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

Issue on Energy

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- *European Country in Focus: Germany*
- *Interview with the Ambassador of the German Embassy Manila  
H.E. Dr. Andreas Michael Pfaffernoschke*
- *Interview with the Department of Health  
Secretary Hon. Raphael Lotilla*
- *Energy Development Corporation: Powering a REgenerative Future*

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## Editorial



**Florian Gottein**  
ECCP Executive Director

Dear reader,

In light of the current global energy challenges, the energy sector is increasingly focused on researching and developing innovative, sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels. Achieving the ambitious and essential goal of mitigating climate change, while ensuring that energy is affordable, reliable, and accessible for all, requires active collaboration among all stakeholders. This commitment to sustainability and innovation is crucial for a future where energy systems are both resilient and environmentally responsible.

As one of the core advocacies of the Chamber, we are putting focus on promoting renewable energy, harnessing energy efficiency and conservation in this edition of our EuroPH Connect. Additionally, this issue aims to highlight building resilient energy infrastructure.

On page 8, read our feature on the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, where Ambassador Dr. Andreas Pfaffernoschke shares his insights on strengthening business relations between Germany and the Philippines. In the article, he highlights key areas of collaboration, including trade, investment, and technological exchanges, which are all vital for both nations' economic growth.

We also feature Department of Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, who discusses the Philippine government's initiatives in leveraging opportunities in the energy sector and addressing sector-specific issues. Read about it on page 12.

Now, at the heart of this issue lies our cover story on Energy Development Corporation and its geothermal operations that are leading the way to REgenerative future of energy for the country with its all-renewable energy (RE) energy arm. More about this story on page 17.

On the matter of Chamber engagements, we had a busy third quarter with events and training programs that catered

to our members and partners. Notably, the ECCP held the Energy Smart Forum last August 28 highlighting the theme "Powering Progress: Accelerating Towards a Sustainable Energy Future." This pillar event featured speakers and panelists from the government and private sector who provided significant updates on current issues in the energy sector as well as innovative programs. This would not have been possible without our partners and key stakeholders from the energy sector.

We also recently concluded the annual Sustainable Agriculture Forum on September 26, themed "Cultivating Sustainable Agri-Futures: Nurturing Livelihoods, Harvesting Innovation." The forum addressed critical issues on the major sub-sectors of Philippine agriculture, fostering engaging discussions with policymakers and industry experts. These dialogues not only highlighted the challenges faced by the sector but also explored innovative solutions for a more sustainable and resilient agricultural future for the country.

For membership events, we had the second ECCP Community Connect to welcome our new members and connect with current members as well. Led by our membership team, this served as a platform for members to be oriented on the different business services and mileages included in their membership. We concluded the event with networking to engage our new and current members in establishing new partnerships. We also highlight the first installment of the event "Charting the Path to 2030: Strategic Conversations on Renewable Energy" series on September 16. This is in partnership with Meralco wherein the exclusive engagement brought together European embassies, Meralco executives, and key industry stakeholders for an insightful roundtable discussion on the future of renewable energy in the Philippines. The meeting was also graced by the presence of Mr. Manuel Pangilinan, Chairman and CEO of MERALCO.

For more highlights, check our Advocacy Corner on page 66 where you can find the latest updates on our engagements with key government offices and insights from our committee meetings focused on pressing industry concerns and issues.

We warmly welcome our new members under the New Members Corner found on page 75. Stay up to date on the Chamber activities from our branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Clark, and Iloilo. Read about this on page 33. Meanwhile, take a look at the available business opportunities on page 79. We also feature our lineup of events and training as well as international trade fairs you might be interested to join.

In the fourth quarter, there will be more to look forward to in the upcoming weeks and months with more activities and pillar events lined up for our members and partners.

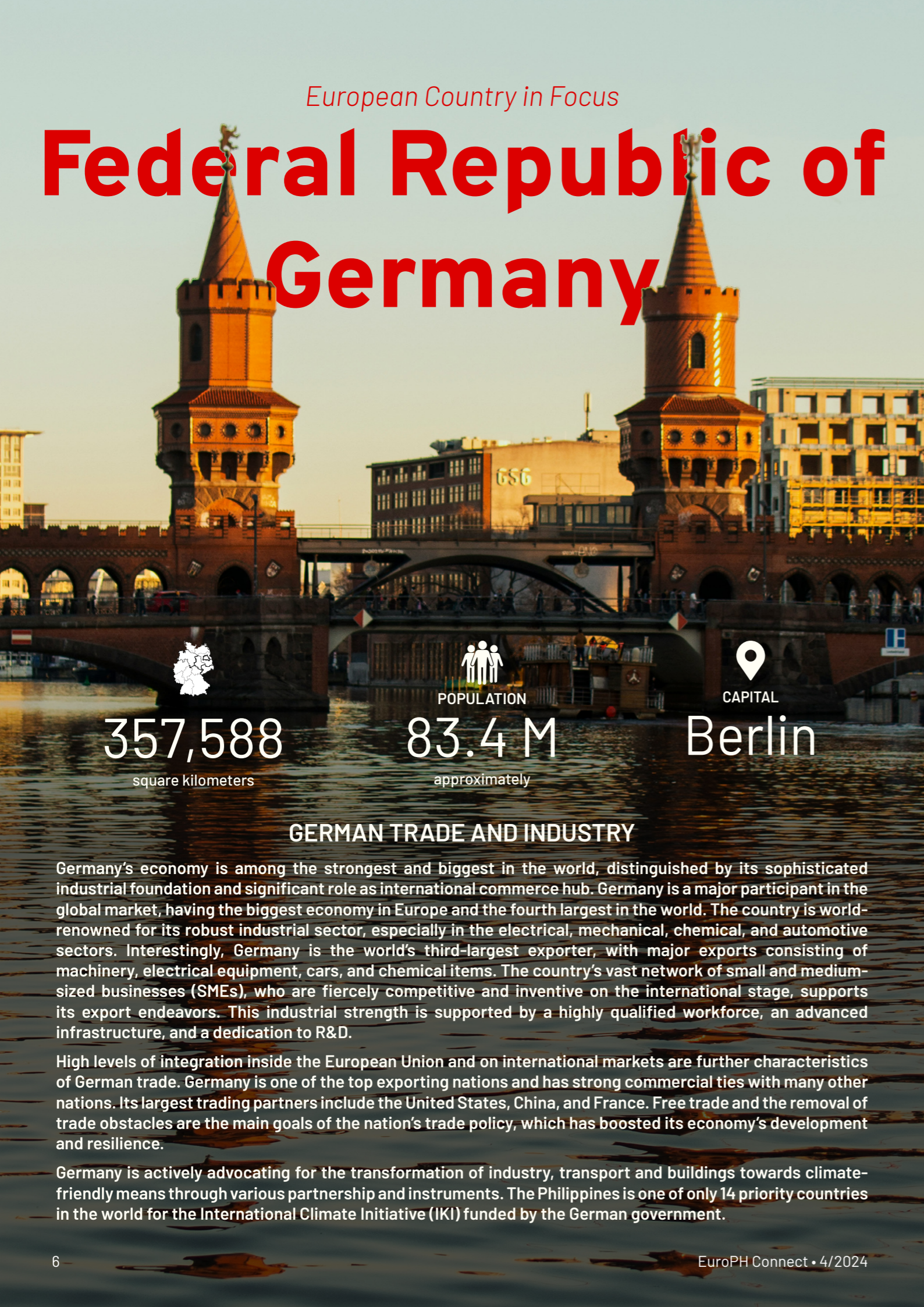
As always, we are grateful for your continued trust and support. I hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming activities.

Best regards,  
Florian

European Country in Focus

# Federal Republic of Germany

## GERMANY



357,588

square kilometers



POPULATION

83.4 M

approximately



CAPITAL

Berlin

## GERMAN TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Germany's economy is among the strongest and biggest in the world, distinguished by its sophisticated industrial foundation and significant role as international commerce hub. Germany is a major participant in the global market, having the biggest economy in Europe and the fourth largest in the world. The country is world-renowned for its robust industrial sector, especially in the electrical, mechanical, chemical, and automotive sectors. Interestingly, Germany is the world's third-largest exporter, with major exports consisting of machinery, electrical equipment, cars, and chemical items. The country's vast network of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), who are fiercely competitive and inventive on the international stage, supports its export endeavors. This industrial strength is supported by a highly qualified workforce, an advanced infrastructure, and a dedication to R&D.

High levels of integration inside the European Union and on international markets are further characteristics of German trade. Germany is one of the top exporting nations and has strong commercial ties with many other nations. Its largest trading partners include the United States, China, and France. Free trade and the removal of trade obstacles are the main goals of the nation's trade policy, which has boosted its economy's development and resilience.

Germany is actively advocating for the transformation of industry, transport and buildings towards climate-friendly means through various partnership and instruments. The Philippines is one of only 14 priority countries in the world for the International Climate Initiative (IKI) funded by the German government.

**Geographical Location:** Germany lies at the heart of Europe and is bordered by nine countries, which is more than any other European nation. To the north, Germany has access to the Baltic and the North Sea, whereas its southern border is in the Alps. The highest elevation is the Zugspitze-mountain in Bavaria, at 9,717 feet above sea level. Just under a third of the total land area is covered with forest.

**Climate:** Germany, situated in the temperate, rainy climate zone of the mid-latitudes, has an average mean surface air temperature of 9.6°C. The climate is characterized by mild winters and moderate summers due to the maritime influence. The average temperatures in 2021 were 18.3°C in July and 0.6°C in January.

**Official Language:** German

**Government Type:** Germany is organized as a Federal Republic and parliamentary democracy.

**Standard of Living:** Germany has a per capita average household net-adjusted disposable income of USD 38 971, which is higher than the USD 30 490 OECD average. Approximately 77% of Germans between the ages of 15 and 64 work for a living, which is higher than the OECD employment average of 66%.

**Organizations:**

- European Union (EU)(since 1958)
- Council of Europe (CE)(since 1950)
- United Nations (UN)(since 1973)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)(since 1955)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and
- Development (OECD)(since 1961)
- World Bank Group (since 1952)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)(since 1952)
- Group of Eight (G8)(since 1975)
- European Space Agency (ESA)(since 1977)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)(since 1995)

## FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Frankfurt is the most significant financial center in continental Europe and a major contributor to the stability of the financial markets. It has a distinct concentration of multinational banks, insurance providers, European and national supervisory authorities, and legal professionals. Home to the European Central Bank, as well as the German central bank (*Bundesbank*), Frankfurt is sometimes referred to as the City of the Euro.

## TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



BRANDENBURG GATE

At the western end of the avenue "Unter den Linden" at the heart of Berlin stands the Brandenburg Gate, the only surviving town gate of the city. It's one of Berlin's most visited sights and has symbolised both the country's division and reunification.



REICHSTAG BUILDING

One of the Berlin attractions that tourists come to see the most is the Reichstag building, which houses the German parliament, or Bundestag. Highlights include a walk around the famous glass dome with its mirror cylinder, as well as an elevator trip to the expansive rooftop terrace with stunning views over the whole city.



MUSEUMSINSEL

Berlin's Museum Island (Museumsinsel) is a grand work of art: five world-famous museum buildings from the time of the Prussian rulers, together with the modern James Simon Gallery, form an exciting ensemble that was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 1999.

## INTERESTING FACTS

- Germany is one of the world's top car producers, selling over 4 million vehicles annually.
- Germans care about climate and the environment. In 2023, renewable energies were already providing 51.8 percent of electricity consumption. Recycling 66.1% of its waste, Germany also has the highest recycling rate in the world. Since 1990, Germany has reduced its annual greenhouse gas emission by 46,1 % and plans to further reduce these emissions to become GHG neutral by 2045. In May 2024, Germany's solar energy production reached 9,3 TWh which equals the average monthly energy production of the entire Philippines.
- Germans love football. That is probably why Germany has more football fan clubs than any other country in the world. With six FIFA World Cup wins overall - four by the men's team and two by the women's team - Germany is the most successful football country in history.
- Dubbed "The Country of Poets and Thinkers," Germany has made significant contributions to philosophy, religion, art, architecture, etc. It is therefore not surprising that Germany counts a total number of approx. 6,500 museums, 820 theaters, 130 professional orchestras, and 8,800 libraries.
- Germany is the world's 5th most popular country for international students. In total, 49 universities in Germany are counted among the very best in the world, while at the same time higher education in Germany remains free for everyone.

Interview with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of the Philippines

## H.E. Dr. Andreas Michael Pfaffernoschke



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*We are committed to deepening our engagements across a wide range of mutually beneficial areas, ensuring that our partnership continues to thrive. Both countries are committed to upholding democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law.*

”

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

What struck me right from the beginning: the relationship between our two countries is both dynamic and multifaceted.

This year, we celebrate the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. And I am happy to observe that the future of Germany-Philippine relations looks promising. We are committed to deepening our engagements across a wide range of mutually beneficial areas, ensuring that our partnership continues to thrive. Both countries are committed to upholding democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law. We work together on various global issues, including climate change, renewable energy, and regional security. Our cooperation extends to multilateral fora where both countries are strong advocates for the rules-based international order.

We have several cultural exchange programs as well as academic partnerships that enrich both our societies. These exchanges foster greater understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures. I am particularly happy that the people-to-people relations are thriving. Many Filipinos are visiting Germany or work in my country. But also, German people enjoy the Philippine hospitality, be it as tourists, as businessmen and businesswomen, or as long-term residents in this country.

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

The Philippines has several strengths that make it an attractive business partner. For me, the Philippines being situated in Southeast Asia, has the potential to serve as a gateway to the larger ASEAN market, particularly as the

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) is ratified now. This strategic location is beneficial for European businesses seeking to expand their presence in Asia as they benefit from reduced trade barriers and increased economic integration of the Philippines with its neighbors.

Within ASEAN, the Philippines has a unique blend of different cultures, which can facilitate smoother business interactions with European partners. This cultural affinity can help bridge gaps and foster better understanding.

The country's growing middle class also presents opportunities for consumer goods and services. The Filipino people are known for their resilience and adaptability, qualities that are highly valued in the fast-changing business landscape of ASEAN. This makes the Philippines a reliable partner in regional collaborations.

Finally, the Philippines has a great potential to benefit from the German government's Indo-Pacific Strategy, which aims to enhance economic ties and foster investments in the region. We encourage German businesses which have already invested in one country in Asia, to look at investments in other countries within the region. After the war of aggression that Russia started against Ukraine, we learnt that it is crucial for our own security to avoid risks resulting from one-sided dependencies for manufacturing and supply chains.

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

German and European investors have noted the strong and consistent economic growth of the Philippines, supported by a professional government that is open to Foreign Direct Investments. The Philippines have been the top growth performer within ASEAN with 5,5% GDP-growth in 2023, and prospects for 2024 and 2025 are very promising.

The Philippines also has a young and dynamic population, which is a significant asset for businesses looking to tap into a vibrant and growing market. The Philippines is known for its strong service sector, particularly in areas like business process outsourcing and information technology. This expertise can be leveraged by ASEAN neighbors looking to enhance their service industries.

Both the EU Delegation and Germany actively engage in bilateral cooperation with the Philippines to foster the development and application of AI. This includes organizing workshops, seminars, and conferences where experts from both countries can exchange knowledge and best practices in AI technology and its ethical use, for example organized through the EU Initiative on Green Economy or by our startup accelerator vehicles.

Being part of the EU, Germany emphasizes the importance of ethical and responsible AI development. Through partnerships and dialogues, we promote the adoption of AI policies that prioritize transparency, accountability, and fairness, ensuring that AI technologies benefit all segments of society.

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

The German government, particularly the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, is active with various initiatives and partners in the Philippines. Together with Germany Trade and Invest, we organize Trade Missions and Business Delegations. These missions focus on German small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and help German companies explore opportunities, establish connections, and understand the local market dynamics.

The German government, in collaboration with the Philippine government, agreed on a bilateral trade agreement that fosters the mutual promotion and protection of investments. We also have a long-established double taxation treaty which makes sure companies are fairly taxed.

Two other important partners are the European Chamber of Commerce (ECCP) and the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI). Both play a crucial role in supporting German and European businesses. They offer market entry services, networking opportunities, and advocacy for German and European companies operating in the Philippines.

German companies are active in various business sectors in the Philippines. First and foremost, our companies are heavily involved in the manufacturing sector, particularly in automotive, electronics, and machinery. They bring advanced technologies and expertise, contributing to the growth of the industry in the Philippines.

On the other hand, German businesses are also prominent in the healthcare sector, providing medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare services. They contribute to improving healthcare infrastructure and access in the Philippines.

Finally, German companies are involved in the IT and digital solutions sector, offering software development, cybersecurity, and digital transformation services. German firms also participate in infrastructure and construction projects, bringing expertise in engineering, project management, and sustainable building practices. They worked on the implementation of the Build-Better-More-Program and contributed to the development of critical infrastructure in the Philippines.

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

The future of business and trade between Germany and the Philippines looks promising, with significant potential for growth and deeper collaboration.

One of the core policy areas is the promotion of free trade. Therefore, the resumption of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Union (EU) and the Philippines in March 2024 marked a pivotal step towards enhancing trade relations. This comprehensive and modern FTA aims to provide ambitious market access for goods, services, and investments, while also addressing digital trade, sustainable food systems, and intellectual property

rights. Successful completion of the FTA will create a more favorable environment for German and Filipino businesses to thrive.

Another area of cooperation is improving the Ease of Doing Business: Both countries can work together to streamline business processes and reduce bureaucratic hurdles. The Philippines has made strides in this area with the implementation of the Ease of Doing Business Law, which includes measures such as reduced processing times. The Anti-Red-Tape-Authority (ARTA) is one of our partners of collaboration as well. We have invited Sec. Perez to visit Germany and to study innovative approaches to administration. ARTA is also a trusted partner of GPCCI and ECCP. Continued efforts to enhance transparency and efficiency will attract more German investments.

Finally, we are partners in fighting against corruption and for creating a trustworthy business environment. The Philippines has been actively working on anti-corruption measures, strengthening anti-money laundering laws. Ensuring respect for human rights is fundamental for sustainable development of humans and businesses.



*The Filipino people are known for their resilience and adaptability, qualities that are highly valued in the fast-changing business landscape of ASEAN. This makes the Philippines a reliable partner in regional collaborations.*



**Germany is setting an ambitious path towards net-zero, including 80% RE in energy production by 2030. How would you describe its progress so far? What are the main challenges and opportunities that come with this target?**

Renewable energies are a central pillar of the energy transition. The expansion of renewable energy sources is intended to make our energy supplies more climate-friendly and less dependent on fossil energy imports. This is a key factor against the backdrop of the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine.

In Germany, the share of renewables in the electricity mix has increased to over 50% this year. And we are picking up the pace: By 2030, our goal is to reach a share of 80% – and we are on course to meet that target. The same applies to the hydrogen ramp-up and the transformation of the economy. Of course, we cannot afford to let up in our efforts – neither here at home nor at international level.

**Germany has been a leader in Europe's energy transition. Could you elaborate on the role of policy frameworks, such as the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG), in shaping the country's renewable energy landscape and encouraging investment in sustainable energy sources?**

The Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) is a series of German laws that encourage the generation of renewable electricity. It originally provided a feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme for RE, but later transitioned to an auction system for most technologies.

In 2023, the German Bundestag amended the EEG once again. In my opinion, EEG 2023 is the biggest amendment to energy legislation in decades. It lays the foundations for Germany to become climate neutral. Planning provides for consistent and much faster expansion in order to increase the share of gross electricity consumption that is covered by renewables to at least 80 percent by 2030.

The obstacles that have been hampering the energy and climate transition for many years are being removed, and renewable energy sources and the required transmission networks will be developed much more rapidly than before.

**How does Germany balance environmental sustainability and economic competitiveness in its energy policies, especially for high-energy-intensive technologies?**

Germany's approach to balancing environmental sustainability and economic competitiveness in its energy policies is multifaceted.

For high-energy-intensive technologies, we focus on improving energy efficiency and investing in innovative technologies. By enhancing energy efficiency, we can reduce overall energy consumption, which helps lower costs and environmental impact. Additionally, we support research and development in areas like smart grids and energy storage to make renewable energy more viable and reliable.

Economic competitiveness is maintained by creating a stable regulatory environment that encourages investment in green technologies. We also provide financial incentives and subsidies for businesses that adopt sustainable practices. This not only helps companies reduce their carbon footprint but also positions them as leaders in the growing global market for green technologies.

**Given recent developments in energy policy and technology, what are the key and innovative areas that Germany is currently focusing on to further advance its energy transition agenda?**

Germany's Federal Chancellor Scholz pointed out that the future of our energy supply belongs to wind power, solar energy and green hydrogen. These technologies are at the forefront of our strategy.

Wind power is being expanded both onshore and offshore. We are investing in advanced turbine technology and improving grid infrastructure to handle the increased capacity. Offshore wind farms, in particular, are a major focus due to their high energy yield and lower visual impact on landscapes.

Solar energy is another critical component. We are enhancing solar panel efficiency and integrating solar power into urban environments through rooftop installations and solar facades. Innovations in energy storage are also crucial, as they help manage the intermittent nature of solar power. Germany has shown the strength of this technology: In May this year, the solar energy produced in Germany was about the same as the entire energy used in the Philippines for an average month.

Green hydrogen is a game-changer in the future for sectors that are hard to electrify, such as heavy industry and transportation. We are developing hydrogen production through electrolysis using renewable energy, which ensures that the hydrogen is truly green. This hydrogen can then be used as a clean fuel or as a raw material in various industrial processes.

**International cooperation is crucial in achieving global climate goals. How does Germany assess its role in fostering international cooperation on clean energy policies, especially in areas such as Southeast Asia?**

Germany views international cooperation as essential for achieving global climate goals, and we are committed to fostering partnerships worldwide, including in Southeast Asia. Our approach is based on sharing expertise, providing financial support, and collaborating on innovative projects.

The Philippines is one of only 14 priority countries in the world for the International Climate Initiative (IKI) funded by the German government. In the Philippines, IKI is engaged in bilateral projects amounting to 26,3 Mio €. Many regional and global projects under IKI are also being implemented in the country. Moreover, the Indo-Pacific Policy Guidelines, the German government's strategy for a comprehensive engagement in this region of the world, include the specific commitment to address climate change related challenges.

But, also in Southeast Asia, we work closely with governments, businesses, and civil society to promote clean energy policies. This includes supporting the development of renewable energy infrastructure, such as wind and solar power, and enhancing energy efficiency measures. We also focus on capacity building, helping local experts and institutions develop the skills and knowledge needed to implement and maintain sustainable energy systems.

# Hon. Raphael Lotilla



“

*Our LGUs play a vital role in the development and promotion of RE in the country. Their involvement includes local policy development, project facilitation, public awareness, collaborations, local planning, and community engagement. By leveraging these roles, LGUs can significantly contribute to the growth and sustainability of RE in the Philippines, supporting both local and national energy goals.*

”

**What specific milestones does the Philippines aim to achieve by year-end in terms of renewable energy adoption, given the country's renewable energy targets of 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040?**

The Philippines remains committed to increasing the development and utilization of renewable energy (RE) as a top priority. The Department of Energy (DOE) is actively working to meet the goals outlined in the 2023-2050 Philippine Energy Plan (PEP).

By the end of 2024, the DOE aims to achieve key milestones in RE adoption, focusing on the following areas:

- Expanding Renewable Energy Capacity:** The DOE is fast-tracking the deployment of solar, wind, hydro, and biomass projects, with several new initiatives and expansions expected to be operational by year-end. These projects will contribute significantly to increasing the country's RE capacity and moving closer to the 2030 and 2040 targets.
- Innovating Policies and Programs:** The DOE continues to update and refine policies to support the growth of renewable energy and encourage clean energy use. All policy mechanisms under the Renewable Energy Act are now in place and actively being implemented. Recently, the DOE issued new policies for non-feed-in-tariff (FIT) eligible RE facilities —such as geothermal, impounding and pumped-storage hydro, and run-of-river hydro. Two rounds of Green Energy Auctions have also been conducted, resulting in the award of over 5,000 megawatts of new RE capacities. The DOE is working together with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to develop the pricing methodology.

Additionally, the DOE has introduced a streamlined application process for RE development to enhance the ease

of doing business in the energy sector. This new guideline is expected to accelerate the implementation of RE projects, foster innovation, and attract more local and international investment.

**How is the DOE advancing the integration of battery storage into the country's energy transition agenda?**

A policy for energy storage system (ESS)<sup>1</sup> in the electric power industry aiming to ensure the quality, reliability, security, sustainability, and affordability of the power supply, while accelerating the exploration, development, and utilization of renewable energy (RE) resources was issued in early 2023.

This policy provides fiscal incentives under the RE Act and grants preferential dispatch for RE plants with integrated ESS.

The DOE is also working to integrate battery storage into grid modernization efforts, aiming to enhance the reliability and stability of the power grid. Battery storage helps manage intermittent RE sources, such as solar and wind, by storing excess energy and releasing it when needed.

Moreover, the DOE is preparing to conduct an auction round under the Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP) for integrated RE and ESS projects, viewed as a comprehensive energy solution to manage the variability of RE.

These initiatives underscore the DOE's commitment to expanding the role of battery storage in supporting the country's transition to a more sustainable and resilient energy system. While current costs of storage technologies remain on the high side, our efforts to facilitate the entry of storage through these policies and programs will hopefully contribute to an accelerated lowering of the costs of storage for the grid.

**Could you provide an update on the progress of the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop (EVOSS) program? What key milestones have been reached, and how is the DOE collaborating with other relevant agencies to enhance its implementation?**

Republic Act (RA) No. 11234, also known as the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop (EVOSS) Act, was signed into law on March 8, 2019. Its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) were issued on May 28, 2019, through DOE Department Circular No. DC2019-05-0007.

The EVOSS Act aims to streamline and simplify the permitting process for power generation, transmission, and distribution projects. It promotes transparency and accountability, reduces transaction costs by standardizing forms and procedures, and enhances bureaucratic efficiency. The Act establishes an online platform where energy project developers and investors can apply for permits, track the status of their applications, submit required documents, and pay fees.

Currently, EVOSS covers 52 processes from 10 national government agencies and entities, including the DOE, National Electrification Administration, National Power Corporation, TransCo, National Commission on Indigenous

Peoples, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Justice, Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines, Energy Regulatory Commission, and National Grid Corporation of the Philippines. It also includes two local government units (LGUs) — Bay in Laguna and Burgos in Ilocos Norte for the approval of System Impact Study (SIS) exemptions. Additionally, three LGUs — Iloilo City, Ormoc City, and Cagayan de Oro City — have integrated their systems for issuing business permits. System integrations for IEMOP and NGCP are currently undergoing testing.

The EVOSS Secretariat continues to fulfill its mandate under said Act by incorporating and integrating relevant agencies into the EVOSS System to further improve the permitting process.

**What are the primary challenges the Philippines faces in integrating renewable energy into the existing grid infrastructure?**

One of the major challenges the country faces in integrating RE into the existing grid infrastructure is the timescale misalignment between the rapid development of RE projects versus the availability of transmission lines. RE projects, such as solar farms, are often developed and deployed quickly compared to traditional energy sources, hence, it outpaces the ability of the grid infrastructure leading to grid congestion.

Building and/or upgrading transmission lines is a complex, time-consuming, and expensive process that involves lengthy planning, permitting, and construction phases. Therefore, the grid may not be able to integrate the new RE capacity as quickly as it is being added. In such situations, energy curtailment may occur which reduces the efficiency of RE.

Driven with the goal of further increasing power supply security and reliability across the grids, the DOE initiated the formulation of the Smart and Green Grid Plan (SGGP), which aims to modernize and fortify the existing transmission network, as well as ascertain critical transmission line expansion projects in order to prepare for the influx of additional RE capacities.

**How do initiatives such as “Making Renewable Energy Accessible to Health Facilities,” led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in collaboration with the Climate Reality Project Philippines, contribute to the promotion of renewable energy in the healthcare sector, and what outcomes are expected?**

This initiative is aligned with the Department’s push for sustainability and promote RE adoption. The DOE acknowledges that the health sector has energy-intensive operations and access to uninterrupted and reliable sources of electricity is vital. The call for RE of health care facilities creates demand that hopefully will open more opportunities for RE investments and installations. The DOE, in partnership with different development partners and civil society organizations, continues to promote and develop customer choice RE programs, such as Green Energy Option Program and Net-Metering, to hopefully allow easier RE access for hospitals.

**Could you elaborate on the role of local government units (LGUs) in fostering the development and promotion of renewable energy resources?**

Our LGUs play a vital role in the development and promotion of RE in the country. Their involvement includes local policy development, project facilitation, public awareness, collaborations, local planning, and community engagement. By leveraging these roles, LGUs can significantly contribute to the growth and sustainability of RE in the Philippines, supporting both local and national energy goals.

In fact, the DOE and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) entered a joint memorandum<sup>2</sup>, also known as the LGU Energy Code which facilitates the implementation of the RE Act and the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) at the local levels. It supports RE project development by making the permitting process for RE projects more efficient, and proactively identifying and classifying appropriate lands for RE development. LGUs are enjoined to incorporate RE in its plans for social services and livelihood, disaster risk management, and environmental conservation. This extends the benefits of RE to all, especially the marginalized.

Based on the NREP 2020-2040, local policy integration and capacity building activities enable actual RE applications, such as (i) solar PV rooftop systems for the Iloilo Provincial Hospital, (ii) rehabilitation and grid interconnection of the Agbobolo micro-hydropower plant in Ajuy, Iloilo, (iii) direct current smart grid and solar-powered irrigation pump in Aborlan, Palawan, (iv) solar PV rooftop installations in public buildings of 15 LGUs in Oriental Mindoro, and (v) solar PV rooftop installations on 11 buildings of the Concepcion, Iloilo LGU compound, including the LGU’s Rural Health Unit, Bureau of Fire Protection, and the gymnasium.

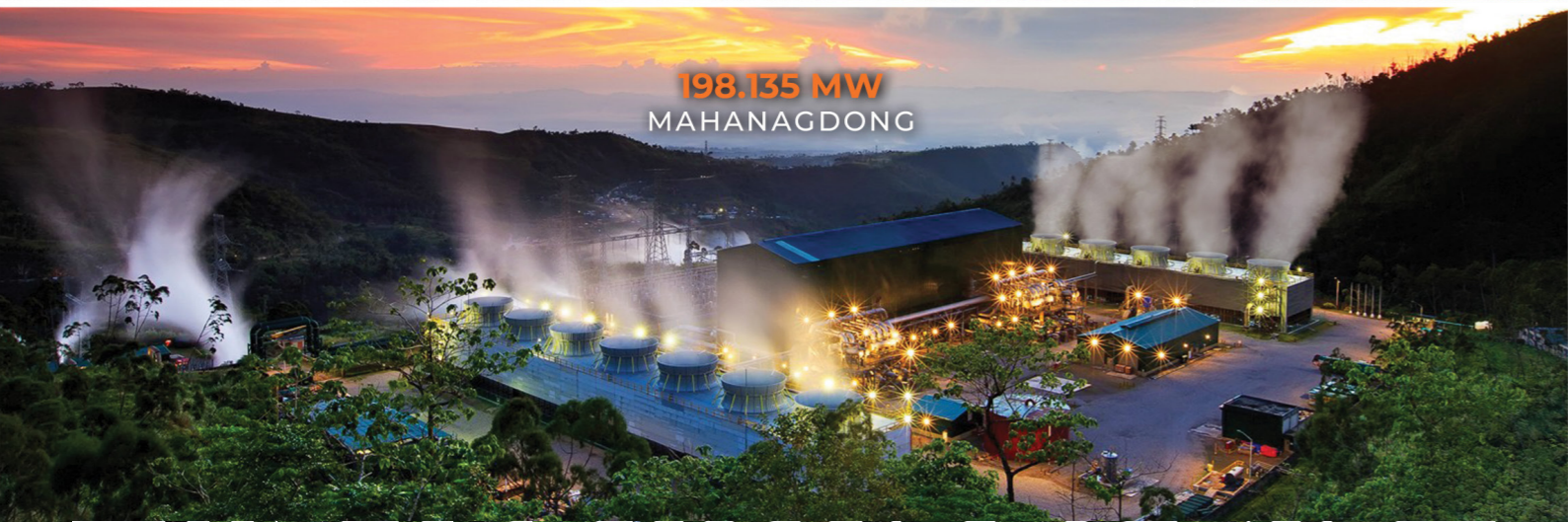
**What are the key opportunities and challenges in developing the Philippines’ critical raw materials, and how important are they to the country’s energy transition?**

As the world transitions to clean renewable energy, the demand for critical minerals/green metals used to produce clean technologies increases. This poses a huge opportunity for the Philippines as the country has one of the world’s largest copper, nickel, and cobalt reserves. However, the government must find ways to impose limitations to balance economic development and protection of the environment and indigenous lands. One of the progresses we can look into is to process the ores in the country prior to exportation, to add value to the exported goods.

Further, mining and processing of critical minerals requires stable and affordable power supply. As we know, the Philippines with its privatized and unsubsidized power sector has high power costs at the end-user level compared to neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, who subsidize power as much as 2 percent of GDP. Thus, the strategies in our PEP to ensure security of supply and our efforts to further promote competition in the power sector with the goal of lowering the cost of power would be crucial in developing our critical minerals resources to cater to the global demand driven by the energy transition.







# WE ARE HOME TO THE GEO THERMAL WONDERS OF THE WORLD

EDC has put the **Philippines** on the map as one of the world's leading producers of geothermal power with **1,169.85 megawatts** of installed capacity. With the unwavering support of our dedicated team, collaborators, valued customers, and communities, we proudly operate and uphold the world's premier geothermal power plants with unparalleled efficiency and distinction.

**This is #OurREgenerativePower.**



EDC is First Gen's 100% renewable energy company.

## Energy Development Corporation: Powering a REgenerative Future

All around the globe, governments and businesses are in full force toward climate action. While sustainability frameworks have traditionally driven these, regenerative development is a more effective and lasting approach. Whereas sustainability espouses reducing detrimental environmental impact, regeneration poses the challenge of renewing, revitalizing, and rebuilding—ensuring a positive impact rather than just avoiding harm.

In the Philippines, the Lopez Group is an early adapter in regenerative development, successfully captured in its conglomerate-wide mission—to forge collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future. Its all-renewable energy (RE) energy arm, Energy Development Corporation (EDC), leads the way to a REgenerative future of energy for the country primarily through its geothermal operations.



EDC's combined wind and solar farm in Ilocos Norte, Philippines with installed capacity of 150 MW and 6.8 MW, respectively.

### Pioneering energy security

Long before sustainability became a buzzword, EDC had already been on such a path in the energy sector. The company was initially established under the umbrella of the Philippine National Oil Corporation (PNOC), mandated to develop indigenous energy sources as a response to the crippling global oil crisis in the 1970s.

After years of exploration and development, among its initial successes was the Tongonan-1 in Leyte and Palinpinon in Negros Oriental, both in the Visayas region. Inaugurated in 1983, these two geothermal plants have been in operation since, and stand testament to the enduring viability of geothermal as a

reliable and efficient source of baseload energy.

The milestone 40th anniversary of Tongonan and Palinpinon last year—an extraordinary feat considering the usual life span of geothermal power plants—also attests to the dedicated and expert management of its operations especially under the Lopez Group when PNOC's geothermal business was privatized in 2007.



The 232.6 MW Malitbog Geothermal Power Plant in Leyte.

### Geothermal energy as 24/7 RE

As part of efforts to mitigate climate change, RE has become an integral component of the Philippines' energy plan, with a target mix of 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040. Despite apprehensions or misconceptions about the capabilities of RE, EDC shows that a secure and regenerative energy future through RE is not only possible but ideal.

As of 2023, EDC boasts a total installed RE capacity of 1,464.5 MW across its portfolio of 18 power generation facilities utilizing primarily geothermal along with hydro, wind, and solar sources. Geothermal, an abundant natural resource in the country, presents as a cost-efficient RE source in the long run.

This renewable power from beneath the earth's surface is poised to effectively address baseload energy needs because of its stable, round-the-clock availability—a perfect solution to the evolving energy requirements of the Philippines' dynamically growing economy.



In 2023, the 112.5 MW Palinpinon-1 Geothermal Power Plant in Valencia, Negros Oriental, marked its 40 years of service providing power to the Luzon and Visayas grids.

for its five identified stakeholders.

For Customers, it is providing reliable and affordable RE to realize a secure low-carbon energy future. For Co-Creators or employees, partners, and suppliers, it is fostering a culture that cares for their well-being and empowers them to realize their full potential. For Communities, it is to give back and improve lives through livelihood opportunities, education for the youth, and protection of endemic biodiversity.

For Investors, it is to establish trust and create a regenerative society that allows nature to flourish and humanity to prosper alongside an advancing economy. Last but not least, for the planet Earth, which EDC considers a stakeholder, the goal is to become better stewards of its resources and to rehabilitate nature.



BINHI is the largest private-sector-led forest reforestation initiative in the Philippines.

#### Advancing climate action

With all these, EDC is not only concerned with strategies but focused on tangible impact and results—moving forward with plans as well as action. A prime example of this is the Net Zero Carbon Alliance (NZCA), a pioneering consortium of Philippine businesses and enterprises convened by EDC and collectively geared toward shared net zero goals.

NZCA not only brings together the private sector but engages them in multi-sectoral dialogue and consultation with the academe, government, foreign affairs, media and socio-civic organizations. The goal is to support and realize the Net Zero Transition Charter established at the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference or COP28, which seeks to mobilize as many pledges and transition plans as possible toward net zero emissions by 2050.

Indeed, EDC leads the way in proving that RE is perhaps the single most important answer to climate change and that going for RE is the single most important action any business or society can make in terms of climate action. Despite challenges or pessimism, EDC continues to chart the path toward a regenerative future for future generations, not only in the country but for the planet.

Visit [www.energy.com.ph](http://www.energy.com.ph) to learn more.



#### Climate change solution

Most importantly, through its RE operations, EDC has greatly contributed to the country's efforts toward addressing the climate crisis. In 2023, EDC reported 5,985,481 tons (t) of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent (e) avoided in place of utilizing coal or fossil fuels, and at least 1.7 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e of carbon sequestration, which is mostly the result of EDC's BINHI program.

BINHI is the company's flagship greening project and the largest private sector-led forest restoration initiative in the Philippines. Trees form an inextricable part of the geothermal energy cycle, as they retain moisture in the ground that is transformed into steam, which is then harnessed to produce electricity. As such, BINHI has been institutionalized as a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative of EDC.

To date, BINHI has planted close to 2.9 million trees and restored 10,410 hectares of forest cover all over the country, with the help of 214 multi-sectoral partners. Aside from decarbonizing the environment and supporting biodiversity, BINHI positively impacts EDC's communities of operation as well, notably its 88 farmers' associations.



Keitech Educational Foundation, Inc. is a post-secondary technical-vocational training center established by EDC in 2009.

#### Elevating stakeholders

This illustrates the inclusive and holistic nature of EDC's regenerative mission—elevating all its stakeholders and redefining value creation for each of them. This is ultimately embodied in EDC's Stakeholder Pentad Framework, which summarizes the company's goals



Join the largest private sector consortium committed to realizing a decarbonized future.



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Chairman, INLAND Corporation

of multinational companies in food manufacturing, the paper industry, refrigeration, handicrafts, and agricultural products, to name a few. We take pride in the partnership we have forged with our clients as we continue to serve many of them for over 35 years.

Inland Corporation has strong ties with worldwide industry leaders that share the same corporate culture. We have established relationships to complement our respective businesses, allowing us to mutually grow and continuously enhance the services we offer to our clients.

### Our Heritage

Inland Corporation was established in 1975 as a Total Logistics Provider. Listed in the Top 5,000 Corporations of the Philippines, we offer customized solutions in trucking, container yard operations, warehousing (cold and dry storage), third party and fourth party distribution, heavy-lift movement, packing, rigging, crating, domestic and international freight forwarding, customs brokerage, cargo consolidation, cross docking, manpower services, and trading and machine sales.

Our clientele is diverse, counting small-scale entrepreneurs to blue-chip corporations. A Large part of our portfolio, however, is composed

### Our Expertise

Our expertise spans a broad range of services – from port-to-door, door-to-port and everything in between. Through the decades, we have carved a niche as experts in handling incoming and outgoing shipments here and abroad.

Inland Corporation operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We do everything to deliver your shipments in no time and make sure that your cargo gets through safely every step of the way. To optimize the viability of our services, we have well-trained professionals who conduct best practices in safety and security programs.

# Kasabay mo sa pagsulong

**110\***  
**TAON SHELL PILIPINAS**  
1914-2024



Generations of Shell leaders, united by a legacy of progress. Past and present Country Chairs (L-R) Ed Chua, Cesar Romero, Lorelie Quiambao-Osial, Cesar A. Buenaventura, and Eli Santiago pose before the milestone wall during the celebration of 110 years of Shell in the Philippines as it empowers the lives of the Filipinos.

## Kasabay mo sa Pagsulong: A 110-Year Legacy of Empowering Filipinos

As a key partner in the country's progress, Shell Pilipinas celebrates 110 years of empowering Filipino lives through innovative products and services, good governance, and social development programs. This milestone is marked by various activities throughout the year reflecting Shell's enduring commitment to being the Filipinos' "Kasabay sa Pagsulong" (Moving forward, together).

From its humble beginnings in 1914 to its present-day leadership in the country's energy industry, Shell Pilipinas has consistently driven progress. Over 110 years, Shell's journey has been one of continuous evolution, support, and belief in the country's potential, from fueling industries with oil to advancing sustainable energy and community initiatives.

Shell Pilipinas Country Chair Lorelie Quiambao-Osial affirmed, "For and beyond our 110th, we'll continue to uphold our purpose to provide energy that empowers Filipinos."

Shell's journey spans significant milestones, from fueling industries in the 1920s, supporting resilience during World War II in the 1940s, expanding its presence in the 1950s to 1960s, to pioneering social initiatives in the 1970s to 1980s. The company's evolution continued through the 1990s to 2000s, embracing change and enhancing mobility with innovative products.

In recent years, Shell has focused on the energy transition, establishing Shell Energy and promoting sustainability through initiatives like Carbon Offsetting, Shell Recharge, and Site of the Future. These efforts underscore Shell's dedication to adapting and leading the way towards a sustainable future.

"Kasabay mo sa Pagsulong" encapsulates Shell Pilipinas' pledge to partner with Filipinos for the next century

and beyond. As Quiambao-Osial emphasized, "We honor those who paved the way and continue to be ambassadors of Shell's values, driving progress and innovation in the years to come."

## SWITCH TO RESPONSIBLE ENERGY

SN Aboitiz Power Group (SNAP) is the country's leading renewable energy (RE) supplier offering 100% clean energy harnessed from the flowing water of four hydroelectric power plants in Magat and Benguet.

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.**



## Norwegian Companies Pave the Way for Sustainable Energy Transition in the Philippines

Norwegian companies are strategically aligning their investments with the Philippines' energy transition goals, focusing on key areas such as hydropower, wind, battery storage and solar farm developments. This underscores their commitment to contributing to the country's shift towards sustainable and renewable energy sources.

At the forefront of this green transition is Scatec, a leading Norwegian renewable energy solutions provider. With a strong presence in the Philippines for over two decades, Scatec, in collaboration with AboitizPower, has played a pivotal role in advancing hydropower, solar, and battery storage projects. Through its joint venture SNAP, the company has significantly contributed to the deployment of hydropower and battery storage.

The historic collaboration between Norway and the Philippines in the energy sector began in 2005 when SN Power, now Scatec, entered the market. Today, SNAP stands as one of the largest private hydropower companies in the country, marking a testament to the enduring partnership between the two nations.

The deployment of hydropower, battery storage, and the pilot floating solar technology was highlighted at the recent blessing of SNAP's Magat BESS facility. The Magat hydropower plant stands as the sole facility in the Philippines that co-locates three complementary renewable energy technologies. To maintain this progress, SNAP aims to enhance its momentum by extending its fleet of battery energy storage systems (BESS). Although these endeavors are in their initial phases, they are anticipated to offer ancillary services and increase the overall capacity of renewable energy.

Key policy changes, including the opening up of 100% foreign ownership, have enhanced the investment climate in the Philippines, making it an attractive destination for Norwegian companies looking to support the country's renewable energy initiatives. The Philippine government's commitment to renewable energy further aligns with Norway's expertise in delivering technology and solutions that promote a smooth energy transition.

In expressing shared ambitions for renewable energy and green growth, the Norwegian Ambassador commends the Philippine government's dedication to clean energy.

"We are very excited for the Philippine government as its message to the entire world is clear: transition to clean, renewable, and sustainable energy," said Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines Christian Lyster, who had to attend the event virtually due to weather conditions.

"It showcases how new technology, such as BESS, can add value to existing sources of renewable energy," the Ambassador added.

"Norway is pioneering renewable energy solutions in the Philippines, and we are very excited for new projects that can help the Philippines towards its renewable energy targets. Today's inauguration is one of these projects, and a testament to the willingness of companies to invest in the Philippine energy transition," said Ambassador Christian Lyster.

"I would like to congratulate Scatec for this important milestone which I hope will add great value to their operations in the Philippines," he added.

"The Magat BESS project exemplifies our commitment to advancing renewable energy-complementary solutions in the Philippines. This contributes to the country's energy transition and our vision to achieve a sustainable energy future," says Joseph Yu, SNAP President & CEO.

"Norwegian companies, with their expertise, have proven to play a vital role in supporting the Philippines' energy transition. We are eager to continue our collaboration and contribute to the country's sustainable development," says Andrea Isabel Co, Scatec Country Manager for the Philippines.

"The Magat facility is the first of its kind as it brings together three different technologies: hydro, floating solar, and a battery energy storage system. In the same spirit, collaborations with like-minded energy firms like Scatec are special as it also brings together diverse talents, technologies, and expertise to, not only contribute to AboitizPower's RE growth strategy, but to help forward a shared future of clean and sustainable power generation," says Alexander Co, AboitizPower COO for Renewable Energy Generation.





ORGANISED BY



# ENERGY SMART FORUM 2024

## Powering Progress

### Accelerating Towards a Sustainable Energy Future

28 August 2024 • 09:00 AM - 04:30 PM • Dusit Thani Manila

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## ECCP Leads Dialogue on Sustainable Energy Solutions at Energy Smart Forum 2024

Makati City, Philippines – 28 August 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), together with its Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) Committee, successfully organized its annual pillar event, the Energy Smart Forum 2024, with the theme, "Powering Progress: Accelerating Towards a Sustainable Energy Future." Since 2011, the ECCP has organized the forum to tackle critical issues in the Philippine energy sector and discuss opportunities for cross-sector collaboration.

In his opening remarks, ECCP President Paulo Duarte emphasized that the growing demand for energy requires significant collaborations to address issues and identify opportunities. "Addressing this challenge requires immediate action and a strategic, whole-of-society approach... This event will serve as a platform for meaningful and collaborative dialogue, aiming to steer the Philippine energy sector towards greater resilience, sustainability, and innovation," he said.

### Realising The Evolution Of The Philippine Energy Sector

The first session was opened by the keynote speaker, Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella of the Department of Energy (DOE), who spoke on behalf of DOE Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla about trends and upcoming developments for energy policies. Undersecretary Fuentebella highlighted the challenges and opportunities in the energy transition, he also noted that the Department strategically aligns its direction through the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) with the Philippine Development Plan.

"We had to make sure that the PEP would create more jobs and we had to also make sure that we have access and affordability of energy, reliability and resiliency, and move towards clean and climate-centered [energy]," Undersecretary Fuentebella said. The other notable development cited was the ease of restrictions on foreign ownership for RE investments, allowing up to 100% foreign ownership in technologies such as geothermal, biomass, solar, wind, and ocean energy.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) was represented by Engineer Jayson Corpuz, Chief Energy Regulation Officer, who spoke on behalf of Director Sharon Ocampo-Montañer. Engr. Corpuz outlined the regulatory landscape for enhancing security and affordability. He went on to discuss the phases of the Philippines' energy transformation in more depth, focusing on a multi-dimensional approach that has been in place since 2022. Additionally, the ERC remains focused on the omnibus rules for customer

choice programs including the Retail Competition and Open Access program, Retail Aggregation Program, and Green Energy Option Program.

### Renewable Energy Promotion Towards A Greener Future

The second session was opened by DOE Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara, who presented the activities and policy priorities that support the integration of RE. She emphasized the importance of incorporating RE into the national grid, noting the predominant share of coal but also highlighting the increase in RE within the power capacity and generation mix for 2023.

Undersecretary Guevara projected that RE would surpass fossil fuels in the power generation mix beyond 2030, particularly with the anticipated expansion of offshore wind capacities. She encouraged offshore wind developers to achieve their first kilowatt-hour by 2028, expressing the DOE's optimism about realizing this milestone. "Accelerated RE development is and can be funded by the private sector, international finance institutions, and commercial banks. While the smart grid plan, offshore wind ports, coal plant decommissioning can be supported by the private sector investments, grants, or ODA [official development assistance] from bilateral and multilateral development partners," she said.

Presenting a perspective from the private sector, Joseph Lacson, Chief Investment Officer of AboitizPower shared, "Taking a holistic approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of energy, environment, and economy is paramount. By creating strong partnerships between the government, private sector and international collaborators, we can overcome challenges, invest, and fully realize the potential of renewable energy." AboitizPower intends to expand local operations, with a substantial portion of this growth—about 50%—coming from RE projects.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rune Damgaard, Co-Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Offshore Wind Philippines at Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), detailed the company's optimism regarding the potential of the Philippines' offshore wind market. Since its entry into the Philippines in 2023, CIP has been developing three bottom-fixed offshore wind projects situated in Dagupan, San Miguel Bay, and Northern Samar. Reflecting on the forum's outcomes, Mr. Damgaard stated, "We are pleased to attend the successful event hosted by ECCP. The event gathered many prominent stakeholders in the Renewable Energy cohort and fostered fruitful discussions. We look forward to the continued collaboration."

## Driving Energy Efficiency And Conservation Forward

Providing an update on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Act, DOE Director Patrick Aquino presented, "The DOE collaborates with stakeholders to implement a national awareness and advocacy program for energy efficiency and conservation, and renewable energy technologies. Through initiatives like the "You Have the Power" campaign held across malls in the country, the DOE raises awareness on EEC, highlighting the importance of conserving energy, utilizing renewable energy sources, and promoting electric vehicles or EVs as a sustainable transportation option."

Mr. Alexander Ablaza, President of the Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance, elaborated on harnessing energy efficiency, energy security, and affordable power. He discussed that energy efficiency impacts the demand side of the market, such as planning, financing, construction, and preservation. From the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Mr. Omid Saberi, Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies and Building Resilience Index Global Lead, discussed how the IFC focuses on climate-smart solutions for private sector development. Mr. Saberi encouraged businesses to collaborate to improve the resilience of buildings and cities.

## Optimising Innovation To Reshape The Energy Landscape

The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), as represented by Assistant Vice President and Head of Transmission Planning, P&E, Mr. Redi Alan Remoroza has made strides in improving the country's energy infrastructure. Over the last seven months, NGCP has completed three major projects, including the building of a 500kV and a 230kV transmission backbone, and the interconnection of major grids. Mr. Remoroza shared that the NGCP has a roadmap for smart substation development. The specifications

for the Philippine grid application aim to achieve digitalization, increased substation reliability, and simplicity of substation design.

Mr. Tom Peebles, President and CEO of Solenergy Systems Inc., emphasized the value of upgraded grid infrastructure and described how energy management has integrated the internet of things or IoT. In his discussion on the systems developed by Solenergy, Mr. Peebles advocated for a data-driven approach to energy efficiency, "Start with consumption monitoring because it is a very low-cost entrance into this idea of how to start down the energy efficiency road. How do I start reducing my cost of energy? The best way to do it is with data."

To formally close the forum, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, Vice-Chairperson of the Philippine Senate Committee on Energy delivered a video message on advancing legislation for supporting sustainable energy sources. The program and panel sessions were expertly hosted and moderated by the Co-Chairpersons of the ECCP's RE&EE Committee, Ms. Ruth Yu-Owen and Atty. Jose Layug, Jr.

This year's Energy Smart Forum was made possible through Event Partners, Embassy of the Republic of Austria, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium, Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark, Embassy of the Republic of Finland, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Embassy of Ireland, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Advocacy Partners, Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance, Energy Lawyers Association of the Philippines, and Philippine Independent Power Producers Association Inc; Co-Presenter, Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners; Platinum Partner, Solenergy Systems Inc.; Silver Partners, Aboitiz Power, ACEN RES, and HSBC Philippines; Bronze Partners, MPower and PPI Pazifik Power; and Table Top Partner, Ditrolc Energy.





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# Inside ECCP: Manila

## New Member Humble Sustainability Visited ECCP Office

30 July 2024

In line with the Chamber's objective to cultivate strong industry partnerships, the ECCP was visited by its newest member, Humble Sustainability.

The meeting served as a platform for discussing potential areas of joint initiatives. This engagement reaffirms the ECCP's commitment to building meaningful relationships and advancing shared goals in sustainability efforts.

Founded in 2021, Humble Sustainability focuses on extending the lifespan of consumer products and managing excess inventory. By repurposing items and collaborating with recyclers, resellers, and refurbishers, the company helps clear warehouses and offices of waste, transforming unused assets into additional revenue for businesses.



Attended in the meeting were (from L-R) Nicole Brofas, Business Development Associate - Partnerships; Josef Werker, CEO and Co-Founder; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Niña Opida, COO and Co-Founder; Canela Reillo, ECCP Member Relations Associate; and Enzo Pinga, Head of Business Development - Supply.

## ECCP held a productive meeting with its Premium Member, Roche

31 July 2024

Highlighting the importance of strengthening partnerships, the ECCP held a productive meeting with its Premium Member, Roche last 31 July 2024, to discuss areas of interest and potential collaboration.

Roche has been in the Philippines for more than 62 years and continues to find and develop ways to help prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases, and make a sustainable contribution to the Filipino society.

Present in the meeting were (from L-R) – Marjoerie Mae Villanueva, ECCP Advocacy Officer; Katrina Baligod, ECCP Manager, Industry and Government Affairs; Dr. Teng Dioko, Roche Healthcare Ecosystem Chapter Lead and ECCP Healthcare Committee Chair; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships & Communications; and Jimbo Owen Gulle, Roche Communications & Corporate Affairs Manager.



## Professional Presence Workshop

31 July 2024

Professional Presence Workshop held last 31 July 2024 at Makati Diamond Residences was a resounding success! Another session filled with valuable insights and skills to enhance one's professional presence. We look forward to hosting more workshops and continuing this momentum of growth and development with you all. Together, we strive for excellence!



## Professional Presence Workshop

1 August 2024

Underscoring its commitment to industry advancement, ECCP paid a courtesy visit to Hechanova last 01 August 2024 and exchanged insights and opportunities for joint initiatives.

HECHANOVA & CO., INC., member of the HECHANOVA Group is an IP consulting firm handling patent and trademark prosecution, copyright, domain name, plant variety, product registrations, all types of searches, freedom to operate searches, patent drafting, maintenance services for patents and trademarks, valuation services for trademarks and food technologies, advising on labeling, and product registration requirements of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to name a few.



Present in the meeting were (L-R) Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships & Communications; Atty. Editha R. Hechanova, President/CEO; and Canela Reillo, ECCP Member Relations Associate.

## Unlock the Future: Regulating the Use of Artificial Intelligence

1 August 2024

Unlock the Future: Regulating the Use of Artificial Intelligence was a resounding success! Held last 01 August at Dusit Thani Manila, the event was filled with insightful lectures and discussions as our esteemed speakers and panelists delved into the complexities of AI regulation, offering valuable perspectives on the ethical, legal, and social implications. Together, we can shape the future of AI.



## ECCP Courtesy Visit to Century Pacific Food

7 August 2024

Highlighting its dedication to furthering industry relations, the ECCP had a courtesy visit to Century Pacific Food, Inc. on 07 August 2024. During this visit, both parties engaged in an exchange of insights and explored potential opportunities for joint initiatives aimed at fostering advancement within the sector.

Founded in 1978, Century Pacific Food, Inc (CPF) is committed with a singular core purpose: "To Nourish and Delight Everyone, Everyday, Everywhere." Today, that purpose continues as a guide to deliver delicious, nutritious, affordable, and sustainable food products to Filipinos at home and abroad including Europe.

Present in the meeting were (from L-R) Mr. Robert Raymond "Randy" Cruz, Director for Global Brands; Arci Catalan, Events Manager; Macky Macapagal-Lim, Marketing Manager; Neri Salenga, Group



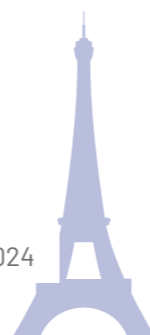
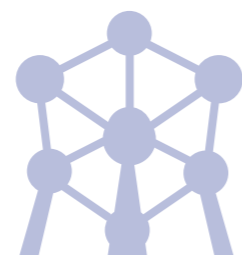
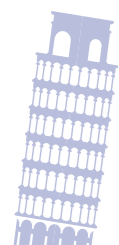
Business Development Manager; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Kamyrr Catapang-Abbagu, Competency Hub Manager; Catherine Anne Lee, Business Consultancy and Research Manager; and Canela Reillo, Member Relations Associate.

## ECCP Courtesy Visit to MPower

7 August 2024

The ECCP paid a courtesy visit to MPower on 07 August 2024. During this visit, representatives from both parties discussed current industry trends and challenges. This visit underscored the mutual dedication of ECCP and MPower to establishing a collaborative environment conducive to sectoral advancement and sustainable growth. MPower has been a member of ECCP for nearly ten years.

Present in the meeting were (from L-R) Redel M. Domingo, First Vice President & Head; Gemmalyn P. Basbas, Sales Planning and Programs Analyst; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Arci Catalan, Events Manager; Canela Reillo, Member Relations Associate; Cheyenne Jessika G. Zaldarriaga, Head, Sales Planning & Programs; and Eddie John V. Aduag, SAVP and Retail Sales Head.



## ECCP Membership Committee Convened for a Meeting

8 August 2024

The ECCP Membership Committee (Manila) recently convened a meeting on 08 August 2024 to discuss the enhancement of membership services, and initiatives to further improve the ECCP membership value and experience.

Present in the meeting were (from L-R) Canela Ysabel Reillo, Member Relations Associate; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Albert Perez, ECCP Board Director; Sheila Lobien, Women in Business Committee Chair; Helen Grace Baisa, Food and Beverage Committee Chair; Paulo Duarte, ECCP President and Automotive Committee Co-chair; and Atty. Alden C. Labaguis, Tax and Financial Services Committee Vice Chair.



## Power of Play: Adult Learning Reimagined

8 August 2024

The Power of Play: Adult Learning Reimagined, hosted by the ECCP Competency Hub on 08 August 2024 at Dusit Thani Manila. The event was a resounding success, marking the first batch of the ECCP Competency Hub's newly developed training format.

Attendees explored how integrating play into adult learning can transform both professional and personal development. Participants also embraced creativity and innovation, challenging traditional notions of adult learning. We look forward to seeing how these insights will inspire new approaches in your learning journeys! This training was hosted by the ECCP in partnership with Spiderhook Learning.



## Building and Managing a Responsible and Sustainable Enterprise

12 August 2024

The "Building and Managing a Responsible and Sustainable Enterprise" webinar, held on 12 August 2024, hosted by the ECCP Competency Hub in partnership with Adaptive Innovations, Inc. and Black Sheep Digital, was a resounding success! Attendees gained valuable insights into creating and managing sustainable businesses that align with responsible practices.

To take a deep dive and further explore ESG principles, standards, as well as sustainability communication, a two-day workshop on "Responsible Enterprise Management and Brand Training" is happening on October 1 & 2. This workshop will be facilitated by the experts from Adaptive Innovations, Inc. and Black Sheep Digital. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your knowledge and understanding on enterprise's sustainability efforts.

For inquiries, please reach out to us via email at [trainings@eccp.com](mailto:trainings@eccp.com).



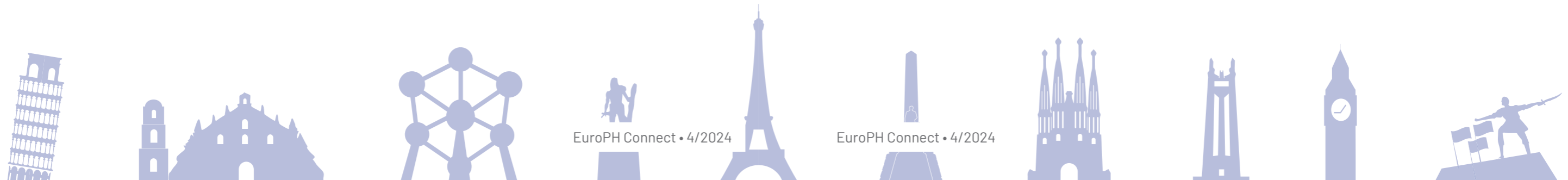
## ECCP Courtesy Visit to Blue Leaf Energy

13 August 2024

Upholding its commitment in advancing industry relations, the ECCP paid a courtesy visit to Blueleaf Energy on 13 August 2024. The visit highlighted insightful conversations in exploring potential opportunities for collaborative efforts.

Blue Leaf Energy is a leading Pan Asian Renewable energy platform that develops, finances, owns and operates renewables and storage assets to accelerate the energy transition towards net zero and beyond.

Present in the meeting were Rafael Macabiog, Head of Projects; Mikael Dali, ECCP Business Associate; Jason Gavina, Head of Community Relations and Marketing; Jason Jay Flores, Investment Manager; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Jayar Lamson, Community Relations and Marketing Executive; Canela Reillo, ECCP Member Relations Associate; Francisco Alberto Plaza, Investment Executive; and Daniel Lorenzo Sarte, Investment Executive.



## ECCP Courtesy Visit to Pointwest Innovations

13 August 2024

The ECCP paid a courtesy visit to Pointwest Innovations on 13 August 2024 and engaged in discussions on fostering a collaborative environment that supports sectoral advancement, especially in tech and in AI.

Founded in 2003, Pointwest creates value for its satisfied clients – including top Fortune 100 and local companies – with world-class IT and BPM services backed by international-standard methodologies, and innovative practices.

Present in the meeting were Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Carmen P. Sucgang, Head of Treasury & Corporate Services; Tech Abcejo-Aguila, Business Channels Partnership Head; Mickael Dali, ECCP Business Associate; and Canela Reillo, ECCP Member Relations Associate.



## ECCP Met with Phil Ecology Systems Corp.

13 August 2024

On 13 August 2024, the ECCP met with the Phil Ecology Systems Corp. During the meeting, both parties discussed potential collaborative efforts specific to sustainability, waste management and CSR initiatives, among others.

Phil. Ecology Systems Corp. (PhilEco) is a major player in the design, construction and operation of integrated sanitary solid waste management and disposal facilities in the Philippines. A “AAA” general engineering and building Contractor licensed by the Philippine Contractor Accreditation Board (PCAB), PhilEco is an ISO- certified company and is the only waste management firm in the country that operates an offshore sanitary landfill.

Present in the meeting were Jouie V. Lee Oliver, President/CEO; Mickael Dali, ECCP Business Associate; Canela Reillo, ECCP Member Relations Associate; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; and Priscilla A. Mangune, Senior Business Development and Marketing Manager.



## ECCP Attended the Grand Launch of Landers Superstore’s Japan Festival

14 August 2024

ECCP attended the grand launch of Landers Superstore Japan Festival, the first-ever Japanese-themed festival, marking the biggest product exhibition of Landers Superstore. The event took place on 14 August 2024 at Landers, Arca South Branch. The ECCP was honored to be part of this significant occasion, showcasing the Chamber’s continued support for innovative retail initiatives in the country.

In the photos: (first photo, L-R) Edgar Fernandez, Vice President of Fresh; Helen Grace Baisa, ECCP Food & Beverage Committee Chair; Atty. Lowell Yu, Chairman of Landers; (second photo, L-R) Albert Perez, ECCP Director, Helen Grace Baisa; Edgar Fernandez; and Paulo Duarte, ECCP President and Managing Director, Robert Bosch, Inc.



## ECCP Courtesy Visit to Retail Associates

14 August 2024

In line with its commitment to establishing strong industry relations, the ECCP paid a courtesy visit to Retail Associates on 14 August 2024. The meeting facilitated in-depth discussions aimed at exploring potential opportunities. The meeting underscored the ECCP’s commitment to nurturing valuable connections and advancing collective interests within the retail sector.

Retail Associates, the first member company of the Associates Group, offers global solutions tailored to diverse business needs. Established in 2006, the company blends Nordic and Swedish practices with local Filipino expertise. Utilizing Microsoft Dynamics 365, Retail Associates provides customized solutions across various sectors, including dining and real estate. With headquarters in Ortigas Center, Manila, and a representative office in Hong Kong, the company is committed to advancing its clients’ success in the Asia-Pacific region. The company has been a member of ECCP since 2012.

Attended the meeting were from (L-R) Angelica De Leon-Panganiban, Marketing Campaign Manager; Jocelyn Amor-Banzuela, Director of Marketing; Ivy Bumanglag, Chief Operating Officer; Bo Lundqvist, President & CEO; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Catherine Anne Lee, ECCP Business Consultancy and Research Manager; Canela Reillo, ECCP Member Relations Associate; and Mikael Dali, ECCP Business Associate.



## ECCP Courtesy Visit to The Bellevue Manila

14 August 2024

Highlighting the Chamber's ongoing commitment to strengthening valuable connections and advancing shared interests within the hospitality and real estate industry, ECCP paid a courtesy visit to The Bellevue Manila on 14 August 2024.

The Bellevue Hotels and Resorts (BH&R) is a Filipino-owned company that manages premiere and boutique hotels, which include The Bellevue Manila, found in the heart of Alabang, and The Bellevue Resort, located in the serene shores of Panglao, Bohol. Both 5-star properties provide excellent service, comfortable rooms, and top-notch facilities and amenities.

Attended the meeting were from (L-R) Arriane Antonio, Events Executive; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; John Dustin Chan, Managing Director, The Bellevue Hotels and Resort - Bohol; Mavic Recio, General Manager; John Patrick Chan, Managing Director, The Bellevue Manila; Arci Catalan, ECCP Events Manager; Canela Reillo, ECCP Member Relations Associate; Justine Dela Cerna, Group Marketing & Digital Communications Manager; and Rigil Kent Acapulco, Group Public Relations Manager.



## Understanding Financial Reports program on Accounting for the Basic Financial Statements

19 August 2024

The first module of the Understanding Financial Reports program on Accounting for the Basic Financial Statements session presented by the ECCP e-Competency Hub, held last 19 August 2024 via ZOOM was a great success! Attendees gained a deeper understanding and valuable knowledge on financial statements, enhancing their financial expertise.

To know more about these modules, visit our website <https://eccp.com/upcoming-trainings>. This training is also available for in-house or exclusive runs. To request for a formal proposal, please email [trainings@eccp.com](mailto:trainings@eccp.com)



## Applied Neuroscience for Focus and Creativity at Work

16 August 2024

The "Focus and Creativity" module presented by the ECCP Competency Hub kicked off our Applied Neuroscience for the Workplace program with resounding success! Co-presented by Accelerate 2 Excellence (A2E), held last 16 August 2024, the participants learned the science behind focus and creativity, gaining practical strategies to boost workplace performance. This module is the first of four in our comprehensive Applied Neuroscience for the Workplace program that runs until December 2024, with three more modules to go.



## ECCP Courtesy Visit to Asian Bridge Express

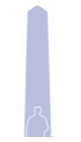
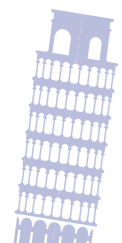
20 August 2024

Upholding its commitment to strengthening industry connections, the ECCP paid a courtesy visit to Asian Bridge Express on 20 August 2024.

The discussion focused on identifying and exploring possible avenues to advance mutual interests within the logistics sector. Through the said meeting, both parties reaffirmed their dedication to collaborative efforts that will drive innovation and growth in the industry.

Founded in 2002, Asian Bridge Express specializes in delivering customized logistics solutions with a focus on top-quality service. The company excels as a leading consultant, providing tailored freight solutions. Asian Bridge Express has been a member of ECCP since 2019.

Attended in the meeting were (from L-R) Canela Reillo, ECCP Member Relations Associate; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Gabriel D. Medina, Director of Sales and Marketing; and Arlan Zuasola, Executive Assistant.



## ECCP Courtesy Visit to Meralco 21 August 2024

ECCP paid a courtesy visit to Meralco on 21 August 2024 underscoring its commitment to continuing its dedication to enhancing industry relationships.

The discussion centered on identifying and exploring opportunities to advance mutual interests within the energy sector. During the meeting, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to collaborative efforts aimed at driving innovation and growth in the industry.

Meralco is the largest private sector electric distribution utility company in the Philippines covering 39 cities and 72 municipalities. Its franchise area of over 9,685 km<sup>2</sup> is just 3% of the total land area of the Philippines, but accounts for 55% of the country's electricity output. Meralco celebrates 121 years of service in 2024, committed to providing reliable and affordable energy.

Attended in the meeting were (from L-R) Bezie Mae L. Mina, Industry Lead, Hospitality & Financial Institutions, Enterprise Commercial and Conglomerates, Meralco; Arci Catalan, ECCP Events Manager; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; and Bernice Gretchel P. Garcia-Rama, Head of Enterprise Commercial & Conglomerates, Meralco.



## European Networking Socials 22 August 2024

It was a night to remember at the 2024 European Networking Socials! We are grateful to our esteemed members, friends, guests, and partners who joined us last 22 August 2024 at the Sheraton Manila Hotel for an unforgettable evening of connections, collaboration, and establishing lasting partnerships!

Hosted by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, this event brought together esteemed industry leaders, professionals, and like-minded individuals, all under one roof. Your vision and enthusiasm made it a truly memorable gathering.

Our sincerest gratitude goes to our partners: Event Partner PMFTC Inc., Official Venue Partner Sheraton Manila Hotel, Networking Partner The Farm at San Benito, Table Top Partners Ocampo & Manalo Law Firm, Oak Drive Capital & The Sandy Beach Resort Hotel, Beverage Partner Le Cellier French Wine Selection (Le Cellier Quality Store Corp.), and Door Gift Partner Gardenia Philippines.

To view official photos, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBEZhj>

Here's to strengthening connections and fostering even greater opportunities together.



## Understanding Financial Reports: Profitability Analysis 27 August 2024

The second module on "Profitability Analysis" from the Understanding Financial Reports Program, brought to you by the ECCP e-Competency Hub, concluded successfully on 27 August 2024! Attendees gained valuable insights into profitability analysis, equipping them with the tools needed to make informed decisions and maximize profits.



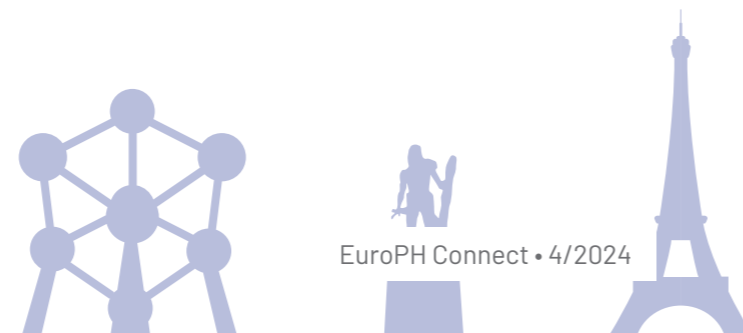
## ECCP and Member NEZDA Global Visited EuroCham Singapore Office 29 August 2024

In line with the visit of ECCP along with its member company Nezda Global for The Business Show Asia in Singapore, the team had the pleasure of visiting EuroCham Singapore for a courtesy visit on 29 August 2024.

The meeting served as an opportunity to explore potential partnerships, foster collaborations, and exchange best practices. The ECCP is excited about the possibilities and looks forward to the mutual growth these connections can bring.

First photo (from L-R): Shelly De Grootte, EuroCham Advocacy & Membership Manager; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; and Eva Vincetic, EuroCham Advocacy & Membership Manager.

Second photo (from L-R): Shelly De Grootte, EuroCham Advocacy & Membership Manager; Jagruti Manshani, Senior Business Manager, Nezd Global; Jeielle Jea Paguntalan, Senior Business Manager, Nezd Global; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; and Eva Vincetic, EuroCham Advocacy & Membership Manager.



## ECCP at The Business Show Asia in Singapore

28 & 29 August 2024

The ECCP was honored to be invited by its member, Nezda Global in joining them at the recent The Business Show Asia in Singapore last August 28 to 29, 2024.

This event served as a platform for NEZDA Global as it embarked on its global expansion journey. Your #ChamberOfChoice is thrilled to become part of this journey and looks forward to the continued collaboration and opportunities that lie ahead.

The Singapore Business Show stands as a premier event for entrepreneurs, business leaders, and key decision-makers to uncover new business opportunities. Featuring over 200 expert speakers, interactive workshops, networking sessions, and personalized advice, it offers a comprehensive platform for engagement and learning.



## Strategic Planning and Management

29 August 2024

The ECCP Competency Hub, in partnership with LifeQuest Training and Consultancy, is thrilled to share the success of the recent training on "Strategic Planning and Management" held last 29 August 2024 at Dusit Thani Manila.

This half-day session provided participants with strategic planning and management principles, from crafting vision, mission, and values statements to developing a balanced scorecard for effective strategy execution. Many thanks to everyone who joined us in this insightful and game-changing event!



## ECCP Courtesy Visit to Corporate Partner Turkish Airlines

3 September 2024

Underscoring the Chamber's unwavering commitment to fostering strong and collaborative industry relationships, ECCP paid a courtesy visit to its Corporate and Official Airline Partner Turkish Airlines on 03 September 2024.

The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to explore avenues for potential joint initiatives. Your #ChamberOfChoice remains dedicated to building tangible partnerships that drive innovation and success in the aviation sector. The Chamber looks forward to the promising opportunities in our continued collaboration with Turkish Airlines.

Turkish Airlines embarked on its journey in 1933 and currently operates a direct flight from Manila to Istanbul eleven times a week and from Cebu to Istanbul four times a week. The airline serves 349 destinations across 130 countries and manages operations at 465 aircraft fleets for cargo and passenger services. Turkish Airlines has been a member since 2016.

First photo (from L-R) Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director; Vina Laurena, Corporate Sales Executive; Huzeyfe Akhan, Country Manager; and Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications.



Second Photo (from L-R) Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director; Huzeyfe Akhan, Country Manager; Vina Laurena, Corporate Sales Executive; and Joanna Santos, Sales Manager.

## ECCP Courtesy Visit to JCV & Associates

3 September 2024

In line with the Chamber's steadfast dedication to fostering strong and collaborative industry relationships, ECCP paid a courtesy visit to Premium Member, JCV & Associates, on September 3, 2024.

This meeting offered a valuable chance to explore potential joint initiatives as the ECCP remains committed to forming meaningful partnerships that drive innovation and success in the construction industry. Your #ChamberOfChoice is eagerly anticipating the exciting possible opportunities with JCVA will bring.

Incorporated in February 2014 by Engr. Jason C. Valderrama, JCVA is a 100% Filipino-owned construction consultancy and was the exclusive Project Management partner for a multinational real estate consultancy from 2014 to 2018. With over 150 experts, JCVA managed 2 million sqm and US\$ 1.5 billion across 200+ projects. Licensed with PCAB and holding dual ISO certifications (ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018), the firm focuses on risk management and stakeholder relationships, combining global best practices with local expertise.



Attended the meeting were (from L-R) Renchel Bonto, Business Development & Marketing Associate; Francesca Tardecilla, UAP, Assistant Manager for Business Development and Strategic Support; Pam Valderama, Director and COO; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; and Canela Reillo, Member Relations Associate.

## Second ECCP Community Connect 5 September 2024

The ECCP Community Connect held on 05 September 2024 at Nezda Global Office, Makati City was a resounding success! The event began with enthusiastic member introductions, followed by a comprehensive overview of the Chamber, its departments, and the advantages of ECCP membership. The gathering was also graced by the presence of Ms. Helen Grace Baisa, ECCP Membership Committee & Food and Beverage Committee Chairperson, and Former ECCP Vice President; and Mr. Lars Wittig, Country Manager, Senior Vice President APAC North at IWG PLC, and Former ECCP President.

This successful gathering was made possible thanks to the support of our venue partner, NEZDA Global, as well as to our session partners Humble Sustainability, HURIS Inc., TESTEX, MR Travel, MAZARS, Ortega, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma & Carbonell, MPower, and The Farm at San Benito for providing valuable insights into

## Beyond Resistance: Understanding and Addressing Systemic Patterns in Your Organization 9 September 2024

The recent training on "Beyond Resistance: Understanding and Addressing Systemic Patterns in Your Organization" brought to you by the ECCP Competency Hub in partnership with Semdi Solutions held on 09 September 2024 was a transformative experience!

Participants engaged in meaningful discussions and hands-on activities that unraveled the complexities of systemic change within organizations, and explored strategies to address and overcome entrenched patterns, making way for a more inclusive, adaptive, and effective work environment. Together, we're making a difference!



their operations and industries. The event concluded with the presentation of membership certificates to our newest member companies.

Your #ChamberOfChoice extends its heartfelt thanks to all our valued members, both new and longstanding, who attended. We look forward to many more inspiring and engaging events together!

For official photos, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBGmQg>



## ECCP Courtesy Visit to CITEM 10 September 2024

ECCP paid a courtesy visit to CITEM on 10 September 2024, highlighting the Chamber's commitment to strengthening industry relations.

Discussed in the meeting are the potential collaborations on trade fairs scheduled for the remainder of the current year and the year 2025. This includes exploring opportunities for partnership, aligning strategic goals, and outlining joint initiatives that can enhance mutual benefits and drive success in future trade events.

The Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), part of the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry, has been enhancing the country's image as a top exporter for over 40 years. CITEM sets high standards in creativity and innovation across various sectors and supports micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), brands, designers, and manufacturers through collaborative export marketing



efforts. This includes FAME+, a publication of CITEM, with the next edition scheduled from October 17 to 19, 2024, at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

In the photo (from L-R) Naomi Rivera, International Trade Fairs & Events Associate; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communication; Leah Pulido Ocampo, CITEM Executive Director; Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director; and Dawn Cabigon, Fairs & More, Inc. General Manager and Race to Net Zero Campaign Manager.

## ECCP Courtesy Visit to Intellicare 11 September 2024

On September 11, the ECCP paid a courtesy visit to member, Intellicare.

The meeting served as an opportunity to explore potential avenues for collaboration and projects, and how the company can further boost their ECCP engagements. As your #ChamberOfChoice, we are committed to forging impactful partnerships that drive progress and success within the country's business sectors.

Intellicare is committed to quality and holistic healthcare. With a passion for innovation, Intellicare aims to bridge the gap between the people and medical resources and infrastructure.

Attending the meeting (from L-R) were Philip John M. Silos, Senior Manager; Anne Criselle C. Peret, Senior Supervisor; Canela Reillo, ECCP Membership Relations Associate; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Daniel Alfonso P. Cagurangan, Strategic Partnerships Manager; Santi P. Cortez, Manager; and Mikhail Alfonso S. Agcaoili, Manager.





## ECCP Board Meeting

12 September 2024

The ECCP Board convened on 12 September 2024 for a productive meeting focused on strengthening the Chamber's commitment to its membership network and advocacies.

Hosted by Roche Philippines, discussions revolved around upcoming plans and activities designed with the ECCP's 830-member network at the heart of these initiatives. With innovation and improvement at the forefront, the Board is dedicated to keeping members connected and engaged, while actively seeking new ways to enhance member satisfaction and deliver even greater value for the year ahead.

In attendance were Managing Director and Airbus Chief Representative to the Philippines Juha-Pekka Hoikka; ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Gen Anaquita-Gatan; ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein; ECCP



Vice President and Roche Philippines General Manager Dr. Diana Edralin; ECCP Director Albert Perez; ECCP Vice President and Treasurer and HSBC Philippines Director and Head of Multinationals and International Subsidiaries Banking Jonathan Webster; ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña; and Fairs & More, Inc. General Manager, and Race to Net Zero Campaign Manager Dawn Cabigon.

## Cultivating Strength and Well-Being

12 September 2024

Cultivating Strength and Well-Being held on September 12, 2024, at Makati Commerce Tower was a remarkable success!

Participants enjoyed a day full of enlightening discussions and motivating strategies, enhancing women's well-being in areas of physical health, mental wellness, and career advancement—offering valuable insights and actionable approaches to support and empower women in these key aspects of their lives.

Big thanks to our Event Partner Centre Médicale Internationale; Venue Partner Colliers -Makati Commerce Tower; Snack Partner Brewing Point Neighborhood Cafe; Raffle Partners Intellicare, Fullerton Health, RadLink, and Physiarié for making this event possible.

A special thank you to our Host and Moderator, Ingrid Pagulayan, and our insightful speakers, Ms. Candy Mauricio, Ms. Laarni Go, MS, RPSY, RPM, and Ms. Carmie de Leon. Your expertise and contributions were instrumental in making the event truly exceptional.



## Adapting Agile & Lean for the Filipino Workforce

12 September 2024

Empowering Filipino workforces through Lean & Agile practices! On September 11, the ECCP together with Event Partner Kaizen Leadership Asia organized its breakthrough workshop "Adapting Agile & Lean for the Filipino Workforce". The event aimed to equip Filipino leaders with best practices and strategies to drive efficiency, advancement, and development within their companies.

Attended by business owners and leaders, the session featured empowering discussions led by Kaizen Leadership CEO Mike Grogan and Professional Certified Coach Nikka Santos. Topics included simplifying and implementing the change management process, examples of successful Lean & Agile implementations in the Philippines, and a candid conversation about the cultural beliefs that may be holding the Filipino workforce back from embracing global best practices like Lean & Agile. A huge thank you to our venue partner InCorp Philippines for hosting the event!



## Charting the Path to 2030: Strategic Conversations on Renewable Energy

16 September 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), together with Event Partner Meralco hosted the first installment of its "Charting the Path to 2030: Strategic Conversations on Renewable Energy" series on 16 September 2024.

This exclusive engagement brought together European embassies, Meralco executives, and key industry stakeholders for an insightful roundtable discussion on the future of renewable energy in the Philippines. The session focused on the challenges, opportunities, as well as best practices associated with advancing renewable energy solutions and energy transition.

Mr. Emmanuel Rubio, President and CEO of MGen, delivered the keynote address and provided actionable insights into advancing the renewable energy agenda. Mr. Rubio highlighted policies and regulations, strategies to attract investments, and opportunities for public and private sector partnerships within the evolving energy landscape of the country.

Moreover, the discussion addressed questions on technological innovations in renewable energy—including solar, wind, and hydro technologies—and the integration of smart grid and energy storage solutions.



Ms. Bernice Gretchel Garcia-Rama, Head of Enterprise Commercial and Conglomerates at Meralco, and Ms. Sophia Ordoña, ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs, moderated the session.

The meeting was also graced by the presence of Mr. Manuel Pangilinan, Chairman and CEO of Meralco.

The event began with opening remarks by Mr. Ferdinand Geluz, SVP and Chief Revenue Officer of Meralco, and concluded with closing remarks from Mr. Jonathan Webster, ECCP Vice President.

This collaborative event demonstrates the shared commitment between the Philippines and the European-Philippine business community in making strides towards a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.

To view more photos, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBHWc4>.

## ECCP and Tetra Pak Philippines Meeting 17 September 2024

On 17 September 2024, the ECCP and Tetra Pak Philippines convened for a meeting to explore avenues for collaboration and to see how the company can boost its engagements as a valued member of the Chamber.

The meeting discussed innovative solutions, industry best practices, and challenges within the manufacturing sector. Discussions on sustainability, technological advancements, and the latest regulatory developments impacting the industry were also highlighted.

A pioneer and world-leading food processing and packaging solutions company, Tetra Pak works closely with customers and suppliers to provide safe, innovative, and environmentally sound products that meet the needs of hundreds of millions of people in more than 160 countries. Tetra Pak has been a member since 2023.



Attending the meeting (from L-R) were Samantha Ferrer, ECCP Marketing Officer; Cedrick Forbes, Consultant; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications; Aidil Razeek, Head of Corporate Affairs for Southeast Asia; Sophia Ordoña, ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs; Catherine Chua, Sustainability Manager; and Canela Reillo, ECCP Member Relations Associate.

## Press Briefing on Race to Zero in the Philippines 17 September 2024

Press Briefing on Race to Zero in the Philippines held on 17 September 2024 at Ascott, BGC, Taguig. The ECCP, together with campaign partners Spring Rain Global Foundation, Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST), and the Climate Change Commission PH, held a press briefing following the Chamber's appointment as an official Accelerator in the Philippines for the Race to Zero.

Led by the UN Climate Change High-Level Climate Champions, Race to Zero is a global campaign uniting over 14,500 non-state actors to take urgent and rigorous action, with the goal of halving global emissions by 2030 and creating a healthier, more equitable, and zero-carbon world. This new role underscores ECCP's dedication to driving meaningful environmental and social progress, fully aligned with the global effort to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement.

The press briefing served as a venue to discuss important updates on the ECCP's role and commitments in advancing climate action with messages from



ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, ECCP Vice President Dr. Diana Edralin, Race to Zero in the Philippines Campaign Manager Dawn Cabigon, and Race to Zero Climate Champions Team Engagement and Accelerator Manager Jane Eisenhardt.

Messages of support highlighting the role of the private and public sector in the campaign were also given by Commissioner Albert P. Dela Cruz Sr., Spring Rain Global CEO Dr. Glenda Antonio, ASSIST Executive Director Francis Macatulad, and The Ascott Limited Philippines Cluster General Manager & Country Sustainability Champion Rennan John Reyes.

Our sincerest gratitude to our partners and guests from the media for your participation. We look forward to working with you towards a greener and sustainable future!

## JFC 7th Speed Networking Night 18 September 2024

It was an incredible evening at the 7th Speed Networking Night! The event brought together members of various chambers and distinguished guests from the diplomatic and business sectors for a night of meaningful conversations and new connections. Many thanks to everyone who joined us on 18 September 2024 at Marquis Events Place, Taguig. Let's continue building an even more vibrant and connected business community together!



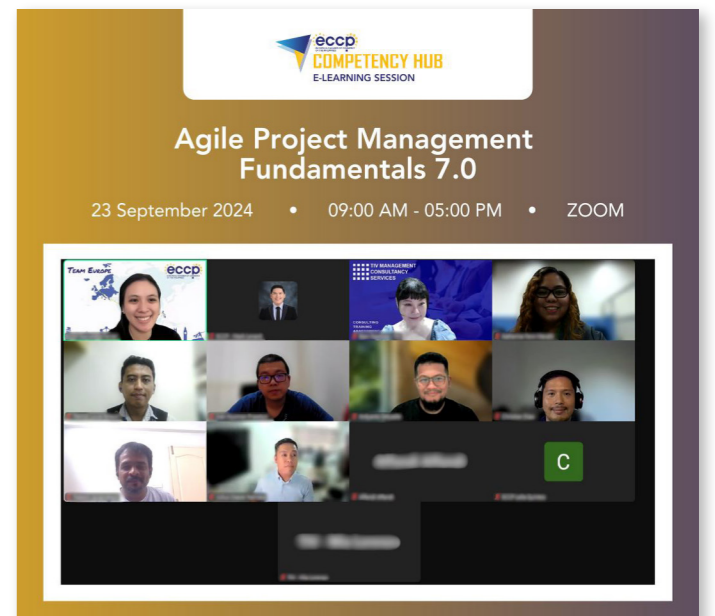
## Data Analytics for Business: Empowering Decision-Making through Data Analytics and Storytelling 20 September 2024

Wrapping up another successful training! The ECCP Competency Hub, in partnership with Whitehall Consulting, concluded its Data Analytics for Business: Empowering Decision-Making through Data Analytics and Storytelling e-Learning session last 20 September 2024. Led by Whitehall Bradford Management Consulting Senior Consultant and Agile Coach Arlaine Ostonal, the session covered key topics such as data collection, data preprocessing and cleanup, and effectively communicating data analytics results. The discussion also provided attendees with valuable insights and practical skills that they can immediately apply in the business world.



## Agile Project Management Fundamentals 7.0 23 September 2024

Here's to running our work and businesses smarter and smoother! The ECCP Competency Hub recently held its Agile Project Management Fundamentals e-learning session last 23 September 2024. The session brought together enthusiastic participants eager to enhance their skills, gain valuable insights into Agile methodologies, and learn practical tools for effective project management. Led by Bam Blanco Ramirez, Managing Director of TIV Management, attendees were engaged in in-depth discussions, participated in workshops, and explored real-world examples to guide them in becoming successful project managers. Many thanks to everyone who joined us for this enriching session!



## 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Forum

26 September 2024

With a focus on nurturing livelihoods and promoting innovation in agriculture, aquaculture, and agribusiness, the 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Forum gathered key players across major sub-sectors to discuss strategic actions in cultivating a more resilient, food secure, and sustainable future for Philippine agriculture.

The Dialogue was filled with inspiring messages, calls for collaboration, concrete plans, and sector-specific solutions to lay the foundation for an inclusive agri-future ahead.

Our sincerest thank you to Department of Agriculture Sec. Francisco "Kiko" Tiu Laurel, Jr.; Sen. Cynthia Villar; DTI Regional Operations Group (ROG) Asec. Grace Baluyan; BFAR Fisheries Planning and Economics Division Chief Maria Abegail A. Albaladejo; Cong. Brian Raymund Yamsuan; Mr. Norbert Chingcuanco of Feedmix Specialists Inc.; Dr. Pawan Patil of the World Bank; Dr. William Dar of Go Negosyo ; Dr. Enrico Miguel L. Capulong of the Bureau of Animal Industry; Mr. Carl Benedick Chung of Bounty Fresh Group; Dr. Jonathan Sabiniano of the National Livestock Program; DA Undersecretary for High Value Crops Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero; Hon. Juliet Opuencia of Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries; Datu Hamsur Zaid of the Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Programme; Executive Director Julieta Lansangan of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority; and Mr. Joey Uy, III of Nestlé Philippines.

We likewise thank Mr. Philipp Dupuis of the Delegation of the European Union in the Philippines, and ECCP President Paulo Duarte for their opening remarks, and ECCP Agriculture Committee Chairs Ms. Ruth Novales and Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc, Rare Inc. (Phils) Director for Policy and Government Engagement Mr. Dennis



Calvan, Cargill Philippines Government Relations Director Mr. Emmanuel Borlongan, GrowAsia Head of Partnerships Ms. Amy Melissa Chua, and Foodlink Advocacy Co-operative General Manager Mr. Anton Palo for moderating and hosting our event.

We also extend our appreciation to Platinum Partner Nestlé Philippines, Bronze Partners Harbest Agribusiness Corporation and Vouno, Conference Kit Partner Yara Philippines, Advocacy Partners Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines Inc. - DCCP, Philippine Business for Social Progress and Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture - PPSA, Booth Partner East-West Seed Philippines, Table Top Partner Filinvest and Media Partner The Impact Magazine for their support!

View more photos via <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBJZXB>

## Inside ECCP: Cebu

### Germany Awaits: Take the Next Step in Your Education and Career

27 July 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), in collaboration with Sprach Institut-Cebu and The German Mittelstand, BVMW - Philippines, hosted a successful event, Germany Awaits: Take the Next Step in Your Education and Career, on July 26, 2024 at Crimson Resort and Spa Mactan.

This event provided attendees with valuable insights into Germany's world-class resources in education, employment, and innovation. Through insightful presentations and engaging panel discussions, attendees strengthened connections with German-based stakeholders, fostering thoughtful dialogue and purposeful collaboration. The networking session further facilitated meaningful interactions, solidifying mutual interests between the Philippines and Germany.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our venue partner, Crimson Resort and Spa Mactan, our raffle partner,



Sprach Institut Cebu and event partners, The German Mittelstand, BVMW - Philippines, Sprach Institut-Cebu and Auftrag.

Here's to fostering many more gatherings that inspire collaboration, connection, and shared growth!

To view more photos, please visit: <https://bit.ly/GermanyAwaitsPhotos>

### PCEI's courtesy visit to ECCP Cebu

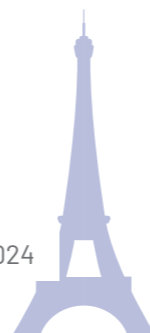
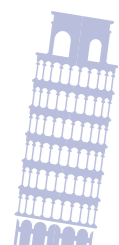
5 August 2024

PCEI's courtesy visit to ECCP Cebu opened doors to exciting discussions on future collaborations and strategic partnerships.

On August 5, 2024, the Philippine Center for Energy, Inc. conducted a courtesy visit to the ECCP Cebu Office. The meeting focused on exploring potential collaborations and discussing areas of mutual partnership with the Chamber.

Attended the meeting were (from L-R): Cebu Branch Officer Ms. Jillian Sitchon, Bottega 8290 Architectural Studio Principal Architect, and ECCP Cebu Business Council Vice Chairman for Design and Infrastructure Sector Arch. Nheil Crisostomo, together with Philippine Center for Energy, Inc. (PCEI) President Dr. Jeddper De Castro and Engr. Janett Lora, Trustee - PCEI Visayas.

We're excited about the innovative opportunities and progress this partnership will create.



## Alignment Meeting with HURIS

7 August 2024

An alignment meeting was held on August 7, 2024, between HURIS and ECCP. Mr. Anton Caedo, Mr. Juan Carlos Medina, and Ms. Laisha Lao-Yco, representatives from HURIS, discussed new collaboration opportunities with Ms. Jillian Sitchon and Ms. Sheridan Tan from the Cebu office of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

The discussion focused on identifying and exploring potential joint events and mutual areas of interest for collaboration that explore new opportunities for both organizations.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to look toward further collaborative ventures and develop a framework for the existing collaboration between ECCP and HURIS.



## ECCP participated in the Tatak Pinoy Regional Forum

8-9 August 2024

ECCP participates in the Tatak Pinoy Regional Forum hosted by the Department of Trade and Industry Region 7 at the Marco Polo Plaza, Cebu.

This two-day event aims to raise awareness of the Tatak Pinoy (Proudly Filipino) Act through discussions centered on global trends that influence global industrial policies and the growth prospects and areas of future collaboration for Philippine industries.

On the second day of the DTI's Tatak Pinoy Act Regional Forum, Undersecretary Rafaelita Aldaba of the DTI-Competitiveness and Innovation Group (CIG) provided a brief recap of the New Industrial Policy. Forum attendees, including representatives from the ECCP, engaged in sectoral focus group discussions, which culminated in group presentations. This forum serves as a venue to collaborate, share insights, and explore opportunities for growth and partnerships.



In photo (from L-R): Board of Investments - Cebu Extension Office Ms. July Anne Guibone, Division Chief Bureau Extension Office - Cebu of Board of Investments - Cebu Extension Office Ms. Floreza Alpuerto, ECCP Cebu Business Council Vice Chairman for Agriculture and Co-Founder of AtoAni Agriventures Ms. Maria Wilvenna Añora, Philippine Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Rafaelita A. Mercado-Aldaba, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Ms. Jillian Sitchon, and ECCP Cebu Business Council Vice Chairman for ICT-KPM-BPO Committee and Mata Technologies Inc President & CEO Mr. Ryan Tan Yu.

## ECCP Cebu Business Council engages with the business leaders in Cebu at the Stratbase Business Roundtable Discussion

9 August 2024

ECCP Cebu actively participated in a strategic roundtable discussion with Cebu and Mandaue Chambers of Commerce to identify and leverage the region's key strengths and competencies. The goal: to attract substantial investments to Cebu and the Visayas.

Representing ECCP Cebu Business Council were Vice Chair for ICT-KPM-BPM and Startups Mr. Ryan Tan Yu, Vice Chair for Agriculture Ms. Ma. Wilvenna Añora, and Branch Officer Ms. Jillian Sitchon.

This collaborative initiative was facilitated by Stratbase PH.



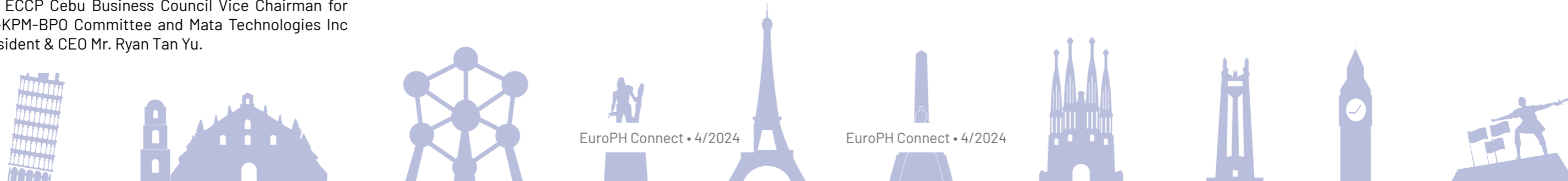
## ECCP Cebu Engages in Strategic Planning Session with Padin & Partners Law Offices

14 August 2024

On Wednesday, August 14, 2024, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Cebu Branch welcomed Padin & Partners Law Offices for a strategic planning session. The meeting was attended by Ms. Jillian Sitchon, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer, and Ms. Sheridan Tan, ECCP Assistant Cebu Branch Officer, alongside Atty. Aaron Sage Caparas and Atty. Stephanie Marie Abigail Olea of Padin & Partners.

The meeting focused on potential collaborations, including a proposal to launch a series of certificate training courses on key topics such as Labor Relations, Anti-Money Laundering, Intellectual Property Rights, and Insurance Law.

This partnership reinforces the Chamber's commitment to providing valuable learning opportunities and enhancing the legal landscape for businesses in Cebu.



## Usapang Exports Session: The Philippine Export Development Plan (PEDP) 2023-2028: Cascading Government Programs and Services

20 August 2024

The Department of Trade and Industry's Export Marketing Bureau (DTI-EMB), in collaboration with the Export Development Council (EDC) and PHILEXPORT, hosted an insightful session today, 20 August 2023 at the Cebu Grand Hotel. This event delves into government programs and services designed to enhance the competitive edge of Philippine exporters.

Attendees participated in export counseling clinics, engaging in one-on-one consultations with resource speakers and specialists from trade regulatory agencies. The session is packed with insights on productivity, innovation, and the latest export regulations, empowering participants to excel in the global market.



## ECCP Cebu participates in the Cebu Investment and Tourism Forum 2024 at the Bai Hotel Cebu, Mandaue City

22 August 2024

ECCP Cebu participates in the Cebu Investment and Tourism Forum 2024 today, August 22, at the Bai Hotel Cebu, Mandaue City.

Join us as we explore the current state of Philippine tourism, highlighting Cebu's tourism offerings and destinations, global tourism market trends and digital transformation efforts in Cebu and the Philippines.

Among the panelists during the morning session was Ms. Gwendolyn Dela Cruz, General Manager of Seda Ayala Center Cebu and the ECCP Tourism Advocacy Committee.

Meanwhile, the afternoon session focused on a comprehensive view of Cebu's investment landscape, highlighting opportunities for partnerships and investments.



## 3rd ECCP Cebu Business Council Meeting at Seda Ayala Center Cebu

23 August 2024

ECCP Cebu Business Council Meeting held last August 23, at Seda Ayala Center Cebu.

The meeting tackled recent updates and accomplishments of ECCP Cebu, while also highlighting upcoming Cebu events for the second half of the year, aimed at furthering their continued commitment to fruitful collaboration, sustainable development, growing membership, and more regional business opportunities.



## ECCP Meets with Socarrat to Boost Visayas Food and Hospitality

23 August 2024

In a recent meeting, the ECCP engaged with Socarrat's Executive Chef Fernando Munoz and Co-Founder Jeffrey Ryan So to discuss strategies for enhancing the Visayas food and hospitality sector. Key topics included workforce development, streamlining logistics processes, and ensuring fair food pricing for tourists.

Both parties expressed a shared commitment to collaboration and explored opportunities for joint initiatives, such as specialized training programs, dynamic events, and comprehensive business development initiatives.

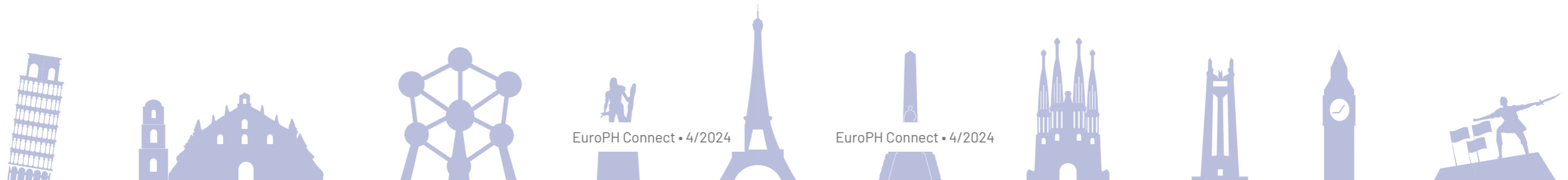


## Aligning Goals for Enhanced Cooperation and Development with Europe

23 August 2024

On August 23, 2024, ECCP met with Europe Restaurant Co-Owner and Executive Chef Jeffrey Broutin to discuss potential partnerships. The meeting focused on exploring opportunities to introduce innovative European culinary and entertainment experiences to Cebu's corporate sector and young professionals.

This strategic alliance aims to strengthen cross-cultural ties, stimulate business growth, and promote cultural exchange.



## ECCP and SunTech Power Explore Synergies for Solar Energy Advancement 23 August 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) recently engaged in a productive meeting with SunTech Power, a leading player in the solar energy industry in Cebu. The discussion focused on potential collaborations to drive innovation and growth in the solar energy sector.

Key areas explored included (1) aligning ECCP's membership benefits with SunTech Power's industry-specific needs and initiatives, (2) developing joint programs to address current trends and challenges in the solar energy sector, (3) exploring strategic partnerships to expand market reach and provide comprehensive support to professionals and businesses.

Through this collaboration, both organizations aim to contribute to the advancement of solar energy technology and solutions in Cebu.



## ECCP Cebu participated in the 24th All Aboard! Startup Cebu Mixer 18 September 2024

ECCP Cebu participated in DOHE Philippines' 24th All Aboard! Startup Cebu Mixer as an event supporter which was held last September 18, 2024 at Enspace, Latitude Building, Cebu Business Park.

Passionate entrepreneurs, innovators, and changemakers attended the event. The esteemed speakers have also discussed invaluable insights on the challenges and opportunities lurking in the water and innovation industries. Thank you to all participants for contributing to a productive evening of networking and collaboration. This event strengthened the startup ecosystem and fostered innovation within the community. We look forward to future opportunities for collaboration.



## ECCP Cebu attended the Sustainable Chic: Art & Lux Affair Art Exhibit 20 September 2024

Last September 20, ECCP Cebu attended Arthaland's Sustainable Chic: Art & Lux Affair Art Exhibit. This event not only showcased exceptional artistry but also highlighted the importance of sustainability in the contemporary art landscape.

The event promotes environmentally conscious practices while fostering the creativity of the local artisans. The exhibit served as an inspiring platform for artists and attendees alike to engage in meaningful conversations about art, luxury, and sustainability.



## ECCP Cebu supported Regus Park Centrale Sunset Cocktails 20 September 2024

ECCP Cebu congratulates its Premium Member, Regus, on the successful Park Centrale Sunset Cocktails event held last September 20 at the Park Centrale Building, Cebu IT Park. This gathering not only provided a vibrant networking opportunity but also highlighted the beautiful synergy of collaboration and community.

The event was a perfect blend of professional engagement and social interaction, allowing attendees to connect in a stunning setting continuing their commitment to fostering relationships and creating a welcoming atmosphere. We look forward to seeing more innovative events like this in the future.



## Courtesy Visit of UHY ML Aguirre CPA & Co 25 September 2024

UHY ML Aguirre CPA & Co's visitation to the ECCP Cebu office paved the way for strategic discussions for the upcoming event, Leveraging Innovation: Overcoming Financial Challenges through Emerging Technologies, happening on December 3, 2024.

Last September 25, the meeting centered on a planning session for this exciting event, where Mr. Aguirre and Mr. Quisao shared valuable insights and key highlights to look forward to. They also discussed potential collaboration with their next plans for their Cebu office as they will be opening their office in the city. ECCP Cebu also connected UHY ML Aguirre CPAs & Co to the Regus team for their upcoming office launching at the Regus - Cebu, Apple One Equicom Tower on December 3.



# Inside ECCP: CDO

## ECCP and ASSIST Co-Implement the Project emPOWER with the Multistakeholder Forum in Iligan City as its launching

8 August 2024

On August 8, 2024, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Northern Mindanao, in partnership with the Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST), successfully co-organized the emPOWER Multistakeholder Forum in Cheradel Suites, Iligan City.

This event brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, including industry leaders, government representatives, educators, local chambers of commerce, and Technical and Vocational Institutes. The aim was to advance the goals of Project emPOWER, a key initiative focused on enhancing the skills and employability of students pursuing electrical-related courses.

One of the highlights of the event was a keynote address delivered by Mr. Jaime Rafael Paguio, Chairman of the ECCP Northern Mindanao Business Council. His speech emphasized the importance of collaboration between industry and academia in addressing the skills gap and fostering employment opportunities, particularly in underserved areas.

In addition, Mr. Francis Macatulad and Ms. Florence De Castro of ASSIST presented an overview of Project emPOWER, followed by a panel discussion on sustainable workforce development. The forum concluded with the ceremonial signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between ASSIST and ECCP, solidifying their commitment to the project.

The emPOWER project specifically aims to address the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the future workforce in Marawi City by providing targeted training and career placement opportunities. Through the collaborative efforts of the Industry Placement Committee, the project seeks to ensure that the linemen graduates of Project emPOWER receive practical experience and eventual employment with key utility companies.



## ECCP Northern Mindanao Celebrates PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority at Gabi ng Parangal

14 August 2024

On August 14, 2024, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Northern Mindanao Branch Officer, Ms. Joanne Natindim, had the privilege of serving as the Master of Ceremonies at the prestigious Gabi ng Parangal, the service awards night of ECCP's premium member, PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PHIVIDEC-IA). The event, held at Limketkai Luxe Hotel, honored the outstanding contributions and commitment of the dedicated workforce of PHIVIDEC-IA.

The ceremony was one of the key highlights of PHIVIDEC-IA's 50th-anniversary celebration, and it was attended by over 350 participants, including employees, former administrators, chairmen, locators, and representatives from various government agencies. The evening was filled with recognition and gratitude for the unwavering dedication of PHIVIDEC-IA's team, whose work has helped drive the organization's growth and success over the past five decades.

In a special moment during the event, a video message from the President of the Republic of the Philippines,



His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., was presented expressing his support and recognition of the vital role PHIVIDEC-IA plays in the economic development of Northern Mindanao and beyond.

The Gabi ng Parangal served as a testament to the strength and resilience of PHIVIDEC-IA and its workforce, recognizing their tireless efforts in advancing industrial growth in the region. ECCP Northern Mindanao is proud to welcome PHIVIDEC-IA as its first Premium Member, marking the beginning of a new chapter in its partnership with the Authority.

## ECCP Receives Recognition from USTP During 8th Charter Day and Tribute to Partners

15 August 2024

On August 15, 2024, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) was honored by the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP) during its 8th Charter Day and Tribute to Partners event. ECCP was presented with a plaque of appreciation in recognition of its ongoing partnership and collaborative efforts with USTP in fostering innovation, education, and industry collaboration.

The event highlighted the strong relationship between ECCP and USTP, a partnership aimed at driving positive change in Northern Mindanao's education and business sectors. ECCP's role in promoting industry-academic collaboration has been instrumental in shaping a future-focused approach to education and workforce development.

The recognition was accepted by ECCP, with special acknowledgment given to USTP President Dr.



Ambrosio B. Cultura II, who also serves as the ECCP Northern Mindanao Business Council's Vice-Chairman for Projects and Programs. Dr. Cultura's leadership has played a key role in strengthening this partnership, which promises to create even greater opportunities for innovation and growth in the region.

ECCP expresses its deep gratitude to USTP for this meaningful recognition and looks forward to continuing this fruitful partnership in the years to come.

## ECCP Hosts MCT Stakeholder's Forum, Driving Economic Growth in Mindanao 27 August 2024

On August 27, 2024, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Northern Mindanao Branch Officer, Ms. Joanne Natindim, was invited to host the Mindanao Container Terminal (MCT) Stakeholder's Forum. The forum, titled Enhancing Regional Trade and Logistics through Infrastructure Upgrades and Innovation, brought together key stakeholders from the logistics and trade sectors to discuss the latest developments in the promising expansion of the MCT.

As the forum host, ECCP facilitated dynamic discussions on the challenges and opportunities faced by the MCT and its users, helping shape the future of trade and logistics in Mindanao. The forum covered various critical topics, including the role of shipping lines, export manufacturing companies, importers, product distributors, truckers, traders, and other port users in advancing regional economic growth.

This event served as a key platform for stakeholders to share insights, solutions, and innovations aimed at enhancing regional connectivity and positioning Mindanao more competitively in the global trade network. The port expansion, a central focus of the forum, promises to unlock further potential for trade in Mindanao, fuelling economic progress and opening doors to new opportunities.

ECCP's active role in leading discussions at this pivotal event underscores its commitment to advancing the region's infrastructure and logistics capabilities, ensuring continued growth and strengthening Mindanao's link to the global economy.



## Inside ECCP: Davao

### European Business and Beers: Kadayawan Mixer 16 August 2024

The ECCP SMBC celebrated the Kadayawan Festival of Davao City by bringing its members together for the European Business and Beers: Kadayawan Mixer last August 16, 2024 at CWC Interiors Davao, Matina IT Park. Creating an evening of vibrant connections and fruitful discussions, members and partners had the chance to network, build new relationships, and explore potential collaborations, further strengthening the business community in Davao. We extend our deepest appreciation to our valued partners for their support: RISE as our Gold Partner, Converge FiberX as our Silver Partner, and our Bronze Partners: Kerry Logistics, First Community Cooperative, and GC Tech; Dusit Thani Davao and Malagos Garden Resort Davao as raffle partners, as well as our Beverage Partner, San Miguel Beer, for adding a festive touch to the night. Here's to more successful gatherings ahead!



### ECCP at the 33rd MinBizCon 2024 in General Santos City 11-13 September 2024

The ECCP proudly participated in the 33rd Mindanao Business Conference (MinBizCon) 2024, held on September 11-13, 2024, in General Santos City. With over 900 business leaders, government officials, and development partners in attendance, the conference served as a powerful platform to discuss the future of Mindanao's economy and foster partnerships for sustainable growth. Hosted by the General Santos City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., and themed "Unlocking the Potentials and Opportunities in Mindanao," the first plenary session on ICT featured ECCP SMBC Chairman Mr. Tony Peralta, who presented on "Supply Chain Integration: Enhancing Business Performance and Competitiveness." The ECCP was represented by Mr. Gerry Constantino, Project Manager of the EU-funded BAEP-CRESCENT Project and ECCP Director for Projects, Events, and Trainings, Ms. Sam Gura of Southern Mindanao regional officer, and other esteemed ECCP members.



The ECCP SMBC proudly joined in celebrating the inauguration of its esteemed member, Honorary Consul Leonilo Claudio, at the opening of the Belgian Honorary Consulate for Mindanao in Davao City on September 18, 2024. Located at the Ecoland Medical Center, the consulate aims to strengthen ties and support the Belgian community in Mindanao. Graced by Belgian Ambassador H.E. Michel Parys, the event emphasized the importance of exploring business opportunities beyond Manila and highlighted ongoing Belgian initiatives in the region, including those in cacao and sustainable energy sectors. Honorary Consul commits on promoting cultural, educational, and economic relations between Belgium and Mindanao.



**ECCP celebrates with Holy Cross of Davao on Ambassador's Lecture Series**  
20 September 2024

Last September 20, 2024, the ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council supported the Institute of ASEAN-European Studies (IAES) of Holy Cross of Davao College in celebrating its second anniversary with a commemorative lecture by H.E. Michel Parys of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium. In collaboration with the Belgium Honorary Consulate for Mindanao, Ambassador Parys discussed Belgium's growing support for farmers in Mindanao and the country's role in the European Union. The event, which also featured the launch of the second volume of IAES's flagship publication Paglayag, highlighted ECCP-member institute's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals through lectures on key issues like safe migration and climate resilience.



**BAEP-CRESCENT Sustainable Investment and Financing Forum in Tawi Tawi**  
22 September 2024

On September 22, 2024, the ECCP through the EU-funded BAEP-CRESCENT Project led the Sustainable Investments & Financing Forum in Tawi-Tawi. Bringing together participants from different municipalities: Sapa-Sapa, Sibutu, Simunul, Sitangkai, South Ubian, T. Tandubas, to explore sustainable investment opportunities. Graced by the presence of the Provincial Local Government of Tawi-Tawi represented by Governor Ishmael Sali, and opened with a welcoming message from the Mayor of Bongao, Hon. Jimuel Que, the forum was filled with messages of support from the BAEP Technical Assistance team and the Ministry of Trade, Tourism, and Investments. With comprehensive presentations, the forum featured investment promotion and enterprise and export development of the BAEP-CRESCENT program. On financing opportunities, Small Business Corporation (SBC) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) highlighted lending programs for MSMEs and infrastructure loans available to LGUs. An in-depth discussion on the potential and solutions for the seaweed industry was led by Marine Algae Products, WCTI Solar, and Powertech Asia Pacific Inc. while Airspeed International and PS Group of Companies also explored opportunities for logistics and sustainable construction. The open forum encouraged active participation among the stakeholders promoting collaborative dialogue to initiate sustainable growth and development in the region.



# Inside ECCP: Iloilo



## Bacolod Business Summit and Expo 2024: Building the Future for a Sustainable Bacolod

The Bacolod Business Summit 2024, organized by Bacolod Entrepreneurs United in partnership with the Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MBCCI), was a pivotal event for the local business community. Supported by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), the summit gathered entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and decision-makers to engage in insightful discussions under the theme, "Building the Future for a Sustainable Bacolod."



The Bacolod Business Summit 2024 provided a platform for exchanging ideas, building partnerships, and championing strategies that promote sustainable development in Bacolod and the greater Western Visayas region.



The event focused on sustainability, aiming to shape Bacolod's future by emphasizing the importance of sustainable business practices, collaboration, and environmental stewardship. Through a series of expert panels, keynote presentations, and networking opportunities, participants explored innovative approaches to fostering economic growth while ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for the city.



As the summit concluded, it was clear that the city had taken a significant step towards a more sustainable future. The insights gained and the connections made at the event will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on Bacolod's economic development and quality of life.

# Advocacy Corner

## Unlock the Future: Regulating the Use of Artificial Intelligence

1 August 2024

On 1 August 2024, the ECCP and its ICT-BPM-KPM Committee conducted the “Unlock the Future: Regulating the Use of Artificial Intelligence” at Dusit Thani Manila. At the forum, key resource persons from the government and private sector provided an overview of the current status of the Philippine AI landscape as well as exchanged insightful dialogues on strategies in transforming the country as a premier destination for AI-driven investments.

The event featured a roster of government leaders and industry experts namely Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Ivan John Uy; Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Assistant Secretary for Employment and Human Resource Development Cluster Paul Vincent Añover; DTI Center for Artificial Intelligence Research (DTI-CAIR) Managing Director and Chief AI and Data Officer Dr. Erika Legara; Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Association of the Philippines (AAP) Vice President Hon. Monchito Ibrahim; GCash Chief Data Officer Sara Venturina; and Crayon Software Experts Philippines Channel Sales Director Carlos Sevilla.

Joining the panel discussion are Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Economic Counsellor Dr. David Klebs; International Labour Organisation Enterprise Development Specialist Mr. Hideki



Kagohashi; SAP Philippines President and Managing Director Mr. Rudy Abrahams; IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) President and CEO Mr. Jack Madrid; Predictive Systems Founder and Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA) Board Member Allan Tan; and Connected Women Founder Gina Romero. The open forum was moderated by Quisumbing Torres Partner Atty. Divina Pastora Ilas-Panganiban, CIPM.

ECCP ICT-BPM-KPM Committee Co-Chairpersons Messrs. Karl Bantiling and Erik Nielsen also hosted the event and delivered the closing remarks, respectively.

The Chamber would like to thank our Event Partner Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI); Event Supporters Eastern Communications, GCash, and PT&T Corp.; as well as Event Patrons Asticom and Converge, for making this event possible.



## ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting with MIAA General Manager Eric Castro Ines

14 August 2024

On 14 August 2024, the ECCP Aviation Committee met with Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) General Manager Eric Castro Ines at the MIAA Administration Building in Pasay City.

At the session, the group had the opportunity to understand the short- and long-term goals of the Authority for the country’s main gateway. The Committee likewise shared its advocacy recommendations as well as raised industry concerns on runways, airport slots, and digitalization, among others.

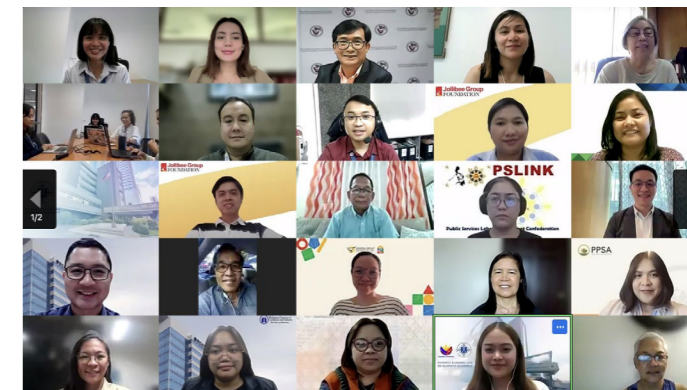
To inquire or join the Aviation Committee, please reach out to [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).

## NEDA Stakeholders’ Chamber Special Meeting on SDGs

14 August 2024

The ECCP participated in a Special Meeting of the Stakeholders’ Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) organized by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) last 14 August 2024 via Zoom.

At the meeting, NEDA briefed the Chamber members on the Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) on the SDGs (PCB-SDG) initiative, which is pursuant to the Republic Act (RA) No. 11467. The group also had an overview on the background and rationale, scope and coverage, framework, and general guidelines of the PCB-SDG.



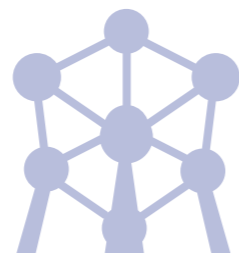
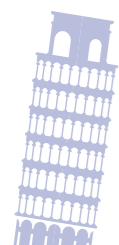
## ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting with NNIC General Manager Lito Alvarez

15 August 2024

The ECCP Aviation Committee paid a courtesy visit to the General Manager of the New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) Lito Alvarez last 15 August 2024 at the San Miguel Corporation Head Office in Mandaluyong City. At the session, the Committee discussed its 2024 advocacy recommendations and raised industry issues on airport operations, passenger movements, as well as safety and security, among others. Mr. Alvarez then presented the plans and priorities of the NNIC as it takes over the Manila Airport on 14 September 2024.

Joining the meeting were NNIC General Manager Lito Alvarez; ECCP Director Jussi Hoikka; ECCP Aviation Committee Co-Chairperson Atty. Mannix Manalo; International Air Transport Association (IATA) Country Manager for the Philippines Samuel David; Turkish Airlines Philippines General Manager Huzeyfe Akhan; Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA) Director Max Motschmann; and ECCP Aviation Committee Senior Advocacy Officer Chienie Nethercott.

To inquire or join the Aviation Committee, please reach out to [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



## NEDA Market Sounding Activity: Inclusion of Purely Private Business Undertakings in the List of IFPs

16 August 2024

On 16 August 2024, ECCP Vice President and Treasurer Jonathan Webster attended a Market Sounding Activity hosted by the NEDA INFRACOM Secretariat, held at the PPP Center of the Philippines office. The activity's objective was to discuss the inclusion of purely private business undertakings on the list of IFPs. Various Private Sector Entities (PSEs) were present to aid in the formulation of the said policy and its criteria. The result of the market-sounding activity will be incorporated into the revised IFP Guidelines, to be presented to the NEDA Board.

## ECCP Aviation Committee-led Workshop on Tax and Financial Matters

20 August 2024

On 20 August 2024 at the ECCP Board Room, the Chamber's Aviation Committee held its second workshop of the year focusing on tax and financial concerns in the sector. At the activity, the resource persons from the government presented an overview of the incentives for aviation investors as well as the salient features of the latest version at the Upper House of Congress of the CREATE MORE bill and its impact on the industry. Moreover, the private sector experts discussed the Cape Town Convention and how it will facilitate aircraft financing. Issues on excise tax refunds for sales of aviation fuel and on international passenger service charge (LI Tax) exemption refunds have likewise been tackled.

The activity featured video-recorded messages and presentations from Senate Committee on Ways and Means Chairperson Senator Sherwin Gatchalian; Senate Tax Study and Research Office (STSRO) Tax Policy and Administration Branch Director III Norberto Villanueva; Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB) Secretariat Attorney V, Legal Services Group Atty. Jocet Consisa P. Dita; and Aviation Working Group Assistant Secretary Karla Baston.

Joining the panel were ECCP Aviation Committee Co-Chairperson Atty. Manolito Manalo; International Air Transport Association (IATA) Country Manager for the Philippines Samuel David; and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation Country Tax Manager Atty. Nimfa Dimailig. Meanwhile, ECCP Director Jussi Hoikka delivered the opening remarks, while ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee Vice Chairperson Atty. Alden Labaguis hosted and moderated the discussions.



## ECCP Food and Beverage Committee Meeting

27 August 2024

On 27 August, the ECCP Food and Beverages Committee convened for a regular committee meeting at the ECCP Office in Makati City. During the meeting, committee chairperson Ms. Helen Grace Baisa highlighted the Chamber's recently concluded Nutrition Forum held last 30 July at Dusit Thani Manila.

Moreover, the group engaged in fruitful discussions on recent industry developments centered on the Philippine Nutrient Profile Model, front-of-pack labelling, and the DOH's draft Administrative Order on the Promotion of Healthy Diets.

To join or inquire about the Food and Beverages Committee, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com)



## Insight Series: Tourism-Driven Real Estate

29 August 2024

The ECCP, along with its Real Estate Committee, organized the first installment of its Insight Series 2024 entitled "Tourism-Driven Real Estate," last 29 August at the Leechiu Property Consultants Inc. (LPC) Office in Makati City.

This event encouraged an engaging dialogue between industry leaders and experts on navigating the challenges, opportunities, and significant developments in the tourism and real estate industries. Providing valuable insights during the panel discussion were Ms. Samantha Managsica, Director and Assistant Vice President for Hospitality of AppleOne Group and Mr. Hanky Lee, Owner and Founder of The Henry Hotels and Resorts. The session was moderated by Mr. Alfred Lay, Hotels, Tourism, and Leisure Director of Leechiu Property Consultants Inc.

The Insight Series 2024 is a sequence of talks centered around emerging discussions on the intersections of tourism, housing, design, and the workplace with the real estate industry. The second installment of this series is set on 19 September.

To join or inquire about the ECCP Real Estate Committee, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



## ECCP Engages with European Services Forum Managing Director Pascal Kerneis 5-6 September 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) recently hosted Pascal Kerneis, Managing Director of the European Services Forum (ESF), who visited Manila to engage with key stakeholders on crucial aspects of the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with a special focus on the services and investment chapters.

This visit included productive dialogues with Philipp Dupuis, Minister Counsellor and Head of the Economic and Trade Section of the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines; several ECCP Board Members; Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Atty. Allan B. Gepty, the Philippines' Chief Negotiator for the EU-PH FTA and various officials from the Bureau of International Trade Relations and Board of Investments; and Celeste Ilagan, Chief Operating Officer of the IT & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP).

The discussions covered a broad range of topics aimed at enhancing EU-PH trade in services and foreign direct investments (FDIs). Key areas addressed included scheduling methods, the movement of natural persons, foreign direct investment regimes, public procurement, customs and trade facilitation, and digital trade. Discussions on the opportunities brought by the EU-PH FTA to the IT-BPO industry also took place. These conversations underscored the importance of advancing the bilateral trade deal and exploring opportunities to boost economic collaboration between the EU and the Philippines.

In the aforesaid engagements, the ECCP was represented by Executive Director Florian Gottein; Board Members Jussi Hoikka and Albert Perez; Director for Projects, Events, and Trainings Gerry Constantino; ICT-BPM-KPM Committee Co-Chairperson Erik M. Nielsen; Associate Director for International and Government Affairs Sophia Ordoña; and Advocacy Officers Kyla Uy and Joaquin Reloj.



## ECCP Aviation Committee Exploratory Dialogue with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines 5 September 2024

On 5 September 2024, the ECCP Aviation Committee had an exploratory meeting with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) about the Chamber's recommendation to adopt the European Union Aviation Safety Agency Continuous Airworthiness Management Organization (EASA CAMO) framework in the Philippines. At the session, the group had an exchange on the current CAAP airworthiness assurance system as well as the important considerations the regulator has before deciding whether to adopt or modify the said framework. The participants then identified the possible areas of collaboration between the ECCP, CAAP, and EASA.

Joining the meeting from CAAP were Engr. Leonard Villar, Engr. Richie Alforque, Engr. Christian Joaquin, Engr. Gino Cruz, Ms. Tricia Sta. Barbara, and Mr. Sherman Del Rosario. The Chamber was then represented by ECCP Members Wingbox CEO/Managing Director Engr. Darmilo Sosa and AsBAA Director Mr. Max Motschmann. Ms. Chin Nethercott and Mr. Joaquin Reloj from the Advocacy Department also took part in the meeting.

To join or inquire about the Aviation Committee, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



## ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee meeting with Allotrope Partners on REPH100 6 September 2024

The ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee, led by Co-Chairperson Ms. Ruth Yu Owen, held an exploratory meeting with representatives from Allotrope Partners on 6 September 2024. Allotrope Partners is an international consultancy firm specializing in clean energy and decarbonization, with a focus on emerging markets and technologies.

The discussion focused on exploring opportunities for future engagements and collaborations related to the REPH100 Initiative. The meeting also covered the upcoming developments under REPH100, aimed at enhancing opportunities for both businesses and energy consumers to further the nation's clean energy objectives. The REPH100 Initiative, inspired by the global RE100 movement, is a private sector-driven effort designed to support the Green Energy Option Program implemented by the Department of Energy.

For REPH100 Community membership application, visit [https://bit.ly/ECCP\\_REPH100](https://bit.ly/ECCP_REPH100).

For more information or any queries, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



**ECCP Engages with SCOPE-HE for Enhanced EU-ASEAN People-to-People Connectivity & Cooperation**  
9 September 2024

The ECCP recently held a productive meeting with the Jakarta-based team of SCOPE-HE, a key component of the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package. The discussions focused on strengthening exchanges in higher education, research, and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) between ASEAN and the EU.

With its emphasis on digital and green transformation, agri-food, and education, SCOPE-HE aligns well with the ECCP's own initiatives. During the meeting, the ECCP shared insights from its recent ERASMUS project, which aimed to enhance the employability and entrepreneurial skills of higher education graduates. Additionally, the ECCP highlighted its implementation of the EU-funded BAEP CRESCENT project, which supports agri-businesses in the Bangsamoro region in becoming more competitive and export-ready. The two organizations explored potential areas of collaboration to further advance these shared goals.



**Webinar on the Stakeholders' Chamber Three-Year Roadmap and Briefing on the Development of the Chamber's ESG Indicator Framework**  
10 September 2024

The ECCP was represented at the recently concluded Webinar on the Stakeholders' Chamber Three-Year Roadmap and Briefing on the Development of the Chamber's ESG Indicator Framework organized by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on 10 September 2024. At the activity, representatives of Chamber member organizations were briefed on how to accomplish the Assessment Checklists, which are crucial in the development of the Chamber's ESG Indicator Framework. This served as a preparatory session to the face-to-face Workshop on the Formulation of the Chamber's ESG Framework on 30 September.



**JFC Meeting Hosted by The Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines**  
16 September 2024

With only a few months before the end of the 19th Congress, the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) held discussions on the priority advocacies aimed at advancing the country's economic growth and competitiveness. During this meeting, the ECCP played a key role in leading efforts to address the industry's concerns regarding Administrative Order No. 23, Series of 2024, which mandates the Pre-Border Technical Verification and Cross-Border Electronic Invoicing of Import Commodities.



**ECCP Tourism Committee Meeting with MARINA**  
18 September 2024

Last 18 September 2024, the ECCP Tourism Committee convened with guest speaker Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Director II Atty. Maria Rowena Hubilla. At the meeting, the Committee learned about the overview of the maritime industry in the Philippines as well as the role of MARINA in promoting maritime tourism. Moreover, Atty. Hubilla discussed in more detail the rules and regulations surrounding the registration, licensing, and operation of shipping, boat, and dive operators, key areas of interest for ECCP members involved in the sector.

To learn more about the Tourism Committee, please reach out to [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



**ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee Meeting with Allotrope**  
19 September 2024

Last 18 September 2024, the ECCP Tourism Committee convened with guest speaker Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Director II Atty. Maria Rowena Hubilla. At the meeting, the Committee learned about the overview of the maritime industry in the Philippines as well as the role of MARINA in promoting maritime tourism. Moreover, Atty. Hubilla discussed in more detail the rules and regulations surrounding the registration, licensing, and operation of shipping, boat, and dive operators, key areas of interest for ECCP members involved in the sector.

To learn more about the Tourism Committee, please reach out to [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



## Joint ECCP Automotive and Aviation Committees Meeting with DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista

23 September 2024

On 23 September 2024, the Chamber's Automotive and Aviation Committees jointly met with Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime Bautista to have a dialogue about the Agency's road and air transport initiatives aimed at achieving Comfortable, Accessible, Safe, Sustainable, and Affordable (CASSA) transportation for the Philippines. At the meeting, the Committees also had the opportunity to share current industry concerns and their respective advocacy recommendations.

Joining the Secretary were DOTr Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports Roberto C.O. Lim; ECCP President and Automotive Committee Co-Chairperson Paulo Duarte; ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein; ECCP Automotive Committee Co-Chairperson Willy Tee Ten; ECCP Aviation Committee Co-Chairpersons Atty. Manolito Manalo and Atty. Marvin Masangkay; AsBAA Board of Governors Member Max Motschmann; Turkish Airlines Country Manager for the Philippines Huzeyfe Akhan; and ECCP Senior Advocacy Officer Chienie Nethercott.

To join the Chamber's Automotive and Aviation Committees, please reach out to [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



# New Members Corner

## Premium Member



### PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority

PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority is a fully owned and controlled corporation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. It was established on August 13, 1974, by Presidential Decree 538 as amended by Presidential Decree 1491 and Executive Order No. 1031. It is mandated to identify and develop sites in the country as prospective industrial areas. PHIVIDEC-IA will equip these areas with the necessary infrastructures to encourage the inflow of domestic and foreign investments. The development of these sites is in accordance with the Philippine Government's policy to disperse industries to the countryside as a means of equitably distributing resources, and as a vehicle to catalyze and sustain social and economic development in the Philippines. At present, PHIVIDEC-IA manages, administers, and supervises the 3,000-hectare Phividec Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental (PIE-MO). It is located in the Municipality of Tagoloan and Villanueva, Misamis Oriental, and is one of the largest industrial estates in the Philippines.

## Regular Members



### Solaire Resort and Entertainment City

Solaire Resort Entertainment City, the premier Filipino integrated resort, proudly celebrates more than a decade of redefining luxury and excellence. For the past years, Solaire has set the standards for 5-star service and world-class facilities, capturing the hearts of guests from around the world. Its commitment to unparalleled distinction has led to the prestigious Forbes Travel Guide 5-Star Excellence Award for the 8th consecutive year.



### Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is a non-profit German foundation funded by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, and headquartered in Bonn and Berlin. It was founded in 1925 and is named after Germany's first democratically elected President, Friedrich Ebert. FES is committed to the advancement of both socio-political and economic development in the spirit of social democracy, through civic education, research, and international cooperation. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung is the oldest political foundation in Germany.

# Associate Members



## Humble Sustainability Inc.

Humble Sustainability is a circular economy startup transforming asset liquidation.

Founded by Josef Werker and Niña Opida in 2021, this Philippine-based startup helps businesses bring back their IT office assets and aging & excess electronics into circularity, ensuring nothing ends up in the landfill and maximizing revenue from items in any condition. These assets are then sold to individuals through Humble's own e-commerce store, and to recyclers and resellers in their B2B network. The company also helps create reports and dashboards that their clients can use for their sustainability reporting.



## Misamis University (Ozamiz City-Misamis Occidental)

Misamis University, a private, non-sectarian Higher Education Institution founded in 1929 in Ozamiz City, Philippines, stands out through numerous accreditations and recognitions. It is acclaimed by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA) for its extensive accredited programs in Region 10, Mindanao, Philippines.



## Takeda Healthcare Philippines Inc.

Our Corporate Philosophy tells the story of our company – who we are, what we do, how we do it, and why it matters. It reminds us how together, we want to achieve “better health for people, brighter future for the world.”

As a top 10 values-based biopharmaceutical company, we have a responsibility to patients, our team and the world to measure our progress against the imperatives and priorities outlined in our corporate philosophy. We've committed to share our progress transparently with all employees.



## Vantage Energy Solutions and Management, Inc.

Vantage Energy Solutions and Management Inc. (Vantage Energy) is the first affiliate Retail Electricity Supplier of MERALCO and was officially licensed by the Energy Regulatory Commission on January 10, 2017.

Our mission is to provide not just electricity to contestable customers in the Philippines' Luzon and Visayas regions but also new, relevant, and customized solutions delivered with the highest level of service.

Eat Well, Live Well.



## Ajinomoto Philippines Corporation

Ajinomoto Philippines Corporation (APC) was established on May 9, 1958. Through the years, APC was able to grow its local business as more Ajinomoto products find their way to Filipino households. Its head office, sales offices and factories are collectively known as the APC Group. The APC Group's mission is to contribute to food and wellness, and to better lives for the future. APC's complete line of quality food and seasoning products are produced from its own factories and by international affiliates and local toll manufacturers using Ajinomoto's license, quality standards and technological expertise.



## Padin & Partners Law

Established in 2021, Padin & Partners Law Office is an esteemed boutique law firm located in Cebu. Their specialized practiced areas include General Corporate Law, Regulatory Compliance & Licensing, Intellectual Property Law, Technology & Start-up Law, Property, Estate, & Civil Law as well as Criminal Law which are tailored to address the unique challenges encountered by individuals and businesses.

As a prominent legal entity, the firm offers comprehensive and tailored legal solutions to meet the unique needs of the clients, domestically and internationally. To support sustainable business practices and legal integrity on a worldwide scale, they help their clients mitigate risks, comprehend and comply with complicated regulatory frameworks, and cultivate a compliance culture. With a focus on ethical, professional, and prompt service, they take pride in being an up-and-coming force in the legal landscape of Cebu.



## Philippine Women's College of Davao

Educational institution offering located in Davao City, Philippines

# Individual Members

**Nigel Kissaun**

Management Consultant of A2E Management Consulting

**Harmen Duim**

Technical Agri Consultant

**Phyo Phyu Noe**

CEO and President of Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc.

## Foreign-Based Member



### SM Care Solutions GmbH

SM Care Solutions GmbH is the recruiting company, mainly deploying nurses from Asian countries, including Philippines, to Germany



# Business Opportunities



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

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



**Portuguese global consulting firm with expertise in Advanced Data Analytics is seeking for partners or clients**

A Portugal headquartered global consulting firm with expertise in Advanced Data Analytics and AI is looking for partners and clients for operations improvement and success by using their tailor fit business solutions. They cater to various industries such as but not limited to Energy & Utilities, Telecommunications, Retail & Ecommerce, Transport & Logistics, Consumer Goods, Process Industries & Manufacturing.



**Spanish wholesale company, specializing in the global distribution of perfumes and selective cosmetics, is seeking to establish partnerships with Philippine enterprises**

A Spanish wholesale company, specializing in the global distribution of perfumes and selective cosmetics, is seeking to establish partnerships with Philippine enterprises to explore business opportunities in the perfume and cosmetics market. They work with the leading brands in perfumery and cosmetics, and offer competitive pricing and personalized service to clients.



**Finnish company is looking for a supplier of animal fat oils to export from Manila/within the Philippines to Malaysia/ASEAN and in the EU**

A Finnish global trailblazer in sustainable solutions and renowned as the producer of sustainable aviation fuel, renewable diesel, and innovative feedstock solutions is looking for a supplier of animal fat oils to export from Manila/within the Philippines to Malaysia/ASEAN and in the EU.



**Finnish Waste Management Company Seeks Importers, Distributors, and Long-Term Partnership Opportunity of their Compactors and Shredders**

A leading Finnish company specializing in waste management solutions is seeking long-term partnerships with importers and distributors in the Philippines. They are particularly interested in patterns with proven experience in importing heavy equipment specifically, landfill compacting machines and shredders. If you have expertise and/or interest in the import and distribution of industrial waste management equipment, this is an excellent opportunity for long-term collaboration.

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



## OCTOBER

★ 2-3

## 2024 AVIATION SUMMIT

09:00 AM - 04:30 PM | 09:00 AM - 08:00 PM  
Manila Ballroom - Marriott Hotel Manila

2

## E-LEARNING SESSION

FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM CERTIFICATION (FSSC 22000) V6  
AWARENESS TRAINING  
09:00 AM - 05:00 PM | ZOOM

4

## E-LEARNING SESSION

MS EXCEL ADVANCED SKILLS FOR BUSINESS  
09:00 AM - 04:00 PM | ZOOM

7

## E-LEARNING SESSION

EFFECTIVE BUSINESS WRITING: PROFESSIONALIZING YOUR  
COMMUNICATION SKILLS  
09:00 AM - 04:00 PM | ZOOM

8

DOING BUSINESS WITH FINLAND  
02:00 PM - 06:00 PM | EDSA Shangri-la

9

## FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING

NEGOTIATION SKILLS WORKSHOP  
09:00 AM - 05:00 PM | Makati Diamond Residences

10

RACE TO ZERO IN THE PHILIPPINES SUMMIT  
07:30 AM - 05:30 PM | Ascott BGC

10

INSIGHT SERIES: TRENDS & OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINE  
LUXURY CONDOMINIUM MARKET  
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM | Leechiu Property Consultants Office, Makati

16

## FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING

DIGITAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF HYBRID TEAMS  
09:00 AM - 05:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

16

## LUNCHEON MEETING

ECCP LUNCHEON MEETING WITH DEPED SECRETARY  
HON. JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" ANGARA  
11:00 AM - 02:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

16

## NETWORKING EVENT

BUSINESS & BEERS: CORPORATE - STARTUP MIXER  
04:00 PM - 07:00 PM | Kickstart Ventures Office, Makati,

17

FINANCE IN THE CLIMATE-HEALTH NEXUS: ADAPTING TO HEAT  
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM | PruHouse, Uptown Place Tower 1, Taguig City

18

## NETWORKING EVENT

VISAYAS JOINT FOREIGN CHAMBER MIXER  
06:00 PM - 09:00 PM | JEG Tower, Cebu City

24

## FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING

ADAPTING AGILE & LEAN FOR THE FILIPINO WORKFORCE  
02:00 PM - 05:00 PM | Cebu City (TBA)

24

## NETWORKING EVENT

FIKA: AFTER THE 9-5  
06:00 PM - 08:00 PM | The Executive Centre, Makati

29

## E-LEARNING SESSION

MULTIPLYING TALENT THROUGH SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
09:00 AM - 12:00 NN | ZOOM

# 2024 International Trade Fairs

Month	Fair Name	Topic	Location
JAN	IMM COLOGNE	Interior Design	14-18   Cologne, Germany
	ISM COLOGNE	Sweet & Snacks	28-31   Cologne, Germany
FEB	SOURCE HOME & GIFT AT SPRING FAIR	Gift & Home	NEC, Birmingham 4-7   NEC, Birmingham
	SOURCE FASHION	Fashion	18-20   Olympia, London
MARCH	SINGAPORE AIRSHOW	Aviation	20-25   Olympia, London
	THAIFEX HOREC ASIA	Hotels, restaurants and cafes	6-8   Bangkok, Thailand
APRIL	ANUGA SELECT JAPAN AND ISM JAPAN	Food and Beverages	10-12   Tokyo, Japan
	ANUGA SELECT CHINA AND SIGEP CHINA	Food and Beverages	17-19   Shenzhen, China
MAY	IFAT BRASIL	Environmental Technologies	24-26   Sao Paulo, Brazil
	FOOD & DRINK EXPO	Food & Beverages	29- May 1   NEC, Birmingham
JUNE	IFAT MUNICH	Environmental Technologies	13-17   Munich, Germany
	AGRITECHNICA & HORTI ASIA	Agriculture & Horticulture	22-24   Bangkok, Thailand
JULY	VITAFODDS EUROPE	Nutraceuticals	22-24   Geneva, Switzerland
	THAIFEX	Food & Beverage	28-Jun 1   Bangkok, Thailand
AUG	ALIMENTEC	Hotels, restaurants and cafes	18-21   Bogota, Columbia
	INTERZUM FORUM ITALY	Furniture & Interior Design	6-7   Bergamo, Italy
SEPT	ANUGA HORIZON	Food & Beverages	3-5   Cologne, Germany
	ISM MIDDLE EAST	Sweets & Snacks	24-26   Dubai, UAE
OCT	ANUFOOD INDIA	Food & Beverages	28-30   Mumbai, India
	HOME & BUILDING EXPO	Furniture & Construction	7-9   Muscat, Oman
NOV	GAMESCOM ASIA	Games & Entertainment	17-20   Singapore
	CHINA BREW & BEVERAGE	Beverage and liquid food	28-31   Shanghai, China
DEC	ELECTRONICA	Technologies	12-15   Munich, Germany
	BRAUBEVIALE	Beverage	26-28   Nuremberg Germany
JAN	BAUMA CHINA	Construction & Machinery	26-29   Shanghai, China
	ASEAN CERAMICS	Ceramics	11-13   Ho Chin Minh, Vietnam
FEB	CONEXPO INDIA	Construction & Machinery	11-14   Greater Noida, India
	SOURCE FASHION	Fashion	14-16   Olympia, London

For more information reach us at <https://fairsandmoreph.com> or [team@fairsandmoreph.com](mailto:team@fairsandmoreph.com)

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YONTEX



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events that influence

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