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

Issue on Sustainability

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2023

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Editorial

Dear reader,

The topic of sustainability remains synonymous with the numerous global challenges, such as waste production and climate change, to name a few. The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines continues to support the Philippine government in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), alongside various stakeholders and policymakers within the European-Philippine business community. Leveraging the European Commission's efforts through the European Green Deal, we take pride in organizing the 2023 Europa Awards, aiming to promote and recognize companies with exceptional performance and contributions to sustainability in alignment with both global standards and the Philippine Development Plan.

In this special issue of EuroPH Connect, we emphasize the theme of Sustainability, which is one of the core advocacies of the ECCP. We are proud to share success stories from various sectors, with the hope of inspiring others to engage with fellow sustainability champions. Now in its third year, the ECCP has made the decision to host the Europa Awards as a physical event. This has provided a significant opportunity to officially meet our guests and partners, and to honor our finalists and nominees for their sustainability efforts and initiatives. We feel honored to share in celebrating this milestone with our members, partners, and stakeholders as we recognize and award our sustainability champions.

The ten (10) award categories are as follows: Clean and Green Energy, Digitalization for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Green and Inclusive Finance Solutions, Green Buildings, Smart and Safer Mobility, Startups for Sustainability, Sustainable Agri-food, Waste Management, and lastly, Water Resource Management. These categories cover various sustainability sectors, and we are grateful to those who submitted their entries, showcasing the commitment of many companies to transforming their best practices into more sustainable means.

Read the stories from our sustainability partners starting on page 13, featuring the Embassy of Finland, Embassy of Germany, Embassy of Romania in the Philippines, Embassy of Sweden in Manila, Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and the Royal Danish Embassy Manila. Delve into the narratives of our content partners as they share their sustainability initiatives and programs while promoting their best practices through sustainable collaboration. We hope these stories serve as a source of inspiration for transitioning to more efficient practices.

On page 100, we express our gratitude to our partners for their contributions to this year's Europa Awards. We recognize the efforts of companies and organizations dedicated to fostering a more sustainable environment and way of living that benefits the country and the world as a whole. Additionally, we invite you to explore the



Florian Gottein
ECCP Executive Director

engaging stories from our ECCP members and partners on pages 75 to 89.

In line with this EuroPH Connect special issue on sustainability, the ECCP organized one of its cornerstone events—the Sustainable Agriculture Forum—under the theme 'Agriculture for the Future: Innovating Agri-Food Systems to Accelerate Food Security.' The event took place last 7 September at Dusit Thani Manila, featuring various topics and issues discussed by esteemed speakers and experts in the field through enriching panel discussions.

Moreover, we recently held a Luncheon Meeting with the Department of Tourism, focusing on promoting and discussing the synergies of Philippine Tourism. Additionally, in partnership with the Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA) and the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the ECCP organized the inaugural Aviation Summit on 27 and 28 September at the Marriott Hotel Manila. This two-day event gathered nearly 500 attendees, including 24 speakers and panelists from the aviation industry who shared their knowledge on pertinent topics and addressed pressing issues and concerns within the sector.

In conclusion, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support for the 2023 Europa Awards. To all companies and organizations committed to sustainability, we hope for ongoing collaboration in promoting sustainable development across various sectors and industries. Let us persist in working together, amplifying the voice of the European-Philippine business community as we strive for sustainability.

We trust you will find enjoyment in this special issue of EuroPH Connect, and as always, thank you for your unwavering support.

2023 **EUROPA AWARDS**

Recognizing the urgency of sustainability and in line with the European Commission's efforts on the European Green Deal, the ECCP is organizing its Europa Awards 2023 on 11 October, which aims to promote and recognize companies with exceptional performance and contributions in promoting sustainability in line with global standards and the Philippine Development Plan.

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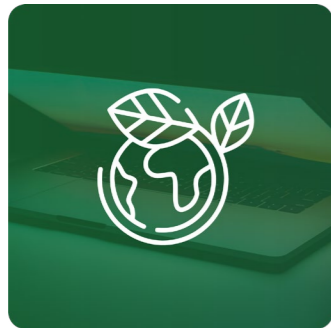


Award Categories



Clean and Green Energy

This will be awarded to the company that has successfully incorporated the use of clean and renewable energy sources in its day-to-day operations. The company has actively promoted the use of clean energy within the country, thereby aiding the government in its thrust to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030 as stipulated in the Paris Agreement.



Digitalisation for Sustainability

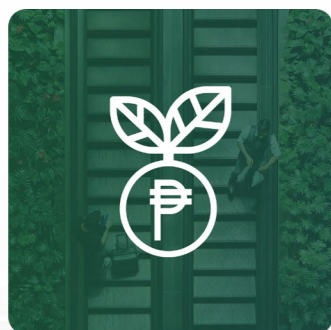
The 'Digitalisation for Sustainability' award category seeks to identify and promote Philippine-based companies that use and maximise technology as a vehicle for achieving sustainability goals. Special focus will be given on:

- Sustainable technology strategy and deployment
- Journey to green cloud/IT
- Sustainable Digital Innovation
- Technological/ digital innovation to promote responsible business



Energy Efficiency and Conservation

This award will be given to the company that showcases best practice in and promotes energy efficiency and conservation (EEC). Through its operations and/or provision of EEC services, the company is contributing to attaining the country's sustainability targets.



Green and Inclusive Finance Solutions

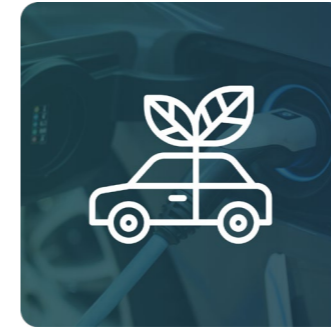
This will be awarded to the company that has shown active support to businesses engaging in green projects by promoting and supporting the flow of financial instruments and other related services for the development and implementation of sustainable business models, green investments, and policies promoting sustainability. This can also cover green products within savings, credit, insurance, money transfers and new digital delivery channels. This contributes to economic development as well as reduction of carbon emissions, climate smart adaptation and protection of biodiversity while strengthening local entrepreneurship and local communities.



Green Buildings

This will be awarded to companies that showcase the best use of technology to establish green building designs. The awardee must be successful in integrating environmentally sustainable solutions in building designs and construction. The award entry should be able to show the excellent integration of the following components:

- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy
- Water Efficiency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Indoor Environmental Quality
- Operation and Maintenance & Other Green Features and Innovation



Smart and Safer Mobility

This will be awarded to the company that has continuously striven to create and implement innovative and sustainable smart and safer mobility solutions that can help address the issues and challenges (i.e., increased number of vehicles, lack of connectivity between public transportation, etc.) in the present transportation system within the country. The company has significantly contributed towards the upgrade of the local transport system with the end view of having a safer, more efficient and sustainable transport community.



Startup for Sustainability

This will be awarded to a start-up company that has successfully developed sustainability and social impact initiatives through improving core business practices, through improving core business practices, driving innovations, and deepening partnerships.



Sustainable Agri-food

This will be awarded to the company that has contributed to the enhancement of the agriculture and food industry in the Philippines by offering innovative products and services that helped implement and promote the concept of "sustainable agri-food systems". The awarded company has championed to increase agricultural production, minimise food loss, and increase awareness on the value of food nutrition through its programs and initiatives.



Waste Management

This award will be given to a company who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and contribution to better waste management. This company is able to set an example in avoiding or recovering waste and protecting the environment through the management of waste streams generated by the community or industry.



Water Resource Management

This will be awarded to the company which best demonstrates excellence in the use of an Integrated Water Resource Management approach to water resources projects as well as innovative thinking, and application of solutions for wise water management and practices.



The Finnish approach to Sustainable Development

Embassy of Finland in Manila

In the face of contemporary challenges such as climate change and the loss of biodiversity, sustainability has to be incorporated as a face value in all of our societal functions. These challenges are global and interconnected and tackling them requires cross-border approach and cooperation. This approach requires the continuous assessment and strengthening of ecological, social and economic sustainability, and adopting a holistic approach where all societal functions are evaluated through the lenses of sustainable development. In other words, we need to adopt a systemic way of thinking where sustainability is an integral part of all of our actions. Finland can act as an example of successfully integrating sustainability and green values in its society.

Finland is a frontrunner in sustainable development with its systemic, practical and solutions-oriented approach. Sustainable development in all countries, including in the Philippines, is in Finland's best interests. The National Commission on Sustainable Development, chaired by the Prime Minister, ensures that the international sustainable development goals are included in the Finnish national policy. These goals are also in line with the priority areas of Finland's development policy, including improving the rights and status of women and girls and promoting democracy and good governance.

The National Commission's roadmap for the Agenda 2030 takes a systemic approach to tackling sustainability challenges both domestically and internationally. The roadmap identifies six areas of change, where changes will advance people's wellbeing within the limits of the planet's carrying capacity. These include promoting fairness, equity and gender equality, facilitating the inclusion and participation of society at large, taking into account the most vulnerable, ensuring long-term commitment and policy coherence, and bearing global responsibility.

In the six areas of change, global responsibility and global impacts are primarily approached from the footprint perspective: the main idea is that actions at home must not cause damage elsewhere in the world or transfer negative impacts to other countries. The focus is also on Finland's handprint: how can we generate positive impacts that support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in other parts of the world, especially in developing countries.

In the Philippines, Finland's sustainability efforts include, for instance, circular economy, clean energy solutions, digitalization, smart infrastructure development, healthcare and education. Finland supports other countries in their efforts to achieve more sustainable policies and actively exports this knowledge through bilateral cooperation as well as supporting private sector in entering relevant markets.

The activities of society are sustainable when they safeguard people's present and future wellbeing in a way that respects the limited carrying capacity of the planet and takes into account the impacts on wellbeing and the sustainable use of natural resources. Sustainable activities in society must seek to ensure a safe and stable operating environment, reduce conflicts in society and continuously reinforce social cohesion.

The Embassy of Finland in Manila warmly welcomes ECCP's continued initiative to identify, recognize and promote best practices of companies towards sustainability. It is in Finland's best interests to be part of the international cooperation aimed at solving sustainability challenges by allocating Finnish competence and know-how. By being part of the global solutions to sustainability challenges, we continue to ensure the wellbeing of people all around the world.



Responding to Climate change: international cooperation is the order of the day

German Embassy in Manila

In today's interconnected world, climate change transcends borders and is a global challenge that Commerce in the Philippines (ECCP) and its members. In this context, the ongoing alliance between the ECCP and the German Embassy in Manila plays a pivotal role.

Once considered a distant threat, climate change has become an undeniable reality. The Philippines, known for its stunning landscapes and vibrant communities, are experiencing an escalation of weather extremes - an undeniable testament to our shared responsibility. In response, the Philippines have commendably embarked on a path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy. The country's unwavering commitment to the Nationally Determined Contributions of the Paris Climate Agreement underscores its commitment to a sustainable, climate-resilient future.

In addition, Europe, and Germany in particular, are at the forefront of climate action, investing heavily in renewable energy, implementing robust emissions reduction strategies and sustainable business practices. Almost 50% of Germany's electricity is produced by renewable energy - and we commend the Philippines for planning to reach that share in 2040.

However, the response to the climate crisis transcends national boundaries and requires harmonious international cooperation. We believe it is imperative to work within a

multilateral framework to address and overcome the various challenges of climate change. This cooperation goes beyond governments; the private sector also has an important role to play in the transition to sustainability. Businesses must actively engage in climate action, adopt environmentally responsible practices and conscientiously reduce their carbon footprint.

As the German Embassy in Manila, we are strengthening our strategic partnership with the ECCP in all regards. This is an important step in our joint commitment to sustainability and climate change mitigation, while providing an opportunity to engage a wide range of economic actors in our far-reaching efforts. Together we will use our resources, expertise and networks to bring about fundamental change. This includes knowledge and technology transfer and facilitating business engagement on sustainability and climate change. Our overall goal is to foster innovation and spread sustainable practices in the Philippines.

Climate responsibility is fundamentally a shared obligation, underscored by the intrinsic value of international cooperation. The German Embassy, together with the ECCP, is unwaveringly committed to promoting positive environmental impact and moving towards a sustainable future. Together, we have the potential to reverse the course of climate change and leave a more prosperous world for future generations.





Romania's whole-of-nation approach in pursuing sustainability

by H.E. Răduța Dana Matache
Ambassador of Romania to the Philippines

Amidst the constantly emerging and expanding challenges that the world is facing in the 21st century – environmental degradation, climate change, poverty, pandemic, food insecurity and other inequality-boosting phenomena, like-minded nations all over the world have answered the call to work together for a more sustainable future through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Like the Philippines, Romania is a country rich in natural beauty and biodiversity. From the majestic slopes of the Carpathian Mountains, virgin forests, and the vibrant flora and fauna of the Danube Delta, the country's natural features have shaped its history, culture, economy, and way of life. As such, it is imperative that our nations strive to protect and preserve these features by upholding the concept of sustainability.

As a member of the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU), the country is steadfastly committed to the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Romania's National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030 (ROSDS) was developed as the national framework for implementing the Agenda across three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. Our whole-of-nation approach has already borne fruits.

Romania has focused on encouraging societal understanding, support, and participation. The strategy recognizes the valuable role of the government, the citizenry, especially the youth, the academe, and civil society, in fostering innovation, optimism, and resilience with the aim to achieve long-term economic growth, a cohesive society benefitting from improved education and healthcare systems, and an increased environmental awareness and responsibility.

At the forefront of this endeavor is a dedicated agency called the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD).

Established in 2017 and acting under the direct coordination of the Romanian Prime-Minister, it has the vital mandate of coordinating the implementation of the strategy. According to the most recent analysis this year, Romania has achieved 62.1% of its objectives in implementing the Agenda.

Notably, Romania's efforts have been recognized internationally, with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) granting the DSD, in 2021, an award for Enhancing the Effectiveness of Public Institutions to Reach the SDGs.

In the context of bilateral relations between Romania and the Philippines, there are vast prospects for convergence in our sustainability efforts. At government level, we aim to foster synergies in joint studies, technology transfers, sharing of best practices, etc. with the relevant Philippine agencies.

The Romanian Embassy in Manila is an active member of the Climate Diplomacy Network of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Romania. We are also a proud member of ECCP, an organization wholeheartedly devoted to promoting sustainable and mutually beneficial links between the European Union and the Philippines.

In these capacities, we have given priority to sustainability in all our efforts to revitalize and consolidate our longstanding and cordial bilateral relations. Digitalization, sustainable trade, and renewable energy are among the key areas that we are exploring as we bring together the business sector of both countries towards mutually beneficial business engagements.

May we all continue to work together for a better, more sustainable and more equitable future for us and the next generations!



Energy Efficiency - Smart City Sweden

Sweden has identified energy efficiency as one of its main priorities and sees it as a central instrument to achieve higher levels of sustainability. With ambitious targets set in the Energy Agreement and Climate Framework, Sweden aims to become a net-zero carbon economy by 2045. To achieve this goal, Sweden applies a holistic approach to promote cooperation between multiple actors across several levels that include the public sector, industry, academia, and households.

The Swedish model of building broad coalitions and working across different sectors to achieve sustainability has resulted in measurable impacts. Everything from reformed national subsidies and regulations to energy-efficient municipal planning and the development of technology procurement. However, a sustainable city is not created by only replacing inefficient light bulbs. The sustainable city is a whole ecosystem of solutions, which can only come into effect when sustainability is approached from a holistic perspective - where the sum is greater than its parts.



Credits: Hans Berggren/Scandinav/imagebank.sweden.se

The future

According to the International Energy Agency, improvements in energy efficiency have been in decline since 2015. Continuous progress plays a crucial role, not only in reaching key sustainability targets but also for sustaining competitiveness and economic growth. The slowdown of improvements can, therefore, have major implications for not only sustainability but also for the more general economic development of governments and businesses.

This complex challenge needs a solution where the issue is tackled through a combination of subsidies, regulations and a culture of cooperation that allows for an innovative business climate to thrive. Energy labelling of products, targeted economic subsidies to the industry and further development of networks for innovative solutions can together help with creating solutions that enable flexible and efficient use of energy.



Poland-Philippines – Road to sustainability

by Jarosław Szczepankiewicz
CDA a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Manila

Poland and the Philippines entered the 21st century as sovereign and independent states that want to strengthen their political position by establishing mutually economic relations. Fifty years ago, on September 22, 1973, Poland and the Philippines established diplomatic relations through the exchange of notes between the Republic of the Philippines and the Polish People's Republic to open door for economic exchange. Our commitment continues for a sustainable economic growth and the opening-up of the both countries: I witnessed first-hand the increase trade exchange from 469 thousand USD in 2017 to 877 thousand USD in 2021. Economic rapprochement of Poland and the Philippines is not only a matter of the value mutual trade or presence of Poland's companies in the Philippines in past fifty years, but also a question of motivations of Polish businessman who arrived well before official relations were established. They were people different temperaments. Historically, the arrival of Poles to the Philippines has never been massive. There were remarkable Poles who sought their fortune in business before World War II: Władysław Sielski (1890-1970) ran the Sielski Sweet Shop Co. in Manila. Edgar Piątkowski (1870-1949) was the chief engineer of the Manila Railroad Company, Zbigniew Dunikowski (1889 - 1961), called "The Last Alchemist", was the technical director of Masbate Goldfields Inc., working on the "Metalex" process to increase the efficiency of gold mining from gold deposits.

Over the last 35 years, Poland has become a highly developed country. In our bilateral relations, we care about sustainable and responsible development; we focus on investments, innovations, development, exports, and highly processed products. Being a member of the

European Union, Poland became a country providing sustainable business solutions on a global scale. In the Philippines, our economic policy efforts focus on the green economy, smart technologies, security and defence, IT and healthcare. Polish development cooperation in the Philippines is focused on building the resilience of the most vulnerable populations with projects aiming at professional activation. Poland also is provider food security to the Philippines. Poland is the only EU country with system accreditation combined with regionalization for poultry exports to the Philippines. Our commitment continues in the area of security: Two contracts for the delivery sixteen and thirty two of Black Hawk S-70i helicopters produced in Poland as successful.

We understand the concept of sustainable development as balancing three development factors: respect for the environment, social progress and economic growth. Experience in the Philippines shows that real effects are most visible and achieved most quickly through the implementation of specific, often the smallest, initiatives, ventures and projects.

Despite the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies of Poland and the Philippines, our bilateral economic ties remained strong. This trend, although undoubtedly positive, does not fully exploit the potential of our trade and direct investment cooperation, especially taking into account the size of our economies and the potential of both markets. Poland and the Philippines have brighter future than it seems at first glance.



Danish-Philippine relations: Navigating the path towards sustainable growth together

Denmark has long been recognized as a global leader in sustainability, consistently ranking high at the Environmental Performance Index where it remained on top in 2022. It is no wonder that Denmark continues to set an inspiring example in various domains to streamline sustainability in every aspect of everyday living.

Several critical factors have played a significant role in Denmark's transition towards a greener future. Denmark's high levels of societal trust and its transparent approach to problem-solving have bolstered collaborative endeavours. With a strong culture of public-private partnerships, cooperation between the Danish government, businesses, and organizations have facilitated the effective implementation of sustainability-related initiatives. While the private sector provides the means to enact change, the public sector provides the necessary framework and vision to support these initiatives.

Here in the Philippines, our push for sustainability is also driven by our strong partnerships with the national government and local companies and organizations. These partnerships are at the core of our countries' longstanding relations, and as we commemorate 77 years of our bilateral cooperation, we celebrate the many firsts and milestones our countries have achieved together this year that demonstrate our mutual commitment to sustainability.

Drawing from Denmark's significant strides in utilizing clean and green energy sources, we welcomed the first ever ministerial visit to Denmark to showcase Danish solutions in wind energy development. The delegation is a meaningful addition to our already robust list of initiatives to support the Philippines in the diversification of its energy mix. This includes the exploration of offshore wind, where we have also seen this year a Danish company

becoming the first fully foreign commercial entity to obtain renewable energy service contracts – ushering in critical investments to this nascent industry.

From harnessing greener energy for electricity, we also remain committed in supporting the Philippines provide cleaner water for Filipinos. This year, we also successfully brought the first Water Delegation from the Philippines to Denmark where our partners in the public and private sectors witnessed Danish expertise in efficient infrastructure, cutting-edge technologies, and integrated planning of its water management systems. With the long view of cheaper, more reliable, and more sustainable power and water for all, we hope that we have, in our way, contributed to improving the lives of millions of Filipino families through these initiatives.

Finally, from the water that we drink, to the larger and tougher waters that surround us, we have also demonstrated our joint strength in greening the blue economy when our countries co-hosted a regional conference focused on the decarbonisation of the shipping industry. Discussions from the conference, joined by 20 Asia-Pacific countries, have been collectively resounding for the formalization of a monumental strategy to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from the maritime industry, and ensuring that in the name of sustainability, no one will be left behind.

Denmark's unwavering commitment to sustainability across these fronts, among many other initiatives that we support, demonstrates its role as a global leader in environmental stewardship. We look forward to continue showcasing Denmark as an inspiration for countries like the Philippines striving to create a more sustainable future.

Meeting the Urgency Around Climate Financing

by Jean-Marc Arbogast
IFC Country Manager for the Philippines

Every year, the Philippines gets buffeted by strong typhoons that leave a trail of destruction, typically in the poorest, most vulnerable agricultural areas of the country.

And so it was this year.

What's different this time around, was that the country was already grappling with food insecurity as a consequence of the protracted war in Ukraine. Not to mention the lingering fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, which profoundly disrupted supply chains everywhere. Compounding disasters may well be the new norm for us all.

Against this backdrop, the urgency around climate financing cannot be overstated. And that's why IFC has ramped up efforts to mobilize private funding towards climate action.

In June 2023, we invested \$250 million in a green bond issued by BPI, a longtime client and partner. This is the biggest deal the IFC has done with a Philippine financial institution. Proceeds will be used to finance eligible green assets, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, green buildings, electric vehicles, and climate-smart agriculture projects, among others. IFC has also agreed to help BPI assess the eligibility and impact of its chosen projects.

Last year, we also launched the "30 by 30 Zero" program, which aims to help financial institutions strengthen their role as aggregators of climate financing by growing their climate-related lending to 30 percent of total portfolio (on average) with near-zero coal exposure by 2030. The program is currently active in the Philippines, Egypt, South Africa and Mexico.

Under the 30 by 30 Zero program, IFC began offering the GreenEnergyFinanceSpecialist(GEFS)scholarshipsearlier this year to build capacity among financial institutions. The first batch of scholars, made up of executives from the country's biggest banks, has just completed an intensive course spread out over six months that trained them on the economic and financial aspects of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The course culminated in a weeklong trip to Berlin, Germany, where the participants were able to visit a wind farm and observe firsthand how these climate projects work.

And of course, we have always emphasized resilience.

More than 10 real estate developers in the Philippines are now using our Building Resilience Index across 1.8 million square meters of space. This tool helps developers assess applicable hazards based on their project locations and explore ways to improve the resilience of their buildings. In addition, our green building certification, EDGE, has certified more than 875,000 sqm of space in the Philippines, including a cancer hospital which is being built by Ayala Healthcare and is set to open this year.

In the Philippines, we have a front row seat to the intensifying impacts of a warming planet. It's a huge challenge, but also a prime opportunity for the private sector to lead the way. The government can't do it alone. Whether it's climate-resilient infrastructure, marine conservation or energy-efficient technologies, we urge all businesses to heed the urgent call for climate action today.







Aerial view of Northgate Cyberzone, home to the largest district cooling system plant in the Philippines, a partnership between ENGIE and Filinvest.



ENGIE, a Champion of Zero-Carbon Energy

As the world continues to face multiple challenges, ranging from the threats posed by climate change to the global energy crisis, ENGIE's purpose, to act to accelerate the transition towards a carbon-neutral economy, through reduced energy consumption and more environmentally friendly solutions, has never been more relevant.

Operating in 31 countries, ENGIE is a global leader in low-carbon energy and services. Through its four core businesses: energy solutions, flex gen and retail, renewables, and network; ENGIE is enabling the energy transition. Leading by example, the company has set an ambitious decarbonization strategy that aims to achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2045 throughout its entire value chain.

In Southeast Asia, ENGIE's agile workforce of nearly 2,000 employees in Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines provides holistic sustainable energy solutions for companies' decarbonization journeys. From initial assessment and planning to implementation, operation, maintenance and financing, ENGIE provides end-to-end support and excels in helping businesses scale and accelerate their energy transition.

To help nations like the Philippines, as well as businesses achieve their sustainability goals, ENGIE engages in continuous innovation, leveraging the skill, experience and expertise of its energy experts. The company also makes significant financial investments into enabling businesses to access low-carbon, renewable and efficient energy which advances the Philippines' net-zero journey.

Northgate Cyberzone in Alabang holds a prime example of ENGIE's innovation and expertise at work. In partnership with Filinvest, through their joint venture the Philippine DCS Development Corporation (PDDC), ENGIE developed and deployed the Philippines' first brownfield district cooling system (DCS).

With Northgate's DCS, ENGIE is helping Filinvest sustainably cool its buildings within the expansive 18.7-hectare Cyberzone leveraging a 12,000 refrigerant ton installed capacity, a formidable 42.2-megawatt cooling capacity, and a robust 3.4-kilometer underground distribution network of sturdy steel pipes.

This is just one of the many examples of how ENGIE is building the low-carbon infrastructure of tomorrow, today, in the Philippines and across Southeast Asia.

Maynilad's Clean and Green Energy Initiatives Towards Climate Neutrality

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) is the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base, with 9.6 million customers. Maynilad provides water and wastewater services to 17 cities and municipalities that comprise the West Zone of the Greater Manila area.

As Maynilad continuously expands its service delivery, it is inevitable that its energy consumption will also increase. Hence, Maynilad adopts sustainability strategies in its operations to minimize its impact.

The company has developed its Climate Neutrality Targets by 2037 in support of the UN SDGs and global climate goals. Aligned with one of the COP 28 Plan of Action's priorities, one of its targets is to achieve 35% renewable energy mix. To realize that, Maynilad already started operating two 1-MW solar farms from 2021 to 2022. Its second 1-megawatt solar power farm was energized in April 2022. The introduction of this solar farm led to a significant increase in our solar energy utilization from 503 gigajoules (GJ) in 2021 to 2161 GJ in 2022.

The new solar farm is expected to substantially reduce grid electricity consumption by approximately 90,000 kWh per month, lower carbon emissions by 21 tons per month, and generate cost savings of around PhP 7 million to PhP

10 million annually as we reduce our reliance on purchased electricity.

Following the success of this project, we are now coordinating with the supplier regarding the installation of solar panels in our other facilities.

The company also recently procured its first three service e-vehicles in line with its goal to gradually convert 50% of its fleet system to e-vehicles as part of the Carbon Neutrality targets.

Maynilad's energy efficiency and clean energy initiatives are encapsulated in its Energy Management program, which has been given the Energy Management Insight Award for Leadership in Energy Management by the Clean Energy Ministerial in 2021 and 2022.

From 2017 to 2022, these energy management efforts resulted to a total savings of 16.75 million KWH of grid electricity and MPhp 124.74, and emission reduction of 7,989 metric tons of CO₂e.

These efforts demonstrate our commitment to environmental sustainability and ecological impact reduction.



First Philippine Industrial Park, Inc. (FPIP) was developed by First Philippine Holdings and Sumitomo Corporation of Japan in 1996 in response to the government’s call for private-sector assistance in catalyzing industrial growth.

Located in the thriving industrial CALABARZON area, FPIP is a 600+ hectare special economic zone that is home to world-class locators (including familiar industry-leading businesses, such as Dyson, Brother, Collins Aerospace, Honda, and Nestle, among others). Today, it is one of the fastest-growing contiguous industrial parks in the Philippines and the preferred location of the world’s largest companies. It has also generated tens of thousands of high-value jobs for Filipino workers and billions of pesos in annual export earnings that transformed its local communities to both an industrial and employment hub of choice.

Meralco: A Just, Orderly, and Affordable Transition to Clean Energy

Manila Electric Company (Meralco), the country’s largest power distributor, has taken serious strides towards a sustainable energy future. With Power being a major pillar supporting its sustainability agenda, Powering the Good Life, the Company has developed its long-term sustainability strategy through which it will drive its just, orderly, and affordable transition to clean energy with the end goal of becoming coal-free before 2050. This transition is outlined in three horizons:

Horizon 1 (2021 to 2030): “Initiate low-carbon transition to serve the country’s growing energy demand with greener power”

Horizon 2 (2031 to 2040): “Accelerate green energy shift through the adoption of next-generation clean technologies”

Horizon 3 (2041 to 2050): “Drive deep decarbonization and achieve sustainability leadership in the energy sector”

Zeroing in on Horizon 1, Meralco has made twin commitments to contract 1,500 MW of RE supply by 2025 and to build 1,500 MW of attributable RE capacity through 2027.

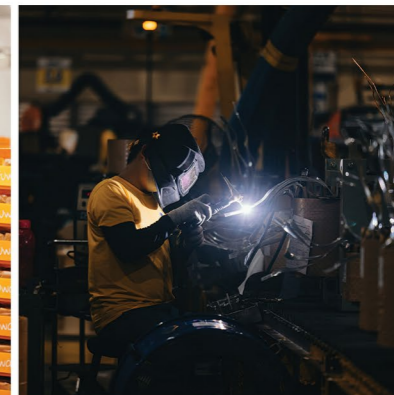
From a contracting standpoint, Meralco has breached its target, having already contracted 1,880 MW of RE supply. Furthermore, its current sourcing plan with a total of 2,610 MW will bring the RE share of MPower’s (Meralco’s Retail Electricity Supplier) supply portfolio to 18% by 2025 and of the Distribution Utility’s to 22% by 2030.

On the generation front, Meralco has three operational solar plants to date, the maiden of which is a 55-MWac solar facility that went online in 2021. The Company’s RE pipeline currently stands at 2,269 MW of attributable capacity which will bring the RE share of total capacity to 40% by 2030.

Meralco has reached important milestones in its sustainability journey, taking meaningful steps to grow its business in harmony with nature. All these efforts are a testament to Meralco’s commitment to power the good life with cleaner and greener energy.

ELEVATING INDUSTRY

FPIP is the **manufacturing hub of choice** of high value-add locators, fostering industry growth and job creation.



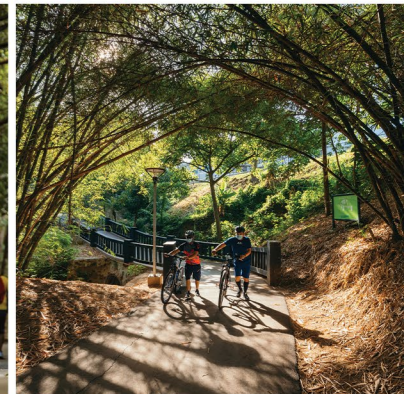
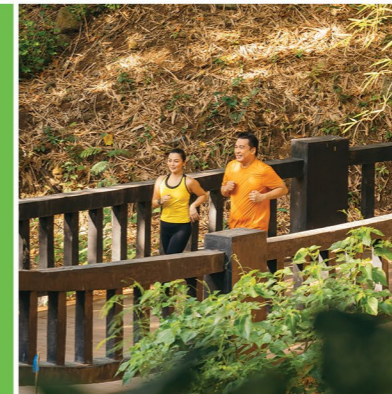
ELEVATING COMMUNITY

FPIP is the **employment hub of choice** for highly-skilled talent, creating a thriving atmosphere and labor pool for locators to provide jobs and community care.



ELEVATING THE ENVIRONMENT

FPIP will transform from a sustainability platform to a **regenerative and decarbonized community.**







ACCIONA's Journey in Digitalization for Sustainability

Innovation is a horizontal enabler of ACCIONA's corporate strategy, making it possible to increase the positive impact of its operations on the economy, environment and society. Sustainable transformational innovation marks the way to lead the corporate sustainability sector, with a portfolio of 100% renewable solutions to design for a better world.

ACCIONA's mission is to lead the shift towards a low-carbon economy. We prioritize infusing technical excellence and innovation into all our areas, including projects in the Philippines - Malolos-Clark Railway Packages, CCLEX, water treatment plants, and future sites, for the holistic development of our communities.

Our innovation centers are pioneers in developing advanced solutions for infrastructure and renewable energies. From our Digital Hub, we harness state-of-the-art technologies like Data and Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Immersive Technologies, and Robotics, coupled with expertise in Smart Society, to address our unique business needs.

We collaborate with partners with a shared vision on regeneration, where we have established the ACCIONA INNOVATION platform for startups that address global challenges.

Our financial commitment to innovation is resolute, by allocating 262.8 million euros in research and development

in the past year alone, resulting in 185 successful projects including:

1. **Renewable Energy Center:** We strive to enhance energy cost-efficiency and reliability. Our Energy Innovation team explores groundbreaking solutions to improve renewable efficiency and accelerate decarbonization.
2. **Construction Center:** This center is dedicated to revolutionizing construction processes while minimizing environmental impact. We tackle technological challenges in the construction sector, focusing on digitalization and environmental impact reduction.
3. **Water Technology Center:** Our Water Technology Center pioneers' technologies to address water scarcity and sanitation issues. From laboratory research to pilot plant studies and industrial-scale implementation, we develop cutting-edge technologies.

Our journey towards sustainability through digitalization is a testament to our unwavering commitment to a healthier planet.

Digitalization for sustainability

Holcim Philippines

Leading building solutions provider Holcim Philippines is ramping up digitization initiatives for better business and sustainability performance. Already, the company has unlocked efficiency gains that are improving costs and enhancing services while lowering its impact on the environment.

Holcim Philippines President and CEO Horia Adrian: "Digitalization is making our operations safer, more efficient, and respectful of the environment. We have already realized a number of gains from these initiatives and are excited to accelerate digitalization to better serve customers and deliver excellent business and sustainability performance."

On the manufacturing side, it has implemented 70 projects under the Holcim Group's Plants of Tomorrow program focused on automating production processes and predictive maintenance to improve reliability, safety, operational efficiency, and resource consumption.

Drones conduct material surveying of storage facilities instead of people for efficiency and safety. Sensors feeding real time information guide operators in keeping facilities running within parameters which enables higher shift to low-carbon alternative fuels and equipment reduce wear-

and-tear. Significant reduction in water consumption were also driven by digitalized equipment.

Software projects the state of equipment for 90-day periods, helping the company plan maintenance activities and conduct early interventions to prevent operational disruptions. Furthermore, logistics operations are digitalized with the performance of fleets and drivers tracked to optimize routes for improvements in safety, customer service, and efficiency.

Data analytics of key business and sustainability indicators guide scenario building and decision making. For example, Holcim Philippines tracks decarbonization metrics, optimizes fuel mix for plants to lower carbon footprint, and produces emissions forecasts using intelligent scenario-based planning. Together with other initiatives such as producing more blended cements and using alternative fuels and raw materials, digitalization has enabled Holcim Philippines to slash its carbon footprint by 20% since 2018.



Rentokil Initial Philippines

As the global leader in pest control and hygiene, our vision and goal on sustainability is clear cut and is embedded in our mission in protecting people, enhancing lives and preserving the planet. We are committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions from our operations across the business by the end of 2040.

Our company's **Sustainability Plan** revolves around three main pillars: **Sustainable Solutions, Sustainable Operations, and a Sustainable Workplace.**

We align our digital innovation with our purpose and sustainability goals, creating services and innovations that meet our customers' evolving needs and prioritize sustainability.

Here's how digital innovation is align with our sustainability objectives:

- 1. Efficiency and Resource Management:** We developed **mobile applications** that maximize the use of resources, minimize waste, and improve operational efficiency.
- 2. Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Our **online customer portal** enables data analytics & digital tools, resulting in improved decision-making, efficient resource allocation, and a smaller environmental footprint.
- 3. Remote Monitoring and Control:** Our **digital pest and hygiene management** enables remote monitoring and control of operations, reducing the need for physical presence, minimizing travel-related emissions for our customers.
- 4. Smart Technology and Automation:** Our **seamless and instant** service report delivery reduces energy consumption, lowers carbon emissions, and enhances environmental efficiency.

Our **sustainability initiatives**, backed by **innovative digital tools** like **myRentokil** and **myInitial**, have significantly reduced paper waste and streamlined processes. Globally, our digital solutions have transmitted **325 million status reports** directly from devices, eliminating the need for traditional printing. In the **Philippines**, we have **reduced paper consumption by 40%** and decreased paper costs for 2022 to less than P90,000. This showcases the positive impact of digital solutions on both financial savings and environmental preservation.

We are committed to extending this to our customers and help them achieve their sustainability goals. Lastly, we are proud to share that last August 2023, DENR bestowed us a certificate of recognition for our unwavering commitment to environmental standards.

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Manila Water's Thrust Towards Energy Efficiency

Manila Water's vision is to be a global leader in providing quality water and environmental services supporting sustainable development. The company's business goals and sustainability aspirations perfectly align and is encapsulated in its clear purpose – to enable “better lives and resilient economies through critical infrastructure.” With water and wastewater services at its core, the sustainability strategy revolves around helping communities thrive, protecting the environment, and building a culture of trust and care.

With its continued thrust to contribute to sustainable development and commitment to environmental stewardship, Manila Water ensures that programs are in place to promote efficient use of resources and improve environmental performance across its value chain.

One of the resources that is of paramount importance is energy. Following the energy pyramid, Manila Water prioritizes initiatives that promote efficiency such as non-revenue water reduction (water system losses), implementation of energy efficiency projects, and finding alternative processes or operating schemes to reduce energy consumption.

The company's non-revenue water reduction program has been instrumental in reducing its energy consumption. Since 1997, Manila Water was able to reduce the system losses in the East Zone from 63% to less than 15%, cutting down the need for additional water to be extracted from the environment and decreasing the energy and resources needed to treat the water.

In 2022, Manila Water implemented projects to replace old equipment with energy-efficient pumps, motors/blowers, and installing variable frequency drives. Compared to baseline figures, the initiatives combined were able to reduce electricity consumption by 12,226 MWh post its implementation. This is equivalent to approximately PhP 127 million of avoided cost and a reduction of 8,790 tons CO₂e of GHG emissions.

To ensure the continuity of its efforts, Manila Water follows ISO 50001 and complies with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act. In addition, Manila Water started Project Net Zero in 2022 with the objective of developing its GHG reduction targets and decarbonization roadmap aligned to a limit of 1.5°C increase in global mean temperature.

Lucima: Where Sustainable Luxury Meets Elevated Living in Cebu Business Park



Artist's perspective of the Amenity Deck

go beyond mere luxury. The development aims to enhance the living conditions of its residents by fostering a sense of ease, comfort, and well-being. Through Lucima's timeless design, meticulous construction, and thoughtful sustainability initiatives, residents can enjoy a lifestyle that promotes physical and mental wellness while minimizing their ecological impact.

Oliver L. Chan, Senior Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer of ARTHALAND, remarks on the significance of Lucima's sustainability and wellness focus: “Lucima represents our vision of sustainable luxury living. By prioritizing the well-being of our residents and integrating sustainable practices into every aspect of the development, we are creating a harmonious environment that combines opulence with responsibility. Lucima exemplifies our commitment to building a better future for generations to come.”

Discover the epitome of sustainable luxury living at Lucima. Embrace a life where environmental responsibility and well-being take center stage. Elevate your living experience to new heights at Lucima and indulge in the ultimate expression of modern living combined with sustainability and wellness.

To learn more about Lucima and its exceptional features, visit www.arthaland.com or contact Ricardo Dizon Jr. at +639177111582.

Cebu Business Park welcomes a new beacon of sustainable luxury living with the upcoming completion of Lucima, ARTHALAND's prestigious condominium development in partnership with ARCH Capital. Completing its Structural Topping Off last September 26, 2023, Lucima stands as a testament to ARTHALAND's unwavering commitment to creating exceptional living spaces that prioritize sustainability and wellness.

Nestled in the heart of Cebu Business Park, Lucima redefines luxury living by seamlessly integrating sustainability into its very core. The development boasts an array of sustainability features that promote energy efficiency and conservation, making a positive impact on the environment while enhancing the quality of life for its residents. Lucima's commitment to sustainability includes an efficient building envelope, energy-efficient air-conditioning and lighting systems, and low-flow plumbing features. These thoughtful initiatives contribute to substantial savings in electricity and water consumption, allowing residents to enjoy lower utility bills while reducing their carbon footprint.

Lucima's dedication to wellness doesn't stop at sustainability. Every aspect of the development is meticulously designed to create an environment that promotes optimal well-being. The units are thoughtfully crafted with an air-tight design, ensuring a tranquil and private sanctuary for residents. By preventing the transmission of unwanted dust, sound, and odors between spaces, Lucima provides a serene and comfortable living environment that promotes better indoor air quality and acoustic performance.

Lucima takes resident wellness to new heights with the inclusion of cutting-edge features. Each unit is equipped with an Energy

Recovery Ventilator (ERV) that not only brings in fresh, filtered air but also maintains humidity levels for optimal thermal comfort. The ERV is fitted with highly efficient air filters, providing residents with clean, healthy air free from harmful microbes and pathogens. In addition, Carbon Monoxide Monitors are installed to continuously monitor pollutant levels, ensuring a safe and healthy indoor environment for residents.

The sustainability and wellness features of Lucima are a testament to ARTHALAND's commitment to creating living spaces that



Artist's perspective of the Three-bedroom suite.





ING Philippines

Empowering clients, financing change

In Asia Pacific, ING offers wholesale banking across 11 markets, namely Australia, China, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam. ING offers both retail and wholesale banking services in Australia.

Since the inception of ING Philippines in 1990 and being the first foreign bank to have acquired a full universal banking license in 1996, ING has built a highly respected wholesale banking franchise enabling the bank to secure marquee transactions from leading domestic and foreign corporate institutions.

At ING, our aim is to empower our clients by partnering with them to offer relevant financial solutions for their business needs across their value chains and by supporting them through the 'ING difference' – three key areas we believe differentiate ING from competitors.

We have global reach, with local experts – no matter where our clients are in the world, our network of experts offers our clients a seamless local experience with a global view. We take best practices and financial techniques across the globe and apply these in the local settings.

We're sector experts – we have deep knowledge across the key sectors of growth which include Financial Institutions, Energy, Real Estate, Commodities Food and Agri, Infra, TMT & Healthcare and Diversified Corporates. Each sector is led by senior bankers with extensive background giving ING the capacity to provide bespoke solutions which help us to anchor client relationships.

We're sustainability pioneers – We're not just green thought leaders, we work hand-in-hand with our clients to address some of the most pressing issues in the world today. We have closed several landmark sustainability deals in the Philippines including the first Green Bond issued by a Financial Institution (RCBC, 2019) and Corporate (Arthaland, 2020). Most recently, we acted as green structuring advisor for Arthaland Corporation's PHP 3 billion (€49.8 million) ASEAN green bond issuance with all proceeds going towards investments in new certified sustainable residential projects over the next decade.

In 2022, we achieved a volume of over €100 billion in sustainable finance mobilised globally, which puts us well on our way towards the goal of €125 billion annually by 2025.

Reduce your emissions,
not your ambitions

Balancing business and sustainability ambitions is complex. We get that. We understand that sustainable business transformation doesn't happen overnight, but don't let aiming for perfection get in the way of progress. So if you need to balance bold sustainability targets with the complex reality of your business, our experts got your back.

Find out more on ingwb.com

Society is transitioning to a low-carbon economy. So are our clients, and so is ING. We finance a lot of sustainable activities, but we still finance more that's not. See how we're progressing on ing.com/climate.



do your thing





Trailblazing Green Buildings in the Philippines NEO

A leading real estate owner, developer, and manager, NEO, has achieved significant progress in creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly presence in Bonifacio Global City (BGC), Philippines. This forward-thinking company has a portfolio of seven certified green, healthy, and resilient buildings, clearly demonstrating its dedication to sustainability, innovation, and the overall welfare of its occupants.

NEO achieved a significant milestone by completing One/NEO in 2002, BGC's first high-rise office tower which helped usher in the transformation of BGC into a top district that flawlessly merges business and leisure activities in Metro Manila.

NEO's commitment to sustainability is evident through its various recognitions. In 2019, all buildings within NEO's portfolio received the prestigious BERDE 5-Stars Certification from the Philippine Green Building Council. This is a testament to NEO's dedication to green building operations, innovative design elements, and ensuring tenant satisfaction.

In 2021, NEO became the first office portfolio in Southeast Asia to achieve the WELL Health-Safety Rating. This rating assures everyone that NEO's buildings adhere to health and safety standards during and after COVID-19, showing NEO's commitment to occupants' well-being. NEO also signed the World Green Building Council's Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment, in which the portfolio is committed to achieving net zero in operations by 2030. The portfolio achieved its goal in 2021, nine years ahead of its initial target, by obtaining the world's first EDGE Zero Carbon certification for the portfolio. Additionally, all of NEO's buildings garnered an impressive A+ rating on the Building Resilience Index (BRI) of the International Finance Corporation, which shows their commitment to resilience by exceeding standard building codes and due diligence requirements.

All of the aforementioned recognitions made NEO a trailblazer in sustainable real estate development in the Philippines and set a remarkable standard for the real estate industry.

Green Buildings that Help Make Sustainable Living Commonplace: Unilever Philippines' share its purpose and progress

This year's EUROPA Awards brings an opportunity for companies and partners to highlight consistent efforts in addressing important issues that impact people and planet.

Unilever Philippines is among these companies, and the company brings a legacy of sustainability in business across its 96 years in the country. Joining this year's slate of EUROPA entries for its Green Buildings Category, Unilever offers its recent achievements as a contribution towards a greener Philippines.

Sustainable Growth: Doing Good for the People and the Planet

Unilever is one of the world's leading suppliers of Beauty & Wellbeing, Personal Care, Home Care, and Nutrition, and Ice Cream products with sales in over 190 countries and reaching 3.4 billion consumers a day. Unilever products are also present in 9 out of 10 Filipino homes, and has retained over 90% of its manufacturing base in the Philippines and even export Philippine-made products to multiple countries globally. Unilever has headquarters in the City of Taguig, factories in Pasig and Cavite, and a distribution center in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The company is driven by a strong commitment to make sustainable living commonplace for everyone. Unilever is built on its belief that through purpose, brands will grow; people will thrive; and companies will last.

The company has set very clear targets to drive climate action, protect and regenerate nature, and build a waste-free world. Its newly inaugurated Beauty & Wellbeing and Personal Care factory in Cavite has an upgraded in-factory wastewater treatment facility and uses geothermal and solar power in its perimeter. In the Philippines, Unilever's sites are powered by 100% renewable grid electricity, bringing the company on track towards its zero emissions in its operations by 2030.

Making Sustainable Living Commonplace

Unilever remains rooted in its vision of to deliver winning performance by being the global leader in sustainable business. Through strong and consistent actions, we have been able to drive a business through green, renewable energy, in buildings and facilities that mirror our commitment to safeguard our planet and people for the future.



Battery production at the Bosch plant in Eisenach

In the future, second-generation 48-volt batteries will be manufactured at the Bosch plant in Eisenach. Bosch is investing some 70 million euros in expanding local manufacturing operations.



Sustainability - A core element of Bosch's strategy and daily business

At Bosch, we pursued sustainability long before it made it to the top of the social agenda. As a result, in 2020 we became the first global industrial enterprise to make our own operations carbon neutral. In 2022, we conducted the second installment of the Bosch Tech Compass, a global survey designed to gauge consumer attitudes to technology. The results were a clear affirmation of consumer support for sustainable business practices. 82 percent of respondents believe that the more a company commits to sustainable technologies, the more economically successful it will be in the future.

At Bosch, we are investing heavily in sustainable technologies. When it comes to sustainable mobility, we're continuing to strengthen our portfolio of solutions for electrified driving, while at the same time pushing forward with hydrogen technologies. Our mobile fuel cell power trains, for example, started production in late 2022. The transformation of home energy systems is also a top priority – after all, a full one-third of all carbon emissions come

from buildings. Hydrogen also holds great promise in home heating systems. We firmly believe that a mix of technologies is the only way forward, since to succeed the transformation must remain affordable.

In the Philippines Bosch supports the automotive world with the emergency call service. After an accident, every second counts. Bosch's eCall ensures that our customers receive rapid assistance. The vehicle automatically transmits all data relating to the accident to the Bosch monitoring center. Our associates immediately contact the vehicle occupants and coordinate further rescue measures. In the spirit of Bosch's slogan "Invented for Life" our associates are literally saving lives.

At Bosch we are convinced that sustainability must be a non-negotiable part of doing business. And it is our task to find technology-based solutions to our current ecological challenges. The result will be a win-win – for our planet, all people and for companies like Bosch.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE **ECCP** COMPETENCY HUB.

ECCP COMPETENCY HUB

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

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







Rooftop Solar Installation at Coca-Cola Misamis Oriental

Buskowitz Energy

Buskowitz Energy is one of the major players in the Philippines' rooftop solar industry. The German-Filipino enterprise is the only solar power generation and engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) company in the country to be certified by ISO 9001:2015 for its Quality Management Systems for five consecutive years.

With more than 300 solar rooftop projects nationwide to-date, Buskowitz has installed on and provided solar for international brands such as Coca-Cola and Shell, as well as other local industry giants: such as Petron; SM Malls; Robinson's Malls; NLEX and SCTEX by Metropacific Investments; and UNILAB through its manufacturing subsidiaries, among others.



Buskowitz Energy's Chief Executive Officer, James Buskowitz shares, "Today, the world is experiencing the rapid need of sustainability to act on environmental issues. Buskowitz' sole purpose is to create an avenue for companies and homeowners alike to easily contribute to this mission, while saving on expensive electricity costs coming primarily from fossil fuels."

Buskowitz Energy currently has a total portfolio of 85 Megawatt-peak (MWp), as well as 40 MWp in the pipeline this 2023, for both its commercial and residential installations. The energy generated by the above-mentioned projects will be sufficient to supply clean energy to over 20,000 Filipino households every year.

On embodying sustainability as a start-up, Mr. Buskowitz continues, "Sustainability is the true bottom line. Every decision made is kept with this main idea: that sustainable development is the "common future," where the needs of this generation must be met without compromising the needs and growth of future generations."

Buskowitz hopes to continue developing a large sustainable asset and infrastructure base not only for its own development interests, but to continue contributing to the low carbon future initiative, while servicing the growing energy demand and challenges facing the Philippines and South East Asia Region.



ARE YOU PAYING
₱ 500K AND UP
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SWITCH NOW TO
 RENEWABLE ENERGY WITH

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With electrical bills continuously increasing, Buskowitz Energy wants to provide affordable and clean renewable energy to business owners with 450 sqm roof space and a minimum P500,000 monthly bill.

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Buskowitz Energy is one of the top solar companies in the country. With more than 10 years of experience and over three hundred enterprises served nationwide, our clientele speaks for the quality of our installations.

- ✓ ISO Certified for Quality Management Systems
- ✓ Top-tier and world-standard components
- ✓ Team of international and local solar experts
- ✓ Save up to 50% off on your electric bills monthly

*VAT exclusive based on low voltage power rate



OUR FEATURED CLIENTS









From waste to worth

Holcim Philippines

Leading building solutions provider Holcim Philippines converted around a million tons of qualified wastes into alternative fuels and raw materials for cement production in 2022 as it accelerates circular construction in the construction industry.

Through waste management unit Geocycle, Holcim Philippines recycled discarded materials from industries and communities through cement kiln co-processing. This helped the company conserve virgin natural resources and avoid high-carbon traditional fuels in cement production while helping partners manage wastes sustainably.

Among the beneficiaries of the company's circular economy drive are 35 municipalities and cities nationwide, which were able to divert waste away from landfills. Geocycle also helped industrial partners manage wastes including non-recyclable plastics. Aside from these, Geocycle conducted lectures on proper waste management for local governments and schools and participated in public forums on the importance of resource conservation.

Holcim Philippines President and CEO Horia Adrian: "Co-processing is an important part of our efforts to advance

circularity in the construction industry. Our success in reusing discarded materials is further reducing our consumption of natural resources and carbon emissions. This also enables us to help industries and communities achieve their zero waste objectives. We are excited to continue growing our co-processing operations to further contribute to building progress in the country."

Co-processing is a government-approved and globally-recognized waste management technology that repurposes qualified discarded materials into alternative low-carbon fuels and raw materials in making cement. Among the environmental advantages of co-processing are the extremely high temperatures of kiln and longer treatment time that prevent formation of harmful gasses. There are also no residues to be landfilled.

Holcim Philippines is increasing its use of low-carbon fuels in cement manufacturing to reduce carbon emissions, cut use of virgin raw materials, and contribute to sustainable management of wastes in the country.

Meralco Powers the Good Life through Race to Zero Waste

In 2019, Manila Electric Company (Meralco) placed sustainability at the core of its strategy and operations by establishing its sustainability agenda, called #PoweringTheGoodLife, which is rooted in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and is marked by a distinctive focus on four pillars: Power, Planet, People, and Prosperity.

The Company's sustainability agenda guides the organization in its pursuit of genuine progress towards the achievement of the UN SDGs. Through its various business and initiatives, Meralco promotes and supports as many as 11 SDGs, including SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. By championing these SDGs, the company—through its Race to Zero Waste (RZW) Program and other sustainability initiatives—is contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

Since its launch in 2020, the RZW Program has delivered exceptional performance year after year towards the achievement of Meralco's overall objective of reducing the

Company's waste generation and waste disposal in landfills. The initiative addresses the waste management lifecycle from generation to disposal and is built on the success and momentum of the Company-wide ban on single-use plastics (SUPs) implemented in 2019. The RZW Program underscores Meralco's determination to shared environmental stewardship and responsibility, towards the communities it serves and to the future generation.

In 2022, the RZW Program marked a major milestone as Meralco attained a waste diversion rate of 96%, surpassing the target of 85% and over five times the rate of 17% prior to program implementation in 2019. RZW's success is due to the dedication of Meralco's employees and strengthened partnerships with different organizations.

Meralco currently holds an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Certification, a seal of approval to the strength of the Company's environmental management system, which includes waste management policies, guidelines, protocols, and initiatives, among others.



Newport World Resorts' I LOVE Earth Program

Newport World Resorts (NWR) is the first integrated resort in the Philippines, and is currently home to 3,500 rooms under its 5 international hotel brands as well as its own local and affiliate hotels; meetings, incentives, meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) facilities that include the largest hotel ballroom in the country; 24-hour gaming facilities; plus various entertainment and leisure facilities. The NWR management is well aware of its environmental impact, and its potential to help drive positive change. This is what inspired the creation of its innovative sustainability program called I Love Earth (ILE) which harmonizes the programs of each hospitality brand within the property into one, and leverages this united front to make a bigger impact. The ILE program is organized around the five HEART pillars (Healthy, Responsible and Sustainable Sourcing;

Environmental Impact; Active Engagement, Benchmarking, and Certification; Reform, Reduce, Recycle, Repurpose; Transform through Teaching, Training, and Technology). Under the "R" pillar is its Waste Management program, in which it has set specific targets on the reduction of total waste sent to landfills; repurposing of discarded linens; conversion to bulk hotel amenities; conversion to glass bottles instead of single use plastic ones; conversion to biodegradable packaging; and reduction of food waste. With the support of partners, employees, guests and other stakeholders, NWR has made significant headway in these areas. But more importantly, its campaigns under waste management are helping solidify a strong culture of sustainability within the integrated resort, which it hopes to spread in the community and the rest of the industry.



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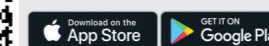
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ACCIONA's Role in Transforming Water Resource Management

With over 40 years of experience in delivering water solutions, ACCIONA is a leading player in water treatment with its innovative approach to overcome global water scarcity, with strong involvement in all stages of the water cycle, the capacity to build and operate reverse osmosis desalination, drinking water and wastewater treatment plants, such as the ongoing construction of Laguna Lake WTP in the Philippines, which will benefit six million people with a daily capacity of 150,000 cubic meters.

The integral water cycle processes by ACCIONA involves:

1. Desalination: The use of reverse osmosis technology with modernized systems in sites to alleviate water shortage.
2. Potabilization: Treating water to meet consumption standards through sustainable pumping stations and the use of cutting-edge technology.
3. Distribution: Maintaining water distribution networks.
4. Water supply for communities and agricultural irrigation to reach the underserved population.
5. Sanitation network maintenance and 24/7 customer service in areas of operation.

6. Water treatment: Removing pollutants from wastewater to restore optimal environmental quality.

7. Water reuse: Implementing tertiary treatments to enable water use in agriculture, urban parks, and various activities.

By implementing digital tools in its operational ecosystem, ACCIONA built over 150 drinking water treatment plants with a total capacity of 8.1 million liters per day. ACCIONA also reuses wastewater and water from desalination processes in which the company has achieved a 55% increase in the use of recycled water, reused water, and rainwater. Globally, ACCIONA has more than 330 wastewater treatment plants serving a total of 100 million people with the provision of end-to-end water management, water supply, and sewerage services that covers corrective maintenance and customer support.

ACCIONA is playing a pivotal role in addressing global water challenges and ensuring access to clean, quality water for communities around the world.

Turning the tide on water scarcity

Holcim Philippines

The world's water resources are getting scarce. Even in an archipelagic country like the Philippines, water is becoming a critical resource.

Managing this important resource is part of the sustainability commitments of Holcim Philippines. Its sharper focus on this matter has enabled the company to significantly make a positive impact. Since 2018, the company has slashed freshwater withdrawals by 64%, lessening its environmental footprint and safeguarding the water resources of host communities.

Holcim Philippines invested in water recycling facilities, rainwater harvesting structures, and digitalized monitoring and control tools to improve consumption efficiency. Most of these improvements are focused on the Holcim plant in Norzagaray, Bulacan, which accounts for half of the company's water withdrawals.

As a result, Holcim significantly reduced its water consumption and generated a total of P35 million in savings in 2022.

Holcim Philippines President and CEO Horia Adrian: "Conserving and safeguarding water is part of our greater

sustainability ambition to make the company more respectful of the environment and uplifting to our communities. We are committed to further accelerating our initiatives to drive efficiency gains for business, communities, and the environment."

Holcim Philippines is also implementing a water replenishment program focused on watershed protection and restoration, productive use, and access and sanitation. It formed strategic partnerships with local government units in water-risk areas to maximize watershed improvement and provide the water needs of the host communities.

To advance its water sustainability program, the company has installed solar-powered pumps in the Bulacan plant to scale up water harvesting activities.

These water conservation initiatives are part of Holcim Philippines' goal to significantly reduce freshwater withdrawal in cement production by 2030 while contributing to communities' water needs. This sustainability target is aligned with the country's challenges in water access, which impacts public health and wellness.



Maynilad’s Initiatives in Ensuring a Sustainable Water Resource for the Filipinos

In line with Maynilad’s commitment to fulfill its mission of providing safe, affordable, and sustainable water solutions to its valued customers, the company is dedicated to advancing water and wastewater initiatives that contribute to the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It places a special emphasis on Goal 6: Ensuring Access to Clean Water and Sanitation, striving to guarantee the availability of water resources and the sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all within its concession area.

It’s worth noting that over 90% of the company’s water supply is sourced from Angat. However, during El Niño, it faces challenges in meeting the growing water demand. Moreover, the impacts of climate change have introduced alarming water resource issues that profoundly affect the operations of the company.

In response to these climate-related challenges, the company has embarked on diversifying its raw water sources. It has undertaken the construction of modular treatment plants as part of this effort.

Notably, the Paranaque “NEW WATER” Modular Treatment Plant is a pioneering endeavor in the Philippines,

representing the first implementation of “potable water reuse” in the country and the first “direct potable water reuse” application in Asia. Utilizing treated wastewater as an unused resource holds substantial promise as a supplementary source of raw water supply. This resource exhibits resilience to weather conditions and maintains a consistent quality, given the stringent control measures in place at the water reclamation facility. Moreover, the facility complies with both local and national standards for drinking water.

Furthermore, the company is in the process of constructing four additional modular treatment plants that will draw water from Cavite dams, along with another NEW WATER facility in Valenzuela, which currently is applying for potability certificate.

Maynilad has also initiated various measures, including strategies to reduce leaks since 2007 and process improvement projects. It has also utilized ultrasonic waves transducers and installed silt curtain barriers to address algal bloom issues.

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SOLAR HOME LITE	SOLAR HOME	SOLAR HOME PLUS	SOLAR HOME MAX
4 PANELS	10 PANELS	16 PANELS	19 PANELS
PHP 7,000 AND BELOW MONTHLY ELECTRICITY BILL AMOUNT	PHP 7,001 - PHP 12,000 MONTHLY ELECTRICITY BILL AMOUNT	PHP 12,001 - PHP 17,500 MONTHLY ELECTRICITY BILL AMOUNT	PHP 17,501 - PHP 22,500 MONTHLY ELECTRICITY BILL AMOUNT
TOTAL: P 331,992.81	TOTAL: P 537,531.37	TOTAL: P 894,352.28	TOTAL: P 989,768.68

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Packages are inclusive of delivery fees within Metro Manila, system components, testing and commissioning, installation, taxes, and applicable government charges.
- Additional charges may apply for roof types such as shingles, concrete tile, asphalt roofing among others, except for Galvanized Iron (GI) Sheet or long span roofing.
- Date of installation will be confirmed upon contract signing.



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Designing for a sustainable retail environment

Trends and Concepts

Sustainability remains one of the most talked-about initiatives in the built environment; with the damaging impacts we have placed on earth, 'sustainability' 'eco-friendly' and 'biophilic' have been a regular in the design workbook. In Europe, the retail buildings have been one of the largest consumers of energy with a contributing rate of \$20 billion each year (Schneider Electric). Given sustainability as an increasing priority in the business of retail, a shift towards ethically resourced, designed, and constructed spaces are given much attention.

Cradle to Cradle in Interior Spaces

In Interior Design, the Cradle-to-Cradle principle makes new from old, and it is about the targeted selection of materials and methodologies for construction that can go in absolute cycles. C2C is an easy concept to explain using a single product. However, it becomes a challenge when we talk about interior design and architecture since most of the traditional buildings were built and are composed of materials that did not go through net positive integration. Unlike conventional approaches, C2C focuses on eco-effectiveness, improving the positive impact rather than reducing or minimizing the negative impact.



The path to a sustainable retail design

We are living in a time where deadlines and budgets drive the design. The goal of C2C is to create a high-performance space through an integrated design process. From design conceptualization to planning and construction, we must ensure that all integral objectives are considered. Going green has proven to not only help retailers reduce the impact of carbon footprint and emissions, but also significantly save money through quality facility and improved performance.



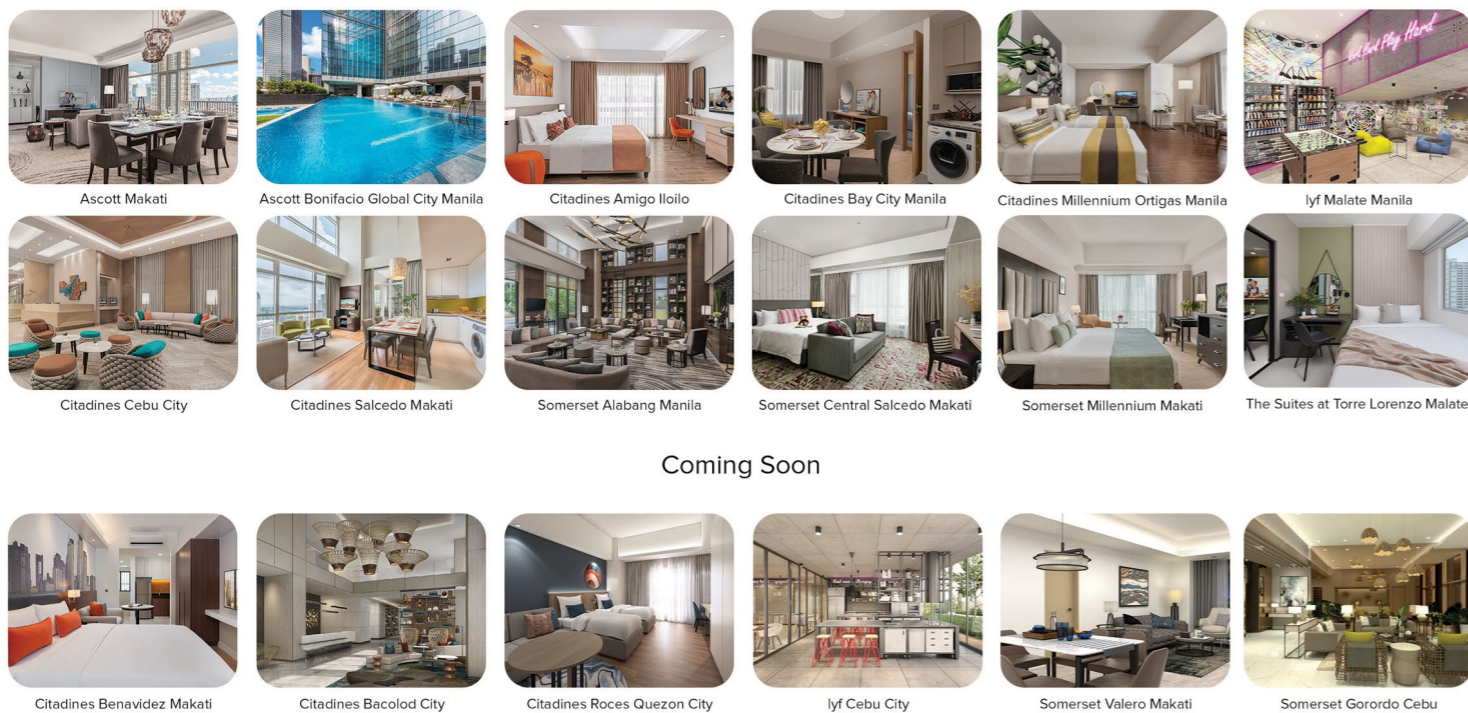
With the significant shift seen on design strategies and the focus on healthy environments, users and stakeholders are beginning to see how a responsible built environment assists in creating a future-proof ecosystem. Material Selection has a high impact on the eco-efficiency of interior design projects. In the industry of retail, due to the need for adapting to the current trend, the project's life span adjusts every 2-3 years, placing a weight on the amount of waste on resources. By integrating sustainability on the very first phase of developments, we instead limit the industrial system and instead strategically manage resources to possibilities of biological or technical pathways.





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The Ascott Limited is a member of CapitaLand Investment. It is one of the leading international lodging owner-operators with properties across Asia Pacific, Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the USA. Its portfolio of serviced apartment, coliving and hotel brands include Ascott, Citadines, lyf, Oakwood, Quest, Somerset, The Crest Collection, The Unlimited Collection, Préférence, Fox, Harris, POP!, Vertu and Yello.

Transforming Hospitality: The Ascott Limited Philippines Commits towards a Sustainable Future

The Ascott Limited (Ascott), a renowned international lodging owner-operator, proudly announces its unwavering commitment to promoting sustainability and reducing its environmental impact. With sustainability at the heart of its operations, Ascott is taking concrete steps to ensure a greener and more environmentally responsible future.

Ascott's flagship property, Ascott Makati, located in the bustling central business district, has received the prestigious EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) certification. Additionally, Somerset Central Salcedo Makati and Citadines Millennium Ortigas Manila have earned the BCA Green Mark (Building & Construction Authority) certifications. These certifications recognize buildings that incorporate environmentally friendly and energy-efficient mechanisms in their operations. These properties were evaluated based on their energy and water usage, materials used, and waste management practices. It underscores Ascott's commitment to sustainability and its dedication to championing environmentally responsible practices within the hospitality industry.

In alignment with its sustainability efforts, Ascott has introduced Ascott CARES, a comprehensive sustainability framework designed to harmonize its growth strategy with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations and Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Criteria. The Ascott CARES framework revolves around five core pillars, symbolized by the acronym CARES:

1. **Community:** Ascott actively engages with local communities, fostering mutual growth and development.
2. **Alliance:** Building strategic alliances to drive sustainable practices and innovations across the industry.
3. **Respect:** Demonstrating respect for cultures, diversity, and inclusivity in all aspects of its operations.

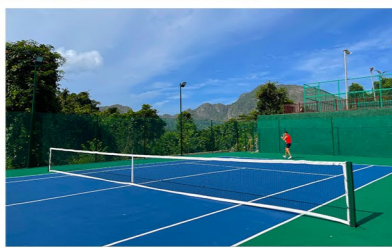
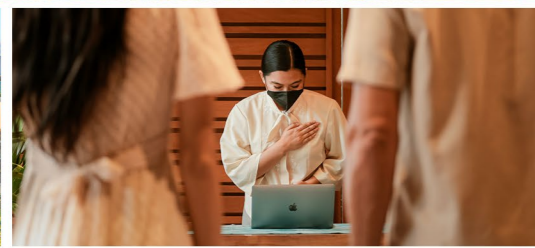
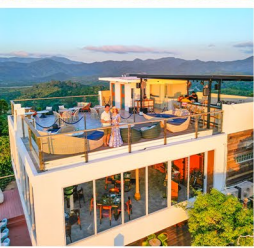
4. **Environment:** Implementing eco-friendly initiatives to reduce its environmental footprint.
5. **Supply Chain:** Promoting sustainable practices throughout its supply chain to ensure responsible sourcing and operations.

As part of Ascott Philippines' commitment to sustainability, Ascott has also partnered with The Plastic Flamingo (PLAF), a social company dedicated to collecting and repurposing plastics. This joint initiative focuses on upcycling and reprocessing plastic trash into useable goods, such as recyclable eco planks to help build temporary shelters and other environmentally friendly goods. With that, Ascott Philippines will develop and open collection points for upcycling. This embodies our shared hope of creating a stronger circular economy that can address the issues of marine plastic waste pollution and offer sustainable construction material alternatives.

Ascott has also partnered with WWF-Philippines to build two community-managed food sheds in their GK Eco-Village in Batangas. This is part of their Food Shed Farming Enterprise Project, which aims to promote community resilience, financial inclusion, and economic empowerment to improve Filipinos' social and economic well-being—especially due to the repercussions of the COVID-19 epidemic.

The properties also practice responsible sourcing at all restaurants with the use of only cage-free eggs and locally sourced seafood by 2025. The seafood choices are incorporated into our ala carte menu such as local line caught seabass from Iloilo, fresh oysters from Aklan and baby Octopus from Albay Makati.

For more information, please visit <https://www.discoverasr.com/en/ascott-cares>.



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Turkish Airlines announced its strategic plan for the next 10 years

Founded in 1933 with a modest fleet of 5 aircraft, Türkiye's national airline, Turkish Airlines, has secured its place on global stage with its accelerating growth year after year. In particular, over the last 20 years, it has achieved an extraordinary growth performance in capacity, passenger numbers, and profitability, outperforming the industry average and becoming one of the most important players in global aviation today.

With its impressive growth performance, Turkish Airlines has made significant contributions to the country's economy and employment and shared its goals for the 100th anniversary of its establishment with public.

Determined in line with its vision for 2033, the strategic focus areas that aim to generate significant value for the national flag carrier's stakeholders are as follows;

- Achieving consolidated revenue of over 50 billion USD by 2033,
- Attaining an EBITDAR margin between 20% and 25% during 2023-2033,
- Improving efficiency, maintaining cost discipline and creating new opportunities to generate additional revenues in order to sustain the airline's strong financial performance,
- Contributing 140 billion USD of added value to Türkiye's economy by 2033,
- Expanding the fleet to 435 aircraft by 2023 and to over 800 aircraft by 2033; expanding the passenger network to 400 destinations,
- Doubling the passenger capacity in 2023 by 2033 with an annual average growth rate of 7%,
- Servicing 170 million passengers by 2033 compared to over 85 million in 2023,
- Reaching 150 thousand employees including its subsidiaries,
- Doubling the transported cargo volume and positioning Turkish Cargo among the top three cargo carriers globally by 2033; leveraging the capabilities of its cargo hub, SmartIST, which is currently one of the largest air cargo terminals in the world,
- Establishing the airline's low-cost arm AnadoluJet as a separate subsidiary; repositioning its brand, restructuring its revenue and cost structures, and reaching a fleet size of 200 new generation aircraft to strengthen its competitive positioning,
- Improving passenger experience and brand recognition by:
 - Providing each passenger a customized service across

all service channels

- Completing cabin transformation to enhance in-flight experience
- Growing further Miles & Smiles loyalty program and increasing the number of active members
- Ranking among the top 3 airlines globally in providing the best digital experience by implementing new projects in digital transformation
- To become a sustainable airline by:
 - Increasing the number of new generation aircraft in the fleet
 - Increasing the consumption of sustainable aviation fuel
 - Expanding the number of LEED certified buildings to boost renewable energy usage
 - Becoming a "Carbon Neutral" airline by 2050 through the implementation of carbon emission offsetting projects.

Commenting on the announced goals, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and Executive Committee, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bolat said; "Being able to grow from our humble beginnings of 90 years ago into one of the world's leading airlines is a great honor for us.

Today, Turkish Airlines, a 90-year-old giant, is in our view a dynamic and young adult, actively continuing its development. Yes, our journey is still very long, and as our country's national airline, we consistently implement and set our short, middle and long-term goals on this adventure where we reach all four corners of the world.

We are happy to share our goals that will significantly contribute to our country's economy and development in the next 10 years by declaring our strategic planning for our 100th anniversary, which we will celebrate 10 years from now.

As a member of this beautiful institution, which is Türkiye's most well-known global brand in the international community, we assure that we are walking confidently towards our goal of becoming the world's best airline company, and thus, we will continue to make our nation proud for many more long years. We wish our 2033 goals, which we announced, to be auspicious for all."

Employing more than 75,000 people together with its subsidiaries, Turkish Airlines will continue to proudly fly Türkiye's national flag in the coming years with its unparalleled network, modern fleet, exemplary service approach, and remarkable financial performance.

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Alaska Milk and City of Manila Renew Partnership for Wrapper Redemption Program

Alaska Milk Corporation (AMC), the City Government of Manila, and Republic Cement have reaffirmed their commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility by renewing their partnership with the Wrapper Redemption Program. The ceremonial Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing took place on 19 September 2023 and was attended by esteemed representatives from both organizations.

The Wrapper Redemption Program, initially launched in 2019, is one of the main pillars of AMC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programs called AlasKalikasan. It aims to promote proper waste management and encourage recycling within the city while introducing proper nutrition through milk consumption to the community. Under this program, residents can exchange single-use plastics in exchange for Alaska Fortified Powdered Milk Drink. This initiative not only incentivizes responsible waste disposal but also contributes to Manila's overall cleanliness and sustainability.

AMC Managing Director Tarang Gupta expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership renewal, stating, "We are delighted to continue our collaboration with the City Government of Manila for the Wrapper Redemption Program. Through this initiative, we are promoting responsible waste management and fostering a sense of environmental consciousness among the residents of Manila. True to Alaska's passion, we do not just nourish Filipinos with affordable nutrition but also nourish the planet."

City of Manila Mayor, Hon. Maria Sheilah "Honey" Lacuna-Pangan, also emphasized the importance of this partnership. "We have been partners with Alaska Milk since the launch of AlasKalikasan. The Wrapper Redemption Program has been a tremendous success in promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness about waste management. We are thankful to Alaska Milk Corporation and Republic Cement for their continued support and commitment to making Manila a cleaner and greener city," said City of Manila Mayor.

Republic Cement ecoLoop Operations Manager Rodel Santiago, who was also present at the event, expressed his organization's commitment to the cause, saying, "Republic Cement is proud to be a part of this partnership with Alaska Milk Corporation and the City of Manila. It is through partnerships such as this that we are able to do our part for the environment by co-processing qualified residual waste, such as sachets. By using residual waste as alternative fuels, we are also able to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels in the manufacture of cement."

The renewal of the partnership between AMC, the City of Manila, and Republic Cement for the Wrapper Redemption Program highlights the significance of collaboration among the private sector and local government in addressing environmental challenges. This initiative sets an example for other cities and corporations by encouraging responsible waste management and recycling, ultimately contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment for all.



SNAP-Benguet: empowering communities for 15 years

For the past 15 years, SN Aboitiz Power-Benguet (SNAP-Benguet) has been generating renewable, reliable, and responsible energy and providing meaningful opportunities in the communities where it operates.

Since 2008, SNAP-Benguet has helped meet the country's growing electricity demand with its two plants, the 112.5-megawatt (MW) Ambuklao and 140-MW Binga hydros. Over the years, the company has marked several milestones, beginning with the re-operation of the Ambuklao plant, which came back online in 2011. SNAP has made additional operational improvements, including the refurbishment of the Binga plant from 100 to 140 MW, and most recently, the successful uprating of Ambuklao's capacity from 105 to 112.5 MW. "SNAP-Benguet should continue to provide light, but not just light from the power, but to be a light beacon in other people's lives and the community," said Benguet Governor Melchor Diclas through his executive assistant, David Cabuted, who attended the celebration on July 10, 2023.

The company's initiatives on a wide range of causes, from healthcare to education to environmental conservation among others have resulted in tangible positive social change in its host communities in Benguet. The company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and community investment initiatives have supported 480 projects worth around PhP200 million in the past 15 years. SNAP's education program, BRIGHTS (Bridging Gaps in Higher Education through Tertiary Scholarships), continues to help deserving students with limited financial resources realize their dreams. Jasmin Montes, a BRIGHTS graduate, has recently joined SNAP-Benguet, demonstrating how the

organization enables underprivileged students to achieve their full potential and to create a more meaningful life for themselves. "I am a living testament to their [SNAP's] success. I built my future because of them. Salamat ja Pasiya, SNAP-Benguet," Montes said.

As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability, the company has planted 183,615 seedlings with a 93% survival rate along the Ambuklao-Binga watershed, and this year embarked on an avifauna assessment to support the conservation efforts of its host communities in order to ensure it remains a protected environment for endemic species.

Since 2008, the company has made safety a priority and guiding principle to ensure that employees are free from harm. The Ambuklao and Binga plants have recorded 5.38 million man hours with no lost-time incidents since 2012 and 2013, respectively. Additionally, the company has consistently been recognized for occupational safety and health. Lauded for its workplace safety initiatives by the Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan (GKK) and the Department of Energy's (DOE) Safety and Health Association of the Philippine Energy Sector (SHAPES). "Through the partnerships between the company and our stakeholders, we hope to continue our sustainability initiatives and work toward our shared goals," SNAP President and CEO Joseph Yu said. "As we shape the next fifty years of SNAP-Benguet, I want to thank each and every person who, for the past 15 years, has played a role in making what SNAP-Benguet is today," he added. "Together with our communities, we are determined to uphold our core values and commitments to driving positive change and energizing a sustainable future."



Unlocking the Doors of Sustainability with JCVA

In today's world, sustainability is a shared responsibility to our planet and future generations. With this principle, JCVA fulfills its mission through bespoke sustainability solutions. JCVA champions on sustainability, one project at a time.

Sustainability at the Core

From inception to completion, JCVA embeds sustainability into the backbone of every project. Through the company's meticulous planning, effective strategies are formulated to adhere with the highest sustainability standards. JCVA adopts this sustainable approach to not only build the strongest structures of today, but also secure the stability of tomorrow.

Ardent Green Advocacy

JCVA has long been a proactive advocate of green building and sustainable construction. With WELL, LEED, EDGE, and BERDE consultancy services, JCVA's expertise steers projects toward a green direction, ensuring to meet and even surpass the international standards of sustainability.

As a frontrunner in the industry, JCVA provides valuable insights to the well-being of every project's stakeholders,

occupants, and end-users. This kind of approach fosters environments where individuals and communities fully thrive.

Redefined Sustainable Builds

Historically, there has been a divide between sustainability and construction. JCVA embarks on a mission to bridge this gap and lead the industry in cementing sustainability as fundamental in construction. By fulfilling this mission, the whole industry propels forward, unlocking new doors and reaching new heights.

When you choose JCVA, you are not just choosing a dependable construction partner; you are selecting a path towards a sustainable and responsible future. Together, we will build structures and legacies that will stand the test of time.

Join us in embracing sustainability today and shaping a better tomorrow. Email us at technical@jcvassociates.ph or visit our official website at www.jcvassociates.ph to learn more about our sustainable solutions.

HOW COMPANIES CAN MAKE ESG A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

by Trent Ross, Neha Jain, Ipsos

We're in a series of interrelated crises—continued social unrest, war, uncertainty regarding the effects of globalization, climate change, inflation, waning trust in government and more. Amidst this environment, a staggering 74% of global citizens feel their government and public services will do too little to help people in the years ahead, according to Ipsos' 2023 Global Trends Report.

This chaotic macro environment has accelerated movement away from "driving shareholder value at all costs" and toward a new era of capitalism that holds businesses accountable for the toll they take on people and the planet. But this also brings risks to companies. Addressing ESG issues often introduces scrutiny to a business and its leaders and can diminish trust with key stakeholders if company actions are not carefully considered.

Business leaders scrambling to act has led to a lack of confidence in solutions put forth. 72% say too many businesses use the language of social purpose without committing to real change, according to Ipsos Global Trends. Opposite their greenwashing peers come a set of organizations whose priorities stretch beyond or aren't aligned with the expectations of their consumers, shareholders, and other audiences critical to their success.

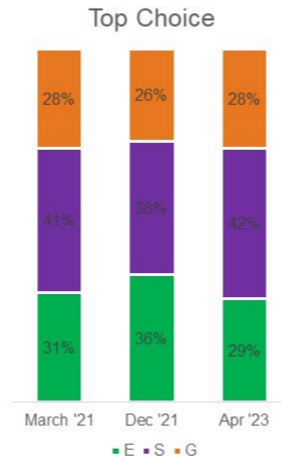
The newly released edition of Ipsos Global Reputation Monitor (IGRM) tracking study explored ESG issues and the most credible areas for involvement in various sectors. Our latest research and practical experience counseling the world's leading and largest companies affirm that doing good and doing well aren't mutually exclusive. By operating from a deep understanding of the macro risk landscape and what key stakeholders expect, business leaders can address ESG issues with authenticity and credibility.

Most people agree that multinational companies should put social issues first

Ipsos' Global Reputation Monitor study revealed 42% believe that beyond protecting the environment and practicing good governance, multinational companies should make improving society a top priority or its corporate responsibility.

E	Protecting the environment: including protecting and caring for our natural environment, focusing on waste and pollution, resource depletion, greenhouse gas emission, deforestation, and climate change.
S	Improving society: including treatment of employees & diversity, working conditions, including child labor and slavery, local communities, seeks explicitly to fund projects or institutions that will serve poor and underserved communities globally, and health and safety.
G	Practicing good governance: including tax strategy, executive remuneration, donations and political lobbying, corruption and bribery, board diversity, and structure.

ESG Priorities | Consumers Ranking 1 to 3



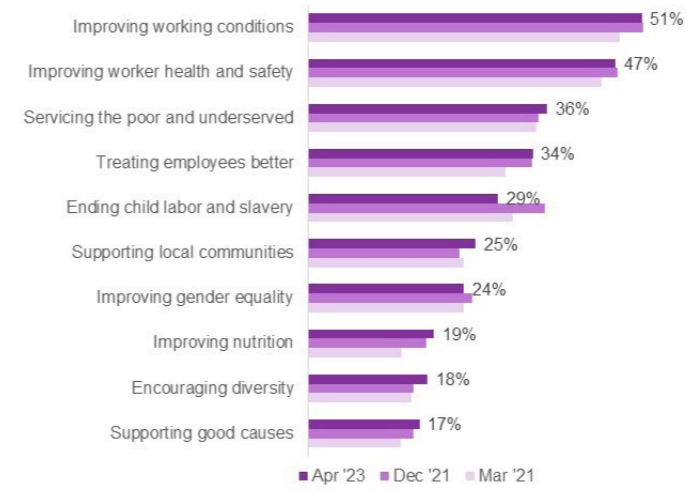
Q1. When it comes to the role of multi-national companies in corporate responsibility how important are each of the following areas? Please rank the below areas were 1 is most important and 3 is least important.

Our team defines "improving society" as including treatment of employees and diversity; working conditions, child labor and slavery; local communities; seeking explicitly to fund projects or institutions that will serve poor and underserved communities globally; and health and safety.

Our data suggests that, for business leaders, improving society starts within their organizations. Consumers most want multi-national companies (MNCs) to improve working conditions and worker health and safety.

Citizen consumers then want companies to address broader concerns like servicing the poor and ending child labor and slavery. These are consistent except for ending child labor, which is seen as less important compared to other issues in Asia-Pacific.

Societal Concerns | Global



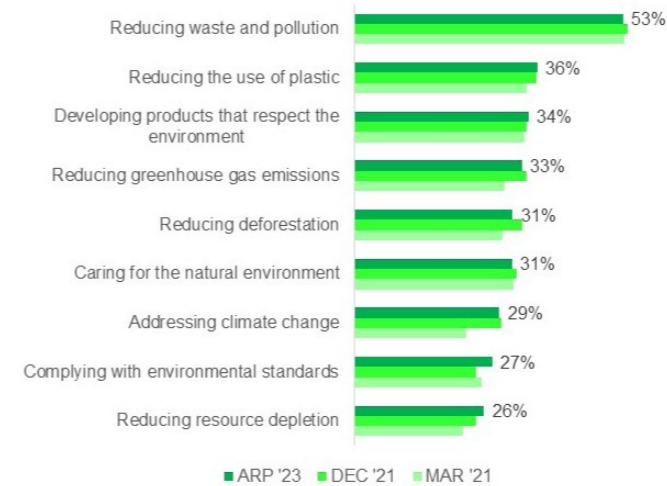
Q3. When it comes to improving society, which two or three of the following do you believe is most important for multi-national companies to address?

When it comes to environmental concerns, consumers are more focused on targeted actions than broader issues like addressing climate change.

Despite its prominence in political dialogue, globally, reducing waste and pollution remain far hotter topics than climate change.

Ipsos' research indicates that consumers are more focused on seeing companies take targeted, actionable steps to improve environmental conditions. For example, reducing plastic use, developing more environmentally friendly products, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions were identified as leading actions consumers would like to see companies take vs. the broad issue of addressing climate change.

Environmental Concerns | Global



Q2. When it comes to protecting the environment, which two or three of the following do you believe is most important for multi-national companies to address?

For oil and gas industry companies, consumers are most heavily focused on environmental issues, though these are closely followed by calls for governance across the sector.

Consumer expectations on ESG priorities vary by sector and business. Oil and gas companies should focus on environmental issues, investing in renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions. They must also address governance risks like tax and compensation, along with functional priorities such as maintaining a constant energy supply.

In contrast to the sector's propensity to focus on improving society, consumers find governance issues as most important for tech companies.

To avoid accusations of greenwashing and "woke" capitalism, businesses need to understand the priorities of their target audiences. While tech companies have been proactive in promoting social agendas, consumers also want them to focus on key governance concerns like cybersecurity and preventing misinformation. Balancing social issues with pressing concerns can ensure a positive return on investment and recognition for their efforts.

Recommended first steps

Companies must first invest in developing a deep understanding of what their key stakeholders expect of their business and leaders. Building from our sector-level insights on ESG priorities, Ipsos can provide an ESG Risk Audit to map the broader ESG risk environment and identify key risks to manage as well as opportunities to lead on ESG. These reports are structured around Ipsos' proprietary ACE model of sustainability—Authenticity, Credibility, Effectiveness—as well as an organization's own internal priorities to create a benchmark, evaluate performance against stated objectives, and / or contextualize performance against a company's competitors, sector and category.

To learn more about the ACE model, and Ipsos' approach to ESG Risk Audits and assessments, please reach philippines@ipsos.com

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Vitarich on Sustainability

Vitarich Corporation, one of the leading integrators and feed manufacturers with feed mills all around the country, is committed to promoting local food sustainability and local food security for our country. The 75-year-old company always believed in not only upholding the quality and standard of its products but also in uplifting the livelihood of the members of its value chain, most especially the corn and chicken farmers through environmental projects.

Towards this goal, the company has partnered with a cooperative to actively participate in the government's Corn Buyback Program, which helps farmers have a direct buyer for their crops. In the case of Vitarich and the cooperative, PITAC-MPC, the former buys corn directly from farmers that will be used as their raw materials in producing quality animal feeds. This marketing agreement serves as a model for direct market linkage where farmers are offered better prices by the processors, thus, encouraging more farmers to sustain their production, thereby helping strengthen the corn industry.

The Department of Agriculture has hailed this partnership, as it aims to "spur the growth of the local corn industry with the procurement of corn from the local farmers"...

and "to serve as a catalyst to help the expansion of corn production in the entire country, and improve and sustain the food supply chain in Northern Mindanao." 350 farmers from Cabanglasan, Bukidnon, 500 farmers from Wao, Lanao del sur and 100 farmers for Banisilan, North Cotabato will benefit from the said project.

Executive Vice-President and Chief Sustainability Officer of Vitarich Corporation, Ms. Nikki Sarmiento-Garcia is optimistic that this Corn Buyback Program will be able to not only support our local corn industry by buying directly from local corn farmers, but will also help our country create stronger local communities, protect livelihood and improve our local supply chain.

Aside from the Corn Buyback Program, Vitarich also participates in environmental projects such as the Malolos tree planting spearheaded by the Malolos City and Bulacan Province Environment and Natural Resources Offices.

Garcia hopes that "these partnerships will start a lot of possibilities in the future and create a sustainable value chain and improvement for our industry."



ECCP calls for sustainability and innovation in the country's agriculture sector

On September 7, the ECCP organized its Sustainable Agriculture Forum to engage with stakeholders and discuss ways of shaping a sustainable future of agriculture in the Philippines.

Themed "Agriculture for the Future: Innovating Agri-Food Systems to Accelerate Food Security," the forum facilitated high-level discussions on key issues affecting the competitiveness, sustainability, and productivity of the Philippine agriculture sector. These discussions will work to address the growing concern of food inflation and the urgent need to enhance food security.

In his welcoming remarks, ECCP President Paulo Duarte cited data from the United Nations that global demand for food production will surge by 70% by 2050. Against a staggering backdrop of limited natural resources, this emphasizes the critical importance of sustainable agricultural practices.

"Today, we find ourselves at a critical juncture, at the intersection of innovation and responsibility, seeking solutions that not only ensure food security but also preserve our ecosystems for generations to come," said Duarte.

Duarte also emphasized the importance of leveraging collaborations, especially between private and public sectors.

"By forging partnerships and leveraging collective knowledge, sustainable agricultural practices can be developed that regenerate the land, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote biodiversity, and ensure economic profitability and social equity," he added.

The ECCP is actively contributing to this journey through projects like the "Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Program" (BAEP CRESCENT), funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

"Our collective aim is to empower BARMM's agri-enterprises to transform into entities that are not only investment-ready but also prepared for international export markets," said Duarte.

The forum further featured distinguished speakers and experts from various sectors, including government and agriculture. Keynote speakers included Hon. Cynthia Villar, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, as well as a recorded message from Hon. Domingo F. Panganiban, Senior Undersecretary at the Department of Agriculture.

The forum also welcomed Ferdinand "Jaja" Aparri, Program Manager at the Department of Trade and Industry, who gave a talk on boosting agricultural productivity and efficiency towards enhanced trade competitiveness; and Raul Montemayor, National Manager of the Federation of Free Farmers and Member of the PCAF Committee on International Trade, who emphasized the importance of making import liberalisation work for the Filipino farmers.

Meanwhile, government initiatives and policies were discussed by Hon. Benjamin Diokno, Secretary of the Department of Finance, and by Engr. Remelyn R. Recoter, Director IV at the Agricultural Training Institute. The event also explored public-private collaboration with insights from Dr. William Dar, Senior Adviser for Go Negosyo KALAP, and Dennis Calvan, Director for Policy and Government Engagement at Rare Inc. (Phils).

Dr. Herminigilda Gabertan, Assistant Director at DA-BPI, shed light on the DA BPI National Urban and PeriUrban Agriculture Program, which focuses on food security at the community level. Dr. Glenn Gregorio, Director of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), discussed partnership opportunities for agricultural innovation, with Dr. Gabriel Romero, Executive Director of the Philippine Seed Industry Association, delving into plant breeding innovations aimed at boosting productivity. Lastly, Joey Uy III, Senior Vice President and Corporate Affairs Head at Nestle Philippines, Inc., shared his insights on regenerative agriculture and its role in ensuring a sustainable and resilient coffee industry.

Now on in its sixth year, the 2023 Sustainable Agriculture Forum brings together experts, policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders to collectively work to address crucial challenges facing the Philippine agriculture sector.

The 2023 Sustainable Agriculture Forum is organized in partnership with Advocacy Partners Embassies of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Kingdom of Spain, and Philippine Partnerships for Sustainable Agriculture; Platinum Partner Nestle Philippines Inc.; Silver Partner JT International (Philippines), Inc.; Bronze Partners East-West Seed and Vouno Trade & Marketing Services Corporation; and Media Partner Globaltronics Incorporated and IMPACT Magazine.



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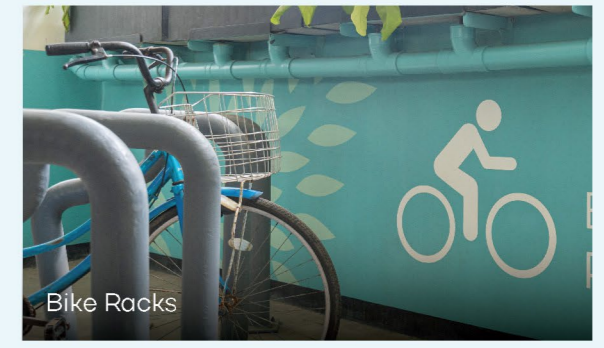
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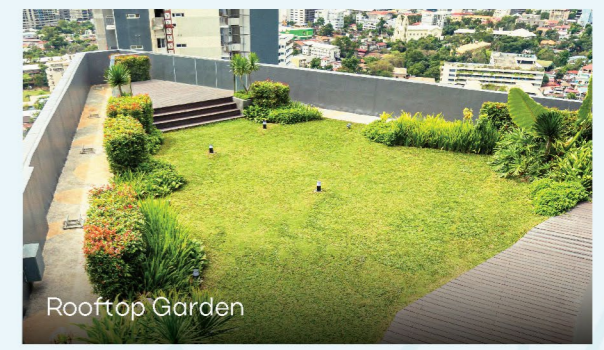
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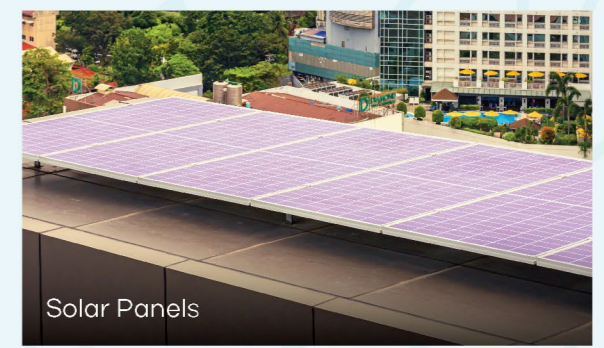
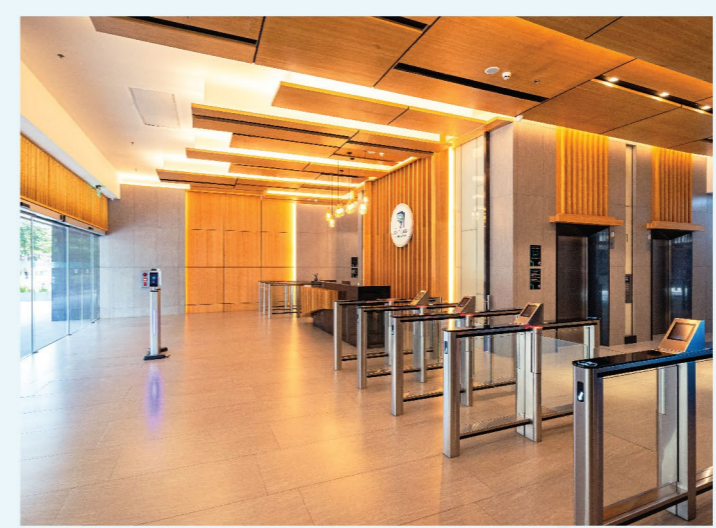
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ECCP holds luncheon meeting with DOT to discuss and promote synergies for Philippine Tourism



Makati City, Philippines – In a luncheon meeting hosted by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), key stakeholders from the tourism industry came together to underline the vital need for enhanced collaboration. This unity aims to further strengthen the sector’s pivotal role in nation-building and economic growth.

flights, and number of seats in many of our airports across the country,” said the Undersecretary.

She also added that the agency is in close coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in regard to their ‘wishlist’ for new tourism roads. Further, 5 billion worth of new trips or new tourism road projects across the Philippines are now ready for implementation.

During his opening remarks, ECCP President Paulo Duarte lauded the local tourism industry’s efforts to reach pre-pandemic figures in terms of foreign arrivals.

To provide connectivity, the DOT has also partnered with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to establish internet connectivity to 94 tourist destinations. As of August 30, more than 47 sites have already been placed.

“We are moving full steam ahead,” emphasized Mr. Duarte. “Very recent reports show that the Philippines has achieved a milestone by surpassing two million tourist visitor arrivals as early as May 2023. This figure exceeded the 2022 target of 1.7 million foreign visitors.”

“The journey ahead is not one we can undertake alone,” said Usec. Paminutan. “We fully understand that this is a collaborative effort where the government and the private sector join hands in pursuit of a shared vision.”

However, he also emphasized the importance of acknowledging the challenges on the horizon.

The luncheon meeting also assembled a distinguished panel of experts to delve into critical facets of the tourism industry. Mr. Samuel David, Country Manager for the Philippines at the International Air Transport Association (IATA), offered insights from the aviation sector. He emphasized the importance of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in achieving a zero carbon footprint and aligning with global climate ambitions.

“The Philippines, while making significant strides, must continue to further improve its global standing in terms of travel and tourism competitiveness,” said Duarte. “This serves as a call to action to do more, innovate further, and collaborate closely.”

In her recorded message, Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Frasco underscored the agency’s unwavering commitment to nurturing an enabling environment for the tourism industry. She elaborated on this commitment in the context of the National Tourism Development Plan for 2023 to 2028, recently approved by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The plan’s three central pillars of connectivity, convenience, and equality are poised to propel the Philippines into a competitive position among its Asian counterparts.

“When you think of the aviation industry contributing to about 33% of the global carbon footprint, I think that airlines have a part in the overall narrative to bring cooler temperatures globally,” said David. “We encourage the government to develop policies to encourage the availability and the use of SAF, through incentives, for example. That is what’s going to drive the airline industry into net-zero carbon by 2050.”

“The aim is to bring the country forward towards competing shoulder to shoulder with our Asian neighbors and at the same time, improving the marketability of our existing sites, products and services,” said Secretary Frasco.

Atty. Cenelyn Manguilimotan-Dalnay, Chief Operating Officer at Parklane Hotels and Resorts, contributed her expertise from the hospitality sector. She highlighted the significance of the DOT’s NTDP 2023–2028 in promoting sustainable tourism development in the country and diversifying tourism offerings.

Moreover, Hon. Shereen Gail Yu-Pamintuan, Undersecretary for Finance and Administration at the Department of Tourism, shared invaluable insights into the department’s recent achievements, ongoing initiatives, and current business prospects.

“By diversifying its offering beyond the well-known tourist spots, the Philippines aims to attract a wider range of visitors and distribute the benefits of tourism more evenly across the country. This approach is particularly important in promoting inclusive growth as it can create employment and income opportunities in rural and less visited areas,” noted Atty. Manguilimotan-Dalnay.

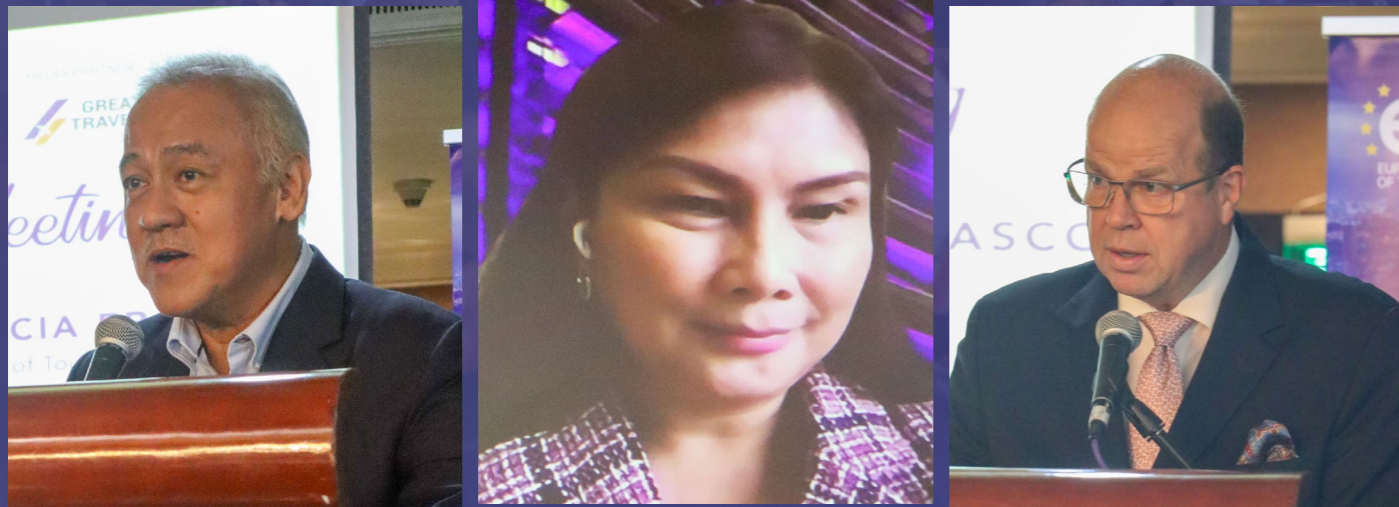
According to Usec. Pamintuan, the Philippines has registered 2.65 million foreign tourist arrivals, exceeding the initial target of 1.7 million in 2022 by 65%. Meanwhile, as of September 19, the agency has recorded 3.87 million inbound arrivals, meeting 80.7% of the 4.8 million target in 2023.

The DOT Luncheon Meeting was organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, in partnership with Parkway Corporate Center and Great Travel Philippines, on 20 September 2023 at Dusit Thani Manila.

The agency has also been meeting with major airline players to discuss plans to increase air traffic and decongest Manila International Airport, as well as to provide convenience to travelers, especially in North and Central Luzon.

Organized yearly, the event is a crucial step in fostering collaboration and dialogue for the advancement of Philippine tourism within the European-Philippine business community.

“We have synergies with all our airline industry players to make sure there is an increased frequency in routes,





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National Aviation Summit calls for a more robust, safe, and sustainable aviation sector in the Philippines

Makati City, Philippines – Industry leaders and government officials earlier this week expressed optimism towards the current outlook of the country's aviation sector, highlighting concerted private sector efforts of airline companies to optimize airline processes through digitalization, as well as key legislative updates and government priorities for the air transport sector.

Staged by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and the Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA) together with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the inaugural two-day 2023 Aviation Summit brought together key government officials, foreign diplomats, as well as thought leaders and prime movers of the aviation industry to dissect issues and challenges faced by the sector, and discuss collaborations and solutions for both the private and public sector to undertake.

Empowering the Growth of the Aviation Industry

The Philippines and the rest of the Asia Pacific region's aviation market is swiftly recovering and seeing a consistent rise in terms of growth in international and domestic travel. According to Yuli Thompson, Area Manager for Southeast Asia International Air Transport Association (IATA), passenger traffic trends for international flights in the Philippines were logged at 75% of 2019 levels as of June 2023. As for Asia Pacific passenger forecast, Yuli adds that domestic travel will fully recover in 2023, while international travel will occur sometime in 2026. Further, Asia Pacific will be seen to lead in traffic growth in the next 20 years.

However, overcoming current challenges and riding on the current momentum and meeting full recovery will require strong interventions from all players in the aviation sector.

From the airline industry, Cebu Pacific Air Vice President for Customer Service Operations Lei Apostol is looking to encourage travel by ensuring positive customer experience, which they aim to optimize across their operations.

"Overcoming industry complexities and challenges while maximizing growth opportunities is achievable by looking

at existing technology, keeping the passenger at the heart of what we do, and communicating to our passengers at every step of their journey," said Apostol.

Moreover, Cebu Pacific Air Chief Executive Officer Michael Szucs also emphasized the need to invest in infrastructure, citing that "Philippine carriers will need to quadruple in size to cater to growing demand".

In her keynote speech, Secretary Grace Poe urged stakeholders to support necessary infrastructure investments, especially following the air system glitch incident earlier this year. The senator called for the acquisition of a new Communication, Navigation, and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM). The senator also recommended the hiring of a third-party maintenance provider for the CNS/ATM system.

"It is my hope that the government, the private sector, and other stakeholders can work together and collaborate on air transport projects which will not only generate economic growth, but also provide our people with excellent and affordable public services that can improve the quality of life for all," said Poe.

Senator Poe also filed Senate Bill 1121 for the creation of a Philippine Transportation Safety Board. This is also a top-priority advocacy of the ECCP and the AsBAA.

A spotlight on aviation workforce and safety

Under the directive of the administration of President Marcos, Department of Transportation Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports Roberto Lim highlighted the government's key priorities, including aviation safety and strengthening of learning institutions. Usec. Lim further noted the agency's priority of strengthening the Civil Aviation Training Center and engaging with the private sector as close partners for Air Transport Skills Training and Development.

"If we are able to train our air traffic controllers, we would not only meet our own requirements, but the requirements of other countries. We can develop this on an institutional basis," said Lim.



Kurt Edwards, Director General of the International Business Aviation Council (IBAC) also raised that much is to gain by "opening the industry and making it more known to people".

In terms of managing safety risks, Captain Manuel Antonio Tamayo, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), shared initiatives to advance safety capabilities in the aviation sector through the State Safety Program (SSP). The program employs a risk-based approach to regulations, capacity building, and integration of a new organizational structure for monitoring and evaluation.

Additionally, he also cited recent gains of the agency, namely its Head Office being in the process of being certified for ISO 9001:2015, the Iloilo International Airport receiving its ISO 14001 Certification on Environmental Management System (EMS), and with Panglao International Airport next in line for ISO Certification on 14001.

More Robust and Sustainable Aviation Sector

In his closing remarks, DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista stressed the agency's goal to rehabilitate the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) through a public-private partnership agreement, which will present a "landmark opportunity for economic growth, improved infrastructure, and a world-class travel experience."

"We are also developing regional airports, such as the unsolicited proposals for the operations and maintenance of the Bicol International Airport, Bohol-Panglao International Airport, and Laguindingan Airport," said Bautista.

The agency also highlighted the support of various aviation stakeholders, and the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) on the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel or SAF by 2025.

"While the use of biofuels for flights is seriously studied, SAF use on ground equipment gets equal attention. We look forward to creating a plan on how best to proceed," said Bautista.

From the perspective of the Civil Aeronautics Board, the present status of Philippine Aviation according to the Secretary is ripe for strategic investments in airport development and operation; maintenance, repair and overhaul or MRO, and public-private partnerships (PPP) in airport development.

Further, he also emphasized the existing efforts of the agency to privatize NAIA and the search for investors to develop regional airports and support tourism promotions.

"Airport networks provide a never-ending challenge to adapt and upscale our standards. We should respond with precision and efficiency to sustain passenger safety and comfort," said Bautista. "We have so far succeeded due to the cooperation of various stakeholders. We have also demonstrated that private sector collaboration has high success rates."

The Aviation Summit is one of the Chamber's biggest flagship advocacy events organized with its Aviation Committee, and currently stands as the largest gathering of the aviation industry in the country.

The inaugural event featured many distinguished speakers, including Senator Grace Poe, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Public Services; Hon. Jaime Bautista, Secretary of the Department of Transportation; Hon. Christina Garcia Frasco, Secretary of the Department of Tourism; Hon. Roberto Lim, Undersecretary of the Department of Transportation; Capt. Manuel Antonio Tamayo, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines; Hon. Julius G. Neri, Jr., General Manager of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA); Hon. Bryan Andersen Co, Senior Assistant General Manager and Officer-in-Charge of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA); Capt. Edgardo Diaz, CAAP Deputy Director General for Operations; and Hon. Richard Gordon, Chairman and CEO of the Philippine Red Cross, among others.

The Summit was organized in partnership with the Department of Transportation; Co-Presenter Cebu Pacific Air; Advocacy Partner Secure Connections; Platinum Partner Philippine Airlines; Gold Partners Metrojet Limited, SITA, and World Fuel Services; Bronze Partners dnata, Wingbox Aviation, Aviation Concepts Technical Services Inc.; Networking Partners Qatar Airways and Ocampo & Manalo Law Firm; Session Partner Pacific Cross Insurance, Inc.; Conference Bag, ID, and Lanyard Partner FedEx; Media Partners Aviation Updates Philippines, AVGeekPH, Business World, OneWorld Media, PortCalls, and Globaltronics; and Beverage Partners Boozeeonline, Charles & James, and Le Cellier Quality Store Corp.

More than 400 participants, including representatives from government officials as well as experts and leaders hailing from European and Asian aviation industry businesses and organizations, took part in the event.

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