

EUROPH CONNECT

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

Issue on Aviation and Automotive

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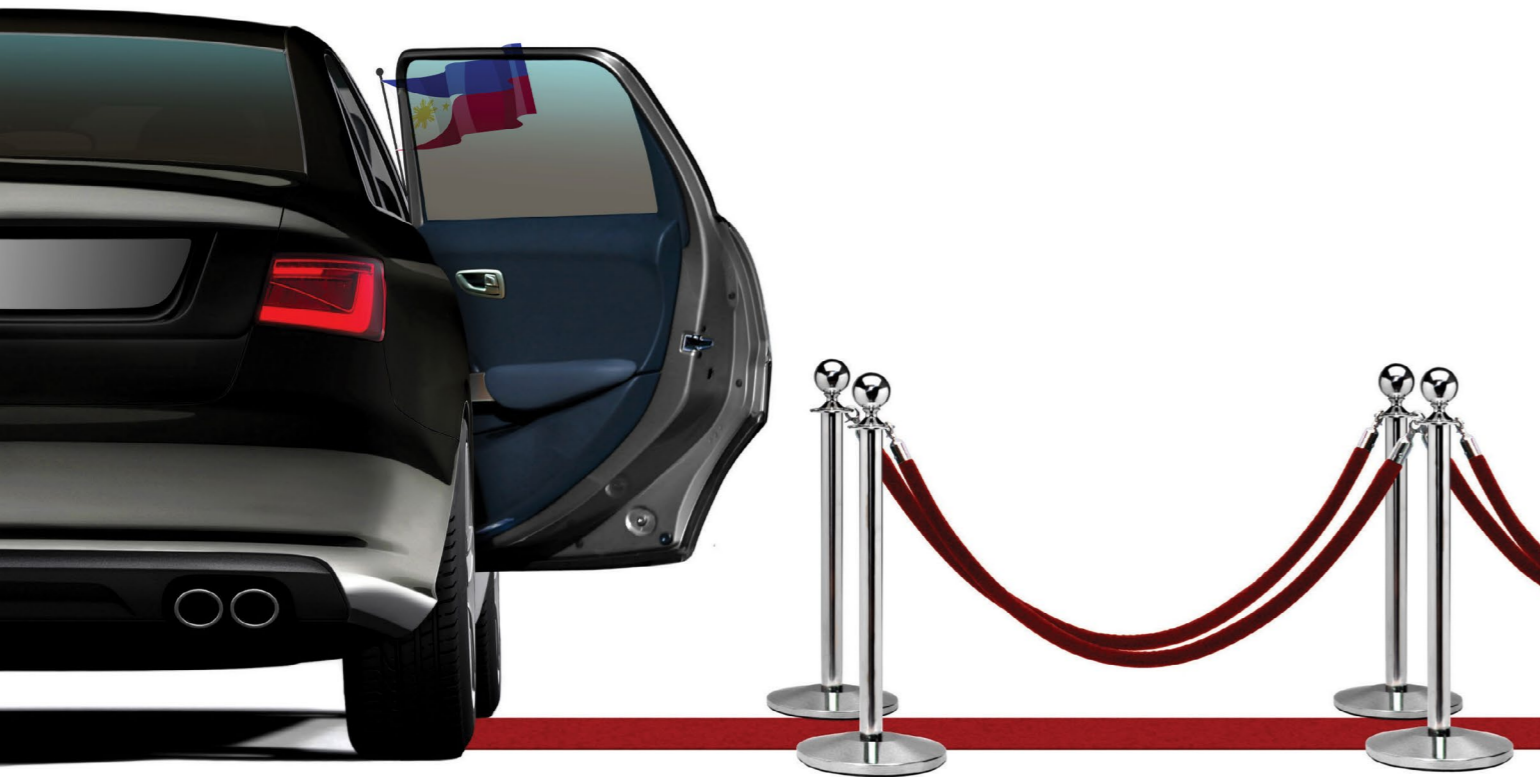
- *European Country in Focus: Belgium*
- *Interview with the Ambassador of Belgium to the Philippines
H.E. Michel Parys*
- *Interview with the Department of Transportation Secretary
Hon. Jaime Bautista*

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Editorial

Dear reader,

The third quarter has been incredibly enriching at the ECCP, with a plethora of events keeping the Chamber busy. Two areas that have been increasingly capturing our attention and interest are the aviation and automotive industries. This heightened focus stems from the need for accessible, safe and efficient public mass transportation, and the tremendous increase in domestic and international travel post pandemic.

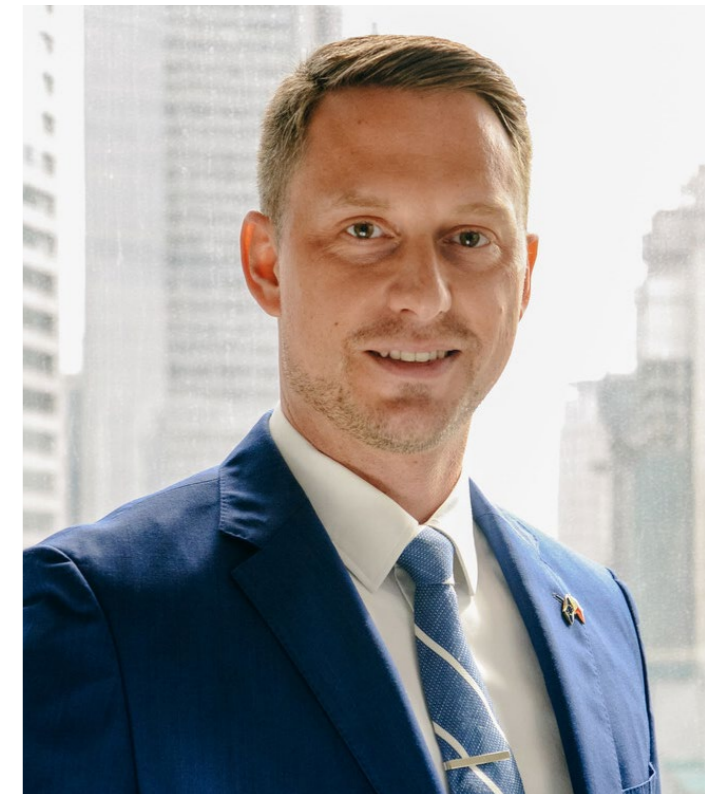
In this edition of EuroPH Connect, we are thrilled to share insightful perspectives and initiatives on Aviation and Automotive from our content partners.

On pages 8 to 13 we feature the Embassy of Belgium and H.E. Ambassador Michel Parys as he shares his views on the business relations between Belgium and the Philippines, on aviation development as well as long-term initiatives for the automotive industry. We also have the privilege to interview Department of Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista as he talks about the department's efforts in enhancing public automotive transportation and addressing the challenges of the country's aviation industry.

Furthermore, we invite you to take a look at the engaging stories from our ECCP members on pages 18 to 23. Our Corporate Partner KPMG delves into the future of the Philippine automotive landscape and on strategies to navigate the transformative changes in this industry. Among our Premium Members, Eastern Communications shares how it is constantly evolving its services to cater to the dynamic business needs of its clients, especially in the aviation sector. Dive into more stories from GAC Philippines and our other content partners in this edition of the EuroPH Connect.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. delivered his second State of the Nation Address last July 24, providing updates on various national programs and potential initiatives aimed at addressing the country's concerns. Our ECCP President, Mr. Paolo Duarte had the honor to attend this event by invitation from Malacañang, representing the European Philippine Business Community. Read about this on page 26.

On the EU-PH side, ECCP organized together with the Makati Business Club a high-level business event on the occasion of the visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on July 31. This historic event marked the first official visit of a European Commission President in nearly 60 years of EU-PH relations. Distinguished members and c-level business executives from the Philippine-European business community attended this event. Read more about this on page 28.



Florian Gottein
ECCP Executive Director

August brought a momentous partnership with The Manila Times, as we signed a Memorandum of Agreement last August 22 marking the beginning of an even stronger collaboration, allowing the ECCP to further the reach of its advocacies and initiatives. The ceremony was held in The Manila Times Office in Intramuros. To conclude the month, the ECCP held its 2023 Energy Smart Forum Series, an annual flagship event that gathered experts from the energy industry to discuss and address growing concerns on energy efficiency and renewable energy, among many topics, with the participation of members, partners, and stakeholders.

For more in-depth insights into our key engagements with key government representatives and the discussions that took place on relevant policies and initiatives, turn to our Advocacy Corner found on page 48.

Join us in welcoming our newest members for the month of August by reading up on them on page 54. Meanwhile, updates on Chamber activities over the past two months spanning our branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Clark, and Iloilo are all available on page 34. Keep yourself updated with the latest business opportunities on page 58.

We trust you'll find this issue of the EuroPH Connect both informative and enjoyable. As always, thank you for your continued trust and support as you partner with your chamber of choice.

European Country in Focus

Belgium



30,528
square kilometers



POPULATION
11.6 M
approximately



CAPITAL
Brussels

BELGIAN TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Belgium's principal trade partners include the member countries of the European Union, specifically Germany, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The country is also one of the world's leading processors of cobalt, copper, zinc, and lead. Vaccines, medicine and pharmaceuticals are among Belgium's top exports as well as automotives. The first ever Malaria vaccine recognized by the World Health Organization was produced in Belgium and the country was likewise a leading contributor to the COVAX Facility.

In the Antwerp area, refineries process crude petroleum. Belgium has also been internationally renowned for centuries for the lace made from their country and to combat the slow decline of this industry, there were specialized schools established in Mons and Binche to train younger workers. The lace industry was previously dependent on the handiwork of skilled women from an aging population.

According to the World Bank, Belgium's GDP value in 2022 was at 578.6 billion. It is distinguished by its major port Antwerp-Bruges which is known as the second largest port in Europe and its first-class logistical infrastructure. This shows that a significant portion of bilateral trade either originates in, or is destined for, other countries in Europe. It has one of highest per capita incomes in Europe and it also has a relatively balanced income distribution. This resulted in a widely distributed purchasing power among its residents.

Geographical Location: Belgium is located in Northwestern Europe. It is bordered to the north by the Netherlands, Germany to the east, Luxembourg to the southeast, and France to the south.

Climate: Belgium's climate is temperate maritime which is characterized by moderate temperatures. It experiences relatively cool and humid summers and winters are relatively mild and rainy.

Official Language: Dutch, French, German

Government Type: Belgium is a federal parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy.

Standard of Living: Belgium's Human Development Index (HDI) as of 2021 is 0.937, positioning it at 13 out of 191 countries and territories.

Organizations:

- United Nations (since 1945)
- World Bank (since 1945)
- International Monetary Fund (since 1947)
- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (since 1948)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (since 1949)
- European Union (since 1958)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (since 1960)
- World Trade Organization (since 1995)
- International Criminal Court (since 2002)

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Brussels is known as the financial capital of Belgium as well as a major commercial center since the establishment of the private holding company the Société Générale de Belgique in 1822. Since the 1960's, the economic importance of the financial sector has increased significantly. The central bank of Belgium, known as the National Bank, works to ensure the following: national financial security, issues currency, and provides financial services to the three main figures which are the federal government, the financial sector, and the public.

In the early 19th century, an important stock exchange was founded in Brussels and later on in the year 2000, the stock exchange merged with the stock exchanges in Amsterdam and Paris. This led to the formation of Euronext which is the first fully integrated cross-border equities market. Brussels is ranked as the most populous region in the country. What makes it the most important growth engine of Belgium is its status as the federal capital and the seat of the European Union. Not only that but its great concentration of service industries makes it the most important growth engine of Belgium. This is the largest segment of its regional economy which employs about three-quarters of the workforce.

TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



BRUSSELS

A must-see destination when visiting Belgium, the capital city of Brussels is home to not only the seat of the Belgian Royal Family but also the central offices of the European Union. Found here is the Old Town which is known for many historic landmarks and fine examples of architecture such as Baroque and Gothic. The Grand Place (Grote Markt) is the main square which houses the Brussels Town Hall (Hôtel de ville de Bruxelles) and the city's numerous historic Guild Houses (Gildehuizen).



MEDIEVAL BRUGES

One of the most visited cities in Belgium, Bruges is known for its medieval architecture and romantic ambiance with its canals being one of its most charming features. A visit to this town is not complete without a scenic canal boat tour. With this, you can enjoy a different perspective of the city. Other options include walking along the canals or the free walking tours available in the local tourist office.



UPPER MEUSE VALLEY

The Meuse River splits the country north and south, E42 from Liege to Namur, and from there to Dinant. The valley is known for its idyllic small towns, dramatic limestone cliffs, and lush forests that are ribboned with trails. Namur, which is also called Namen, is located in the heart of the valley and includes several historic landmarks and a large university. Also found here is the Namur Citadel that sits on an outcropping above the town. It's a good place to explore and is an excellent spot for panoramic views of the valley.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Belgian chocolates, especially the pralines (started in Belgium) are among the top gastronomy highlights for the country.
- Belgium's comic culture is also highly notable especially with Tintin and his scientifically accurate adventure to the moon and The Smurfs who are now SDG and UNICEF ambassadors.
- The french fries were invented in Belgium but it is known as 'frites' in French and 'frietten' in Flemish or Dutch. Fries in Belgium are typically served in a triangular paper cone as well with a kind of mayonnaise and not the usual ketchup.
- Brussels is home to one of the biggest Christmas Markets in Europe. It brings in an estimated 2.5 million visitors on an annual basis. There is the Winter Wonders followed by Ghent, Antwerpen, and Liege. This is one of the biggest Christmas Markets in Europe. Brussels is also known as one of the Christmas capitals of Europe together with Strasbourg, Budapest, and Vienna.
- The Belgian flag is in different proportions to many other European flags. The Belgian flag is 13:15 which makes it appear more square-like compared to its nearby country counterparts. It is striped with the national colors of Belgium with equal parts black, yellow, and red. These colors represent the lion seals of several of the country's founding regions such as Red for Hainaut, Limburg, and Luxembourg; Yellow for Brabant; and Black for Flanders and Namur.

Interview with the Ambassador of Belgium to the Philippines

H.E. Michel Parys



Since first arriving in the Philippines to take up your post as Belgian Ambassador, how have you observed the relations between Belgium and the Philippines develop and progress?

We always had good relations with the Philippines. Belgium opened a Consulate in the Philippines in 1837. We had a consulate throughout the Spanish and American periods, and our consul even had a role in negotiating the Spanish surrender to Admiral Dewey. Belgian missionaries started arriving in the Philippines in 1909 and did tremendous work here, founding Saint Louis University in Baguio and building Baguio Cathedral, remaining here during the Japanese occupation.

Belgium and the Philippines have had diplomatic relations since 1946 and the Embassy was opened in 1949. In the last quarter of the 20th century, the Philippines was the main recipient of the Belgian development aid. Belgian companies built the LRT1 Light Rail Transit system of Manila.

I arrived in the Philippines in 2021. I observed that the previous administration was not that focused on the European Union. However, the new administration actively engaged with the EU, and the President even visited Brussels in December 2022. This paid off, as the European Commission decided to restart the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement. President Marcos met His Majesty King Philippe of the Belgians and expressed interest in pursuing a strategic partnership with Belgium in various fields. Secretary Manalo and Belgian Minister Lahbib also signed a Philippines-Belgium Joint Plan of Action for 2023 to 2027 to further boost bilateral relations.

“

The people are the Philippines' greatest strength: their warmth, adaptability/ versatility, resiliency and skills.

”

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

The people! The people are the Philippines' greatest strength: their warmth, adaptability/versatility, resiliency and skills. Practically every Filipino speaks English and the level of education is high. The Philippines is exceptional among the ASEAN neighbors when it comes to the English language skill, and this is known in Europe. The Philippines is a multilingual and multicultural country. As a result, Filipinos can easily adapt to other cultures and languages.

The Philippines supported Europe in the United Nations by condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This should not be forgotten. Why should we support countries that do

not support us? But the Philippines showed it was on the side of justice and rule of law.

There's a huge interest in the EU for ASEAN, another political and economic union of sovereign countries. There are similarities between ASEAN and the EU and we hope our two communities will become ever closer.

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

First is ease of communication. Filipinos generally are able to speak English and have a work-force that is well-educated in university degrees of various fields of studies. These two aspects are significant qualities of the Philippine's human capital.

Second is market opportunity. The Philippines is a huge market for Belgian businesses and exports in particular, having a huge market with a consumption-driven economy comprising 60 percent of the GDP. It is possible to quickly find a business partner in the Philippines who is culturally close and who has a staff that fully speaks English. Further, the economy is also service-based with a young population at 50 percent under the median age of 24 years old.

Have there been efforts to expand Belgian companies across the Philippines? What are the steps taken by the government? What are the challenges faced by companies?

Our efforts to expand Belgian businesses in the Philippines are relentless. Pre-pandemic, a Belgian business delegation came to Manila annually. This year, we are welcoming back two business missions: the Belgian Meat Office mission in February and the multisectoral mission last June. We had the participation of Credendo, the Belgian export credit agency, and the economic promotion offices of Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia.

From the Philippine side, the President went to Belgium looking for investment and business opportunities, and DTI Secretary Pascual went a second time for a roadshow promoting the Philippines. The Roadshow on Renewable Energy in Belgium headed by the DTI Secretary was attended by several Belgian stakeholders in the energy sector and met as well Energy Department Assistant Secretary Capongcol to discuss further their interests to be part of renewable energy development in the country.

Several Belgian companies came to the Philippines in separate missions looking for possibilities in renewable energy and recycling waste. These activities are important for the planet, and I hope our two countries can work together for the future of the world.

As for the challenges, the Philippines is making progress in the 'ease of doing business' index, but bureaucracy remains a challenge with processes such as registration of products, licenses, local government procedures and inconsistencies in the regulations. Coupled with traffic concerns, customs problems and issues with utilities – high energy cost, and slow internet amongst others, doing business in the Philippines is appealing but still can be improved. However, the recent game-changing laws can surely help.

“

As European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen just called on renewed negotiations to reach a Free Trade Agreement, we should envision the future of business and trade between the Philippines and the EU as a whole.

”

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

There's an enormous potential to increase the Belgian presence here. The Philippine market has huge opportunities that Belgian companies are not always aware of, that's why we constantly promote the business opportunities here to increase our business in different sectors. There's also the need to boost the image of the Philippines in Belgium as a market to do business in.

I envision that more BE companies engage in the various industries e.g. renewable energy, healthcare, food and agriculture, amongst others as the Philippines has the potential to be a business hub just like Singapore. The Philippines can take advantage of the advanced technologies from BE to improve or support the local industries in the development of their businesses. For example, in the manufacturing sector, with improved production their output could meet the quality of products for export. It's a win-win situation; It's always a two-way street in trade.

In regard to bilateral relations between Belgium and the Philippines, an important document is the Joint Plan of Action, signed by both countries in January 2023. This document, which intensifies political contacts between the two countries but highlights the role of ASEAN-EU Dialogue, calls for increased cooperation in tackling climate change, biodiversity, food security, problems on the environment and energy, human rights and international law among other subjects. The Joint Plan of Action calls on the countries to advance their economic relations, with the Philippines possibly as Belgium's gateway to the ASEAN and Belgium possibly as the Philippines' gateway to the EU, and recognizes the role of the regional offices, Flanders Investment & Trade, Wallonia Export-Investment Agency, and Brussels Business Support Agency.

As European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen just called on renewed negotiations to reach a Free Trade Agreement, we should envision the future of business and trade between the Philippines and the EU as a whole.

What are the foreseen priorities of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in January to June 2024?

Belgium remains very much supportive of multilateralism, the idea that countries have to work together to achieve international security, international rule of law, including the law of the sea. We will continue to focus on pandemic recovery, disaster intervention, humanitarian assistance. Belgium intends to continue promoting inclusivity, sustainability, democracy, advocating good governance and respect of human rights, including social and environmental rights, and the protection of cultural or sexual minorities. We believe that we, the Philippines and Europe, share these values.

What steps were taken to reach the efficiency of aviation and automotive services that Belgium has today?

Belgium is a small country: our products are made for export. With 27 countries in the EU and 4 more in the European Free Trade Association, competition is fierce. Research and Innovation give companies a competitive advantage when new technologies meet needs and demand and labor and tax incentives can be given to research-intensive activities. Flemish universities have collaborative automotive research centers for research development and innovation. Wallonia has the largest number of companies working in aeronautics among the three regions.

The country is working to decrease emissions from its transport sector, including a recent investment in Europe's largest ever electric-hybrid bus fleet – a purchase of 90 Volvo 7,900 buses that produce up to 90 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than regular diesel models.

Further, the Belgian Federal Council of Ministers approved, on 2 December 2022, three draft royal decrees amending the (third) management contract between the Federal State and Skeyes in order to make aviation greener. For instance, tariffs will be further increased for polluting aircraft. Major airlines Brussels Airlines and TUI, have already updated their fleets and are expected to pay less fares. However, a separate tariff will now be introduced for private jets starting April 2023, making flying with a private jet to and from Brussels airport more expensive.

How has Belgium innovated in aviation and automotive technologies? What were the drivers that centered the focus on finding better and smarter mobility services?

Mobility is one of the most important elements in the Belgian economy. Belgium remains a major player in automotive assembly, with plants like Opel Antwerp, Audi Forest near Brussels, Volvo Europe in Ghent, Van Hool (buses) and Truco. Toyota Motor Europe is located near Brussels as is the Toyota Technical Centre, home to research and development, production and engineering tasks, and designing for the fiercely competitive European market.

Belgium is an attractive country for vehicle manufacturers. Not only does it offer a highly qualified workforce with a proven track record of high productivity; it also has the ports to enable rapid distribution and research centres to test parts and components and look into the potential of new technologies.

Flanders also has its very own innovation network, called Flanders' DRIVE. This initiative offers companies and





research establishments like universities the possibility of exchanging know-how and launching joint projects. The network sets out to boost the production and development capacities of suppliers based in Flanders.

What opportunities for investment do you see in the near future for the air and land transport sectors in the Philippines?

The opportunities are very promising for businesses here in the Philippines. The market is adaptive and the workforce is young. Due to the lifting of the public health emergency status, mobility is also going back to pre-pandemic levels and traveling both via air and land transport is starting to pick-up demand.

For Belgium and the Philippines, talks of a direct flight from Manila to Brussels would be a significant investment opportunity for both sides should it materialize.

How has the government of Belgium encouraged its initiatives for fuel efficiency and sustainability particularly in its aviation industry?

Belgium already took action to reduce carbon emissions. To coordinate the emissions trading scheme efforts in Belgium, the Federal State of Belgium, the Flemish Region, the Walloon Region and the Brussels-Capital Region concluded a cooperation agreement on the inclusion of aviation activities in the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading in accordance with European directives. Major airlines Brussels Airlines and TUI have already updated their fleets and are expected to pay less taxes. Belgium also looks forward to gradually increasing the share of sustainable aviation fuels in the fuel supplied to operators at EU airports.

In your opinion, what are the possible advantages Belgium would inherit as it transitions to adopt emerging technologies in the aviation and automotive industry? What are the potential disadvantages?

Belgium has always been geared towards a greener economy. This translates very apparently to the infrastructures and technologies that the country has set into place in the last few years to be able to comply with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the European Commission Goals 2050.

Its strategic geographical position, highly developed transport infrastructure, wide range of services and its influence in the industry and high technology have contributed to the development of its economy. Not only does Belgium offer a highly qualified workforce with a proven track record of high productivity; it also has the ports to enable rapid distribution and research centres to test parts and components and look into the potential of new technologies.

Further, just this January 2023 Brussels Airport has become the first in Belgium to be fully supplied with alternative fuels and operated the first "Sustainable Aviation Fuel" (SAF) flight from Brussels to Malaga. The automotive industry in Belgium is also at a crossroads. To remain a major economic sector, the industry is turning to high technology, e.g. hybrid technology and new materials in particular.

Can you share more about the Belgium Mobility as a Service's (MaaS)?

'Mobility as a Service'(MaaS) aims to move away from personally owned vehicles, to digital platforms that facilitate planning, booking, ticketing, payment, and this across all modes of transportation, public or private. MaaS platforms let users plan and book trips using a single app.

In September 2022, the three Belgian regions and the federal level agreed on a common MaaS Vision and on the need for a MaaS 'Code of Conduct,' an agreement between mobility providers, digital providers and authorities. ITS.be (Intelligent Transport Systems Belgium) was tasked to draft it. ITS.be is a public-private non-profit entity that seeks to accelerate the transition to sustainable mobility in Belgium. In short, providers need to be able to offer access to their offers, trip data, tariffs, and ensure non-discrimination in their co-operation with other providers. "Authorities need to be involved to ensure that the principles agreed by mobility providers and by MaaS providers are enforced. Authorities provide trust and are needed to ensure that things are done fairly," says ITS.be.

What were the challenges faced in Belgium's strategy in pursuit of sustainable urban mobility? How is the Belgian government currently addressing these?

The pandemic affected urban mobility in Belgium greatly. Brussels, was one of the hardest-hit regions during the first waves of the pandemic. It is home to 1.2 million residents dispersed over 19 communes.

Urban planners in Brussels are transforming key areas of Belgium's capital into green urban agoras designed for pedestrians and cyclists. Brussels' scientists are currently working on innovations that have the power to revolutionize urban mobility. Top-level innovations can help promote cycling in general. Flanders' scientists have developed the perfect tool to design a smarter city. Any urban planning measure can be simulated and tested. Good Move is the Regional Mobility Plan for the Brussels-Capital Region. Approved in 2020 by the Brussels Government, it defines the main policy guidelines in the field of mobility.

How does Belgium balance the need for economic growth and connectivity while prioritizing environmental considerations in its air and land transport sectors?

Beware, the industry often invokes fake arguments regarding the need for economic growth. For example, the industry fought against the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, but the Protocol was adapted in 1987 and the industry quickly adapted without any losses. We have to continue to prioritize the environment in drafting efficient regulations, and the industry will follow.

For environmental matters, the Federal government of Belgium and the Regions share responsibility for the implementation of related policies. All three regions, Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia, presented their strategic outlook and their vision for the future, looking at a sustainable transport sector and making Belgium more inclusive socially and economically, while going greener and more energy efficient.

Hon. Jaime Bautista



Can you share details about ongoing collaborations between the transportation sector and the technology industry to innovate and improve the safety and sustainability of mobility solutions?

To enhance transport safety management through establishment of quality transport data, projects such as the Automated Fare Collection System – a cashless payment scheme for modern PUVs (including buses), and the electronic driver's license as well as mobile app for tracking unclaimed vehicle plates complement the Land Transportation Office's LTMS (Land Transport Management System) that offer various services for vehicle owners, are being implemented by DOTr. Private operators of the North and South Luzon Expressways will go full cashless at their toll gates starting September 1st, 2023, abandoning manual toll collection in favor of RFIDs.

DOTr is also encouraging local oil companies, mall owners and other private firms to put up charging stations for use by electric vehicle users. To note, DOTr has various ongoing pilot workstreams for the electrification of road-based public transport fleet as well as last-mile delivery fleet. DOTr is also looking into the electrification of vessel fleet for ferry systems, and the decarbonization of freight transport in the Philippines.

When can we expect to see developments in provision to accommodate electric or hybrid vehicles? What is the Agency's timeline in the implementation of programs aimed at promoting EVs?

Promoting electric vehicles (EV) is part of the public utility vehicle modernization program (PUVMP) of DOTr in compliance with the EVIDA law. Shift to EVs will entail close collaboration with other agencies, EV manufacturers and various private firms. Important is that we have taken the first steps – several transport groups have shifted to EV PUVs. The challenge is bringing down the price of EVs and convincing private vehicle owners to use them.

With the opening of a number of airports both local and international in far localities of the country, what developments are seen to take place in terms of air travel?

Airports are gateways to certain localities. Building new and expanding existing airports open opportunities for increased trade and tourism. With collaboration with DPWH, airports are provided access roads. With collaboration with the Department of Tourism, tourist arrivals increase. It all starts with a modern and efficient airport. Several regional airport projects are proposed to be implemented through public-private partnerships leveraging on the private sectors' technology and experience in providing quality air service.

What is the DOTr's view on the Philippine blue economy and the way forward in increasing the shipping industry's competitiveness?

DOTr's Maritime Sector subscribes to the blue economy by undertaking research on alternative fuels that can be used by Philippine-registered sea vessels. We look for ship operations training on the use of bio-fuels for Filipino seafarers onboard other vessels. We also ensure Filipino training and certification consistently adhere to international standards to maintain the Philippine reputation as a top source of highly skilled seafarers.

With the increase of bikers as well as vehicle owners and users especially in the metro area, how does the DOTr seek to enhance sustainable and safer mobility for all road users?

DOTr continues to promote Active Transport or cycling in many urban centers throughout the country. We recently broke ground to establishing bike lanes in Intramuros (Manila), Kalibo and Laoag. We will expand existing lanes and provided funds for establishing additional 500 kilometers of bike lanes for 2023. DOTr also has three infrastructure flagship projects (IFPs), the priority projects of the government, for active transport, namely the Active Transport Network, the Bike Share Program, and the Metro Manila Bike Expressway, all currently under the planning and project development stage. DOTr and the World Health Organization launched the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2028 in May 2023, a document that serves as blueprint for road safety in the country. Specifically, its second pillar tackles safety in infrastructure design, construction, operation, and maintenance and highlights addressing the safety and mobility needs of vulnerable road users such as motorcyclists, bicyclists, pedestrians, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

With the effort of decongesting highly urbanized cities, what are the efforts currently in place pursuing the reliability of public transportation?

DOTr implements its Transport Modernization Program with the primary intent of improving our public transportation systems to become more comfortable, accessible, safe, secure, sustainable, and affordable through the implementation of more than 200 projects in our pipeline, in order to cause a shift from use of private vehicles to into use of public transportation. The intended co-benefits and impacts of these projects also include the reduction of traffic congestion, improvement of road safety, reduction of vehicle operating costs, reduction of air pollution, improvement of access, and reduction of GHG emissions from the transport sector. We are also aligning our multi-year transport plans to the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) concept in cooperation with other government agencies. The TOD concept calls for building transport hubs – bus terminals, rail stations, airports and seaports – that will become centers of walkable communities that rely on effective and efficient public transport systems.

What steps are being undertaken to further make public transportation more inclusive and accessible for all Filipinos, including persons with disabilities and other special needs?

Part of our transport planning process is to include accessibility and inclusivity for ongoing and future transport projects. As earlier mentioned, the goal of these transport systems is a comfortable, accessible, safe, sustainable and affordable travel experience. DOTr has now built up its understanding and capacity to observe and utilize international environmental, social, and governance (ESG) safeguards in the course of its project implementation. Rather than viewing these ESG safeguards as compliance checklists, DOTr has utilized these as tools to aid in project implementation. Policy development initiatives which includes updating of the Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 or the Accessibility and the establishment of Transit Facility Design Standards are currently being undertaken by DOTr through its Planning and Project Office.



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Corporate Giveaways



The Future of Automotive in the Philippines: Adapting to Transformative Changes in the Connected World of Automobiles

By KPMG in the Philippines Deal Advisory Head and Infrastructure Sector Head
Michael Arcatomy Guarin

The automotive landscape is currently undergoing a significant and transformative period. This phase is marked by a range of noteworthy shifts, including a substantial inclination towards embracing alternative transport systems, the adoption of innovative manufacturing approaches, the emergence of evolving ownership models, the integration of digital sales avenues and the introduction of progressive policy measures.

These transformative changes have impacted all participants in this domain, compelling every stakeholder to acknowledge and adjust to these revolutionary developments. As this landscape continues to evolve, the transportation and mobility sphere in the Philippines confronts both obstacles and prospects that necessitate an active and flexible response from all involved entities.

Emerging Signals of Change¹

1. Shift to Electric Vehicles

The global trend towards electric vehicles (EVs) is making waves in the Philippine automotive space. Local car manufacturers are intensifying their efforts to incorporate EV strategies, aiming to compete with new market entrants and meet the rising demand for cleaner and sustainable transportation options.

2. New Ways of Building Cars

The transition to electric vehicles demands a

fundamental rethinking of car manufacturing. Companies must adapt their manufacturing processes and supply chains to accommodate the production of EVs, which require entirely different components and technologies compared to traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.

3. Evolving Usage Models

In the Philippines, innovative ownership and usage models such as ride-hailing and ridesharing continue to gain popularity. Vehicles are being offered on an “as-a-service” basis, providing consumers with more flexibility and convenience in accessing transportation without the commitment of owning a vehicle outright.

4. Digital Sales Platforms

The rise of online shopping has extended to the automotive sphere. Consumers in the Philippines are increasingly looking for digital platforms to complete vehicle-related transactions.

5. Policy and Regulatory Changes

To support the transition to electric vehicles, the Philippines, like many other countries, is undergoing significant policy and regulatory shifts. The government has proposed legislation that requires the Philippine Department of Energy (DOE) to create an Electric Vehicle Roadmap, which will be integrated into the Philippine Energy Plan.²

In 2021, the Philippines identified pilot cities, such as Pasig City, to demonstrate the viability of the electric vehicle industry. These cities will be part of the Global E-Mobility Programme and will collect data on commuter profiles, traffic patterns, renewable energy generation, and more. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) granted \$4.28 million for the project, with additional funding of \$46.725 million from the Philippine government.²

Strategic Imperatives:

• Embrace the EV Transition

Automotive organizations in the Philippines must prepare for the electric future by incorporating EV strategies into their core business plans. This involves investing in research and development, building EV-specific expertise, and forming partnerships with regulators, policymakers and relevant stakeholders in the EV ecosystem.

• Rethink Manufacturing and Supply Chains

Companies need to adapt their manufacturing processes and supply chains to cater to the production of EVs. This includes sourcing new components, embracing advanced manufacturing technologies and ensuring a sustainable supply chain for EV-specific materials.

• Monetize the Connected Vehicle Experience

Leveraging on connected technologies, automotive players can create new revenue streams by offering enhanced in-car experiences and services. This includes providing advanced infotainment systems, autonomous driving features and personalized services tailored to the needs of individual customers.

• As-A-Service Models

Embracing innovative usage models like ride-hailing and ridesharing can provide new opportunities for revenue generation. Automotive companies can explore partnerships with ride-hailing platforms or develop their own mobility-as-a-service offerings to cater to the changing preferences of consumers.

• Seamless Direct Sales Experience

Developing user-friendly online platforms is crucial to streamline the car-buying process and enhance customer satisfaction. Offering a seamless digital sales experience will not only attract tech-savvy customers but also expand the customer base through increased accessibility.

• Data-Driven Customer Value

By leveraging data analytics, companies can gain valuable insights into customer preferences,

behavior and feedback. This data-driven approach enables organizations to enhance customer lifetime value by delivering personalized products and services that cater to evolving consumer demands.

• Financing Mobility

To encourage consumers to embrace the transition to EVs, automotive companies should offer flexible and attractive financing options. This can include low-interest loans, leasing programs, and subscription-based payment models, making EV ownership more affordable and appealing to a broader audience.

• Attracting Talent

To drive innovation and transformation, attracting skilled talent to the automotive sector is vital. Companies must focus on developing an appealing work environment, promoting a culture of innovation and investing in talent development programs to secure the expertise needed for the future.

Embracing the Future

To embrace the prospects offered by these transformative shifts, businesses operating in the Philippine transportation and mobility space must adapt their operational blueprints. The ability to swiftly adapt, remain pliable and foster connectivity will be crucial in navigating this ever-changing landscape. Utilizing data and digital technology will aid companies in conceiving inventive products, interacting with customers and suppliers, making well-informed choices, and empowering their workforce.

KPMG holds the potential to play a pivotal role in supporting transportation and mobility organizations as they construct the essential capabilities for the future. Through crafting user-friendly experiences for users of connected vehicles and offering streamlined online processes for transportation-related transactions, KPMG’s expertise can facilitate seamless partnerships and data-informed decision-making. With the expertise of KPMG, the Philippine transportation and mobility sector can flourish amid transformative shifts, guiding the way towards a more sustainable and interconnected future.

¹ <https://kpmg.com/xx/en/home/insights/2023/03/future-of-automotive.html>
² <https://opengovasia.com/implementing-initiatives-to-support-electric-vehicle-ev-adoption-in-the-philippines/>

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TURKISH AIRLINES



Beating the clock The importance of time-critical logistics

GAC Philippines

In an era characterised by instant communication, global connectivity, and swift technological advancements, the field of logistics has experienced a paradigm shift. Businesses today not only need to move goods quickly to remain competitive. Time-critical logistics, the efficient movement of goods and information within strict time constraints, is now an essential element of the modern supply chain.

Growing demand

From medical supplies or automotive spare parts to high-demand consumer products, demand for fast, reliable logistics is amplified by consumers' expectations for same-day delivery and real-time tracking. This became even more apparent during COVID-19 where lockdowns, travel restrictions and labour shortage disrupted the supply chain.

The pandemic highlighted the crucial role of time-critical logistics for the healthcare sector to ensure the efficient distribution of medical supplies, vaccines and essential goods. Rapid response and coordination between governments, organisations and industries was crucial.

Time-critical logistics faced its greatest challenge when a vaccine became available. Distribution demanded utmost precision and coordination as well as strict compliance with prevailing trade regulations and COVID-19 restrictions.

Expertise in time-critical logistics

As a dedicated logistics provider, GAC understands the vital role it plays in ensuring time-sensitive cargoes reach their destinations promptly and in good shape, every time. With more than 60 years' experience providing shipping, logistics and marine services, the GAC Group has the global reach, multi-modal expertise and frontline know-how to take care of time-sensitive shipments.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, GAC Philippines was the only customs broker in the country to handle the clearance of all private sector imports of two leading Covid-19 vaccines, clearing 20 million doses in 2021. It was a race against time to get the precious shipments

where they were needed as fast as possible, coordinating closely with the local government and client throughout the customs clearance process and complying with all the regulations in force.

The company also delivered the first oral treatments for COVID-19 when it became available in the Philippines. More than half a million Molnupiravir pills in 13,110 packs were received and cleared through customs by GAC Philippines before delivering them to Local Government Units (LGUs) and hospitals throughout the country.

"In the business of pharmaceutical time-critical logistics, every second counts. We deliver not only goods but promises. We bridge the gap between medicine and those in need, ensuring that hope and health arrive precisely when they are needed most," says Chares Lanzarrote, GAC Philippines' Manager for International Freight Forwarding and Customs Brokerage.

Prepared

GAC Philippines is well equipped to meet the stringent demands of the country's healthcare sector and its regulations, and has a fleet of temperature controlled trucks that reach -2 to -8 oC to transport products anywhere nationwide.

The company is also experienced in smooth and speedy time-critical logistics for the fast-moving consumer goods, sports and events sectors. They assisted in customs clearing of cargo for many events and was the nominated customs brokerage company for a recent international basketball tournament held in Okinawa, Jakarta and Manila. Working closely with their counterparts in GAC Singapore office, the local team worked round-the-clock to ship, clear and delivered equipment, apparels and sometimes, ad hoc emergency shipments.

The role of the logistics provider is a cornerstone of success for many industries. And the expertise, experience and extensive network offered by providers like GAC Philippines can help companies to navigate through the intricacies of time-critical logistics promptly and precisely.



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Philippine premier telecommunications and ICT solutions provider Eastern Communications is constantly evolving its services to cater to its clients' dynamic business needs.

Across 144 years, the company has evolved into a world-class telecommunications and ICT solutions company providing an extensive portfolio of services that include Connectivity Solutions, Network Solutions, Security Solutions, Cloud and Data Center Solutions and Business Applications.

The company's longevity and success in the industry are a testament to its expertise and reliability. Its commitment to delivering high-quality services has earned Eastern Communications the reputation of being the solutions partner of choice for some of the largest players in the aviation industry. Eastern Communications has established strong partnerships with prominent airline companies namely, Emirates Airline, Qatar Airways, Cathay Pacific, Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific Air, AirAsia, to name a few.

The aviation industry is largely reliant on secure and efficient communication technologies to ensure seamless operations, passenger safety, and customer satisfaction. Eastern Communications' connectivity solutions can provide a robust and reliable network infrastructure, enabling seamless communication within and between airports, airlines, and other stakeholders.

Companies may additionally leverage Eastern services that encompass network solutions to maximize connectivity and ensure real-time information sharing, as well as security solutions designed to safeguard important data and systems from risks associated with cyberspace.

By partnering with Eastern Communications, organizations can benefit from cutting-edge ICT solutions, reliable customer support, personalized services, and a commitment to excellence, ultimately driving their success in a highly competitive industry.

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ECCP encouraged by Marcos' SONA agenda, optimistic about commitment to trade deals

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) extends its appreciation to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for delivering the 2023 State of the Nation Address (SONA) and for the current administration's commitment to addressing the nation's many pressing challenges.

The Chamber is highly encouraged by the President's emphasis on key economic priorities, namely the easing of inflation, increasing of production, promoting industry development, accelerating infrastructure development, advancing human capital development, boosting job generation, and ensuring social protection. The ECCP, likewise, greatly welcomed the recognition of critical areas such as investments toward hard and soft infrastructure, the enabling of a sound business and economic landscape in the country, and the continued promotion of structural reforms that aim to sustain and shore up investor confidence in the Philippines.

As an organization representing European and Philippine businesses in the country, the ECCP further appreciates the drive of the current administration to secure more trade deals. As such, the Chamber hopes to see the recommencement of the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement talks as well as the retention of the EU GSP+ grant in the near future. The Chamber believes that the condition is ripe for this mutually beneficial trade arrangements. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) must also be maximized to achieve its full trade potential.

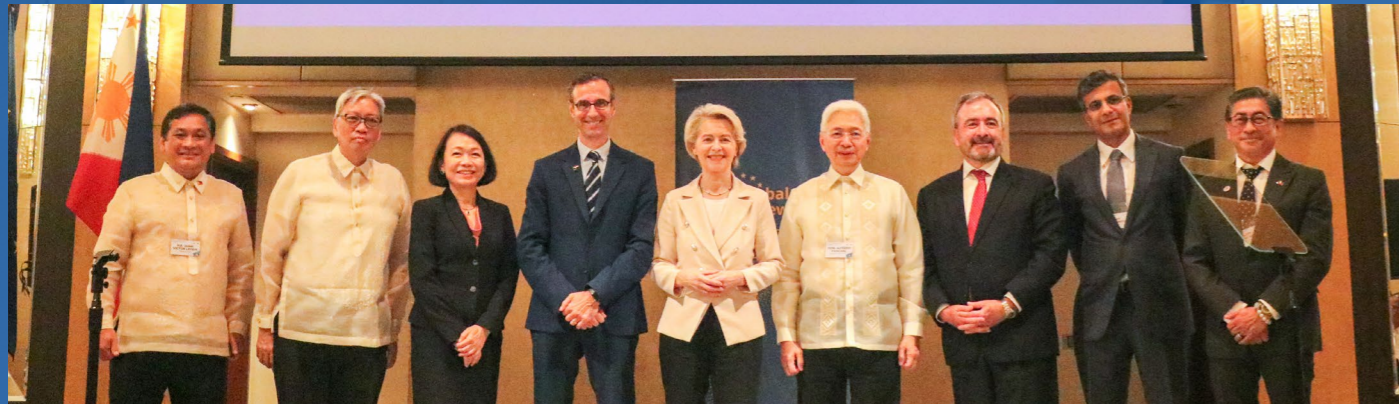
Furthermore, while the P3.9 trillion total investment pledges with the potential to generate 175,000 jobs is indeed promising, we look to government to further solidify the country's position as an attractive investment destination through incentives schemes and the proper implementation of green lanes to boost the country's competitiveness and facilitate ease of doing business. With the efforts of the current administration as well as several roadshows, we are cautiously optimistic and confident that we shall see results [investors] sooner rather than later.

To further establish the Philippines' position in the global arena, it is critical to sustain investments in both hard and soft infrastructure. The Chamber also commends the President's emphasis on sustainable development and promotion of responsible economic growth - priorities that align with the ECCP's advocacy of creating a business environment that fosters competitiveness while contributing towards a greener and more inclusive Philippines. These include advocacies on renewable energy, circular economy, water resource management [through the creation of a Department of Water Resource Management], climate action, among others.

The ECCP will continue to support and collaborate with the Philippine government and all other stakeholders to further improve the country's business climate, through initiatives that enhance regional and global market integration, improve competitiveness, promote increased investments, and facilitate the twin green and digital transitions.



European Commission landmark visit to the Philippines aims to bolster EU-Philippines Relations and advance Sustainable Trade and Investment



Makati City, Philippines – The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), in partnership with the Makati Business Club (MBC), concluded a high-level business event on 31st July 2023 on the occasion of the official visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to the Republic of the Philippines.

transitions, fostering an environment conducive to net-zero technologies and critical raw materials. In recognition of the importance of infrastructure development, the ECCP commends the EU’s Global Gateway program, which is expected to boost investments in digital innovation, green energy, transport, healthcare, and education.

The momentous occasion marked a historic milestone as President von der Leyen became the first European Commission President to ever pay an official visit to the Philippines in almost six decades of diplomatic relations.

“While challenges and uncertainties remain, we are encouraged to see how far we have come. Next year, the EU-Philippine bilateral ties will be celebrating its 60th anniversary. Yes, there is a lot of work ahead of us, but we are increasingly hopeful and confident that together, we will achieve a greener, more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable future for all,” Mr. Duarte concluded.



The event, which was attended by distinguished guests, including members of the diplomatic corps, Philippines Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Alfredo Pascual, Philippine Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union, H.E. Jaime Victor Ledda, Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Maria Elena Alagabre, and industry leaders, underscored the significance of sustainable trade and investment ties between the EU and the Philippines, as well as emphasized the role of green and digital technologies and initiatives in advancing economic growth and shared prosperity.

As part of the high-level business event, a panel discussion also took place, bringing together esteemed leaders and experts to delve into critical issues concerning trade, investment and sustainable development. The panelists included Mr. Pavit Ramachandran, Asian Development Bank Country Director Philippine Country Office, Southeast Asia Department; Mr. Paulo Duarte, President of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; and Mr. Edgar Chua, Chairman of the Makati Business Club.



In his opening remarks, ECCP President Paulo Duarte formally thanked President von der Leyen for her visit, as well as expressed his appreciation for the European Commission’s proposal to extend the validity of the EU GSP+ until 2027.

Facilitating the engaging discussion was Atty. Tony Abad, CEO of TradeAdvisors. The panelists shared valuable insights on the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transition, the significance of public-private collaboration, and the strategic role of sustainable practices in fostering economic growth and resilience.



“Taking the Philippines to another level, the ECCP strongly advocates for the retention of the EU General Scheme of Preferences Plus as well as the recommencement of the Free Trade Agreement negotiations,” said Duarte. “Beyond that, we call for the timely and successful conclusion of the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement. Such a deal holds immense potential to spur trade and investment opportunities, improve diversification, increase competitiveness and economic openness, generate better employment prospects, as well as accelerate breakthroughs in innovation and technology,” he added.

The ECCP extends its heartfelt gratitude to the European Commission President H.E. Ursula von der Leyen for her momentous visit to the Republic of the Philippines. This historic occasion underscored the shared commitment to fostering sustainable trade and investment for a greener and more prosperous future.

The ECCP also lauded the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan, providing pathways for twin green and digital

The ECCP looks forward to further advancing this valuable partnership and working together towards a more sustainable and resilient global landscape.

2nd ECCP Community Connect

15 August 2023 | 3:00 PM | Spaces, BGC, Taguig

On August 15th, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) hosted its 2nd ECCP Community Connect event, bringing together new and long-standing members.

Mr. Albert Perez, ECCP Director, and Regional Director & Country Head of Michael Page, graced the occasion with his welcoming remarks. His words set the tone for the day, emphasizing the ECCP's commitment to its members and the broader business community. His presence was a testament to the chamber's dedication to fostering strong leadership and connections within its network.

The event served as a platform for gaining valuable insights. Representatives from various ECCP departments, including Membership, Marketing, Competency Hub, Advocacy, and International Trade Fairs, took the stage to discuss their roles and the myriad opportunities they offer to members. These informative sessions allowed attendees to gain a deeper understanding of ECCP's membership.

In closing, the ECCP expressed its heartfelt gratitude to its members and partners for their unwavering support in creating a vibrant and collaborative community. The success of ECCP Community Connect 2023 was a testament to the chamber's commitment to building a strong business ecosystem in the Philippines.

The event was made possible through the generous support of the event's partners. We would like to thank our Session Partners AM Sison, Jr & Partners Law Office, CHAMP Cargosystems, iONTEK Power Solutions Corporation, Mata-Perez, Tamayo and Francisco Counsel, MR Travel Services, Inc., Mazars in the Philippines, Microtel by Wyndham & TRYP by Wyndham Mall of Asia Manila, with special recognition to Regus and Spaces by IWG for hosting us. Their involvement underscored the collaborative spirit of the ECCP community and its commitment to fostering mutually beneficial relationships.

The 2nd ECCP Community Connect event was a resounding success, bringing together members, partners, and department representatives for a day of networking and knowledge sharing. With its diverse array of services and the support of its partners, the ECCP continues to play a vital role in fostering a vibrant and collaborative business community in the Philippines. This event served as a reminder of the chamber's commitment to its members and its dedication to creating opportunities for growth and success.

For more information about the ECCP Community Connect, please reach out to membership@eccp.com.



ECCP, energy leaders band together to bolster clean energy transition in the PH



Makati City, Philippines – In alignment with the nation's aspirations for a greener and more resilient energy landscape, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) organized its 2023 Energy Forum to spur discussions and drive collaborative efforts toward a sustainable energy future for the Philippines.

Themed “Gearing up for the Future: Advancing an Inclusive Transition to Clean Energy”, the forum brought together key stakeholders, policymakers, industry experts, and thought leaders from the government sector, private sector and academe to explore critical facets of the Philippines’ energy transformation.

In his opening remarks, ECCP President Paulo Duarte emphasized the importance of collaborative engagement with all stakeholders to unlock new industries and markets that will contribute to prosperity and progress.

“At ECCP, we commit to provide a platform for productive and insightful discussions on key areas including energy security, to ensure a steady supply of energy and safeguard our country against potential disruptions; clean energy transition, to mitigate the impacts of climate change and create a healthier environment for all; and sustainability, which entails equitable access to energy resources, the creation of green jobs, and the empowerment of communities to participate in and benefit from the energy transition,” said Duarte.

Shaping the Renewable Energy Landscape for the Future

In the first session of the forum, speakers delved into the government initiatives, new investments opportunities, and collaborative endeavors that are steering the country towards an increased reliance on renewable energy (RE) sources.

On behalf of Department of Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, DOE Undersecretary Vice Admiral Giovanni Carlo Jamero Bacordo presented his keynote speech, highlighting the Department’s intensified call for use of renewable energy. Bacordo underscored the goal to attain a 35% minimum RE share in the power generation mix by 2030 and 50% by 2040, as stated in the Philippine energy plan and the national renewable plan.

“The DOE is focused on establishing the regulatory framework and designing the renewable energy policy mechanisms to heighten the interest from the private sector, which should ultimately lead to generating more investments,” said Bacordo.

Key strides include the removal of foreign ownership and limitation requirements for RE, and the mandatory renewable portfolio standards which require distribution utilities to contract at least 2.52% of electricity sales from RE until 2040.

During her presentation, DOE Assistant Secretary Mylene Capongcol stated that a total of 1,087 projects were already awarded with RE contracts with a total potential capacity of 113.564 GW. In order to reach their goal, the Department is currently developing the Philippine Energy Transition.

Program with a 4-point strategy to accelerate RE deployment, implement a green and smart transition system, build port infrastructure development for Offshore Wind (OSW) resources, and decommission and/or repurpose coal plants. To Department of Trade and Industry - Board of Investments Executive Director for the Industry Development Group Ma. Corazon Dichosa also showcased key areas for investments, particularly critical mineral needs for energy technologies.

Meanwhile, representing the private sector, Aboitiz Renewables, Inc. President and CEO James Villaroman draws on his company’s best practices, citing “cross-sector collaboration” and “sound policies on investment and incentives” as key factors. “Our vision is not just for ourselves but for the generations that will inherit the results of our efforts. With a balanced approach, working within the realm of realities and challenges, we can usher in a sustainable energy future for the Philippines,” Villaroman said.

HSBC Philippine Director for Multinational and International Subsidiaries Banking Jonathan Webster also echoed the sentiment, stating that financial institutions likewise have strong commitments to Net Zero transitions. In the case of HSBC, delivering a net zero global economy has become an essential pillar of its business strategy.

“We are committed to net zero carbon emissions in our own operations and supply chain by 2030. Our partnership with the Renewable Energy sector is a critical piece to achieving these goals, while opening up a world of opportunity for a sustainable future,” said Webster.

Energy Efficiency and Advancing a Consumer-Centric Approach in the Energy Sector

In terms of breakthroughs that are reshaping energy consumption patterns, experts from the government and non-profit sectors, as well as the academe centered on best energy efficiency (EE) practices.

Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance President Mr. Alexander Ablaza delved into the topic of ESCOs or Energy Service Companies that offer multi-technology services and goods towards developing and designing EE projects and ensuring cost-effective and optimal performance. According to Ablaza, ESCO’s and financial institutions can cooperate to finance projects for the use of energy consumers.

As for use of Energy Efficiency & Consumption in the industrial and commercial sectors, De La Salle University Associate Professor for Mechanical Engineering Dr. Neil Stephen Lopez cited opportunities such as the electrification of transportation to decarbonize the sector as it can “potentially cut carbon emissions from transport by as much as 50%.”

As for empowering consumers into participating in sustainable energy practices, Philippine Senate Energy Committee Vice Chair Sherwin Gatchalian, Climate Change Commissioner Albert Dela Cruz, Energy Regulatory Commission Chief Energy Regulation Officer - Renewable Energy Division Engr. Jayson Corpuz and Ateneo de Manila University Associate Professor Dr. Majah-Leah Ravago shared messages and strategies to enhance public awareness and engage with the public to actively contribute to a clean energy future, and underscored the importance of developing energy storage systems, improving the energy transmission sector, as well as supply management.

The Energy Smart Forum 2023, a hallmark of the ECCP since 2011, was organized in partnership with Event Partners Department of Energy Philippines, ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA Philippines, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Manila, Embassy of Denmark in the Philippines, German Embassy Manila, and the Embassy of Sweden in Manila; Co-Presenters Aboitiz Power Corporation and HSBC Philippines; Gold Partner WTW; Advocacy Partner Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance Inc.; Bronze Partner Beauchem Thermtech Group, Inc. and Media Partner Globaltronics.

Inside ECCP: Manila

Building the Future: Investing in Philippine Infrastructure

13 July 2023

Last 13 July, the ECCP and HSBC Philippines co-organised the virtual event “Building the Future: Investing in Philippine Infrastructure” via Zoom.

At the webinar hosted by HSBC Philippines Multinationals Relationship Manager Mr. Mikael Zialcita, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Development Hon. Roderick Planta presented an overview of the Philippine economy and its infrastructure needs. Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary for Planning and Project Development Hon. Timothy Batan also provided some updates on the Philippine transport modernization program and investment opportunities in the country’s infrastructure sector.

Attended by more than a hundred participants, the session was truly a multi-faceted discussion on the key challenges, investment opportunities, and potential areas of collaboration to shape the course of the Philippine infrastructure landscape!



ECCP SCOFFI Kapihan Session

14 July 2023

On 14 July, the ECCP, together with its Special Committee on Open Finance and Financial Inclusion, and Event Partners, Pru Life UK and UBX Philippines, held a Kapihan Session with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and Insurance Commission (IC).

The session was joined by keynote speakers – BSP Deputy Governor Chuchi Fonacier and IC Deputy Commissioner Ferdinand George Florendo, who talked about their respective agencies’ banking, insurance, and open-finance related policy initiatives, as well as opportunities to further enhance inclusivity and digitalisation in the financial sector.

Mr. Anatoly Gusto, of the BSP Technology Risk and Innovation Supervision Department, Mr. Eng Teng Wong, ECCP SCOFFI Vice Chair and Pru Life UK President and CEO, as well as Mr. Jaime Garchitorea, UBX Philippines Managing Director for Open Finance, also joined the panel discussion and open forum.



The said session talked about the readiness of the government, businesses, as well as consumers to adapt to digital transformation in the sector, as well as collaborative efforts that stakeholders could further explore to maximise the benefits of boosting financial inclusivity. The session was hosted and moderated by Mr. Mark Valino, Pru Life UK Vice President for Investments.

ECCP Forum Workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility Law (RA 11898)

19 July 2023

Last July 19, the ECCP, together with its Environment and Water Committee and Advocacy Supporter Control Union Philippines, organized a forum and workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility Law (RA 11898).

The session provided an overview of the current situation of plastic waste in the country, and aimed to address any questions and misunderstanding of the implementing rules and regulations of the EPR law.

Facilitating the sessions as panelists and speakers were: Atty. Jonas Leones, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); Mr. Benjamin Villacorte, Partner, SGV & Co.’s Financial Accounting Advisory Services (FAAS) and Climate Change and Sustainability Services (CCaSS); Atty. Angela Edralin-Valencia, Director for ecoloop, Republic Cement Services Inc.; and Commissioner Crispian



Lao, Vice Chairman, National Solid Waste Management Commission under the Office of the President.

Also joining the event as our host and moderator was Atty. Denya Gracia Uy-Anastacio, Vice President and Head of Government and Industry Affairs of Nestlé Philippines. Chairperson of the ECCP Environment and Water Committee, Ms. Maria Christine Ponce-Garcia, meanwhile provided the welcoming remarks.

We likewise thank Spaces World Plaza, BGC for hosting the venue of our event!

ECCP Luncheon Meeting with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma

20 July 2023

On July 20 at Dusit Thani Manila, the ECCP together with Event Partner Villaraza & Angangco Law, held a Luncheon Meeting with keynote speaker Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma.

In his keynote speech, Secretary Laguesma highlighted the government’s priorities and plans to enhance human capital development, and further improve the labor and employment landscape in the Philippines.

During the forum discussion, the Secretary also touched on points such as how to improve the capacity of labor administration authorities to implement and enforce labor standards and social and welfare legislation.

Adding their much-needed insights to the forum was Mr. Khalid Hassan, Country Director for the Philippines International Labour Organization. Mr. Hassan highlighted key policy areas for consideration, such as enhancement of gender-inclusive approaches and ways to further strengthen social dialogue between workers and employers.

Serving as host and moderator of the event was Atty. Rashel Ann Pomoy, Partner at Villaraza & Angangco Law.



FMI - Source Fashion UK 16-18 July 2023

It has been an eventful week as well for the ECCP's subsidiary FMI - Fairs & More, Inc. as they made their official debut at Source Fashion UK last July 16 to July 18!

Led by Senior International Trade Fairs Officer Dawn Cabigon and International Trade Fairs & Events Associate Samantha Aguirre, the FMI team brought the best of local craftsmanship and design to the international stage together with their Philippine exhibitors.

It was truly an exciting three days as they networked with fellow responsible manufacturers and suppliers from 25 countries, and forged new connections to pave the way for even more collaborations!

Congratulations to our FMI team!



ECCP President Attended SONA and Interviewed by CNN Philippines 24 July 2023

ECCP President, Mr. Paulo Duarte, attended the State of the Nation Address (SONA) of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. last 24 July 2023. At the SONA, President Marcos Jr. identified the administration's overall economic priorities: increase production, boost industries, enhance infrastructure, and promote food, education, health, jobs, and social protection.

In the evening, Mr. Duarte sat down with CNN Philippines' The Final Word with Rico Hizon to give his perspective on how foreign businesses in the Philippines will respond to President Bongbong Marcos' second State of the Nation Address.



Building a healthier Philippines: Accelerating Joint Efforts to Advance the Nutrition Agenda 27 July 2023

On July 27, 2023, the ECCP and its Food and Beverage committee hosted the second run of its nutrition forum, "Building a Healthier Philippines: Accelerating Joint Efforts to Advance the Nutrition Agenda" at Dusit Thani Manila.

To shed a spotlight on the triple burden of malnutrition, as well as other related issues such as unhealthy eating practices and lack of access to healthy food, the session was joined by the following experts and key speakers from the food and nutrition sector: Atty. Baldr Bringas, Assistant Secretary for Innovations, Department of Social Welfare and Development; Dr. Azucena Milana-Dayanghirang, MD, MCH, CESO III, Assistant Secretary and Executive Director of National Nutrition Council - Department of Health; Director Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa, Director, Food and Nutrition Research Institute of Department of Science and Technology; Caitlin Punzalan, Corporate and Government Affairs Lead at Mondelez Philippines, Inc.; Dr. Melissa Guerrero, Health Specialist, World Bank; and Dr. Cecilia S. Acuin, MD, PhD, Nutrition Technical Adviser in the Philippines, World Bank.



The panel discussion also delved into important topics, such as current government programs and initiatives to address malnutrition and ensure food security, other key policies and interventions to further the Nutrition Agenda, and how to tackle more nutrition issues on a global scale.

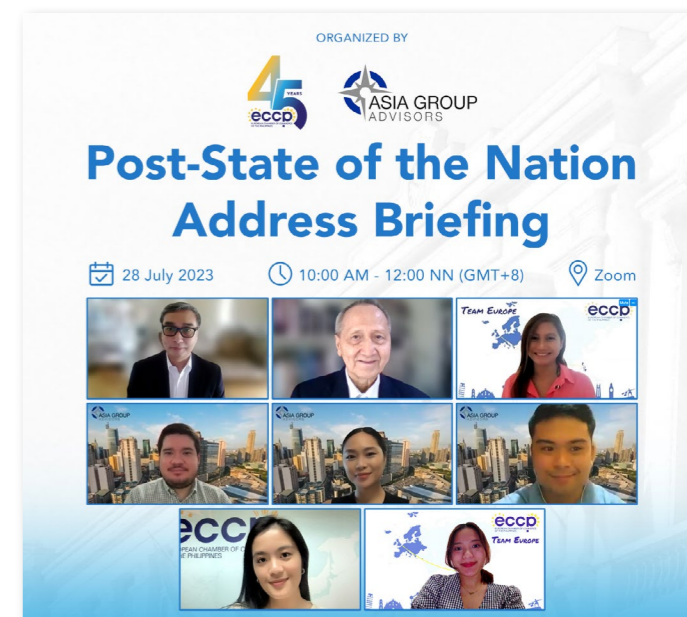
Moreover, the event was hosted by ECCP Vice President Ms. Helen Grace Baisa. ECCP President Mr. Paulo Duarte was also present to give his welcoming remarks.

The event is organized in partnership with Advocacy Lead Mondelez Philippines Inc. and Advocacy Supporters Charmant Ingredients Corporation, Vouno Trade and Marketing Services Corporation, and Unilever Philippines.

Post-State of the Nation Address Briefing 28 July 2023

Last July 28, President Bongbong Marcos delivered the second State of the Nation Address (SONA) of his term. Earlier today, the ECCP and AGA Philippines organized the Post-State of the Nation Briefing webinar to provide further insight following the President's speech.

AGA Philippines Senior Advisor Ricky Carandang and UA&P Strategic Business Economics Program Director Dr. Vic Abola provided a concise summary of the major themes, priorities, and announcements made by the Philippine government during the SONA; analyzed the potential implications of the SONA announcements on the business landscape, regulatory environment, and investment opportunities within the Philippines; as well as addressed participants' specific concerns and clarifications regarding the topics covered during the SONA.



KICKstart: First ECCP YPC Fitness Meetup 3 August 2023

Muay Thai, anyone?

Last August 3, the ECCP Young Professionals Committee (YPC) took on an exhilarating fitness meetup at Tiger Muay Thai, Makati!

It was the perfect escape after a long work week, as we let our minds rest and put our bodies to the ultimate test. From high-energy muay thai and boxing sessions to the mesmerizing Wai Kru Ram Mhuay ceremony, we definitely had a great time deep diving into the vibrant world of Muay Thai!



Wellness First: How to Have a Healthy Mind and Body 10 August 2023

Here's to prioritizing our health, reducing fatigue, and elevating our quality of life!

On August 10, the ECCP Women in Business Committee together with 360 Fit Teams Ph organized an uplifting wellness session, "Wellness First: How to Have a Healthy Mind and Body", right from the comfort of our screens!

Guided by mentor Ms. Dinah Salonga, the virtual gathering served as a rejuvenating session to let go of tension and unlock the flow of energy within our minds and bodies.

We delved into boosting stress and fatigue tolerance, learned invigorating energy revitalization exercises, and practiced soothing breathing techniques.

In today's bustling world, stress can creep up from all corners of life. Let's continue to support each other in our wellness journeys!



ECCP inks MOA with The Manila Times 22 August 2023

On August 22, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) entered an official partnership with The Manila Times.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by ECCP President Paulo Duarte, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, and The Manila Times President and Chief Operating Officer Blanca Mercado.

By merging ECCP's expertise in fostering robust business environments and The Manila Times' reputation as a leading news source, this partnership aims to empower stakeholders across industries, drive economic growth, and foster informed business decision-making.



Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic (Greece) in the Philippines 22 August 2023

On August 22, ECCP President Paulo Duarte and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein conducted a courtesy visit to the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic (Greece) in the Philippines, where they had the privilege of meeting H.E. Ionnis Peditotis.

During the visit, fruitful discussions took place concerning potential collaborations between the Embassy of Greece and the Chamber, with a focus on enhancing European-Philippine business relations.



ECCP Board Meeting 24 August 2023

On August 24, the ECCP convened for its board meeting, engaging in insightful discussions regarding the Chamber's recent accomplishments and strategic trajectories for the upcoming months.

Afterwards, in a heartwarming gathering, the board members and officers shared a dinner where they expressed their gratitude and best wishes to former ECCP President Mr. Lars Wittig.

The occasion not only exemplified our commitment to organizational excellence but also showcased the deep camaraderie and appreciation that define our ECCP family!

In attendance were (from L-R): ECCP Director for Projects, Events, and Training Gerry Constantino; Roche Philippines General Manager Dr. Diana Edralin; Raffles / Fairmont Makati Area General Manager Philippines Bernd Schneider; ECCP President Paulo Duarte; former ECCP President Lars Wittig; ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein; Michael Page Philippines Regional Director & Country Head Mr. Albert Perez; ECCP Vice President Roman Menz; ECCP Vice President Helen Grace Baisa; ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Gen Anaquita and ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordon.



Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of Finland in Manila, an esteemed ECCP member

25 August 2023

On August 25, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein and ECCP Director for Projects, Events, and Training Gerry Constantino conducted a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Finland in Manila, an esteemed ECCP member. During this visit, they had the honor of engaging with Deputy Head of Mission Veera Kaarela and Tuuli Pulkinnen.

The meeting provided a valuable platform to discuss the Chamber's advocacies, upcoming initiatives, and explore new avenues for collaboration. The strong partnership and mutual support between ECCP and the Embassy of Finland underscore our commitment to working together towards shared goals.



Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of Sweden in Manila

25 August 2023

Last August 25, ECCP President Paulo Duarte and Executive Director Florian Gottein had a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Sweden in Manila.

In the company of H.E Ambassador Annika Thunborg and Senior Trade Promotion Officer Giselle Yap, the meeting became an avenue for fruitful exchanges. Discussions revolved around ECCP's exciting upcoming plans and on potential synergies between the two organizations to further strengthen the dynamic relationship between Sweden and the Philippines.



How to Import Goods into the Philippines

30 August 2023

On August 30, the ECCP Competency Hub, together with CEI Cargo OPC and official digital media partner Globaltronics, organized its hybrid training "How to Import Goods into the Philippines" at Makati Diamond Residences and via ZOOM.

The session was truly an engaging and insightful learning journey to empower current and future importers on how to properly navigate the complex world of importing goods. The seminar not only provided a comprehensive step-by-step guide, but also shared practical experiences and best practices in the importation business!

Leading the session was Ms. Dee Ledonio, Owner and CEO of CEI Cargo OPC. She was joined by guest speakers Mr. Arnaldo dela Torre Jr., Chief of Board of Customs NAIA - Customs Bonded Warehouse Division; Mr. Baltazar Pulita, Licensed Customs Broker and Brokerage Manager of CEI Cargo OPC; and Mr. Julius Artiche, Operations Officer of Board of Customs NAIA - Supervising Customs.



Inside ECCP: Cebu

Courtesy Tour with Aboitiz InfraCapital at the "West Cebu Estate"

1 July 2023

The West Cebu Estate is a mixed-use estate centered around industrial activities, particularly shipbuilding supply chain integration, and designed to foster collaborative development and attract increased investment not only in the Balamban municipality but also in neighboring areas of Toledo and Asturias. With the support and expertise of Aboitiz InfraCapital, Inc. in the region, a concrete development plan for the West Cebu Estate will play a crucial role in driving economic growth, fostering industry development, establishing essential infrastructure, supporting regional advancement, enhancing global competitiveness, and delivering socio-economic benefits to this strategic location.



In photo (L-R): Sales & Leasing Manager of Aboitiz InfraCapital Economic Estates Ms. Kristine Sia, Owner & Principal Architect of Bottega 8290 Architectural Design Services Ar. Robert Malayao, Market Analyst and sustainability Consultant of GRMCS Ms. Erika Sarmiento, CEO of Mercedes-Benz Group Services Philippines, Inc. Mr. Jochen Bitzer, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer, Ms. Jillian Sitchon, AVP of AppleOne Properties, Inc. Official Ms. Valeiry Flores, and Sales and Leasing Officer of Aboitiz Infracapital, Inc. Ms. Alexa Lauza

Digital Marketing: From Zero to Hero covered Module 2: HTML Basics & Content Marketing

5 July 2023

ECCP - Cebu and Kapwa Marketing conducted the 2nd module of Digital Marketing: From Zero to Hero. The session focused on the fundamentals of HTML, such as HTML syntax, tags, and elements, as well as practices and strategies of modern content marketing. The session was led by Mr. John Reuth, CEO of Kapwa Marketing.



Launching of the Philippines office of “The German Mittelstand - BVMW”
14 July 2023

The ECCP Cebu Branch was present at the launching of the Philippine office of The German Mittelstand - BMVW. The BVMW is a politically independent association that caters to all commercial branches and professions and represents the interests of small and medium-sized businesses in politics, with administrative authorities, trade unions, and major companies. Furthermore, the BVMW's objectives include concentrating the lobbying power of small and medium-sized businesses and fighting for improved economic and political frameworks at national and regional levels; all of which, serve as relevant goals for small and medium enterprises in the Philippines given that said companies comprise 99.5% of total Philippine enterprises and support 63% of the country's workforce.

The launching ceremony was spearheaded by the Representatives of The German Mittelstand for the



Philippines, Mr. Matthis Merzhäuser and Mr. Arnaldo Baltazar S. Diez, CEO of Sprach Institut-Cebu Inc. Also present were Mr. Charles Kenneth Co, President of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Andreas Jahn, Member of the Federal Corporate Management Politics and Foreign Trade of the German Mittelstand, BVMW, Germany among others.

ECCP-FMI prepares for the three upcoming international trade fairs
27 July 2023

Last July 27, International Trade Fairs Associate Naomi Rivera, and Senior International Trade Fairs Officer Dawn visited the regional office of Cebu to conduct an exclusive briefing of three (3) upcoming international trade fairs this 2023 (SOURCE HOME & GIFT AT AUTUMN FAIR, Birmingham, UK: September 3 - 6, 2023; GAMESCOM ASIA, Singapore: October 19 - 21, 2023; and ISM MIDDLE EAST, Dubai: November 7 - 9, 2023)

The International Trade Fairs briefing was held at the Regus Office, Park Centrale Bldg., Jose Maria del Mar St., cor. Abad St., Cebu IT Park Cebu City, on July 27.

These international fairs are being handled by Fairs and More Inc., a subsidiary of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), is the official Philippine Representative Office of Deutsche Messe, Koelnmesse, and Messe München. Headquartered in Germany, these fair organizers are some of the world's leading and largest companies that operate internationally recognized trade fairs on consumer goods, electronics, information technologies, food & beverage, building materials and various industries around the globe.



ECCP Cebu together with the ECCP Fairs & More Inc. paid a Courtesy Visit to Abomar Equipment Sales Corporation and Chocolate Chamber
27 July 2023

On the same day of the International Trade Fairs Briefing, the ECCP Team had a courtesy meeting with the Abomar Equipment Sales Corporation to present the upcoming International Trade Fair on Source Home & Gift At the Autumn Fair in Birmingham, UK on September 3 - 6, 2023.

The ECCP Team has presented shows, and business opportunities relating to agriculture for the upcoming International Trade Fairs which could help Abomar Equipment Sales Corp to strengthen their network and relationship in the international market. It can also become leverage for locally produced equipment to have an international mark in the foreign arena.

In photo (L-R: Events Associate Naomi Rivera, Senior International Trade Fairs Officer Dawn Cabigon, Mr. Danilo Palomar, Managing Director of Abomar Equipment Sales Corporation, and CCP Cebu Branch Officer Jillian Sitchon)

That evening, the ECCP Team paid a courtesy visit to the Chocolate Chamber to invite them to the ISM MIDDLE EAST in Dubai on November 7 - 9, 2023. The meeting fostered local and international ties as the Chocolate Queen and Chocolate Princess opened their doors for international social engagements, boosting locally produced cacao and chocolate artisans.



In Photo (L-R: Jillian Sitchon of ECCP Cebu, Dawn Cabigon of ECCP International Trade Fairs, Raquel Toquero-Choa aka The Chocolate Queen of the Chocolate Chamber, Naomi Rivera of ECCP International Trade Fairs, Hannah Mae Toquero Choa aka The Chocolate Princess of the Chocolate Chamber, and Edu Pantino of The Chocolate Chamber).

Converge ICT Solutions paid a courtesy visit at ECCP - Cebu Branch
28 July 2023

A Premium Member of ECCP came to visit to discuss collaboration between ECCP Visayas and Converge ICT Solutions Inc. in bringing world-class ICT solutions that empower people, businesses, and the nation to be their best.

In photo (L-R): Mr. Mark Rabadon, Senior Marketing Services Specialist of Converge ICT Solutions Inc.; Ms. Jillian Sitchon, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer; Ms. Learnie Conanan, Senior Partner Relations Specialist of Converge ICT Solutions Inc.; and Ms. Sheridan Tan, ECCP Cebu Assistant Branch Officer.



Leechiu Property Consultants, Inc. recently convened a highly significant meeting with the ECCP Cebu team and ECCP Cebu Associate Member, Bottega 8290 Architectural Studio

9 August 2023

The meeting marked the commencement of an exciting chapter in the collaboration between ECCP and Leechiu Property Consultants, Inc. With a shared vision of introducing groundbreaking real estate solutions to the ever-evolving business landscape, the discussion revolved around identifying synergies that would not only meet but surpass the swiftly evolving needs of modern commerce. This promising partnership signifies a joint commitment to 'future-proofing,' where both entities leverage their respective expertise to forge innovative pathways for their clients and partners.

One tangible outcome of this productive gathering is the forthcoming pocket learning session titled "Reimagining Workspaces: A Comprehensive Briefing on Future-Proofing Office Design, Workplace Culture, and Property Trends in the Philippines." This enlightening event is scheduled for August 31, 2023, on the 16th Floor of the prestigious Mabuhay Tower, nestled in the heart of Cebu Business Park, Cebu City.

Following this session, attendees can look forward to a mini-networking event that promises to blend business discussions with conviviality, creating an atmosphere where 'Business and Beers' coalesce. It's an occasion not to be missed, where professionals can exchange

ISO 21001:2018 Educational Organizations Management Systems Awareness Training in Partnership with Bureau Veritas

10 August 2023

We are pleased to share the successful execution of an awareness training session, conducted in partnership with Bureau Veritas, designed specifically to equip academic institutions and organizations with comprehensive knowledge pertaining to the ISO 21001:2018 standard. The session encompassed a thorough exploration of the standard's definition, structural intricacies, associated benefits, and its fundamental principles. The venue for this event was the esteemed Seda Ayala Center in Cebu.

This initiative was undertaken in recognition of the pressing need to empower academic institutions and organizations with an in-depth understanding of ISO 21001:2018. This imperative arises from the ever-evolving technological landscape that the education sector is compelled to adapt to, in order to remain relevant and competitive. Guided by the



In photo (L-R): Bobby Apas, Senior Manager of Leechiu Property Consultants, Inc.; Sheridan Tan, Asst. Branch Officer of ECCP Cebu; Ar. Nheil Crisostomo, Owner/Principal Architect of Bottega 8290 Architectural Studio; Claire Llaban, Data Analyst of Leechiu Property Consultants, Inc.; Phillip Añonuevo, Executive Director of Leechiu Property Consultants, Inc.; and Jillian Sitchon, Branch Officer of ECCP Cebu.

ideas, foster connections, and savor the camaraderie of like-minded individuals.

In summary, this landmark collaboration between ECCP Cebu and Leechiu Property Consultants, Inc. signifies a significant step forward in reshaping the real estate and business landscape in the Philippines. It promises to usher in a new era of innovative solutions and a collaborative spirit that will undoubtedly benefit clients, partners, and the industry at large. Don't miss the chance to be part of this exciting journey towards 'future-proofing' in the realm of business and real estate.



profound expertise of Mr. Bobby Jones Domdom, the ISO 21001:2018 training provided attendees with illuminating morning and afternoon sessions.

A notable highlight of the event was the collective acknowledgment among educational professionals regarding the significance of embracing digital innovation as a linchpin for continuous growth and the augmentation of the learning experience. This training session served as a pivotal step in furthering our commitment to fostering excellence within the educational sector through compliance with globally recognized standards.

Visayas Joint Foreign Chamber Mixer

11 August 2023

Co-organized alongside other Visayas foreign chambers, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Cebu held the Visayas Foreign Chamber Mixer last Friday, August 11, 2023, at the BMW Showroom Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Present at the event were representatives from the various Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the Visayas region. Notably, participating companies and private sectors engaged in our engaging raffle draws, which not only enriched their experiences but also fostered valuable business relationships—both on local and international fronts.

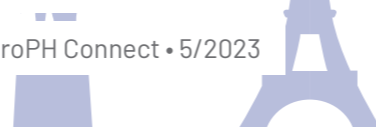
This gathering presents an exceptional opportunity to commemorate achievements and foster meaningful connections with like-minded individuals. Notably, the event attracts distinguished guests from various industries, including foreign chambers, influential figures in the business and diplomatic sectors, as well as esteemed government officials. Join us in celebrating accomplishments and engaging with prominent individuals in the international relations field over an exquisite assortment of canapés and cocktails, creating a delightful ambiance for attendees to forge both personal and professional alliances.

This event has not only forged new connections with its attendees but has also showcased camaraderie among local and international businesses operating in Cebu. Aside from the networking opportunities, the ECCP Team has only organized Raffle games among the attendees to spike up the celebration which Raffles winners get to enjoy sponsored vacations from Atlantis Dive Resort and Liveboards, Bellevue Resort, Belmont Hotel Mactan, Parklane International Hotel, and Parklane Bohol Resort and Spa. Coffee and Cafe perks are also raffled among the attendees which were sponsored by Beanleaf and La Panetteria Di Luigi



by ATIJ Corporation, and Tuburan Coffee. To lighten up the mood, Charles and James together with D+B Wines partnered with ECCP for the liquor and wine supplies. Special thanks to Yello! Hotel who became an Event Partner for the 2023 Visayas Foreign Chamber Mixer.

Join us again next year in celebrating accomplishments and engaging with prominent individuals in the international relations field over an exquisite assortment of canapés and cocktails, creating a delightful ambiance for attendees to forge both personal and professional alliances.



Inside ECCP: CDO

Bamboo Production Workshop: Growing and Processing Bamboo

7 July 2023

The ECCP Cagayan de Oro/Northern Mindanao Branch held a production workshop on Bamboo Processing at Casa Nenecitas, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. This workshop aimed to help participants gain a working knowledge of the fundamentals and intricacies of growing bamboo and processing them in preparation for sales.



Inside ECCP: Davao

Psychological First Aid in the Workplace

30 June 2023

ECCP Davao culminated its training on "Psychological First Aid in the Workplace" via Zoom.

Led by the esteemed Mr. De Mar Bangeles, In-Charge of the Office of Guidance and Counseling at Holy Cross of Davao College, this session shed light on the importance of understanding and addressing critical incidents in the workplace.

Participants also delved into the reasons behind such incidents and discovered how supervisors, managers, human resource personnel, and other members of the workforce can play a crucial role in minimizing the impact of highly stressful events on employees.



ECCP Davao Participated in The 7th Davao Investment Conference

19 July 2023

ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Chairman Mr. Antonio Peralta served as one of the panelists during the 7th Davao Investment Conference - Davao ICON held at the SMX Convention Center, SM Lanang Premier, Davao City.

With a session theme, "Envisioning Davao's Future: Fearless Forecast and What Lies Beyond," Mr. Peralta underscored that Davao Region is seen to sustain its positive and vibrant economic growth, even surpassing its Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) pre-pandemic levels.

While enabling mechanisms are in place, he further highlighted the need to eliminate roadblocks by actively promoting Mindanao as a peaceful, safe, and investment-ready island-region. Further, he also sees the development of infrastructure, strengthening of supply chains, and increasing of export competitiveness through certification as vital steps towards achieving sustainable and inclusive growth.

Various ECCP members also participated as exhibitors at the event, namely DamosaLand, Converge, Eastern Communications, Bioskin Philippines, and Davao Light and Power Co.

The Davao ICon is organized by the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



ECCP Davao Honored with a Token of Appreciation from HCDC

21 July 2023

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines - Southern Mindanao Business Council (ECCP-SMBC) was honored with a token of appreciation from the Holy Cross of Davao College (HCDC) on July 21, 2023, during its 'Pasalamat 2023' event.

Along with other private and public institutions, the ECCP, through HCDC, was recognized as an education mission partner of the Archdiocese of Davao for its invaluable support and unwavering commitment in furthering the mission of education, and thereby helping shape the lives of the youth and contribute to the betterment of the society. Mr. Antonio Peralta, Chairman of ECCP-SMBC, accepted the token on behalf of the Council.

In his message, Mr. Peralta highlighted the significant collaborations of ECCP and HCDC, particularly the establishment of the latter's Institute of ASEAN-European Studies (IAES), the Ambassador's Lecture Series, training and education programs, among other initiatives.

HCDC stands as one of the active and good-standing Higher Education Institution (HEI) members of the ECCP under its Education Advocacy Committee.

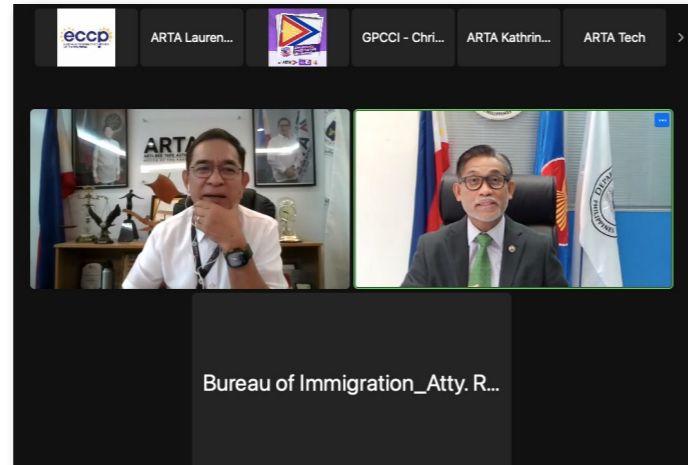


Advocacy Corner

Anti-Red Tape Authority Clarificatory Meeting on the Visa Application Process for Foreign Nationals

7 July 2023

The ECCP participated in a clarificatory meeting on the visa application process for foreign Nationals with the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) and other key stakeholders. At the session held on 7 July via Zoom, the group identified present bottlenecks in the visa application process for foreign nationals as well as discussed possible ways forward for improvement. The issue hampers the promotion of the country as a top tourism and investment destination, and runs counter to Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.



ECCP Environment and Water Committee Meeting

12 July 2023

The ECCP Environment and Water had the opportunity to meet with Atty. Dilbert Quetulio, Committee Secretary of the House Committee on Ecology last 12 July at Alaska Milk Corporation's Head Office. During the committee meeting, Atty. Quetulio shared the committee's priority legislation for the coming years. The committee members led by chairperson, Ms. Maria Christine Ponce-Garcia handed over the 2023 ECCP Advocacy Paper containing the Environment and Water Committee's policy recommendations as well as discussed possible areas of collaboration.



Joint ECCP Food and Beverage, Customs, and Logistics Committee Meeting

13 July 2023

On 13 July, the ECCP committees on Food and Beverage, Customs, and Logistics had the opportunity to meet with the Food and Drug Administration and the Bureau of Customs on the topic of regulatory alignment. The FDA was represented by none other than Dr. Samuel Zacate, Director General; Mr. Timothy Moises Mendoza, Center for Food Research and Regulation; Ms. Gemmie Rose P. Zabala, Field Regulatory Operations Office; Daniella Anne Nicole De Vera, Office of the Director General; and Engr. Fatima Barajan, Office of the Director General.

Meanwhile, the BOC was represented by Atty. Clarence Dizon, Director of the Port Operations Service; Atty. Ferdinand Pauig, Acting Chief, Port Operations Coordinating Division, AOCG; and Atty. Jinny Apostol, Attorney III, Legal Service, RCMG and Port Operations Service, AOCG.

During the meeting, DG Zacate shared current initiatives of the FDA to address bottlenecks in the food sector as well as future plans of the agency to further improve ease of doing business in the Philippines. Similarly, Atty. Dizon also discussed the



BOC's priority plans and programs relative to trade facilitation and to promote ease of doing business. The committee members led by the ECCP Food and Beverage Committee, Chairperson and ECCP Vice President, Ms. Helen Grace Baisa handed over the 2023 ECCP Advocacy Paper containing the committees' policy recommendations as well as discussed areas of concern and possible areas of collaboration.

ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee Meeting

18 July 2023

On 18 July, the ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) Committee members gathered for a hybrid meeting held at the Divina Law Office and via Zoom. At the said meeting, the key discussion points were the 2nd Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP) and the prospects for floating solar in open sea. The members also had an exchange on recent developments, as well as the committee's recommendations on energy efficiency and energy transition.



ECCP Aviation Committee meeting with the Airline Operators Council (AOC)

21 July 2023

The ECCP Aviation Committee met with the Airline Operators Councils (AOC) of Manila and Cebu last 21 July via Zoom. The group had a productive exchange on key airline issues and challenges in the Philippines. The Committee also had the opportunity to share its advocacy recommendations for the aviation industry as well as discuss the forthcoming Aviation Summit.

Joining the Aviation Committee members at the meeting were AOC Manila Chairperson Mr. Allan Nepomuceno, AOC Cebu Vice Chairperson Ms. Elaine Oracion, and AOC Cebu Former Chairperson Mr. Raymund Hicarte.



'The Philippines' Utilization of the EU GSP+ Scheme: Lessons Learned and Way Forward' – Roundtable Dialogue

25 July 2023

The ECCP, represented by Ms. Helen Grace Baisa, Vice President, participated at the ARISE Plus Philippines Roundtable Dialogue on the utilisation of the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) on 25 July 2023. The roundtable dialogue covered keynote speeches and presentations on the Philippines' utilisation of the EU GSP+ scheme, as well as exchanges on lessons learned in terms of maximising the GSP+ scheme, and policy responses to address challenges/constraints faced and strengthen utilisation of opportunities in the EU market.



Post-SONA Philippine Economic Briefing

26 July 2023

The ECCP participated at the Post-SONA Philippine Economic Briefing last 26 July, held at the PICC, which was attended by government, private sector, academic, and media representatives. At the said briefing, economic managers, economists and industry experts shared their views on the country's economic performance and outlook, as well as policies to sustain growth momentum.



PH-EU Press Briefing with DTI Secretary Alfredo Pascual

1 August 2023

ECCP President, Mr. Paulo Duarte, participated as a panelist together with Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual and Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo at the PH-EU Press Briefing held at the DTI-Board of Investments Office on 01 August. This press briefing was organised following the announcement of the exploration of EU-PH Free Trade Agreement negotiations during the official visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

At the said briefing, ECCP expressed that it highly welcomes the resumption of negotiations on the EU-PH Free Trade Agreement, with the Chamber having advocated for the strengthened bilateral relations of the European Union and the Philippines. The Chamber



also underscored its various initiatives to leverage such trade agreement as a mechanism to address market access issues, improve the business climate, as well as consolidate the position of the EU as an important trade partner for the Philippines.

Ecosystem Development for Sustainable Travel & Tourism

2 August 2023

The European Business Organization Worldwide Network - ASEAN including the ECCP and its partner Booking.com conducted the webinar titled "Ecosystem Development for Sustainable Travel & Tourism" on 2 August, 4:00 PM, via Zoom. The virtual event gathered industry experts to share insights on sustainable travel and tourism as well as discuss the role of government and the private sector in promoting sustainability.

At the webinar, Booking.com Head of Public Affairs for APAC highlighted the focus group discussions (FGD) held by the EBOWWN ASEAN last year on the topic. Joining as panelists were Hotel & Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP) Chairman & President Atty. Eugene T. Yap, Booking.com Head of Sustainability Danielle D'Silva, Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur General Manager Olivier Lenoir, Lufthansa Group General Manager Singapore, Malaysia, & Brunei Philipp Bonkatz, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Executive Director of The Americas Region Department Titiporn Manenante. The panel discussion was moderated by EuroCham Singapore Sustainability Committee Co-Chairperson and Paia Consulting Director Corrado Forcellati.



Lumpur General Manager Olivier Lenoir, Lufthansa Group General Manager Singapore, Malaysia, & Brunei Philipp Bonkatz, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Executive Director of The Americas Region Department Titiporn Manenante. The panel discussion was moderated by EuroCham Singapore Sustainability Committee Co-Chairperson and Paia Consulting Director Corrado Forcellati.

NEDA Special Meeting of the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs

7 August 2023

The ECCP was represented at the Special Meeting of the Stakeholders' Chamber on SDG last 07 August 2023. At the said meeting, the new Chamber members took their pledges, and the NEDA Secretariat discussed the three-year roadmap and PH-Open Government Partnership Commitments. Information on the Working Groups, as well as the election of the Group leads were also conducted.



JFC meeting with PEZA Director General Tereso Panga

8 August 2023

The ECCP, represented by Board Director Albert Perez, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Co-Chair Ruth Yu-Owen, and Associate Director Sophia Ordon, participated in the Joint Foreign Chambers meeting with PEZA Director General Tereso Panga last 08 August 2023. Key developments and priorities of the PEZA, as well as concerns of JFC member companies were discussed at the said meeting. Moreover, the JFC talked about the group's priority legislation including CREATE and PEZA Act Amendments for Hybrid/Flexible Work Schedules.



BIR-JFC Multi-Sectoral Group MOA Signing

8 August 2023

ECCP Assistant Corporate Secretary, Atty. Peter Calimag, participated in the BIR-Business Sector Working Group Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing held last 08 August 2023 at the BIR Office. The goal of the Memorandum of Agreement is to establish a Working Group that will engage in regular communication and consultations to guide and advise on the drafting of key Revenue Issues, as well as to facilitate and ensure compliance by the business sector.



World Bank Meeting with ECCP President

11 August 2023

ECCP President, Mr. Paulo Duarte, had a meeting with World Bank Program Leader, Mr. Gonzalo Varela, as well as Mr. Luis Abad, Senior Private Sector Specialist, to talk about the Chamber's views on the trade and investment climate in the Philippines, as well as its advocacy priorities in line with economic development and productivity. The group also discussed the World Bank's views and prospects for the Philippine economy. The meeting was also joined by Ms. Sophia Ordon, ECCP Associate Director, Ms. Katt Baligod, ECCP Manager for Industry and Government Affairs, and Mr. Diego Bautista from the Corporate Communications and Brand Management of Bosch Philippines.



JFC Meeting with World Bank on logistics and renewable energy

11 August 2023

ECCP Transportation and Logistics Committee Chair, Mr. Michael Raeuber, and ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee Co-Chair, Atty. Jay Layug, participated at the Joint Foreign Chambers Meeting with the World Bank on Logistics and Renewable Energy. At the said meeting, the group had a comprehensive and insightful discussion on the state of the logistics and renewable energy sectors. The World Bank and JFC representatives likewise had an exchange on areas for collaboration, as well as recommendations on further improving the business environment.



Real Estate Committee Meeting

17 August 2023

Last 17 August, the ECCP and its Real Estate Committee held its first ever Committee Meeting at the LPC Office and via Zoom. Guest speaker Mr. Alfred Lay, LPC Director for Residential Sales and Leasing, shared about Tourism-Driven Commercial Real Estate to the committee members. The members also had an exchange on recent developments, as well as the committee's activities in the next few months.



JFC Meeting with Private Sector Advisory Council Chair Mr. Sabin Aboitiz

29 August 2023

Last 29 August, the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines met with Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) Chair Mr. Sabin Aboitiz at the Corinthian Plaza Bldg. Mr. Aboitiz had an introduction of PSAC, its members, and its committees: Agriculture, ICT, Healthcare, Infrastructure, Tourism, and Jobs. He also presented the priority policies and flagship programs of PSAC. Likewise, JFC representatives discussed the group's priority legislation and other policy measures of concern.



New Members Corner

Corporate Partners



Asia Group Advisors

Asia Group Advisors (AGA) is the premier public affairs firm supporting global businesses in Asia's dynamic markets. We leverage a deep understanding of our clients' business and commercial imperatives in the countries where they operate; we act as partners and local representatives and our approach is pragmatic, customized, and proactive. Our consultants bring a wealth of industry knowledge, gleaned from supporting businesses across a wide range of sectors on their most pressing policy and regulatory issues. With eight offices and an extensive network of affiliates and partners, our consultants are creative, dedicated problem-solvers who have deep, long-standing networks in their respective markets and a nuanced understanding of local context.

Regular Members



AmeeraTel, Inc.

AmeeraTel is a complete provider of outsourcing solutions. It combines the latest state-of-the-art technology with quality customer care and commitment to excellence. Distinguishing itself as a powerhouse in the field, AmeeraTel offers premium call center services, strategic marketing prowess, and cutting-edge IT support – all tailored to align seamlessly with clients' needs.



DSV Air & Sea, Inc.

DSV provides and manages supply chain solutions for thousands of companies every day – from the small family-run business to the large global corporation. 45,000 employees in more than 80 countries work passionately to deliver great customer experiences and high-quality services – and help ensure a steady supply of goods to production lines, outlets, stores, and consumers all over the world.

DSV is organized into three divisions offering a complete range of services to support our customers' entire supply chain:

- Air & Sea – transportation by air and sea
- Road – transportation by road
- Solutions – warehousing and logistics services



Embassy of Hungary Manila

The Embassy of Hungary in Manila is the focal point for the increasingly strengthening ties between Hungary and the Philippines, as well as accredited countries from the region: Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.



Dusit Thani Manila

Dusit Thani Manila is located in Makati City's premier business district. It has 500 guest rooms and suites, and an exclusive lounge for club guests – The Dusit Club. Facilities include two of Asia's best recreational hubs – DFIT Fitness Center and Devarana Spa. There are two gracious ballrooms, Sarika and Mayuree, and 10 well-appointed function rooms. Three specialty restaurants – Benjarong, Umu, and The Pantry serve the guests with unparalleled service and excellent gastronomic fare.

Associate Members



A7 Recruitment Corporation

A7 Recruitment Corporation is an all-Filipino-owned company that specializes in recruitment solutions. The company is dedicated to delivering innovative and budget-friendly recruitment services in the Philippines. What makes this company a unique asset in the industry is its consultative and relationship-based approach, ensuring sustained connections with its clients. The company excels in recruiting skilled professionals proficient in Microsoft Technologies, Web and Mobile Development Technologies, Legacy Technologies, IT Infrastructure Support, Client/Server Technologies, Business Analysis, Quality Assurance Testing, Project Management, and Packaged Software Implementation.



AI Amanah Islamic Investment Bank

AI Amanah Islamic Investment Bank is the only Islamic bank authorized in the Philippines to offer Islamic banking. It is also licensed to do both commercial and investment banking services, similar to a universal bank. AI-Amanah and the Department of Education signed a memorandum of understanding in 2019 to offer financial literacy programmes to students in public schools. The program's goals are to advance financial inclusion and increase student understanding of the foundations of banking and finance.



Flour Bakery and Brunch Cafe

A European-inspired restaurant and bakery offering premier bread and dishes in Iloilo City.



La Salle University - Ozamiz

La Salle University - Ozamiz is a reputable Catholic university founded by the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The university community, collectively and by association, provides quality, human, Christian education by instructing minds, touching hearts, and altering lives, all in the spirit of St. John Baptist De La Salle.



e-Konek Pilipinas, Inc.

e-Konek Pilipinas, Inc. is a software solutions company niching on providing technology tools for the supply chain industry. We develop and implement best-in-class computer systems for distribution, transport management, warehouse management, freight forwarding and trade regulatory clearances.

We are also a Value-Added Service Provider (VASP) accredited by the government agencies to accept lodgments and requests of e-documents like the Single Administrative Document, Transfer Permits, Import Permits, Admission Permits, Export Permits and such other electronic records necessary for the processing and clearance of trade-related goods.



Elite Global Sourcing Phil Inc.

ELITE GLOBAL SOURCING (ELITE) a premier global leader in turnkey Game Services and Solutions for the Mobile, Console, and PC gaming industry. Our corporate headquarters is strategically situated in the United States, with an extensive network of global operations centers spanning Brazil, South Korea, The Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand. At ELITE, we specialize in offering Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) solutions tailored to meet the unique needs of Game Developers and Publishers worldwide.



Advent Hospitality Manila / Mr. Andrew James Masigan



Roche flume Innovisage

Roche flume Innovisage stands as a dynamic, dedicated, and visionary image consultancy, renowned for its relentless pursuit of forward-thinking and groundbreaking approaches. Seamlessly merging cutting-edge strategies with astute image management, their unparalleled expertise empowers individuals and brands alike, igniting a surge of inspiration and fueling a transformative wave of innovation. With an unwavering commitment to their clients' success, Roche flume Innovisage orchestrates the elevation of personal style and brand presence, masterfully guiding individuals, and organizations to distinguish themselves from the competition and seize unparalleled triumphs that leave an indelible mark on the world.



Macquarie Group Services (Philippines), Inc.

Macquarie is a global financial services group operating in 34 markets in asset management, retail and business banking, wealth management, leasing and asset financing, market access, commodity trading, renewables development, specialist advisory, capital raising and principal investment.

The diversity of our operations, combined with a strong capital position and robust risk management framework, has contributed to our 54-year record of unbroken profitability.



Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

Formed in 1997 after the consortium of Benpres Holdings Corporation and Suez Lyonnaise de Eaux won the exclusive right to provide water and wastewater services in the West Zone of Metropolitan Manila. Before then, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) was in charge of providing these services. DMCI-MPIC Water Company, a joint venture between Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) and DMCI Holdings, Inc. (DMCI), won the competitive bidding and acquired 83.96 percent of Maynilad's shares.

On January 24, 2007, the new owners took over Maynilad and launched an aggressive five-year investment program to rehabilitate the company and its operations.

In 2013, Marubeni Corporation of Japan acquired a 20 percent stake in DMCI-MPIC Water Company and became a strategic partner of the Metro Pacific-DMCI consortium.



SGA - Solar Grid Alternatives Inc.

SGA founded in 2015, is now one of the leading solar energy solutions provider in the country. SGA is a one-stop-shop that uses high-quality equipment and superior technology from leading international brands. These solar energy solutions for our residential, commercial, and industrial installations help minimize our carbon footprint in the environment and help us fight climate change.

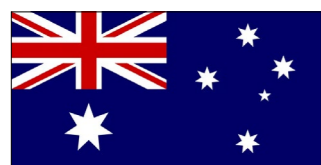


Business Opportunities



British Vitamin Company seeks a Distributor / Partner for award-winning ethical products

A British Vitamin Company seeks a Distributor / Partner for award-winning products including vitamins, minerals, herbs, nutritional oils, speciality supplements, tinctures and balms. They are looking for Philippine pharmaceutical companies or green, organic speciality stores that are open to distributing and retailing organic supplements produced from green business practices.



Australian Software Company is looking to partner with local IT companies

An Australian company, one of the world's leading suppliers of software solutions and services for asset finance, leasing, and fleet mobility management, is seeking partnerships with local IT companies which specializes in financial services. They would like to establish a partnership with a company that has already onboarded three core software engineers and two web engineers (Java Web Developers).



German recycling company is looking for suppliers of plastics or flakes for export

A German recycling company is in search of local suppliers (collectors, recyclers, traders, etc.) of plastics (PET, HDPE, PP, etc) or flakes for export to Taiwan.



Virtual Business Mission for Manufacturing Industry

The ECCP Business and Consultancy Services (BCS) would like to welcome all European companies in the Manufacturing Industry for a Virtual Business Mission in the Philippines!

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

2024 International Trade Fairs

JAN	<p>IMM COLOGNE Interior Design 14-18 Cologne, Germany</p> <p>ISM COLOGNE Sweet & Snacks 28-31 Cologne, Germany</p>	JULY	<p>SOURCE FASHION Fashion Olympia, London</p>
FEB	<p>SOURCE HOME & GIFT AT SPRING FAIR Gift & Home NEC, Birmingham 4-7 NEC, Birmingham</p> <p>F.R.EE Travel & Leisure 14-18 Munich, Germany</p> <p>SOURCE FASHION Fashion 18-20 Olympia, London</p>	AUG	<p>GAMESCOM Games & Entertainment Cologne, Germany</p>
MARCH	<p>THAIFEX HOREC ASIA Hotels, restaurants and cafes 6-8 Bangkok, Thailand</p> <p>ANUGA FOODTEC Food and Beverages 19-22 Cologne, Germany</p> <p>H+H COLOGNE Handicraft 22-24 Cologne, Germany</p>	SEPT	<p>ANUGA HORIZON Food & Beverages 3-5 Cologne, Germany</p> <p>ANUFOOD INDIA Food & Beverages Mumbai, India</p>
APRIL	<p>ANUGA SELECT BRAZIL Food & Beverages 9-11 Sao Paulo, Brazil</p> <p>CERAMITEC Ceramics 9-12 Munich, Germany</p>	OCT	<p>GAMESCOM ASIA Games & Entertainment Singapore</p>
MAY	<p>ANUGA SELECT JAPAN AND ISM JAPAN Food & Beverages 10-12 Tokyo, Japan</p> <p>ANUGA SELECT CHINA AND SIGEP CHINA Food and Beverages 17-19 Shenzhen, China</p> <p>IFAT BRASIL Technologies 24-26 Sao Paulo, Brazil</p> <p>FOOD & DRINK EXPO Food & Beverages 29- May 1 NEC, Birmingham</p>	NOV	<p>ELECTRONICA Technologies 12-15 Munich, Germany</p> <p>BAUMA CHINA Construction & Machinery 26-29 Shanghai, China</p> <p>ISM MIDDLE EAST Sweets & Snacks Dubai, UAE</p>
JUNE	<p>ALIMENTEC Food & Beverages 18-21 Bogota, Columbia</p> <p>INTERZUM FORUM ITALY Furniture & Interior Design 6-7 Bergamo, Italy</p>		

For more information, contact us at (632) 8845 1324 or events.fmi@eccp.com



Official Representative of



SEPTEMBER

E-LEARNING SESSION

CYBERSECURITY MASTERCLASS

July 20 - November 13 | 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM | via Zoom

E-LEARNING SESSION

EXPORTING TO EUROPE: CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR SME EXPORTERS

August 10 - December 12 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM | via Zoom

E-LEARNING SESSION

CERTIFIED LEAN SIX SIGMA YELLOW BELT BATCH 3

September 14 & 15 | 01:00 PM - 05:00 PM | via Zoom

E-LEARNING SESSION

CORPORATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

September 19 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM | via Zoom

UNLOCK THE FUTURE: EXPLORING THE GROWING IMPACTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

September 19 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 NN | via Zoom

ECCP LUNCHEON MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM SECRETARY CHRISTINA FRASCO

September 20 | 12:00 NN - 02:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila



E-LEARNING SESSION

NAVIGATING THE ROLE: BASIC SKILLS TRAINING FOR SUCCESSFUL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS

September 21 | 08:30 AM - 12:00 NN | via Zoom

THE FUTURE OF SMART BUILDINGS

September 21 | 02:00 PM - 04:00 PM | Leechiu Property Consultants, Makati

E-LEARNING SESSION

CUSTOMER CHURN RATE REDUCTION: TACTICS, STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES

September 25 | 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM | via Zoom

PLANT-BASED CULTURE FOR THE FUTURE: A SUSTAINABLE AND WHOLESOME BUSINESS VENTURE

September 25 | 01:30 PM - 03:30 PM | via Zoom

E-LEARNING SESSION

MODULE 5: DIGITAL MARKETING: FROM ZERO TO HERO

September 26 | 09:00 AM - 12:00 NN | via Zoom

2023 AVIATION SUMMIT

September 27 & 28 | Marriott Hotel Manila

E-LEARNING SESSION

ISO 30414:2018: HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

September 28 & 29 | 08:00 AM - 05:00 PM | via Zoom

