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OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

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- European Country in Focus: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Interview with Ambassador Sarah Hulton of the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Interview with Department of Energy Secretary Sharon Garin
- Cover Story: Unlocking the next chapter of Philippine Energy



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Editorial

Dear Reader,

Energy plays a vital role in economic growth, industrial competitiveness, and the transition towards a more sustainable future. As we enter the final stretch of the year, the sector continues to evolve amid changing energy demands, global uncertainties, technological advancements, and the growing urgency of climate action. How countries respond to these shifts will shape their economic resilience and sustainability in the years ahead.

For the Philippines, meeting the growing energy demand while ensuring a reliable, affordable, and sustainable power supply is essential to supporting businesses, attracting investment, and strengthening national competitiveness. Achieving this will require continued investment in renewable energy, modern infrastructure, energy efficiency, and innovative technologies. But just as important is bringing the right people together to make progress happen.

At the Chamber, we continue to encourage dialogue and collaboration among government, industry, and international partners to address shared challenges and strengthen cooperation between Europe and the Philippines. It is also in this spirit that we dedicate this edition of EuroPH Connect to Energy, exploring the developments, challenges, and opportunities shaping the sector and its role in the country's future.

In this issue, we are pleased to feature Department of Energy Secretary Hon. Sharon Garin, who shares the Department's immediate and long-term energy priorities, clean energy transition programmes, and insights into the Philippines' competitiveness among Southeast Asian energy markets.

We also feature Her Excellency Ambassador Sarah Hulton of the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who discusses UK-Philippine business relations and initiatives supporting the expansion of British businesses in the country. Read more on page 8.

Our members likewise offer perspectives on developments shaping the sector and the wider economy. KPMG, a Corporate Partner, explores the role of AI in the Philippine energy sector; Leechiu Property Consultants examines the office market and the IT-BPM industry's continued contribution amid economic challenges; while BDB Law discusses VAT refunds for renewable energy projects and their implications for companies in the sector.

Beyond this edition's features, we spotlight the Chamber's initiatives to foster dialogue and collaboration across industries. In October, the ASEAN Transportation Forum brought together experts, government partners, and industry leaders to discuss developments in Philippine transportation and aviation and the factors shaping their growth.

We also held our third AI Forum, exploring long-term development strategies and AI's growing influence across industries, including finance, logistics, and manufacturing. A key highlight was the ceremonial signing between the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines and the Department of Science and Technology for the EU–Philippines AI Lab, marking another step towards deeper cooperation in the field.



Florian Gottein
ECCP Executive Director

Looking ahead, we invite our members and partners to join our upcoming 2027 Economic Outlook on 3 December 2026, where speakers and panellists will discuss what lies ahead for the Philippine business landscape. We encourage you to take part in these meaningful engagements, as well as our other training programmes and industry initiatives.

This edition also offers a glimpse into the Chamber's ongoing work and activities. Our Advocacy Corner on page 32 highlights our latest government engagements, committee initiatives, and policy work, while our New Members Corner on page 68 introduces the newest additions to the Chamber and the fresh perspectives they bring to our network.

Across the country, our branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Clark, and Iloilo continue to support local businesses through various initiatives and engagements. Turn to page 42 for updates on their latest activities, upcoming events, training programmes, and international trade fairs.

Thank you for your continued trust and support of the ECCP. We hope this edition of EuroPH Connect offers valuable insights into the evolving energy landscape and keeps you connected to the people, ideas, and opportunities shaping the wider business landscape.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you and building stronger partnerships towards a more competitive, resilient, and sustainable future for the Philippines and Europe.

Warm regards,

Florian

European Country in Focus

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



93,630
square kilometers

POPULATION
67.8 M
approximately

CAPITAL
London

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The United Kingdom has a long and influential history of trade and industry, with its economy deeply shaped by the Industrial Revolution, which developed throughout the late 18th–19th centuries. As the first country to industrialize on a large scale, Britain transformed production through machinery, factories, steam power, and improved transportation, shaping modern manufacturing and international trade. Today, the United Kingdom has a diverse, highly developed economy that relies on both goods and services trade. It exports a wide range of manufactured goods, machinery, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and other products. At the same time, its service industries (including financial, business, and professional services) also play a major role in international trade. Major industries include automotive, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, financial services, and energy, supporting the UK's manufacturing, trade, and global business connections. These industries and trading activities contribute to the United Kingdom's position as an important participant in the global economy.

Geographical Location: The United Kingdom is situated in northwestern Europe, separated from mainland Europe by the English Channel and the North Sea. It is composed of four constituent countries, England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, with Great Britain referring specifically to England, Scotland, and Wales. The country is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and north, the North Sea to the east, and the English Channel to the south, while the Irish Sea lies between Great Britain and Ireland.

Climate: The United Kingdom has a temperate climate characterized by mild temperatures, frequent cloud cover, and year-round precipitation. Because the country is surrounded by water and influenced by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, extremes of hot and cold are relatively rare. Regional variations do exist: the western and northern regions tend to be wetter and windier due to Atlantic weather systems, while the south and east are generally drier and experience warmer summers and cooler winters. Four distinct seasons shape the year: spring (March to May), summer (June to August), autumn (September to November), and winter (December to February).

Official Language: English; both English and Scots Gaelic in Scotland; both English and Welsh in Wales

Government Type: Constitutional monarchy with two legislative houses

Organizations:

- United Nations (1945)
- World Health Organization (1948)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949)
- Council of Europe (1949)
- World Bank Group (1945)
- International Monetary Fund (1945)
- World Trade Organization (1995)
- Asian Development Bank (1996)

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

The City of London, also known as the "Square Mile," is the UK's main financial district and one of the world's leading financial centres. It is home to banks, investment firms, insurance companies, and other financial institutions, and serves as an important hub connecting the UK to global financial markets. Its strong international connections and diverse financial services make it a key contributor to the UK's economy and global trade.



INTERESTING FACTS

- The London Underground is the world's oldest underground railway system. The first underground line, the Metropolitan Railway, opened in 1863, connecting major overground stations at Paddington, Euston, King's Cross and Farringdon.
- The 1215 Magna Carta is a famous document that set out the principle that nobody, not even a king or queen, is above the rule of law. The first version of the Magna Carta or 'Great Charter' was written as a peace treaty between King John of England and his barons, limiting the power of the monarch and protecting the rights of ordinary people.
- "Big Ben" is the nickname given to the bell inside Elizabeth Tower. The bell weighs 13.7 metric tons and is a British staple across media and symbolism. Beyond this, the clock grew to symbolize British strength and resilience, as it kept ringing even during the bombings of World War II.
- Stonehenge, located in Salisbury, England, is the world's only surviving lintelled stone circle. It began taking shape around 5,000 years ago, long before the pyramids of Giza were completed. Some of its bluestones were transported from the Preseli Hills in Wales, more than 250 kilometres away. Despite centuries of research, archaeologists still debate exactly what Stonehenge was used for.

TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



LONDON

London is a leading UK tourist destination, recognized as the "best city in the world for culture" in Time Out's 2026 ranking. Known for its accessible cultural scene, the city offers world-renowned museums, galleries, historical landmarks, theatres, music venues, and festivals, providing visitors with diverse art, history, and entertainment experiences.



EDINBURGH

Edinburgh is the UK's leading tourist destination outside London, known for its rich history, culture, and heritage. Attractions such as Edinburgh Castle and the National Museum of Scotland highlight its appeal, while Scotland's landscapes, archaeology, and cultural heritage further attract domestic and international visitors.



BATH

Bath is a popular destination known for its history, architecture, and wellness. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it features the Roman Baths, Georgian landmarks, museums, and cultural attractions. Its connection to *Bridgerton* and Thermae Bath Spa further enhances its appeal to visitors.

Interview with Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sarah Hulton



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

When I first arrived in the Philippines at the start of my diplomatic career over twenty years ago, the relationship between the two countries was already a warm, longstanding partnership. It has been wonderful to return and see the breadth of our cooperation – it has developed into so many new areas from trade and investment to climate action, security, governance, education, science and technology and so many more. Our economic relationship has deepened significantly, with bilateral trade now reaching around £3.1 billion annually roughly tripling over the last twenty years and continuing to grow.

There is a strong sense of ambition and openness that makes this a significant moment for both our countries as we mark 80 years of diplomatic relations. I am particularly encouraged by the recent success of our second Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) which MinLord Sarwar co-hosted. This deepened our trade relationship across a range of sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, energy and economic development. We were also delighted that during the visit the UK concluded a recent partnership agreement with the Philippines on export finance which was signed between Lord Sarwar and Finance Secretary Go. This supports a new route for priority Philippine infrastructure projects to access UK expertise and up to £5 billion in UK Export Finance support.

What do you consider the Philippines' greatest strength when doing business with the United Kingdom? What about its ASEAN neighbours?

British companies consistently highlight the capability and professionalism of Filipino talent. The Philippines combines a highly educated workforce with strong English proficiency and a collaborative approach to problem-solving. These strengths are increasingly important in a global economy where ideas, innovation and services matter just as much as physical goods.

Within ASEAN, every market has its own advantages. Some excel in manufacturing, others in logistics or financial services. Another factor that distinguishes the Philippines is its ability to support knowledge-intensive industries; from tech and business services to healthcare and the creative economy.

The country also benefits from a young population and a dynamic entrepreneurial culture. That combination gives businesses confidence that they are not only investing in today's market, but in tomorrow's opportunities too.

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

British businesses are attracted to the Philippines in part because of the long-term growth potential of the market. Indeed, Goldman Sachs has predicted that the Philippines will be the 14th largest economy in the world by 2075.

And UK companies also know the Philippines has one of the largest consumer markets in Southeast Asia with over 117 million people. For example, UK brands from the automotive sector such as Jaguar Land Rover, to food and drink brands like Johnnie Walker to wellness brands such as Vidrate are all seeing growing success in the market.

When considering entry into the market, businesses look for regulatory clarity, predictability and the opportunity to grow. They also look closely at potential local partnerships and whether they can find trusted Filipino partners with whom they can grow over the long term.

What encourages many British firms is that they increasingly see a growing consumer market with a strong commitment to improving the investment environment. The conversations I have with business leaders are no longer simply about exploring possibilities; they are about identifying specific projects and opportunities for expansion in areas such as healthcare, infrastructure and clean energy.

> *"The future of UK-Philippines relations lies in building a stronger, more strategic partnership that creates lasting opportunities for both nations"*

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

A major milestone was the establishment in 2025 of the UK-Philippines JETCO. The Philippines recently hosted our 2nd JETCO during Lord Sarwar's visit in September. The JETCO provides a practical framework for identifying opportunities, addressing market barriers and strengthening our two-way trade, investment and commercial relationships. Priority areas and sectors of discussion have focused on infrastructure, energy, agriculture, healthcare and economic development.

Alongside this, the UK's Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade works closely with Philippine partners to connect British businesses to opportunities across the country, not just in Metro Manila but increasingly in emerging growth centres.

Today we see particularly strong British business engagement in a range of sectors from infrastructure to aerospace to healthcare and technology. UK firms such as Rolls Royce are exporting here while other innovative healthcare firms such as Astra Zeneca are also exporting more and investing locally.

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

We're confident our trade and investment relationship will continue to grow at pace. We see opportunities across a range of sectors from aerospace to healthcare to renewable energy and expect these to be at the heart of our business relationship. We will also continue to strengthen our bilateral trade and economic relationship through the UK-Philippines Joint Economic and Trade Committee. We are supportive of the Philippines' application to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) which would create a long term and detailed framework for our relationship.

But our vision is for a UK-Philippines trade and investment relationship that is not simply larger, but more strategic. One where British and Filipino businesses innovate together, universities collaborate on research, investors back major infrastructure projects, and both countries contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth. Achieving that vision requires continued collaboration between governments, the private sector and academia. It also requires us to maintain the openness and trust that have always characterised our relationship over the last eight decades.

Having returned to the Philippines twenty years on, it's clear what the opportunities are for us to work together in so many fruitful areas. The UK wants to be a long-term partner in that journey. Here's to the next 80 years!



Interview with Department of Energy Secretary

Hon. Sharon Garin



What makes the Philippines more competitive compared to other Southeast Asian energy markets?

The Philippines has one of the region's most market-oriented, private-sector-driven power industries, and it took more than two decades of reform to get there. EPIRA unbundled the sector and widened private participation. The Wholesale Electricity Spot Market enables electricity pricing transparency. Renewable energy development has been opened to greater foreign participation, and the Green Energy Auction Program adds a competitive route to market. Investors have several ways in.

Electricity demand is growing, and our supply mix is moving toward greater diversity and security. We have deep solar, wind, offshore wind, geothermal, hydropower and storage potential. Continuing reforms in transmission, permitting and renewable energy development are turning that potential into a sizeable project pipeline. We welcome European partners to it.

How significant is the Palawan gas discovery in terms of reserves and energy contribution, how will it reduce reliance on imported LNG, and what environmental safeguards are in place for its development?

Malampaya East-1 holds an estimated 98 billion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas, close to the existing Malampaya facilities. That translates to about 13.9 billion kilowatt-hours, enough to power roughly 5.8 million households for a year

"A stronger energy future begins with making the most of the country's diverse resources"

We are well on our way towards establishing commercial viability. This development drives forward a more energy-independent Philippines by sustaining fuel supply to our gas-fired plants and reducing the LNG we would otherwise import. That strengthens energy security and shields consumers from volatility in international fuel prices and supply.

The project is being developed in accordance with our environmental laws and regulatory requirements and with close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR): environmental impact assessment and permitting, marine and biodiversity protection, environmental monitoring, spill prevention and response, and stakeholder engagement. These safeguards apply from development through operation, because our indigenous resources must be developed responsibly.

With the Philippines regarded as energy-insecure, what are the Department's immediate and long-term energy priorities?

In the near term, we must keep supply adequate and reliable and manage the impact of volatile global fuel prices on the everyday Filipino. We are maximizing available indigenous resources, accelerating committed generation capacity, applying demand-side management when needed, and addressing transmission and grid constraints. About 200 priority power projects, roughly 10,000 MW of new capacity, are being fast-tracked to come online by 2028.

Over the longer term, the Philippine Energy Plan charts our path toward energy independence: greater use of domestic resources and a more diversified power mix. We are targeting a 35 percent renewable energy share by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040. We are expanding transmission and energy storage, developing offshore wind and other emerging technologies, and establishing the enabling framework for nuclear energy. The result should be a power system with sufficient capacity and flexibility, and far less exposure to external supply and price shocks–one that truly serves Filipino households.

How is the government balancing energy security concerns with climate and clean energy commitments?

Energy security and the clean energy transition belong in the same strategy. We are an archipelago that depends heavily on imported fuel, and we owe our people power that is reliable and affordable. Diversifying the mix and developing our indigenous resources lowers our exposure to supply disruption and price volatility. A growing share of cleaner energy also advances our sustainability goals.

Under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., we are accelerating renewable energy deployment toward a 35 percent share of the generation mix by 2030, 50 percent by 2040, and more than 50 percent by 2050. Through the Green Energy Auction Program, we are pursuing at least 25 GW of additional renewable capacity from 2027 to 2035.

Transmission, battery energy storage and other flexible capacity will be built alongside it to integrate variable renewables while maintaining grid reliability.

The transition also has to reflect the realities of our power system and our growing demand. We will keep developing indigenous resources, strengthening transmission and storage, and evaluating other technologies that can provide dependable capacity as renewables scale up. We will arrive at a diversified and resilient system that cuts our reliance on imported fuel and fulfills our climate commitments.

What progress has been made in diversifying the country's energy mix to reduce dependence on fossil fuels?

The progress is measurable. Renewable energy was 25 percent of gross power generation in 2025, up from 22 percent in 2024, with new solar and wind capacity joining our established geothermal and hydropower base. The Green Energy Auction Program is the main driver of the next phase. It is a ten-year program targeting at least 25 GW of additional renewable capacity through 2035, and we are advancing offshore wind and other technologies alongside it. Investments in transmission and storage will allow that capacity to be integrated into the grid. The direction is clear: a larger share of domestic and renewable energy, and less dependence on imported fossil fuels.

What is the current status of the Philippines' efforts to achieve SDG 7? What programs of the Department facilitate the clean energy transition and support the acceleration of achieving Goal 7?

The Philippines continues to make steady progress on SDG 7. As of end-2025, household electrification reached 94.93 percent, covering about 28.75 million households, and renewables supplied about 25 percent of power generation. Installed renewable capacity stood at 10,634 MW as of March 2026, about a third of total installed capacity. Energy intensity improved from 3.4 in 2015 to 3.10 in 2024.

Our focus now is the households still waiting for power. The National Total Electrification Roadmap targets 100 percent household electrification by 2028. For clean energy, we have the Green Energy Auction Program, Renewable Portfolio Standards, Net-Metering and the Green Energy Option Program, together with implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act. We are expanding transmission, energy storage and renewable-based off-grid solutions to reach unserved communities and to support the integration of more clean energy. These programs serve our 2030 and 2040 targets and continue to improve access, reliability and affordability for every Filipino.





From discovery to delivery: Unlocking the next chapter of Philippine energy

The Philippines is entering a critical phase in its economic and energy development. Rapid industrialization and urbanization are driving electricity demand higher even as the country accelerates the deployment of lower-carbon energy, particularly variable renewable sources such as solar and wind.

Meeting these demands will require an energy system that balances reliability and affordability today with flexibility and decarbonization for tomorrow.

For Prime Infra, these priorities are not competing objectives. They are interconnected parts of a broader energy architecture connecting domestic resources, infrastructure, technology, and long-term capital to support the Philippines' growth.



Prime Infra officers, led by Chairman Enrique K. Razon Jr., President and CEO Guillaume Lucci, and Prime Energy President and CEO Donnabel Kuizon Cruz, visited the Noble Viking drillship in offshore Palawan alongside Energy Secretary Sharon Garin and then Senate Committee on Energy chair Senator Pia Cayetano last June 19, 2025.

At the center of this strategy is a drilling and exploration campaign under Service Contract 38 (SC38), beginning with Malampaya Phase 4 (MP4), a $14-billion deepwater program to unlock new indigenous natural gas resources, sustain reliable power supply, and reduce exposure to volatile global fuel markets. SC 38 is operated by Prime Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of Prime Infra.

Strategic infrastructure for long-term growth

For Guillaume Lucci, President and CEO of Prime Infra, addressing the country's structural energy needs requires a long-term view and the ability to connect individual investments into a broader infrastructure ecosystem.

"The Philippines has an opportunity to build on the infrastructure and capabilities it has developed over the past decades," Lucci said. "Our focus is on making the investments today that give the country the capacity and flexibility to respond to what comes next."

That approach extends beyond individual assets. Prime Infra's energy portfolio brings together upstream resource development, gas infrastructure, power generation, and energy storage, with each component designed to address a different part of the country's evolving energy system.

"Energy infrastructure has to be built with the next generation of demand in mind. The objective is not to predict exactly what the energy system will look like, but to build the assets and capabilities that allow it to evolve," Lucci adds.

Extending indigenous reserves: the upstream imperative

For more than two decades, the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project has been a cornerstone of the Philippine power system, supplying indigenous natural gas to power plants that serve Luzon. As a domestic fuel source, Malampaya has helped reduce the power sector's exposure to imported fuel prices, foreign exchange movements, and disruptions in international energy markets.

As the original reservoir naturally depletes, extending Malampaya's contribution requires finding and developing additional indigenous resources.

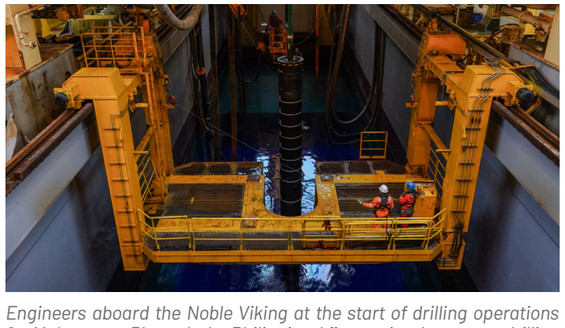
Following the renewal of SC38 in May 2023, Prime Energy launched a deepwater drilling and exploration campaign—the country's first major offshore exploration program in more than a decade. The campaign has since delivered two significant subsurface milestones through the Malampaya East-1 (MAE-1) and Camago-3 (CA-3) wells, drilled in early 2026.

MAE-1 confirmed a new natural gas accumulation estimated at approximately 98 billion cubic feet of gas in place. CA-3 subsequently expanded the resource base, achieving test rates of up to 60 million standard cubic feet per day and identifying an estimated recoverable resource roughly two and a half times larger than MAE-1.

Donnabel Kuizon Cruz, President and CEO of Prime Energy, said the success of MP4 represents a broader vote of confidence in the potential of Philippine oil and gas exploration.

"Exploration is a long-term business. Every well adds to our understanding of the basin and informs where we can go next," Cruz said. "What we have learned through MP4 gives us greater confidence in the potential of Philippine resources and in our ability to develop these resources responsibly."

Prime Energy is targeting first gas from the new discoveries in the fourth quarter of 2026, marking the transition from exploration and appraisal to commercial delivery.



Engineers aboard the Noble Viking at the start of drilling operations for Malampaya Phase 4, the Philippines' first major deepwater drilling campaign in more than a decade.

"The discipline now shifts from finding the resource to developing it for production. That means maintaining the same focus on safety and execution while bringing the gas online reliably and at the right time to meet the needs of the power sector," Cruz adds.

From discovery to delivery

The next chapter of Malampaya is unfolding within a broader policy framework for developing the Philippines' domestic natural gas industry. Republic Act No. 12120, or the Philippine Natural Gas Industry Development Act, provides the policy foundation for the sector, while the Department of Energy has supported MP4 as an Energy Project of National Significance.

The case for indigenous gas is also economic. In his 2026 State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. described the newly discovered gas as a "national treasure" and linked the discoveries to the continued production of the Malampaya field. Its strategic value is particularly clear amid global energy market volatility, with Malampaya gas costing approximately P4.80 per kWh, compared with about P10.30 per kWh for imported LNG.

Beyond fuel supply, Malampaya has generated more than USD14 billion in revenues for the Philippine government since the project began commercial operations, underscoring its contribution to national development. Its broader impact also extends to host communities. Through the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI), programs have supported community development, skills training, environmental protection, and marine conservation, while the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI) focuses on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Mindoro.

"Malampaya has shown what Philippine resources can contribute when they are developed with the right expertise, investment, and partnerships," Cruz said. "Our responsibility now is to build on that experience—to bring new resources into production safely and reliably, while continuing to strengthen the country's capacity to explore and develop its own energy resources."

Building the gas-to-power value chain

Unlocking new gas resources is only the beginning. Their value is realized when connected to the infrastructure and generation capacity needed to bring gas from the reservoir to the grid.

This is where Prime Infra's integrated energy platform creates a strategic advantage.

It now brings together Prime Energy, Prime Midstream, and Prime CoreGen, with the latter two joining following Prime Infra's November 2025

acquisition of a 60% controlling stake in First Gen's gas assets. Through these businesses, Prime Infra is building the Philippines' first fully integrated gas-to-power value chain, connecting upstream production, midstream infrastructure, and power generation.

Through these businesses, Prime Infra is building the Philippines' first fully integrated gas-to-power value chain, connecting upstream production, midstream infrastructure, and power generation.

This platform enables greater coordination across the value chain, helping turn indigenous gas into reliable power while strengthening the system's resilience and readiness for a changing energy mix.

"Integration gives us a clearer line of sight from resource development to the end customer," Lucci said. "It allows us to think about the entire value chain together—where capital is deployed, where infrastructure is needed, and how we can ultimately deliver energy more efficiently and reliably."



The Philippine Natural Gas Complex in Batangas City is a 110-hectare integrated gas-to-power hub with about 2 GW of gas-fired generation capacity. Its main assets include the 1,000-MW Santa Rita, 500-MW San Lorenzo, 450-MW San Gabriel and 97-MW Avion power plants, as well as an offshore LNG terminal.

A flexible bridge to a renewable-intensive grid

The role of natural gas becomes even more relevant as the Philippines accelerates renewable energy deployment.

Solar and wind will be essential to the country's long-term decarbonization objectives, but their variable output will increase the need for flexible resources that can maintain grid reliability.

Prime Infra is pursuing this complementary approach through natural gas and utility-scale energy storage, including the proposed 600-MW Wawa pumped storage hydropower project in Rizal and 1,400-MW Pakil project in Laguna.

"The conversation often focuses on how much renewable capacity we can add. Just as important is whether the grid has the infrastructure to absorb it. That means thinking about where generation is located, where demand is growing, and how we move and store electricity when the system needs it," Lucci said.

Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said the developments are a "feat of engineering." "It's a feat of engineering... It's a complicated project. Normally, even just non-pumped storage, a hydro usually takes 10 to 15 years to finish, but this was very planned out. And they're delivering on time and on budget," she said.

Both the Pakil and Wawa projects are certified Energy Projects of National Significance and were awarded contracts under the Green Energy Auction Program.



Inside the powerhouse of the 600-MW Wawa Pumped Storage Project, which is expected to help stabilize the grid as the Philippines transitions toward a higher share of renewable energy.

"The DOE deserves a lot of credit. With a wave of renewables coming in, it anticipated the need for large-scale storage and grid flexibility and put the mechanisms in place ahead of demand," said Lucci.

Together, gas and storage can provide the flexibility needed to integrate a growing share of variable generation.

For Prime Infra, this is the broader opportunity: to build the infrastructure that connects domestic resources, flexible generation, and large-scale storage into a more resilient energy system. Each investment addresses a different constraint, but their value is greatest when they work together.

That is the next chapter of Philippine energy—moving from individual assets to an integrated system that can deliver reliable power today while creating the flexibility needed to support the government's renewable energy targets of 35% of the power generation mix by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

For Prime Infra, the strategy is clear: develop the resources the country has, build the infrastructure needed to move and store energy, and create the system resilience required to support long-term economic growth.

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Powering the Intelligence Age: AI's role in the Philippine energy sector

By Ryan E. Cabello

At a time when "all companies are technology companies" and the world stands on the verge of an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled Intelligence Age, the energy sector is moving decisively to integrate technology into operations. Globally, energy leaders are using AI and emerging technologies to improve operational performance, while digital investments increasingly focus on measurable business value. KPMG's Global Tech Report 2026 identifies production optimization, predictive maintenance and integrated asset management among the areas where digital initiatives are already delivering value.

In the Philippines, this shift is already taking shape as power utilities adopt AI, advanced analytics and smart-grid technologies across operations. Recent industry developments point to the use of AI-powered analytics to detect network anomalies, improve outage response and support predictive maintenance, alongside smart meters and automated grid systems that provide greater visibility into energy consumption and network conditions.

These technologies can improve both operational efficiency and grid reliability. Real-time monitoring and predictive analytics can help identify potential failures earlier, reduce downtime and support more proactive maintenance, while advanced metering can give utilities and consumers greater visibility into energy use. As the Philippines integrates more renewable energy and distributed energy resources, digital tools can also help manage increasingly complex power flows and balance supply with demand.

The next challenge is scaling these capabilities across the wider energy system. As AI adoption grows and new digital infrastructure adds to electricity demand, the sector will need stronger data foundations, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure and grid capacity. The opportunity is not simply to make energy operations smarter, but to build an energy system resilient enough to power the Intelligence Age.



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Leechiu Property Consultants offers a comprehensive range of services to both local and international clients. With a team of experienced professionals possessing extensive knowledge of the industry and a strong network of contacts within the business community, Leechiu Property Consultants has earned the reputation as the leading brokerage and consultancy firm in the Philippines since 2015.

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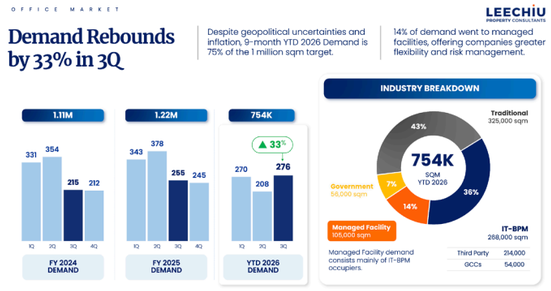
IT-BPM Is Still Carrying the Office Market

By Marco De Padua

In a year when the Philippine economy has faced one headwind after another, the office market has proven remarkably resilient. Growth slowed to 2.3% in the second quarter, its weakest pace since the pandemic, while inflation climbed back to 7.2% in September and the peso slipped to near-record lows. Even so, office demand rebounded 33% from the previous quarter, lifting year-to-date leasing to 754,000 square meters, according to our 3Q 2026 Philippine Property Market Report.



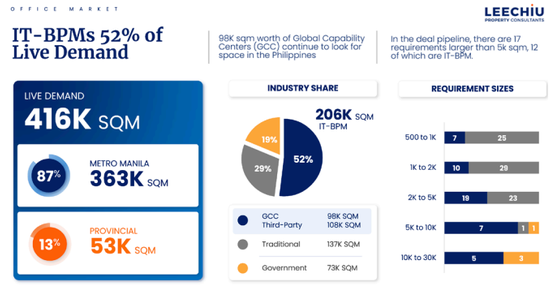
Behind that resilience is a familiar engine: the IT and business process management (IT-BPM) sector, which remains the single biggest driver of office demand this year, with an influence that runs even deeper than the headline figures suggest.

A larger footprint than the headline suggests

IT-BPM firms have leased 268,000 sqm so far in 2026, or 36% of total demand. Third-party outsourcing companies account for 214,000 sqm of that, while global capability centers (GCCs), the in-house hubs multinationals set up to run functions such as finance, technology and analytics, took the remaining 54,000 sqm. Even that figure understates the sector's reach, because managed facilities, the flexible and fully serviced offices increasingly favored by companies that value agility, absorbed another 105,000 sqm, most of it taken by IT-BPM occupiers. Counting both, outsourcing-related tenants account for roughly half of all office space leased in the country this year.

Betting on the long term

What stands out is not only how much space IT-BPM firms are taking, but how far ahead they are planning. Of the 60,000 sqm of upcoming office space already pre-leased, 58,000 sqm was committed by IT-BPM companies, a clear sign that they see the Philippines as a long-term base rather than a short-term arrangement. That confidence extends across the wider market, where 65% of transactions of 1,000 sqm and above were expansions rather than relocations or new sites.



The pipeline points the same way

The deals still on the table tell a similar story. IT-BPM firms account for 206,000 sqm of the 416,000 sqm of live demand we are currently tracking, and 12 of the 17 requirements larger than 5,000 sqm come from the sector. GCCs alone are searching for 98,000 sqm, a strong indication that multinationals continue to build out their Philippine operations despite global uncertainty.

Policy support adds momentum

Government policy is giving the sector an added push. Some 68% of year-to-date demand went to PEZA-accredited buildings, whose tax incentives remain a powerful draw for export-oriented firms such as outsourcing companies. With Administrative Order 45 lifting the moratorium on new economic zones in Metro Manila, these tenants are set to gain a wider choice of buildings across the capital.

What it means

With 75% of the 1-million-sqm full-year target already reached, whether the market crosses that milestone will depend largely on how many IT-BPM and GCC deals close in the final quarter. For landlords, particularly those offering PEZA-accredited or flexible space, the sector remains the tenant base most worth courting as the economy works through a challenging stretch.

VAT Refunds for Renewable Energy Projects: Timing Matters

By Irwin C. Nidea Jr.

The construction of solar and wind farms is accelerating. For renewable energy companies, this also means substantial input VAT is incurred and accumulated, often years before a project begins commercial operations. This raises a practical but critical question: When should a VAT refund claim be filed?

Recent Supreme Court decisions provide an opportunity to revisit an issue that has long surfaced in VAT refund practice. While the Tax Code is clear on the applicable prescriptive period, discussions in practice have often focused on a different point in time: when the input VAT was incurred.

Under the Tax Code, a claim for refund or tax credit of unutilized input VAT attributable to zero-rated sales must be filed within two years from the close of the taxable quarter when the zero-rated sales were made.

Yet despite the clarity of this rule, discussions often begin with a different question: When was the input VAT incurred?

This is understandable. Businesses engaged in capital-intensive projects such as renewable energy power generation typically incur substantial input VAT during construction—on equipment, construction contracts, engineering services, and other project costs—long before commercial operations commence. From a commercial standpoint, the economic burden is felt when the VAT is paid.

Indeed, VAT refund claims are often described by reference to the taxable year when the input VAT was incurred: "input VAT incurred during taxable year 2025" or "input VAT incurred during the first quarter of 2026." Over time, this way of describing refund claims may have inadvertently created the impression that the two-year prescriptive period likewise begins when the input VAT is incurred.

The law, however, measures the period differently.

Input VAT Before Commercial Operations

This distinction came to the fore in litigation involving a company that incurred substantial input VAT while constructing its power generation facility. During the construction years, there were naturally no commercial sales. The Bureau of Internal Revenue argued that the refund claim should fail because there were no zero-rated sales during the period when the input VAT was incurred.

The Court of Tax Appeals (CTA), however, in one case recognized the commercial realities of the industry.

The CTA held that the Tax Code does not require the purchases giving rise to the input VAT and the corresponding zero-rated sales to occur within the same taxable period. Construction necessarily precedes commercial operations. What matters is that, by the time the administrative claim is filed, the taxpayer has already generated actual zero-rated sales to which the previously accumulated input VAT may legally be attributed.

Since commercial operations had already commenced before the refund claims were filed, the CTA held that the claims were not prematurely filed.

The decision was significant. It recognized a reality familiar to project developers: substantial input VAT may be incurred long before the first sale is made. It likewise confirmed that input VAT accumulated during the construction stage is not necessarily lost simply because commercial operations have yet to begin.

A subsequent refund case presented a different result. But this time it went up to the Supreme Court.

There, the taxpayer sought to recover input VAT incurred during taxable year 2013. The evidence showed, however, that the taxpayer had not generated any commercial sales throughout that year. Its first sale of electricity occurred only in 2014. The Supreme Court sustained the denial of the refund claim because, at the relevant time, there were still no actual zero-rated sales to which the claimed input VAT could be attributed.

The first decision answered whether input VAT incurred before commercial operations may eventually be refunded even if there is no sale yet reported in the VAT return that is subject of the claim. The CTA ruled that it can be filed within 2 years when the input VAT was incurred. In the second case however, the Supreme Court ruled that where input VAT is accumulated before commercial operations, the taxpayer may carry it forward until it begins generating qualifying zero-rated sales. Once commercial operations commence, the previously accumulated input VAT may potentially be attributed to those transactions and become the subject of a refund claim.

Thus, taxpayers, including renewable energy companies must wait until zero-rated sales is reported in the VAT returns before the claim for VAT refund must be initiated.

But What Happens After Commercial Operations Begin?

The more difficult question arises after the taxpayer has been in commercial operations for several years.

Suppose a taxpayer seeks a refund of input VAT incurred during a particular taxable quarter or year. If the attribution requirement is applied too narrowly, must the taxpayer prove that the zero-rated sales during that same period are specifically attributable to the input VAT incurred during that quarter? Must every purchase be traced to a particular zero-rated sale?

A literal approach could produce an artificial result.

VAT is a consumption tax. In a capital-intensive business, inputs are not necessarily consumed in the same period in which they are purchased, nor can every input realistically be matched to a particular sale. A power plant, for example, may require years of construction and millions of pesos in equipment, engineering, and development costs before it generates a single kilowatt-hour of electricity. Once operational, those investments support the taxpayer's continuing generation of zero-rated sales.

The more meaningful question, therefore, may not be when the input VAT was incurred, but when the taxpayer has actual zero-rated sales against which the accumulated input VAT may properly be attributed.

This distinction has practical consequences.

Taxpayers should not assume that the two-year period begins running simply because input VAT was incurred. At the same time, they should not assume that accumulated input VAT may be held indefinitely without regard to the taxpayer's actual zero-rated sales and the statutory period for filing a claim.

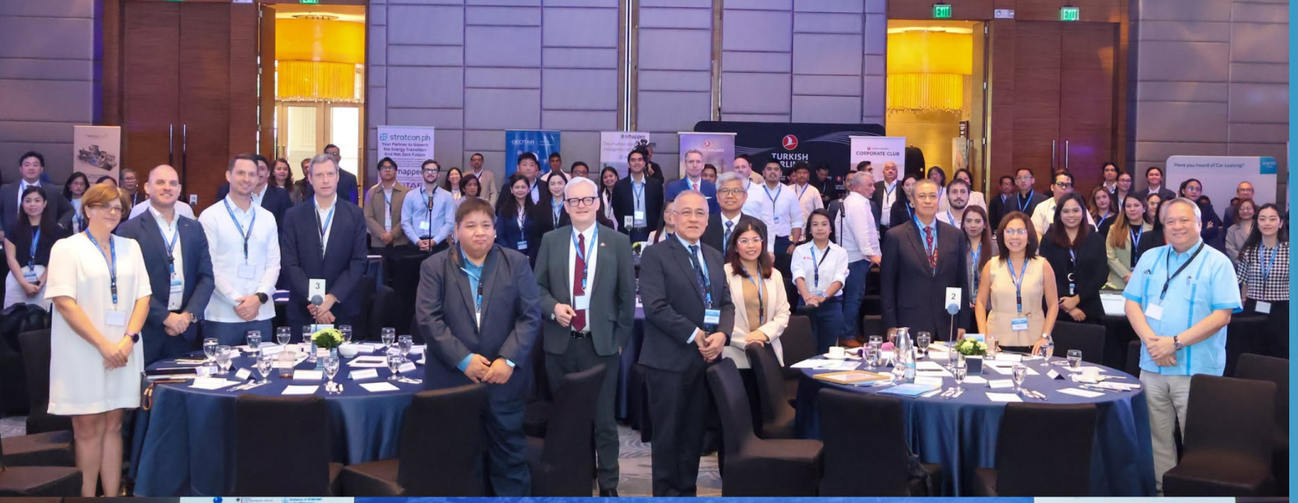
For renewable energy developers, timing is therefore not merely an accounting issue. It is a tax strategy issue.

The safest approach is to monitor not only the accumulation of input VAT, but also the commencement of commercial operations, the generation of actual zero-rated sales, and the point at which the accumulated input VAT can be properly attributed to those sales. A refund claim filed too early may be vulnerable because there are no qualifying sales to support the claim. A claim filed too late may face the statutory two-year limitation.

Ultimately, the lesson from the recent jurisprudence is straightforward: the clock does not necessarily start when the VAT is incurred. It starts with the statutory event that gives rise to the refund claim.

For businesses investing billions in renewable energy infrastructure, understanding that distinction can mean the difference between preserving a substantial tax asset and losing the opportunity to recover it.

In VAT refund claims, therefore, the better question is not simply "When did we incur the input VAT?" It is "When did our right to claim the refund arise—and are we acting within the law's prescribed window?"











Government, Industry Leaders Outline Vision for Safer, Smarter, and Sustainable Mobility at ASEAN

MAKATI CITY, Philippines — The future of safer, smarter, and more sustainable mobility took centre stage at the ASEAN Transportation Forum 2026, held Thursday, October 8, 2026 at the Marriott Hotel Manila. Co-organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines' Automotive and Aviation Committees with the Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA), the forum brought together government leaders, industry experts, and mobility stakeholders to examine key developments shaping air and land transportation in the Philippines and across Southeast Asia.

The event coincides with the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship, themed "From Roads to Runways: Advancing Safety and Sustainability in Air and Land Transportation," with discussions addressing the region's growing connectivity demands, road safety, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), and electric vehicle (EV) adoption.

"As we look ahead to 'Navigating our future, together,' addressing the Philippines' transport and energy challenges becomes an urgent priority," said Dr. Diana Edralin, President of ECCP. "The decisions we make today will shape the mobility, connectivity, and environmental landscape of ASEAN for decades to come," she added.

In his opening message of support, Dr. Marco Gemmer, Head of Partnerships of the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, reiterated the importance of a business-public sector investment nexus: "Only the private sector's investment will make our public investment sustainable," he said.

DOTr Reaffirms Commitment to Integrated, Multi-Modal Transport System

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Giovanni Z. Lopez, DOTr Undersecretary Teodorico Delfin outlined the administration's strategic vision to transform mobility and connectivity across the Philippines through fully integrated, multi-modal transport networks.

Undersecretary Delfin emphasized President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to build a system where railways, roads, airports, and seaports seamlessly connect to move people and goods efficiently.

Highlighting signature infrastructure developments, the undersecretary provided updates on major railway lines, including the JICA-supported Metro Manila Subway, connecting key economic hubs directly to NAIA Terminal 3, and the 147-kilometer North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR), featuring the nation's first airport express link to Clark International Airport.

To streamline freight logistics, he detailed the proposed 212-kilometer Subic-Clark-Manila-Batangas Railway under the Luzon Economic Corridor, which handles over 80 percent of the country's port traffic.

On urban transit and active transport, DOTr underscored ongoing upgrades to the MRT-3, expansion of the 24/7 EDSA Busway, rolling out of the Cebu BRT and DavaoBus modern fleet networks, and first-mile/last-mile cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

Addressing air transport and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), he showcased completed regional airport expansions and major private sector modernization partnerships, including New NAIA InfraCorp's expansion of NAIA's annual capacity to 62 million passengers and regional PPP deals for Laguindingan and Bohol-Panglao airports.

"Through Public-Private Partnerships, we can bring private-sector investment and expertise into airport modernization, helping us expand capacity and improve services faster. But we also look at how these investments connect with the wider transport network, so that our airports work together with road, rail, and public transport," said Undersecretary Delfin. "The government cannot do this alone. We need the private sector and our international partners," he adds.

Modernizing Aviation Infrastructure for Regional Connectivity

The forum opened with discussions on aviation infrastructure, air safety, and regional connectivity. Lt. Gen. Raul L. Del Rosario AFP (Ret.), Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), shared perspectives on strengthening the country's aviation infrastructure and enhancing connectivity as the region's air transport demand continues to grow.

"Passenger traffic is expected to grow at a compound annual rate of 7.2%, placing us among the top growth markets in the 25 to 100 million passenger category," said Director General Del Rosario.

In a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Samuel David, Country Manager of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the aviation chief and the Chief Legal Officer of the Civil Aeronautics Board, Atty. Wyrlou E. Samodio, further examined the role of modern aviation infrastructure and coordinated efforts in building safer and more connected skies. "ASEAN plays a very important role in the gamut of air transport," said Atty. Samodio.

The Green Horizon and and Sustainable Aviation Fuel

The forum then turned to aviation's energy transition, examining the investment landscape and private sector readiness for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

Ms. Morinaella Jeusine M. Torgo, Supervising Investments Specialist of the Board of Investments, discussed opportunities for investment in SAF, while Ms. Helene Burger, Head of Sustainability Asia-Pacific at Airbus, shared perspectives on private sector preparedness and green fleet procurement.

"The Philippines has resources, policy direction, an investment framework, and partnerships needed to participate meaningfully in the growing SAF market," said BOI's Ms. Torgo.

For the business perspective, Airbus' Ms. Burger notes: "We want to make sure that SAF is economically viable: both for the producer, [and also for] the airlines that are going to buy it." She adds, "The most sustainable fuel is the fuel you do not burn," emphasizing efficiency gains through fleet modernization.

Ultimately, the discussion underscored that achieving net-zero aviation requires bridging the gap between the energy and transport sectors. As the Philippines works toward more sustainable mobility and resilient regional supply chains, continuous technological innovation, from near-term efficiency gains to breakthrough next-gen platforms, remains essential to fueling this transition.

Bridging Gaps and Saving Lives: Building Safer Roads through Collaboration

The afternoon sessions shifted focus to road safety, with discussions on strengthening preventive measures, infrastructure, enforcement, and cross-sector action.

Hon. Mark Steven Pastor, Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), presented

Bridging Gaps and Saving Lives: Building Safer Roads through Collaboration

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Hon. Mark Steven Pastor, Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), presented the Department's road safety initiatives, highlighting the role of government action in reducing road-related risks and improving transport safety.

"Despite the gaps and challenges in the implementation of the PRSAP, the Department continues to take concrete and significant strides towards reaching our goal of a Philippine society with zero deaths on the road. We continue to strengthen our strategies as the lead agency for road safety through a whole-of-government approach, ensuring a strong, reliable, and proactive road safety management in the country," said Undersecretary Pastor.

The session also featured a video message from Mr. Jean Henri Todt, United Nations Special Envoy for Road Safety, reinforcing the importance of sustained global and national efforts to advance road safety: "Until everyone arrives safely everyday, there is still urgent work to do," the envoy noted.

Smarter Mobilities and Transport Modernization

As cities face increasing mobility demands, the forum also examined how digitalisation, integrated planning, and stronger coordination can support more efficient transport systems.

Hon. David Angelo R. Vargas, Assistant General Manager for Operations of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), discussed Manila's role in the ASEAN Smart Cities Network and the opportunities for smarter, better-connected urban mobility.

"Smart mobility is not only about technology or transport infrastructure. It also requires digital systems, integrated urban planning, and coordinated governance. For the MMDA, our role is to help connect these efforts across the 17 LGUs and with national agencies, the private sector, academe and development partners. This is how we see Metro Manila contributing to the ASEAN Smart Cities Network through smarter mobility, stronger coordination, and a more integrated and livable metropolis," said AGM Vargas.

The succeeding panel discussion also brought together perspectives from government and industry, including Colin Steley, Managing Director of Stratcon.ph, and Sofia Guinto, Country Manager of InDrive, with discussions moderated by Atty. Kathyrin Pioquinto, ECCP Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs.

On addressing urban fragmentation, InDrive's Country Manager Guinto underscored the role of shared mobility platforms in building a cohesive transport ecosystem. "All modes of transportation are not competing with each other, they are complementing each other," Guinto noted, calling for stronger cross-sector partnerships. "We should have a lot more government collaboration."

Building on the challenges facing Metro Manila's urban layout, Stratcon.ph's Managing Director Steley underscored gridlock and legacy infrastructure delays as immediate hurdles. "Technology is a potential primary challenge, [but] the biggest challenge in [Metro Manila] is congestion," Steley noted, highlighting how immediate digital interventions can bridge physical gaps. "There's so much value in the telematics of being able to bypass those long infrastructure timelines."

In response, the MMDA's Supervising Environmental Management Specialist Monica Mateo notes: "We need to be sure that if we are going to adopt a new technology, we are aligned with what we have. [..] For smart mobility to happen, we really need partnerships. All sectors need to work together."

The Green Transition: Navigating the Path to Sustainable and Efficient Transport

The final session focused on the transition towards electric mobility and the development of a stronger EV ecosystem in the Philippines.

Hon. Elvin Garcia, Acting Chief of the Heavy Industries Division, Manufacturing Industries Service of the Board of Investments, discussed investment incentives supporting EV adoption, while Mr. Edmund Araga, President of the Asian Federation of Electric Vehicles Association, shared perspectives on accelerating the region's electric mobility transition.

"EVs can form part of the cleaner and more efficient air system, particularly when supported by appropriate infrastructure. [Its] development can also bring opportunities for fielding suppliers, and workers, to participate in emerging chains." said BOI Chief Garcia.

"EV growth requires not only vehicles, infrastructure and policies but also a qualified workforce. Technical skills development is therefore an important part of building the EV ecosystem," said AFEVA's Araga.

Moderated by Arch. Ahn Meg Adonis, Sustainable Transport Lead of Clean Air Asia, the discussion underscored the importance of coordinated policies, investment, and industry participation in advancing cleaner and more energy-efficient transport.

While manufacturing growth in the Philippines has lagged behind its ASEAN neighbors, a strong emphasis on talent development is shifting the momentum. "The skillset is very important: we have to develop it, and focus on it," notes Araga. Aligning with this drive, BOI's Garcia highlights the government's strategic response: "[..] Under this regime, we are at parity in terms of incentives, with other countries."

Advancing the Future of Mobility

Across the sessions, the forum highlighted a common priority: transportation must evolve alongside the Philippines' growing connectivity, economic, and environmental needs.

From modernising aviation infrastructure and strengthening road safety to accelerating smart mobility and the green transition, speakers underscored the value of sustained collaboration across government and the private sector.

Through the ASEAN Transportation Forum 2026, the ECCP continues to provide a platform for constructive dialogue on policies, investments, and innovations that can contribute to a safer, more connected, and sustainable transportation future for the Philippines and the wider ASEAN region.

The ASEAN Transportation Forum 2026 was co-organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Automotive and Aviation Committees, and the Asian Business Aviation Association, and was supported by Advocacy Partners: Embassy of Finland in Manila, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Manila, Embassy of Romania in the Republic of the Philippines, Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of the Philippines, Business Sweden; Industry Partner: Island Skies Alliance; Co-presentor: Airbus; Platinum Partner: Turkish Airlines; Gold Partner: Bosch Philippines; Silver Partners: Autohub Group, inDrive, stratcon.ph, Tabletop Partner: Ocampo, Manalo, Valdez & Lim Law Firm (OMLAW), Singapore Airlines, and Toyota Mobility Solutions; Media Partners: AvGeek.ph, iMPACT Magazine, The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inquirer Business, Inquirer.Net, LogisticsNews.PH, PortCalls, Power Philippines, and The Manila Times. This event was also supported by the Department of Trade and Industry through the ASEAN Committee on Business and Investment Promotion.





















ECCP 2026 AI Forum Drives Dialogue on Responsible AI, Cyber Resilience, and Economic Growth

Makati City, Philippines — On 22 October 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) hosted its 2026 AI Forum at the Makati Shangri-La, gathering key government officials, diplomatic leaders, and private sector experts to explore how AI can guide national priorities and build a more competitive, secure, and innovation-ready Philippine economy.

Centered on the theme "Intelligent Industries: AI at the Core of Economic Growth and Security," the event highlighted responsible AI use in governance, cyber resilience, and enterprise scaling. Against the backdrop of the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship in 2026, the conversations served as a vital avenue to align national AI agendas with regional digital integration goals and foster deeper technological collaboration between the Philippines and European frameworks.

The event opened with remarks from Ms. Quynh Do, Co-Chairperson of the ECCP ICT Committee and Executive Director, Head of Government Affairs - Southeast Asia at SAP. A keynote address was likewise delivered by Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Hon. Dr. Renato Solidum, Jr., who discussed building AI readiness from the ground up in the Philippine context.

Secretary Solidum shared during the event: "Years from now, I hope we look back on this gathering as the point where industry and government stopped viewing AI as something merely to purchase, and began treating it as a national capacity to build."

H.E. Massimo Santoro, Ambassador of the European Union to the Philippines, on one hand, emphasized the EU's commitment to responsible AI in the region. "We wish to build not only technology capacity but also human capacity, and of course, promoting talent retention," he mentioned.

Among the highlights in the forum, a ceremonial signing between DOST and the European Union Delegation to the Philippines for the EU–Philippines AI Lab also took place, marking a step toward deeper collaboration in artificial intelligence.

The initiative will help turn AI research into practical solutions, promote responsible AI adoption and create new opportunities for technology transfer, investment and innovation. The Lab is also part of the EU's €40 million (approximately PHP 2.85 billion) digital cooperation with the Philippines under the Global Gateway strategy, and reflects a shared commitment to building a human-centric, trustworthy and inclusive AI ecosystem that benefits businesses and people on both sides.

"This is a signal of clear ambition, it's firstly a signal of trust, a signal that the European Union and the Philippines are ready to shape the AI future coming together, doing so in the right way with innovation, investment, responsibility, and of course trust at its core," said Ambassador Santoro.

Apart from these highlights, this year's AI Forum explored three core thematic pillars, beginning with:

EU–Philippine Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence

Following the keynote presentations by DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. and H.E. Massimo Santoro, Ambassador of the European Union to the Philippines, participants gained insights into the Philippines' AI readiness, the development of high-trust digital ecosystems, and ongoing EU–Philippine initiatives to advance AI adoption.

Hon. Leandro Angelo Y. Aguirre, DICT Undersecretary for Strategic Initiatives and Industry and Competency Development, further outlined the Philippines' national AI strategy and digital transformation roadmap, highlighting key priorities for strengthening the country's AI capabilities.

Cyber Resilience & Digital Defense

This segment explored cybersecurity, data privacy, critical infrastructure protection, and threat mitigation, examining how AI can serve both as a vector for sophisticated cyber threats and a tool for automated defense. Discussions also covered zero-trust architectures and data protection across telecommunications, financial services, and essential public networks.

Atty. Johann Carlos S. Barcena, CESO III, Privacy Commissioner and Chairman of the National Privacy Commission (NPC), also shared insights on data privacy, ethical governance, and systemic risk management in the AI era, while BGEN Joey T. Fontiveros, Commander of the AFP Cyber Command at the Armed Forces of the Philippines, highlighted the role of AI-enabled cyber defense in strengthening national security and building resilience across critical infrastructure.

Furthermore, Police Major General Andre Perez Dizon, Director of the Anti-Cybercrime Group (ACG) of the Philippine National Police, discussed strategies for combating cybercrime in the age of AI and strengthening digital security and law enforcement.

Enterprise Intelligence at Scale

The third pillar highlighted practical AI applications across key economic sectors, featuring TESDA Executive Director Florante Galura and SAP APAC Regional Vice President Anil Bhaskaran, with Atty. Felicisimo Agas III, Partner at Quisumbing Torres, serving as moderator.

In his presentation, Mr. Galura emphasized the importance of preparing the Filipino workforce for AI-driven changes, stressing that "no Filipino worker will be left behind in this AI revolution." He underscored the need to equip workers with the skills to turn disruption into opportunity. Meanwhile, Mr. Bhaskaran discussed how businesses can move AI from experimentation to implementation through solutions that can be activated, scaled, and customized to meet organizational needs while delivering tangible business value.

Overall, the afternoon discussions likewise stressed the importance of coordinating efforts to strengthen AI readiness. TESDA Executive Director Galura called for greater harmonization of industry-led initiatives in AI, cloud computing, data, and cybersecurity, emphasizing the need to build a "supermarket of competencies" in emerging technologies.

The Way Forward

Building on the success of previous dialogues such as the Future of Work Forum, the ECCP looks forward to sustaining the AI Forum as a cornerstone initiative ensuring that AI acts as a secure, innovation-driven catalyst for the Philippine economy.

The success of the 2026 AI Forum was made possible through the strong support of its partners and sponsors. The event was co-presented by SAP, with Embassy Partners including the Embassy of Finland in Manila, Embassy of Romania in the Republic of the Philippines, Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of the Philippines, Embassy of Sweden in Manila, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Manila, and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Manila. Further supporting the event were Advocacy Partners Pru Life UK and Plaud, with the event being widely promoted by Media Partners iMPACT and The Manila Times.

Advocacy Corner

DOF Stakeholder Briefing on ProGRESS Bill
02 September 2026

The Department of Finance (DOF) kicked off its stakeholder consultations on the proposed Promoting Growth, Revenue, and Equity towards Socio-Economic Sustainability (ProGRESS) Bill on Wednesday, bringing together around 300 representatives to discuss the proposed tax reform package.



Launch of the Philippine AI+ Infrastructure Masterplan (PAIIM) 2026–2033
08 September 2026

Organized by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the launch presented the national roadmap for AI-enabling infrastructure, covering connectivity, AI compute and data centers, energy and water infrastructure, workforce development, policy and regulation, and demand creation.



Manila Strategy Forum
09-10 September 2026

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Southeast Asia Program hosted discussions focused on navigating global economic shocks, the evolving international order, and strengthening bilateral cooperation on defense, critical infrastructure, resilient energy, and geoeconomic challenges.



Luzon Economic Corridor Investment Forum
10 September 2026



On 10 September, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines attended the Luzon Economic Corridor Investment Forum in Manila alongside senior leaders, global investors, and key stakeholders.

Co-hosted by the governments of the Philippines, the United States, Japan, and the USTDA, the Forum focused on driving strategic investments to enhance connectivity, strengthen global supply chains, and power long-term economic growth across the country.

European involvement, as highlighted by Spain and the European Commission's formal entry into the partnership, and through EU Global Gateway investments, will directly advance the Corridor's green and digital economy, while supporting good governance, accountable justice, and transparent public procurement to unlock further investment and better service delivery.

The ECCP remains committed to facilitating European partnerships that drive sustainable, high-impact infrastructure development across the Philippines.

Courtesy Meeting with the National Security Council
15 September 2026



On September 15, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) , joined by members of the Defense and Disaster Response Committee, paid a courtesy visit to National Security Adviser and NSC Director General Eduardo SL Oban Jr. Government officials and defense industry leaders convened during the meeting to discuss national security priorities, economic initiatives, and expanding European Union partnerships centered on maritime security, cybersecurity, and critical infrastructure.

Representing the ECCP Defense and Disaster Response Committee were chairpersons Col. Jay-Ar De Guzman, PAF (Ret.) and Ms. Donna Artates-Colis. Also in attendance were members of the ECCP Advocacy Team, Advocacy Research Associates Atasha Bernardo and Gabe Tumanan, and Junior Advocacy Associate Sabine Cuason.

1st Philippines-ASEAN Business Forum
19 September 2026



On September 19, 2026, ECCP President and General Manager of Roche Philippines Dr. Diana Edralin moderated a panel at the 1st Philippines-ASEAN Business Forum titled “The Outlook for Global Trade: Perspectives from Business Leaders.” The discussion centered on how a majority of firms are actively shifting supply chains with artificial intelligence and technology serving as top growth drivers.

The panel evaluated the Philippines’ current strengths such as its skilled talent and tech-enabled services alongside the need to modernize infrastructure to align with regional growth. To accelerate competitiveness, the session highlighted the implementation of a “super-one-stop-shop” investment framework. Additionally, participants explored how mega-FTAs will force vital domestic reforms like easing investment caps and cutting red tape. Finally, the panel concluded with an ambitious, outside-the-box risk: establishing radical regulatory sandboxing to position the Philippines as the region’s premier testing ground for future-forward digital and green trade.

Courtesy Meeting with PEZA Director-General Panga
21 September 2026



ECCP executives and members met with PEZA Director-General Panga, who outlined PEZA’s roadmap to expand European presence across Philippine ecozones. The ECCP delegation presented policy recommendations to support growth across key sectors, including aviation, tax and financial services, energy, agriculture, and artificial intelligence.

ST Technology Day Philippines 2026
24 September 2026



STMicroelectronics hosted the ST Tech Day Philippines 2026 in Alabang, featuring the latest technologies in sensing, embedded processing, connectivity, power management, and edge intelligence.

Women Ambassadors’ Luncheon
28 September 2026



On Monday, 28 September, ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin was the guest of honor at a Women Ambassadors’ Luncheon hosted by H.E. Saija Nurminen, Ambassador of Finland to the Philippines.

Organized to welcome Dr. Edralin to her post, the luncheon provided a valuable platform for constructive dialogue on economic cooperation, trade relations, and key initiatives for the European-Philippine business community.

September Meeting of the Joint Foreign Chambers
29 September 2026



The Joint Foreign Chambers convened for their monthly meeting this Tuesday to discuss ongoing advocacies and activities. Discussions revolved around the EU-Philippine FTA, port congestion, excise taxes, QDMTT & E-Invoicing, and social media regulation proposals.

Meet Czech Energy Innovators at Dusit Thani
01 October 2026



On 01 October 2026, members from the ECCP Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Committee attended the Meet Czech Energy Innovators, a cocktail networking event connecting Philippine energy-sector companies with five leading companies from the Czech Republic to explore potential business partnerships, technologies, and opportunities.

As their final engagement in the Philippines prior to returning to the Czech Republic, the participating companies shared an overview of their respective businesses, areas of expertise, and capabilities in the renewable energy sector. Discussions focused on potential areas of collaboration among the Czech companies, ECCP, and relevant Philippine stakeholders, as well as opportunities for future business connections, partnerships, and continued cooperation in the renewable energy sector.

The ECCP remains committed to facilitating continued engagement, collaboration, and business linkages between Czech companies and the Philippine market.

ECCP Healthcare Committee Meeting
02 October 2026



On 02 October, the ECCP Healthcare Committee convened for a meeting virtually via Zoom. During the meeting, the body discussed industry updates, painpoints, committee organization, and further action points for the final quarter of 2026.

Committee leaders and members held strategic discussions focused on turning this year's Healthcare Forum insights into actionable policy recommendations, prioritizing key sector bottlenecks, and establishing dedicated workstreams. Central to the dialogue were initiatives to enhance government engagement with key health agencies like DOH, PhilHealth, and the FDA to drive healthcare financing solutions and streamline regulatory processes.

For more information or to join the Healthcare Committee, please email advocacy@eccp.com.

ASEAN SAF Convergence Forum
06 October 2026



A parallel event to the 26th ASEAN Energy Business Forum (AEBF-26), the Chamber and its members took part in this platform for dialogue, partnership, and action among the key stakeholders across the SAF value chain, leveraging the region's competitive advantage in SAF feedstocks and manufacturing—underscoring the Chamber's commitment to a more resilient and sustainable SAF ecosystem that strengthens regional decarbonization.

EU Experience with AI to Promote MSME Growth
07 October 2026



The session brought together Philippine and ASEAN policymakers, European Union representatives, the European AI Office and European technology companies to discuss what makes AI adoption work in practice.

Beyond Revenue: Finding the Right Balance in the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax Component of the ProGRESS Tax Package
07 October 2026



The roundtable focused on the sweetened beverage (SSB) component of the proposed ProGRESS tax package: bringing together stakeholders to discuss its potential fiscal, economic, consumer, competition, labor, and public health implications.

Arangkada Philippines Forum 2026
09 October 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) participated in the 15th Annual Arangkada Philippines Forum 2026, held on October 9, 2026, at the Marriott Grand Ballroom in Pasay City.

Driven by the theme “FAST: Forging Ahead a Sustainable Tomorrow,” the forum highlighted the urgent need to move beyond incremental progress and accelerate the country’s economic transformation toward a more sustainable, competitive, and inclusive future.

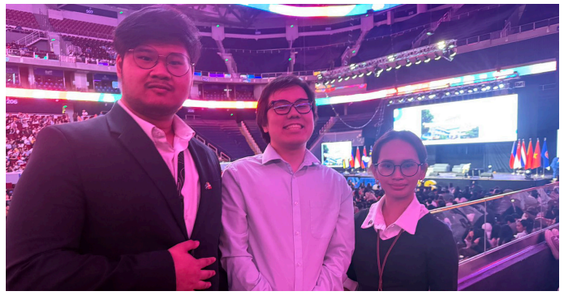
The 15th installment brought together a strong lineup of knowledgeable speakers and distinguished panelists, who shared insights on key sectoral issues, policy priorities, and investment opportunities. The forum also provided an important platform for the government to present its vision and ongoing efforts to strengthen the Philippine economy and advance an enabling environment for sustainable growth.

ICT Committee Meeting
09 October 2026



The Chamber held its ICT Committee Meeting to discuss recent policy developments affecting the Philippine digital economy, particularly new government regulations on data management and the implementation of digital connectivity reforms. Members also exchanged insights on emerging industry concerns and identified areas where the Chamber can further engage policymakers to support a more competitive and innovation-friendly ICT sector.

ASEAN Youth Entrepreneurship Summit (AYES) 2026
12 October 2026



The ASEAN Youth Entrepreneurship Summit 2026 brought together young leaders, innovators, and regional stakeholders to drive sustainable enterprise and economic growth across Southeast Asia, focused on building scalable entrepreneurial ecosystems.

On 12 October 2026, the ASEAN Youth Entrepreneurship Summit 2026 took place, bringing together young leaders, innovators, and regional stakeholders to drive sustainable enterprise and economic growth across Southeast Asia. Discussions focused on building scalable entrepreneurial ecosystems by aligning policy, markets, and innovation, promoting youth-led pathways for resilient economies, unlocking venture opportunities, and greening regional supply chains. The event also highlighted key initiatives empowering the next generation of business leaders and featured keynote addresses from regional trade and economic officials to advance youth entrepreneurship and cross-border partnerships.

Representing the chamber was Jose Mari Gabriel Tumanan, Advocacy Research Associate, lead coordinator of ECCP’s Young Professionals Committee, Luis Tolentino and Jaymi Alexandra Facundo, Junior Advocacy Associates.

ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting
12 October 2026



The Committee convened to discuss the recently-concluded ASEAN Transportation Forum, and formulated plans for policy advocacy work for MRO competitiveness. Together with the Asian Business Aviation Association, initial work towards the 2027 Philippine Aviation Summit was initiated.

Philippine Stroke Policy Roundtable
15 October 2026



The Roundtable brought together policymakers, clinicians, researchers, patient organizations, and other key stakeholders to discuss priority challenges and practical policy solutions to improve stroke outcomes in the Philippines.

ACMF Workshop on the ASEAN Simplified ESG Disclosure Guide
23 October 2026

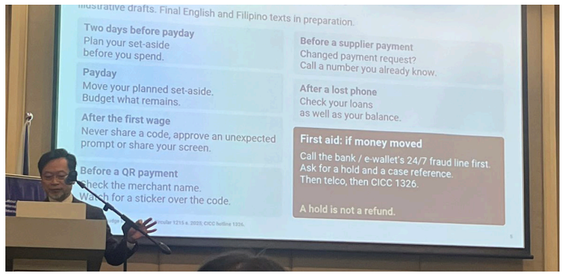


The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) participated in the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum (ACMF) Workshop on the ASEAN Simplified ESG Disclosure Guide (ASEDG) held on October 23, 2026, at the Centro de Turismo in Manila.

Designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) simplify sustainability reporting and align with global ESG standards, the workshop covered global regulatory developments, key capital market and supply chain challenges, and a deep dive into the ASEDG's 15 topics and 38 standardized disclosures to bolster regional competitiveness and supply chain resilience.

Representing the chamber was Gabe Tumanan, lead coordinator of the Sustainability Committee.

Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Advancing Financial Health through the Workplace
27 October 2026



Government, employers' and workers' organizations, financial service providers, and development partners came together to identify practical ways to strengthen workers' financial health through the workplace.

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Inside ECCP: Manila

La Consolacion University Philippines (LCUP) Visits the ECCP Office

08 July 2026

On 8 July 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) welcomed its new member, La Consolacion University Philippines (LCUP), to the Chamber's Makati office for an educational visit and strategic dialogue.

The meeting aimed to strengthen industry-academe engagement and enhance understanding of current business trends, international best practices, and the evolving needs of the business community.

The meeting was joined by ECCP representatives Ms. Kyla Uy, Senior Advocacy Officer; Ms. Canela Reillo, Membership Officer; Mr. Justine Ocate, Advocacy Research Associate; Ms. Shaireen Dayao, Member Relations Associate; and Ms. Gen. Anaquita-Gatan, Director of Operations.



Representing LCUP were Dr. Evangeline Pascual-Dayao, Program Head of Business Administration; Dr. Cecille De Guzman, Faculty Member; Mr. Bobby Isip, CPA, Program Head of BS Accountancy; Ms. Camia Oficial, Faculty Member; Mr. Renmar Cruz, CPA, Faculty Member; and Mr. Edmund Arriola, CPA, Faculty Member.

ECCP and Edsa Shangri-La Manila Courtesy Visit

03 September 2026

On 3 September 2026, Ms. Michele Castro-Palma, Director of Business Development from Edsa Shangri-La, Manila, paid a courtesy visit to the ECCP office for a membership check-in.

The discussion also covered potential collaboration on the Chamber's Membership Rewards Program and opportunities to engage in upcoming ECCP events for 2026 and 2027.

The Chamber looks forward to building on this engagement and working together on initiatives that create value for the ECCP community.

The meeting was joined by ECCP representatives Ms. Arci Catalan, Associate Director for Events; Ms. Canela Reillo, Membership Officer; Ms. Josefa Labay, Events Officer; and Ms. Shaireen Dayao, Membership Associate.



Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Manila paid a courtesy visit to the ECCP Office

08 September 2026

Ambassador Miloš Koterec of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Manila paid a courtesy visit to the ECCP Office on 8 September 2026.

Ambassador Koterec was joined by Mr. Juraj Pavlis (Economic and Commercial Affairs) for a productive discussion on Slovakia-Philippines relations, priority sectors for potential cooperation, the current Philippines-EU economic relationship, and other areas of mutual interest.

Joining the meeting were ECCP leaders (from left to right): Vice President Mr. Ruben Camba, Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein, Treasurer Mr. Albert Perez, and Director of Operations Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan.

The ECCP looks forward to strengthening its engagement with the Embassy and supporting initiatives that advance Slovak-Philippine economic and business ties.



ECCP joined TMF Philippines' Partner Appreciation Event 2026

08 September 2026

The ECCP joined TMF Philippines' Partner Appreciation Event 2026 on 8 September 2026 in Makati City.

The event brought together TMF's partners and intermediaries for an evening of connection and conversation, highlighting the importance of strong relationships in supporting the business community.

As part of ECCP's continued engagement with its business network, the Chamber looks forward to further strengthening its partnership with TMF Philippines and exploring opportunities for collaboration that create value for our members and the wider business community.

In photo are John Paul Sorongon, Country Head – Philippines; Patrice Lo, Market Head of South Asia and Australasia; Canela Reilo, ECCP Membership Officer; and Sophia Panergo, ECCP Advocacy Officer.



ECCP Courtesy Meeting with Czech Embassy Manila and CzechTrade

10 September 2026



The ECCP had a courtesy meeting with Czech Embassy Manila and CzechTrade on 10 September 2026.

ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin and Executive Director Florian Gottein met with Ms. Markéta Pěčková Head of the Economic, Trade and Defense Section of the Embassy of the Czech Republic and Mr. Ondřej Puchinger Director of CzechTrade Philippines to discuss exploring stronger Czech–Philippine business ties through priority sectors, B2B matchmaking, industry partnerships, and continued collaboration between CzechTrade and the ECCP.

The ECCP is committed to deepening its collaboration with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Manila and CzechTrade, supporting initiatives that strengthen Czech–Philippine economic and business ties.

ECCP joined Gallery Genesis for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the 38th Kulay Sa Tubig Watercolor



A showcase of Filipino talent and creativity!

On 12 September 2026, the ECCP joined Elsal Ventures OPC and its sister company, Gallery Genesis, for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the 38th Kulay Sa Tubig Watercolor Competition.

Since its inception in 1983, Kulay Sa Tubig has established itself as one of the Philippines' longest-running and most prestigious watercolor competitions, celebrating Filipino artistic excellence and the country's vibrant watercolor community. The exhibition showcases works by talented artists from across the country and brings together collectors, cultural leaders, media, and members of the creative community.

Representing the ECCP was Ms. Martina Torres, Member Relations Associate. In photo (from left to right) are Ms. Patrice Salas, President of Gallery Genesis; Ms. Maria Fatima Reyes, AVP Business Development and Marketing, Deputy for Public Relations; and Mr. Antonio Razon Jr., Corporate Affairs and Business Intelligence Officer.

ECCP and SM Offices held partnership signing ceremony

14 September 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and SM Offices held a partnership signing ceremony on 14 September 2026, at the SM Prime Headquarters in Pasay City.

The partnership opens new avenues for collaboration, with both organizations working to facilitate investment opportunities, strengthen connections within the European-Philippine business community, and support a competitive and attractive Philippine business environment.

The signing was attended by ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein and SM Offices Business Unit Head and Vice President Alexis Ortiga.

2nd ECCP Board Meeting 2026-2027

17 September 2026



The ECCP Board came together to shape what's ahead for our members and business community.

On 17 September 2026, the ECCP Board convened for a productive meeting hosted by Roche Philippines, with discussions centred on upcoming plans and activities for the Chamber.

With innovation and continuous improvement at the forefront, the Board remains focused on keeping members connected and engaged, while exploring new ways to enhance the member experience and deliver greater value in the year ahead.

The meeting also marked the Chamber's warm welcome to Marjorie Garrovillo, Managing Director of Alaska Milk Corporation (AMC), as the newest member of the ECCP Board of Directors.

In photo are (from L-R): Mr. Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director; Mr. Lars Wittig, ECCP Vice President and Senior Vice President of APAC IWG Plc; Mr. Albert Perez, ECCP Treasurer and Founder and CEO of Paul Morgann; Dr. Diana Edralin, ECCP President and General Manager of Roche Philippines; Ms. Marjorie Garrovillo, Managing Director of Alaska Milk Corporation (AMC).

Also present were Mr. Bernd Schneider, Area General Manager Philippines of Raffles / Fairmont Makati; Mr. Roman Menz, ECCP Vice President and CEO of Republic Cement Services, Inc.; Mr. Ruben Camba, ECCP Vice President and ACCIONA's Managing Director for Southeast Asia; and Mr. Juha-Pekka Hoikka, Managing Director / Airbus Country Representative - Philippines of Airbus Helicopters Philippines, Inc.

ECCP Luncheon Meeting with NDA Administrator and CEO Atty. Marcus Andaya

19 May 2026

On 19 May 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) convened a high-level dialogue with NDA Administrator and CEO, Atty. Marcus T. Andaya at the Makati Shangri-La, bringing together key stakeholders from the dairy and food industries to discuss the implementation of Republic Act No. 12308, or the Animal Industry Development and Competitiveness Act.

As the first foreign chamber to hold a briefing on the aforementioned law and the transition of dairy regulatory oversight from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Philippines to the National Dairy Authority (NDA), this session provided an important platform for regulators and industry stakeholders to exchange insights, clarify implementation expectations, and discuss pathways toward a smooth and efficient regulatory transition.

The event was attended by ECCP leaders, including Executive Director Florian Gottein; Member of the



Board of Directors and Managing Director of Alaska Milk Corporation, Mr. Tarang Gupta; and ECCP Food & Beverage Chairperson Helen Grace Baisa. They were joined by Atty. Sheryl Lagrosas, Vice President and Head of Government and Industry Affairs of Nestle Philippines.

The success of the ECCP's Luncheon Meeting with the NDA was made possible through the valuable partnership and involvement of Event Supporter Nestlé Philippines and Table Top Partners Alaska Milk Corporation and Mr. Moo's Dairy Products Inc.

ECCP and The Manila Times renew partnership

21 September 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and The Manila Times renewed their partnership on 21 September 2026, at The Manila Times' office in Intramuros, Manila.

Since 2023, The Manila Times has been a valued partner of the Chamber, supporting key ECCP activities and events while helping bring the Chamber's work to a wider audience. This year, the partnership has taken on a new dimension through the monthly column, The Euro-PH Exchange, providing the ECCP a regular platform to share perspectives on European-Philippine business relations with readers across the country.

The signing was joined by The Manila Times' CEO Ms. Anna Marie Ang Thompson and COO Ms. Blanca C. Mercado, together with ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin and Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein.



2026 ADB Partners Night

21 September 2026

ECCP Vice President Mr. Lars Wittig joined the 2026 ADB Partners Night on 21 September 2026, held alongside the ADB Business Opportunities Fair (BOF). The event brought together U.S. companies, development partners, government representatives, and ADB officials to exchange insights and foster stronger connections across the business and development community.

The ECCP continues to engage in platforms that create opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and stronger business linkages.



ECCP joined Turkish Airlines' Appreciation Night

22 September 2026

The ECCP joined Turkish Airlines' Appreciation Night on 22 September 2026 at The Fifth Rockwell in Makati City.

An ECCP Corporate Member since 2016, Turkish Airlines continues to be an active part of the Chamber's business community. During the event, the airline also announced three additional weekly flights between Manila and Istanbul, increasing its service from 7 to 10 flights per week starting October.

In frame are ECCP Director of Operations Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan with ECCP members from OMLAW and UTravel. Also pictured is Mr. Huzeyfe Akhan, Country Manager of Turkish Airlines.



ECCP joined Pru Life UK's 30th Anniversary Gala

23 September 2026



Celebrating 30 years of Pru Life UK!

On 23 September 2026, the ECCP joined Pru Life UK's 30th Anniversary Gala, "Pearls of Gratitude," held at Intramuros, Manila.

The milestone gala brought together leaders from government, business, banking, and the financial services sector to celebrate Pru Life UK's three decades of protecting Filipino families, advancing financial security, and driving meaningful industry partnerships across the Philippines.

As a valued ECCP Corporate Partner and member since 1997, Pru Life UK continues to be a cornerstone of innovation and financial inclusion in the local business community.

The ECCP was represented by Mr. Austin Sy, ECCP's Industry and Government Affairs Manager.

We extend our warmest congratulations to the entire Pru Life UK team on 30 years of shared achievements and collective impact! Here's to many more years of fruitful collaboration and brighter possibilities ahead.

2026 IP Horizons

24 September 2026



Following the historic milestone in the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations on 22 September, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), in collaboration with the South-East Asia IP SME Helpdesk, convened key stakeholders for the "2026 IP Horizons: IP Enforcement and Opportunities in the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement" to explore what the evolving trade deal means for Intellectual Property rights and European SMEs.

The forum examined how the #Philippines is responding to global IP developments, ranging from digital piracy and online counterfeiting to geographical indications (GIs), and how European businesses can align their IP strategies with both EU standards and Philippine legal reforms.

Industry experts including Atty. Edmund Jason Baranda, Managing Partner of Baranda & Associates – Rouse & Co. International Limited and External Expert of the South-East Asia IP SME Helpdesk, alongside Hon. Teodoro C. Pascua, Director General of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL), emphasized that while the FTA opens new doors, strong IP strategies and evidence-gathering are essential for businesses to navigate the digital age and capitalize on new market opportunities.

The event was hosted and moderated by Atty. Reena Mitra-Ventanilla, Chairperson of the ECCP Intellectual Property Rights Committee.

Thank you to our Gold Partner, Baranda & Associates, and to everyone who contributed to a dynamic open forum and panel discussion!

ECCP had a courtesy visit to the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA)

28 September 2026



On 28 September 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines paid a courtesy visit to Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) Administrator & CEO Sec. Katrina Ponce Enrile to explore potential investment opportunities and areas for cooperation.

The visit also underscored the Chamber's continued engagement with economic zones and its efforts to facilitate greater business connections and partnerships.

The meeting was joined by ECCP leaders and representatives: Dr. Diana Edralin, ECCP President and General Manager of Roche Philippines; Mr. Florian Gottein, Executive Director; Ms. Argena Anaquita-Gatan, Director of Operations; Mr. Justine Ocate, Advocacy Research Associate; and Ms. Martina Torres, Member Relations Associate.

Representing CEZA were Sec. Katrina Ponce Enrile, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer; Ms. Sheila Calata, Special Assistant to the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer for Communication Affairs; Atty. Arwin Joseph Tamagen, Chief of Staff/Acting Head, Legal Division; Ms. Novelyn Achanzar, Department Manager A for Regulatory and Employment Department; Atty. Mary Jane Cometa, Acting Department Manager A, Marketing and Investment Promotions Department/Enterprise Services Officer V.

ECCP joined the Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines for a celebration of 80 years of diplomatic ties

29 September 2026



Celebrating 80 Years of Denmark–Philippines Relations!

On 29 September 2026, the ECCP joined the Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines for "Anchored in Friendship: 80 Years of Denmark–Philippines Relations," celebrating eight decades of diplomatic ties and the enduring friendship between the two countries.

In the first photo (from left to right) are Mr. Albert Perez, ECCP Treasurer and Founder & CEO of Paul Morgann; Ms. Wei Sun, ECCP Healthcare Committee Co-Chair and General Manager of Novo Nordisk Philippines; H.E. Franz-Michael Mellbin, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Philippines; Ms. Jacqui Del Castillo, Communications and Organizational Change Manager of Novo Nordisk; and Mr. Austin Sy, ECCP's Industry and Government Affairs Manager. Also joining in the second photo is Mme. Eva Fischer Mellbin.

ECCP Welcomed a Delegation of Czech Companies to its Makati Office
30 September 2026



On 30 September 2026, the ECCP welcomed a delegation of Czech companies to its office in Makati City as part of their business mission to the Philippines.

The participating companies shared an overview of their respective businesses, areas of expertise, and capabilities in the renewable energy sector. Discussions focused on potential areas of collaboration among the Czech companies, the ECCP, and relevant stakeholders in the Philippines, as well as opportunities for future business connections and support.

The ECCP looks forward to supporting further exchanges and partnerships between Czech businesses and the Philippine market.

ECCP Courtesy Meeting with APECO
07 October 2026



On 7 October 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) met with the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority - APECO to explore investment opportunities, strengthen institutional collaboration, and discuss how the EU–Philippines Free Trade Agreement can help attract European investors and position the Philippines as a gateway to the wider ASEAN market.

The engagement reflects the ECCP's continued efforts to connect investors with local opportunities and strengthen partnerships that advance EU–Philippines economic cooperation.

In photo (L–R): APECO representatives Ms. Kris M. Crismundo, OIC Manager and PR Chief, Business Development & Marketing Division, and Mr. Angelo Gabriel D. Mantuano, Deputy Administrator; Mr. Lars Wittig, ECCP Vice President and Senior Vice President for Asia-Pacific, IWG plc; Usec. Gil G. Taway IV, President and CEO, APECO; and Mr. Florian Gottein, Executive Director, ECCP. Also in frame are ECCP representatives Ms. Martina Torres, Member Relations Associate; Ms. Canela Reillo, Membership Officer; and Mr. Austin Sy, Industry and Government Affairs Manager.

ECCP Joined ACEN RES REframe
08 October 2026



On 8 October 2026, the ECCP joined ACEN RES REframe at Okada Manila, a premier partner gathering hosted by ACEN RES, the retail electricity supplier arm of the Ayala Group.

The event highlighted how renewable energy can strengthen business operations, drive growth, and support long-term competitiveness, featuring insights from business and academic leaders.

In photo (L–R): Ms. Faith Sarajan, Senior Account Manager, ACEN RES, with ECCP representatives Ms. Canela Reillo, Membership Officer, and Ms. Shaireen Dayao, Member Relations Associate. Also pictured is Mr. Miguel de Jesus, COO of ACEN RES, delivering the welcome address.

ECCP joined the Spanish National Day Celebration
12 October 2026



On 12 October 2026, the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines brought together members of the diplomatic corps, Philippine government officials, business leaders, and friends of the Spanish community for its National Day celebration at Fairmont Makati, which also marked the approaching end of Ambassador Miguel Utray Delgado's four-year posting in Manila.

The event was attended by ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin and Treasurer, Mr. Albert Perez.

The Chamber looks forward to further collaboration with the Spanish Embassy, especially as the Philippines and Spain will mark 80 years of diplomatic relations in the coming year.

Strengthening Business Ties in North and Central Luzon

15 October 2026



On 15 October 2026, ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein engaged with businesses in Clark, including Offshore MVP, AKMK Meatpro Corp. (Smak Kielbasy), Regus Philippines, and Berthaphil Inc., to discuss growth opportunities and potential partnerships in the region.

The conversations also explored ways to strengthen European–Philippine business ties following the conclusion of EU–Philippines FTA negotiations and how ECCP can connect businesses and support members' and partners' expansion goals.

The engagements were joined by ECCP representatives: Atty. Kathyrin Pioquinto, Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs; Ms. Canela Reillo, Membership Officer; and Ms. Martina Torres, Member Relations Associate.

Afternoon Assembly on Frontier Innovations and Economic and Economic Security

15 October 2026



A timely exchange on strategic investments, emerging industries, and economic security.

The ECCP held its Afternoon Assembly on Frontier Innovations and Economic and Economic Security on 15 October 2026 at Ascott Hotel BGC, focusing on the Philippines' 2026 Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) and the role of Global Tech Corridors in attracting high-value investments and strengthening the country's position in global value chains.

The dialogue explored opportunities in advanced manufacturing, critical mineral processing, and AI computing infrastructure, while examining how initiatives such as Pax Silica, the Luzon Economic Corridor, and the EU's Global Gateway Initiative can support the country's investment priorities and economic security.

Insights from Hon. Kenneth T. Yap of DTI Philippines and Hon. Sandra Marie S. Recolizado of the Philippine Board of Investments (BOI) highlighted the importance of coordinated policy, strategic financing, and public-private collaboration in advancing technology-driven and sustainable industrial development.

The Assembly also featured a panel discussion moderated by Mr. Lenin Dueñas Jr. of ING Bank N.V., with insights from Mr. Francis Nicolas "Nic" Chua of ING Wholesale Banking Philippines. (ING Philippines), Mr. Teymour Benet of ACCIONA, and Atty. Alden C. Labaguis of SGV & Co../EY. The event concluded with closing remarks delivered by Mr. Jun Palanca, Country Manager of ING Bank N.V.

The ECCP extends its appreciation to the speakers, panelists, participants, and Event Patron ING Bank N.V. for contributing to a meaningful exchange on the future of investment, innovation, and sustainable economic growth.

The ECCP joined Hilton Manila's A Filipino Fiesta Client Appreciation Night

15 October 2026



The exclusive appreciation event brought together Hilton Manila Newport World Resorts' valued clients, partners, and industry stakeholders to celebrate the hotel's milestones and showcase Filipino hospitality, local artistry, and culinary excellence.

As an ECCP member, Hilton Manila is part of the Chamber's ever-growing business community. The ECCP was pleased to join the celebration, recognizing the value of maintaining strong member relationships and fostering meaningful industry connections.

In photo are (L–R): Ms. Arci Catalan, ECCP Associate Director for Events; Ms. Shine Lubaton, Hilton Manila Director of Events, Commercial; and Ms. Canela Reillo, ECCP Membership Officer. Also pictured is Mr. Gagan Talwar, Hilton Manila General Manager, who delivered the welcome remarks.

12th ECCP Community Connect

20 October 2026



Held on 20 October 2026, the ECCP's 12th ECCP Community Connect gave members the chance to connect and get to know the Chamber's services and initiatives, while welcoming 15 new members to the ECCP community and over 100 attendees during the event.

The program opened with welcome remarks from Mr. Jussi Hoikka, ECCP Board Director and Managing Director/Airbus Country Representative – Philippines at Airbus Helicopters Philippines, Inc., followed by company presentations from Ms. Catherine "Kaye" Regullano, Team Head of BPI, Mr. Bo Lundqvist, President and CEO of Retail Associates, and Mr. Freddie Lacorte, Commercial Director of The Studio Bridge.

The ECCP team also presented the Chamber's membership benefits and services, complemented by a testimonial from Ms. Ruth Novales, ECCP Agriculture Committee Co-Chair, who shared her experience as a member and the value of engaging in the ECCP community.

For official photos, visit https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjD7Zu3

How Great CBDs Age: Rehabilitate. Reuse. Replace
21 October 2026

On 21 October 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), through its Real Estate Committee, together with Leechiu Property Consultants, brought together real estate and industry leaders for “How Great CBDs Age: Rehabilitate. Reuse. Replace.” The event explored how adaptive reuse and rehabilitation can breathe new life into aging buildings and unlock new opportunities for Makati.

The session featured a keynote presentation by Ms. Charisse Gail Rhodes, Founder and Principal Designer of Id8 Interior & Architecture Design Services, followed by a panel discussion with panelists: Mr. Raymond Rufino, CEO of NEO Office PH, Mr. Alexis Ortiga, Vice President and Unit Head at SM Offices; Atty. Ian Baniqued, Director of the Financial and Administrative Service at the Philippine Board of Investments; and Mr. Tam Angel, Director of Investment Sales at Leechiu Property Consultants.



Discussions explored successful adaptive reuse approaches in other business districts, changing market demands, and the practical considerations behind rehabilitation projects. It also highlighted how rethinking existing buildings can create new value while helping shape a more resilient and competitive Makati CBD.

For official photos, visit https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjD8mmg

SAP and ECCP Partnership Signing
22 October 2026

On 22 October 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) officially welcomed SAP as its newest Premium Member during a Partnership Signing Ceremony held in Makati City.

Through this partnership, the ECCP looks forward to collaborating with SAP on initiatives that advance digital transformation and create opportunities for meaningful collaboration within the European-Philippine business community.

The ceremony was attended by Ms. Quynh Do, SAP Executive Director, Head of Government Affairs, Southeast Asia and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein.

With a global network of customers, partners, employees, and thought leaders, SAP helps the world run better and improves people’s lives. Headquartered in Singapore, SAP Southeast Asia has 11 offices in 7 countries which include Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. SAP in Southeast Asia is the enterprise application of choice for best-run companies in the region.



To know more about SAP, visit sap.com. For official photos, visit https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjD8nuc

9th Speed Networking Night
28 October 2026

Good conversations, great connections, and plenty of business potential!

On 28 October 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), in collaboration with the British Chamber of Commerce Philippines and the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, brought together professionals, entrepreneurs, and business leaders for the 9th Speed Networking Night at Dusit Thani Manila.

The event encouraged connections across sectors, allowed attendees to broaden their network, and gain fresh perspectives beyond their usual professional circles.

A big thank you to our partner chambers, sponsors, and everyone who made this event a success!

More photos are available at https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjD8M2z



Year-end Economic Forum, ‘Beyond UMIC: Locking in on sustainable, equitable growth
29 October 2026

On 29 October 2026, The Manila Times hosted its Year-end Economic Forum, ‘Beyond UMIC: Locking in on sustainable, equitable growth,’ at the New World Makati Hotel to mark its 128th anniversary. The event brought together policymakers and business leaders to discuss inclusive growth and market resilience.

Representing the Chamber was ECCP Vice President Lars Wittig, who delivered a keynote speech and participated in a fireside chat.

Photos courtesy of The Manila Times.



Inside ECCP: Cebu

Strengthening ECCP's connections in Cebu
15-17 September 2026

From 15–17 September 2026, ECCP's new Cebu Branch Officer, Ms. Mercedelin Buo, met with Cebu-based members and business leaders to learn more about their priorities, experiences, and interests, and explore opportunities for stronger engagement and collaboration.

Joining Ms. Mercedelin during the visits was ECCP Membership Officer Ms. Canela Reillo, with the discussions providing an opportunity to hear directly from members and identify ways ECCP can further support their businesses and encourage greater participation in the Chamber's programmes and initiatives.



These conversations are part of ECCP's continued efforts to strengthen its presence in Cebu and foster closer connections with its growing regional business community.

Coffee Mornings with MSME's
21 October 2026

The gathering welcomed founders, owners, and executives from the food and beverage, hospitality, and agriculture sectors, alongside representatives from government agencies, industry associations, sustainability organizations, and certification bodies. The session also featured Mr. David Thomas, a seasoned entrepreneur and business connector with over 30 years of international experience across London, Hong Kong, Sydney, and Cebu, bringing valuable insights and networks across developed and emerging Asia-Pacific markets.



Cebu Energy Summit 2026
12 October 2026

ECCP Cebu attended the Cebu Energy Summit, where Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Sharon Garin shared key government initiatives and policy directions. Her address directly addressed long-standing questions and concerns from Cebuanos regarding energy sustainability and provided clear solutions to the recent energy crisis experienced in the region.



Inside ECCP: CDO

BOC Port of Cagayan de Oro Customs Industry Consultative and Advisory Council (CICAC) Meeting
15 September 2026

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) Collection District X, led by District Collector Arnaldo M. Saulong, convened its 1st Customs Industry Consultative and Advisory Council (CICAC) Meeting for Calendar Year 2026 at Acacia 1, Chali Resort. Serving as the Bureau's largest local consultative gathering, the session brought together over a hundred industry partners, business chambers, importers, exporters, and local government representatives. The forum provided an open channel to address trade concerns, streamline customs processes, and align operational priorities with private sector needs. Internal Administration Group Director John M. Simon joined district officials to strengthen ongoing cooperation and facilitate smoother cross-border commerce.



Leading Beyond Today: Succession Planning for Department Heads
25 September 2026

The ECCP Competency Hub organized the e-learning session "Leading Beyond Today: Succession Planning for Department Heads" via Zoom. Facilitated by Heidi Grace P. Mendoza, Founding Lead of HGPM Strategic Management Services, the three-hour session guided department heads and business leaders through actionable strategies for preparing future leadership pipelines. Participants engaged in discussions centered on talent development, risk mitigation, and structured transition frameworks to secure organizational continuity. The training provided managers with practical tools to cultivate next-in-line leaders within their respective divisions.



CEPALCO BDD-Goverment Agencies Coordination Meeting

6 October 2026





To ensure Northern Mindanao remains an attractive destination for high-value investments, the ECCP joined forces with Cagayan Electric Power & Light Co., Inc. (CEPALCO) for a high-level inter-agency meeting organized by CEPALCO's Business Development Department. Special recognition goes to Engr. Joenas G. Bongo and the CEPALCO team for spearheading this proactive dialogue to energize the region's investment ecosystem.

The four-hour morning session brought together key government agencies, technical experts, and commercial stakeholders to tackle a crucial component of regional growth regarding investor facilitation and infrastructure readiness. The discussions focused heavily on streamlining investor facilitation by aligning documentary and technical processes across partner offices to make market entry seamless for new businesses. Participants also gained valuable insights into CEPALCO's power capacity, ongoing developments, and electrical infrastructure readiness to accommodate prospective future investments.

Furthermore, the meeting established early coordination strategies so that regional power requirements match target operation timelines for upcoming commercial and industrial projects. By synchronizing efforts between power utility providers and government bodies, the initiative reinforces that reliable infrastructure and strong cross-sector collaboration are vital drivers of sustainable economic growth across the franchise area.

1st ECCP Northern Mindanao Pickleball Tournament

17 October 2026



The courts truly came alive with fantastic rallies, high energy, and intense sportsmanship. The tournament brought together players not only from Cagayan de Oro, but also participants who traveled all the way from Balingasag, Gingoog, Misamis Oriental, and Camiguin to showcase their talent and passion for the sport. A heartfelt congratulations goes out to all the champions, runners-up, and every pair who stepped onto the court.

This event was made possible through the generous support of our partners. We extend our sincere thanks to Bronze Partners, A Brown Company Inc. and Gardenia Philippines, Event Supporters Mediatrix Print and Advertising, The Village Mercato CDO, Ora Wellness and Recovery, and Stronghold Insurance, as well as Photo Coverage Partner, Powerhouse Studio.

By blending physical activity with professional community building, the tournament promoted wellness, active lifestyle choices, and meaningful connection across the broader region.

ECCP Business and Beers: A Networking Night

28 October 2026



On the evening of October 28, the chamber hosted "Business and Beers: A Networking Night," bringing together corporate leaders, business founders, and local industry key players for an evening of relaxed, face-to-face interaction.

Held in an approachable setting at Limketkai Luxe Hotel, the evening offered members and prospective partners an alternative environment to build business relationships, trade sector insights, and explore future commercial synergies over casual drinks. The success of the evening was made possible through the support of valuable partners, including Gold Partner Philippine Retirement Authority, Beer Partner San Miguel Beer, and Raffle Partners Seda Centrio and Dahilayan Adventure Park.

ECCP Executive Director Visits Cagayan de Oro to Strengthen Regional Partnerships and Business Engagement

28-30 October 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) welcomed Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein to Cagayan de Oro City on October 28–29, 2026, for a series of engagements focused on strengthening member relations, exploring potential partnerships, and creating new opportunities for business collaboration across Northern Mindanao.

Accompanied by ECCP Northern Mindanao Regional Manager Joanne Natindim, Mr. Gottein met with prospective members RiteHome Modular Systems and Zentrix, Inc. to discuss ECCP membership and explore opportunities for future collaboration. The visit also included an engagement with ECCP member Capitol University, represented by Graduate School Dean Dr. Merce Labial, reaffirming the Chamber's commitment to fostering stronger academe-industry linkages and promoting collaboration between educational institutions and the business sector.

As part of the visit, Mr. Gottein also paid a courtesy call on Cagayan de Oro City Vice Mayor Jocelyn Rodriguez, a long-standing ECCP member. Joined by ECCP Northern Mindanao Business Council Chairperson Mr. Jaime Rafael Paguio, the meeting highlighted the importance of sustained public-private sector engagement in advancing local economic development and strengthening the city's business environment.





A key highlight of the visit was Business and Beers: A Networking Night, held on October 28, which brought together 60 participants from various sectors for an evening of meaningful conversations, professional networking, and relationship-building. The gathering provided a valuable platform for business leaders, professionals, and ECCP members and partners to exchange insights, establish new connections, and explore potential areas of collaboration.



Through these engagements, ECCP continues to strengthen its presence in Northern Mindanao by deepening relationships with members and stakeholders, expanding its business network, and encouraging collaboration among the private sector, government, and academe. These efforts reflect the Chamber's ongoing commitment to supporting a more dynamic, resilient, and competitive regional business environment.

Inside ECCP: Davao

Panagtigum: Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao's 65th Anniversary Gala

01 September 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao attended the Panagtigum: 65th Anniversary Gala of Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao on 1 September 2026, held at the hotel's Garden Area.

The celebration marked 65 years of the hotel's presence in Davao City, recognizing its longstanding contribution to the local hospitality and tourism industry. True to its name, Panagtigum, meaning reunion, the anniversary gathering brought together families, partners, patrons, and members of the Dabawenyo community who have been part of the hotel's journey throughout the decades.

ECCP was represented by Mr. Antonio Peralta, ECCP-Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) Chairperson, and Ms. Rie Realingo, Davao Branch Officer. ECCP congratulated the hotel on this milestone and recognized its enduring role in Davao's hospitality landscape.



Launch of the Designers Holiday Bazaar 2026 Davao

03 September 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) attended the launch of the Designers Holiday Bazaar 2026 Davao on 3 September 2026 at Ayala Malls Abreeza, represented by Mr. Antonio Peralta, ECCP-Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) Chairperson, and Ms. Rie Realingo, Davao Branch Officer.

Running from 3 to 6 September, the four-day bazaar brought together local designers, artisans, and creative entrepreneurs to showcase Filipino craftsmanship, fashion, and lifestyle products. The event also featured various activities, including a special celebration of dance and music choreographed by National Artist Agnes Locsin on 5 September.



ECCP recognized the initiative's contribution to providing local creative enterprises with opportunities to promote their work, reach new audiences, and strengthen Davao's creative and business ecosystem.

Launch of the School of Medicine of the University of the Philippines Mindanao

04 September 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao attended the formal launch of the School of Medicine (SoMed) of the University of the Philippines Mindanao on 4 September 2026, represented by Mr. Antonio Peralta, ECCP-Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) Chairperson, and Ms. Rie Realingo, Davao Branch Officer.

The launch marked a significant milestone for the university as it opened its inaugural Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program for Academic Year 2026–2027, welcoming its first batch of 40 medical students. The ceremony gathered university officials, faculty, medical professionals, and partners, featuring messages from UP Mindanao Chancellor Prof. Lyre Anni E. Murao, UP President Hon. Angelo A. Jimenez, and former DOH Secretary Dr. Jaime Z. Galvez Tan.



ECCP congratulated UP Mindanao on this milestone, recognizing its contribution to strengthening medical education, research, and healthcare services in Mindanao.

Coordination Meeting with MinDA and the Joint Foreign Chambers of Davao City for the Mindanao Development Forum 2026

16 September 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) joined the coordination meeting with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and the Joint Foreign Chambers of Davao City on 16 September 2026 to discuss preparations for the upcoming Mindanao Development Forum 2026.

Presided over by MinDA Undersecretary Janet Lopoz, the meeting brought together representatives from the business and foreign chamber communities to align on the forum's direction, priorities, and potential areas of collaboration. ECCP was represented by Mr. Antonio Peralta, ECCP-Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) Chairperson, and Ms. Rie Realingo, Davao Branch Officer.



The engagement reinforced collaboration among MinDA and the foreign chambers in advancing meaningful dialogue, strengthening partnerships, and supporting inclusive economic development across Mindanao.

Launch of the 28th Davao Agri-Trade Expo (DATE) 2026 and the 1st ASEAN Innovation Summit

17 September 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) joined the launch of the 28th Davao Agri-Trade Expo (DATE) 2026 and the 1st ASEAN Innovation Summit on 17 September 2026 at the SMX Convention Center Davao.

The gathering brought together business leaders, innovators, investors, government officials, and members of the diplomatic community to explore emerging technologies, developments in the business landscape, and opportunities for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Held alongside DATE 2026, the summit highlighted the role of innovation in advancing agriculture, trade, investment, and entrepreneurship while strengthening Davao's position as a regional hub for business engagement.



ECCP was represented by Mr. Antonio Peralta, ECCP-SMBC Chairperson, and Ms. Rie Realingo, Davao Branch Officer.

Davao-Borneo Growth Corridor Forum 2026

18 September 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) joined the Davao-Borneo Growth Corridor Forum 2026 on 18 September 2026 at the SMX Convention Center Davao, held alongside the ASEAN Innovation Summit.

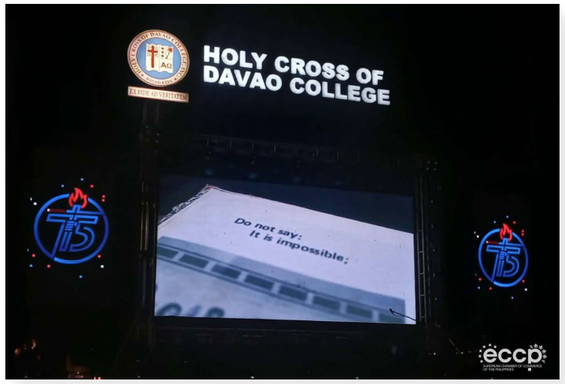
Anchored on the theme "Forging Partnerships, Shaping Shared Futures," the forum gathered business leaders, government representatives, and regional partners to explore opportunities in trade, investment, tourism, and cross-border collaboration between Davao and the Borneo region. Discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening regional linkages within the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) and expanding opportunities for businesses across the region.



ECCP was represented by Mr. Antonio Peralta, ECCP-SMBC Chairperson, who joined fellow stakeholders in discussions promoting regional cooperation and international business engagement.

75th HCDC Fiesta Culminating and Wrap-Up Program: “From Dare to Honour”

18 September 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) joined the 75th HCDC Fiesta Culminating and Wrap-Up Program, “From Dare to Honour,” on 18 September 2026 at the Holy Cross of Davao College (HCDC) Gymnasium. ECCP was represented by Ms. Rie Realingo, Davao Branch Officer.

Carrying the theme “Ex Fide Ad Veritatem: 75 Years of Grace and Onwards: A Blazing Mission,” the celebration marked HCDC’s 75th Founding Anniversary, honoring the institution’s legacy and reaffirming its commitment to faith, excellence, and service.

ECCP congratulated HCDC on this significant milestone and recognized its continued contribution to education and community development in Mindanao, wishing the institution continued success in shaping future generations and advancing its educational mission.

Maximize Your Margins: A Practical Profitability Workshop

22 September 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao successfully conducted “Maximize Your Margins: A Practical Profitability Workshop” on 22 September 2026, providing participants with practical knowledge and tools to improve business financial performance.

The full-day workshop covered key concepts of the Income Statement and profitability indicators, including Gross Profit Margin, Operating Profit Margin, EBIT, EBITDA, and Net Income After Tax (NIAT). Participants also explored financial analysis tools such as breakeven and differential analysis, gaining insights into how everyday operational and business decisions affect profitability.

The session aimed to strengthen participants’ financial literacy and equip them with practical approaches to making informed business decisions, improving margins, and supporting sustainable business growth.

Exploratory Meeting with Hijo Resources Corporation

02 October 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) held a virtual exploratory meeting with Hijo Resources Corporation (HRC) on 2 October 2026, together with its Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Harry Morris, to discuss potential areas of collaboration and opportunities to support Mindanao’s development.

The discussion covered HRC’s ongoing and planned projects, as well as opportunities for stronger private sector engagement with ECCP. Potential collaboration areas included investment, sustainable development, business growth, and industry opportunities across the region.

The meeting also highlighted the broader economic impact of these initiatives, particularly in generating employment, supporting local communities, strengthening value chains, and promoting inclusive growth. ECCP reaffirmed its commitment to building partnerships that connect businesses and investors with opportunities that contribute to Mindanao’s economic development.

CanCham Mindanao Canadian Thanksgiving Celebration 2026

22 October 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao joined the CanCham Mindanao Canadian Thanksgiving Celebration 2026 on 22 October 2026 at the Royal Mandaya Hotel, Davao City. ECCP was represented by Ms. Rie Realingo, Davao Branch Officer, and Ms. Sam Gura, BAEP-CRESCENT Project Officer.

Carrying the theme “Celebrate Friendship. Strengthen Partnerships. Enhance Collaboration,” the gathering brought together representatives from the business, government, and institutional sectors to celebrate Canada–Philippines relations and explore opportunities for stronger economic cooperation.

The program also featured a discussion on “The Philippines–Canada Economic Outlook: A Mindanao Perspective,” highlighting opportunities in regional trade, investment, and collaboration. ECCP welcomed the engagement as an opportunity to strengthen ties with fellow chambers and stakeholders and advance international business relations in Mindanao.

1st Mindanao Indigenous Peoples Trade Expo (MIPTEX) 2026

26 October 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao attended the opening of the 1st Mindanao Indigenous Peoples Trade Expo (MIPTEX) 2026 on 26 October 2026. Running from 26 to 30 October, the expo brought together Indigenous entrepreneurs, artisans, and community leaders from across Mindanao to showcase their products and expand market opportunities for Indigenous enterprises.

The opening ceremony featured a keynote address, “Indigenous Trade, Indigenous Futures,” delivered by Her Excellency Dr. Catherine McIntosh, New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines. The program also included solidarity messages and a panel discussion on Indigenous-to-Indigenous Trade, highlighting the importance of market linkages and collaboration.

ECCP was represented by Mr. Antonio S. Peralta, ECCP-SMBC Chairperson, and Ms. Rie Realingo, Davao Branch Officer, in support of inclusive and sustainable economic development across Mindanao.

Mindanao Development Forum (MDF) 2026 – Opening and Day 1

27 September 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao attended the opening and Day 1 of the Mindanao Development Forum (MDF) 2026, organized by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) on 27 October 2026 in Davao City. Anchored on the theme “Mindanao’s Next Growth Chapter: Mobilizing Private Sector and Development Partnerships for Shared Prosperity,” the forum gathered government leaders, business representatives, financial institutions, and development partners to explore investment opportunities and strengthen regional partnerships.

A highlight was the fireside conversation, “Choosing Mindanao: Stories of Those Who Took the Leap,” moderated by Mr. Antonio Peralta, ECCP-SMBC Chairperson and Honorary Consul of Finland to Mindanao.

ECCP was also represented by Mr. Gerry Constantino, Ms. Rie Realingo, Ms. Sam Gura, and Mr. Kurt Sanchez, reinforcing the Chamber’s commitment to advancing investment and public-private collaboration in Mindanao.

Mindanao Development Forum (MDF) 2026 – Day 2 and Signing of MOU

28 October 2026



The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), together with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and other foreign chambers, formalized a strategic partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 28 October 2026 during Day 2 of the Mindanao Development Forum 2026.

Representing ECCP at the signing were Mr. Antonio Peralta, ECCP-Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) Chairperson, and Mr. Gerry Constantino, Director for Projects. The agreement establishes a framework for cooperation in investment promotion, business matching, trade linkages, investor referrals, and business-to-business and business-to-government engagements.

The partnership brings together MinDA, ECCP, AmCham Mindanao, CanCham, and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Mindanao (JCCM), with the shared goal of connecting international investors with Mindanao’s priority projects and expanding opportunities across key industries.

New Members Corner

Premium Member

ADM Philippines Inc.

We purchase, transport and transform crops, connecting farmers to consumers, touching millions of lives daily. Learn more about how our team connects the harvest to homes around the world. ADM powers industries ranging from beverages to biofuels, home care to home insulation, probiotics to pet treats. We partner with growers in the world's most productive agricultural regions to purchase crops, utilize our unparalleled transportation and logistics network to move those crops from areas of supply to areas of demand, and wield a vast manufacturing footprint and cutting-edge technologies to transform them into an unmatched array of innovative food, feed, fuel and consumer and industrial products for customers around the globe. Whether we're helping farmers ensure that their crops meet customers' needs, moving products efficiently, or using our insights and expertise to create and improve solutions, ADM is a global leader.

Regular Member

Greenology Innovations, Inc.

Greenology Innovations Inc. (GII) was established in 2011 with primary business focus on providing safe and reliable solutions for the requirements of the LPG industry. The company has since grown by adding new product lines and solutions to serve other industries i.e. power generation, mining, construction, etc.

Associate Members

Del Callar & Partners Co.

Del Callar & Partners Co. is a Philippine-based law office specializing in energy law. Our primary focus is on the Philippine energy sector and the practice of law in relation to this, with a strong emphasis on the development of projects in the generation, transmission, distribution, and supply sectors. We provide legal, technical, financial, commercial, and regulatory advisory services to private investors, project developers, private and public companies, government corporations, and other public sector entities.

Rezbin Waste Technology, Inc.

Rezbin is an award-winning waste technology company transforming everyday recycling into an engaging, habit-forming experience. We provide a complete, plug-and-play solution that combines convenience, rewards, education, and collection—all without requiring expensive equipment or specialized machinery. Our platform easily converts an organization's existing trash cans and containers into smart recycling drop-off stations across offices, campuses, commercial spaces, and municipalities.

Ace 1 IT Solutions Inc.

Established way back in 2006, ACE-1 IT Solutions started as a Network Infrastructure Support for an offshore company. We currently operate in the Philippines.

ACE-1 IT Solutions is consist of and managed by expert individuals with extensive and widespread experience and expertise in Telecommunications, Telephony, Network Infrastructure, Service Delivery, Risk Assessment and Recovery.

SSG APAC Inc.

To operate and engage in the business of providing collection services, telesales, contact center, as well as render business management and consultancy Services, specifically a receivables management call center in the Philippines.

To engage in front office/back-office operations and various business process outsourcing services, such as, but not limited to, telemarketing, credit investigation and call center operations.

La Consolacion University Philippines

La Consolacion University Philippines (LCUP) is a private, co-educational Catholic university in the City of Malolos, Bulacan, administered by the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation. Founded in 1937 as Colegio de Nuestra Señora del Carmen, the institution has grown from a small school serving local families into a comprehensive university offering basic education, undergraduate, graduate, and medical programs.

EWG

Founded as a localization provider, our company began by breaking down language barriers through expert translation, interpreting, and specialized staffing services. By connecting global businesses with top-tier linguistic talent and cross-cultural expertise, we built a strong foundation rooted in precision, communication, and human connection.

Megabon Construction and Development Corp.

Megabon Construction and Development Corp. is a Philippine-based Workplace Solutions Provider delivering integrated solutions that create functional, efficient, and high-performing environments for businesses and organizations.More than a design-and-build contractor, Megabon partners with clients throughout the entire workplace journey—from workplace planning, design, cost and value engineering, project management, procurement, construction, fit-out, renovation, and facilities-related solutions to project completion and turnover.

With a multidisciplinary approach and strong technical expertise, Megabon translates business requirements into purposeful spaces that support productivity, employee experience, operational efficiency, and organizational growth. The company works closely with clients, consultants, suppliers, and partners to ensure that every solution is aligned with project objectives, budget, timeline, and long-term needs.

Ofisu Construction Inc.

We do office space set-up services helping companies from finding the right space to designing and building their workspace. In addition, we supply IT equipment and peripherals as well.

PLONTUR GROUP INC.

Plontur Group Inc. (commonly known as Plontur) is a Philippines-based, nature-led landscape architecture, design, and master planning studio headquartered in Pasig City, Metro Manila.

CLEANBOOKS PH OPC

Financial advisory, business process outsourcing, tax and consulting services

Shangri-La The Fort, Manila

Shangri-La The Fort, Manila is a premier luxury hotel and mixed-use lifestyle destination located in the heart of Bonifacio Global City (BGC), Taguig City, one of Metro Manila's most dynamic business and lifestyle districts. Opened in March 2016, the property is part of the internationally renowned Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts portfolio and stands as one of the tallest buildings in the Philippines at approximately 250 meters high.

Designed to redefine urban luxury, Shangri-La The Fort seamlessly integrates world-class hospitality, upscale residences, retail spaces, and wellness facilities within a single development. The hotel features 576 contemporary guestrooms and suites, 97 serviced apartments, extensive meeting and event facilities, and multiple award-winning dining concepts that cater to both business and leisure travelers.

A-List & Partners Consulting Group Inc.

WE'RE A BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FIRM

A-List and Partners Consulting Group Inc. is a Business and Management Consulting firm built to help companies and organizations reach their full potential. We operate as a Business Clinic Doctor—diagnosing challenges, prescribing clear strategies, and guiding execution so businesses can grow with confidence. We work with visionaries who believe growth is possible—even when it seems out of reach. Our role is to help them achieve what others consider impossible.

Foreign-based Members

Cygnet Infotech Private Limited

Cygnet.One is a globally certified PEPPOL Access Point and Service Metadata Publisher, delivering e-Invoicing compliance across 40-plus countries through clearance, reporting, and PEPPOL-based frameworks. The platform supports country-specific mandates with a single configurable architecture, integrating with SAP, Oracle, Microsoft Dynamics, and 200-plus enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems via API and file-based connectivity. Centralized governance, VAT reconciliation, and audit-ready reporting make it a scalable foundation for multinational tax compliance.

Dutch Care Global

Dutch Care Global (DCG) connects qualified Filipino healthcare professionals and students with healthcare employers in the Netherlands through a structured and sustainable recruitment and development program.

Through language training, cultural preparation and professional support, DCG helps healthcare professionals build international careers while supporting Dutch employers with long-term workforce solutions. At the same time, our partnerships in the Philippines contribute to professional development, knowledge exchange and local economic opportunities.

Individual Member



Martin Ruby

Senior Executive – Business Advisor



Business Opportunities



Turkey integrated energy solutions provider looking for local partners and clients

Leading Türkiye energy transition group is offering energy solutions, covering the entire value chain, fuel supply (from upstream to downstream) to power generation; with no project finance, land acquisition, procurement, or construction processes. They also manage the full LNG



German Manufacturer of chokes and transformers for energy supply in search for Philippine distributors and buyers

With an aggregate experience of 97 years, the Manufacturer builds chokes and transformers and, develops innovative solutions that meet the highest technical requirements. Their products are used worldwide, individually manufactured, and they're looking to expand their market in the Philippines.



German expert in industrial milling technology in search for buyers

The company develops solutions for industrial pre-crushing and fine grinding processes in the food, pharmaceutical, chemical, and raw materials industries. Their offerings include process engineering consulting, plant design, in-house production with state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, as well as assembly, commissioning, and after-sales services.

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

ECCP EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

EVENTS CALENDAR 2026-2027

Q4

DECEMBER

3 Economic Outlook

2027 Q1

JANUARY

21 Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook Launch / Ambassadors' Meeting / New Year's Reception

FEBRUARY

11 11th Joint Economic Briefing
18 February Luncheon Meeting

MARCH

3 March Luncheon Meeting
11 Women's Month Event
17 ECCP Community Connect


NOBLE