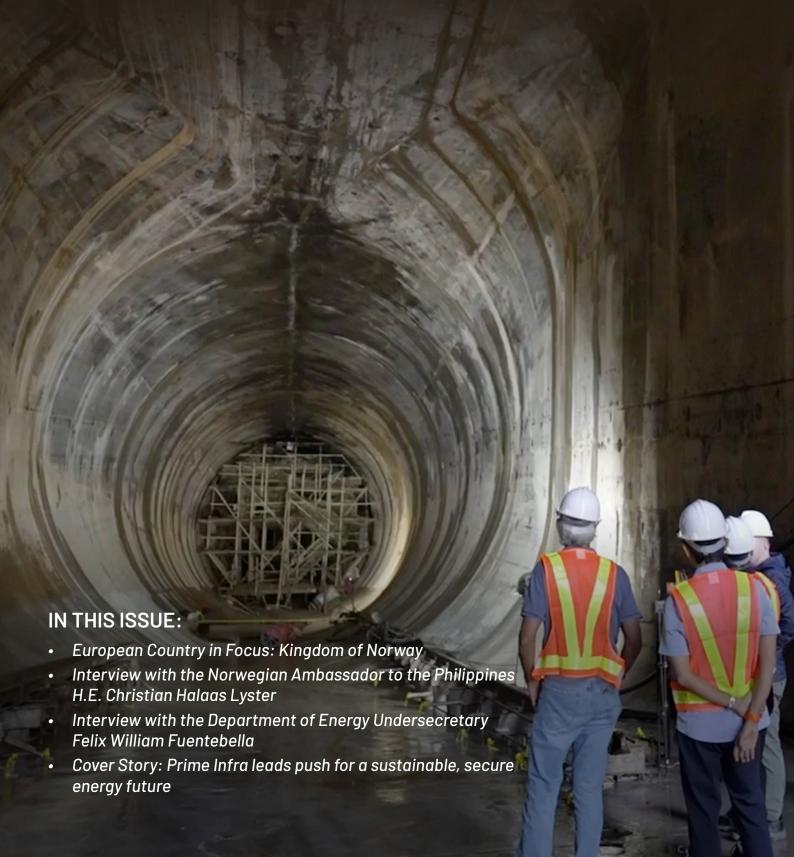
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EuroPH CONNECT

BUSINESS • OPPORTUNITIES • PERSPECTIVES

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

Volume XLII • Issue 5 Issue on Energy





Prime Energy, a subsidiary of Prime Infra, is at the forefront of natural gas exploration and development in the Philippines. It operates the only Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project, Malampaya, which supplies 20% of Luzon's power and plays a crucial role in enhancing energy independence.

In more than two decades of operation, the Malampaya project supported the Philippines' energy security, generated significant revenues of more than US\$13.9 billion for the government, and made significant contributions to stakeholder communities through sustainable social and environmental programs.

In response to the increasing demand for energy, Prime Energy and the SC38 consortium are making significant investments in Malampaya Phase 4 dubbed Project Sinagtala, which involves drilling the Camago and Malampaya East production wells, along with the Bagong Pag-asa exploration well, paving the way for enhanced energy production and security in the Philippines.



www.malampaya.com

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3



Editorial

Dear Reader,

The Philippine energy sector is at a pivotal stage, driven by rising demand, the imperative of energy security, and an accelerating shift toward sustainability. From advancing renewable technologies to expanding transmission and distribution infrastructure, the sector continues to open up opportunities for innovation, investment, and stronger international partnerships.

In this issue, we are pleased to feature H.E. Christian Halaas Lyster, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Philippines, who shares perspectives on Norway-Philippines bilateral economic relations as well as insights from Norway's own energy transition and offshore experience (see page 8). His views are particularly relevant as the Philippines pursues a more diversified, secure, and sustainable energy mix.

We also highlight Department of Energy Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella, who provides updates on the government's current energy policy direction, including ongoing initiatives to accelerate the development and integration of renewable energy resources, improve regulatory clarity, and attract private sector participation (see page 12).

Our cover story features Prime Infrastructure, which is contributing to the country's renewable energy transition through large-scale, mission-critical infrastructure investments in strategic locations. Their work demonstrates how the private sector can help bridge energy gaps, support inclusive growth, and promote long-term resilience (see page 19).

Beyond energy, the Chamber continued to deliver high-value platforms for dialogue and collaboration. In September, we organized the Future of Work Forum and, for the first time, the ECCP Transportation Forum. Both events convened key decision-makers from government and industry to discuss talent, mobility, logistics, and infrastructure concerns, as well as practical policy and business responses. We likewise held the ECCP Community Connect, where new members were onboarded on the Chamber's services, advocacy work, and engagement opportunities. The month concluded with a luncheon meeting with Bureau of Customs Assistant Commissioner Hon. Vincent Maronilla, who presented updates on the Bureau's ongoing projects and reform initiatives.

October was an even more eventful month for the ECCP. We successfully hosted the third edition of the Philippine Aviation Summit on 8–9 October, in partnership with the Asian Business Aviation Association. The summit gathered senior government officials and aviation industry leaders for in-depth discussions on safety, connectivity, airport and airspace development, and aviation's role in economic growth. We also took part in the three-day EU-ASEAN Business Council mission, which included several engagements with Philippine government agencies. This was followed by the European-Philippine Business Dialogue on 16 October, where public and private sector representatives discussed the acceleration of the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and concrete measures to further position the Philippines as a prime investment destination.

During the Dialogue, we launched the 2025 Advocacy Papers, which capture the priorities, reform proposals, and sectoral recommendations of the ECCP's advocacy committees. We look forward to sharing this publication with our members.



Florian GotteinECCP Executive Director

To download a copy, please visit: http://eccp.com/advocacy/papers/.

Another notable highlight was our luncheon meeting with Secretary Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr. of the Department of National Defense. Secretary Teodoro outlined the Department's priorities and institutional reforms to enhance the country's defense and security posture, followed by an insightful panel discussion on capability development and international partnerships. This was not only a very well-attended event, but also underscored the business community's strong interest in stability, security, and rules-based engagement in the region.

As we close another productive period for the Chamber, we remain committed to providing our members with timely, relevant, and business-focused events. I would also like to invite you to join us at the 23rd European Golf Tournament on 7 November — a great opportunity to network, strengthen partnerships, and support the Chamber's initiatives.

Finally, I am pleased to note that the ECCP also joined the fourth round of negotiations for the EU-Philippines FTA held in Cebu. As in the previous round in February, the discussions were substantive and forward-looking, with the aim of gathering feedback from the business community. Once concluded, the FTA is expected to be the Philippines' most comprehensive trade agreement, covering key areas such as government procurement, digital trade, energy and raw materials, and sustainable development. For more on these engagements, please refer to the Advocacy Corner on page 50.

We also welcome our new members in this issue's New Members' Corner, and we encourage you to stay updated on the activities of our regional offices in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Clark, and Iloilo (see page 60). You will likewise find our upcoming events, training programs, and international trade fair participation, which we hope you will join.

Thank you, as always, for your continued trust and support. Your active participation enables the ECCP to advance the interests of the European-Philippine business community and to serve as a constructive partner to the government in building a more competitive, sustainable, and investment-friendly Philippines.

Best regards,

Inrian



Norway



out of 226 countries in terms of exports and number 7 out of 196 in terms of GDP per capita.

The top exports of Norway were Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (\$115B), Machinery and transport equipment (\$14.9B), Food and live animals (\$14.6B), Manufactured goods classified shiefly by material (\$11.5B), and Chamicals and related products in a 2 (\$2.82B). Machinery

of \$84.7B. There's been significant growth over the last two years as Norway was the 33rd country

and transport equipment (\$14.9B), Food and live animals (\$14.6B), Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (\$11.5B), and Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. (\$8.82B). Meanwhile, the top imports of Norway were Machinery and transport equipment (\$33B), Miscellaneous manufactured articles (\$12.3B), Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (\$12.1B), Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. (\$10.9B), and Food and live animals (\$6.41B).

As such, the Norwegian market offers many attractive opportunities for U.S. companies, who are well positioned to compete and collaborate to capture a significant share of new contracts in Norway's offshore energy (oil, gas, wind), green technologies, defense and aerospace, information technologies, shipping and maritime, healthcare, travel and tourism, and consumer goods sectors.

Geographical Location: Norway is a country located in Northern Europe at the northern and western parts of the Scandinavian Peninsula. The country borders fjords (sea inlets) like Skagerrak inlet to the south, North Sea to the southwest, the Norwegian Sea to the west, and the Barents Sea to the north.

Climate: Norway's climate has a much warmer and milder weather than other countries such as Alaska, Greenland, and Siberia. In many coastal areas, it has relatively mild and wet winters but with snow in the mountains, while inland regions have cold winters with plenty of snow, and hot and relatively dry summers.

Official Language: Bokmål and Nynorsk

Government Type: Norway is both a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy. This is all governed by a prime minister, a cabinet, and a 169 seat parliament called Storting.

Organizations:

- European Economic Area (since 1992)
- International Labour Organization (since 1919)
 International Monetary
- Fund (since 1945)
 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (founding
- member, since 1949)
 Organization for Economic
- Cooperation and Development (founding members, since 1960)
- World Bank (since 1945)
- World Health Organization (since 1948)
- World Trade Organization (since 1995)
- United Nations (founding member, since 1945)

OSLO O

INTERESTING FACTS

- Norway is one of the world's happiest countries as stated by The World Happiness Report. Reports from the Global Peace Index also state that Norway is a safe and peaceful country to visit.
- The Nobel Peace Center is a museum about the Nobel Peace Prize. The museum is located at the heart of Oslo, Norway. But before it became a center, it was an old train station building from 1872 which overlooks the harbor.
- The sun doesn't set in Norway during the summer.
 Most tourists would visit during this time to experience the midnight sun, wherein there's more daylight to enjoy and take on outdoor activities and to live like a local.
- Norwegians are massive bookworms. It is a cultural staple in their country. More than 2,000 books are published in the country annually and is known for being the birthplace of great authors like Knut Hamsun and Henrik Ibsen.
- Thor Bjørklund invented the cheese slicer in 1925, it became a compulsory element of all Scandinavian kitchens and still proves popular to this day. Norway loves its cheese, and even though cheese is often sold pre-sliced, many households still choose the traditional method of slicing themselves.

Financial District

Norway's financial district is located in Oslo, the country's capital. More specifically the Bjørvika area and a major hub for finance centers. In that area, the Barcode Project was established. The Barcode Project (Bjørvika Barcode) consists of twelve narrow high-rise buildings of different heights and widths. The buildings are built with some space in between them, thus jointly resembling a barcode. Barcode houses leading national and international businesses, and 10 000 people work here on a daily basis. The buildings also contain 400 apartments and a daycare center. On street level, you'll find a varied and attractive selection of restaurants, shops, galleries and other service providers.

TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



NORTHERN LIGHTS (AURORA BOREALIS)

During the Viking Age, the northern lights were said to be the armour of the Valkyrie warrior virgins, which shed a strange flickering light. Though there are other places where you can see the northern lights, Northern Norway definitely offers the best and most consistent opportunities to see the northern lights, as this part of the country lies below the auroral oval. One place in this area is often as good as another – you can observe the same northern lights in Lofoten as in Tromsø, 500 kilometres further north, just from a different angle.



FREIALAND

Freia chocolate factory is in Oslo, Norway and has been around since 1889. Its name was derived from the Nordic goddess of love and fertility, Frøya. It was founded by Johan Throne Holst and after only six years became a world-class business. And because of its popularity, the factory offers tours for individuals and in groups, which is a great opportunity to celebrate one's birthday. It was also the inspiration behind Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory film.



THE FRAM MUSEUM

The Fram, known as the most famous wooden polar vessel in the world, is now a symbol of Norway's significant participation in the heroic age of exploration. After returning from Buenos Aires in 1914 and World War One, the ship was repaired alongside the support of Consul Lars Christensen. In 1934 the Oslo Association of Architects offered to hold an architecture competition to design a building for the honoured vessel. Sixty entries were submitted and the winner was the architect Bjarne Tøien with his entry "Saga". Thus, on May 20th 1936, the Fram Museum was opened.

Interview with the Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines

H.E. Christian Halaas Lyster



Since first arriving in the Philippines to take up your post as Norwegian Ambassador, what have been your observations on the relations between Norway and the Philippines?

The bilateral relations between our two countries are very good and we cooperate across many sectors. The maritime sector has been the cornerstone of our relationship but over time our cooperation has grown to include many other sectors and initiatives. As Norway's ambassador to the Philippines, I am happy to see that we continuously increase and improve our close cooperation with various government departments and the private sector.

What do you find is the Philippines' greatest strength that would serve it best when doing business with Europe?

The Philippines possesses several strengths that make the country an attractive business partner for Europe. With a young, educated and English-speaking workforce, communication and collaboration with European businesses is less challenging. The country is also a global leader in business process outsourcing (BPO) and IT services, offering cost-effective and high-quality solutions.

Trade agreements and economic ties are also important to increase business and trade. EFTA, where Norway is a member, has already a free trade agreement in force with the Philippines, and when the EU-Philippines Free Trade agreement becomes a reality, trade with Europe will become even more competitive. Additionally, the country's abundant natural resources, including agriculture, fisheries, and minerals, create opportunities for European businesses in sustainable sourcing and energy investments. The Philippines' expanding digital economy, driven by increasing digital adoption and a young tech-savvy population, presents promising opportunities in e-commerce, fintech, and digital transformation.

The Philippines is also one of the fastest growing economies in the region and in the world. Over the last years we have seen more and more policies that promote and support trade, business and investments. Policies that have opened for 100% foreign ownership in the renewable sector, establishing a one-stop permitting shop in the same sector and measures to reduce red-tape to mention a few. If this positive development continues this could become a strength for the Philippines in the years to come.

What about with its ASEAN neighbors?

With many of its strong points, the Philippines is well poised for the Southeast Asia market with more than 600 million people. As a founding member of ASEAN and with the Philippine chairmanship coming up in 2026, the Philippines, with its strategic location, could

act as a gateway to the rapidly growing Southeast Asian market. Norway is also happy to be working with Philippines and the other asean memberstates through The ASEAN-Norway Sectoral Dialogue Partnership.

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

The Philippines offers numerous advantages for Norwegian businesses looking to expand in the region. The country is a global leader in the maritime industry, supplying a significant number of seafarers to Norwegian shipping companies. Many Norwegian maritime firms have established long-standing partnerships with the Philippines for crew training and workforce development. The Norwegian Training Centre (NTC) was established in the Philippines 35 years ago and runs what is considered the best cadet program in the Philippines. Over the years thousands of seafarers have been educated through NTC, with subsequent careers in our merchant fleet.

Furthermore, the country's thriving BPO sector presents further opportunities, as several Norwegian firms already utilize the Philippines for IT, customer service, and back-office operations. The time zone difference enables 24/7 business functions, adding efficiency to global operations.

Additionally, trade and investment ties between the two nations continue to strengthen, with Norwegian businesses actively investing in renewable energy, particularly hydropower, offshore wind, and floating solar projects. Norway's expertise in renewable energy aligns well with the Philippine government's policies supporting sustainable development, creating a favorable environment for investment. Beyond this, the Philippines' large and growing consumer market, driven by a population of over 110 million and an expanding middle class, presents strong demand for Norwegian exports, including seafood, industrial equipment, and technology solutions.

What efforts have been put in place to expand Norwegian companies across the Philippines? Which sectors are Norwegian businesses most active in?

Traditionally the maritime sector has been one of the most important sectors for Norwegian businesses and companies. It still is, but in recent years we have seen increased activity in other sectors as well, such as energy, seafood, and circular economy. Large, international Norwegian companies within fertilizers and paints are also present in the Philippines. To support companies and business sectors, the embassy actively facilitates business matchmaking, provides technical support, and organizes local seminars and conferences. Additionally, cluster associations, business councils, and government

trade promotion boards in Norway play a crucial role in guiding companies into international markets. These organizations continuously promote Norwegian goods, technology, and solutions while fostering trade opportunities worldwide.

The Norwegian "Government Pension Fund Global", one of the largest funds in the world, has nearly \$1 billion USD invested across 38 listed companies in the Philippines. Meanwhile, the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries, Norfund is investing more in the Philippines under their climate investment fund, facilitating strong business commitments between our countries.

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

Norway - Philippines trade relations are doing great but there is also untapped potential for both countries. With strong cooperation and shared interests across various sectors, the relationship is poised for significant growth. As partnerships deepen and new opportunities emerge, the trajectory can only move upward. After more than 75 years of formal bilateral ties, the future looks brighter than ever for more cooperation and opportunities between our two countries.

Moving forward it is important to maximize the benefits of the EFTA-Philippines Free Trade Agreement, as such agreements are becoming increasingly vital amid today's volatile global trade conditions. Facilitating international investments requires strong collaboration between governments and private sector players in both countries and across borders. It is essential to continue expanding relations, sustaining and growing trade in key sectors while actively exploring new opportunities for business and investment.

Can you provide an overview of Norway's Energy Policy, its carbon neutral targets, and its key objectives in transforming the energy sector?

The aim of Norwegian energy policy is to provide a suitable framework for maintaining an efficient, climate-friendly and reliable energy supply system. Our energy policy is intended to encourage modernisation of the energy supply system and adapt policy instruments and the regulatory framework to rapidly changing markets. Norway fully supports the ambition of driving the energy transition through both zero- and low emission technologies, especially by increasing momentum for Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS).

How does Norway plan to achieve the target number of renewable energy in gross final consumption

by 2030, and what types of renewable sources are prioritized?

Already nearly 100% of our electricity comes from renewable sources, representing about half our energy consumption. We are working actively to reduce the demand for fossil fuels. Of new passenger cars sold in Norway in 2024, 88.9% were fully electric vehicles. To meet increasing demand, we are increasing our energy production from renewable sources. We are opening areas for offshore wind development and supporting development of floating offshore wind to unlock new renewable energy resources.

What initiatives does the Norwegian government employ to facilitate the profitable development and production of renewable energy, and how does this contribute in positioning Norway at the forefront of the renewable energy arena?

Norway's energy policy is intended to provide a framework that enables the country to further develop its renewable energy resources and make use of its competitive advantages. This includes ensuring that there are well-functioning markets, so that profitable renewable resources can be used efficiently and provide a good basis for business development and value creation. Flexible hydropower production, the widespread use of electricity for many purposes and Norway's pioneering role in market reform in the power sector are our competitive advantages.

What strategies is the Norwegian government employing to attract both domestic and foreign investment in the energy sector?

The Norwegian government employs a multifaceted strategy to attract both domestic and foreign investment in its energy sector, focusing on renewable energy development, policy liberalization, and financial incentives. This includes setting the right and predictable conditions, reducing risks, aligning ambitions across borders – in the challenging landscape of the energy transition.

How is Norway addressing energy security issues, particularly regarding diversification of energy sources and reducing dependence on external suppliers?

In Norway, security of supply is closely linked to the capacity of the supply system to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity to end users. The power supply system must be able to deal with variations in electricity consumption through the day, through the year and between years. Major investments are currently being made in the power grid and will improve security of supply. Security of energy supply is vital in a modern society. Norway has abundant energy supplies but also needs to find good ways of responding to the growing demand for power.

Regulation by the authorities is intended to facilitate the development of new, effective solutions that will ensure security of energy supply in the future.

How is the Norwegian government involving local communities and stakeholders in the energy transition process, especially concerning renewable energy projects and improving air quality?

Consultations are always a part of the process when new legislation, guidelines, policies or projects are considered. These consultations always include all relevant stakeholders such as local authorities and communities, business organizations, civil society and others. Public consultations ensure that all stakeholders can gain knowledge of the proposals, share input and may also influence the final content of policies or legislation.



Interview with the Department of Energy Undersecretary

Hon. Felix William B. Fuentebella



Can you describe the current energy policy framework in the Philippines and how it aligns with the country's long-term sustainability goals?

Energy Strategic Directions

The Philippine energy policy framework is built on the foundation of *inclusive growth*, energy security, and environmental sustainability, in alignment with national development goals and international commitments. In line with this, the Department of Energy (DOE) has crafted its strategies based on the following guiding frameworks:

- 1. AmBisyon Natin 2040. The long-term vision for a prosperous, middle-class Filipino society, where every citizen enjoys a comfortable and secure life.
- 2. President's 8-Point Socio-Economic Agenda. The current administration's strategy as outlined in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 that aims to drive economic and social transformation, emphasizing job creation, poverty reduction, and access to affordable clean energy.
- 3. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) serves as reference for policies and programs in ensuring that the country moves toward a sustainable and resilient energy future.

Actualizing these frameworks guided the DOE in crafting the overall energy agenda that aims to facilitate access to affordable energy, secure a reliable and resilient energy supply, and transition to clean, sustainable, and climate-centered energy resources, coined as the ARC objectives.

ARC Objectives: Access, Reliability and Resiliency, and Clean Energy

To translate these broad visions into actionable energy policies, the DOE has structured its energy agenda around three core objectives:

· Access to Affordable Energy

- √ expanding electrification programs to achieve 100% household energy access, particularly in remote and off-grid areas.
- √ promoting public-private partnerships (PPPs) for energy infrastructure development, including microgrids and hybrid renewable systems.
- √ empowering consumers by implementing pricing and subsidy mechanisms to ensure energy remains affordable for all income groups.

Reliability and Resiliency

√ diversifying the energy mix to increase energy self-sufficiency by integrating more renewable energy (RE), natural gas, and nuclear power to

- reduce dependence on coal.
- √ timely completion of energy infrastructure projects to improve reliability and overall performance of the energy system.
- √ strengthening the power grid and development of smart transmission system to prevent power curtailments and improve reliability.
- √ enhancing the resilience of the energy infrastructure to withstand climate-related risks and natural disasters.

Clean, Sustainable, and Climate-Centered Energy Resources

- √ increasing the renewable energy share in the power generation mix to 35% by 2030, 50% by 2040, and more than 50% by 2050.
- √ development of port infrastructure as support to offshore wind (OSW) development.
- √ strengthening energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C)programs and adopting green technologies to reduce carbon emissions.
- v pursue alternative fuels and emerging technologies such as electric vehicles (EVs), hydrogen and its derivatives, energy storage systems (ESS), and small modular reactors (SMR).
- ✓ enforcing the moratorium on new coal-fired power plants (CFPPs) and encouraging the voluntary coal retirement and repurposing of CFPPs.

What specific initiatives is the Department of Energy implementing to promote the development and integration of renewable energy sources in the Philippine energy mix?

The Philippines established a robust legal and regulatory framework to attract and sustain foreign and domestic investments in RE. This framework, anchored on Republic Act (RA) No. 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008and reinforced by recent legislative and administrative initiatives, positions the country as an attractive destination for RE investments.

Provision of Fiscal/Non-fiscal Incentives

Under the RE Act, RE developers/service contractors benefit from fiscal and non-fiscal incentives designed to reduce project costs and ensure longterm profitability. Fiscal incentives include:

- √ 7-year Income Tax Holiday from the start of commercial operations;
- ✓ Duty-free importation of RE equipment for 10 years;
- √ Special realty tax rates capped at 1.5% and the ability to carry over net operating losses for seven years.

These measures ensure the Philippines' competitiveness to global investors looking to establish large-scale RE projects.

Non-fiscal benefits, on the other hand, further boost investor confidence. For instance, the government mandates priority dispatch of RE-generated electricity in the grid and enforces the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), requiring distribution utilities to source a minimum percentage of energy from RE sources.

Amendment of the RE-Act Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

In November 2022, the government amended the RE Act IRR, allowing 100% foreign ownership in the exploration, development, and utilization of indigenous RE resources such as solar, wind, biomass, and ocean or tidal. This policy shift significantly enhanced the Philippines' competitiveness in the region, leading to a surge in applications for RE service contracts and unlocking over 160 GW of potential capacity from renewable energy sources.

· Renewable Portfolio Standards

To provide a competitive market for RE and achieve our aspirational targets, the DOE has increased the RPS' annual incremental requirement from 1% to 2.52% starting 2023 for gridconnected areas. For 2024, 11.4% of the power supply of Distribution Utilities (DUs) and other participants should come from renewable energy.

· Offshore Wind (OSW) Development

The Philippines is making significant strides in streamlining OSW development projects through policy reforms and infrastructure investments. In 2023, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. issued Executive Order No. 21 mandating a whole-of-government approach to accelerate the approval process for permits, licenses, and clearances related to OSW projects.

Building on this directive, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued an Administrative Order in February 2024, outlining Interim Guidelines for granting Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs). These guidelines are designed to facilitate pre-development and exploration activities for OSW projects, ensuring a more efficient permitting process.

To further strengthen inter-agency coordination, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed in October 2024 between the DOE and DENR. This agreement grants access to offshore and auxiliary areas during the pre-development, exploration,

development, and commercial phases of OSW projects, while maintaining necessary environmental safeguards.

Recognizing the importance of infrastructure in OSW development, the Philippines is also actively investing in port facilities. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing technical assistance for pre-feasibility studies on 10 ports identified as potential hubs for OSW-related activities. Additionally, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) expressed full support to the DOE in initiating detailed engineering designs and repurposing three priority ports - Currimao (Ilocos Norte), Batangas (Sta. Clara, Batangas City), and Jose Panganiban (Camarines Norte). These ports will be equipped to handle the installation, commissioning, and operational needs of OSW projects, playing a crucial role in the development of offshore wind energy service contracts with a combined potential capacity of approximately 42 GW.

How is the Philippine government working to attract both domestic and foreign investments in energy infrastructure, particularly in renewable energy sectors?

Government efforts on the renewables sector has really gained ground. In December 2024, the Philippines ranked as the 2nd most attractive emerging market for RE investments in BloombergNEF's 2024 Climatescope Report. The improvement in just over a year speaks volume of the drive towards utilizing clean energy as the country placed 4th in 2023 and 20th in 2021. Moreover, the Board of Investments (BOI) reported that in 2024', PhP 1.62 trillion of investments were approved, with energy (particularly renewables) comprising PhP 1.38 trillion or 85% of the total investments. With the easing of foreign ownership restrictions in RE which was done in the early days of the Marcos Jr. Administration in 2022, the Department expects that more investments will come in.

Accordingly, some of the energy sector's policies and plans that have contributed and will continue to assist the renewables landscape are:

Implementation of the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop (EVOSS)

The implementation of RA 11234 or the EVOSS Act of 2019 further addresses common bottlenecks in project development. EVOSS centralizes and digitizes the permitting process, minimizing bureaucratic delays and ensuring transparency. This has streamlined the process of acquiring permits and licenses, reducing lead times, and improving investor experience.

Easing Foreign Ownership Limit in RE Projects

As of January 2025, the DOE awarded 92 OSW contracts with 69 gigawatts of potential capacity. Of these, 21 projects were awarded to foreign-owned companies with an aggregate capacity of 19.2 GW (8 out of 21 projects are fully foreign-owned companies with 5.07 GW while the remaining 13 are partially foreign-owned with 14.13 GW)

Implementation of RE Enabling Mechanisms

The Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP) adds another layer of incentives by enabling competitive procurement of RE capacity. Winning bidders secure long-term power supply agreements, providing market stability for investors. On 11 February 2025, the DOE successfully conducted the third round of the Green Energy Auction (GEA-3), resulting in 7,531 MW of RE capacity covering RE technologies not eligible for feed-in tariff (FIT) including impounding hydro, pumped storage hydro, and geothermal with delivery period from 2025-2035. On the other hand, GEA-4, which features integrated RE and storage system, as well as GEA-5 featuring OSW, are also targeted to be conducted this year.

Additionally, the government has proactively launched market-based mechanisms like the **Renewable Energy Market (REM)**, which facilitates trading of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). This initiative allows stakeholders to meet their RPS compliance obligations while driving demand for clean energy.

• Formulation of the Smart and Green Grid Plan (SGGP)

As part of the energy sector priorities, the DOE, in collaboration with the National Transmission Corporation(TransCo), has initiated the development of a Smart and Green Grid Plan. This plan aims to establish a comprehensive policy and framework to facilitate the timely implementation of transmission projects while ensuring the efficient operation of the transmission system. The SGGP is designed as a strategic blueprint for the development, deployment, and operation of a modern transmission infrastructure that supports the integration of clean energy sources and fosters a sustainable, reliable, and resilient power grid. The SGGP is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2025.

What measures are being taken to ensure equitable access to energy across different regions of the Philippines, especially in remote and underserved areas?

The Philippines is implementing several measures to ensure equitable access to energy across the country, with special focus in remote and underserved areas. Key initiatives include:

Missionary Electrification through NPC-SPUG

The National Power Corporation - Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) continues to provide electricity to off-grid areas through diesel, hybrid, and renewable energy solutions. Given the rising costs of fossil fuels, there is a growing emphasis on transitioning SPUG areas to RE-based microgrids.

NPC's hybridization program integrating solar PV, wind, and battery storage with existing diesel plants is being prioritized to improve energy security and reduce generation costs in isolated areas. The DOE and NPC are facilitating partnerships and investment incentives to scale up these efforts.

Microgrid and Distributed Energy Solutions

Under the Microgrid Systems Act (RA 11646), the government is accelerating the deployment of microgrid systems in unserved and underserved areas. This supports the entry of private sector players in delivering innovative and localized energy solutions, particularly using solar, wind, hydro, and battery storage technologies.

On 24 May 2024, the NPC and Maharlika Consortium signed a microgrid service contract (MSC) for the latter to develop microgrid systems for unserved and underserved areas in the provinces of Cebu, Quezon, and Palawan. The awarding of the MSC to the Maharlika Consortium is expected to benefit 4,487 households or 18,400 Filipinos.

National Total Electrification Roadmap (NTER) 2023-2032

The DOE is implementing the Total Electrification Program (TEP) to ensure the attainment of 100% household electrification by 2028, leveraging both grid extension and off-grid solutions. This includes partnerships with Electric Cooperatives (ECs) and private DUs to accelerate the provision of electricity access in unserved and underserved areas.

The NTER identifies four (4) key electrification strategies, as follows:

- √ Household Electrification Regular Connection
- √ Distribution Line Extension
- √ Stand Alone Home System (SAHS); and
- √ Microgrid System

How do public-private partnerships play a role in advancing energy projects in the Philippines, and can you provide examples of successful collaborations?

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as an arrangement significantly aids in advancing energy projects in the Philippines by bringing together government initiatives and private sector expertise, financing, and technology. These collaborations have been instrumental in expanding renewable energy capacity, improving rural

¹ Source: https://boi.gov.ph/boi-investment-approvals-soar-to-php1-62-trillion-setting-a-57-year-record-and-surpassing-2024-target/?appgw_azwaf_jsc=mixZjfknmQy4uXQ8U6ldbQcMEDbc6c4wWiLwmkL

electrification, enhancing energy transmission and distribution, and strengthening energy security and sustainability. By leveraging private sector investment, the Philippine government has been able to accelerate the deployment of critical energy infrastructure while ensuring long-term efficiency and innovation in the sector.

There are several successful examples of PPP initiatives in the energy sector and this includes the following:

Power Generation

The Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) Power Plant is a major energy infrastructure project in the Philippines, designed to enhance power generation and grid stability. Under this initiative, the private operator is responsible for financing, designing, building, rehabilitating, upgrading, expanding, commissioning, testing, operating, maintaining, and managing the CBK power complex. At the end of the cooperation period, the facility will be transferred to the NPC, ensuring continued public ownership and operation.

Implemented by NPC, the project follows a Build-Rehabilitate-Operate-Transfer (BROT) contractual arrangement, which allows private sector participation in modernizing and managing critical energy assets. Situated in Region IV-A (CALABARZON), the CBK power complex plays a vital role in the power sector, supporting the country's electricity demand and grid stability.

With an estimated project cost of PhP 22.50 billion (USD 450 million) at the time of approval, the CBK project was undertaken through an unsolicited procurement mode. The contract spans 25 years, after which the facility will revert to government control. Classified as a national project, it is operated by CBK Power Corporation, a private entity responsible for ensuring the efficient performance of the power plant.

Currently, the CBK Power Plant is fully operational, contributing to the country's energy security and reliability. Through this public-private partnership, the project has successfully leveraged private sector investment and expertise to rehabilitate and sustain a critical component of the Philippines' power infrastructure.

Transmission Sector

Another PPP initiative in the Philippine energy sector is the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), which operates and maintains the country's power transmission network under a 25-year concession agreement. This PPP model, structured as a concession arrangement, allows the private sector to invest in and manage critical infrastructure while ensuring government oversight through the

National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), which retains ownership of the assets.

Through this partnership, NGCP has undertaken extensive modernization and expansion efforts to enhance the efficiency, reliability, and stability of the national grid. By deploying advanced technologies, upgrading transmission lines, and implementing grid interconnection projects, supply security is being enhanced to address the increasing electricity demand. The private sector's involvement has also enabled faster decision making, improved operational efficiency, and better financial sustainability, reducing the burden on public resources.

Overall, these successful PPP models highlight how strategic public-private collaboration can drive infrastructure development, improve service delivery, and support the long-term goals of the Philippine energy

What are the main challenges the Philippines faces in transitioning to a more sustainable energy system, and how is the Department of Energy addressing these challenges?

Several key challenges hinder or delay the implementation of the energy sector's plans and programs for energy transition and these are:

- Access to Transition Financing. Energy transition requires substantial investments in areas such as grid modernization, low carbon power generation, technical assistance and capacity building initiatives. However, funding gaps persist, making international support and transition financing mechanisms crucial. Additionally, the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) commitment under the Paris Agreement targets a 75% GHG reduction, with 72.29% conditional on external funding and assistance.
- Problematic and underperforming Electric Cooperatives (ECs). Many ECs face financial mismanagement and operational inefficiencies, limiting their ability to provide reliable electricity service and slowing down the integration of RE within their franchise areas.
- Limited funding for Electrification Programs. Budget constraints and competing government priorities restrict the scale and pace of electrification programs, particularly in unserved and underserved areas.
- Geographical barriers. As an archipelagic country, the Philippines faces difficulties in infrastructure development, particularly in expanding and interconnecting transmission networks, which are crucial in providing electricity services to remote and far-flung areas.

- the attainment of the RE targets. Transmission RE projects. Grid congestion and interconnection RE capacities.
- Access to project financing (e.g., higher upfront The DOE also engages with bilateral and multilateral costs for emerging RE technologies such as OSW). Emerging RE technologies, such as OSW and floating solar, have high upfront costs, making it difficult for developers to secure financing.
- Intermittency of certain RE technologies (i.e., solar and wind). The variability of solar and wind energy affects grid stability, requiring additional investments in energy storage systems (ESS) and flexible generation technologies.
- Passage of priority Bills and Legislations. The timely passage of priority energy bills is critical to establishing clearer regulatory frameworks for investors. Delays in enacting laws impede sectoral reforms.

Despite these challenges, the Department remains committed in addressing these barriers through close collaboration with various energy stakeholders complemented by the issuance of relevant policies (e.g., Microgrid System Act, Renewable Portfolio Standards, GEAP, and other RE policy mechanisms) aimed to guide the energy sector in supporting the Marcos Jr. Administration's Socioeconomic Agenda and achieving a low-carbon future.

In what ways is the Philippine Department of Energy collaborating with international organizations or other countries to enhance its energy policies and practices?

The Philippine government through the Department of Energy is actively strengthening its energy policies and accelerating its transition to a more sustainable and secure energy future through strategic international collaborations. These partnerships, covering renewable energy development, decarbonization, capacity building, and investment mobilization, among others, ensure that the country's aspirational goals align with global best practices while addressing its unique energy challenges.

A key focus area for the DOE is the expansion of renewable energy and decarbonization. The Philippines is actively participating in the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Industry Decarbonization Program, which seeks to mobilize private sector investments to support industrial decarbonization efforts. At the regional level, the DOE is keenly collaborating with the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) to conduct research studies and formulate policy recommendations that guide the region's energy transition. This initiative aligns with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2026-2030,

Delays in transmission projects that hamper contributing to cross-border energy integration projects like the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East expansion has not kept up with the development of ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project bottlenecks prevent the efficient integration of new (LTMS-PIP), which enhances regional electricity trade and energy security.

> partners to advance the energy sector. The United States and Japan remain key allies in nuclear energy feasibility studies, grid modernization, and advanced energy technology adoption. Meanwhile, Australia plays a significant partner in energy trade, particularly in the coal sector, while also fostering cooperation in emerging technologies such as hydrogen development. Partnerships with the European Union (EU) and Germany have supported renewable energy expansion through policy development, capacity-building, and green technology deployment, including OSW development.

> The recent energy mission of the Department to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates served as a followup to the October 2024 mission as the objective was the signing of the Implementation Agreement (IA) with Masdar. The now signed IA with Masdar sets the stage for developing up to 1 gigawatt (GW) of solar, wind, and battery energy storage systems (BESS) across various regions in the Philippines by 2030, aiming to scale up to 10 GW within a decade with an estimated total investment of US\$ 15

> On technical assistance and capacity building, the DOE collaborates with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to develop roadmaps for RE expansion. On the other hand, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) are supporting the country's grid modernization and off-grid electrification to improve energy access in remote and underserved communities.

> Recognizing the importance of investment mobilization, the DOE is actively engaged in the Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM), an ADB-supported initiative that facilitates the early retirement of coalfired power plants while accelerating renewable energy investments. Additionally, the government is fostering PPP to attract international investors through mechanisms such as the GEAP, which promotes a competitive and transparent market for renewable energy projects.

> Through these strategic collaborations and partnerships, the Philippine DOE is reinforcing energy policies, enhancing energy security, and accelerating the transition to a more sustainable, resilient, and low-carbon future. By leveraging global expertise and financing, the country is positioning itself as a leader in clean energy adoption, ensuring that its strategic energy agenda remains aligned with national priorities and international commitments.



















Prime Infra leads push for a sustainable, secure energy future

spearheading the charge towards the Philippines' renewable energy (RE) transition powered by its large-scale critical infrastructure investments to the Department of Energy (DOE). across strategic locations nationwide.

Led by Chairman Enrique K. Razon Jr., Prime Infra sees the need for more investments in energy infrastructure to support the country's economic

"Energy is the foundation of any economy. With it comes energy supply, energy cost, and energy infrastructure, all of which are vital to national development," Razon said in an interview.

"The Philippines does not have a balanced energy supply and demand, highlighting the need for strategic investments in energy infrastructure," he added.

Guillaume Lucci, president and CEO of Prime Infra, said the Philippines faces a complex energy situation that involves issues in power generation, fuel supply, distribution, and transmission.

"There is a tremendous challenge between the energy transition objectives and making power more affordable," Lucci said. "Our vision is to shape a future where energy security uplifts lives and empowers communities."

Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc. (Prime Infra) is Coal accounts for most of the country's power generation mix at 62.5%, followed by RE at 22.2%, natural gas at 14.2%, and oil-based at 1.1%, according

> The Philippines is targeting to hike the share of renewables in its energy mix to 35% by 2030, and to 50% by 2040.

> RE accounts for 32.3% of the country's total installed capacity as of June 2025, but the highest share is accounted for by coal, at 41.9%.

> Recognizing this gap, Prime Infra is undertaking projects that support the country's RE transition and energy security objectives.

The company is also helping the Philippines reduce its dependence on imported fuel sources and lower the exposure to geopolitical tensions that puts the stability and affordability of power supply at risk.

"Ensuring energy security remains a priority, and we're focused on contributing to that goal," said

"A stable and sustainable energy supply is vital to supporting the company's long-term growth," he



Prime Infra subsidiary Prime Energy operates Malampaya, which supplies about 20% of Luzon's total electricity requirements.

Indigenous gas exploration, development

Prime Infra and its Service Contract (SC) 38 consortium partners are undertaking the Malampaya Phase 4 drilling project that aims to deliver new natural gas by 2026.

As contractor to the government, Prime Infra subsidiary, Prime Energy, is leading the drilling initiative, deemed an energy project of national significance, that comprises the Camago-3 and Malampaya East-1 production wells and the Bagong Pag-asa exploration well.

Malampaya, the country's sole indigenous gas field, supplies approximately 20% of Luzon's power requirements.

The USD893-million investment is the largest upstream investment in the Philippines in over a decade. It supports the national policy direction under Republic Act 12120 or the Philippine Natural Gas Industry Development Act that mandated the exploration, development, and utilization of domestic gas resources to lessen the dependence on volatile global markets and ensure stable energy supply.

"Malampaya is helping reduce our dependence on imported fuel, helping energy security and stabilizing electricity prices. It dampens the effect of the volatility of imported fuels on our electricity prices, leading to lower electricity costs," said Prime Energy President and CEO Donnabel Kuizon Cruz.

The SC 38 consortium, comprised of Prime Energy, UC38 LLC, PNOC Exploration Corp., and Prime Oil & Gas, Inc., has helped ensure a stable energy supply and contribute to national economic growth.

Malampaya has also generated over USD13.9 billion in government revenue in more than two decades of operations.

Prime Infra sees natural gas as a transition fuel in the shift to renewable sources and baseload power for energy security. In support of this, Prime Infra is acquiring a 60% equity stake in First Gen Corp.'s natural gas assets under a P50-billion deal.

The acquisition, which was recently cleared by relevant regulators and currently awaiting the close of other conditions, will see Prime Infra secure a controlling stake in First Gen's operating gas-fired facilities totaling more than 2,000 megawatts (MW), the proposed 1,200-MW Santa Maria plant, and an interim offshore liquefied natural gas terminal in Batangas.

The strategic partnership between Prime Infra and First Gen will help ongoing efforts to achieve the country's energy independence as well as a decarbonized and regenerative future.

Prime Infra is also developing two large-scale pumped storage hydroelectric power projects (PSPs), which will deliver energy storage that will enhance grid reliability by storing excess energy and ensuring stability during peak usage.

"RE is now affordable but delivering it takes serious infrastructure. That's why we invest in grid-scale solutions like PSPs, which stabilize the grid and ensure that clean energy reaches consumers," Lucci said

Ensuring power grid stability

PSPs help deliver a clean, flexible, and resilient power system by tapping the potential of hydropower and reducing the dependence on fossil fuels, according to the DOE.

Prime Infra subsidiaries, Olympia Violago Water and Power Inc. and Ahunan Power Inc., are embarking on the development of the 1,400-MW Pakil PSP in Laguna and the 600-MW Wawa PSP in Rizal, respectively.

The two PSPs, with a total investment valued at USD7.6 billion, are scheduled to begin commercial operations by 2030.

The projects were named winners of the third round of the Philippine government's Green Energy Auction (GEA-3) program, which seeks to attract more RE investments in support of the country's clean energy transition.

Including Prime Infra's PSPs, GEA-3 will deliver 6,677 MW of RE capacity between 2025 and 2035.

Both projects secured Certificates of Energy Project of National Significance from the DOE and received Green Lane endorsements.

The Wawa PSP, also a project of Prime Infra through WawaJVCo and Manila Water Company, Inc., is

integrated with the reservoir of the Upper Wawa Dam, the second phase of the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project, resulting into one of the biggest water and power industrial complexes in Asia once completed. The Pakil Project in Laguna meanwhile is touted as one of the largest PSPs in the world.

Multi-faceted approach

Aside from natural gas and PSPs, Prime Infra also has presence in the generation of solar power through wholly owned subsidiary Prime Solar Solutions Corp. that operates power plants in Tanauan, Batangas and Maragondon, Cavite.

The solar power plants, with a total capacity of 128 MW, power more than 84,000 households and displace more than 100,000 tons of coal per year.

Prime Solar has a 50-MW, 20-year power supply agreement with Manila Electric Co., and gives its remaining output to the grid.

"We are committed to creating a cleaner and sustainable future. By investing in RE, we're not just meeting today's energy needs but also shaping a growth path anchored in sustainability," Lucci said.

Lucci noted the importance of Prime Infra's energy projects, saying that these could have a domino effect in the Philippine economy if not finished on time.

Sustainable development

Prime Infra places strong emphasis on inclusive development as a key component of its strategy in developing energy infrastructure.

Through its corporate social responsibility arm Prime Infra Foundation, the company delivers various community-focused programs that complement its critical infrastructure initiatives. This approach ensures that economic progress is matched by meaningful social impact.

Ahunan Power and Prime Infra Foundation recently marked the third year of the Tayo na Pakil community development program focused on the education, environment, heritage, and wellness of thousands of Pakil residents.

Since its launch in 2022, the Tayo Na Pakil program has delivered health and resilience assistance to over 3,000 community members; funded 60 scholars of technical-vocational education; implemented school-based programs for more than 7,000 students; and provided support to about 100 trainees of livelihood and start-up capital programs.

Ahunan Power also recently developed an Php80-million Integrated Watershed Management Plan that will support watershed and forest conservation,

watershed protection, and water management of the Pakil River and Malaking Ilog-Tibag watersheds.

In Rizal, Prime Infra has started implementing the five-year Kilos Calawis social development program designed to boost economic growth for host communities.

The Kilos Calawis initiative focuses on areas such as education, health and sanitation, capacity building, environmental protection, and disaster preparedness. It facilitates behavioral transformation through structured capacity-building programs, while leveraging local resources and fostering a strong sense of community within the barangay.

Aside from sustainable energy, Prime Infra also has presence in other critical sectors such as water through key operating unit Manila Water and waste management through Prime Integrated Waste Solutions Inc. (PWS).

Manila Water now serves 7.8 million customers across the east zone of Metro Manila and Rizal province.

PWS operates modern materials recovery facilities in Pampanga and Cebu that focus on resource recovery to reduce waste deposited to landfills, resulting in decrease in methane gas production.

Through its critical projects in water, energy, and wastemanagement, Prime Infrais supporting efforts to secure dependable energy supply, benefiting customers and communities the company serve, and paving the way towards a more resilient and sustainable future for generations.



The photo above shows the lower intake of the 600-MW Wawa Pumped Storage Project, which is expected to help stabilize the electrical grid amid the country's RE transition. It is integrated with the reservoir of the Upper Wawa Dam, the largest water supply dam to be built in the Philippines in over 50 years.

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The Mandatory ESG Disclosures Redefining Philippine Energy

By Diana Rose A. De Mesa

The Philippines enters a pivotal phase in 2025 as sustainability shifts to a mandated standard. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) released draft rules requiring publicly listed and large non-listed companies to adopt PFRS S1 (general sustainability disclosures) and PFRS S2 (climate-related disclosures). Tier 1 firms with a market cap above P50 billion must comply by FY 2026, with initial reports due in 2027. Tier 2 and 3 companies will follow, positioning the Philippines among early adopters of the ISSB framework in ASEAN. This aligns with the Department of Finance's Climate Finance Strategy (CFS), which seeks to channel capital toward renewable energy, infrastructure, and agriculture. The Interagency Task Force on Sustainable Finance supports this by mobilizing local and foreign investors to align with national climate priorities.

Recent developments in the private sector underscore this momentum. Many organizations have committed to achieving net-zero emissions, with renewables targets set by 2030. Philippine

corporations are ramping up solar, wind, and hydro projects, while also advancing geothermal and natural gas developments, reinforcing their role in the country's energy transition. Equally important, this transition demands a just approach – ensuring reskilling of workers, wider access to clean energy, and inclusive growth alongside decarbonization.

However, challenges remain. Organizations face hurdles in measuring emissions, particularly across sprawling supply chains and customer use. Compliance costs for assurance and reporting also weigh heavily on medium-sized independent power producers.

2025 is the year when sustainability ceases to be optional. With new disclosure rules, accelerating green finance, and mounting investor expectations, ESG performance has become a competitive edge. Companies that integrate sustainability into their strategies will thrive, while laggards risk legal, financial, and reputational consequences.

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Guided by its circular economy model and sustainability agenda, the company integrates solar power, smart grid strategies, and water-saving initiatives to reduce its environmental footprint while creating long-term business value.



Renewables Powering Operations

Royal Cargo has converted three (3) cold chain sites to renewable energy, combining solar systems and clean power solutions. The move delivered doubledigit energy savings in the first month alone, with projections of doubling savings within two years. More importantly, it represents a significant step toward reducing carbon emissions and aligning with global climate goals.

A National First

Royal Cargo's LIIP Mamplasan facility became the <u>first cold storage site in the Philippines</u> to operate on solar energy, marking a major milestone in the local logistics sector's journey toward decarbonization.

At its North Hub facility in Bulacan, Royal Cargo implemented smart grid optimization, reducing contracted capacity by 20%. This not only improved cost efficiency but also strengthened precision monitoring—lowering demand on the power grid while ensuring reliable cold chain performance.



Water Conservation in Action

Beyond energy, the company champions water stewardship through leak detection, faucet upgrades, and daily conservation awareness. These measures have led to measurable reductions in overall consumption across its facilities.

A Culture of Green Commitment

"Our main color may be blue, but our commitment extends to a thriving green economy," said Michael Kurt Raeuber, Chairman and Group CEO. From facility design to procurement and operations, sustainability is deeply embedded in Royal Cargo's strategy.

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The combined technical expertise, stakeholder experience, and local and global best practices of our partners, Scatec of Norway and AboitizPower, make SNAP the ideal partner for growing businesses.

> With SNAP, customers are guaranteed with responsibly-produced energy that is Renewable, Reasonable, and Reliable.





SNAP-Benguet gathers host communities to redefine impact through ESG

brought together over 80 representatives from local government units (LGUs) and indigenous peoples' organizations (IPOs) for its annual Host Communities' Forum (HCF), anchored on the theme "Redefining Impact: ESG in Community Development."

This year's guest speaker, Aboitiz Foundation Chief Operating Officer Mardi Mapa-Suplido, emphasized how environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles are evolving from a corporate framework into a powerful driver of inclusive, accountable, and resilient community development.

SNAP Group President and Chief Executive Officer Joseph Yu reinforced this message, saying, "Redefining impact means building solutions that are resilient, inclusive, and future-ready. Through initiatives such as battery energy storage, hydro, and floating solar, we're shaping a sustainable energy future while ensuring that progress is shared with our host communities."

A key highlight of the forum was the presentation of SNAP's Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects. Earlier this year, the 40-MW Binga BESS 1 broke ground, the first in the Cordillera Administrative Region to reach financial close and begin construction. Two more facilities, Binga

SN Aboitiz Power-Benguet (SNAP-Benguet) BESS 2 and Ambuklao BESS, 40 MW each, are set to follow pending regulatory approvals. These projects demonstrate how innovation, guided by ESG commitments, can power communities while contributing to the country's energy transition.

> The forum also showcased the Barangay Health Care Clinic project in Barangay Tikey, Bokod, Benguet, implemented under the Department of Energy's ER1-94 program and SNAP's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund. In addition, through the ER1-94 program, the provincial government completed the construction of the Senior Citizen's Building in Kapangan, Benguet. Both projects directly contribute to improving the health and welfare of community members.

> Representing the host municipalities, Itogon Mayor Bernard Waclin and Bokod Mayor Eric Donn Ignacio expressed gratitude for SNAP's continued support. Mayor Ignacio said, "With this ESG framework in mind, we will deliver projects that have a lasting impact on our people." Mayor Waclin noted that the annual forum helps ensure that SNAP-funded projects are aligned with the needs of his constituents.

> The annual HCF once again served as a bridge for dialogue, collaboration, and accountability strengthening partnerships between SNAP and its host communities for a more sustainable future.



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German European School Manila (GESM)

When families choose a school, they look not only at academics but also at the environment their children will grow up in. At the German European School Manila (GESM), we believe the setting makes a world of difference.

Our campus is surrounded by quiet residential areas — a welcome contrast to the busy streets and high-rises of Metro Manila's business centers. Here, students learn and play in a space that feels safe, calm, and inspiring. With plenty of trees, open spaces, and a close-knit community atmosphere, it's an environment that encourages focus, creativity, and well-being.

At GESM, your child is not just another face in the crowd. We are a community where teachers and staff know the students personally, and where young people are encouraged to take ownership of their learning. From student-led projects to collaborative initiatives across grade levels, children are given opportunities to lead, create, and grow in a supportive environment. Parents often tell us how reassuring it feels to see their children not only learning but also developing confidence, responsibility, and empathy.



GESM parents, students, teachers and staff gather in the campus for the annual Welcome BBQ at the beginning of the school year.

Inside the classrooms, GESM offers much more than academics. Children begin learning German already in Kindergarten, add another foreign language (Spanish or French) by Grade 6, and can even explore a third in Grade 11. With nearly 50 nationalities in our student body and over 25 nationalities among our teachers, GESM is truly a place where languages and cultures come alive every day.



The campus features two pools, where GESM students swim as part of their sports program.

Sometimes, taking a little step away from the bustle means moving closer to what truly matters: a school where children can learn, grow, and discover their potential in peace.

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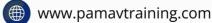
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Using industry-leading tools and methodologies, we provide a precise diagnosis of energy inefficiencies:

- Power Quality Analysis
- Infrared Thermography
- Load Data Loggers & Energy Meters
- Airflow and Pressure Sensors
- Combustion Analysis
- Simulation & Modeling Software and more.



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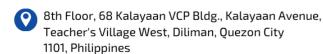


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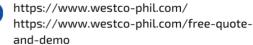
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The Emergence of Energy Storage in the **Philippine Market**

MATEC

In today's unpredictable energy landscape, many Philippine businesses have learned to operate with one eye on the grid and the other on the or long-term value are now coming back, this nearest backup plan.



The rise in brownouts, rising generation charges, and supply instability have pushed energy security from a technical concern into a boardroom conversation. And while solar energy continues to gain traction as a clean, cost-saving solution, one crucial piece is becoming harder to ignore: storage.

Energy storage is no longer a value-added feature; it's becoming a necessity. It gives businesses the ability to store excess solar power, avoid peakhour prices, and keep operations running even during grid interruptions. In industries where uptime means revenue, that reliability is no longer negotiable.

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At MATEC, our role has evolved in parallel with this shift. We no longer just install solar energy systems - we design energy strategies. That includes integrating storage where it matters most, tailored to how each business runs.

Energy challenges in the Philippines won't disappear overnight. But with the right system in place, businesses can do more than brace for impact. They can move forward with confidence, knowing they're built for resilience.

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SGV & Co. is the Philippines' largest multidisciplinary professional services firm with eight offices across the country. The Firm employs over 5,000 professionals from various disciplines who provide assurance, tax, strategy and transactions, and consulting services. SGV & Co. is a member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.



Lufthansa Technik Philippines

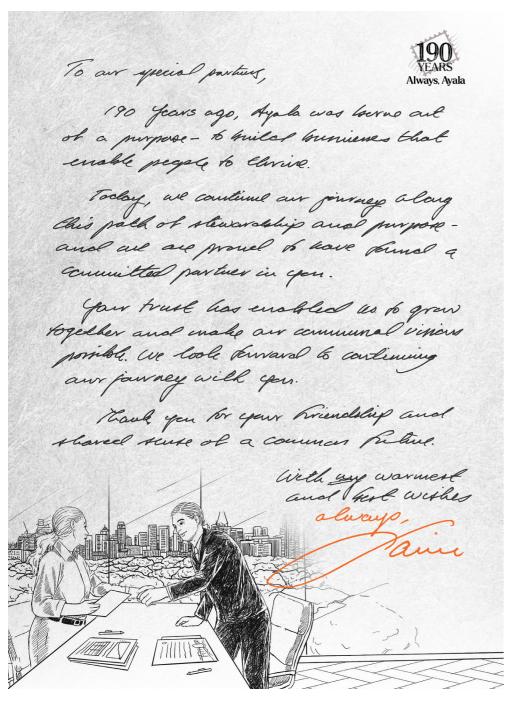
Celebrating 25 years of excellence in the Philippines, Lufthansa Technik Philippines (LTP)—ajoint venture between Lufthansa Technik AG and MacroAsia Corporation—stands as one of the country's largest foreign investors and a leader in aviation maintenance. With over 3,200 professionals and more than 1,000 Filipino workers from supporting partners, LTP delivers world-class maintenance for Airbus and Boeing aircraft, strengthening the Philippines' role in global aviation through an unwavering commitment to quality and safety.





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2025 Philippine Aviation Summit Positions Nation as Rising Regional Aviation Hub

2025 Philippine Aviation Summit concluded urgent need to modernize aviation infrastructure, on a high note after two days of dynamic streamline regulatory processes, and invest discussions, strategic collaboration, and high- in future-ready talent - all essential elements level engagement, reinforcing the Philippines' in securing the Philippines' place in the global trajectory toward becoming a premier aviation aviation landscape. hub in Asia.

Ballroom in Pasay City, the summit gathered government officials, top executives, regulators, and aviation experts — under the theme "Steady Flight: Philippine Aviation into the Global Arena."

Co-organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and the Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA) in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Department of Transportation, OnePH Aviation, and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, and co-presented by Philippine Airlines and Airbus, the summit featured keynote addresses, panel discussions, breakout session presentations, and networking opportunities more competitive." focused on key areas shaping the country's aviation future: infrastructure development, public-private partnerships, foreign investment, regulatory reforms, workforce development, and sustainability in aviation.

ECCP President Paulo Duarte opened the twoday event by delivering the welcome remarks where he highlighted the optimistic economic outlook for the Philippines. He stated, "Looking ahead, multilateral institutions project that the Philippines will remain one of Asia's fastestgrowing economies in 2025 and 2026." He emphasized that this momentum is a direct result of the enduring strength of Filipinos, the nation's young and dynamic population, and its strategic position as a vibrant hub for trade, tourism, and investment within the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, Duarte underscored the vital role of aviation in this growth story, noting that in an archipelago, air transport serves not merely as a mode of travel, but as a critical "lifeline of connectivity, commerce, and development" that links islands and regions.

Manila, Philippines — October 10, 2025 — The Throughout the summit, speakers emphasized the

One of the keynote speakers during the first Held on October 8-9, 2025, at the Marriott Grand day of the summit was Usec. Jim Sydiongco, Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports at delegates from across the globe, including senior the Department of Transportation (DOTr). He underscored the importance of the summit by stating, "Today's summit will provide us with the required and necessary inputs to improve the aviation sector, which stands to create significant economic activity and thousands of employment opportunities for Filipinos."

> During the first day, Philippine Airlines President Richard Nuttall shared the private sector's insights on the Philippine aviation industry. He stated, "Today marks a defining moment for our industry, a time to come together and plot a roadmap to make Philippine aviation stronger, forward-looking and

> Airbus Asia-Pacific President and Head of Region Anand Stanley continued on a positive note by saying that Airbus is deeply committed to the Philippines. He shared, "Airbus is committed to the rich talent of the Philippines and making sure that this is an aviation hub for the workforce. Airbus is committed to growing our industrial base and making sure that this is an industrial base for aviation in the region."

> As the keynote speaker for the second day of the summit, Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco of the Department of Tourism highlighted that aviation is a necessity in the Philippines. She stated, "For our archipelagic nation, aviation is not a mere luxury, it is a necessity. Every flight that touches_ down in and around the Philippines carries with it not just travelers, businessmen, and returning residents, but stories of opportunities, livelihoods sustained, and communities uplifted."

> Philippine Airlines Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Atty. Carlos Luis Fernandez asserted, "There is an urgent need

measured not just by how many flights it has but by its efficiency, reliability, seamlessness, and resilience. This is why the Philippines needs a single, coordinated national airport masterplan."

LTGEN Rozzano D. Briguez AFP (Ret), Deputy Director General for Operations of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, stated, "Each aircraft movement represents more than just the transport of passengers and cargo; it signifies the movement of people, ideas, and opportunities."

In his synthesis, LTGEN Raul Del Rosario AFP (Ret), Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), emphasized, "At the Civil -Aviation Authority of the Philippines, we recognize that the rapid growth of air transport represents both opportunities and responsibilities."

In his closing remarks Mr. Phil Balmer, Chairman of Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA), remarked, "With the Philippines' strategic location, young and skilled workforce, and growing aviation ecosystem, it has become one of the most promising markets in the region; and whether the conversation focuses on sustainable aviation fuel, digital identity, or resilient infrastructure, our consistent message remains that the future of flight depends on how well we work together."

As the aviation industry rebounds and repositions for long-term growth, the 2025 Philippine Aviation Summit has laid a strong foundation for collaborative action and strategic investment firmly positioning the Philippines for takeoff as a regional aviation leader.

The event was a major success, supported by a broad coalition of government agencies, industry leaders, and international partners. Philippine Airlines served as the Co-Presenter and Official Carrier, alongside Airbus as a Co-Presenter. Key government support came from the Department of Tourism, the Department of Transportation, One PH Aviation, and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

to strengthen the Philippine airport network to We are grateful for the invaluable event support remain competitive in the region. A true hub is provided by our Advocacy Partners, including the Delegation of the European Union, Advantage Austria, the British Embassy Manila, the Embassy of Finland in Manila, the German Embassy in Manila, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila, the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines, and the Embassy of Sweden in Manila. Their collaboration and commitment have greatly contributed to the success and reach of the event. Additionally, we acknowledge the crucial Advocacy Support from the Aerospace Industries Association of the Philippines, Inc., and Secure Connections.

> We also recognize our Silver Partner: Turkish Airlines, alongside our Bronze Partners: Cebu Pacific, SkyTrack, and Aboitiz Operating Airports. Furthermore, we acknowledge the support of our Networking Night & Booth Partners: Bases Conversion and Development Authority, Norwegian Special Mission, and Textron Aviation, as well as our Networking Night Partners: Aviation Concepts Technical Services Inc., Ocampo Manalo Valdez Law Firm, Tourism Promotions Board of the Philippines, PMFTC, and Wingbox Aviation Inc.

> Our appreciation further extends to our Booth Partners: Bermuda Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA), Clark International Airport Corporation, FedEx, and Indra Group for their active participation and engagement.

> Additionally, we recognize our Coffee Break Partner: Bertaphil, Inc., Marketing Partner: Prestige Planner, and Minor Prize Partner: AirAsia for their valuable support. We are grateful to our Media Partners: AVGeekPH, Aviation Updates Philippines, Business World, Port Calls, and The Manila Times for their comprehensive coverage. Finally, we thank our Venue Partner: Manila Marriott Hotel and Luncheon Partner: Newport World Resorts for their exceptional hospitality throughout the event.





















European-Philippine Business Dialogue 2025 Reinforces Momentum for Stronger EU-PH **Trade Relations**

Manila, Philippines - In a significant show of support for European investors, and there is no better time to deepen renewed momentum behind the European Union-Philippines our partnership than now." Free Trade Agreement (EU-PH FTA) negotiations, key stakeholders from the public and private sectors convened on 16 October 2025 at the 2025 European-Philippine Business Dialogue (EPBD) and European Investors' Night held at Raffles & Fairmont Makati City.

Organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC), this year's dialogue carried the theme "Keeping the Philippine Centrestage" – a reference to the country's increasing relevance as a vibrant hub for trade and investment in Southeast Asia.

As the flagship platform for high-level policy dialogue and investment promotion between Europe and the Philippines, the 2025 EPBD attracted a wide range of participants, including top-level executives, diplomats, government officials, and thought leaders. Key discussions centered around the resumption of the EU-PH FTA negotiations and the Philippines' role in driving inclusive, sustainable growth who share a common goal: "That is to help shape a more within the ASEAN region.

In his welcome remarks, ECCP President Paulo Duarte emphasized the significance of the upcoming trade discussions between the European Union and the Philippines. He stated, "As negotiations for the EU-Philippine Free Trade Agreement resume next week, the Philippines is at a crucial juncture to strengthen its trade, investment, relationship with one of its key economic partners."

Echoing this sentiment, European Union Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Massimo Santoro shared a message from the EU Delegation in Manila. He stated, "let's continue to work hand-in-hand, to build not just stronger economies, but also a shared future. One that is prosperous, green and inclusive." His remarks highlighted the EU's commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth, reinforcing the shared vision for a resilient and forward-looking partnership.

The dialogue sessions addressed timely topics including the EU-PH Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the future of EU-PH trade and investment relations, opportunities for European investors, strategies for enhancing investor confidence, the Philippines' spending priorities and fiscal policies, and private sector insights.

Bridging Continents, Keeping the Centrestage: The Philippines in the EU-ASEAN Trade Arena

In her remarks, Executive Director Evariste Cagatan of the Department of Trade and Industry - Board of Investments highlighted the Philippines' commitment to fostering stronger economic ties with the European business community. She affirmed the country's readiness to provide a supportive environment for foreign investors, stating, "The Philippines is ready to welcome and support you, our dear

Her message emphasized the strategic opportunities available in the country and encouraged European investors to take part in the Philippines' growth journey.

Launch and Handover of the 2025 ECCP Advocacy Papers

This year's dialogue also featured the launch of the ECCP's 2025 Advocacy Papers, the Chamber's flagship publication, which was distributed to key government offices and the heads of mission of European embassies in the Philippines. These papers highlight key policy priorities identified through extensive consultations with stakeholders and partners. It likewise reflects the Chamber's steadfast commitment to constructive engagement with our government partners.

ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein emphasized the collective effort behind this important initiative. He noted that the Advocacy Papers reflect the insights and recommendations of industry leaders and policy advocates competitive and sustainable business environment in the

Unlocking the Philippines' Economic Potential: The Role of Policy Reforms and Private Sector Growth

In her address, Hon. Lea Grace B. Salcedo, Deputy Director General for Operations of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), emphasized the government's commitment to creating a more efficient and investor-friendly business environment. She encouraged greater collaboration between the Philippines and its European partners, stating, "As we look into the future, we invite our European partners to deepen their engagement with the Philippines, whether it is renewable energy, digital transformations, healthcare, work education. There is a vast potential for collaboration."

Her message reflected ARTA's ongoing efforts to reduce bureaucratic barriers and promote ease of doing business as a key driver for economic growth.

In her keynote address, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman outlined the government's strategic spending priorities aimed at fostering a more competitive and resilient economy. She emphasized the importance of international collaboration and acknowledged the critical role of the European Union in supporting the Philippines' national development goals. "The EU is an invaluable partner of the Philippines in our Agenda for Prosperity. We look forward to our continued partnership in pursuing regional growth and security, fostering our shared values of transparency and accountability, and achieving our vision of a Bagong Pilipinas anchored on sustainability and inclusivity," she stated.

Secretary Pangandaman also expressed optimism about

































the potential for deeper collaboration between the public friendly business environment. and private sectors in driving inclusive growth and longterm progress. "I'm confident that together, we can promote economic expansion and move in a wide range of opportunities towards fulfilling our agenda for prosperity and the vision of the model Philippines," she added. Her message reinforced the government's commitment to transparent, efficient, and future-ready fiscal management as a key pillar in building a stronger and more inclusive economy.

In a session highlighting private sector insights, Mr. Michael G. Tan, Board Member of PMFTC Inc., underscored the importance of trust and collaboration in fostering inclusive growth, stating, "We believe that the EU and Philippine partnership can be a powerful force for good, enabled by mutual trust, fairness, and shared prosperity." His remarks reflected the private sector's strong support for deepening bilateral ties and promoting a business environment grounded in cooperation and long-term value creation.

Echoing the spirit of collaboration, Secretary Arsenio Balisacan of the Department of Economy, Planning, and **Development (DEPDev)**, highlighted the government's commitment to sustaining reforms that enhance the country's global competitiveness. He stressed the importance of partnerships among the government, private sector, and international institutions in achieving economic transformation. "Together with the private sector, our institute, and international partners, the Philippines remain steadfast in its commitment in building a dynamic, competitive, and inclusive economy, one that's future ready and full of opportunities," he stated.

In his remarks, Usec. Karlo Fermin S. Adriano, Undersecretary of the Fiscal Policy and Monitoring Group at the Department of Finance (DOF), highlighted the important role of sound fiscal policies in driving economic growth and creating a conducive environment for trade and investment. He acknowledged the longstanding cooperation between the European Union and the Philippines, and emphasized the need to continue building on this partnership to unlock future opportunities. "So tonight, as we commemorate the success of European-Philippine cooperation, let us look ahead with optimism and resolve to the new opportunities—and Nague Malic Magnawa and Associates (NMM) Customs that await us," he stated.

European Investor's Night

The European Investors' Night, held in the same evening, offered a more informal yet impactful networking platform, celebrating enduring business partnerships while fostering new connections across industries.

Both events underscored the shared commitment of European and Philippine stakeholders to creating a more predictable, sustainable, and inclusive business environment. As negotiations on the EU-PH FTA move forward, the outcomes of the 2025 EPBD are expected to play a key role in shaping the dialogue around future economic collaboration.

Delivering the keynote message on behalf of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Hon. Frederick D. Go, Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs, emphasized the Philippine government's unwavering commitment to creating a more attractive and investor-

He highlighted the administration's ongoing efforts to implement transformative economic reforms, noting, "The Philippines is pursuing the most open and liberal investment policies in our history. Streamlining processes, reducing operational barriers, and crafting strategies that foster investor confidence." His message reinforced the government's dedication to strengthening the country's position as a prime investment destination, grounded in transparency, efficiency, and long-term growth.

The 2025 European-Philippine Business Dialogue (EPBD) and European Investors' Night are organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC), in partnership with Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), and the Philippine Board of Investments (BOI).

We also recognize the invaluable support of a diverse group of partners and organizations. The IT & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) and the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI) served as Industry Partners, while PMFTC Inc. as the Gold Partner. Ayala Corporation, Concentrix, Elsal Ventures, HSBC, Lufthansa Technik Philippines, Pru Life UK, and SGV & Co. contributed as Bronze Partners.

The events are strongly supported by a network of Advocacy Partners, including the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, Embassy of Finland in Manila, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Manila, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Manila, Embassy of Sweden in Manila, Embassy of Ukraine in the Philippines, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Manila, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Manila, Embassy of Ireland in the Philippines, Embassy of Romania to the Philippines, and The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila.

The events also featured Booth Partners - GROW Inc., PNB, and Loft, with ADP proudly serving as the Table Top & Conference Kit Partner. B.Braun, Bureau Veritas, Coca-Cola Europacific Aboitiz Philippines, Jollibee Group, Nestlé, Brokers joined as Table Top Partners.

Advocacy is further bolstered by Advocacy Supporters -Advantage Austria, the British Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, the French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce Inc., the Italian Chamber of Commerce Philippines, the Nordic Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the Polish Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, and the Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

The events' prestigious venue partner is Raffles & Fairmont Makati, while leading media outlets The Manila Times, BusinessWorld, and the Philippine Business and News support the event as Media Partners.

Together, these esteemed partners played a vital role in the success of the 2025 EPBD and European Investors' Night, promoting collaboration and deepening business ties between Europe and the Philippines.

Advocacy Corner

Senate Committee on Labor, **Employment, and Human Resources Development Organizational Meeting** 4 September 2025

On 4 September, the ECCP attended the Organizational Meeting and Public Hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment, and Human Resources Development at the Senate of the Philippines in Pasay City.

During the meeting, the body discussed the pertinent issuesandpendingbillsinlinewiththenationalminimum wage, minimum wage increases, and establishing the standards for a living wage. Presiding over the dialogue was Senator Imee Marcos, Chairperson for the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment, and Human Resources Development. Also in attendance were Senator Raffy Tulfo, Senator Robinhood Padilla, Senator Risa Hontiveros, and Congressman Elijah San Fernando of the Kamanggagawa Partylist.

Present at the meeting to weigh in on the discussions were Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, Department of Economy,



Planning, and Development Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon, Ms. Maria Criselda Sy from the National Wages and Productivity Commission, Department of Trade and Industry Assistant Secretary Kristian Ablan, and Mr Adrian Cerezo from the Philippine Statistics Authority together with representatives from labor groups, academe, industry associations, and the private sector. ECCP Industry and Government Affairs Manager Joaquin Reloj attended on behalf of the Chamber.

Day 1 of the Inaugural Manila Strategy Forum of CSIS

9 September 2025

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines attended the Inaugural Manila Strategy Forum of the Center for Strategic and International Studies -Southeast Asia Program. The two-day forum, held at Solaire Grand Ballroom Paranague, brought together leading experts on foreign policy, geoeconomics, and technology to discuss the most pressing regional and global challenges.

The forum provides a platform for senior officials and experts to discuss issues of global trade tensions, shifting rules in the international order, investment opportunities on infrastructure, emergent technology, and Indo-Pacific alliance networks.









Opening Ceremony for the "Energy in Transition - Powering Tomorrow" Exhibit 9 September 2025

In line with the German Government's Strategy on Climate Foreign Policy, the German Embassy in Manila, in collaboration with the German Development Cooperation Agency, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and De La Salle University, is holding a dynamic audiovisual and interactive exhibit entitled "Energy in Transition -Powering Tomorrow," from 9-11 September 2025.

The German Federal Foreign Office and GIZ have collaborated to create a digital exhibit designed to promote energy transition, engaging and informing the Filipino public on the significance of the global energy transition. The exhibit will be brought to a university campus once again to continue to particularly raise awareness on the important issue of energy transition for a young audience.



ECCP Infrastructure Committee Meeting with BCDA Vice President Mr. Kenneth Peralta

16 September 2025

On 16 September 2025, the ECCP Infrastructure Committee, chaired by Mr. Reinier Dizon (President, Strategy and Business Development, Republic Cement Services, Inc.) and co-chaired by Dr. Sajith Edirisuriya (Senior Vice President, Head of Commercial, Holcim), convened at Spaces BGC for its latest meeting. The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), represented by Vice President Mr. Kenneth Peralta, presented updates on ongoing projects and investment opportunities in New Clark City and other developments under the BCDA. The discussion also highlighted avenues for partnerships, collaborations, and opportunities for the European-Philippine business community to participate in these infrastructure projects.

For more information about the Infrastructure Committee of the ECCP, you may reach out to Bernard Advincula via advocacy@eccp.com.



















Meeting of the ECOP TWG for Labor and Social Policy Issues (TWG LSPI)

16 September 2025

On 16 September, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) convened its Technical Working Group on Labor and Social Policy Issues, where the ECCP actively participated. Discussions focused on priority legislative measures in both the Senate and House of Representatives, including proposals on wage adjustments, and alien employment permits.

The group also reviewed newly issued Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Department Orders—specifically DO 248-25 and DO 247-25—alongside deliberations on recent Senate hearings and developments in the leadership of key labor committees. Representing the ECCP were Ms. Kyla Uy, Senior Advocacy Officer, and Ms. Atasha Bernardo, Advocacy Research Associate.



Closing the Gap Workshop 2025: Pathways to Practical Skills Development and Workforce Readiness

16-18 September 2025

On 16-18 September, the ECCP participated in the Closing the Gap Workshop 2025: Pathways to Practical Skills Development and Workforce Readiness in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This workshop is organised by the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package – Higher Education Programme (SCOPE-HE), in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT) of Cambodia.

It is the second in an annual series of workshops, which aims to deepen collaboration between the government, TVET institutions, and the private sector to ensure that graduates are equipped with the practical skills needed by the labour market.

Representing the Chamber at this workshop was ECCP Agriculture Committee Chairperson Ms. Ruth Novales. Ms. Novales also participated in last year's workshop which focused on mapping key employability challenges in the agri-food sector.





Navigating Asymmetric Threats: Cross-Regional Strategies for Europe and the Indo-Pacific

18 September 2025

ECCP attended the Stratbase Institute and European Council on Foreign Relations forum "Navigating Asymmetric Threats: Cross-Regional Strategies for Europe and the Indo-Pacific" held on 18 September 2025 at The Peninsula Manila. The forum convened security experts, government and military officials, diplomats, and academics to address pressing challenges in Europe and the Indo-Pacific. Discussions tackled shifting security dynamics under a new U.S. administration, the weaponization of international law, the protection of undersea cables, and the impact of emerging technologies such as AI, drones, and satellite connectivity.

Key speakers included Prof. Victor Andres "Dindo" Manhit, President of the Stratbase Institute; Mr. James Crabtree, Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations; National Security Adviser Hon. Eduardo Año; RADM Guillaume Pinget of the French Armed Forces in the Pacific; former Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio; Dr. Frédéric Grare of the Australian National University; Dr. Yoko Iwama of Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy



Studies; RADM Rommel Jude Ong (Ret) of the Ateneo School of Government; and Dr. Sherwin Ona of De La Salle University, among others.

Representing ECCP were Defense and Disaster Response Committee Chair and Airbus Helicopters Managing Director Jussi Hoikka; Airbus Defence and Space's Jose Maria Rosaryielle "JayAr" De Guzman; ECCP Advocacy Team's Defense Lead Bernard Errol Advincula; and Defense Support Austin Frederic Sy.

For more information about the ECCP Defense and Disaster Response Committee, please email advocacy@eccp.com.

ECCP Healthcare Committee Meeting 19 September 2025

ECCP convened its Healthcare Committee Meeting on 19 September 2025 via Zoom. The session, chaired by Dr. Teng Dioko and Ms. Wei Sun, gathered members from across the healthcare sector to discuss recent developments and priorities for the committee.

Highlights included key takeaways from the ECCP Healthcare Forum, industry updates on PhilHealth's GAMOT program, VAT-exempt medicines, HIV response, Universal Health Care integration, and the Department of Health's legislative agenda. Members also exchanged insights on regulatory challenges, healthcare access, and opportunities for stronger public-private partnerships.

For more information about the ECCP Healthcare Committee, please email advocacy@eccp.com.



















Strengthening Strategic Ties: Enhancing Cooperation between the Philippines and Ukraine

23 September 2025

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) attended the forum "Strengthening Strategic Ties: Enhancing Cooperation between the Philippines and Ukraine" held on 23 September 2025 at the Manila House Private Club, Bonifacio Global City.

Organized by the Stratbase Institute in partnership with the Embassy of Ukraine in the Philippines, the event gathered senior government officials, members of the diplomatic community, legislators from Ukraine, and policy experts from both countries to discuss shared security challenges and opportunities for deeper cooperation.

Representing the ECCP was Ms. Donna Artates-Colis, Country Director of Saab and Co-Chairperson of the ECCP Defense and Disaster Response Committee. Her attendance underscored the ECCP's support for platforms that advance dialogue on defense, disaster response, and international cooperation amid a rapidly changing global environment.



The forum highlighted common experiences between the Philippines and Ukraine as resilient nations confronting issues of sovereignty, maritime security, and territorial integrity. Discussions also covered defense modernization, lessons from Ukraine's experience in Crimea, maritime challenges in the West Philippine Sea, and future prospects for Philippines-Ukraine relations.

For more information about the ECCP Defense and Disaster Response Committee, please email advocacy@eccp.com.

Public Consultation Session on the Draft Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Konektadong Pinoy Act

24 September 2025

The ECCP joined industry associations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and international partners at the public consultation on the draft Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Konektadong Pinoy Act, held on 24 September 2025 at Harolds Hotel, Quezon City.

Representing the ECCP was Atty. Kathyrin Pioguinto, Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs.

The ECCP supports the effective implementation of the Konektadong Pinoy Act, which seeks to expand digital connectivity nationwide and strengthen the country's digital transformation agenda.

For more information about ECCP's ICT Committee and other advocacies, please email advocacy@eccp.com.



2025 World Coconut Congress: **Future-Proofing the Coconut**

24 September 2025

On 24 September, the World Coconut Congress (WCC) 2025 welcomed hundreds of delegates at the SMX Convention center, with participants coming from the Philippines and all over the world convening in support of the Tree of Life, the Coconut.

The premier event brings together key players along the coconut value chain, from producers, processors, policy makers, and investors. The event tackled issues that aim to ensure the resiliency of the Philippine coconut industry, for a profitable and sustainable future amidst an ever-changing and dynamic global landscape.

Representing the ECCP are Ruth Novales, Agriculture Committee Chair, Kyla Uy, Senior Advocacy Officer, and Atasha Bernardo, Advocacy Research Associate. ECCP Agriculture Committee Co-Chair Tom Van der Meulen of Control Union actively participated in the Congress with a booth highlighting support for the conference theme "Future Proofing the Coconut".





KII Session with TIEZA and Tourism Chairs 25 September 2025

On 25 September, the Department of Tourism (DoT), through the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), hosted a Key Informant Interview with the chairs of ECCP's Tourism Committee. The interview was held virtually and facilitated by Director Warner Andrada.

As part of TIEZA's consultations for the Philippine TourismInvestment Roadmap (2026–2040), the session aimed to gather insights from key stakeholders to help shape a long-term strategy for tourism investment. Committee Chairs Atty. Cenelyn Manguilimotan and Ms. Mariska Martha Olalo provided their insights on identifying investment priorities. The session was also centered on discussing policy and regulatory barriers, as well as strengthening the Philippines' competitiveness as a sustainable tourism destination.



The discussion reinforced the importance of collaboration between government and private stakeholders in creating an enabling environment for tourism investments. ECCP's active participation reflects its commitment to supporting policy reforms and strengthening the Philippines' position as a competitive tourism destination.

















Arangkada Philippines Investment Forum 2025

25-26 September 2025

On 25-26 September at the Marriott Grand Ballroom, the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC) organized the 14th edition of the Arangkada Philippines Forum. The event convened various public and private sector stakeholders to explore perspectives on promoting investments and business growth in the Philippines. The forum tackled various issues, specifically focused on the JFC's seven big winner sectors: tourism, agribusiness, infrastructure, manufacturing and logistics, critical minerals, creative industries, and Information Technology and Business Process Management (ITBPM).

The forum hosted several distinguished resource persons, including a video message from Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs Frederick Go and Department of Information and Communications Technology Secretary Henry Aguda. Additionally, the event hosted several exclusive business-to-government events as well as exhibitions from a variety of industries, local government units, among others.

The Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines is a coalition of the European Chamber of Commerce of the





Philippines, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines, the Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines, and the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters,

Trade Marks & Industrial Designs in the Digital Age: EU and Southeast Asia **Perspectives**

30 September 2025

On 30 September 2025, at Ascott BGC, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) participated in the public conference "Trade Marks & Industrial Designs in the Digital Age: EU and Southeast Asia Perspectives," organized by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) through the IP Key South-East Asia Project.

The conference provided a timely and in-depth examination of emerging challenges and opportunities in trade mark and industrial design protection amid rapid digital transformation, with particular focus on the European Union and Southeast Asia. As digital technologies continue to reshape global commerce, businesses and IP practitioners face increasingly complex issues on brand protection, design rights, online infringement, and cross-border enforcement. Discussions also touched on geographical indications and the prospective EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA).



Keynote presentations were delivered by Acting Director General Atty. Nathaniel Arevalo and Director IV Atty. Jesus Antonio Ros of the Bureau of Trademarks, along with Ms. Justyna Lasik of the EU Delegation to the Philippines. Insights were also shared by representatives from the EUIPO, Directorate General of Intellectual Property (DGIP) of Indonesia, National Tax and Customs Administration of Hungary, and the French Embassy in Thailand.

Representing the ECCP were Atty. Reena Mitra-Ventanilla, Chair of the IPR Committee; Bernard Advincula, Advocacy Research Associate; and Eric Monzon, Advocacy Intern.

International Monetary Fund Article IV Consultation with the Joint Foreign Chambers

29 September 2025

Last 29 September 2025, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) conducted the 2025 Article IV Consultation Mission with the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines. The consultation formed part of the IMF's annual assessment mission, which engages key government officials and major stakeholders to exchange views on the macroeconomic outlook, financial sector developments, and structural reform priorities.

Discussions covered the economic outlook for the remainder of 2025 and the medium term, the business environment, including regulatory issues and infrastructure, as well as perspectives on foreign direct investment (FDI) trends, geoeconomic fragmentation, and trade policy uncertainty. The dialogue also explored measures to improve labor market conditions and advance key structural reforms to sustain growth and competitiveness.



ECCP Attends National Data Dissemination Forum by PSA 13 October 2025

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) underscored the private sector's commitment to informed policy-making by attending the 2024 Occupational Wages Survey (OWS) and 2023/2024 Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment (ISLE) National Data Dissemination Forum on October 13, 2025. Represented by Bernard Advincula, Advocacy Research Associate, ECCP was present as an observer to gather and evaluate the latest national labor statistics essential for a competitive economy.

The PSA forum served as a crucial platform for disseminating high-impact labor statistics. Discussions focused on key findings from the OWS and ISLE, including detailed employment rates per industry, which are vital for gauging sectoral performance and labor needs. Furthermore, the data shared on workplace safety indicators and the analysis of gender pay gaps provide the necessary benchmarks for businesses committed to fostering safe and equitable work environments.



ECCP's attendance ensures that the Chamber's advocacy on labor competitiveness and standards remains grounded in facts, utilizing the OWS and ISLE data to guide its members and inform dialogues with the government toward a more sustainable and productive economic landscape in the Philippines.







ECCP and EU-ABC Convene European Business Mission to the Philippines

13-15 October 2025

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), alongside the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC), initiated a pivotal Philippine Business Mission this week, underscoring the strong and growing commitment of European investors to the Philippine market. Yesterday, October 13, 2025, the delegation held high-level meetings with key agencies focused on economic governance and trade, including the Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Customs (BOC), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

The strategic, multi-agency approach ensures that European capital and expertise are leveraged across all sectors. Today, October 14, 2025, the delegation focuses on strategic growth sectors by meeting with the Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs (OSAPIEA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of



Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev). The mission culminates tomorrow, October 15, with crucial engagements with the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Senate President, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and the European Union Delegation (EUD) in the Philippines.

This comprehensive engagement program reinforces European investor confidence in the Philippines' economic future. The mission will formally conclude with the European-Philippine Business Dialogue and European Investors' Night on October 16, solidifying the momentum and setting the stage for stronger trade ties and the swift progression of the highly anticipated EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

ECCP Meeting with the EU FTA Chief **Negotiation Team in Cebu**

20 October 2025

On October 20, ECCP President Paulo Duarte and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein met with the EU FTA negotiation team in Cebu.

The visit aimed to provide feedback, similar to the efforts made during the delegation's last visit in

The free trade agreement (FTA) between the Philippines and the European Union is anticipated to be the country's most comprehensive trade deal, encompassing areas such as government procurement, digital trade, energy and raw materials, as well as sustainable development.



DTI Ecommerce Office Convenes Town Hall Meeting on Trustmark

15 October 2025

The Department of Trade and Industry's E-Commerce Bureau (DTI-ECB) held a Town Hall Meeting with the theme "BIDA ANG KONSYUMER: Ensuring a Safe and Reliable E-Commerce Environment" on 15 October 2025 at the OSEC Conference Room, Filinvest Building, Makati City.

The event brought together representatives from the public and private sectors to exchange insights on strengthening consumer trust, safety, and accountability in the digital marketplace.

Representing the ECCP were Mr. Bernard Advincula, Advocacy Research Associate, and Ms. Kyla Uy, Senior Advocacy Officer, on behalf of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and other related committees.

In attendance were DTI Secretary Cristina Aldequer-Roque and other officers from the E-Commerce Office, who reaffirmed the Department's commitment to building a secure and reliable e-commerce ecosystem that protects both consumers and enterprises.



JFC Meeting with Department of Finance Undersecretary Charlie Mendoza

20 October 2025

The Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines met with Department of Finance Undersecretary Charlie Mendoza last 20 October in Manila. During the meeting, the group focused its discussion on the implementation of Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 5-2024.

Present at the meeting were Chris Ilagan,

Steve Winkates, Kazu Nomura, Mark Rabago, Atty. Alden Labaguis, Atty. Armie Evardone, Joshua Oyos, and Genny Marcial. Representing ECCP was Atty. Kathyrin Pioguinto, Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs.















Inside ECCP: Manila

Negotiation Skills Workshop

19 August 2025

Understanding the fundamentals and complexities of negotiation is essential in dealing with your customers and other stakeholders.

Understanding the fundamentals and complexities of Negotiation is essential in dealing with your customers and other stakeholders. On August 19, ECCP Competency Hub hosted another run of its best-selling Negotiation Skills Workshop held at Makati Diamond Residences. Mr. Clive Villanueva facilitated the training which covered both the fundamentals and the complexities of negotiation, equipping participants with practical tools and techniques to:

- Develop a structured approach to negotiation
- Craft and respond to proposals with confidence
- Handle objections and counter-offers effectively
- Navigate various negotiation tactics and avoid common pitfalls



Through a combination of lectures and activities, participants gained negotiation skills to apply in a professional context. Equip your team with expert negotiation tactics! This training is also available for in-house or exclusive sessions. For a formal proposal, email us at trainings@eccp.com. To learn more about our upcoming workshops and learning sessions, visit https://www.eccp.com/upcoming-trainings

Tax Info Session on Navigating VAT on Digital Services

20 August 2025

On August 20, ECCP in collaboration with Du-Baladad and Associates (BDB Law) organized a Tax Info Session on Navigating VAT on Digital Services held at SPACES World Plaza in BGC Taguig.

This in-depth session brought together professionals and key industry voices to explore the evolving VAT landscape on digital services in the Philippines. The event opened with welcome remarks and the introduction of the speaker by Mr. Paulo Duarte, President of ECCP.

Atty. Jomel N. Manaig, Partner at Du-Baladad and Associates (BDB Law), delivered the keynote presentation, offering expert insights on the fundamentals, implementation requirements, and compliance challenges of VAT on digital services.



Atty. Fulvio Dawilan, Managing Partner at BDB Law, moderated an engaging Q&A session where attendees were able to raise their concerns about the VAT on Digital Services. Atty. Dawilan also delivered the synthesis and closing remarks to cap off the event.

We extend our gratitude to Du-Baladad and Associates (BDB Law) and the participants who made this info session a success.

YPC Brains and Brews Quiz Night 20 August 2025

Pop Culture Showdown at the YPC Brains and Brews Quiz Night **

What a night! ECCP Young Professionals Committee (YPC) brought together pop culture fans for an unforgettable evening of trivia, laughs, and friendly rivalry at the Brains and Brews Quiz Night held at Manila House Private Members Club last August 20.

From Swifties and Marvel trivia to internet memes, everyone had a chance to shine across six exciting rounds of trivia covering the best of 2010s and 2020s pop culture.

YPC Chair Tricia Reposo together with Co-Vice Chairs Atty. Renz Ayongao and Diego Bautista, shared warm words of welcome to officially start the event.

Quiz Masters from Pop Quiz Manila led the trivia night, keeping the energy high and the competition fierce.



We also had some lucky winners walk away with exciting prizes — including vouchers from Feliz Hotel Boracay and Timezone

This night was all about bringing people together, sparking fun competition, and celebrating the unforgettable moments in pop culture.

Thank you to our venue partner: Manila House Private Members Club and prize partners: Feliz Hotel Boracay and Timezone Philippines.

ECCP Courtesy Visit Marks Renewed Partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines

29 August 2025

The ECCP recently paid a courtesy visit to Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines, reaffirming our long-standing relationship with the company that has been a valued member of the Chamber since 1979.

This visit marks not just a renewal of partnership, but a shared commitment to advancing key advocacies in Healthcare and Agriculture — sectors that are deeply rooted in the Chamber's priorities and mission.

The ECCP team is represented by Executive Director Florian Gottein, Director of Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan, and Industry and Government Affairs Manager Austin Sy. The team met with Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines representatives composed of Dr. Bin Wang, General Manager; Dr. Mike Banawa, DVM, Head of Animal Health; Jackie Cortez, Head of Market and Healthcare Affairs; Candy Ting, Communications Manager; and Meah Pacheco, Healthcare Affairs Manager.



















ECCP and Fluence Energy discuss deeper engagements to drive industry visibility

4 September 2025

On September 4, Mr. Dennis Lee, Business Development Manager of Fluence Energy, visited the ECCP office to explore deeper engagement with ECCP's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee.

The meeting laid the groundwork for a stronger partnership focused on shared priorities and longterm collaboration.

The ECCP team was represented by Mr. Joaquin Reloj, Industry and Government Affairs Manager, Ms. Canela



Reillo, Membership Officer, Ms. Shaireen Dayao, Member Relations Associate, and Ms. Martina Torres, Member Relations Associate.

Omoda & Jaecoo Philippines paid a courtesy visit to ECCP to explore partnership opportunities

4 September 2025

The discussion highlighted opportunities for partnership through the Automotive Committee, as well as upcoming events where Omoda & Jaecoo Philippines can showcase their vehicle lineup of EVs and gas-powered crossover.

Present in the meeting were (from L-R): Mr. Joaquin Reloi, ECCP Industry and Government Affairs Manager; Mr. Austin Sy, ECCP Industry and Government Affairs Manager; Mr. Reiner Venida, Omoda and Jaecoo Philippines Regional Sales Manager; Ms. Canela Reillo, ECCP Membership Officer; Ms. Shaireen Dayao, ECCP Member Relations Associate, Ms. Chay Tabara, ECCP Events Officer.



Future of Work Forum

4 September 2025

On September 4, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) through its Human Capital Committee, successfully held the inaugural 2025 Future of Work Forum at Dusit Thani Manila.

With the theme "People First: Strengthening the Workforce for a Future-Ready Economy", the forum brought together key industry leaders and stakeholders to discuss the critical intersection of human capital development and national growth, emphasizing the need to put people first.

The ECCP is proud to have brought key voices together in discussing the challenges and opportunities for the Filipino workforce.



The Chamber is grateful to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of this year's forum.

This forum is made possible with our Event Partners: IWG International Workplace Group, Wadhwani Foundation, Healthy Workplace, LHH, Step Inc.



EuroPH Connect • Issue 5 • 2025

ECCP Courtesy Visit with Maya 5 September 2025

The ECCP team paid a courtesy visit to welcome Maya as the newest member of the Chamber. The meeting focused on alignment in key advocacy priorities. Maya was represented by Mr. Toff Rada, Group Head of Corporate Affairs; Nick Wilwayco, Head of Public Affairs and Communications; and Jackie Diola, ESG Officer. Representing the ECCP were Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein; Director of Operations Ms. Gen Anaguita-Gatan; and Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs Atty. Kathyrin Pioguinto.



Effective Business Writing: Professionalizing Your Communication Skills

10 September 2025

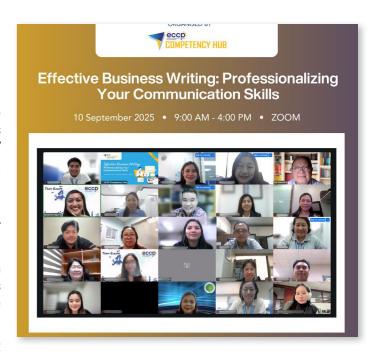
On September 10, 2025, the ECCP Competency Hub hosted the advanced session of "Effective Business Writing: Professionalizing Your Communication Skills."

From improving verb tenses, parallel structure, and punctuation, to fixing common writing mistakes. Participants got hands-on in breakout sessions, revising memos, letters, and more, leveling up their writing skills for the workplace!

This advanced course is designed to sharpen communication skills through targeted discussions and hands-on exercises helping professionals write with clarity, confidence, and impact.

Looking to enhance your skills and drive impact at work? Explore our upcoming training programs: https://www.eccp.com/upcoming-trainings.

This course is also available for in-house or exclusive company runs. To request for a formal proposal, please email trainings@eccp.com.









2025 Transportation Forum: Connecting the Philippines: Sustainable Transport, Safer Lives

11 September 2025

On September 11, the ECCP in partnership with Team Sweden successfully conducted the 2025 Transportation Forum at The Westin Manila.

With the theme "Connecting the Philippines: Sustainable Transport, Safer Lives", the forum gathered industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore innovative solutions for the country's evolving mobility landscape.

The ECCP highlighted its recommendations to expand the number of Motor Vehicle Inspection Centers (MVICs), broaden the implementation of the Child Car Seat Law, require Electronic Stability Control for passenger cars and Anti-Lock Braking Systems for motorcycles; and to promote dashboard camera installation and review car tint restrictions for both public and private vehicles to improve visibility and safety.

Throughout the day, speakers called for deeper collaboration between the government and private sector on areas such as: education of drivers, advancement of vehicle safety technologies, integration of smart transport infrastructure, and implementation of sustainable transport policies.

The ECCP is proud to have brought key voices together in discussing actionable strategies and shared commitments toward a safer, more sustainable, and inclusive transportation future for the Philippines.

This forum is made possible with our Co-Organizer: the Embassy of Sweden in Manila, Business Sweden and Co-Presenters: Bosch Philippines, Volvo Buses, Ayala Corporation, ACMobility, Axis Communications. We also recognize the support of our Advocacy Partners: Autohub Group, Royal Cargo, Republic Cement, Michelin, and Stratcon Philippines. We share our gratitude to our Media Partners: Carmudi, PortCalls, and The Manila Times.

The Chamber is grateful to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of this year's forum.

To view more photos, visit: https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCtP9T



ECCP meeting with Nague Malic Magnawa and Associates Customs Brokers

11 September 2025

On September 11, Nague Malic Magnawa and Associates Customs Brokers (NMM & Associates Customs Brokers) paid a courtesy visit to the ECCP to explore potential areas of collaboration.

The discussion focused on partnership opportunities through the ECCP Competency Hub's training programs as well as potential events partnerships for this year.

In the photo, (from L-R), are ECCP Member Relations Associate Ms. Shaireen Angeline Dayao, Competency Hub Officer Ms. Samantha Aguirre, Director of Operations Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan, NMM & Associates Customs Brokers Managing Partner Atty. Ferdinand Nague, Advisory & Partnership Manager Mr. Diomari Estor, Ms. Vanessa Mae Flores, and Mr. Andrei Nathaniel Banta.



Finance Demystified: A Comprehensive Course on Finance and Financial 12 September 2025

On September 12, 2025, the ECCP Competency Hub hosted "Finance Demystified: Comprehensive Course on Finance and Financial Management" in partnership with Human Resources and Innovations Solutions, Inc. (HURIS Inc.).

Participants guided by their facilitator, Mr. Juan Carlos Medina, President of HURIS took a deep dive into the fundamentals of corporate finance, learning how to read and analyze financial statements, interpret key financial data, and make informed business decisions with confidence.

Designed to equip teams with a basic yet powerful understanding of finance, this course helps professionals adopt an entrepreneurial and business management mindset, empowering them to drive better results within their organizations.

















Do Your Thing: Lead with Impact 15 September 2025

On September 15, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), in partnership with ING, hosted "Do Your Thing: Lead with Impact" at the Grand Hyatt, Bonifacio Global City — also marking ING Philippines' 35th year.

The forum brought together top business and finance leaders for bold conversations on authentic, agile, and purpose-driven leadership.

Highlights included:

Fireside Chat with Eugene Acevedo (author, former RCBC President & CEO) and Lenin Duenas (Managing Director, ING Bank Manila) on creating lasting influence.

Panel on "Leading Across Generations and Beyond" with leaders from Metrobank Foundation, Salmon Group, Globe Telecom, and SM Prime Holdings — exploring vision, empathy, and multigenerational leadership.



ECCP President Paulo Duarte closed the forum with a call for collaboration. This was followed by a reception celebrating ING's 35 years, led by H.E. Marielle Geraedts, Ambassador of the Embassy of the Netherlands in the Philippines.

Thank you to our speakers, partners, and attendees for making this event a success. Together, we champion leadership that drives purpose and impact.

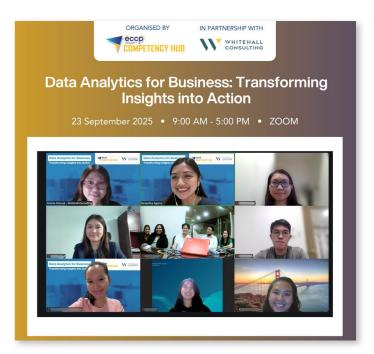
Data Analytics for Business: Transforming Insights into Action

23 September 2025

In today's fast-paced digital world, data isn't just numbers, it's the fuel behind innovation, strategy, and success.

On September 23, the ECCP Competency Hub in partnership with Whitehall Consulting hosted the high-impact e-learning session "Data Analytics for Business: Transforming Insights into Action," designed to empower professionals with the tools and insights to make data work for their organizations.

Participants guided by Ms. Arlaine Ostonal, explored practical methods to collect, clean, analyze, and communicate data effectively. Through handson exercises using real-world datasets including Facebook Analytics and Excel-based business data, they gained the confidence to turn raw information into meaningful, actionable insights. Whether optimizing operations, understanding customer behavior, or unlocking new growth opportunities, this course gave participants the edge they need in a data-driven world.



ECCP held its 8th edition of the ECCP Community Connect

18 September 2025

On September 18, the ECCP community gathered for the ECCP Community Connect, an afternoon of meaningful connections, fresh insights, and collaboration.

The event welcomed both new and long-standing members, highlighting ECCP's membership benefits, services, and ways to maximize their year with us. Attendees enjoyed lively exchanges, industry perspectives from our Session Partners, and networking overlight refreshments in a relaxed setting.

We are grateful to our venue partner Ascendion Philippines and our session partners Fortun Narvasa & Salazar, Global Schools Group, Phil Ecology Systems Corp., Retail Associates, and Seda Hotels for their invaluable support in making this event a success.

For more photos, visit: https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCuAVp



ECCP Luncheon Meeting with the Bureau of Customs Assistant Commissioner Vincent Philip C. Maronilla

30 September 2025

On September 30, the ECCP successfully held a luncheon meeting with Assistant Commissioner Vincent Philip C. Maronilla, spokesperson of the Bureau of Customs PH (BOC) and head of the Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG).

Assistant Commissioner Maronilla shared updates on BOC's current policies and insights on the BOC's drive to streamline customs processes and build stronger public-private partnerships. He reaffirmed the BOC's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement — all crucial for smoother, more resilient trade operations.

This was followed by a productive panel discussion, bringing together key perspectives on customs and logistics. The discussion featured Assistant Commissioner Vincent Philip C. Maronilla of the Bureau of Customs, Atty. Ferdinand A. Nague, Managing Partner at Nague Malic Magnawa and Associates Customs Brokers, and Atty. Mark Anthony Tamayo,



Chair of the ECCP Customs and Logistics Committee and Partner at Mata-Perez, Tamayo and Francisco.

The insightful exchange was moderated by Atty. Alden Labaguis, ECCP Vice-Chair of the Customs and Logistics Committee and Tax and Financial Services Committee, and SGV/EY Partner specializing in tax and customs advisory and advocacy services.

The ECCP Luncheon Meeting with the Bureau of Customs is organized with the support of Nague Malic Magnawa and Associates Customs Brokers (Event Patron) and Jollibee Group (Table Top Partner).















The ECCP, the Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines, and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) successfully concluded a three-day trade mission to Camarines Sur

1-3 October 2025

The ECCP, the Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines, and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) successfully concluded a three-day trade mission to Camarines Sur from October 1–3, 2025.

Led by H.E. Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin, Ambassador of Denmark; ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein; and CIP Head of External Affairs Jasper Manlapaz, the mission explored collaboration opportunities in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and regional economic development.

The delegation met with Camarines Sur Governor LRay Villafuerte Jr. and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo, and engaged with local business groups such as CamSur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CSCCI), and Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) to strengthen ties and promote green investments and inclusive growth in the Bicol Region.

Photo Credits: Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines





Dynamic Dining: Dialogue on Strategic Food Service Business 22 October 2025

On October 22, ECCP in partnership with Retail Associates, hosted the first installment of their Roundtable Wine Tasting Series entitled, Dynamic Dining: Dialogue on Strategic Food Service Business – an exclusive roundtable discussion that brought together hospitality, restaurant, and food service

together hospitality, restaurant, and food service leaders to share experiences, exchange ideas, and tackle industry challenges.

From engaging discussions to a curated wine tasting experience, the event was focused on connecting, learning, and shaping the future of the food service industry.

The ECCP, together with Retail Associates, is grateful for the active participation and valuable insights from all attendees — your perspectives truly made the dialogue dynamic!

Stay tuned for the next round of our Roundtable Wine Tasting Series happening soon.

For more photos, visit: flic.kr/s/aHBqjCyoRL.



Luncheon Meeting with the Department of National Defense Secretary Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr.

23 October 2025

On October 23, the ECCP hosted an exclusive Luncheon Meeting with the Department of National Defense Secretary Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr. at Makati Diamond Residences. The meeting provided a platform to discuss the Philippines' defense, security, and resilience priorities amid evolving geopolitical challenges and economic growth — just as the country prepares to assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2026.

Secretary Teodoro highlighted the importance of awareness and preparedness in tackling internal and external security threats, emphasizing that gaps in knowledge and skills can compromise national defense.

A panel discussion also took place, featuring Asec. Augusto V. Gaite (DND-Defense Technology Research and Industry Development Office), Asec. Jeffrey C. Hechanova (DND-Strategy and Policy), Ms. Agata Nowicka (Deputy Head, Delegation of the European Union in the Philippines), Dr. Robin Michael Garcia (CEO & President, WR Advisory Group), and Mr. Jussi Hoikka (Chief Country Representative & Managing Director, Airbus Helicopters). The discussion focused on opportunities for enhancing Philippine-EU defense collaboration, advancing the local defense industry, and strengthening strategic partnerships in the sector.

The event brought together senior government officials, European business leaders, defense and technology stakeholders to explore avenues for stronger collaboration and regional stability.

The ECCP Luncheon Meeting with the Department of National Defense was organized with the support of Dole PH (Event Supporter), Airbus Helicopters (Event Patron), Saab (Table Top Partner), Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (Table Top Partner).

















ECCP Meeting with Slovenian Ambassador Dr. Smiljana Knez

27 September 2025

On October 27, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, together with ECCP Director of Operations Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan and Dr. Mei Ling Quezon (Senior Consultant for Advocacy and Projects), met with Her Excellency Dr. Smiljana Knez, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Philippines.

The meeting centered on exploring potential areas of cooperation between the ECCP and the Embassy of Slovenia in Manila / Veleposlaništvo Slovenije v Manili, particularly as Slovenia continues to establish and strengthen its presence in the Philippines.

Ambassador Knez serves as Slovenia's first resident ambassador to the Philippines, following the official opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Manila in March 2025 — Slovenia's first and only diplomatic mission in the ASEAN region.



Inside ECCP: Cebu

SEB Courtesy Call with Cebu Provincial Government

4 September 2025

On September 4, the Start Up Ecosystem Builders (SEB), with ECCP Cebu as one of its core members, held a courtesy meeting with the Cebu Provincial Government, facilitated by Provincial Administrator Atty. Ace Durano. Discussions centered on how the province can support Cebu's startup ecosystem by addressing key challenges and unlocking opportunities for growth. SEB aims to strengthen its role as the province's leading startup support system and a driver of economic development.



ECCP Coffee Mornings with the MSMEs: Connecting Opportunities on Trade, Investment & Growth Between the Philippines and Europe 5th Run

9 September 2025

A productive morning spent over coffee and conversations!

The ECCP Cebu Branch successfully hosted the fifth run of Coffee Mornings on September 9 at WorkNook, Base Line Center, bringing together MSME owners and business leaders for meaningful dialogue. Facilitated by Mr. David Thomas, Co-Founder and Managing Director of APAC Financial Services, the session focused on lead generation—a key challenge identified by most attendees—while also exploring opportunities in cross-border trade, investments, and venture growth. We extend our sincere appreciation to all participants for their valuable insights and look forward to continuing these engaging discussions in future sessions.

















ECCP Business Council Meeting with Slovenian Ambassador

15 September 2025

On September 15, the ECCP Cebu Business Council had the privilege of meeting with Her Excellency Smiljana Knez, Slovenian Ambassador to the Philippines, at JEG Tower. The discussion centered on providing Slovenia with deeper insights into Cebu's dynamic business environment and identifying potential areas for collaboration.

ECCP Cebu is honored to have engaged directly with Ambassador Knez and looks forward to fostering stronger ties that support mutual growth and cooperation.



2025 Visayas Joint Foreign Chambers Mixer

19 September 2025

The 2025 Visayas Joint Foreign Chambers Mixer gathered members of the diplomatic corps, foreign chambers, government, and the business community in Cebu for an evening of dialogue, networking, and collaboration. The event served as a platform to exchange ideas, strengthen cross-sector partnerships, and explore opportunities for deeper international engagement. It underscored the vital role of global cooperation in driving economic growth and fostering a dynamic business environment in the Visayas.



The Central Visayas Investment Gateway (VIG) 2025

17-19 September 2025

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Business Delegation officially commenced the Visayas Investment Gateway (VIG) in Central Visayas with a series of meetings and site visits across Bohol and Cebu aimed at fostering trade, investment, and partnership opportunities. In Bohol, engagements with the Provincial Government, BCCI, Tagbilaran LGU, BISU, and Panglao LGU, as well as visits to Uptown IT Hub and Amarela Resort, highlighted the province's economic potential in sustainable tourism, innovation, and infrastructure development. The Cebu leg included courtesy visits to the Provincial Government of Cebu and the Talisay Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing local industry growth and international linkages. Through the VIG, the ECCP reaffirmed its commitment to bridging European and Philippine enterprises, supporting regional competitiveness, and advancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the Visayas.



Geeks On A Beach 2026

1-3 October 2025

ECCP Cebu, together with its members Eastern Communications, JEG Realty Corp., Isla Lipana & Co./ PwC Philippines, Humble Sustainability, Hiverooms, and other fellow Startup Ecosystem Builders, took part in this year's Geeks on a Beach (GOAB), the country's premier tech and startup conference known for blending serious conversations with a relaxed, creative atmosphere by the sea.

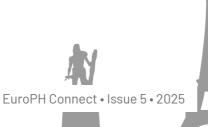
Bringing together innovators, founders, investors, and changemakers, GOAB featured an engaging lineup of masterclasses, workshops, networking sessions, product demos, and pitching events that fostered collaboration and inspired bold ideas. The event once again proved that innovation thrives where business meets the beach.



















ECCP Coffee Mornings with the MSMEs: Connecting Opportunities on Trade, Investment & Growth Between the Philippines and Europe 6th Run 7 October 2025

An insightful morning spent over coffee and conversations!

On October 7, the ECCP Cebu Branch hosted the sixth run of Coffee Mornings at the Mandani Bay Show Gallery, bringing together MSME owners and leaders for a dynamic exchange of insights. Guided by Mr. David Thomas, Co-Founder and Managing Director of APAC Financial Services, the discussion centered on identifying key challenges within participants' businesses, with lead generation emerging as the predominant concern. The session provided a valuable platform for sharing strategies and fostering collaboration among the local business community. We extend our appreciation to Mandani Bay by HTLand, Inc. for their partnership and to all attendees for their active engagement.



Dinner with H.E. Yuliia Fediv 17 October 2025

ECCP Cebu, together with Embassy partner and ECCP Member Mr. Curtis Go, Vice President of JI Printers, Inc., hosted Her Excellency Yuliia Fediv, Ambassador of Ukraine, to an evening of authentic Cebuano cuisine at House of Lechon. Also present was Mr. Tom van der Muelen, ECCP Agriculture Advocacy Committee Co-Chair and Managing Director of Control Union Philippines. The dinner fostered meaningful discussions on potential collaborations between Cebu and Ukraine, particularly in agriculture, alongside broader opportunities in trade and cooperation. ECCP reaffirms its commitment to bridging international relations and business linkages, with gratitude to House of Lechon for the memorable Cebuano dining experience.



ECCP Business Council Meeting with Ukrainian Ambassador 16 October 2025

ECCP Meets Ukrainian Ambassador, Her Excellency Yuliia Fediv

On October 16, ECCP Cebu Business Council leaders and stakeholders welcomed Her Excellency Yuliia Fediv, Ukrainian Ambassador to the Philippines, at Mandani Bay Show Gallery. Discussions highlighted Ukraine's post-war recovery efforts and economic growth initiatives, with both sides exploring opportunities for academic partnerships, tourism, and labor exchange. The meeting also touched on potential collaborations in agriculture, technology, and the creative industries. ECCP Cebu reaffirmed its commitment to advancing these initiatives through business matching, government coordination, and participation in investment platforms that strengthen Philippine–Ukrainian ties.



Series of Meetings with H.E. Yuliia Fediv 17 October 2025

ECCP Cebu participated in a series of meetings with HE Yuliia Fediv, Ambassador of Ukraine, marking a historical milestone as part of Ukraine's first regional business mission in the Philippines. The Ambassador's visit included courtesy calls with the Mayor of Cebu City, Mayor of Lapu-Lapu City, Mayor of Cordova, and the Provincial Governor of Cebu, as well as a courtesy meeting with the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI). These engagements opened doors for deeper collaboration between Ukraine and Cebu, strengthening diplomatic and business linkages between the two regions.



















PH-EU FTA Stakeholders' Consultation 22 October 2025

ECCP Cebu took part in the PH-EU FTA Stakeholders' Consultation held this morning at Dusit Thani Mactan. The session featured Ms. Dora Correia, EU Chief Negotiator, Ms. Justyna Lasik, Head of the Economic and Trade Section at the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, and Usec. Allan Gepty of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The consultation served as an important platform for dialogue among government officials, industry stakeholders, and business leaders to discuss progress and opportunities under the Philippines-European Union Free Trade Agreement (PH-EU FTA), reinforcing the shared goal of strengthening trade and investment ties between the Philippines and the EU.



Luncheon Meeting with H.E. Ambassadordesignate Vladislava lordanova of Belgium 28 October 2025

ECCP Cebu welcomes Belgian Ambassador-designate Vladislava lordanova for a luncheon meeting to discuss strengthening Philippines-Belgium relations and exploring trade and investment opportunities. The event features remarks from key figures and a networking session. This luncheon serves as a valuable platform for dialogue, partnership, and cooperation toward advancing trade, investment, and shared growth between Belgium and the Philippines.



Inside ECCP: CDO

ECCP Northern Mindanao and Capitol University Strengthen Ties at Knowledge Festival 2025

27 September 2025

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines – Northern Mindanao (ECCP-NM) once again partnered with the Capitol University Graduate School for the Knowledge Festival 2025, held at the CU GLSR Theater in Cagayan de Oro City. Now on its seventh year, the annual event has become a dynamic platform for dialogue, learning, and collaboration among educators, students, and industry leaders. This year's theme, "Mental Health and Holistic Well-being as a Pillar of Sustainable Development," underscored the importance of fostering resilient individuals and communities as a foundation for long-term growth and productivity.

Beyond the discussions, the Knowledge Festival also marked the renewal of Capitol University's ECCP membership, symbolizing the ongoing partnership



between academia and industry in advancing professional development and capacity building. ECCP-NM, led by its Business Council Chairperson Mr. Jaime Rafael Paguio, reaffirmed its commitment to bridging education and enterprise through training programs, knowledge-sharing activities, and collaborative initiatives. The enduring partnership between ECCP and CU continues to strengthen Northern Mindanao's human capital and innovation ecosystem, nurturing globally competitive professionals prepared to meet the evolving demands of today's industries.

ECCP NorthMin Attends the 2nd Mindanao Infrastructure Summit

23 October 2025

The ECCP - Northern Mindanao (ECCP-NM) was invited by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) to participate in the 2nd Mindanao Infrastructure Summit held on October 23, 2025, at the Xavier Sports & Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City. The summit served as a strategic platform to discuss key infrastructure priorities and collaborative opportunities for advancing sustainable development across Mindanao. MinDA extended ten (10) exclusive slots to ECCP-NM members, recognizing the Chamber's active role in promoting regional business growth and public-private partnerships. The event gathered government leaders, private sector representatives, and development stakeholders to share insights on connectivity, logistics, and investment readiness. Through this participation, ECCP-NM reaffirmed its commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen Mindanao's infrastructure and competitiveness in the national and global arena.

















ECCP NorthMin Conducts a Workshop on **Leading Different Generations**

28 October 2025

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines - Northern Mindanao (ECCP NorthMin) successfully conducted a virtual workshop titled "Leading Across Generations: Strategies for Workplace Success" on October 28, 2025, via Zoom. The session, facilitated by Ms. Heidi Grace P. Mendoza, Dean of the Graduate School at Capitol University, gathered professionals and business leaders from various industries to explore effective leadership approaches in managing a multi-generational workforce. Participants engaged in discussions on bridging generational gaps, fostering collaboration, and maximizing the strengths of each age group in the workplace. The workshop provided practical insights and strategies to enhance communication, motivation, and productivity across diverse teams. This initiative formed part of ECCP's Competency Hub series, reaffirming the Chamber's commitment to continuous learning and leadership development among its members and partners within and out of Northern Mindanao.



Iligan City Hosts Investors' Cocktail to Strengthen Business and Development **Partnerships**

28 October 2025

The City Government of Iligan, through the Local Economic Development and Investment Promotions (LEDIP) Office, hosted the Investors' Cocktail on October 28, 2025, at D'Orchard, Bara-as, Brgy. Tubod, Iligan City. The casual yet elegant gathering brought together Iligan's valued investors, business leaders, and development partners in a relaxed and collaborative atmosphere. The event served as an avenue to strengthen relationships, share insights, and celebrate collective efforts in driving Iligan's sustainable economic growth. Participants enjoyed meaningful conversations and networking opportunities that highlighted the city's thriving investment climate and future prospects. The evening reaffirmed Iligan City's continued commitment to building strong partnerships and fostering inclusive local development.



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Courtesy Visit with Holy Cross of Davao College

8 September 2025

On September 8, ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein, together with ECCP SMBC Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta paid a courtesy visit to Holy Cross of Davao College (HCDC).

ECCP was warmly welcomed by Bro. Noelvic Deloria, S.C., HCDC President, and Ms. Sheryl Urdaneta, Head of the Center for Linkages, Internationalization, and Language Studies.

The meeting highlighted HCDC's continuous support for ECCP and provided updates on their institutional projects. The ECCP also gained more information about HCDC's Ambassador Lecture Series and discussed possible collaborations, including an information and learning session with the ECCP Education Committee and other academic institutions.



ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Meeting

8 September 2025

The ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council successfully held its meeting last September 8, 2025 at the Board Room of Holy Cross of Davao College.

With more than 20 participants in attendance, the session featured insightful discussions and presentations, including a keynote by Mr. Rodel Bariquit of Davao Light and Power Co. on the Net Metering Process, as well as updates on the BAEP-CRESCENT Program led by SMBC Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta.

The meeting opened with welcome remarks from Bro. Noelvic H. Deloria, S.C., President of Holy Cross of Davao College, and a message from ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein. This was followed by updates on ECCP Southern Mindanao's 2025 initiatives.

The afternoon concluded with engaging industry updates, open discussions, and networkingstrengthening collaboration among members of ECCP Southern Mindanao.











Industrial Site Visit - Anflo Industrial Estate and HEAD Sport Philippines 9 September 2025

On September 9, ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein, together with ECCP SMBC Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta, visited the Anflo Industrial Estate in Panabo City.

The ECCP was welcomed by Mr. Ricardo Lagdameo, President of Damosa Land, Inc., for discussions on business opportunities and the estate's ongoing expansion as a strategic hub for industry and manufacturing in Mindanao.

The visit also featured a tour of HEAD Sport Philippines' Panabo facility, led by Mr. Vasyl Goshovsky, Deputy General Manager. The facility is setting a global benchmark in tennis ball production—sourcing 100% of its rubber locally and supplying 40% of HEAD's worldwide requirements directly from the Philippines. This world-class operation highlights how Mindanao's industries are making their mark on the global stage.



Apo Agua Site Visit

29 September 2025

On September 29, the ECCP delegation conducted a site visit to Apo Agua Infrastructura, Inc. in Davao City. The visit began with a comprehensive briefing by the Apo Agua team, who provided an overview of the company, its operations, and its role in delivering sustainable and reliable bulk water supply for Davao

Following the presentation, the delegation was given a guided tour of the facility led by Mr. Ronnie Lim, Vice President - General Manager of Apo Agua Infrastructura, Inc. Mr. Lim shared valuable insights on the scale of the project, its innovative approaches, and its significant impact on ensuring water security in the region.

This visit reflects ECCP's continuing efforts to foster meaningful engagements with key industry players and to support initiatives that advance sustainable infrastructure and development in Mindanao.







The ECCP delegation, led by Executive Director Florian Gottein, paid a courtesy visit to the Department of Trade and Industry Region XI. The delegation was welcomed by Regional Director Romeo L. Castañaga and Assistant Regional Director Rachel Remitio.

Discussions focused on the economic landscape of Mindanao, with emphasis on trade and investment opportunities, business competitiveness, and the region's growth potential. Both sides also exchanged insights on strengthening industry development and private sector engagement.

The meeting opened possibilities for future collaboration between DTI and ECCP in promoting sustainable growth and positioning Mindanao as a competitive hub for business and investments.



The Third Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting for the Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Program (BAEP)

30 September 2025

The 4th Bangsamoro Agri Enterprise Program (BAEP) Project Steering Committee (PSE) was held on September 30, 2025 in Davao City and was chaired by the Hon. MAFAR Minister Abunawas L. Maslamama and co-chaired by the EU Delegation Head of Cooperation, Dr. Marco Gemmer. The EU BAEP Crescent project which is implemented by ECCP was represented by Florian Gottein (Project Director), Gerry Constantino (Project Manager), Tony Peralta (BARMM Program Coordinator) and Jake Almanzor (Senior Project Officer). The meeting agenda covered project updates from BAEP TA and 6 implementing partners, the approval of the 3rd BAEP progress report, the inclusion of BPDA in the PSC and the discussion on responses by the PSC members.

EU BAEP Crescent is a European Union-funded project under the Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Program (BAEP) implemented by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) that aims to promote a peaceful, cohesive, secure, and inclusivelydeveloped Bangsamoro by supporting rural and value chain development to boost agriculture and rural enterprises.















Mindanao Development Forum (MDF) 2025 1-2 October 2025

On October 1–2, 2025, the Mindanao Development Forum (MDF) 2025 brought together key stakeholders at Dusit Thani Davao to advance the Building a Better Mindanao Program.

Organized by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), this two-day conference gathered government agencies, the BARMM Government, development partners, private sector leaders, civil society, academe, and community representatives to share strategies and forge partnerships for Mindanao's development.

ECCP Davao also participated in this significant event, engaging with partners from various sectors and supporting conversations on strengthening public-private collaboration for a more inclusive and sustainable Mindanao.



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New Members Corner

Premium Member



Boehringer Ingelheim (Philippines) Inc.

Improving the health and quality of life of humans and animals is the goal of the research-driven pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim. The focus in doing so is on diseases for which no satisfactory treatment option exists to date. The company therefore concentrates on developing innovative therapies that can extend patients' lives. In animal health, Boehringer Ingelheim stands for advanced prevention.

Family-owned since it was established in 1885, Boehringer Ingelheim is one of the pharmaceutical industry's top 20 companies. Some 50,000 employees create value through innovation daily for the three business areas: human pharmaceuticals, animal health and biopharmaceuticals.

In the Philippines, Boehringer Ingelheim was officially incorporated on December 7, 1966. It has been in operation for more than 50 years marketing both human and animal health products many of which are among the leaders in their categories.



CI NMF (PH) CORP.

Copenhagen Offshore Partners (COP) is a world leader in offshore wind project origination, development, and construction. COP is accelerating the energy transition through development of a 50+ GW project portfolio. An industry pioneer, the group is leading project development in new markets, including four projects currently under construction – Changfang Xidao and Zhong Neng in Taiwan, Vineyard Wind 1 in the United States and Jeonnam 1 in Korea. COP also specializes in system integration capabilities, including power-to-x. COP's expert team are advancing projects across 17 offices in Europe, Asia Pacific, and the Americas. COP is a proudly independent company owned by its management.

Regular Members



ACCIONA Construction Philippines Inc

ACCIONA is a global leader in sustainable infrastructure and renewable energy solutions, headquartered in Spain and operating in more than 40 countries. For over a century, the company has been delivering projects that combine innovation, engineering excellence, and environmental stewardship to address some of the world's most pressing challenges, from clean water access to renewable energy generation and sustainable transport systems.

ACCIONA Southeast Asia, based in the Philippines, serves as the company's regional hub, managing transformative projects in water, transport, construction, and renewable energy. In the Philippines, our flagship works include the Malolos-Clark Railway Packages 02 and 04 and (S02) in Manila as part of the NSCR Project, the iconic Cebu-Cordova Link Bridge, the award-winning Laguna Lake and Poblacion Water Treatment Plants, and the ongoing East Bay 2 project. In Vietnam, we are delivering the Nhieu Loc Wastewater Treatment Plant, while in Hong Kong we designed and built the largest and first desalination plant at Tseung Kwan 0, now under operation and maintenance.

With sustainability at the core of its business model, ACCIONA integrates environmental, social, and economic value in every project, creating infrastructure that connects people, powers economies, and safeguards the planet for future generations.

For more information: https://www.acciona.com/



TOUCHCORE SOLUTIONS, INC

Touchcore Solutions Inc. was founded in 2016 by its current President/Chief Executive Officer Ma. Concepcion S. Julian and Vice-President/Chief Operating Officer Gilbert S. Torres. At that time, they sought to establish a company that will ensure a "customer-centered organization" that is efficient and responsive to client needs.

Julian and Torres along with other incorporators who are also industry leaders with more than 20 years of experience in various fields such as data center, telecoms, manufacturing, healthcare, and academe converged as they embarked on the establishment of the company founded on commitment to genuine service, unwavering passion and commitment to excellence.

Though Touchcore is a young organization, the trust of our partners and collaborators ensure dynamic approach for the best options for projects catering to specific individual client needs.



FUCHS LUBRICANTS (PHILIPPINES) INC.

Founded in 1931 as a family business in Mannheim, FUCHS is lubrication solutions, covering almost every industry and application. Today, the company's 6,000 employees in over 50 countries still share the same goal: to keep the world including the Philippines. moving both sustainably and efficiently.

To live up to this claim, we think in terms of perfection, not merely standards. When developing individual solutions, we enter into an intensive customer dialogue - acting as an experienced consultant, innovative problem solver and reliable team partner.

The resulting solutions meet the highest technological requirements - and help our customers to reduce operating costs and emissions. FUCHS lubricants reduce friction, wear and energy consumption. In this way, they help to reduce the CO2 footprint in the application. They are a central component of many sustainable technologies of the future. Because at FUCHS, sustainability is not just an empty phrase, but an attitude - and thus the basis and aspiration of all entrepreneurial activities.



E.R. Analyst Philippines, Corp.

ERA Group is a global cost management and optimization now the world's largest independent supplier of innovative consultancy. Our international capabilities are powered by our local knowledge and insights, thanks to our dedicated specialists in countries and regions all over the world,

> Many of our consultants have developed expertise and skills from careers in supplier industries, providing knowledge and experience that is not available to most procurement teams or business owners.

> Working with various stakeholders throughout our client organizations, we go to great lengths to analyze the current expense situation, understand key requirements, and source a solution that meets quality and service criteria.

> The result is improved financial flexibility for your business, helping you to gain a competitive advantage.



Rhenus Logistics Philippines

Rhenus Logistics Philippines is part of the Rhenus Group, one of the leading logistics specialists with global business operations and annual turnover amounting to EUR 8.2 billion. With 41,000 employees working at 1,330 business sites in more than 70 countries, Rhenus develops innovative solutions along the complete supply chain. In the Philippines, Rhenus offers integrated logistics solutions that connect businesses locally and globally through reliable, innovative, and customer-focused services.



Sodexo On-Site Services Philippines Inc.

Sodexo was created in 1966 in Marseille, France. Today, it is a global leader in sustainable food and facilities management.

The company operates in 45 countries with over 430,000 employees serving 80 million consumers daily. Their massive range of Facilities Management and food services includes everything from tech-driven cleaning and equipment engineering to energy management and environmental services and offering institutional food.

Sodexo's customized solutions help institutions improve the quality of life of their employees and contribute to economic, social, and environmental progress in the communities where they operate. From hospitals to schools to corporate campuses, Sodexo creates environments where people feel valued, motivated, and inspired to perform at their best.

Sodexo in the Philippines started operations in 2013; since then, it has made significant progress in one decade. It has business across the nation with over 3,200 employees across the Country.

Associate Members



Unilab, Inc.

Unilab, Inc., commonly known as Unilab, is a Philippine pharmaceutical company headquartered in Mandaluvong, Metro Manila. It specializes in a wide range of consumer healthcare products such as prescription and over-the counter medications, vitamins and food supplements, and biotechnology.



Unilab Foundation Inc.

Unilab Foundation, Inc. (ULF) is the corporate foundation of Unilab, Inc. Its purpose is to create a productive and equitable environment for development by: (1) supporting evidence-based policy initiatives for universal health care; (2) implementing impactful programs that improve the mental health and wellbeing of Filipinos; and (3) nurturing STEM education and skills among teachers, learners, and the workforce, supported by quality management and operational processes that are effective and efficient.



May Pharma and Medical Supplies Trading

Committed to helping the Filipinos.

Established in 1993, May Pharma is a duly registered organization specializing in the distribution of certified and licensed pharmaceutical and medical supply products, all of which are licensed for their safety and efficacy. To date, our organization has been in its 32 years of productive existence, defined by our core ideology to preserve life.

Our products range from injectables and infusions, per orem medicines, topical preparations, vaccines, medical supplies and devices, medical equipment, maintenance medications, geriatric and rehabilitation support.

ACLogistics

An Ayala Company



May Pharma and Medical Supplies Trading

MSpectrum, Inc. is the solar energy subsidiary of the Manila Electric Company (Meralco), one of the Philippines' largest power providers, backed by over a century of energy industry expertise. As part of the Meralco Group, MSpectrum benefits from seamless integration with the grid, strong safety practices, and robust support systems.



Viajero Rent A Car

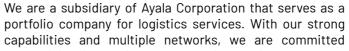
Viajero Rent-A-Car was founded in 2008. It has a fleet size



PNI INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

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INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER AND RECRUITMENT AGENCY



AC Logistics

to providing innovative supply chain solutions that help businesses grow and succeed. Our platforms and solutions are designed to make logistics operations easier, more

efficient, and more reliable.

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Envi-Comm Corporation

Envi-Comm Corporation is an environmental consulting corporation composed of individuals passionate about sustainable development through compliance with various environmental regulations and the institutionalization of in-house environmental conservation and sustainable development programs and systems.



Aviair Aviation School, Inc.

Aviair Aviation School is a flying school accredited by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines and the Bureau of Immigration to provide pilot training courses from Private Pilot License to Commercial Pilot License and Instrument Rating. Our goal is to get our students primed and ready for airline and corporate aviation jobs. Aviair Aviation School is headed by Capt. Antonio Halagueña, a retired airline chief pilot with over 36 years of experience with airlines both here and abroad. He is joined by our faculty of experienced pilots and professional staff who are fully dedicated in bringing out the best in our students and helping them achieve their goals in aviation.



Pioneer Insurance and Surety Corporation

Pioneer Insurance & Surety Corporation, established in 1954, is the flagship company of the Pioneer Group and one of the Philippines' leading non-life insurance providers. Headquartered at Pioneer House, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, the company offers a comprehensive range of insurance products including fire, marine, motor, aviation, engineering, casualty, surety bonds, and microinsurance. With decades of expertise, Pioneer has earned a strong reputation for underwriting large and complex risks while maintaining financial stability and reliability, reflected in its multi-billion-peso asset base. Guided by its core values of Humanity, Excellence, and Integrity, the company is committed to delivering innovative, responsive, and accessible insurance solutions to Filipinos across the country. Its expansive branch network in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao ensures that individuals and businesses alike are protected from life's uncertainties. As part of the broader Pioneer Group, which also includes life insurance and other financial service subsidiaries, Pioneer Insurance continues to uphold its vision of providing security and peace of mind to its clients while contributing to the growth and resilience of the Philippine insurance industry.



Comrise, Inc.

Comrise, Inc. offers a range of services that are designed to support businesses to achieve their goals in the global market.

At the core of our expertise is our ability to provide customized solutions that are tailored to each client's unique recruitment goals. We have a team of highly skilled professionals and we leverage their expertise to help our partners navigate the complex landscape of offshore business.

Comrise is equipped to deliver high-quality solutions through our strategic approach, globalization, digital transformation, and a global network of recruitment experts. With our advanced technologies and methodologies, we ensure the highest level of efficiency and our commitment to providing excellence in the offshore business.



SECURED BANK, INC., A RURAL BANK

Secured Bank, Inc., A Rural Bank, is a privately held financial institution headquartered in Cagayan de Oro City. Founded with a mandate to promote inclusive banking, the Bank is committed to trust, transparency, and the long-term financial well-being of the communities it serves.

Operating under the supervision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Secured Bank provides a range of deposit and consumer loan products tailored to the needs of individuals and families across Northern Mindanao. Its services are designed to foster financial resilience, support responsible borrowing, and expand access to formal financial systems in both urban and rural areas.

Foreign-Based Member



Reflex Marine

"Reflex Marine is a global expert in development, design and manufacturing of crew transfer equipment, between vessels and offshore structures for any operation at sea. Our products are being used in the offshore energy industry, ports, offshore civil engineering projects and defence.

Based in the UK, we export 95% of our products to over 80 countries across all continents. Asia is our second biggest market.

Our main priority is crew safety, and for over 30 years we have been developing a range of carriers using patented, one-of-a-kind technology. The carriers are unique in the market having the ability to float and self-right in water.

We offer an integrated package with our products, including risk assessments, training, servicing and maintenance for as long the product is in use. To make sure support is as efficient as possible, we have a worldwide service network of partners who are licensed to provide maintenance support. This ensures that any immediate need for parts or repairs is solved as swiftly as possible through the closest service network.

Individual Members



Ms. Gregoria Ruth Novales
President/CE0
Gregoria Ruth Novales Management Consultancy Services



Ms. Gia Veloso
Director
Geoprojects Inc / Women in Infrastructure Foundation Inc WIFI

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NOVEMBER



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BEYOND THE BASICS: ADVANCED CORPORATE EVENT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN | via Zoom

> ECCP LUNCHEON MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN JOSE MANUEL ALBA 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Manila House Private Club Inc., Taguig

23RD EUROPEAN GOLF TOURNAMENT 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM | The Orchard Golf & Country Club, Dasmariñas

NETWORKING EVENT THE WELLNESS EDGE: VITAL WOMEN, VISIONARY **LEADERS** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Nezda Technologies, Inc., Makati City

TRAINING SESSION MANAGING FILIPINO TEAMS: EXPAT'S GUIDE TO CREATING EFFECTIVE WORKFORCE 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM | InCorp Philippines, Marajo Tower, Taguig

THE STRENGTH OF A NATION: RESILIENCE THROUGH **DEMOCRACY A SPECIAL LECTURE WITH UKRAINIAN** JOURNALIST NATALIYA GUMENYUK 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Cebu City (TBA)

TRAINING SESSION ACHIEVING OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS WITH LEAN SIX SIGMA YELLOW BELT TRAINING 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN | Colliers Philippines, Makati City

MINDANAO-EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ROUNDTABLE 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM | SEDA Abreeza, Davao City

UNDERSTANDING PHILIPPINE TAXATION FOR **BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM | InCorp Philippines, Taguig

TRAINING SESSION STRATEGIC HR LEADERSHIP: DRIVING SUCCESS THROUGH RECRUITMENT AND TALENT MANAGEMENT 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN | InCorp Philippines, Marajo Tower, BGC Taguig

BRIDGING THE AISLES: DIALOGUE ON SMARTER RETAIL BUSINESS 5:00PM - 9:00PM | Dr. Wine Poblacion, Makati

TRAINING SESSION TRAIN THE TRAINER November 20-21 | InCorp Philippines, Marajo Tower, BGC Taguig

BUILDING TRUST, FIGHTING FRAUD: SAFEGUARDING THE DIGITAL MARKETPLACE 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM | SPACES World Plaza BGC

TRAINING SESSION MS EXCEL ADVANCED SKILLS FOR BUSINESS 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Via Zoom

TRAINING SESSION

LEADING GEN Z PINOYS WITHOUT MICROMANAGING: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR **MANAGERS** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City

DOING BUSINESS IN THE PHILIPPINES: INVESTMENT-**READY LOCATIONS & PEZA** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM | via Zoom

HIGH-IMPACT PRESENTATION SKILLS: STORYTELLING, CONFIDENCE, AND AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | via Zoom

TRAINING SESSION EXPORTING FOR GROWTH: MAXIMIZING EU-GSP+ TO 24 **BUILD A GLOBAL MINDANAO** 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM | via Zoom

MELODIES OF A HEROIC NATION: A CONCERT OF 24 UKRANIAN MUSIC TARAS FILENKO LIVE **PERFORMANCE** 24 - 25 November | Cebu City

IETWORKING EVENT **ECCP COMMUNITY CONNECT** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Ayala Triangle Gardens Tower 2, Makati City

TRAINING SESSION CYBERSECURITY READINESS FOR ORGANIZATIONS: AM I CYBERSECURED?

20TH JFC NETWORKING NIGHT 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm | The Bellevue Manila, Muntinlupa

TRAINING SESSION

8:30 AM - 12:00 NN | Makati City (TBA)

STRATEGIC TURNAROUND MANAGEMENT: REVITALIZING AND REBUILDING SUSTAINABLE **ENTERPRISES** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Hayat Sky Towers Cebu

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2025- 4Q

OCTOBER

15-17 ASEAN CERAMICS

Ceramics

Bangkok, Thailand (IMPACT Exhibition & Convention Center)

GAMESCOM ASIA X THAILAND GAME SHOW

Games & Entertainment

Bangkok, Thailand (Queen Sirikit National Convention Center)

26-29 IDD COLOGNE

Homes and Hospitality

Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

28-31 CEMAT ASIA

Materials Handling, Automation Technology, **Transport Systems and Logistics**

Shanghai, China (Shanghai New International Expo Center)

tlacSEA 2025

Logistics, Mobility, IT and Supply Chain Management

Singapore, Singapore (Sands Expo & Convention

NOVEMBER

5-8 BAU CHINA

Building Systems, High-end Tech and

Shanghai, China (Shanghai New International Expo Centre)

GLASSTECH ASIA & FENESTRATION ASIA

Glass and Facade

Jakarta, Indonesia (Indonesia Convention Exhibition)

ART COLOGNE

Cologne Germany (Koelnmesse)

9-15 AGRITECHNICA

Agricultural Machinery

Hanover, Germany (Hanover Exhibition Center)

18-21 PRODUCTRONICA

Electronics Development and Production Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe

CLIMATE JUSTICE MEETS CLIMATE

ACTION The ICJ Ruling and the Philippines' Race

Hybrid - SMX Aura, Metro Manila

ISPO MUNICH

Global Sports Community

Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

1ST CLIMATE-PROOFING SMES **BOOTCAMP**

Climate Action

Hybrid | Details to be updated

DECEMBER

INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION **SAUDI ARABIA**

> **Solutions for Industrial Transformation** and Innovation

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center)

2026- 1Q

JANUARY

13-15 SOURCE FASHION

Fashion Sourcing

London, United Kingdom (Olympia London)

19-22 DOMOTEX

Flooring & Interior Finishing

Hannover, Germany (Hannover Messe)

20-23 IMM COLOGNE

Interior Design

Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

TBA NET ZERO ACTION GUIDE **DRAFTING WORKSHOP**

Climate Action

Virtual | Details to be updated

FEBRUARY

ISM

Sweets and Snacks

Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

3-6 SINGAPORE AIRSHOW 2026

Changi Exhibition Centre, 9 Aviation Park Rd, Singapore

F.RE.E

Travel & Leisure

Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

RACE TO ZERO APAC SUMMIT

Climate Action

Makati, Philippines (Ayala Museum)

20-23 INHORGENTA MUNICH

Jewelry, Watches and Gemstones

Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

25-26 LOPEC

Logistics and Supply Chain

Mumbai, India (Jio World Convention Centre)

25-27 TRANSPORT LOGISTIC INDIA

Electronics

Munich, Germany (International Congress Center Messe München)

MARCH

INTERNATIONAL HARDWARE FAIR

Hardware and home improvement Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

11-13 THAIFEX - HOREC ASIA

Hospitality & Food Service Bangkok, Thailand (IMPACT Muang Thong Thani)

PUSONG HERO RUN FOR CLIMATE ACTION – CAVITE LEG

Climate Action

NU Dasmarinas Cavite

24-26 CERAMITEC

Ceramics

Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

DIGITALBAU COLOGNE

Digital solutions for construction

Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

93 92

