coordination which provides

²⁴ Department of Agriculture. (7 March 2022). Plant, Plant, Plant Program Part 2 launched. Retrieved from <https://www.da.gov.ph/plant-plant-plant-program-part-2-launched/>

²⁵ Noble, L. (3 March 2022). Still time to pass Agri-Agra Law amendments – BSP. Retrieved from <https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2022/03/03/433819/still-time-to-pass-agri-agra-law-amendments-bsp/>

²⁶ Senate of the Philippines. (2022). Senate Bill No. 2494. Retrieved from https://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lis/bill_res.aspx?congress=18&q=SBN-2494

²⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization. (28 April 2022). ASF situation in Asia & Pacific Update. Retrieved from http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/ASF/situation_update.html

²⁸ Medenilla, V. (23 February 2021). BABay ASF sa Barangay: A Program to Control the African Swine Fever and to Revive the Livelihood of Swine Farmers. Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/23/babay-asf-sa-barangay-a-program-to-control-the-african-swine-fever-and-to-revive-the-livelihood-of-swine-farmers/>

²⁹ Taculao, P. (19 March 2021). DA signs Memorandum of Understanding with a Private Company to Promote New Initiative to Rebuild Philippine Hog Industry from effects of ASF. Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/19/da-signs-memorandum-of-understanding-with-a-private-company-to-promote-new-initiative-to-rebuild-philippine-hog-industry-from-effects-of-asf/>

³⁰ Department of Agriculture. (11 February 2021). Launching of INSPIRE and Bantay ASF sa Barangay. Retrieved from <https://www.da.gov.ph/gallery/launching-of-inspire-and-bantay-asf-sa-barangay-feb-11-2021/>

³¹ Domingo, L. (15 March 2022). Searca, DA to develop PH processed Pork Road. Retrieved from https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/03/15/news/regions/searca-da-to-develop-ph-processed-pork-roadmap/1836273?fbclid=IwAR0QdSGIUoZHIF-xrPQM6W6Ysk_WJy_GoUfbfEKIBVbQu8uyZK-gHyJMvrHw

an opportunity for the private sector, including the European-Philippine business community, to engage in policy development and implementation.

The ECCP and its members stand ready to work with the government in maximising partnership and cooperation with the government, civil society groups, academe, and other stakeholders to address bottlenecks and come up with responsive, well coordinated and effective solutions to attain food security.

2. Further develop the agri-food value chain

• Facilitate trade and investment and ease of doing business

The ECCP strongly advocates for the facilitation of trade and ease of doing business in the country, particularly for the food and agriculture sectors. Streamlining of processes will encourage more producers and manufacturers to participate in the market and will give more options for the Filipino consumers. Additionally, increased trade and investments is vital to establish a competitive market and ensure food self-sufficiency.

As such, we welcome the initiative of the government to implement a seamless and online single-entry point platform to facilitate ease of doing business and trade through a more efficient delivery of government service and simplified process for import and export. Nevertheless, we reiterate our call for the acceleration of the full implementation of TradeNet to enable traders and TRGAs including agricultural regulatory bodies to use the platform and exchange information in real-time.

Furthermore, we call on the government to review current laws restricting the participation of foreign companies in certain agricultural activities, particularly in the rice and corn industry. We believe that the liberalisation of the rice and corn industry will reiterate the promotion of productive foreign investments in agriculture as key to national and rural development and will allow such foreign investments to create ripple effects by generating jobs and invigorate the countryside

• Boost investments in food and agriculture-related infrastructure

Access to infrastructure is essential to develop a local and sustainable food economy, and ultimately, to achieve food security, as it supports the food supply from production to distribution.³² Infrastructure such as processing plants, cold storage facilities, irrigation systems, food processing centres, and farm-to-market roads allow for increased variety of locally produced foods, maximised use of raw commodities and livestock, and widened reach of the supply chain and marketing timeline as well as the shelf-life of products.³³

At a time of subdued economic landscape brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and exacerbated by other challenges such as climate change and military conflicts, a reliable and modernised infrastructure system is critical to support the government’s efforts to rebuild the economy and address recurrent challenges in the agricultural value chain. In line with this, the ECCP recognizes and welcomes the government’s commitment to improving the state of the country’s infrastructure through its flagship Build, Build, Build (BBB) program, particularly the programs related to the modernization of the Philippine infrastructure in the context of food security such as the construction of farm-to-market roads.

As the country continues its path towards its goal of resolving the issue of hunger, we encourage the government to increase investments in food and agriculture-related infrastructures including production, post-harvest, processing and marketing facilities, green infrastructure, automated weather stations, and irrigation systems among others. We likewise support increasing public and private investments in innovative projects that can help the agriculture sector to be more resilient to climate change.

³² USDA. (n.d.). Local Food Infrastructure. Retrieved from <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/3-Infrastructure.pdf>

³³ CSFC. (n.d.). Farm to Fork: Building a Sustainable Local Food Economy. Retrieved from <https://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/cefsfarmtofork/wit-infra-structure.html>

The Chamber looks forward to continue working with the government to attain our shared advocacy of a self-sufficient and food secured Philippines. We believe that cooperation between the public and private sector is crucial to build a modernised food system infrastructure that is responsive and efficient. As such, we call for policymakers to provide an incentives mechanism that will attract and facilitate the participation of the private sector including those from Europe in the BBB and other public investment programs of the government in the sector.

- **Increase food production by providing aid to agricultural stakeholders**

It is a known fact that agriculture plays a critically important role to attain food security and improve nutrition. Agricultural development not only provides for increased quantity and quality of food, it also provides for the betterment of the country's poorest population as the sector serves as the primary source of income for them.

The agriculture sector is and has always been a priority sector of the ECCP. As such, we welcome and support the government's initiatives to help improve and modernise the sector, and uplift the wellbeing of the farmers. In augmentation of these efforts, we advocate for the facilitation of access to finance for smallholder farmers for their increased capacity to develop innovative methods. Innovations in rural and agricultural financing through technology can also be explored to promote inclusive microfinancing models for these smallholder farmers.

We also support the ratification of the Agri-Agra Law amendments which was recently passed by the Congress. While there has been an increase in the loans granted by banks to the agriculture and agrarian reform sector in 2021 partly due to the amendments to the law's IRR last year, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that banks were only able to give 10.48% of the PhP 7.99 trillion loanable funds available last year. This is still lower than the 25% or PhP 2 trillion that is mandated by the law to be allocated for agriculture and agrarian reform beneficiaries. We believe that the enactment of the amendments to the Agri-Agra Law will further facilitate financial access for agricultural stakeholders.

Additionally, we express our support to the government's initiative to encourage the youth to participate in the agricultural sector including the Kapital Access for Young Agripreneurs (KAYA) and Mentoring and Attracting Youth in Agribusiness (MAYA) programs by the Department of Agriculture (DA). The ECCP, along with its members, firmly believe that achieving the twin goals of increasing agricultural productivity and achieving food security requires the involvement of different segments of the society including the youth sector. Furthermore, we push for intensifying youth engagement efforts by furthering education, training, and extension programs to equip young farmer leaders and agripreneurs with the necessary skills that will support achieving the abovementioned objectives.





GREEN AND INCLUSIVE FINANCE SOLUTIONS

OVERVIEW

The growing importance of the green and inclusive finance agenda has urged relevant stakeholders to take climate into account in policy formation and in their decision-making processes. In continuation of the momentous ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the United Nations Member States gathered anew at the 2021 Conference of Parties (COP26) to lay out plans that will turn their commitments into urgent and tangible actions. One of the goals further highlighted is to mobilize finance with the role of all financial institutions, public and private, to serve as the driver for an inclusive, green and climate-resilient economy.¹

At a regional landscape, the sustainable bond market in the ASEAN+3, which comprises the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, saw solid expansion in the first quarter (Q1) of 2022, with total issuance reaching USD 59.2 billion, an 8.6% increase compared to Q1 of the previous year. Further to this, green bonds attracted more investor interest, with the share of green bond issuance to total issuance rising to 80.6% in Q1 2022 from 65.1% in full-year 2021. As a whole, the ASEAN+3 accounted for 25.9% of the total global sustainable bond issuance of USD 228.4 billion.²

Acknowledged as one of the key performers in ASEAN in terms of green finance³, the Philippines has recently tapped the international capital markets with its offering USD 2.25 billion triple tranche 5-year, 10.5-year and 25-year Global Bonds. Issued under the Philippines' Sustainable Finance Framework, the 25-year Global Bonds marks the country's debut ESG Global Bonds and first triple tranche USD offering.⁴

Despite the volatility in the global economy as a result of the impacts of the health crisis, the successful sustainability bond transaction has the full potential to attract green investments in the country, specifically one that will finance the climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.⁵

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In pursuit of the wider adoption of appropriate fiscal policies in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, the Philippines launched its first-ever **Sustainable Finance Roadmap**⁶ in October 2021. The initiative, led by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Sustainable Finance or 'Green Force', promotes the whole-of-nation approach to catalyze sustainable finance in the country. The Roadmap is a strategic action plan to support the formulation of policies to reduce the country's carbon emissions and concurrently spur economic growth.

Launched together with the Roadmap, the **Sustainable Finance Guiding Principles**,⁷ serves as a principles-based guide to identify which sectors and opportunities can contribute to sustainable development with the aim of generating high-impact investments while reversing the effects of the climate crisis. The strategy to use a principles-based approach in developing national taxonomies is aligned with the current practices in the ASEAN Region.

To further support the country's sustainability commitments, the **Sustainable Finance Framework**⁸ sets out how the government intends to raise sustainable financing (green, social or sustainability bonds, loans and other debt instruments) in the global capital markets. The process under the Framework will be utilized to guarantee transparency of the use of proceeds and the expected environmental and social impact of eligible green and social projects, in accord with international best practices. Banks are expected to fully implement the Framework in 2023.

In accordance with Decision 1/CP.21 of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the country submitted its **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**⁹ in April 2021 which conveys the progressive climate change mitigation commitment and adaptation challenges and requirements, including addressing residual loss and damage, in pursuit of low carbon, sustainable, and climate and disaster-resilient development.

With the goal to foster financial inclusion and develop digital payment innovations, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has released the **Digital Payments Transformation Roadmap 2020-2023**¹⁰ with the objective to establish an efficient, inclusive, safe, and secure digital payments ecosystem that supports the diverse needs and capabilities of individuals and firms, towards achievement of the BSP's mandates.

The Philippines has also been identified as one of the first countries to implement climate budget tagging through its **Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET)** implemented in 2014. Anchored on Republic Act (RA) No. 9729 or the Climate Change Act (CCA) of 2009 and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), the programme supports mainstreaming of climate adaptation and mitigation into the planning process of local government units (LGUs), and provides the starting point from which to measure progress in the implementation of climate change initiatives.¹¹

Further to this, one of the ways that LGUs are being supported and capacitated to implement climate change mitigation measures is through the establishment of the **People's Survival Fund (PSF)** through the **RA No. 10174**¹² signed on 16 August 2012. The PSF provides long-term finance streams to enable the government to effectively address climate change. The annual allocation of PHP 1 billion to finance adaptation programs and projects of LGUs and local/community organizations can be augmented through donations, endowments, grants and contributions.

Pursuant to RA No. 9729, as amended, and the RA No. 11260 or the General Appropriations Act of 2019, the **Climate Change Commission (CCC)** was mandated to coordinate, monitor and evaluate climate change adaptation and mitigation in the programs, and action plans of the government, especially the Climate Change-related GAA FY2019 Provisions. Under the GAA 2019, there are seven (7) Climate Change-related General Provisions, and 32 Climate Change-related Special Provisions from 25 National Government Agencies.¹³

In 2018, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued **Memorandum Circular No. 12 Series of 2018**¹⁴ which provides guidelines on the issuance of green bonds under the ASEAN Green Bonds Standards in the

1 United Nations Climate Change. (2021). COP26 Explained. Retrieved from [ukcop26.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/COP26-Explained.pdf](https://www.uncop26.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/COP26-Explained.pdf)

2 Asian Bonds Online. (2022). ASEAN+3 Sustainable Bonds Highlights. Retrieved from asianbondsonline.adb.org/publications/asean3-sustainable-bonds-highlights/

3 Asian Development Bank. (2020). Green Infrastructure Investment Opportunities: Philippines 2020 Report. Retrieved from www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/653566/green-infrastructure-investment-philippines-2020.pdf

4 Department of Finance. (22 March 2022). Republic of the Philippines prices 5-Year, 10.5-Year and Debut 25-Year Sustainability Dollar Global Bonds. Retrieved from www.dof.gov.ph/btr-release-republic-of-the-philippines-prices-5-year-10.5-year-and-debut-25-year-sustainability-dollar-global-bonds

5 Ibid.

6 Department of Finance. (2021). The Philippine Sustainable Finance Roadmap. Retrieved from www.dof.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ALCEP-Roadmap.pdf

7 Department of Finance. (2021). The Philippine Sustainable Finance Guiding Principles. Retrieved from www.dof.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ALCEP-Sustainable-Finance-Guiding-Principles.pdf

8 Department of Finance. (2021). Sustainable Finance Framework. Retrieved from www.dof.gov.ph/download/sustainable-finance-framework/?wpdmdl=30994&refresh=6270d5d7423711651561943

9 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2021). Philippines: Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Retrieved from www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Philippines%20First/Philippines%20-%20NDC.pdf

10 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. (2020). BSP Digital Payments Transformation Roadmap 2020-2023. Retrieved from www.bsp.gov.ph/Media_And_Research/Primers%20Faqs/Digital%20Payments%20Transformation%20Roadmap%20Report.pdf

11 Department of Budget and Management. (2015). Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2015-01. Retrieved from www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Issuances/2015/Joint%20Memorandum%20Circular/NEW_JMC_DBM-CCC-DILG%20NO.%202015%20-%202001%20DATED%20JULY%202015.pdf

12 The Official Gazette. (2012). Republic Act No. 10174. Retrieved from www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2012/08/16/republic-act-no-10174/

13 Climate Change Commission. (n.d.). Monitoring Of Climate Change Related General Appropriations Act Provisions. Retrieved from <https://climate.gov.ph/our-programs/monitoring-of-climate-change-related-general-appropriations-act-provisions>

14 Securities and Exchange Commission. (2018). Memorandum Circular No. 12 Series of 2018. Retrieved from www.sec.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2018MCNo12.pdf

Philippines. Under the guidelines, ASEAN member and non-member issuers are eligible to introduce bonds provided that they will be used for green projects located in Southeast Asia.

Consequently in 2019, the SEC issued **Memorandum Circular No. 8 Series of 2019**¹⁵ which provides guidelines on the issuance of sustainability bonds under the ASEAN Sustainability Bonds Standards in the Philippines. The guidelines will govern the issuance of ASEAN Sustainability Bonds where proceeds will be exclusively applied to finance or refinance a combination of both Green and Social Projects that respectively offer environmental and social benefits.

At the legislative level, **House Resolution No. 1377**¹⁶, adopted in December 2020, urged the declaration of a climate and environmental emergency, and called for the mobilization of government agencies and instrumentalities and local government units, towards the effective implementation of environmental climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction.

The House Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries in February 2021 approved **House Bill (HB) No. 8991**¹⁷ seeks to amend the RA No. 1405, otherwise known as the Bank Secrecy Law. The bill proposes to expand the supervisory powers of the BSP to foreign currency deposits in banks operating in the Philippines including off-shore branches of domestic banks

Similarly at the Upper House, **Senate Bill (SB) No. 1802**¹⁸, filed on 01 September 2020, seeks to effectively restore the authority of BSP to examine bank deposits, provided it found reasonable grounds there may be fraud, serious irregularity or unlawful activities. The bill also proposes that the necessity to investigate bank deposits should be used exclusively by the BSP. Furthermore, it notes that no deposit shall be examined, inquired or looked into by BSP during an election period. The other versions of the bill, **SB No. 26**¹⁹, **SB No. 374**²⁰, and **SB No. 539**²¹ also seeks to amend the RA No. 1405 by excluding government officials and employees from the Bank Secrecy Law to promote transparency in governance.

ECCP ADVOCACY

Enable increased support for market development for green and inclusive finance solutions

Organizations investing in green finance projects and pursuing green bonds are notably increasing in number across the globe. As we acknowledge the country's debut ESG Global Bonds and first triple tranche USD offering, it is also worth noting that the BSP has invested USD 550 million in the Green Bond Fund managed by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). With the BIS announcing another green bond fund in early 2022 called the 'BISIP G3', the central bank announced its move to invest anew but without disclosing the amount placed.²²

Recognizing green investments and green finance as an integral tool to recovery, the ECCP also commends the recent implementation of the country's first-ever Sustainable Finance Roadmap and its Guiding Principles, as well as the Sustainable Finance Framework. The Chamber believes that these imperative sustainable measures are vital in shaping the green finance market and encouraging actors to engage in green and sustainable projects. Likewise, we also acknowledge the adoption of the ASEAN Green Bonds Standards and ASEAN Sustainability Bonds Standards by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Align national sustainable finance roadmaps with sector policies

The ECCP acknowledges the recognition and action of the BSP and the Department of Finance (DOF) for the creation of the inter-agency group 'Green Force' that is aimed at institutionalizing and facilitating the implementation of the Sustainable Finance Roadmap. Members of the group include the Securities and Exchange Commission, Insurance Commission, Climate Change Commission, Department of Energy, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Economic and Development Authority, Bases Conversion and Development

15 Securities and Exchange Commission. (2019). Memorandum Circular No. 8 Series of 2019. Retrieved from www.sec.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019MCNo08.pdf

16 House of Representatives. (2020). House Resolution No. 1377. Retrieved from https://www.congress.gov.ph/legisdocs/first_18/CR00606.pdf

17 House of Representatives. (2021). Committee Report No. 861. Retrieved from https://www.congress.gov.ph/legisdocs/first_18/CR00861.pdf

18 Senate of the Philippines. (2020). Senate Bill No. 1802. Retrieved from <http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/33433302421.pdf>

19 Senate of the Philippines. (2019). Senate Bill No. 26. Retrieved from <http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/3024227071!.pdf>

20 Senate of the Philippines. (2019). Senate Bill No. 374. Retrieved from <http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/3066627520!.pdf>

21 Senate of the Philippines. (2019). Senate Bill No. 539. Retrieved from <http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/3092227783!.pdf>

22 Villanueva, J. (25 March 2022). BSP eyes increased green bonds investments. Retrieved from www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1170683

Authority, Department of Agriculture, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Transportation, Department of Trade and Industry, Mindanao Development Authority and the Public-Private Partnership Center.²³

Under the Roadmap, each agency involved will create their own detailed strategic plans supporting and operationalizing the transition to a low carbon economy. Towards this objective, the ECCP supports the probable creation of sector roadmaps in line with the national roadmap, especially those with high-growth potential, such as electricity, water, transportation, and infrastructure, to reap the full benefits of this course of action.

Implement measures that ensure efficiency and security in financial transactions

As the Philippines continue to be the only country with a strict policy on bank secrecy which limits the central bank's effective supervision to combat domestic and international financial crimes²⁴, the ECCP has long advocated amending the country's Bank Secrecy Law. Currently, the law prohibits the disclosure of or inquiry into deposits with banks or banking institutions in the country. While it is worth noting that the central bank's efforts and prudential supervision on anti-money laundering remain strong, we believe that easing banking secrecy will promote good governance and provide more security and confidence in financial transactions. Together with the sustainable financing measures in place, this will further produce positive environmental and social impacts.

We likewise acknowledge the support of the DOF²⁵ and the BSP²⁶ to this proposed course of action to strengthen the country's financial system, comply with international standards on transparency, and support the economy's recovery.

Involvement and coordination of relevant actors to further the development of green finance

The ECCP firmly believes that dialogues between and among all stakeholders to better assess sector needs and opportunities and adopt international best practices remain vital in the global commitment to achieve sustainable development.

With this, the Chamber acknowledges the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which upholds the value of a whole-of-society approach in implementing climate actions and supporting local and foreign direct green investments. In relation to this, the DOF is working closely with the World Bank as a technical partner of the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR)²⁷. The partnership is aimed at supporting the government in developing policies to enable private sector participation in mitigation activities, as well as assisting in the implementation of the NDC.

Further to this, the Chamber recognizes the central bank's involvement and efforts as a member of the Sustainable Banking Network (SBN)²⁸ and a plenary member of the international body called the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)²⁹.

To this end, it is worth noting that the efforts of the government and relevant stakeholders to further explore enhanced cooperation both with local and international partners are crucial in the transition to sustainable financing and to a climate-resilient economy.

23 Lucas, D. (04 November 2021). BSP chief reaffirms support for sustainable finance. Retrieved from business.inquirer.net/333799/bsp-chief-reaffirms-support-for-sustainable-finance

24 Noble, L. (22 April 2021). BSP wants Bank Secrecy Law eased. Retrieved from www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2021/04/22/362721/bsp-wants-bank-secrecy-law-eased/

25 Department of Finance. (03 June 2020). DOF ready to work with Congress on AMLA, Bank Secrecy Law amendments. Retrieved from www.dof.gov.ph/dof-ready-to-work-with-congress-on-aml-bank-secrecy-law-amendments/

26 Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas. (09 March 2021). Philippine Banking System: Transforming for Economic Recovery. Retrieved from www.bsp.gov.ph/SitePages/MediaAndResearch/SpeechesDisp.aspx?Itemid=783

27 The PMR brings together more than 30 countries, various international organizations, and technical experts to facilitate country-to-country exchange and knowledge sharing and, as such, enables enhanced cooperation and innovation.

28 The SBN is a voluntary community of financial sector regulators, central banks, industry associations, and environmental regulators from emerging markets committed to advancing sustainable finance for national development priorities, financial market deepening, and stability. Their approaches draw on international good practices, reflecting national contexts and priorities.

29 The NGFS is composed of central banks and supervisors, and organized to enhance the role of the financial system to manage risks and to mobilize capital for green and low-carbon investments.



WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

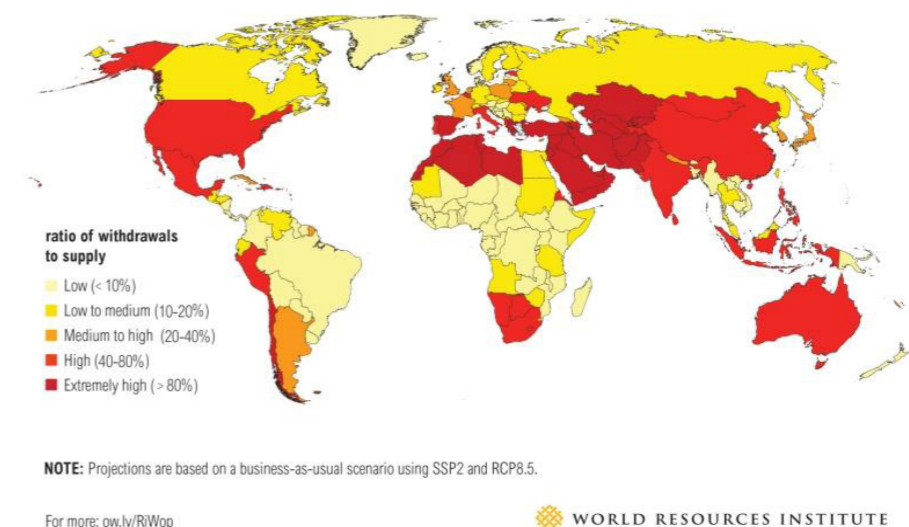
OVERVIEW

The Philippines is known for its abundance in natural resources. However, throughout the years, the country has faced several environmental issues that persist to this day. Environmental groups and international organizations have warned against the country's vulnerability to water shortages if risk mitigating measures are not adopted. This is due to changes in water availability resulting from the increasing demand of a growing population, and the risks associated with climate change, overexploitation and pollution, among others.

Water pollution, in particular, has been a long-standing challenge in the country resulting in over 3 million people relying on unsafe and unsustainable water sources.¹ The rapid increase of marine debris in the country, with the Philippines ranked as the third biggest contributor to marine plastic pollution worldwide, poses a tremendous threat to the country's goal of achieving water security.²

The Philippines posted a water stress score of 3.01³ and ranked 57th in the World Resources Institute's survey of 167 countries and their projected water stress levels by 2040. Despite having twice the per capita water availability of other Asian countries, this means that the Philippines is projected to lose 40 to 80 percent of its total water supply by 2040.⁴

Water Stress by Country: 2040



Source: World Resources Institute

1 Water.Org. (n.d.). Philippines' Water and Sanitation Crisis. Retrieved from <https://water.org/our-impact/where-we-work/philippines/>

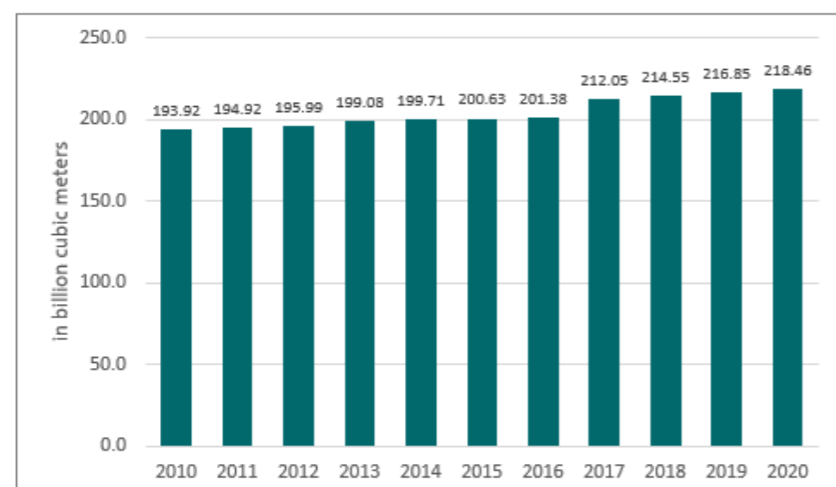
2 World Bank. (22 March 2021). Market Study for the Philippines : Plastics Circularity Opportunities and Barriers. East Asia and Pacific Region Marine Plastics Series;. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35295> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

3 TUCP. (2015). New Study: Philippines to Face 'High' Level of Water Shortage by 2040. Retrieved 18 July 2018 from <http://tucp.org.ph/2015/09/new-study-philippines-to-face-high-level-of-water-shortage-by-2040/>

4 Maddocks, A., Young, R. & Reig, P. (26 August 2015). Ranking the World's Most Water-Stressed Countries in 2040. Retrieved from <https://www.wri.org/insights/ranking-worlds-most-water-stressed-countries-2040>

Last October 2021, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that the country's water abstraction posted an increase of 0.8% at 218.46 billion cubic meters (bcm) in 2020 from 216.85 bcm in 2019. From the reporting period of 2010-2020 for water abstraction, 98.1% was sourced from surface water while 1.9% was sourced from groundwater reservoirs with the power sector having the largest share of self-abstracted water at 58.6%. This is followed by the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector at 33.8%, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, and construction at 5.3%, and the services sector and households at 2.4%.⁵

Figure 1. Total Water Abstraction, 2010 to 2020



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

The country's water use efficiency (WUE) contracted to PhP 192.39 per cubic meter in 2020 from PhP 217.42 per cubic meter in 2019 with the services sector consistently having the biggest WUE in the same reporting period. Notably, the sector posted a share of 62.3% in the total gross value but only had an 8.8% contribution to the total water consumption. Meanwhile, the level of water stress showed a slight increase in 2020 at 26.7% from 26.3% in 2019. During the reporting period, 2018 posted the highest level of water stress at 28.2%.⁶

Figure 5. Water Use Efficiency by Major Industry, 2010 to 2020

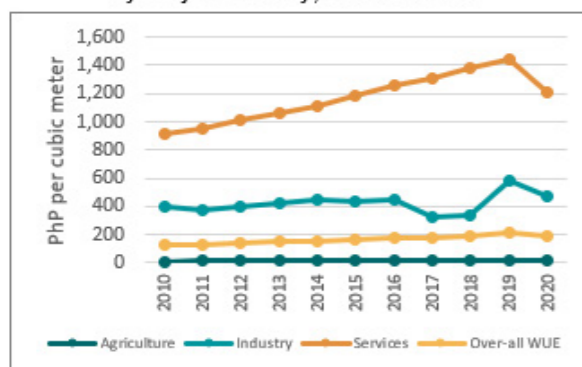
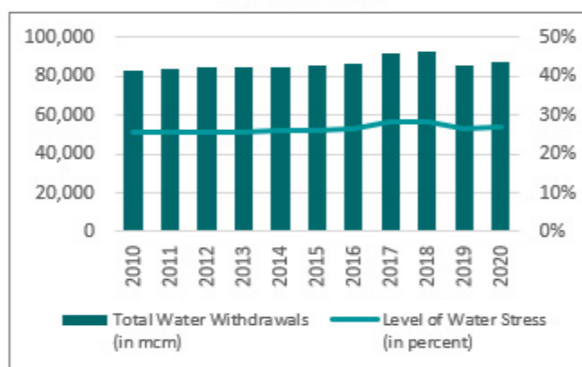


Figure 6. Level of Water Stress, 2010 to 2020



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Global water demand projections are estimated to increase by 55% in 2050 due to the expected increase in demand for thermal electricity generation, manufacturing, and domestic consumption as the world population is projected to increase to 10 billion as reported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).⁷ Similarly, the World Bank has estimated that due to the rapidly increasing world population and with the current practices, there is a good chance that a 40% shortfall between forecast demand and available supply will occur by 2030.⁸

Water security continues to be a major and evolving concern for numerous countries including the Philippines.

5 Philippine Statistics Authority. (8 October 2021). Country's Overall Water Use Efficiency Decreased while Water Stress remains at Low Level. Retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/country%E2%80%99s-overall-water-use-efficiency-decreased-while-water-stress-remains-low-level>

6 Ibid.
7 Asian Development Bank. (2016). Asian Water Development Outlook 2016. Retrieved 19 June 2018 from <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/189411/awdo-2016.pdf>

8 World Bank. (n.d.). Water Resources Management. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/waterresourcesmanagement#1>

With the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, we came to understand the heightened need for improved access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities to help contain the spread of the virus.

Recent Reforms and Developments

In light of its water-related objectives and in response to the urgent call to attain water security, a number of policy measures and initiatives have been implemented in the Philippines.

- **Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan:** Officially launched last 16th September 2021, the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan acts as a national action plan to attain universal access to "safe, sufficient, affordable, and sustainable water supply, hygiene, and sanitation by 2030". The plan features eight (8) key reform agenda⁹, and promotes the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principle for a comprehensive and integrated approach in addressing the sector's gaps as well as ultimately achieving the Philippines' water-related targets and commitments.¹⁰

Based on the PWSSMP, the country needs PHP 1.07 trillion worth of investments to achieve universal access to water supply and sanitation by 2030. The present situation, however, is not promising given that the average investments of the government for water supply and sanitation is at 0.15 percent of the total General Appropriations Act. Yearly investments of at least PHP100 billion is needed if we are to remain on track towards achieving SDG 6 by 2030.¹¹

- **Creation of the Department of Water Resources and the Water Regulatory Commission:** On the legislative side, the bill which seeks to establish such a body is still in the relatively early stages in both houses of the congress. On the executive side, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) which is the agency responsible of formulating plans and policies related to water supply has also supported the initiative and has pushed for the issuance of an executive order to strengthen and transform the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) into the National Water Management Council (NWMC).
- **Department Administrative Order No. 2021-19 (DAO 2021-19):** In June 2021, the DENR issued DAO 2021-19 on "Updated Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards for Selected Parameters" which partially amends DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-08, updating water quality guidelines and/or general effluent standards for the following parameters: ammonia, boron, copper as dissolved copper, fecal coliform, phosphate as phosphorus, and sulfate. The new DAO also stipulates the obligation to submit data on influent values of biological oxygen demand (BOD) for establishments with influent BOD equal to or greater than 3000 mg/L. All other parameters not mentioned in DAO 2021-19 will be covered by the requirements of DAO 2016-08.

The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) has also been spearheading inter-agency and multi-stakeholder consultation meetings in order to produce a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) that would address regulatory gaps and make the implementation of DAO 2021-19 more attuned to current realities.

ECCP ADVOCACY

Creation of an apex body

The Philippine Water Sector is often characterized by its lack of a lead department. International agencies such as the World Bank, the ADB and the ASEAN's Working Group on Water Resources Management (AWGWRM) have all pointed out that the Philippines' lack of an overseeing agency in the water sector is one of the country's major hindrances to fully achieving water security. There are over 30 separate agencies involved in the water sector dealing with several aspects including irrigation, watershed management, pollution, flood control, water supply, among others.¹²

9 (i) Establishing effective water supply and sanitation sector institutions, (ii) strengthening the regulatory environment, (iii) creating and ensuring effective water supply and sanitation services, (iv) balancing water supply and demand, (v) building climate resilience, (vi) enabling access to financing, (vii) managing data and information to determine baseline and gaps of investments, and (viii) driving research and development in the sector.

10 National Economic Development and Development Authority. (15 September 2021). Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan. Retrieved from <https://neda.gov.ph/pwssmp/>

11 National Economic and Development Authority. (21 March 2022). NEDA exec: We need more investments to improve water supply, sanitation. Retrieved from <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/03/21/neda-exec-we-need-more-investments-to-improve-water-supply-sanitation/>

12 Dayrit, H. (n.d.). The Philippines: Formulation of a National Water Vision. Retrieved on 26 June 2018 from <http://www.fao.org/docrep/004/AB776E/ab776e03.htm>

The lack of coordination between these agencies and the absence of an overseeing agency responsible for the harmonization of all water initiatives – including their effectivity, sustainability and efficiency, has led to the current fragmented set up of the sector. The fragmentation of water-related agencies is highly visible in the areas of resource regulation, policy formulation and planning, and water supply and distribution.¹³

In recognition of these issues, the ECCP welcomes and supports the government’s initiatives to establish an overseeing agency for the water sector. This agency is envisioned to lay down the overarching policies for the sector and perform functions relative to the integrated management of water resources with the end goal of achieving water security for the country. We believe that the establishment of an apex agency tasked to harmonize and monitor all water-related efforts will address the lack of strategic direction that has often been identified as a key factor to the country’s poor water resource management. As such, we call on our policymakers to bring back focus on the initiative and finally pass the legislation which has been pending in the congress for a number of years.

Temporary Suspension of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-08 (Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards of 2016)

The ECCP recognizes the need for water quality and effluent standards to be improved and fully supports the objectives of DAO No. 2016-08 to ensure the sustainability and quality of our water bodies and waterways. However, we believe that this needs to be balanced with the realities we currently face, particularly as we continue to struggle with the adverse impact of the COVID pandemic.

As such, we welcome the DENR’s decision to amend and relax water quality guidelines and/or general effluent standards for a number of parameters as a way of providing some relief to businesses that are still recuperating from the economic losses brought about by the pandemic. To further help unburden businesses, we call on the government to temporarily suspend the implementation of DAO No. 2016-08 for at least three years until economic recovery has been achieved or when the quarantine is lifted, whichever is longer. The temporary suspension of DAO 2016-08 is within the power and authority of the Executive considering that the same DAO is an Executive issuance carried out through the DENR.

The extension of the grace period to comply with DAO No. 2016-08 would not only provide relief to businesses who would have to spend more to meet the new deadline (which is virtually impossible for many) but also help them avoid unnecessary costs in the form of fees and penalties. We believe that such a move will help the country deal with the adverse economic consequences brought about by the pandemic and will also give businesses the much-needed time and opportunity to focus on addressing the challenges of civil works and retrofitting wastewater management systems.

STRENGTHEN CAPACITY-BUILDING MEASURES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Local government units play an important role in the conservation and improvement of water resources in the country moreso now in view of the implementation of the Mandanas ruling. We support the efforts of the Department of Interior and Local Government to ensure that local government units (LGUs) are able to effectively implement their water and sanitation programs. To build on these initiatives, we advocate for more partnerships with the private sector and the academe to facilitate technology transfer and exchange of best practices which will help guide LGUs in developing and implementing their programs. Additionally, we call on our local chief executives to prioritize water supply and sanitation projects in their respective areas, particularly for those in the far-flung areas that have trouble accessing potable water.

ESTABLISH REGULAR PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE

The current issues in water is a problem that concerns everyone. Hence, we believe that in order to address these issues, the government and the private sector must work in close collaboration through regular public-private dialogues where views could be exchanged and effective solutions could be adopted towards the attainment of common goals. The ECCP, through its Environment and Water Committee, warmly welcomes any engagement with the DENR, National Water Resources Board and other concerned government agencies and stakeholders to discuss issues pertaining to the water sector.





GREEN BUILDINGS

OVERVIEW

Beyond the pandemic, it is likely that the next biggest immediate threat that the country will continue to be plagued with is climate change. All actors, big or small, have a role to play in reversing the effects of climate change. Individuals have been trying their best in practising small, everyday ways in doing so and big corporations have also begun to become more proactive in lessening their carbon footprint. For businesses, it is crucial that strategies and practices that promote long-term sustainability are adopted, especially in today's world wherein the real estate sector contributes to almost 40% of carbon emissions. It is approximated that of the 40%, 70% come from building operations while the remaining 30% come from building construction.¹

The concept of green building, sometimes referred to as *green construction* or *sustainable building*, has garnered attention from different sectors in previous years. The people have shown a desire for improvement of sustainability efforts in varied environments. Corporations are being urged to embrace more ecological ways of doing their daily business and take accountability for their contributions to climate change. Green building plans and guidelines have been created by government policies, and it is highly encouraged that private sectors take a proactive stance and take initiative when it comes to embracing greener solutions.

Adopting practices that contribute to lesser carbon footprints and greener environments have proven to attract more investors and consumers not only in the real estate sector. According to a study done by Ferentinos et al., and The Bank of England, buildings that do not follow guidelines or adopt green practices have become *less desirable* to consumers. Following the implementation of climate and green initiatives and policies, the value of properties with high levels of carbon emissions have decreased significantly in recent years. From houses to large establishments, structures that are sustainable are highly preferred by real estate consumers. Those that are environmentally conscientious have shown the wide shift in client and consumer behaviour as these concerns have been brought into light. As mentioned, the private sector, specifically real estate property owners in this case, must move towards sustainability practices as there is a pressing concern of the rise in price of properties with high emissions and decreasing appeal from consumers.²

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Internationally, there have been many organisations established in response to the call-to-action of green building as one of the solutions to climate change. There is the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) which represents a more global approach to greener real estate. The Philippines saw that there was an opportunity to localise this movement and create its own cluster of organisations. Combating climate change is a worldwide collective effort, but having a local unit would be easier to manage and create more swift responses.

Recognizing the need for a localised unified support regarding comprehensive and market-based green building practices, **The Philippine Green Building Council (PHILGBC)** was established in March 2007. It has since become an avenue to encourage the sharing of the industry and its professionals' best practices when it comes to green

building for creating more sustainable conditions. PHILGBC is also a part of the WorldGBC roster and is partnered with other international organisations pushing for greener solutions in real estate.

As previously mentioned, there are global standards and rating tools, like the Carbon Risk Real Estate Monitor (CREEM) certification of the EU and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) sustainability standard of the United States, made to measure green building efforts. For the Philippine context, the PHILGBC continues to work on developing and enhancing the local green building rating tool of the Philippines—**Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence (BERDE)**, which is nationally recognized by the government, through the Department of Energy (DOE). This project of the PHILGBC assesses how well a building meets or exceeds the national and local environment standards and environmental laws and regulations that already exist. BERDE has helped make a clearer basis and foundation for green building measures in the Philippines both at a national and local level—it continues to be integrated in national and local government policy-making and project/program proposals to further sustainable development and greener solutions. Multiple cities in the Philippines have been establishing their green building operations and also use BERDE as their basis for measuring their sustainability efforts. Further, a program and qualifying exam is offered by the PHILGBC for BERDE training and certification to become a Certified BERDE Professional (CBP).³ In June 2021, the latest version of BERDE was published by the PHILGBC and edits were done to improve user utilisation and to incorporate the contents of DOE's 2020 Edition of Guidelines for Energy Conserving Design of Buildings and Utility Systems.⁴

Aside from the PHILGBC, there are also other initiatives from the private sector to work together in creating a greener building environment such as **The Philippine Green Building Initiative (PGBI)**. PGBI was put together by three main organisations—American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers Philippines Chapter (ASHRAE Philippines), Philippine Society of Ventilating, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigerating Engineers (PSVARE), and the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP)—in hopes to pioneer the movement and push the country needs towards green building. In 2010, they expanded their network and member organisations in order to garner more professional input for sharing to the public. Their mission is to establish standardised guidelines and promote best practices, as shared by their roster of professionals, when it comes to designing and constructing buildings as well as the assessment of how green these constructed buildings are among others.⁵ Noticing the distinction of the Philippines' climate compared to other countries, PGBI also came up with their own green building rating system called **Gearred for Resiliency and Energy Efficiency for the Environment or GREEN**.⁶

The Philippine Green Building Code (Presidential Decree No. 1906 or The GB Code), an ordinance passed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) that aims to boost building performance efficiency through the implementation of strategies which increase resource management efficiency and site sustainability, was passed in June 2015. Aside from efficiency and sustainability, this order also hopes to reduce the real estate sector's negative impacts on people's health as well as the environment. According to the GB Code, the official definition of *Green Building* is as follows:

"Green building is the practice of adopting measures that promote resource management efficiency and site sustainability while minimizing the negative impact of buildings on human health and the environment. This practice complements the conventional building design concerns of economy, durability, serviceability and comfort."

It is subject to six performance standards—Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency, Material Sustainability, Solid Waste Management, Site Sustainability, and Indoor Environmental Quality. This is the set standard in the Philippine setting and it is what is looked at when constructing buildings. The GB Code is subject to updates if there are changes deemed necessary by the Secretary of DPWH, through the National Building Code Development Office (NBCDO).⁷ Later on incorporated into the GB Code, the DOE has created guidelines which require newer buildings and existing ones to adopt technologies that use renewable energy as a way to conserve and have efficient use of structure energy.⁸

1 Carlin, D. (5 April 2022). 40% Of Emissions Come From Real Estate; Here's How The Sector Can Decarbonize. Forbes. Retrieved from: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidcarlin/2022/04/05/40-of-emissions-come-from-real-estate-heres-how-the-sector-can-decarbonize/>

2 Ferentinos, K., Gibberd, A., & Guin, B. (April 2021). Climate policy and transition risk in the housing market. Staff Working Paper No. 918. Retrieved from: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/working-paper/2021/climate-policy-and-transition-risk-in-the-housing-market.pdf?la=en&hash=B28CB81193F8B872457B5FCC84D4D2F10A799C12>

3 Philippine Green Building Council (PHILGBC). (21 June 2019). BERDE Education | Be a Certified Green Building Professional. Retrieved from: <http://philgbc.org/becoming-greenbuilding-professionals/>

4 PHILGBC. (28 June 2021). PHILGBC Releases BERDE version 4.0.0. Retrieved from: <https://philgbc.org/philgbc-releases-berde-version-4-0-0/>

5 Philippine Green Building Initiative (PGBI). (n.d.) About PGBI. Retrieved from: <https://www.greenbuilding.ph/about-pgbi>

6 PGBI. (n.d). GREEN. Retrieved from: <https://www.greenbuilding.ph/green>

7 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). (June 2015). The Philippine Green Building Code. Retrieved from: https://www.dpwh.gov.ph/DPWH/sites/default/files/laws_codes_orders/PgbcBooklet23March.pdf

8 Crismundo, K. (20 February 2021). DOE requires use of solar, RE technologies in buildings. Philippine News Agency. Retrieved from: <https://>

With all the pieces of legislation and efforts put into place, there is a huge pressure on Philippine corporations from the public to embrace these green and sustainable methods and incorporate them into the corporate landscape. Large Philippine corporations have taken the initiative in having these sustainable practices to help lessen the overall carbon footprint. To further these movements by big corporations, the PHILGBC established the **Advancing Net Zero Philippines (ANZ/PH) Program** to move towards the net zero goal. Under this initiative, there is the **Advancing Net Zero Energy Rating Scheme** which is also used to quantify a building's effort to net zero emissions. It also acts as a framework for others to improve their green building practices and encourage others to aim to be Net Zero-certified.⁹

Following the GB Code, the PHILGBC has been pushing for the real estate industry to keep prioritising the incorporation of green practices into their standards. Working with local government units (LGU), they have also shared their own knowledge and practices as well as increased awareness and promotion of *going green* through conducting conferences and discussions with professionals. Throughout the years, different cities have been adopting environmentally friendly real estate practices and projects that comply with the GB Code's guidelines with the help of their LGUs and close coordination with PHILGBC and other private sectors.

Although there is still a long way to go for the Philippines in achieving sustainable and better practices on green building, there is much greater awareness and initiative-taking by the Filipino people. The COVID-19 pandemic's need to have better air ventilation has also pushed the public to require and demand for buildings that follow green guidelines and suggestions. With the examples set by bigger corporations, it is only a matter of time until most if not all of Filipino corporations adopt net zero carbon emission targets.



www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1131318

⁹ PHILGBC. (18 May 2021). PHILGBC launches Advancing Net Zero Energy tool to curb building emission. Retrieved from: <https://philgbc.org/philgbc-launches-advancing-net-zero-energy-tool-to-curb-building-emissions/>



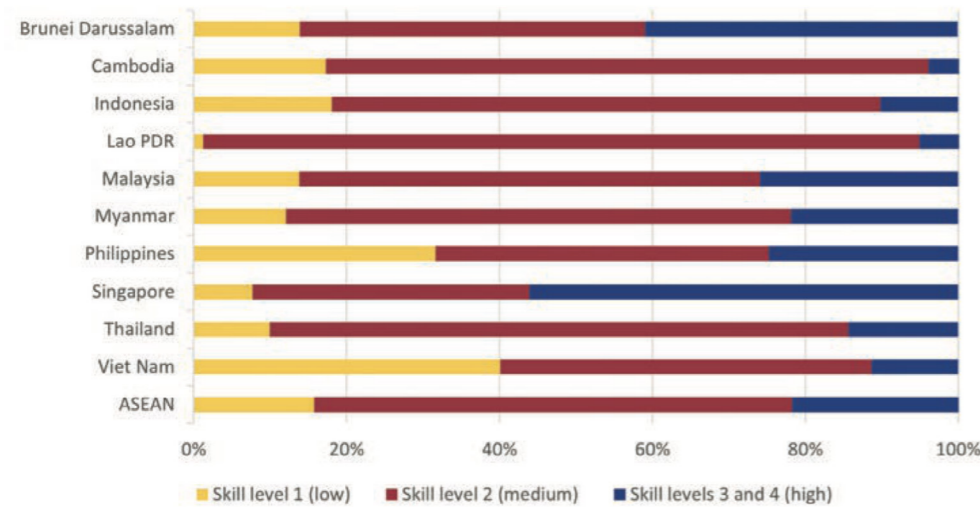
GREEN WORKFORCE

OVERVIEW

Sustainability is defined as “meeting the current generation’s needs without compromising the resources required by the future.” We are transitioning to modern-day industrialization with sustainable practices, which adopt greening methods, including green energy, growth, and sustainable development goals. Furthermore, with the 4th industrial revolution, sustainability and green concepts are now interconnected with the shift in the workforce.

While the transformation of the economy and environmental practices is evident – the concept of a green workforce remains vague. It is pivotal to understand the difference between the concepts to move forward in this development model. The Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) defines “green workforce” as careers that contribute directly to society by reducing dangerous environmental impact and moving toward sustainability.¹ A green workforce requires workers to acquire new skills that meet the companies’ demands that promote sustainability. However, green jobs and green skills development must be fostered to achieve a green workforce.

► Skill level in ASEAN and by AMS



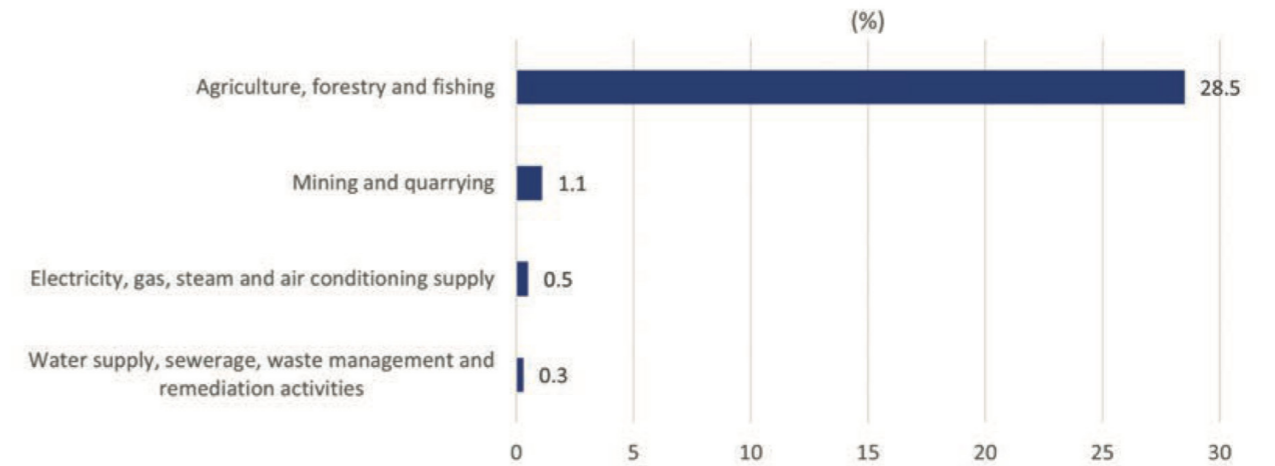
Source: International Labour Organization (2021)²

At the regional level, the ASEAN reminds its ten ASEAN Member States (AMS) of their commitment to the Decent Work and Green Jobs at the 102nd International Labour Conference in 2013 to promote green jobs and green skills in the educational and labor sectors.³ Although the ASEAN Region has done its share of promoting green jobs and

¹ Institute of Market Information. (2018). Commercial Energy Policy Toolkit – Factsheet for Local Government: Green Workforce Development. Retrieved from: https://www.imt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Commercial_Energy_Policy_Fact_Sheet_-_Green_Workforce_Development.pdf
² International Labour Organization & The Association of Southeast Asian Nations. (June 2021). Regional Study on Green Jobs Policy Rediness in ASEAN: Final Report. Figure 3. Page 26. Retrieved from: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—asia/—ro-bangkok/—sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_810078.pdf
³ ASEAN. (N.D). Asean declaration on promoting green jobs for equity and inclusive growth of asean community. Retrieved from: <https://asean.org>

green skills, the research conducted by International Labour Organization in 2021 shows that most of the skilled workers in ASEAN fall under the medium skills level.⁴ Thailand is the most advanced nation in this parameter, having more than 50% of its workforce with skill levels 3 and 4 (highly skilled). On the other hand, Cambodia’s highly skilled workforce only amounts to less than 5% of its workforce. ASEAN’s highly skilled workers comprise only over 20% of their total workforce.

► Employment in sectors with strong green growth potential, ASEAN region



Source: International Labour Organization (2021)⁵

Looking deeper at the ASEAN labor sub-sectors, the employment sectors with strong green growth and green job potential remain in agriculture, forestry, and fishing. A shift in agricultural practices will drastically impact the environment since these activities are environmentally dependent. It is likewise noteworthy that that the ASEAN region is highly archipelagic, with Indonesia having over 14,000 islands, and the Philippines, over 7,000. The environmental structure alone of the region is favorable to agriculture, forestry, and fishing. Scaling good environmental practices in the ASEAN region will significantly pose regional and global impacts since environmental problems and solutions know no sovereign territorial bounds.

Subsequently, the primary livelihood and employment options in the ASEAN region are mainly agriculture, fishery, and forestry since these are the most accessible. The Philippines’ economically challenged people still come from the agriculture sector. The main livelihood base for 35% of the country’s labor force and 60% of the country’s coastal population relies on marine resources for a living. At the same time, they also remain vulnerable since the Philippines is a catch basin of typhoons and extreme weather conditions in the region.

Given the aforementioned narrative, efforts to develop a green workforce in the region will not only impact the environment but is also compatible with ASEAN’s environmental structure.

[org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ASEAN-Declaration-on-Promoting-Green-Jobs-for-Equity-and-Inclusive-Growth-of-ASEAN-Community.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—asia/—ro-bangkok/—sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_810078.pdf)
⁴ The International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISCO) defines medium skills as clerical, service and sales, skills in agriculture and fishery, plant and machine operators, and assemblers. On the other hand, high skills are categorized into Skills 3 and Skills 4: the legislator, senior official, manager, professionals, Technicians, and associate professionals. Readers interested in learning more about the statistical categories of employment by occupation may refer to ILO: “Employment by Occupation.” Retrieved from: https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_OCCU_EN.pdf and International Labour Organization & The Association of Southeast Asian Nations. (June 2021). Regional Study on Green Jobs Policy Rediness in ASEAN: Final Report. Retrieved from: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—asia/—ro-bangkok/—sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_810078.pdf
⁵ International Labour Organization & The Association of Southeast Asian Nations. (June 2021). Regional Study on Green Jobs Policy Rediness in ASEAN: Final Report. Figure 5. Page 28. Retrieved from: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/—asia/—ro-bangkok/—sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_810078.pdf

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

IN THE PHILIPPINES

In April 2016, the Philippines enacted **Republic Act No. 10771**, otherwise known as the *Philippine Green Jobs Act*,⁶ promoting green jobs by providing a policy framework to protect labor and equal employment. The law also seeks to encourage businesses to promote green jobs certified by the Climate Change Commission (CCC). The incentives are 1.) **Special deduction from the taxable income** equivalent to 50% to the training and research expenses, and 2.) **Tax and duty-free importation of capital equipment** that is exclusively for green jobs.

The Philippines will also be joining Uruguay and Ghana in the pilot implementation of the ILO's "Guidelines on Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies,"⁷ which the ILO adopted in October 2015. During the pilot implementation, the Philippines conducted a public dialogue with workers and employers' representatives. On a whole-of-government approach, the guidelines also mandated 15 government departments and agencies that have a role in implementing the act.

Furthermore, the Philippine Development Plan also identified priority sectors, including green-related sectors, i.e., Cluster 1: agriculture, fisheries, forestry, Cluster 2: energy, construction, Cluster 3: transport, manufacturing, and Cluster 4: services, tourism, and solid waste management. This shows the Philippines' commitment to developing a green workforce. Furthermore, with these sectors prioritized in the development agenda, significant government and external funds can be channeled to these sectors for development.

Lastly, the ILO also mentioned that the Philippines' National Climate Change Action Plan envisions a climate-resilient Philippines with healthy, safe, prosperous and self-reliant communities with thriving and productive ecosystems while the Philippine Development Plan 2011-16 and Philippine Labor and Employment Plan 2011-16 aims for inclusive growth through decent and productive work. This incorporates the employment component in the development plans to form part of an effective response to changing conditions with climate change and the transition towards a green economy.⁸

IN EUROPE

As a baseline for the European Union's (EU) actions, the dominant environmental challenge in the region is climate change. Member States introduced a green stimulus package to address the situation, but not all member states introduced such a program. Regardless, the activities covered are energy efficiency, low-carbon vehicles, and other forms of sustainable transport.

Although, it is also important to note that several Member States have yet to put in place mechanisms that integrate environmental policies with labor priorities. No state reported integral skills response strategies to environmental challenges. On the other hand, France is the most advanced in this regard with its recent mobilization of green jobs.⁹ The absence of a national strategy does not mean that individual and regional skills training efforts in response to environmental challenges are not present. They are not just structured into a policy framework for unified implementation that can be scaled at the national level. Spain, for example, has no national framework but is compensated by its robust regional actions.

Regardless, all Member States acknowledge the importance of skills development in enabling climate change policies to be fully effective and realize economic and employment goals. There is a demand for the development of these skills. The table below shows the overview of some Member States' occupation/ employment sectors which calls for greening efforts.

6 Official Gazette. (29 April 2016). Republic Act 10771. Retrieved from: <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/04/29/republic-act-no-10771/>
7 International Labour Organization. (1 January 2016). Philippines: Implementing Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all. Retrieved from: https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/projects/asia/WCMS_561760/lang-en/index.htm
8 International Labour Organization. (2014). Green Jobs Mapping study in the Philippines. Retrieved from: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_240710.pdf
9 Cedefop. (2010). Skills for Green Jobs. Retrieved from: https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/3057_en.pdf

Table 3. Overview of Member States' case studies on green skills

Sector	Occupation	DK	DE	EE	ES	FR	UK
New							
Process industries	Research and training	✓		✓			
Power	Renewable energy management			✓			
	Solar energy	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Wind power		✓		✓		✓
Waste	Waste recycling					✓	
Services	Green business management		✓				
	Energy auditing/smart energy			✓		✓	✓
Greening							
Primary	Agriculture and fishery				✓	✓	
	Forestry/land management	✓		✓			✓
Power	Marine technology						
	Power technology			✓			
	Nuclear						✓
Water	Desalination plant maintenance				✓		
Waste	Recycling and waste management	✓	✓				
Construction	Schemes for upskilling across construction sector occupations					✓	
	Technology installers				✓		
	System mechanics		✓				
Services	Eco-design					✓	
	Energy auditing		✓				
	Carbon trading						✓
Restructuring/retraining							
Extractive industries	Oil shale mining			✓			
Process industries	Chemical technician	✓	✓				
Manufacture	Shipbuilding to wind turbine manufacture (diversification)						✓
Power	Solar energy entrepreneurs	✓			✓		
	Power technology			✓			
Transport	Low-carbon vehicles		✓			✓	✓

Source: European Center for Development of Vocational Training¹⁰

Lastly, the EU is considering greening existing occupations while developing environmentally dependent occupations. The EU has already developed systems for defining and responding to environmentally driven skills needs. These practices are well-established in most Member States. New green employment also evolves as skills develop or competencies spread out across sectoral boundaries. The EU Member States must replicate France's efforts and best practices and, at the same time, reinforce their existing individual practices.

10 European Center for Development of Vocational Training. (2010). Skills for green jobs: European Synthesis Report. https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/3057_en.pdf

ECCP ADVOCACY

Nearly a decade after enacting Republic Act No. 10771, otherwise known as the Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016, the green workplace remains a challenge, especially for the business sectors and the Philippine government. With gaps in training and funding capacities and the impact of the pandemic and the fourth industrial revolution, the Philippine workforce remains vulnerable to filling the demand of the industries and the global labor market. Hence, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines recognizes and supports the initiative on the Human Capital Development:

1. Recognizing human capital as an essential asset of the Philippine economy.

Guided by the Ambisyon Natin 2040, the Philippines recognizes the pivotal role of the human capital as the primary contributor to its economic growth. With this, the OFWs alone remained the economic lifeline, contributing to almost 90% of the Philippines' GDP.

The ECCP recognizes human capital as one of the country's most important assets. Moreover, it believes that there is a need to equip future talent with the adequate and necessary skills to cope with the competitive global labor market demand. The ECCP, together with its members, remains committed to supporting the Philippine Government in promoting and extending assistance in training to achieve a green workforce.

2. Invest in competitive training and upskilling programs

The Philippine Economy remains dynamic, attracting businesses to invest in the Philippines. However, with the impact of the fourth industrial revolution and pandemic, it exposes the vulnerability of the Philippine workforce and the gap between the companies' demand and the growing competitive labor market.

Therefore, the ECCP encourage firms to invest in the proper training of their workers as it is crucial in the increase of human capital and innovation. Furthermore, to cope with the global competitive labor market, it is pivotal that learning institutions such as technical vocational are aware of the companies' current demands and industry developments.

SUMMARY

Developing a green workforce is not only an option to move forward in global development but a requirement. There should be concerted global efforts to develop this concept. In summary, this paper raises the following points:

- A case study on the ASEAN region reports that the region is highly environmentally dependent. The sectors identified in the report show that agriculture, fisheries, and forestry are primary sectors with strong green potential.
- Not only are the agriculture, fisheries, and forestry potential sectors, they are primary employment option livelihood sources of people in the region, given that geologically, ASEAN is archipelagic. Greening the sector and its workforce will greatly impact the environment in the region and the standard of living of people as a major section of ASEAN's population are agriculturally dependent.
- The Philippines has enacted **Republic Act No. 10771**, otherwise known as the *Philippine Green Jobs Act*,¹¹ promoting green jobs by providing a policy framework to protect labor and equal employment. This provided policy direction and a legal basis for more vigorous government efforts in greening the Philippines' workforce. The Philippines is also joining the pilot testing of ILO's "Guidelines on Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies. There are existing national policies on labor and environment in the country and national policies diverging the two disciplines.
- In the EU, several Member States have yet to put in place mechanisms that integrate environmental policies with labor priorities, except for France, which has greening efforts such as its recent mobilization in green jobs. The absence of a national strategy does not mean that individual and regional skills training efforts in response to environmental challenges are not present.

11 Official Gazette. (29 April 2016). Republic Act 10771. Retrieved from: <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/04/29/republic-act-no-10771/>





STARTUP FOR SUSTAINABILITY 2022

OVERVIEW

Along with the economic setbacks and losses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world remains confronted with one of its most pressing problems—climate change. For years, the rapidly increasing and alarming environmental issues have called on individuals to act decisively and put sustainability into action.

It is in this light that many organizations have started embedding innovative measures in their operations. Recognized as a tool to foster competitive advantage and sustained growth in an increasingly complex and unpredictable landscape, innovation also has the prospect to deliver transformative sustainable solutions.¹ Notably, and despite the recent economic crisis, startups have distinguished themselves as catalysts for innovation, as well as drivers of economic growth and job creation.² These emerging enterprises are changing the way businesses can approach sustainability by providing innovative products and services, introducing business models that adapt to the changing societal and market needs, and implementing methods that support the development of its workforce.

In the Philippines, the startup ecosystem has been known to be vibrant and full of potential with strong support from the government and the business community. In 2020, the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER)³ ranked Manila 36th globally, making it among the world's top emerging startup ecosystems. However, the recent report released in September 2021 placed Manila in the 91-100th rank, with scores of 1 out of 10 in performance and funding, 2 in market reach, and 6 in talent. Notably, the rapid emergence of digital transformation allowed financial technology (fintech) and e-commerce to prosper in the country. Despite the global crisis and community lockdown, fintech startups managed to raise substantial funding and the e-commerce industry grew with revenue estimated at over USD 5 billion in 2021 and with market volume projected to reach USD 8.8 billion by 2025.⁴

The 2020 Philippine Startup Survey: COVID Edition⁵ released in May 2021, which provided an overview of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the tech startups in the country, states that 48% of the respondents (90 startup founders) are greatly concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their operations. Their top three major concerns include financial impact and effects on operations, potential global recession, and difficulties with funding. On another note, 21% of the founders say that the outbreak resulted in an increasing demand for their services and products. To manage the potential negative impact in their business, most startups resulted in offering new products and services that adapt to the consumers' needs during the lockdown.

Further, there are a lot of startups in the country that spur economic growth and sustainability through providing a wide array of livelihood opportunities for the marginalized community and partnering with local communities and organizations, therefore creating a positive impact in their communities and the environment. While it is notable that the country's startup ecosystem has the potential to flourish and steer towards a green and

resilient economy, it is vital for the government, the public and private sectors, and relevant stakeholders to be able to provide the support needed for the sector to develop and thrive at a global scale.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

As of September 2021, the Philippines ranks **51st out of 132 countries, according to the Global Innovation Index (GI)**. This is a big jump from the country's previous position of 100th back in the year 2014⁶. In addition to that, the status of *innovation achiever* has been given to the Philippines for three years in a row—countries with economies outperforming in innovation-to-development as compared to other nations are those considered under the 'innovation achievers' group.⁷ Additionally, the Philippines excels in two key areas—business sophistication and knowledge, as well as technology outputs. Because of this, it has placed the country 4th out of 34 lower middle-income groups and 11th out of 17 economies found in the Southeast Asian, East Asian, and Oceanian regions. The continued collaboration of the government and private entities in pushing for developments in the entrepreneurial and innovation sectors has helped make the Philippines more competitive and create more jobs for Filipinos.⁸

In order to further push for innovative development in the industry, national development, and extend sustainability efforts, the Philippine government has since signed initiatives into law, provided platforms to help shape Filipinos' crafts, and funded projects, programs, and awards.

Both Republic Act (RA) No. 11337 or **The Innovative Startup Act**⁹ and RA 11293 or **The Philippine Innovation Act**¹⁰ were signed into law in April 2019 as a way to promote innovation as a stepping stone towards developing the economy and creating more sustainability efforts. The two pieces of legislation also pave the way in attracting investors to get into the innovations and startups sector and push both public and private establishments to support these endeavors. Further to this, these laws have helped shine the spotlight on the science, technology, and innovation (STI) department in recent years, which has opened doors to creating long-term recommendations for Philippine development through technology research, development, and funding.

Filipino entrepreneurs and startups have also been given aid for the realization of their innovative proposals through funding programs of different government departments such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Some examples of these are: the Startup Grant Fund Program and the Startup Venture Fund.

The **Startup Grant Fund Program**, which was set into motion in December 2020, was able to fund fourteen startups all over the Philippines. They received funding totalling PHP 43 million to be used in research and development and to strengthen their expertise¹¹. With the help of public and private institutions, the program continues to provide funding for startups through another round of proposals gathering from startups.

In November 2021, the **Startup Venture Fund (SVF)** was officially launched with a budget of PHP 250 million by DTI and National Development Company (NDC) along with QBO Innovation Hub. As it was launched in the middle of the pandemic, startups' pitches were done online in a virtual pitch event, *Venture Pilipinas: The Startup Venture Fund Pitch*. This pushed the country to get into more collaborations with the private sector, specifically venture capitalists, as they saw its effectiveness in the flourishing of the startup economy and the promotion of economic and business growth, sustainability, and innovation.¹²

Aside from monetary fund programs, there have been a number of other projects and programs that offer training, easy access and expansion to global markets, and other non-monetary aids to help further the development

1 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2021). UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub. Retrieved from unfccc.int/topics/un-climate-change-global-innovation-hub#eq-1

2 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (13 May 2020). Start-ups in the time of COVID-19: Facing the challenges, seizing the opportunities. Retrieved from www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/start-ups-in-the-time-of-covid-19-facing-the-challenges-seizing-the-opportunities-87219267/

3 The GSER is the world's most comprehensive and widely-read research on startups with 250 ecosystems studied. The GSER is published by Startup Genome – a world-leading policy advisory and research organization for governments and public-private partnerships committed to accelerating the success of their startup ecosystem – in cooperation with the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN). The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is a member of the GSER Global Network.

4 Department of Trade and Industry. (23 September 2021). Manila ranks among top Asian startup ecosystems in annual Global Startup Ecosystem Report. Retrieved from https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/news-archives/manila-ranks-among-top-asian-startup-ecosystems/

5 PwC Philippines. (12 May 2020). Startups and the business impact of COVID-19. Retrieved from https://www.pwc.com/ph/startups-covid19?fbclid=IwAR0FjXNR21vz5HPyji64JZ3F7uyi7t4vDy3b1IAa0aZ5Fjg7qTMKVKbdm

6 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). (21 September 2021). PH continues as 'innovation achiever' for third straight year in the annual Global Innovation Index; ranks 51st among 132 economies. Retrieved from: https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/philippines-continues-as-innovation-achiever/

7 World Intellectual Property Organization, Dutta, S., Lanvin, B., León, L. R., & Wunsch-Vincent, S. (2021). Global Innovation Index 2021, 14th Edition. WIPO.

8 DTI. (21 September 2021). PH continues as 'innovation achiever'... Retrieved from: https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/philippines-continues-as-innovation-achiever/

9 The Official Gazette. Republic Act No. 11337. Retrieved from https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2019/04apr/20190717-RA-11337-RRD.pdf

10 The National Economic and Development Authority. Republic Act No. 11293. Retrieved from: https://neda.gov.ph/the-philippine-innovation-act/

11 BusinessMirror. (27 June 2021). 14 startups get P43 million in R&D grants from DOST-PCIEERD. Retrieved from: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/06/27/14-startups-get-%E2%82%A743-million-in-rd-grants-from-dost-pcieerd/

12 Department of Trade and Industry (23 November 2021). DTI launches P250-M Philippine Startup Venture Fund. Retrieved from: https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/news-archives/dti-launches-philippine-startup-venture-fund/

of innovation, just as the mentioned laws have hoped to do. Some of these programs include: Startup Acceleration and Incubation by DTI (startupAID), SMART (Strategic MSMLE & Startup) Link, International and Local Exposure Assistance Program (ILEAP for Startups), and the Global Acceleration Program.

As mentioned, the laws that were passed were able to encourage future planning to reach the goal of turning the Philippines into one of the best when it comes to innovation. Multiple programs have been initiated by the government containing plans, suggestions and roadmaps with shared goals towards the improvement and advancement of STI in the country. There are the Philippine Roadmap to Digital Startups, the PAGTANAW 2050, the DTI's Science for Change Program (S4CP), and the Innovative Green EV Technology to name a few.

The **Philippine Roadmap to Digital Startups** aims to create startups that will be able to drive economic growth while also coming up with innovative solutions to the country's most pressing problems. This initiative is composed of three parts– (i) clear definition of terms, goals, and benchmarks, (ii) perspectives of other startup ecosystems around the world, how they can be implemented in the Philippines, and how local ecosystem can learn from them, as well as (iii) short-term and long-term plans and strategies for the overall improvement of the start-up ecosystem in the Philippines.¹³

The first project of cross-sectoral and multi-sectoral nature to focus on STI in the country is **PAGTANAW 2050: Agham Tungo sa Mabuting Kinabukasan** or **LOOKING AHEAD 2050: Science for a Sustainable Future**. It is a 30-year plan and roadmap for STI which was introduced by The National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines (NAST PHL) as a foresight for innovation for the country's development in the long run.¹⁴ The project was funded for more than PHP 7.4 million by the DOST and was handed over to both DOST and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in November 2021.¹⁵

STI has been recognized globally as one of the forefront in creating progressive countries. This insight is believed to give that additional boost that the country needs towards an even higher GII.¹⁶ Highlighting around 200 technologies, the project is focused on 12 areas–Blue Economy; Governance; Business and Trade; Digital Transformation and Information and Communications Technology; Science Education and Talent Retention; Food Security and Nutrition; Health Systems; Energy; Water; Environment and Climate Change; Shelter, Transportation, and Other Infrastructure; and Space Exploration. By 2050, it is hoped that what the people aspired for STI such as inclusive growth, sustainability, and competitiveness will be achieved through the **PAGTANAW 2050** project.¹⁷

To further its sustainability efforts, the Philippine government has been working hard in creating a condition wherein green technology can be innovated and implemented through the **Innovative Green EV Technology**. The Department of Transportation and UNDP Philippines, with support from the Global Environment Facility, do this by advocating for innovation in transportation like e-trikes, e-jeepneys, and other e-vehicles that create less carbon footprints.¹⁸

The **National Innovation Agenda And Strategy Document (NIASD)** is currently being drafted by the National Innovation Council and is targeted to be released within the year. It aims to inaugurate and liaise the target objectives, projects, agendas, and strategies of the innovation sector in the next 10 years. All government agencies will be required by law to comply with the rules in the NIASD as stated in RA 11293.¹⁹

The Philippines is still only in its beginning stages when it comes to startups and innovation—there is still a lot more to be done to rise and go further on top. However, it is important to note that the Philippines has come a long way and with the way things are going, more investments can be made and more are looking into the future of the Philippine Startup Economy in the coming years.

13 Department of Information and Communications Technology. (). Philippines Roadmap for Digital Startups. Retrieved from: https://dict.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/StartupRoadmap_Final.pdf

14 National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). (19 November 2021). PAGTANAW 2050: THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION FORESIGHT. Retrieved from: <https://www.nast.ph/index.php/pagtanaw-2050>

15 Philippine News Agency. (22 November 2021). Sci-tech, innovation 'Pagtanaw 2050' turned over to DOST, NEDA. Retrieved from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1160560>

16 Hani, A. (23 November 2021). Philippine Science, Technology, and Innovation Project to Further Accelerate National Development. Open Gov Asia. Retrieved from: <https://opengovasia.com/philippine-science-technology-and-innovation-project-to-further-accelerate-national-development/>

17 NAST. (19 November 2021). PAGTANAW 2050: THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION FORESIGHT. Retrieved from: <https://www.nast.ph/index.php/pagtanaw-2050>

18 Klingler-Vidra, R. and Lor, R. (10 May 2021). Bringing the Environment back into our Understanding of Inclusive Innovation. Retrieved from: <https://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/blog/bringing-the-environment-back-into-our-understanding-of-inclusiv.html>

19 BusinessWorld. (8 February 2022). NEDA prepares long-term innovation plan. Retrieved from: <https://www.bworldonline.com/neda-prepares-long-term-innovation-plan/>

