

EuroPH CONNECT

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

Issue on Food, Beverage, and Tourism

IN THIS ISSUE:

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- *Transparency and locality drive retail growth*

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Editorial

Dear reader,

We are more than halfway through the year but there is still much to look forward to. For one, the food, beverage, and tourism industries are showing a steady uptick as travel has reopened in most countries. The latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer states a 182% year-on-year increase in international tourism in Q1 of 2022 vs. Q1 of 2021. This figure shows that after more than two years of battling between back-and-forth travel restrictions and lockdowns, we are now seeing a reset of more resilient hotels and food and beverage businesses as they slowly open their doors to tourists from around the world.

As the tourism industry rebuilds itself, there is much to consider on how to make the sector even more responsible towards the people it affects and caters. Luckily, lessons on recovering from travel bans and coping with strict protocols are readily available across the world to help us usher in stronger and more sustainable post-pandemic communities and sectors.

In this latest EuroPH Connect issue, we invite you to read about the different topics of Food, Beverage, and Tourism. Take a look at pages 6 to 8 where we feature the Embassy of Poland and Ambassador Jarosław Szczepankiewicz as he shares his insights on the business relations between Poland and the Philippines as well as how the country coped with the changes in its food and beverage industry, as well as tourism protocols in Europe amidst the ongoing pandemic.

We also put the spotlight on the Department of Tourism Secretary, Hon. Maria Esperanza Christina Garcia Frasco as she weighs in on the recovery of the Tourism industry here in the Philippines and on the department's initiatives to address the challenges brought about by the pandemic which greatly affected the sector. Not only that, Sec. Frasco also provides insights on how to help bring back the tourism industry in the Philippines.

Among our ECCP members, take a look at Turkish Airlines as they share how to tour Istanbul with their latest package of Touristanbul. Learn more about this story on page 16. We also invite you to read about our Corporate Member, KPMG, as they share content on how transparency and locality will drive retail growth in the country. We also have the Ascott Limited share updates on the latest development by introducing their newest executive who will lead their establishment. To know more about this story, read about this on page 20.

On page 22, our member Pru Life UK shares news about their new agency workspace that won the Flexible Workspace Initiative of the Year award. With the beginning of the month of September, an indication of the oncoming holidays in the next few months, UNICEF shares its initiative on corporate gifts for a cause.

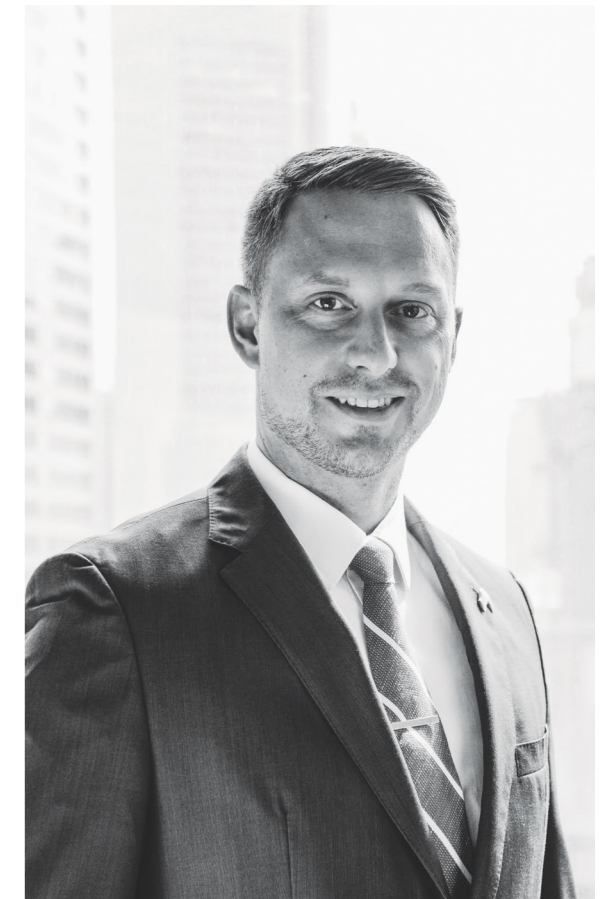
As for our latest ECCP-led initiatives last July and August, we continued with our virtual and hybrid events such as the Tech for Progress Forum Series, the second installment of the Sustainable Agriculture Forum, and the first Luncheon Meeting of the year with keynote speaker NEDA Secretary Balisacan. We hope to continue having hybrid events in the following months to provide you with an even more dynamic avenue to discuss and exchange ideas. Take a look at the Events Calendar and ITF Calendar found on pages 55 and 56. Be up to date with our upcoming events by following our social media channels or visiting our website to know more.

It was also a good round of committee meetings to address important concerns from various industries in the business community. We also met with key government representatives to discuss developments on policies and initiatives on these concerns. Read more about it in the Advocacy Corner on page 48.

On page 52, we welcome our new members to the ECCP and we hope to see them in our future activities and events in the coming months. We want our members to maximize their membership with us as much as they can and as such we will continue to provide you with the support and services needed by your companies and organizations and to also highlight your advocacies and initiatives in the business community.

Updates on your Chamber's activities over the past two months spanning its branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Clark, and Iloilo are all available on page 29. Keep yourself updated with the latest business opportunities on page 54.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the EuroPH Connect and, as always, thank you for your continued support.



Florian Gottein
ECCP Executive Director

European Country in Focus

Poland




312,710
square kilometers


38.1 M
approximately


Warsaw

POLISH TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Poland is one of the most important economies in Europe thanks to its reliability and resiliency. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Poland was one of the least affected in Europe due to its well-diversified economy. According to the World Bank, the nation experienced a GDP decline of 2.7% in 2020, but was quick to bounce back with an increase of 5.7% in 2021. Poland attracts a great deal of foreign exporters and investors with its large population, well-educated and competitive workforce, and strong prospects for economic growth. Moreover, its strategic location provides such foreign stakeholders broader access to the European Union market. With a population of around 38 million, Poland is the most significant single market amongst the “new” European Union states.

Poland mainly takes part in import and export activities with other European countries. The country relies heavily on both renewable and non-renewable resources for exports due to its abundance in natural resources. Poland is a top producer and exporter of coal, copper, zinc, construction minerals, among others. As for important products, Poland exports machinery and equipment, metals and metal products, minerals and fuels, chemicals, agricultural products, and textiles. As for imports, Poland mostly imports products required for industrial reorganization and manufacturing inputs such as vehicle parts, cars, packaged medicaments, computers, and crude petroleum. Poland's main export partners are Germany, France, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Italy and Russia while their main import partners include Germany, Italy, France, Russia and China.

Geographical Location: Poland is located in Central Europe. The nation is bordered to the north by the Baltic Sea, by Russia and Lithuania in the northeast, and Belarus and Ukraine to the east.

Climate: Poland has a moderate climate with both maritime and continental elements. Winters, on the other hand, are usually cold with temperatures far below freezing leaving the country covered in snow, more or less.

Official Language: Polish

Government Type: The republic is a multiparty democracy with a two chamber parliament.

Standard of Living: Poland's Human Development Index (HDI) as of 2019 is 0.880, positioning it at 35 out of 189 countries and territories.

Organizations:

- United Nations (Founding Member, since 1945)
- European Union (since 2004)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (since 1999)
- World Trade Organization (Founding Member, since 1995)
- World Bank (since 1986)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (since 1996)
- International Monetary Fund (joined 1946, withdrew in 1950, readmitted in 1986)
- World Health Organization (since 1948)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (since 1946)
- Schengen Area (signed in 2003, implemented in 2007)

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Poland's financial district is located in none other than their capital, Warsaw. In 1991, Poland established a stock exchange in Warsaw. By the end of 2001, approximately 230 companies were listed on it. In 1998, a derivatives market was begun and more than 50 insurance companies were in operation by the end of the century. The largest of these 50 insurance companies was the Polish National Insurance, or more locally known as Powszechny Zakład Ubezpieczeń. A decade after the postcommunist era, Poland received more foreign direct investment than any other former socialist country of Europe, rising from \$89 million in 1990 to \$10.6 billion in 2000. Warsaw continued to grow as a financial district throughout the years. After the completion of the Warsaw Financial Center in 1998, the building almost instantly became an iconic symbol of the developing business district in the capital city of Warsaw. The Warsaw Financial Center is now home to top-tier institutions such as banks, international leaders of the financial and FMCG sectors as well as law firms.

TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



WIELICZKA SALT MINE

Wieliczka, Poland is home to a 13th-century salt mine making it one of the world's oldest and longest-working salt mines. After commercial operations came to a halt in 1996, the mine has since become an artistic attraction. The Wieliczka Salt Mine houses four chapels, corridors, and statues all of which have been carved out of the rock salt walls. Tourists can explore pits and chambers, status, and other architectural wonders as deep as 327 meters under the surface using the mine's original shafts and passageways. It is no surprise that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has granted such a destination the honor of being a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



OLD TOWN MARKET PLACE, WARSAW

The Old Town Market Place dates back to the 13th century making it the oldest part of Warsaw. Despite falling victim to the catastrophic events that transpired during World War II leaving 85% of the area destroyed, the tourist attraction was restored to look exactly as it did when it was first built. The area has a combination of medieval architecture, Gothic, and colorful Renaissance buildings and merchant houses. The square proudly features a 19th-century bronze statue of a sword-wielding mermaid, which has been Warsaw's symbol since medieval times. The Old Town Market Place is now an area wherein tourists may enjoy a variety of establishments such as cafés and restaurants as well as souvenir stalls and even street art vendors.



MALBORK CASTLE, MALBORK

Malbork Castle was founded in 1274 by the Teutonic Knights who originally built the Teutonic castle for the purpose of a small fortification. Back then, the structure served as their headquarters to help defeat Polish enemies and rule their own northern Baltic territories. Today, the Malbork Castle is the most popular tourist attraction in the city of Malbork. The castle is now a museum wherein tourists may see its original and perfectly preserved rooms, medieval kitchen with a six-meter-wide fireplace, a collection of armor and weapons, and the knights' private toilet at the top of a tower on display. This landmark is one of Poland's 15 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



INTERESTING FACTS

- Poland has two variants of its flag. The first version is the basic one that is most commonly used and seen: the regular rectangular flag with white on the upper half and red on the lower half. This can always be seen on the streets of Poland on public holidays. The other version, which was introduced in 1919, features the red-and-white flag with an eagle wearing a crown in the center of the top white half. This variant is only to be displayed at Polish diplomatic missions abroad and flown at consulates, airports and on merchant ships as mandated by Polish law.
- Poland was named after a Western Slavic tribe called “Polanie”, which translates to “people living in open fields.” This tribe was said to have inhabited the region during the 5th and 6th centuries. The tribe was composed of foragers who lived in open fields across the western and north-western parts of the country.
- Poland has its own “Seven Wonders,” which demonstrates the wide variety of diverse sites across the nation. These sites include the Wieliczka Salt Mine, Torun Old Town, Malbork Castle, Wawel Castle and Cathedral, Elblag Canal, Zamosc Old Town, and the Krakow Market Square and Old Town.
- Poland has 18 Nobel Prizes under its belt. Famous Polish awardees include Maria Skłodowska-Curie who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first person to win the award twice and in two different fields: physics and chemistry.

Interview with the Polish Ambassador
to the Republic of the Philippines

H.E. Jarosław Szczepankiewicz



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

Trade between both nations has been steadily growing at a positive rate and if you look at the statistics, we see that the numbers are different between the Filipino statistics and the foreign statistics. We know that Filipino statistics are lower because of its update in account of the intercommunity market in the European Union. So sometimes from the external point of view, you don't see it from where really the products are arriving because we have a common market. Despite the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy of both countries, our bilateral trade turnover in 2020 and 2021 increased respectively by 16.8% and 21.4%.

This can also be seen in the retail industry where around, I think about 5% of Polish dairy exports find their way to the Philippines and it's still growing. We know from our statistics that the food export to the Filipino market increased in 2020 by 7.7% amounting to 7.3 million US dollars and it's still below the ambition. So we are close to 1 billion US dollar mutual extent but we are close to it and I hope we'll achieve it by next year. These are positive signs and as well we have the burgeoning group of Polish IT companies that have also entered in the local market. We hope they will play an essential role in the project of digitalization of the Philippines and of course we are hoping towards expanding in the industries of cosmetics, medicines and construction. So here we are.

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

The Philippines has a very young population - with an average age of around 25 years. This is one of the advantages of the Philippines. It has one of the heaviest rates of social media usage in the world. There is a great opportunity for the big IT industry in the Philippines. Having access to a young working population, I think it provides a great benefit in the business. Compared to some neighbors, the Philippines has a very high English proficiency compared to ASEAN neighbors. Just behind Singapore in the regional ranking.

I think that there is, we are looking to feel for the opening with the foreign direct investment in the Philippines. We have a new amendment to the three (3) laws: the amended public service act, the amendment of retail trade legalization, and the foreign investment act. So with the implementation of the three acts on foreign investment, they will also attract foreign investors in the Philippines. Just news about the liberalization sparked interest of European businesses to look towards the Philippines for expansion. We want to follow this momentum.

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

Same as above, exposure to a young workforce and information technology in this is very important. In Poland, it currently takes up an estimated 3.3% of the Polish GDP. A handful of Polish IT companies have already seen the opportunities here in the Philippines and have established businesses in the country mainly because of the abundance of good IT practitioners here in the country, we can find

qualified IT specialists. Filipinos appreciate the way Polish companies are with their employees. It's something new for them, but they like it because it's always more, now some, four to eight hours.

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With growth and value of exports, further partnerships, opportunities realized and relationships fostered - growth can definitely grow both ways between both nations.

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

With growth and value of exports, further partnerships, opportunities realized and relationships fostered - growth can definitely grow both ways between both nations. The Philippines is our very important cooperation partner in this part of the world. In 2018 Polish Embassy in Manila was reopened and became fully operational in 2020. In 2019 Foreign Trade Office was opened as well to serve the constantly growing demand for assistance in establishing B2B contacts and providing information on economic and investment opportunities both in Poland and in the Philippines.

Poland has a number of authentic, proven and affordable products and technological solutions in the field of Fintech, cybersecurity and Smart City. I am proud to say that our country has achieved great success in digital transformation. We are ready to support the digitization process of both the public (administration) and private sectors of the Philippines. Some Polish companies are already present in the Philippines, but the potential of cooperation in this field is enormous.

Poland is also willing to share with our Filipino partners our expertise in the water management sector.

Russia's war against Ukraine resulted in food shortages in many places around the world. It also affects the Philippines. Therefore, being a food production hub, Poland feels duly responsible to come forward and ensure food security to our partners, also to the Philippines. In 2020 Poland was the 7th largest food producer in Europe and the 14th largest in the world with around 40% of the production intended for export. Our export specialties include meat, confectionery, dairy products and vegetables. Poland is leader in the production of fresh and frozen fruit, concentrated juices and chocolate products.

We are glad that some of the Polish products (chocolates, cereals, milk) are already available for purchase in the Philippines either in stores or on-line. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Polish export of food products to the Filipino market increased in 2020 by 5,4%, amounting to 43,9 mln EUR.

We are very proud that the implementation of the 2019 contract for the delivery of Black Hawk S-70i helicopters produced in Poland by PZL Mielec is considered as a model. All 16 helicopters were successfully delivered to Clark on time or ahead of time. I do believe that the implementation of the new (signed in February 2022) contract for the delivery of additional 32 choppers will be equally successful. I am convinced that Black Hawk is fully fitted to satisfy operational needs and capability requirements of Philippine Air Forces (PAF).

In terms of investment, we highly appreciate the involvement and the contribution of International Container Terminals Services Inc. (ICTSI) in the development of seaport infrastructure in Poland. We are aware that ICTSI is participating in tenders for the lease of the The Baltic Container Terminal (BCT) and for the construction of the Outer Port in Gdynia.

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Just news about the liberalization sparked interest of European businesses to look towards the Philippines for expansion.

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What measures did Poland take in order to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic? How do you build business resiliency?

I think that one factor is very natural because our companies are of SME base—small, medium enterprise—and the big companies so the market adopted the prices by Poland in the onset of the pandemic presented many challenges for businesses to adapt to. Majority (72%) of Polish businesses have reported a negative perception of the country's economic situation. But we are not much more now in how to tackle this. The State Support has helped keep companies moving, with a noted increase of companies reporting the use of state support instruments – with 44% of Polish companies making use of the Polish Development Fund's Financial Shields and 43% of firms making use of social security (ZUS) exemptions. Some elements of support were in place to help the company but it's now much more obvious on the problem of inflation. But now everything is going back to normal so no more need for financial shields in the market of Poland. Everybody is face

to face now. We see the Covid as how Polish companies operated in the Philippines. They said that their business was growing during Covid and continues to grow. But the lack of income companies in the Philippines, prevented the Filipinos. But now we have returned to normal. People are already coming back in Poland and in the Philippines, the business is going back to what it used to be.

How did the pandemic affect trade relations between Poland and the Philippines?

According to the data of the Central Statistical Office, bilateral trade exchange reached USD 877.8 million in 2021, of which Polish exports amounted to USD 286.6 million, and imports amounted to USD 591.1 million. This means both an increase in turnover (USD 723.1 million in 2020, 619.2 million in 2019), as well as the value of Polish exports (USD 204.1 million in 2020, USD 118.72 million in 2019).

What was the biggest hurdle of the embassy during the pandemic, and how was it addressed?

Covid-19 has disrupted and distorted diplomacy. In the early stages, it disrupted practices (and the lives of diplomats) and threatened to distort the very fabric of resident representation. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the responses from governments around the world, online meetings were a necessity for us, even if they are a poor substitute for face-to-face ones. We lost the benefits of in-person diplomacy, especially when building the all-important interpersonal relations or conducting sensitive negotiations.

With the COVID-19 crisis, the border became an obstacle for diplomats to live life and work as normal. The biggest hurdles of the daily life of diplomats were all Philippine travel requirements in very dynamic and unstable legal environment:

- present a vaccination certificate when crossing the border
- quarantine after crossing the border
- possess a negative SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test result when crossing the Philippine border.

How has sanitation and hygiene protocols brought about by the pandemic change the Food & Beverage industry in Poland, if any? How do you see these protocols fair out in a post-pandemic world?

For food, I'd say we are learning from experience. Some young adults' perspectives were already beginning to invest during/before the COVID-19 pandemic. They include the following:

- Establishing, maintaining, developing and shortening direct relations with food consumer customers. This is one element that we had during Covid. And of course,
- Increasing the added value of offered products by increasing their health benefits, specifying production locations (local product), highlighting the products' flavor value, producing food in an environmentally friendly way (certified organic food). I would like to take the first kind in the Filipino market where there is a particular interest in healthy products. And with Covid-19, they put the interest of the people on health more than in the past. There is thriving awareness on productivity and health awareness.

- The third point is we find the channels and wait, and wait for them to sell products including online selling. Diversifying the channels and ways of selling products (middlemen, processing businesses, wholesalers and retailers, own sales outlets, including online shops). We saw it boom.
- Fourth is pursuing a pro-employee hiring policy (e.g., appropriate wages, good work conditions, maintaining long-term relationships with employees). Why is it important? Because the main problem appears when the consumer is not, appears when and the company decides.
- And now in the element of food as a business is the launching of food deliveries directly to customers (food boxes); compared to in Manila. People buy finished products. I think that some elements - because we are not completely out of Covid and we don't know what will happen in the future.
- Following sanitary norms related to the pandemic during food production, such as social distancing, disinfection—you know washing hands—has become mandatory for everybody always washing their hands, wearing mouth and nose coverings—for some industries this is important, quarantine, extended work hours and shift work as well as increasing the emphasis on compliance with food safety and work safety rules. I think it—step by step, we appreciate the policy of the sanitary rules around the product because people cannot. In terms of traveling, the products come unfortified from producers they are affected the most for now.

How do you expect countries, specifically Poland, to handle the eventual increase in tourism as international borders begin to open up? Does Poland have certain programs and/or campaigns to address this economic opportunity?

The tourism industry in Poland is opening up after mass vaccination programs and is fully ready to welcome tourists again. In Poland, you can experience the country the same way as you would before the pandemic, with all the tourist attractions, hotels, and restaurants open at full capacity. Revenue in the Travel & Tourism market is projected to reach US\$6,807.00m in 2022. Revenue is expected to show an annual growth rate (CAGR 2022-2026) of 7.22%, resulting in a projected market volume of US\$8,996.00m by 2026. We are prepared to shift the marketing strategy in a similar way as to how we did back in 2020 in the beginning of the pandemic. We focused our campaigns on inspirational and educational aspects of Poland instead of pushing bookings. We launched a social media campaign to attract a new generation of tourists by highlighting hospitality and vibrant cities to convince visitors that Poland is a safe place to visit. In addition to this, the Polish Tourism Organization plans to work with influencers and TV shows to highlight new sights to well-known destinations and some hidden gems.

As restrictions start to ease, what travel practices or health requirements do you believe countries should continue to implement on travelers even in a post-pandemic world?

The new enhanced tourism offer should take into account the customer safety concerns and the special role of health and safety standards. Tourists now have an inclination to prefer independent tourism accommodation to collective tourist establishments (apartments or houses for rent). Compliance with the hygiene standards in accommodation services is highly valued. The relocation of tourism flows (movement of tourists to previously less popular regions and destinations) is in tune with the sustainable development of tourism, because both environmental burdens and economic benefits are more evenly distributed. Leisure travels to rural areas (agritourism, rural tourism, ecotourism) are becoming increasingly attractive. Thus far, the attractiveness of this form of recreation has been based on qualities such as peace and quiet, contact with nature and relatively low prices. During the pandemic, it gained an additional advantage, i.e., safety based on social distancing.

I think that this is what we think, on the part of the tourist, it is one of the criterias in choosing a destination for where you want to go.

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The Philippines is our very important cooperation partner in this part of the world.

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Is there anything else that you would like to share with us? In terms of the food beverage industries and maybe your final thoughts that you would like to share with us?

Food and beverage business will be growing in export/import statistics between the Philippines and Poland. However there are limits for the long term balanced cooperation. Poland is the seventh largest food producer in Europe and fourteenth largest in the world. The Philippines are on top of the world's food importers. As a producer, Poland is among the top countries that are winning in value from high food prices. The Philippines, as food importer, are losing.

In the Philippines, the path of infrastructure is at the heart of the Filipino economy. It is to provide at the end a fitter and better product to local clients despite the loss of production because of the Covid. There is a need to move original Filipino production, to expand quality local production. Producers need more materials locally available. If there are no materials then there is no foreign investment, no local investment.

Hon. Ma. Esperanza Christina Garcia Frasco



What is the current state of and the Department's priority programs and initiatives for the Philippine tourism sector?

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We envision the improvement of our existing facilities in both land and sea by making it more aesthetically appealing, and most importantly, reflective of the “Filipino Brand”.

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In the recent Budget Hearing of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Department of Tourism (DOT) presented a 7-point agenda to highlight its immediate priority programs aimed towards the realization of the vision of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., for the tourism industry to become one of the country's major economic pillars in the succeeding years. These are: 1) Improvement of Tourism Infrastructure and Accessibility; 2) Cohesive and Comprehensive Digitalization and Connectivity; 3) Enhancement of Overall Tourism Experience; 4) Equalization of Tourism Product Development and Promotion; 5) Diversification of Portfolio through Multidimensional Tourism; 6) Maximization of Domestic Tourism; and 7) Strengthening Tourism Governance with LGUs and Stakeholders. These are the essential content of the new National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP 2022-2028) of the Marcos Administration.

In the fulfillment of the said agenda, the DOT shall focus on three key strategies: Connectivity, Convenience, and (E) quality.

Connectivity aims to ensure that our tourist destinations are accessible through improved transportation network, affordable travel costs, and digitalization of tourist services. Our approach is geared towards proactive and aggressive infrastructure development that provides quality access to roads, bridges, water systems, and various methods of transportation by land, sea, and air.

Convenience aims to enhance the overall tourist experience and ease of movements. We will not fall short in giving our tourists the fully-enhanced Filipino tourism experience, with the help of our partner agencies such as the Department of Transportation (DOTr). We envision the improvement of our existing facilities in both land and sea by making it more aesthetically appealing, and most importantly, reflective of the “Filipino Brand”.

Last but not the least is (E)quality, which focuses on the equalization of overall tourism product development and

promotion. Through the various DOT regional offices, new regional tourism circuits that will highlight nature-based tourism, MICE tourism, food and gastronomy, our heritage and culture, farm and agritourism, health and wellness, the arts, shall be developed. We commit that all these tourism dimensions will get equal promotion and support as we expand ourselves from the traditional portfolio and go into multidimensional tourism.

Furthermore, being an archipelago, one of our biggest challenges is to make traveling smooth for our visitors. Hence, we will also work on the connectivity of our areas and ports. We are working on incorporating ticketing booths for various modes of transportation in each gateway.

What have been the effects of the COVID pandemic to the Philippine tourism sector and what measures helped the companies cope with these challenges?

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect not only to the tourism industry but to all segments of society. However, the greatest impact is perhaps felt by the tourism sector, given the intermittent lockdowns all over the world which has created a negative after effect to travel and, essentially, to the global tourism landscape. This has had a strong adverse repercussion to all establishments that are directly and indirectly related to travel and tourism as a whole. The livelihood of tourism Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the manpower complement of the industry is arguably among the worst affected.

Allow me to first point out that the provision of financial assistance to tourism enterprises and its manpower complements is not part of the DOT mandate. However, we are exhausting all possible ways that could bridge some of the gaps. For instance, despite the pandemic, efforts are being made in order to sustain the domestic and global promotions of our tourism destinations, which we view as something that could help tourism establishments gradually go back to their pre-pandemic level of operations.

In addressing the gaps in the tourism labor force that has been heavily impacted by the onslaught of the pandemic, we at the DOT have entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to formalize our partnership to provide an avenue for the creation of employment opportunities in the tourism sector and allied industries. As a matter of fact, we have a nationwide job fair for tourism workers scheduled in Manila, Cebu and Davao this coming September 22-24 dubbed as Trabaho, Turismo, Asenso! Philippine Tourism Job Fair. This is going to be a regular periodic undertaking.

Aside from local tourism employment opportunities, overseas hospitality career openings will also be made available soon to our fellow Filipinos. This is after our Bilateral Meeting with Thailand during the recently-concluded Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Tourism Ministers' Meeting. Thailand's Minister of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn sought our Department's assistance in offering tourism employment opportunities for Filipinos in order to address their country's shortage in tourism workforce.

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We are highly optimistic on the Philippine tourism's ability to not only go back to its pre-pandemic levels but to surpass it.

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Do you think the Philippine tourism sector will be able to recover from whatever losses caused by the pandemic? If yes, by how much is the sector expected to grow in 2022?

We are highly optimistic on the Philippine tourism's ability to not only go back to its pre-pandemic levels but to surpass it. However, the turnaround is not necessarily going to be drastic since the pandemic is still existing. Based on the DOT's data, tourism's contribution to the national GDP has risen from 5.1% in 2020, to 5.2% in 2021. Furthermore, from February to September 15, 2022, tourist arrivals increased to nearly 1.5 from merely 163,879 in 2021. We are positive that this will rise significantly in 2023 as travel restrictions are progressively lifted and with the expected liberalization of our country's mask mandate to be at par with our ASEAN neighbors, though it is still far from the 12.9% tourism share to GDP in 2019.

There are reports that the Philippine tourism experienced significant recovery in 2021. Are we expecting the same trajectory for 2022? What measures are being put in place to boost and accommodate increased demand from both international and domestic tourists? Does the Agency have certain programs and/or campaigns to target and address this?

Perhaps, the recovery may still be more noticeable in 2022 given the fact that the country has been opened to international leisure travelers only in February 2022. If we were to look back at last year, intermittent lockdowns were still in place, with the different variants of the COVID-19 virus have been rubbing the entire world. We expect more significant improvements in tourist arrivals by 2023. By then, we already expect the full implementation of the new National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP 2022-2028), which we are still polishing at the moment.

In light of the first confirmed case of Monkeypox in the Philippines along with the COVID-19 pandemic remaining at large, what initiatives and plans does the Department of Tourism have in store to facilitate growth in tourism all while keeping the Philippines safe from another health-related crisis?

We defer to the wisdom of the Department of Health (DOH) as regards the imposition of health protocols relating to the concerns of Monkeypox or any other disease of global dimension. At the moment, there are no stringent travel health restrictions other than the basic health and safety protocols that have already been long put in place relative to the COVID-19 travel procedures.

After the many struggles that we have gone through with the COVID-19 pandemic and various calamities, I believe that we are more prepared now than before in facing the adversities of new global health emergencies. As I have said before, there is a crucial necessity to balance between lives and livelihood. Much as we value the lives of people consequent of global health pandemics, we should also learn to embrace the essential livelihood that everyone has to perform as a part of our daily lives.

We bring to you the DOT's various plans and programs for the singular purpose of conveying the message that the government is one with all stakeholders in tourism. Our stakeholders can count on the DOT to continue the good programs that have been implemented, and introduce innovations and strong coordination with tourism-enhancing [government] agencies in the national government, overall, to be able to ensure that we build a strong foundation for the tourism industry, so that it becomes resilient against any crisis.

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Much as we value the lives of people consequent of global health pandemics, we should also learn to embrace the essential livelihood that everyone has to perform as a part of our daily lives.

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Turkish Airlines invites its guests to discover Istanbul with Touristanbul

Flying to more countries than any other airline, Turkish Airlines, once again provides Touristanbul, one of the privileged services it offers to its guests. Offering the opportunity to discover İstanbul with complimentary city tour to international transit passengers, flag carrier also aims to promote unique wonders of İstanbul to the world.

With the complimentary city tour Turkish Airlines provides to its guests with a connecting time between 6-24 hours in İstanbul Airport, eligible passengers will have the opportunity to discover İstanbul's historical and cultural wonders such as Sultanahmet Mosque, Ayasofya Mosque, Topkapı Palace between their two flights. On the program, passengers are picked up from İstanbul Airport by Touristanbul vehicle, attend the İstanbul tour accompanied by a guide and brought back to airport for the next leg of their flights. With the program, flag carrier aims to increase its share in the transit passenger market and contribute to Türkiye's tourism.

On the restart of the project, Turkish Airlines Chief Marketing Officer Ahmet Olmuşur stated; "With the Touristanbul project we aim to showcase Turkish hospitality and İstanbul's unique wonders to our guests and contribute to tourism of Türkiye. Our goal is to increase transfer passenger numbers and our market share with this privileged service. After being suspended due to Covid-19 on 2020, Touristanbul is now restarting. Since 2019, 349,738 guests had the chance to discover İstanbul with the service. The satisfaction of our guests opting for the service along with increase in the number of passengers are providing us with motivation for the future of the program. We expect approximately 60,000 guests to benefit from Touristanbul privilege until the end of the year."

As citizens of 129 countries are discovering İstanbul with Touristanbul privilege, its program is prepared with the consideration of guests' flight plan. With six different tours organized every day, passengers are able to choose the one that suits their flight times.

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Transparency and locality drive retail growth

KPMG R.G. Manabat & Co.

Shopping has always followed a fascinating path. From street peddlers to mega malls, pop-ups, and eCommerce, it continues to diverge and evolve in unexpected and often delightful ways.



Technologies have undoubtedly changed physical retail spaces and consumer behavior in significant ways. Yet certain aspects, like the desire for a local touch, endure. And while for decades, buying power was considered the key to driving change, recently, there is an increase in consumer demand for sustainably-produced local goods.

Some experts point to the post-pandemic growth of SMEs as a major reason the retail sector remains strong. Conscious consumerism means consumers show awareness of what they purchase. Shoppers are no longer driven solely by where and how a product is made. Instead, from production to shopping cart, the full supply chain is considered essential to delivering exceptional customer experiences.

How did the industry reach this point? It began with the COVID-19 lockdowns that severely impacted offline service industries, including food services, entertainment, healthcare, and non-food retail.

Consumers had no choice but to become more self-sufficient, which led to a rise in technologies such as blockchain, AI, and distributed power systems that dramatically changed how people received and tracked their goods and services.

Today, digital connectivity and skills, both disruptive technologies, have become critical in the adoption of even broader revolutionary technologies. They're behind ever-greater transformations in employment and are helping to make it easier for governments and private investors to support local ventures. This represents a huge shift from the 2020 landscape, when a handful of mega-corporations dominated and controlled the global economy. Greater regulation has, over the years, reigned in corporate power, fostering frameworks that advance economic equality and liberty for all.

Local SaaS (software as a service) businesses, including cloud, accounting, and human resource providers, are making their databases and services available to governments for everything from information dissemination to disaster recovery. Companies now use technology to help solve social issues like poverty, hunger, education, tourism and economic growth.

The excerpt was taken from the KPMG Thought Leadership publication: <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2022/06/transparency-and-locality-drive-retail-growth.html>

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New Country GM Set on Steering Ascott Philippines Toward Holistic Growth

Ambitious and driven, Mr. Philip Barnes will be leading Ascott to new heights with a portfolio of 27 properties, 8 of which are set to open in 2023.

Manila, 30 August 2022 – The Ascott Limited (Ascott) Philippines has appointed a new Country General Manager, Mr. Philip Barnes, a long-time member of the Ascott group, who is now tasked to pilot the cluster in its strategic pursuit of becoming the largest lodging player in the Philippines.

The 38-year-old Australian brings to the table a breadth of experience in the hospitality industry, having risen through the ranks in his nearly 20-year career. Prior to moving to the Philippines in 2011, Mr. Barnes worked in Malaysia, Australia, and Hong Kong handling various roles in hotels and serviced residences alike.

He has a master's degree in Asset Management, which is set to serve Ascott well as it targets to boost its roster by as many as 5,000 units across hotels, resorts, and serviced residences over the next few years. This includes new brands like lyf which is designed for co-living, as well as the full suite of hotel and resort brands expected to launch in the Philippines – fully cementing Ascott's aim of being a holistic lodging operator to service both corporate and leisure guests across varied market segments.

Mr. Barnes will play a pivotal role in the eight new property openings in 2023. These properties will be located in Quezon City, Manila, Makati, Cebu, and Bacolod. Among the eight, two properties in Manila and Cebu will be under lyf. This co-living brand offers social communal spaces for guests to live, work, and play. Designed for next-generation travelers, this hybrid living concept takes the authentic stay experiences to the next level by incorporating culture, design, attractions, and partnerships from the local neighborhood.

Ascott has also appointed of Ms. Cecille Teodoro as General Manager of Ascott Makati and Somerset Millennium Makati. Ms. Teodoro is tasked with steering these properties to gain market growth and raise revenues.

Mr. Rennan John Reyes was also appointed incoming General Manager of Ascott Bonifacio Global City Manila and Citadines Bay City Manila. The two properties will continue to provide guests with a home-away-from-home, while striving to further enhance service quality and brand value into the future.

Ascott has also welcomed two new key leaders to the company who will strengthen the Philippine cluster's strategies and help

usher in a new era of innovation. Ms. Zenddie Cueto-Delos Reyes joined as Country Financial Controller of Ascott Philippines while Ms. Denise Olegario, who brings over 20 years of considerable experience in the tourism and hospitality industry, is the new Director of Sales and Marketing.

The new Executive Management Committee led by Mr. Barnes will look to drive Ascott to become the largest international lodging owner-operator in the country taking on an asset-light corporate strategy. With this approach, new and continued partnerships with key stakeholders will become even more valuable as Ascott embarks on its entry into the hotel segment while maintaining its dominance in the serviced residence section.

Meanwhile, Ascott Philippines has expanded its online loyalty membership plan, the Ascott Star Rewards (ASR) programme. ASR now offers points accrual for online bookings for both leisure and corporate reservations through direct channels, such as phone, email, global distribution system, walk-in, website, and the Discover ASR mobile app.

All these efforts come at a time when Ascott embarks on a refresh of its brands that will be rolled out over the next few years. More than updating logos, colours and font types, the revitalization intends to promote a shift in mentality, as Ascott fortifies its commitment to growth and expansion while keeping the ever-evolving needs and preferences of its guests at the core of its conception.

As part of their commitment to sustainability, Ascott partnered with The Plastic Flamingo (PLAF), a social company dedicated to collecting and repurposing plastics. This joint initiative focuses on upcycling and reprocessing plastic trash into useable goods, such as recyclable eco-planks to help build temporary shelters and other environmentally friendly goods.

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



Live your own story as you discover Somerset Central Salcedo Makati

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Somerset Central Salcedo Makati is managed by The Ascott Limited, a member of CapitaLand. It is one of the leading international serviced residence owner-operators with more than 720 properties in over 190 cities across the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East and Africa. Its portfolio of brands includes Ascott, Citadines, Citadines Connect, Somerset, Quest, The Crest Collection, and lyf.



Located in Ortigas Center, Pasig, PRUHouse creates an experience-led work environment for agents to connect, collaborate, and serve customers better.

Pru Life UK's new agency workspace wins the Flexible Workspace Initiative of the Year award

Pru Life UK, through The Instant Group, was awarded the Flexible Workspace Initiative of the Year - Philippines in the Real Estate Asia Awards 2022 for building PRUHouse, an agile and dynamic workplace for its agency force.

The Real Estate Asia Awards honors the most innovative real estate developments in the Asia Pacific market.



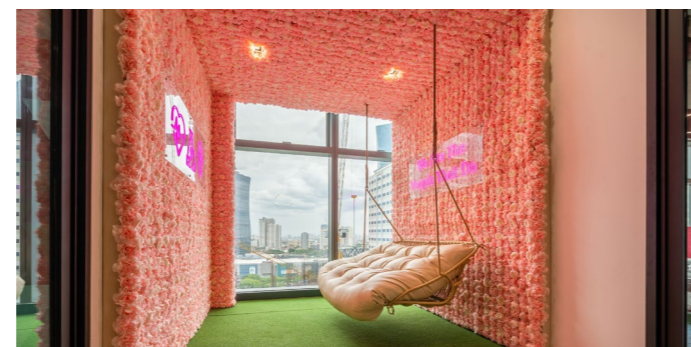
"We are grateful that PRUHouse is being recognized for its first of many branches. This initiative is designed with inputs from our financial advisors to reinforce our support to our agency. It combines various workstyles (remote or hybrid) with safety, comfort, creativity, collaboration, and productivity in mind helping inspire our young workforce to get the most out of life," said Pru Life UK President and Chief Executive Officer Eng Teng Wong.

"This award is a solid testament to Pru Life UK's financial strength and continued leadership on innovation with how we do business, support our

agency force, and serve our customers better," said Pru Life UK Chief Financial Officer Francis Ortega.

Built with The Instant Group, a specialist in independent flexible workspace solutions, Pru Life UK's new 2,600sqm office can accommodate up to 2,000 agents and features amphitheater, huddle rooms, meet pods and a full-service café by a leading Philippine coffee brand.

This new workplace allows flexibility that fits the agile and dynamic workforce of the Company. Simulating a hybrid work setup, each branch will have their dedicated days and hours of access to PRUHouse for social and business huddles, branch events, and even client meetings.



The Instant Group Chief Executive Officer Tim Rodber said, "It's an honor to share this award with Pru Life UK as well as the mission of creating customized workplaces that fit the modern ways of working. The future of work is changing but the workplace will always be about people."

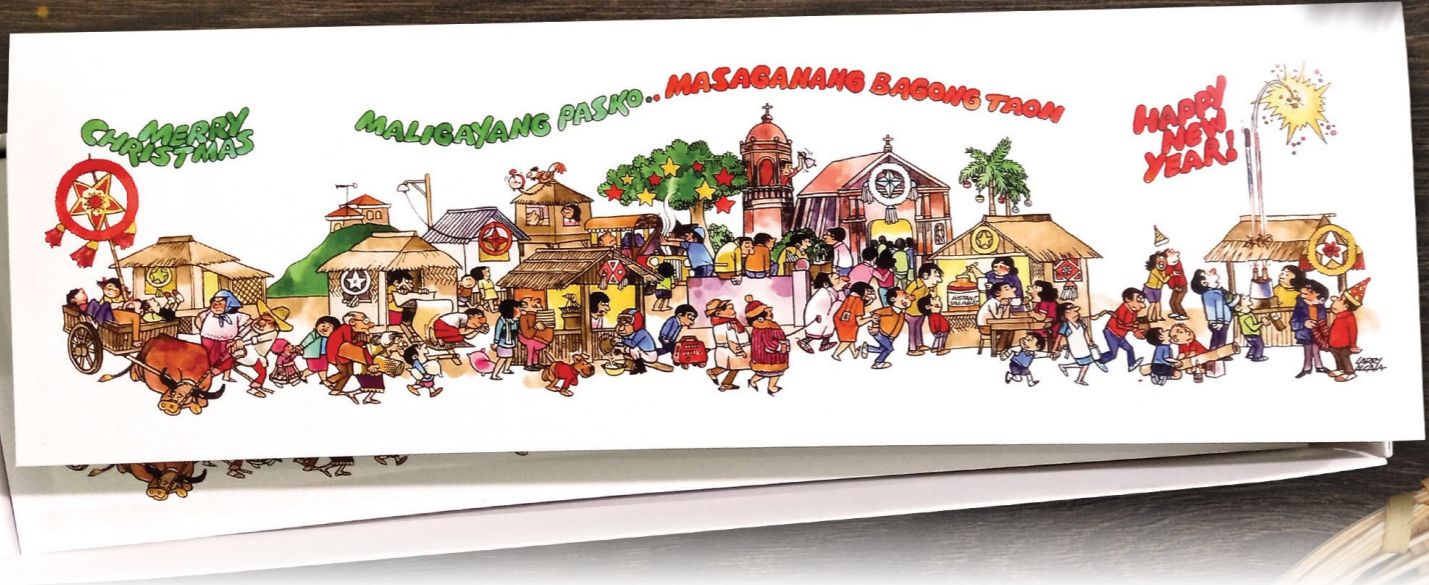
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Limited Edition UNICEF Cards featuring Larry Alcala's *Slice of Life*



Corporate Christmas Gifts for a Cause: UNICEF Cards features Larry Alcala's *Slice of Life*

UNICEF holiday cards make the perfect corporate gifts this coming Christmas season as this year's limited-edition series features the iconic "Slice of Life" design by master cartoonist and National Artist for Visual Arts, Larry Alcala.

UNICEF has chosen "Slice of Life" from the esteemed artist's vast portfolio as it perfectly depicts Christmastime in the Philippines. His nostalgic take on life and community celebrates joyful and humorous moments – each a heartwarming reflection of Pinoy culture. UNICEF hopes that these cards will bring smiles to its recipients who remember the good old days of Pinoy Christmases spent with family, friends, and loved ones.

For each UNICEF Cards Slice of Life set purchased for your employees and partners, you are not only reliving the nostalgia of Paskong Pinoy – you are also sharing that spirit of community with Filipino children in need today. Proceeds from the cards go towards giving the most vulnerable children better access to education, nutrition, immunization, and support in emergencies. Last year's holiday cards created by Robert Alejandro raised PHP 8.4 million, helping among others, children affected by Typhoon Odette.

Order now to enjoy early bird rates

Get a 25% discount off the regular price for purchases of at least 100 card sets and above, starting at P750/ set. Early bird rates are only available until September 30, 2022. For bulk orders of 100 sets and above, companies can get a customizable wrap-around belt for each card set.

The Limited-Edition UNICEF Cards featuring Larry Alcala's Slice of Life design comes in a box set

containing ten cards with envelopes. To learn more about the UNICEF Cards corporate packages, please email Beng at ggalcazar@unicef.org or Marga at mbaula@unicef.org or call (632) 8462-6246 today.



About the Artist

Larry Alcala (1926 - 2002) was posthumously conferred the title of National Artist for the Visual Arts and the Grand Collar of the Order ng Pambansang Alagad ng Sining for his contributions in editorial cartooning and illustration. Known for his iconic cartoons "Mang Ambo" and "Kalabog en Bosyo", among others, Larry Alcala has inspired generations of cartoonists and comic artists.

About UNICEF Cards

UNICEF's first greeting card was a painting by seven-year-old Jitka Samkova, whose village in Czechoslovakia received UNICEF emergency assistance in the form of food and medicine following World War II. Since then, giants of contemporary art, including Picasso, Matisse, Miro and Chagall, have created original artwork for the cards. Every greeting card will help fund lifesaving vaccines, nutrition, education, and emergency relief for the world's most vulnerable children.



Celebrate Christmas with the magic of nostalgia and the joy of Pinoy holidays. This year's Limited Edition UNICEF Christmas Cards feature the charming and exuberant artwork of master cartoonist and National Artist Larry Alcala about our culture of community, fun, and friendship.

For each card set you purchase, you are not only taking a glimpse of traditions past—you are also helping us build a better tomorrow for Filipino children in need today. Your contribution helps UNICEF work towards giving children better access to the education, nutrition, and immunizations they need to survive and thrive.



About the Artist

Known for his iconic cartoons "Mang Ambo" and "Kalabog en Bosyo", Larry Alcala (1926 - 2002) was posthumously conferred the title of National Artist for the Visual Arts and the Grand Collar of the Order ng Pambansang Alagad ng Sining for his contributions in editorial cartooning and illustration. His nostalgic depictions of Filipino life and community were packed with joyful and humorous moments—each a heartwarming reflection of Pinoy culture.

This Christmas, give your corporate partners and employees a gift to remember. Email Beng at ggalcazar@unicef.org or call (632) 8462-6246 to avail of our corporate packages!

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Raffles and Fairmont Makati

Raffles and Fairmont Makati is a tri-property luxury hotel located in the heart of the Philippines' financial capital – Makati City. The striking 30-story structure includes the 32 all-suite Raffles Makati, the 280-room Fairmont Makati, and 237 Raffles Residences, providing elegant choices for business and leisure travelers. Furthermore, Raffles Residences which are comprised of one- to four-bedroom apartments, offer residential accommodations for short- or long-term stays. The hotel is also home to several restaurants, cafes and bars offering multi-cultural gastronomic experiences, from the French fine-dining at Mirèio, to the lively buffet dining at Spectrum, to the iconic Long Bar Makati.

Fairmont Makati
Landline: (632) 8555-9888
Email address: makati@fairmont.com

Raffles Makati/Raffles Residences
Landline: (632) 8555-9777
Email address: makati@raffles.com

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For inquiries, you may contact us at
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Mondelez Philippines Inc.

Mondelez Philippines Inc. has been providing consumers with delicious snack products for the past 59 years - since 1963. Its product portfolio includes Tang powdered beverages, Eden cheese, mayonnaise and sandwich spread, Cheez Whiz spread, Oreo cookies, Tiger energy biscuits, as well as Toblerone and Cadbury Dairy Milk chocolates. The company employs about 450 people in the Philippines, with a manufacturing facility in Parañaque City. Our purpose is to empower people to snack right, with the right snack, for the right moment and made the right way.

Mondelez Philippines Inc.

Website: <https://ph.mondelezinternational.com/home>

Unilever Philippines

Unilever is driven to by a strong commitment to make sustainable living accessible to everyone. We believe that through purpose, brands will grow; people will thrive, and companies will last. Unilever in the Philippines will Win with Purpose through its purpose-driven brands and people, progressive platforms and inclusive business models anchored by the ambition to improve the lives of over 100M Filipinos.

Unilever Philippines

Website: <https://www.unilever.com.ph/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UnileverPhilippines>

Instagram: @unileverphilippines



Inside ECCP: Manila

The New Center of Economic Gravity: Understanding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership 8 July 2022

Last Friday, July 8, 2022, the ECCP together with the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines held a forum entitled "The New Center of Economic Gravity: Understanding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership" where we discussed the ratification status, developments, and impact of the world's largest trade deal on Southeast Asia.

We brought together government officials and business leaders and experts to delve into the RCEP deal and its effects on key industries and sectors in the country. Sharing their insights were: Honorable Allan B. Gepty, Assistant Secretary for Industry Development and Trade Policy, Department of Trade and Industry; Dr. Deborah Elms, Founder and Executive Director, Asian Trade Center; Mr. Chris Humphrey, Executive Director, EU-ASEAN Business Council.

The event was hosted and moderated by Atty. Kristine Francisco-Alcantara, Managing Partner at Abad Alcantara and Associates, with ECCP Director Florian Gottein also joining in to give his opening remarks.

We would like to thank our speakers and participants who attended our event. We hope that everyone enjoyed the discourse and found it insightful, especially on the tremendous opportunities that the RCEP can bring to the Philippines!

Live, Work, and Invest in Spain and Portugal 14 July 2022

Last July 14, we took a deep dive into the endless investment and business opportunities available in Spain and Portugal. Together with our event partner Antonio Viñal & Co. Abogados, we tackled the different application processes to help jumpstart your future residency, post-graduate degree, or new career or business venture in Europe.

Sharing their insights were the following guest speakers: Atty. Antonio Viñal Partner at AVCO Legal Europe and Mr. Christopher Weeks, Taylor Wimpey. To those looking to relocate and start a new life in Spain or Portugal, we hope that you found the webinar helpful and insightful!



Understanding Financial Reports (Finance for Non-Finance)

4 June - 19 July 2022

It has been an informative and enriching June and July with our Understanding Financial Reports (Finance for Non-Finance) e-learning series!

Organized by the ECCP Competency Hub, the sessions tackled three different modules to help organizations understand and effectively handle their financial reports in order to improve and communicate company performance. Facilitating the training workshops was Ms. Ma. Victoria "Porky" Calaquian, ECCP training consultant.

The topics discussed were: Module 1: Accounting for the Basic Financial Statements, Module 2: Profitability Analysis, and Module 3: Balance Sheet Analysis.

We would like to thank all of our attendees for their active participation during the e-learning sessions and we look forward to seeing you all apply your learnings to your respective companies.



Mobilizing Social Safety Nets for the Vulnerable Population: Retirees

19 July 2022

Last July 19, 2022, the ECCP together with Pru Life UK hosted the webinar "Mobilizing Social Safety Nets for the Vulnerable Population: Retirees" to discuss the important topic of social and financial protection for the most vulnerable of sectors.

We would like to acknowledge the following speakers who dedicated their time and expertise to this event: Ms. Princess Charm Balingit, President, Pru Life UK Asset, Management and Trust; VP Joy A. Villacorta Vice President, Benefits Administration Division, Concurrent Acting Head, International Operations Group, Social Security System (SSS); VP Rachel Edjan, Vice President, South Luzon Office Government Service Insurance System; Dir. Vicente Graciano Felizmenio, Jr., Director, Markets and Securities Regulation Department, Securities and Exchange Commission; Meredith Wyse, Senior Social Development Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank.

To our retirees, we hope that we were able to share the available social safety net programs to help you achieve better financial stability and security. As for everyone that participated in this webinar, thank you for being part of our endeavor to rise and move forward together through our Mobilizing Social Safety Nets for Vulnerable Populations series!



Building the Path to Energy Transition

20 July 2022

Last July 20, 2022, the ECCP together with its Renewable and Energy Efficient Committee and the REPH100 initiative gathered key speakers and stakeholders from the private and public sectors for the "Building the Path to Energy Transition" webinar. Through the event, participants were encouraged to discuss private sector efforts and share the best industry practices to build a sustainable and inclusive future through a shift to 100 percent renewable energy. Visit this page to know more about the ECCP REPH100 Initiative.



Technology for Progress: Retail to E-commerce

20 July 2022

Last July 20, 2022, the ECCP together with FMI - Fairs & More, Inc. and Eastern Communications, and partners Digital Pilipinas and Fintech Philippines Association, organized the forum "Technology for Progress: Retail to E-commerce".

With the participation of e-commerce industry leaders and experts, the afternoon was filled with fun and stimulating discussions on the growing digital landscape, current consumer purchasing behavior, and retail sector developments to look forward to.

With this, we would like to acknowledge the following speakers for sharing their time and expertise: Speaker: Gian Conde, Segment Marketing Head, Eastern Communications. Guest speaker: Alba del Villar Olano, Chief Economist, Picalate Inc. The panelists: Vin Perez, Country Head, Ninja Van; Cons Roberts, CEO, LOCAD; Dick Chiang, Founder and CEO, Dragonpay.

The event was moderated by Ms. Amor Maclang, Co-Founder of GeiserMaclang and Chair of the ECCP Innovations Committee.



1H Real Estate 2022 Market Overview 21 July 2022

The ECCP and its Real Estate Committee, in partnership with Leechiu Property Consultants (LPC), hosted the "1H Real Estate 2022 Market Overview" webinar via Zoom last July 21, 2022, to give an overview of the current real estate market in the Philippines.

We were joined by the following speakers and experts as our panelists: David Leechiu, Chief Executive Officer, Leechiu Property Consultants; Roy Amado Golez, Director for Research and Consultancy, Leechiu Property Consultants; and Mikko Barranda, Director for Commercial Leasing, Leechiu Property Consultants, Co-Chair, ECCP Real Estate Committee.

Lylah Fronda-Ledonio, LCP Executive Director for Commercial Leasing and Chair of the ECCP Real Estate Committee, joined us as hostess extraordinaire. Finally, LPC Senior Manager For Investment sales Erika Manasan moderated the discussion.



Increasing Post-Pandemic Innovation with Intellectual Property 4 August 2022

The ECCP, through its Intellectual Property Committee, and the South-East Asia IP SME Helpdesk organized the webinar "Increasing Post-Pandemic Innovation with Intellectual Property" last August 04, 2022 via Zoom.

The webinar featured discussions on the importance of a robust intellectual property system in driving innovation and sustained growth, as well as in regulating the rapidly evolving digital economy. Further, the virtual event delved into the IP provisions in the RCEP and its impacts in the Philippine digital economy.

We were joined by the following speakers: Hon. Rowel S. Barba of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, Director General; Atty. Nathaniel S. Arevalo of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, Director IV at the Bureau of Legal Affairs; and Atty. Edmund Jason Baranda of South-East Asia IP SME Helpdesk, External Expert.



Luncheon Meeting with NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan 11 August 2022

ECCP hosted the first Luncheon Meeting of the year with keynote speaker NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan.

During the event held last 11 August 2022, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan outlined the roles of both government and the private sector in helping the Philippines become a high-income economy by 2045.

He especially emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships in helping achieve the government's goal of inclusive and sustained economic growth. He further mentioned economic reforms such as the Retail Trade Liberalization Act and the Foreign Investment Act to help direct more investments toward the country.

Also present during the event were guest panelists, Quisumbing Torres Partner Atty. Christina Macasaet-Acaban and PHAP Executive Director Mr. Teodoro Padilla.

The event was organized in partnership with Quisumbing Torres Law Firm and the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines - PHAP at Dusit Thani Manila and via ZOOM where more than a hundred guests joined in virtually.



In photo (from left to right): Quisumbing Torres Associate and moderator Atty. Gaston Perez de Tagle, ECCP Treasurer Ms. Helen Grace Baisa, ECCP President Mr. Lars Wittig, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, and PHAP Executive Director Mr. Teodoro Padilla.

ECCP and DTI - Foreign Trade Service Corps and Overseas Offices in Europe 16 August 2022

ECCP met with DTI Philippines Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC) Europe.

(Top row, L-R): DTI Foreign Trade Service Corps Assistant Secretary Glenn G. Peñaranda, PTIC-UK Commercial Counsellor Michelle Sanchez, PTIC-Berlin Commercial Counsellor Nic Bautista, PTIC-Brussels Commercial Counsellor Magnolia Misolas-Ashley, and Commercial Counsellor Katrina Banzon of PITC-Paris.

(Second row, L-R): PTIC-Geneva Commercial Counsellor Raymond Batac, PTIC-Geneva Commercial Attaché Clariza Columna, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, ECCP Director for Projects, Events, and Training Gerry Constantino, and ECCP Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña.

(Third row, L-R): ECCP Business Consultancy and Research Officer Catherine Anne Lee, ECCP Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Communications Gen Anaquita, and ECCP International Trade Fairs and Event Officer Dawn Cabigon.



7th Joint Economic Briefing 22 August 2022

Last 22 August 2022, the European National Chambers held the 7th Joint Economic Briefing at the Makati Diamond Residences. Together with key representatives comprised of the country's foremost economic leaders and experts, the Joint Economic Briefing centered its discussions on the current state of the Philippine economy, as well as on the legislative development for foreign businesses in the country.

The program featured the following speakers: Sec. Alfredo Pascual, Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry; Usec. Antonette Tionko, Undersecretary, Department of Finance; SAG Iluminada T. Sicat, Senior Assistant Governor - Monetary Policy Sub-Sector, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; and Mr. Dante R. Tinga Jr., Director of Research, BDO.

This event was brought to you by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, British Chamber of Commerce Philippines, Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines Inc. - DCCP, French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines, German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc., Nordic Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, and Spanish Chamber of Commerce in The Philippines - La Cámara.



2022 Sustainable Agriculture Forum: Reengineering the Philippine Agriculture Towards Innovation and Food Security 25 August 2022

The ECCP hosted the last and second installment of the 2022 Sustainable Agriculture Forum with the theme "Reengineering the Philippine Agriculture Towards Innovation and Food Security".

For the morning session, we were joined by the following important speakers and panelists from the agriculture sector: Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga - Chairperson, House Committee for Agriculture and Food, House of Representatives; Hon. Agnes Catherine Miranda - Assistant Secretary-designate for Planning and Project Development, Department of Agriculture - Philippines; Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio - Director, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA); Mr. Dennis Calvan - Senior Manager for Policy and Government Engagement, Rare GO Representative, BFAR NFarmc PMC; Hon. Hermilando Mandanas - Governor, Province of Batangas; and Mr. Anton Palo - General Manager, Foodlink Advocacy Co-operative.

The event was moderated by Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc, ECCP Agriculture Committee Co-Chairperson and was opened by our ECCP Executive Director, Mr. Florian Gottein, together with ECCP Agriculture Committee Chairperson Ms. Ruth Novales.



Effective Business Presentation Skills 24 August 2022

With the right confidence, message and delivery, presentations can easily become more understandable and even more memorable for your audiences. This was definitely the case last August 24, 2022 during the ECCP Competency Hub's e-learning session entitled "Effective Business Presentation Skills".

Conducted by our experts at Spiderhook Learning, the three-hour class became an engaging and enjoyable afternoon as our participants were able to master their presentation skills and improve their knowledge on the key steps in creating and delivering an effective talk or presentation.

The program featured the following speakers: Mrs. Jen Alava-Francisco - President, Spiderhook Learning Services Division and Mr. Jay Francisco - Director, Spiderhook Learning.



Building a Healthier Philippines: Strengthening Partnership and Policies for Nutrition 31 August 2022

Headed by its Food and Beverage Committee, the ECCP proudly organized the hybrid advocacy event "Building a Healthier Philippines: Strengthening Partnership and Policies for Nutrition" last August 31, 2022 at Ascott Makati and via ZOOM.

This event was held with the support of our sponsors: Advocacy Lead Mega Tiu Lim Foundation, Advocacy Partner Unilever Philippines; and Advocacy Supporters Nestlé Philippines and Del Monte Philippines Inc.

During the forum, detailed plans and programs of the new administration and relevant agencies were discussed to highlight the multi-sectoral role of resolving the issue of food insecurity as well as in promoting nutrition in vulnerable communities. This was especially emphasized through the invaluable insights presented by the following speakers:

Dr. Azucena Milana-Dayanghirang, MD, MCH, CESO III, Assistant Secretary and Executive Director of National Nutrition Council - Department of Health; Dr. Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa, Director, DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute; Dr. Yoonyoung Cho, Senior Economist, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, World Bank; Mr. Marvin Tiu Lim, Chief Growth and Development Officer, Mega Global Corporation; and Ms. Helen Grace Baisa, Host & Moderator, Chairperson, ECCP Food and Beverage Committee.



Inside ECCP: Cebu

Forging relationships and collaboration

ECCP Director for Projects, Programs, Events, and Trainings Mr. Gerry Constantino conducted membership rounds among its current and incoming members in order to further explore and develop partnerships and cooperation. He was joined by ECCP Cebu Branch Officers Ms. Jillian Sitchon and Ms. Patricia Salve. Additionally, ECCP Cebu wants to improve and develop ties with local government agencies to mainstream regional and local causes. In order to produce sustainable and concrete results, ECCP Cebu is adamant that a chamber like ECCP must establish a forum for communication, alliances, and cooperation among the executive branch, local government units (LGUs), private sector, and civil society organizations.

BOI - Strategic Investment Priority Plan Domestic Roadshow - Cebu

19 July 2022

The ECCP participated in the first installment of a series of roadshows on the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) organized by the Philippine Board of Investment. The first leg of the event was held in Cebu City, Philippines last July 19.



Membership Meeting with Conchology Inc.

25 July 2022

From L-R: Ms. Patricia Salve, ECCP Cebu Asst. Branch Officer; Ms. Jillian Sitchon, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer; Mr. Gerry Constantino, ECCP Director for Projects, Programs, Events, and Trainings; Mr. Philippe Poppe, CEO of Conchology Inc; and Ms. Julie Tabornal, Stock Manager.



Courtesy Visit with the Department of Trade and Industry VII

25 July 2022

From L-R: DTI Cebu Provincial Director Rose Mae M. Quiñanola, DTI 7 Asst. Regional Director Esperanza "Hope" Melgar, DTI 7 Regional Director Maria Elena "Nannette" Arbon, ECCP Director for Projects, Programs, Events, and Trainings Gerry Constantino, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Jillian Sitchon, DTI 7 TIDS | Industry Development Division Engr. Joenero Bollozos.



Meeting with Capt. Jithin Bhadran, President of Continental Aero Flying School

25 July 2022



2nd ECCP Cebu Business Council Meeting

26 July 2022

This event was attended by Mr. Gerry Constantino ECCP Director for Projects, Events, & Training, the ECCP Cebu Branch Officers, and business leaders from Mercedes-Benz Group Services Phils Inc., Beanleaf Coffee and Tea, Gaisano Brothers Merchandising Inc. Marco Polo, Marine Dev., bai Hotel, Trends and Concepts Total Interior Solutions Inc., Sheraton Cebu Mactan Resort, AppleOne Properties, HiTech Lighting World Corporation, Work Essentials Trading, and All Transport Network.



Courtesy Visit to Regional Director Jesus "Jess" Zamora of the Department of Science and Technology Region 7
26 July 2022



Meeting with Cebu City Mobility Summit Team at the office of Hon. James Cuenco
27 July 2022

From Left-Right: Mr. Reymarr Hijara (Special Assistant to the Mayor), Atty. Dominic Ong (part of the Office of Coun. James Cuenco), Atty. Kent Francesco Jongoy (part of the Office of Coun. James Cuenco), Ms. Jillian Sitchon, Mr. Gerry Constantino, and Atty. Daniel Ong (part of the Office of Coun. James Cuenco).



Launch & Lunch with FedEx at Santa Maria Ballroom, Radisson Blu Hotel Cebu
27 July 2022

This event was joined by speakers from FedEx, PEZA, Bureau of Customs, and DTI in giving tips on how to export and import shipments in a practical and efficient means.



Extending Business Operations with Confidence: A Step-by-Step Guide to the Incorporation Process in the Philippines
28 July 2022

The ECCP in partnership with SGV & Co. held the webinar entitled, "Extending Business Operations with Confidence: A Step-by-Step Guide to the Incorporation Process in the Philippines".

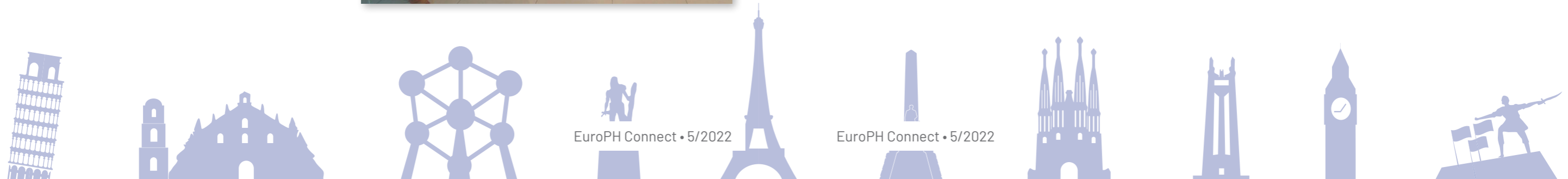
In the discussion, we were joined by the following guests to discuss the incorporation process in the country and clarify the misconceptions surrounding it: Atty. Anne Margaret E. Momongan, CPA, Business Tax Services Senior Director at SGV & Company; Atty. Virnee Joy T. Agot-Ting, Director of SGV & Company, Member of Ernst & Young; and Atty. Maria Arielle B. So, Company Senior Associate at SGV & Company.

ORGANIZED BY **eccp** EVENT PARTNER **SGV**
Extending Business Operations with Confidence:
 A Step-by-Step Guide to the Incorporation Process in the Philippines
 28 July 2022 03:00 PM - 04:30 PM (GMT+8) Zoom

Courtesy Visit to Engr. Russ Mark Gamallo, Director of the Department of Energy - Visayas Field Office
27 July 2022



Meeting Ms. Maria Suzette Cuerpo, Director of Operations - Sales & Marketing, Bai Hotel
29 July 2022



Courtesy Visit with Aboitiz InfraCapital
29 July 2022

From the right: Ms. Ginalyn Casinillo (Asst. Admin Manager) and Ms. Kristine Sia (Manager, Sales & Leasing).



Membership Meeting with Mr. Daniel Obrado, CEO of Keralty together with Ms. Irma Bitzer, CEO of ATIJ Corp.
1 August 2022



ECCP Cebu pays a courtesy visit to the Board of Investments (BOI)
3 August 2022

Last Wednesday, 3 August 2022, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Jillian Sitchon and ECCP Cebu Assistant Branch Officer Patricia Salve paid a courtesy visit to the Board of Investments (BOI) to further discuss how ECCP and BOI can collaborate in achieving shared advocacies and aspirations for the related sectors under their department.

In photo (from left to right): Ms. Patricia Salve, ECCP Cebu Assistant Branch Officer, Ms. Floreza Alpuerto, Chief (Board of Investments - Cebu Extension Office), Ms. Jillian Sitchon, ECCP Cebu Branch Officer, and Ms. July Anne C. Guibone (Board of Investments - Cebu Extension Office).



Inside ECCP: CDO



ECCP CDO Conducts a Forum on Anchoring ICT in Partnership with Premium Member Eastern Telecommunications

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Cagayan de Oro - Northern Mindanao branch continues its goals throughout the city and region to become one of the best investment destinations through expanding its membership and organizing industry-related events. Last September 2, 2022, ECCP CDO in partnership with one of the chamber's Premium Members, Eastern Telecommunications, conducted a forum called "Anchoring ICT: A Business Strategy for Continuity and Productivity". The event was held at the Performing Arts Theater of the University of Science and Technology of the Southern Philippines (USTP), Cagayan de Oro, in a hybrid format.



One of the guest speakers, Mr. Albert Antig, Executive Account Manager for Mindanao Regional Operations at Eastern Communications

ICT continues to prove its edge to the industries especially with the global crisis going on. This sector is crucial in how we disseminate information, provide services, conduct businesses, and even in our day to day lives where everybody had shifted to a virtual set-up. With this, Eastern Telecommunications continues to promote its services by being in with the digital and out with the traditional because that is how basically the pandemic changed almost everybody's game especially in the business sector.

The event was opened by a welcome remarks from ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein. After the presentation of the speakers from Eastern and DICT-X, the panel discussion took place with interesting questions coming from both the virtual and onsite audiences and was moderated by ECCP

Business Council Member and Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. Inc.'s (CEPALCO) Executive Vice President, Mr. Jaime Rafael Paguio.



Regional Director of DICT-X, Dir. Sittie Rahma Alawi, giving her presentation on the importance of ICT in the industries

The discussion was also participated by the Local Economic Investment Promotions Officer, head of the Trade and Investment Promotions Center of LGU-CDU Ms. Eileen San Juan, giving the participants relevant and diverse insights coming from the public sector, academe, and key industry players on how important anchoring in the ICT sector is for a better digital transformation for all for business continuity and productivity.



L-R: Mr. Jaime Raphael Paguio (CEPALCO EVP), Ms. Eileen San Juan (LEIPO TIPC-CDO), Dir. Sittie Rahma Alawi (DICT-X RD) and Mr. Albert Antig (Executive Account Manager for Mindanao Regional Operations, Eastern Communications)



ECCP CDO Member Mr. Alexandar Paras of Dahilayan/UC-1 Corporation raised a question to the panel on the capacity building the public sector has to pay more attention to for the future industry leaders from the academe

The event was well attended with more than 70 on-site participants; public and private sectors combined, academe, ECCP CDO members and even the graduating IT students of USTP. The Eastern Telecommunications Marketing Management Team led by Mr. Dindo Cabatingan and Mr. Antonio Casas is looking forward to more partnerships with the chamber especially in the different regional branches of ECCP. The university, also an ECCP member in Cagayan de Oro, hosted the venue for this forum, being one of the hubs in the city for innovations and technology.

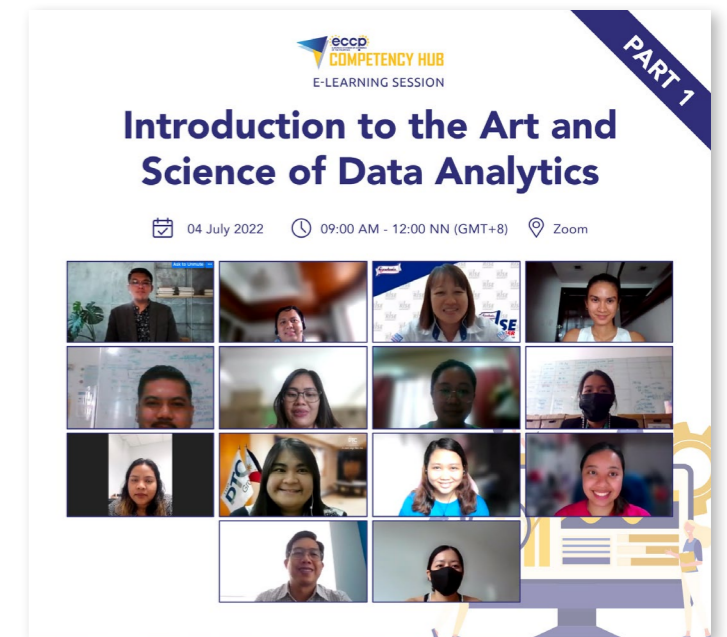
Inside ECCP: Davao

Introduction to the Art and Science of Data Analytics 4 July 2022

The growing availability of data is creating an unprecedented opportunity for businesses and industries to better understand the value of their analytics.

To help introduce companies to the basics of data analytics and its various applications, the ECCP Competency Hub launched the first installment of its e-learning session titled "Introduction to the Art and Science of Data Analytics". The webinar was held last July 4 and was facilitated by Mr. Fercy Cavan, ENP., Research Specialist and Statistician of Freedom Inc.

During the session, Mr. Cavan shared his insights on various statistical and/or logical methods necessary for describing, illustrating, summarizing, and evaluating data. He also shared best industry practices in data analytics and demonstrated the use of data assessment tools.



Innovation of Agribusiness for Rural Economy Development 25 July 2022

Last July 25, 2022, the ECCP organized another installment of its Mindanao Talks series on the topic of "Innovation of Agribusiness for Rural Economy Development".

The webinar discussed the current state of agriculture in Mindanao, while data and insights gleaned from key speakers highlighted how farmers and business owners can benefit from the advancement of agri-industrial growth and innovation in the region.

Sharing their knowledge and expertise were the following speakers: Maria Lourdes Lim, CESO II, Regional Director, NEDA XI; Giacomo Cassari, Agribusiness Specialist, FAO Regional, Office for Asia and the Pacific; Carlene C. Collado, CPA, Regional Executive Director, Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 10.

Moreover, the event was hosted by Mr. Tony Peralta, Executive Director at Freedom, Inc. and Chairman of ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council.



Mindanao Talks: Maximizing Copra Production in Mindanao

10 August 2022

Last August 10, 2022, the ECCP along with Sagrex Corporation and the Department of Agriculture - Philippines held its Mindanao Talks series on the topic, "Maximizing Copra Production in Mindanao".

It was an informative and educational afternoon as we went into a deep examination of the country's copra industry, the current coconut agricultural value chains, and its impacts on the economic growth of the Philippines.

Moreover, the event was hosted by Mr. Tony Peralta, Executive Director at Freedom, Inc. and Chairman of the ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council.

We were joined by the following keynote speakers: Dr. William D. Dar, President of nangLupa Movement Inc., Chairperson of Philippine Coconut Authority, and Former Secretary of Department of Agriculture; Asec. Carlos Bernardo O. Abad Santos, Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning of National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); Mr. Benjamin Madrigal Jr., Administrator of Philippine Coconut Authority; Mr. Manuel Octubre, Regional Manager III of Philippine Coconut Authority 10; and Mr. Roel Rosales, Deputy Administrator for Operations Branch, Philippine Coconut Authority.

Launching of Institute of ASEAN-European Studies

18 August 2022

Last August 18, 2022, The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines together with the Holy Cross of Davao College successfully launched the Institute of ASEAN - European Studies' (IAES) in Paglayag: The Official Launching of the Institute of ASEAN-European Studies (IAES) held in Davao College (HCDC), Davao City, Philippines, wherein members of the diplomatic corps from Europe shared their insights and perspectives on various issues with students in the lecture.

The established institute will serve as an avenue of conversation for regional integration and associated issues (economic, social, cultural, political), globalization, inter and intra-regional business relations, as well as environmental issues, social issues, political issues (to include territorial issues), security issues, as well as education, and technological innovations, among others. Thus, it offers academic and cultural exposure that will help the students better understand the relationship between the EU and ASEAN.



Go Local: CommUNITY Towards Food Security

23 August 2022

Bringing together government leaders and experts from the Philippine agricultural sector, the ECCP-hosted webinar "Go Local: CommUNITY Towards Food Security" featured a timely and insightful discussion on food security, the farming and fisheries industry, and the local agricultural supply chains.

With talks about the Zero Hunger Framework in the Philippines, the Modernization of Farming and Local Markets, as well as Sustainable Farming modes and practices, the online forum placed a spotlight on the many innovative and applicable ideas from both government and the private sector to help address threats to food security in the country.

The program featured the following esteemed speakers: Mr. Clint Hassan - Director for Consumer Affairs, Mindanao Department of Agriculture; Mr. Piolito Santos - Regional Director of Region 1, Department of Agriculture - National Food Authority (DA-NFA); Dr. Eufemio T. Rasco Jr. - President, Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines (CAMP); Ms. Jennifer Joy C. Subang - VP for Operations, Agridom Solutions Corp.; Dir. Glenn Panganiban - National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program Director, Department of Agriculture (DA); Mr. Ralph Becker - CEO & Founder, Urban Greens Hydroponic Farm Systems.

Furthermore, this event was hosted and moderated by Mr. Tony Peralta, ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Chairman.



Inside ECCP: Iloilo

Growth Opportunities: Invest, Work, and Stay in Iloilo City

4 July 2022

Last July 4, the ECCP and Trends and Concepts in partnership with the Iloilo City Investment Promotion Center held the "Growth Opportunities: Invest, Work, and Stay in Iloilo City" webinar.

The online event marks the beginning of the Chamber's business initiatives in Western Visayas to promote and spur investment opportunities in the region.

Present during the event were ECCP President Mr. Lars Wittig, who expressed excitement towards the new business opportunities for the city, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, as well as keynote speaker Iloilo City Mayor Hon. Jerry P. Trenas.

Meanwhile, the following Ilonggo panel of speakers gave a rich discussion on the geography of the Western Visayas region, the many budding industries and growing sectors of the province, as well as highlighted upcoming key projects in the city. They were Mr. Roel Castro, President and CEO, MORE Electric and Power Corporation; Ms. Velma Jane Lao, Iloilo City Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion; Mr. Terrence Uygongco Chairman, Iloilo Economic Development Foundation, Inc.



ECCP Western Visayas participated in the What's Up Western Visayas Business Conference last August 22, 2022. This is in line with the business week celebration spearheaded by Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Inc. - Iloilo Chapter.

This business conference is intended to act as a collaborative space where ideas and new possibilities can be created and current business trends in the area are brought up. During the conference, eminent speakers discussed the purpose of promoting inclusion of all other industries, and boosting competences for economic development of the region.

ECCP Western Visayas Business Council Chairperson Mr. Joe Bantiling is one of the speakers during the event and highlighted the potential of the region for foreign trade and investment.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry P. Trenas and former Sen. Franklin Drilon were also present during the event as they shared the different economic activities happening in Iloilo City at present.



Eminent guests and speakers are present during the event. (L-R) Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Director of ICT Development Bureau Emmy Lou Versoza-Delfin, PCCI-Iloilo Chairman Sandra Gomez, Iloilo Governor Hon. Arthur Defensor, Jr., PCCI Regional Governor Atty. Joebert Peñaflorida, MORE Power President/CEO Roel Castro, ECCP Western Visayas Business Council Chairperson Mr. Joe Bantiling, and CBRE Country Head Jie Espinosa.

A panel discussion with provincial leaders was also held in the afternoon regarding regional business opportunities for the business community in Western Visayas. This is an opportunity to encourage more businesses and economic activity that will ensure economic recovery.



Mr. Joe Bantiling, ECCP Western Visayas Business Council Chairperson, speaks on collaboration of different business players for Western Visayas' economic recovery.

Advocacy Corner

Courtesy Meeting with the Philippine Embassy in Belgium, Brussels H.E. Ambassador Eduardo Jose de Vega 07 June 2022

ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein had a courtesy meeting with Ambassador Eduardo Jose de Vega, Philippine Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg. Discussed during this meeting were Philippine economic updates and priorities, as well as areas of common interest and for collaboration. Mr. Gottein also had the opportunity to handover copies of several recent ECCP publications, including the Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook, as well as the Euro-PH Connect magazine.



ECCP Meeting with MEDEF International Vice President Mr. François Corbin 27 June 2022

Last 27 June 2022, ECCP President Lars Wittig and Associate Director for Government and International Affairs Sophia Ordoña met with Mr. François Corbin at SPACES in World Plaza, Bonifacio Global City. Mr. Corbin is the Special Representative of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs for economic relations with ASEAN countries and Vice President of MEDEF International, the French business confederation. MEDEF International is the most represented organisation of the French private sector in an international level. Embassy of France to the Philippines Economic Counsellor Olivier Ginepro and Deputy Head of the Economic Department Tom Salmon also attended the meeting.



During the session, participants discussed bilateral business relations, as well as possible partnerships and cooperation in promising sectors.

EU Market Access Team Meeting 30 June 2022

The ECCP participate in the 30 June Market Access Team Meeting hosted by the EU Delegation in Manila. The meeting covered discussions on the Philippine economic and trade policy and its direction with the Marcos Jr. administration, EU-Philippines policy and cooperation updates, as well as upcoming Embassy and Chamber activities.



Post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) Economic Briefing (PEB) 26 July 2022

ECCP Treasurer Ms. Helen Grace Baisa took part in The Post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) Economic Briefing, which serves as the first national economic briefing under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., last 26 July at the PICC Reception Hall. Among the key speakers are DOF Secretary Benjamin Diokno, BSP Governor Felipe Medalla, NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, and DTI Secretary Fred Pasual.

The PEB seeks to gather members of the business and financial communities, development partners, civil society organizations, and the media to a face-to-face event with members of the Economic, Infrastructure, and Human Development cabinet clusters. The event will anchor on the theme of economic transformation and highlight the Marcos administration's 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda for the Near-Term and Medium-Term.

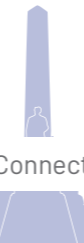
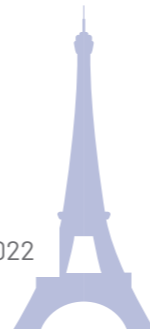
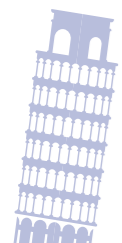


ECCP Young Professionals Committee (YPC) visited Ikea Philippines 27 July 2022

Last 27 July 2022, the ECCP Young Professionals Committee (YPC) visited Ikea Philippines and met with Store Manager Georg Platzer and HR Manager Johanna Escalante. They were joined by YPC Chairperson Patricia Reposo and Co-Chair Kenneth Kung.

It was a fruitful meeting as the parties explored potential partnerships and discussed future collaboration on shared advocacies. The ECCP also gave an update on recent Chamber developments while the Swedish-founded company shared best practices in the areas of sustainability, employee development, and work culture.

In photo (from left to right): ECCP Manager for Industry and Government Affairs Katt Baligod, ECCP Events and Advocacy Associate Aila Torres, ECCP YPC Chair Patricia Reposo, Ikea Philippines Store Manager Georg Platzer, ECCP Advocacy Research Associate Mazel Salazar, and ECCP YPC Co-Chair Kenneth Kung.



NEDA Stakeholders' Chamber Q3 Meeting 03 August 2022

The ECCP was represented at the 3rd quarter meeting of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Stakeholders on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in which the NEDA presented the salient points of the recently-released Voluntary National Review 2022, as well as provided updates on the Chamber membership and activities. Chamber members also had an exchange on their respective sustainability initiatives, as well as provided comments on the Chamber's reports and activities.



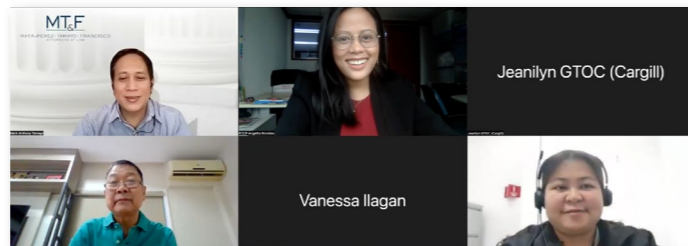
ECCP Courtesy Visit to Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco 22 August 2022

The ECCP and its Tourism and Aviation Committees recently met with the Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) Hon. Christina Frasco last 22 August at the DOT Office in Makati City. During the session, the Chamber introduces its advocies for the tourism and aviation industries such as the improvement of international and domestic connectivity, promotion of domestic tourism, and enactment of laws strengthening the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). The Secretary also shared the Department's plans and priorities for the said sectors.



Q3 ECCP Customs Committee Meeting 22 August 2022

The ECCP Customs Committee conducted its 2nd Committee Meeting last August 22, from 11:00AM to 12NN. During the committee meeting, Atty. Tamayo, Chair of the Customs Committee meeting, discussed the current developments and custom memorandum order of the Bureau of Customs that directly affects the stakeholders.



ECCP Courtesy Call to DICT Secretary Uy 25 August 2022

The ECCP and its ICT-BPM-KPM Committee met with the Secretary of the Department of Information And Communications Technology (DICT) Hon. Ivan John Uy last 25 August at Manila Marriott Hotel, Pasay City. The Chamber introduced its advocacies for the ICT-BPO industry, such as incentivizing competitive and innovative ICT-BPO investments, addressing digital infrastructure gaps, and upskilling the workforce focusing on developing STEM capabilities. During the meeting, the Secretary shared the Department's plans and key priorities for the said sector.

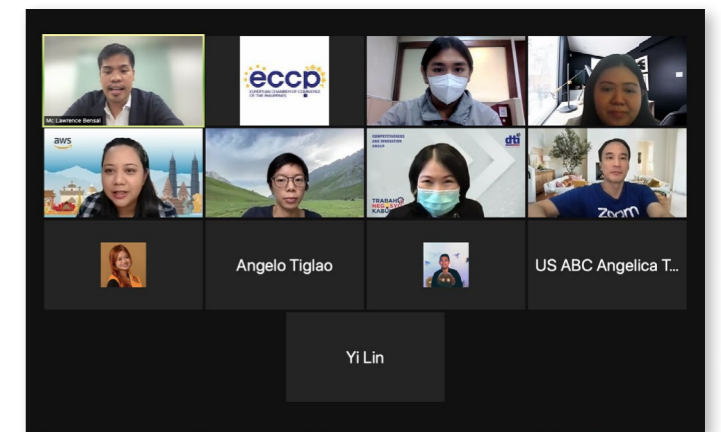
Present at the courtesy meeting were ECCP ICT-BPM-KPM Committee leaders and representatives from several member companies.

In photo, L-R: Pru Life UK Vice President for Government Relations Maricel Estavillo, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, DICT Secretary Ivan John Uy, ICT-BPM-KPM Committee Co-chair Karl Jason Bantiling, ICT-BPM-KPM Committee Chair Erik Nielsen.



JFC Meeting with DTI Usec. Aldaba on NPC Regulations 30 August 2022

Together with the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines, the ECCP attended the meeting with DTI Undersecretary Fita Aldaba to discuss the Draft National Privacy Commission (NPC) Registration regulation. Joined by industry experts from the private sector, the meeting talked about the JFC's proposed request to reconsider the requirements for registration of personal data processing systems and to align registration requirements of personal information controllers (PICs) with international best practices for ease of registration and minimize non-compliance.



New Members Corner

Associate Members



Black Sheep Digital Information Technology

Led by two self-proclaimed black sheep, the company aims to demystify digital marketing and help MSME's leverage on digital marketing to grow their business.



Brokenshire College Toril

Brokenshire College is a learning organization engaged in the pursuit and diffusion of knowledge through the highest standards of instruction, research and extension. It leads a life of faith, learning and action that develop people to become intellectually competent, sensitive, spiritually mature, aware and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community. It manages and develops wisely all resources to ensure sustainable growth of the institution as responsible stewards of God and contributes to the realization of a just, free and responsible Christian social order.



Metro Seven J Global Corporation

Metro Seven J Global Corporation is involved in the trading of wholesale goods and real estate leasing. As part of the main thrust of the company, it wishes to provide top-notch quality and globally competitive practices to its clients and partners.

The company envisions to be one of the fastest-growing companies in Region 6 and the Philippines by hinging on its core values: excellence, integrity, and competence.



Smartsourcing

Smartsourcing is a values- and people-driven organization that does outsourcing and consultation work. Their services include, but are not limited to: back office administration, executive assistance, bookkeeping, customer support, marketing, and sales. Smartsourcing has been recognized by HR Asia in the "Best Companies to Work for in Asia 2021," and likewise has been certified as a "Great Place to Work." #StartSmartsourcingNow



Vigour Seeds Dev. Inc.

Supplying agricultural inputs.
Supplying High-quality corn seeds.
Research and Development in germplasm.

Regular Member



Schenker Philippines, Inc.

Schenker Philippines, Inc. is a subsidiary of DB Schenker, the Transport and Logistics Division of the DB Group. It was established in January 2007 with the merger of BAX Global, Inc., CPI Transport Inc., and Star Trans International. In February 2007, an inauguration was held, creating DB Schenker's own entity in the Philippines - Schenker Philippines, Inc. This marks a milestone in DB Schenker, Asia Pacific. Today, with 900 employees and 37 locations nationwide, Schenker Philippines, Inc. continues to be at the top position in the industry. It strongly upholds its core values to serve both customers and employees. The corporate office is not located in Sucat, Parañaque. Schenker Philippines, Inc. is honored to have customers from top corporations in the Philippines that concentrate on vertical markets of MNCs such as Electronics, Fashion/Retail, Consumer, Semicon/Solar, Automotive, Industrial and Healthcare. This way, our Business Units such as International Freight, Logistics and SCM, National Distribution, Special Projects and Value-Added Services continue to develop and expand as aligned to our Asia Pacific Regional and Head Office.

Foreign-based Member



AsBAA

AsBAA is a non-profit association representing business and general aviation entities based in Asia and around the world. Our members include major operators, aircraft manufacturers, aviation service providers, finance and insurance providers and any organisation or individual with an interest in seeing BA/GA thrive in Asia. Through AsBAA, our members obtain support with operational challenges and in turn, also support the greater advancement and development of the business and general aviation industry in Asia.

AsBAA provides a platform for communication and action relating to key issues such as: airport access, regulation and policy, safety, professional development and training, public awareness and the industry's contribution to the economy. We provide a network for sharing knowledge and experience through the AsBAA Community which meets regularly at events around the region. To learn more, or join AsBAA, please get in touch.

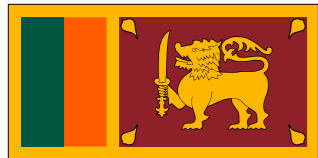


Business Opportunities



Finnish sporting goods company is looking for a technical sports bras local manufacturer

A Finnish company is in search of a technical sports bras local manufacturer. The factory must be able to manufacture bra cup molds and have the experience and machinery for producing that. Materials should be durable and of top export quality (Lycra/Polyamide/Polyester/Elastane fabrics).



Sri Lankan Manufacturer is looking for Distributors and Retailers for high quality plastic durables.

A leading Sri Lankan Manufacturer is looking to appoint Distributors and Retailers in the Philippines Market for high quality plastic durables ranging from Household articles, Furniture, Storage & Organization, Crates & Pallets, Toothbrushes, and Rigid packaging for commercial requirements.



Filipino companies looking for a European Pharmaceutical company for joint venture partnership.

Two major Filipino companies are looking for a European Pharmaceutical company for a potential joint venture partnership to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in the Davao region.



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.

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.

EVENTS CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2022



4,5	e-Learning	How to Win Your Customers: Upskilling Emotional Intelligence and Customer Service
01:30 PM - 04:30 PM via ZOOM		
7	e-Learning	Protecting your Mental Health in the Digital World
10:00 AM - 12:00 NN via ZOOM		
7	Physical	Visayas Foreign Chambers Networking Socials
06:00 PM - 09:00 PM Yello Hotel, Cebu City		
12	Physical	17 th JCF Networking Night
06:00 PM - 09:00 PM Dusit Thani Manila		
12	Physical	Pathways to Employability and Entrepreneurship in the New Normal
09:00 AM - 05:30 PM Dusit Thani Manila		
17	Hybrid	ECCP Luncheon Meeting with DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista
12:00 NN - 02:00 PM		
18	e-Learning	HR Management Series Module 2: Performance Management: Making Proper Appraisals
10:00 AM - 12:00 NN via ZOOM		
21	e-Learning	Protecting your Mental Health in the Digital World
10:00 AM - 12:00 NN via ZOOM		Infinet Care
24,25	e-Learning	Digital Marketing Advanced Module
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM via ZOOM		

2022 INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIRS

JAN

ISPO MUNICH
Sports
21-26 | Hybrid | Munich, Germany

FEB

SPRING FAIR
Home and Living, Giftware
06-10 | Birmingham, United Kingdom

F.R.E.E
Leisure and Travel
16-20 | Munich, Germany

MARCH

**INTERNATIONALE
HANDWERKSMESSE**
Construction, Renovation,
Refurbishment
09-13 | Munich, Germany

HANDWERK & DESIGN
Arts and Design
09-13 | Munich, Germany

IFAT AFRICA
Water, Sewage, Recycling, Refuse
Johannesburg, South Africa

APRIL

INHORGENTA MUNICH
Jewelry, Watches, Gemstones
08-11 | Munich, Germany

**ANALYTICA ANACON
INDIA AND INDIA LAB
EXPO**
Technology
20-21 | Mumbai, India

IE EXPO CHINA
Environmental Technology
20-22 | Shanghai, China

ANUGA FOODTEC
Food Technology
26-29 | Hybrid Exhibition
Cologne, Germany

**LASER WORLD OF
PHOTONICS**
Technology
26-29 | Munich, Germany

MAY

PERFORMANCE DAYS@
Fabric
27-28 | Hybrid Exhibition
Munich, Germany

ELECTRONICA CHINA
Electronics
06-08 | Shanghai, China

OPTI
Optics and Design
13-15 | Munich, Germany

MAY

THE TIRE COLOGNE
Mobility
24-26 | Hybrid | Cologne, Germany

BAUMA CTT RUSSIA
Technology and Construction
24-27 | Moscow, Russia

DIGITALBAU
Technology
31-02 Jun | Cologne, Germany

MAY

IFAT
Water, Sewage, Waste, and Raw Materials
30 May - 3 June | Munich, Germany

AIR CARGO CHINA
Air Cargo and Logistics
15-17 | Shanghai, China

**TRANSPORT LOGISTIC
CHINA**
Logistics, Mobility, IT, and Supply Chain
Management
15-17 | Shanghai, China

CERAMITEC
Ceramics and Technology
21-24 | Munich, Germany

AUTOMATICA
Automation and Robotics
21-24 | Munich, Germany

JUNE

JAPAN FOOD EXPO
Home Decoration, Additives, Bakery, Dairy
Products, Meat, Sweets, Food Processing
22-24 | Chiba, Japan

JULY

GARTEN MÜNCHEN
Garden Design and Garden Culture
06-10 | Munich, Germany

JULY

PRODUCTRONICA CHINA
Electronics
13-15 | Shanghai, China

AUG

M&T EXPO
Construction and Mining Machinery
30 Aug - 2 Sep | São Paulo, Brazil

SEPTEMBER

MAISON SHANGHAI
Design and Lifestyle
12-15 | Shanghai, China

DRINKTEC
Beverage and Liquid Food
12-16 | Munich, Germany

OILS+FATS
Food Innovation and Technology
12-16 | Munich, Germany

SEPTEMBER

FURNITURE CHINA 2022
Furniture
13-17 | Shanghai, China

PRODUCTRONICA INDIA
Electronics
21-23 | India

ELECTRONICA INDIA
Electronics, Components, System
Applications and Solutions
21-23 | India

SEPTEMBER

EXPO REAL
Property and Investment
04-06 | Munich, Germany

**CHINA BREW CHINA
BEVERAGE**
Food and Beverage
12-15 | Shanghai, China

BAUMA
Construction, Machines, Mining, and
Automotive
24-30 | Munich, Germany

GLASSTECH ASIA
Glass
28-29 | Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

OCTOBER

HEIM+HANDWERK 2022
Handicrafts
30 Nov - 4 Dec | Munich, Germany

FOOD & LIFE 2022
Food and Lifestyle
30 Nov - 4 Dec | Munich, Germany

OCTOBER

AIR CARGO FORUM MIAMI
Air Cargo, Transportation, Logistics
08-10 | Miami, Florida, USA

NOVEMBER

**TRANSPORT LOGISTIC
AMERICAS**
Logistics, Mobility, IT and Supply Chain
Management
08-10 | Miami, Florida, USA

NOVEMBER

ELECTRONICA
Electronics
15-18 | Munich, Germany

BAUMA CHINA
Construction, Machines, Mining, and
Automotive
22-25 | Shanghai, China

DECEMBER

**DRINK TECHNOLOGY
INDIA 2022**
Beverage & Liquid Food
07-09 | Bombay Exhibition
Centre, Mumbai, India

**LASER WORLD OF
PHOTONICS INDIA 2022**
Industrial Solutions
07-09 | Mumbai, India



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