

EuroPH CONNECT

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THE BUSINESS DIGEST
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OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- *European Country in Focus: Italy*
- *Interview with the Italian Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Davide Giglio*
- *Interview with the Department of Tourism Secretary Hon. Christina Garcia Frasco*

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TURKISH AIRLINES

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TURKISH AIRLINES

Editorial

Dear reader,

As we close the first half of the year on a strong note, we look forward to an even more exciting and impactful second half ahead.

In this EuroPH Connect issue, we feature Ambassador Davide Giglio of the Embassy of Italy as he shares insights on the growing business relationship between Italy and the Philippines, as well as insights about the tourism sector of Italy on page 8.

In line with this edition's tourism focus, we highlight Secretary Christina Garcia Fraso of the Department of Tourism. Secretary Frasco outlines ongoing efforts and projects of the department, such as the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) and incorporating sustainability initiatives to further enhance and improve the tourism sector in the Philippines. Read more on page 16.

We also spotlight ECCP members and partners making meaningful strides in their respective fields: Turkish Airlines and Apple One Group share their latest offerings; BDB Law provides an expert take on the amended VAT refund for non-resident tourists; and The Ascott Limited reflects on its 25-year milestone in the Philippines. From our partners, TIEZA discusses its initiatives on effective and efficient assets management, while TAG Resort focuses on its shift to green energy and how it is one of the primary green resorts in Coron. At the ECCP, we are committed to providing a platform for our members to share their stories and highlight their services to the ECCP community.

In May, the Chamber held a number of events, such as the Annual General Membership Meeting, which gathered more than 350 members in attendance. Following this was the Sunset Socials, where both current and new members as well as partners, had the opportunity to network and build connections. We also held in May a luncheon meeting with TESDA Director General Hon. Francis "Kiko" Benitez, where he shared updates on the agency's plans and initiatives as well as areas of collaboration with the private sector. The Chamber also supported the 2nd JFC Clark International Mixer that brought together the business community in the north.

In June, we recently hosted a Kapihan Session with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) Director General Atty. Brigitte Da Costa-Villaluz where she discussed IPOPHL's recent initiatives, including its Green Technology Incentive (GreenTech) Program. The Chamber also conducted the first leg of the Climate Solutions Forum: Building a Sustainable and Resilient



Florian Gottein
ECCP Executive Director

Economy in Cebu, which was organized in partnership with the German Embassy in Manila. The forum aimed to discuss the contributions of German enterprises in supporting the Philippines' climate goals. The Chamber also held a number of training programs to cater to the needs of members and partners.

For more highlights, check our Advocacy Corner on page 43 where we include the latest updates on our engagements with key government offices and insights from our committee meetings focused on pressing industry concerns and issues.

We also proudly welcome our new members under the New Members Corner found on page 80. We look forward to having them join our various events and maximize the value of their membership. Stay up to date on the Chamber activities from our branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Clark, and Iloilo. Read about this on page 60. We also feature our lineup of events and training as well as international trade fairs you might be interested in joining.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support in our events and active participation in the different engagements with the government and the private sector. It shows ECCP's commitment to serve its members and provide a platform to voice their advocacies. Not only that, but the unwavering commitment of our members in pursuing these initiatives reflects the stable partnership between ECCP and its members. I hope you enjoy this issue of the EuroPH Connect and continue to support the ECCP. Until the next edition!

Best regards,
Florian

European Country in Focus

Italy



POPULATION



CAPITAL

302,073

square kilometers

58.9 M

approximately

Rome

ITALY'S TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Italy boasts one of the most diversified and resilient economies in Europe, underpinned by a strong manufacturing base, a dynamic services sector, and a competitive export profile. Italy's trade and industrial strength lies in the combination of technological excellence, high-value manufacturing, and a long-standing tradition of craftsmanship and innovation, making it a pillar of European economic performance and a key player in global value chains. As of 2024, Italy ranks as the eighth-largest economy globally and the third-largest within the European Union by nominal GDP. With a population nearing 60 million, it is also the third-largest consumer market in the EU, offering significant domestic demand and strategic access to European and Mediterranean markets.

The Italian economy is internationally recognized for its excellence in mechanical engineering, pharmaceuticals, automotive, fashion, design, and agri-food sectors. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—particularly in the northern and central regions—play a vital role in maintaining Italy's global competitiveness and export orientation.

Italy's top exports include: pharmaceuticals, automotive, refined petroleum products, jewelry and precious metal products, industrial machinery and equipment, etc.

Italy also holds global leadership in specific sectors. It ranks among the world's top exporter of many diverse products (such as: sunglasses, cruise ships and motor yachts, leather footwear, processed tomato products, ceramic tiles, pasta, pure olive oil, wines, dairy products including traditional world renowned cheeses such as Parmigiano Reggiano and Mozzarella di Bufala, etc).

Italy's principal export destinations are Germany, the United States, France, Spain, and the United Kingdom—markets where Italian goods are widely appreciated for their quality, innovation, and design.

On the import side, Italy sources key raw materials and intermediate goods to support its advanced manufacturing sector. Its main imports include petroleum gas and crude oil, automobiles and automotive components, electronic equipment, etc., all primarily imported from Germany, China, France, the Netherlands, and Spain.

Geographical Location: Italy is situated in Southern Europe and forms a distinctive boot-shaped peninsula that extends into the central Mediterranean Sea, northeast of Tunisia. It shares borders with Austria, France, the Holy See (Vatican City), San Marino, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

Climate: Italy has a predominantly temperate Mediterranean climate. The country features four main climatic zones: the Alpine climate in the north, the Mediterranean climate along the coasts and southern regions, the Apennine (peninsular) climate in the central areas, and the Po Valley climate characterized by more humid conditions.

Official Language: Italian

Government Type: Italy is a parliamentary republic. The President of the Republic serves as the head of state and formally appoints the Prime Minister, who is the head of government. Executive power is exercised by the Council of Ministers.

Standard of Living: Italy offers a high quality of life, supported by a robust healthcare system, rich cultural heritage, and well-developed infrastructure. The country's indicators are particularly high in areas such as health, life expectancy, and environmental quality. While challenges persist in income levels and labor market dynamics, Italy maintains a relatively strong social safety net and public services.

Organizations:

- International Labour Organization (since 1919)
- Council of Europe (since 1949)
- United Nations (since 1955)
- European Union (founding member, since 1958)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (since 1962)
- World Trade Organization (since 1995)

Financial District

The economic powerhouse of Italy is the metropolitan area of Milan, home to approximately 8 million people and responsible for generating nearly 20% of the national GDP. Strategically located at the intersection of major road and rail corridors, Milan serves as a critical gateway connecting Italy to the broader European market.

ITALY



INTERESTING FACTS

- Despite its ancient cultural and historical heritage, Italy is one of the youngest nation-states in Western Europe. It was officially unified in 1861, when most of the Italian peninsula was brought together under the rule of the House of Savoy, forming the Kingdom of Italy. Prior to unification, the territory had been a patchwork of kingdoms, duchies, and city-states for centuries.
- Italy holds the distinction of being the country with the highest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world. As of 2024, it boasts 59 designated sites (53 cultural and 6 natural), reflecting its exceptional historical, artistic, and environmental legacy. Notable examples include the Colosseum in Rome, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the historic centers of Florence and Venice, the volcanic Aeolian Islands and many, many more.
- The first Italian sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List were the Rock Drawings in Valcamonica (1979), one of the largest collections of prehistoric petroglyphs in the world, and the Historic Centre of Rome, inscribed in 1980 alongside Vatican City and the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls.

TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



THE COLOSSEUM

The Colosseum, known in antiquity as the Amphitheatrum Flavium, is the largest Roman amphitheater ever constructed and remains one of the most iconic landmarks of ancient Rome. Commissioned by Emperor Vespasian of the Flavian dynasty around 70-72 AD and completed in 80 AD under his successor Titus, the structure could accommodate up to 50,000 spectators. It was primarily used for public spectacles, including gladiatorial contests, animal hunts (venationes), and executions.



PIAZZA DEL DUOMO

Located in the heart of Pisa, Piazza del Duomo—also known as Piazza dei Miracoli (Square of Miracles)—is one of the most remarkable architectural complexes in the world. This UNESCO World Heritage Site encompasses four major masterpieces of medieval architecture: the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, a striking example of Romanesque architecture; the Baptistery, the largest in Italy; the world-famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, originally built as the cathedral's bell tower; and the Camposanto Monumentale, a historical cemetery.



TREVI FOUNTAIN

The Trevi Fountain (Fontana di Trevi) is one of the most renowned fountains in the world and a masterpiece of late Baroque architecture. Designed by Nicola Salvi and completed by Giuseppe Pannini in 1762, the fountain is built against the rear façade of the Palazzo Poli. Its name derives from "tre vie," meaning "three roads," referring to the junction where the fountain is located. Standing 26 meters high and 49 meters wide, it features a dramatic central figure of Oceanus, the personification of the sea, flanked by allegorical statues representing abundance and health.

*Interview with the Italian Ambassador
to the Republic of the Philippines*

H.E. Davide Giglio



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

My initial impression has been of a country on the move with a young population that looks at the future with confidence. I personally look at the Philippines as a country of opportunity for Italy: the strong economic progress, the ambitious infrastructure development programs underway, growing consumption of a rapidly expanding urban population. Overall I perceive huge untapped potential in bilateral exchanges across the board. Italy looks forward to be involved and to be a partner.

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

The Philippines' cultural affinity makes it a natural economic and commercial partner for the European Union and Italy. A key advantage is the widespread use of English. This ensures ease of engagement leveraged not only by large multinational corporations but also by the small and medium-sized enterprises, which form a significant part of the EU and Italy's production fabric.

Another major strength lies in the versatility and growing professionalism of the local workforce, which is widely appreciated for its industriousness and ease of integration. The attraction of skilled Filipino talent to the EU has become increasingly essential to meet the demands of national markets across various sectors.

From a commercial perspective, the Philippines has the potential to become an increasingly important destination market for EU member states, particularly once the Free Trade Agreement currently under negotiation is finalized. This Agreement could unlock significant opportunities for enhanced economic cooperation and trade.

Moreover, the ongoing development of infrastructure—such as airports, ports, and railways—under the current administration is expected to facilitate faster circulation of goods and potentially reduce logistics costs. These improvements could significantly enhance the Philippines' role as a key trade partner for the European Union and Italy in particular.

This combination of cultural affinity, skilled labor, and infrastructure development positions the Philippines as a highly promising partner for Italy, which stands ready to capitalize on both existing and emerging economic opportunities. Compared to its ASEAN neighbors, with which trade exchanges have already reached more structured and intense volumes in some cases, the Philippines has all the credentials to become a priority partner in the region and a key reference point for the EU and Italy.

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

Italian businesses are increasingly drawn to the Philippines for its combination of vibrant economic growth, its strategic geographical position and alignment with Italy's industrial strengths. Italian companies, with their technological expertise, dedication to quality, and innovative capacity, are

well-equipped to unlock the Philippines' growth potential and strengthen bilateral trade ties.

First and foremost, the Philippines' strong economic growth and market potential stand out. The Country boasts a resilient economy, with GDP increases consistently averaging 6–7% in recent years—among the highest in Southeast Asia, a growth supported by a young and expanding population of over 110 million. Rising incomes and rapid urbanization have fueled strong demand for consumer goods, infrastructure, and services – areas where Italian expertise excels. An expanding middle class with increasing purchasing power presents also an interesting market for Italian brands in luxury goods, fashion, and high-quality food products, all traditional strongpoints for Italy.

Italians find the Philippines culturally accessible for shared values, strong familial ties, English proficiency and a westernized culture. A large, skilled, and English-speaking workforce—one of the most competitive advantages compared to other ASEAN peers—offers an attractive and cost-effective foundation for facilitating business collaboration and operations.

In terms of sector prospects, Italian businesses are particularly drawn to certain areas where their expertise and strengths align closely with local opportunities. These include:

- **Infrastructure and Construction:** programs such as the 'Build better more' drive significant demand for Italian expertise in construction, engineering, and high-quality building materials.
- **Renewable Energy:** Italian firms specializing in solar, wind, and geothermal technologies look forward to the opportunities in sectors recently opened to full foreign ownership with high-rewarding potentials.
- **Agriculture and Food Processing:** Italy's agro-food technologies are renowned worldwide, and the Philippines' large agricultural sector provides great openings for innovation and modernization.
- **Luxury Goods:** Italian brands in fashion and design resonate strongly with the Philippines' growing affluent class, with promising prospects for market expansion.

However, successfully entering the Philippine market demands meticulous planning to address regulatory complexities, logistics hurdles, and competitive pressures. Challenges of a bureaucratic and regulatory nature still exist, which affect ease of doing business and complete foreign ownership. While the Philippines has made commendable progress in improving its business environment, red tape, complex regulatory processes, and sometimes-inconsistent enforcement of the law might discourage foreign actors.

Infrastructure gaps and geography may hinder efficient supply chain management and need to be factored into operational and pricing strategies. Another consideration is the volatility of the Philippine Peso against the euro, which may impact profitability for Italian firms relying on imported inputs or exporting products.

Italian companies must also navigate the competitive landscape where local brands and cheaper alternatives

often dominate. Understanding local consumer preferences and business culture remains crucial, additionally building relationships and trust in the business community is essential—this process requires time and investment in personal connections to manage effectively local dynamics. Furthermore, as the Philippine market becomes more conscious of environmental and social governance (ESG) practices, it is increasingly important to align with local sustainability goals, especially in energy and manufacturing sectors. Finally, policy uncertainty remains a critical factor, because shifting government policies can affect business conditions, particularly the stability of key policies affecting trade, investment, and taxation.

I believe that collaboration with local partners can significantly mitigate risks. Local partnerships provide invaluable advantages, such as market insights, regulatory expertise, and established networks, ensuring a smoother entry and sustained presence in the market. Expanding into this dynamic market will provide Italian companies with valuable geographic and market diversification, reducing dependence on slower-growing markets and enhancing their prospects with early positioning in a high-growth region.

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

The sectors in which Italian businesses are most active in the Philippines are electronics (representing 25% of the total Italian exports to the Philippines), food & beverage (19,8%), machineries (16,8%), pharmaceuticals (8,9%), and fashion & clothing (8%). Among the different efforts put in place to enhance the flourishing of Italian enterprises in the country are the trade missions facilitated by the Embassy of Italy in the Philippines and the Italian Trade Agency, which are aimed to connect the Italian delegations with the relevant Philippine government offices and potential local business partners.

Since 2022 the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) Desk at the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank in Manila has been bringing Asian business opportunities closer to the Italian companies. The establishment of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines (ICCPi) in 2011 has assisted Italian companies in their endeavors to penetrate the Philippine market through B2B matching and other related services.

The Italian Trade Agency thorough its Office in Singapore supports Italian entities interested in the Philippine market and actively contributes to the engagement with Philippine fairs and exhibitions by organizing Italian pavilions and giving exposure to Made in Italy excellences. In recent years, in coordination with the Embassy of Italy in the Philippines, the Italian Trade Agency has organized Italian pavilions at the main Philippine trade fairs, namely, Philconstruct, Propak, and Coldchain.

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

Italy has been increasingly reaching out to the ASEAN area. The relationship between the ASEAN area and Italy has

been improving constantly and swiftly in the past five years and overall commercial trade between the two areas has grown by 52 percent. ASEAN-Italy trade exchange is worth more than \$20 billion. There is great dynamism and the Philippines, with its very high growth rate, represents one of the best opportunities for Italy. Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines represent just 8.3 percent of Italian exports to the area and 2.7 percent of imports to Italy. There is ample marge of improvement. The FTA that is being negotiated between the EU and the Philippines will certainly give a great boost to trade exchanges. In both machinery and consumer goods we can work together as we have a complementarity in these segments.

In November 2022, the Philippine Department of Tourism expressed interest in signing the first tourism cooperation agreement with Italy. Are there any developments regarding this deal?

Tourism flows between Italy and the Philippines represent a key area of cooperation between the two countries. Recent data shows that nearly 34,000 Italian tourists visited the Philippines in 2022, marking a steady recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and gradually approaching pre-pandemic levels. At the same time, Italy remains a top destination for Filipino tourists in Europe, thanks to its cultural, historical and artistic appeal.

The visit of Secretary Frasco to Italy in 2022 was certainly a pivotal moment in advancing discussions toward the establishment of a legal framework to strengthen collaboration in this sector. Talks with the relevant counterparts are still ongoing, and we remain confident in the potential of this partnership to further enhance tourism exchange and mutual understanding between our countries.

How do you think the recently signed law on the refund of Value Added Tax (VAT) for non-resident tourists will attract Italian travelers to the Philippines?

The VAT refund for non-resident tourists can attract more Italian travelers to the Philippines if the travelers prioritize shopping, as the law allows for a refund on purchases made on accredited stores for goods worth at least 3,000 Philippine Pesos only. In this case, the refund of the highest VAT in South East Asia (12%) is surely attractive and can lure more tourists.

Additionally, as the sun-and-beach tourism largely comprises the influx of Italian visitors to the country, the newly passed law represents an extra bonus for the Italian travelers that go to the Philippines mainly for the beautiful beaches, holiday, eco-tourism, diving, and cultural immersion. Nonetheless, with more than 35,000 Italians visiting the Philippines in 2024, the new law on the VAT refund for non-resident tourists can further boost the growing interest Italian tourists have been developing in the past years toward the country.

What are the key pillars of Italy's tourism strategy, and how does it contribute to the country's economic and social development?

Tourism is vital to Italy's economy, contributing 13% of GDP and supporting millions of jobs. Italy captivates 58 million visitors annually with its cultural, historical, and natural treasures. Italy's tourism strategy emphasizes innovation,





quality, and regional development, aiming to balance growth with social and environmental sustainability. Its main pillars include:

Diversification: Italy has long recognized the importance of diversifying beyond traditional cultural tourism, expanding its focus to new markets and regions. The government is actively promoting lesser-known areas outside iconic destinations like Rome, Florence, and Venice, aiming for a more balanced distribution of economic benefits. Regions such as Puglia, Sicily, and the Italian Alps offer unique experiences that appeal to a broader range of travelers.

Italy's diverse tourism offerings reduce dependence on specific locations while ensuring that less-visited areas also benefit economically. This strategy fosters inclusive growth, reduces regional disparities, particularly in southern and rural areas, creates jobs, and supports local small businesses, contributing to a more equitable economy.

Innovation: the tourism industry in Italy increasingly incorporates digital tools and technologies to enhance the visitor experience. Digital platforms for booking tours, accommodations, and transport are expanding rapidly, making it easier for international visitors to plan their trips. Virtual tours of historical sites, museums, and landmarks, a practice boosted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensures that Italy's heritage remains accessible to a global audience. Major touristic cities like Florence and Venice are leveraging digital and innovative solutions to manage tourist flows, reduce congestion, and track environmental impacts. The integration of technology into tourism, allows Italy to cater to the needs of modern travelers while improving operational efficiency. Digitalization also opens up new avenues for economic growth, particularly in e-commerce and tech-driven sectors.

Sustainability: Italy is dedicated to protecting its natural beauty and cultural treasures while ensuring sustainable growth in tourism. Eco-friendly initiatives play a big role, especially in regions like Tuscany, the Dolomites, the Amalfi Coast, etc. known for their stunning landscapes. Fostering responsible travel supports Italy's goal of reducing its carbon footprint in tourism activities, while promoting sustainable practices in its UNESCO World Heritage sites (Italy boasts the highest number in the world) helps maintaining their attractiveness and integrity. National awards are given to regions and businesses that embrace eco-conscious tourism to keep these sites attractive and well-preserved. Focusing on sustainability helps protect resources for future generations, while boosting local economies, supporting communities, and maintaining Italy's status as a top travel destination.

Finally, Italy actively promotes high standards across the industry. This is achieved through national and regional quality certifications for services like hospitality and food, as well as the development of luxury tourism targeting a more affluent market. All these initiatives aim to strengthen Italy's reputation as a world-class destination, while encouraging repeat visits and fostering sustainable long-term growth

What are the key tourism sectors in Italy, and how are they being developed and promoted?

Italy's key tourism sectors, ranked in order of popularity, include cultural tourism, food and wine tourism, wellness

tourism, and adventure tourism. These sectors are actively developed and promoted through a blend of government initiatives, technological innovation, and regional diversification strategies.

Cultural Tourism is perhaps the most iconic sector, as Italy is home to a wealth of cultural and historical heritage. Major cities like Rome, Florence, and Venice attract millions of visitors annually, thanks to their world-renowned museums, ancient ruins, art and architecture.

The Italian government has been keen to preserve and promote its cultural assets through initiatives such as UNESCO World Heritage site designations, the investment in the conservation of historical sites, monuments and museums, the development of digital virtual tours, the funding for the preservation and restoration of regional heritage.

Festivals, exhibitions, and art events highlight Italy's rich artistic and architectural legacy. World renowned events like the Venice Biennale, the Arena di Verona Opera Festival, the Siena Palio, the Umbria Jazz Festival, just to name a few, showcase Italy's cultural offerings on the global stage. Many curated itineraries abound throughout the country, allow deeper engagement with Italy's history and artistic traditions.

Certainly, Food and Wine Tourism is a cornerstone of Italy's cultural identity. Italy's diverse regions offer unique culinary traditions and high-quality produce, making this sector a significant driver for its tourism appeal. Regional tourism boards actively promote these experiences through a wide array of events (harvest festivals, vineyard tours, cooking classes, etc.) which draw food enthusiasts from around the world. This sector's expansion aligns with the growing global demand for authentic, sustainable food experiences.

Wellness Tourism has seen substantial growth in recent years, particularly in Italy's renowned spa towns. Locations like Abano Terme, Fiuggi, Sirmione, Chianciano, Montecatini, etc. with their healing thermal waters and wellness centers, have been promoted as key destinations. Italy has capitalized on the global trend towards health-conscious travel by investing in wellness infrastructure, promoting natural therapies, and marketing the country's wellness offerings to both domestic and international markets. This sector especially attracts affluent tourists seeking relaxation, rejuvenation, and holistic experiences.

Adventure Tourism: Italy has been focusing on expanding tourism to less-visited rural and mountainous regions, promoting them as adventure and eco-tourism destinations. Investments in infrastructure, including better transportation and eco-friendly accommodations, have helped make alpine regions more accessible and attractive to tourists seeking active, nature-based experiences. The Italian Alps and Dolomites offer a wealth of outdoor activities, from skiing and snowboarding in the winter to hiking and mountain biking in the summer. And an important event is looming: in 2026 Cortina and Milan will host the winter Olympics.

How does Italy integrate local communities and their cultural heritage into the tourism experience?

Tourism plays a pivotal role in Italy's economy injecting vitality into a particularly rich cultural and historical tapestry.

Hence, it contributes significantly to the nation's GDP and to employment levels. The wealth of tourist attractions is distributed across entire Italian territory. Economic benefits are revenue generation through hospitality, transport, retail and entertainment. This translates into intense stimulation of local economies. Moreover, tourism plays a crucial role in preserving Italian heritage by providing revenue that contributes to the necessary funding for maintenance and restoration making sure that Italy's rich cultural legacy is passed down to future generations in Italy and worldwide.

How is Italy leveraging technology to enhance the tourist experience and improve the efficiency of the tourism sector?

Italy is at the forefront of promoting technology use for the benefit of the tourism sector in Europe. In fact, the Italian Ministry of Tourism joined in January the DEPLOYTOUR program, a project funded by the European Commission aimed at creating common European space for tourism data. The initiative, which will last 3 years, represents a unique opportunity for Italy to promote the digitization and sustainability of the tourism sector, strengthening the competitiveness of the European ecosystem.

Particularly, DEPLOYTOUR aims to implement an innovative and secure infrastructure for sharing tourism data. This tool will enable optimizing the management of tourist flows, fostering sustainability, and responding to new sector trends with innovative solutions. The project is based on a strategic vision that looks at tourism as an engine of digital and social development. Italy's Ministry of Tourism plays a central role in the project, as it will lead the development of a regulatory and operational framework for the management of the European data space.

In addition, Italy's Ministry of Tourism Ministry will contribute to the implementation of pilot projects that will field test the effectiveness of the proposed solutions, and coordinate at the national level the promotion of data sharing among key players in the sector, both public and private. DEPLOYTOUR represents a key step toward the digital and sustainable transformation of tourism, strengthening the role of Italy and Europe as global leaders in the sector.

How does Italy collaborate with other countries and regions to promote tourism and foster international travel?

Italy embraces a wide range of international cooperative strategies. First and foremost is the regulatory aspect. Bilateral agreements ensure an orderly and structured exchange of tourism flows while providing the necessary tools to implement targeted initiatives in specific sectors.

Another key area of cooperation is workforce development. Italy cooperates with partner countries to train and recruit skilled labor for the tourism industry. Filipino workers, in particular, possess important skills and qualities that are highly valued by Italian tourism operators. Attracting qualified talent to Italy is a promising area for further development and collaboration.

Equally important is Italy's active participation in the most prominent international tourism fairs. These events provide

a platform to promote not only its iconic destinations, such as Rome and Venice, but also lesser-known areas across southern, central, and northern Italy. These regions boast an invaluable artistic and cultural heritage, offer high-quality services to visitors, and are easily accessible thanks to Italy's efficient railway network, which ensures seamless connectivity across the country.

Italy also works with various countries and regions to promote sustainable tourism and attract a qualified audience in sectors central to the "Made in Italy" brand, such as design and fashion. A prime example of this is the Milan Furniture Fair (Salone del Mobile), which combines tourism, innovation, and excellence in Italian craftsmanship. These efforts underscore Italy's commitment to enhancing cultural exchange, fostering economic growth, and showcasing its unique heritage on the global stage.

Finally, Italy can increasingly become the gateway to Southern Europe for international tourists thanks to its modern airport and port infrastructure. I believe that the establishment of direct flights between Italy and the Philippines could further increase the volume of tourist flows.

What do you see as the main challenges facing the Italian tourism sector in the coming years, and how is the government addressing these challenges?

The COVID-19 crisis has underscored, on a global scale, the sector's vulnerability to international disruptions. This makes it essential to develop robust crisis response plans and strengthen the system's overall resilience.

Italy aims at diversifying its tourism industry offering by shifting the focus beyond the established and iconic sites in Venice, Florence and Rome— which, especially during peak seasons, can suffer from overcrowding— to destinations throughout the peninsula. This strategy ensures a more balanced distribution of tourism flows. Such an approach is vital for the long-term sustainability of the industry and the protection of the environment.

Another significant opportunity lies in leveraging tourism as a powerful driver of economic growth and digital transformation. Tourism can act as a catalyst for innovation and modernization, encouraging businesses— particularly small and medium-sized enterprises— to adopt digital tools that enhance service quality, promotion, and competitiveness on the global stage. This shift paves the way for a truly "smart" tourism ecosystem.

Tourism also has the potential to play a pivotal role in advancing sustainable public infrastructure. By prioritizing eco-friendly transportation and green initiatives, the sector can contribute to a more efficient and environmentally conscious infrastructure network.

In conclusion, the Italian tourism sector stands at the threshold of extraordinary opportunities for growth and innovation. It has the potential to not only boost the national economy but also set an example of a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient development model.



Interview with the Department of Tourism Secretary

Hon. Christina Garcia Frasco



How has the country progressed in achieving the NTDP's objectives so far?

Under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the Philippines is making remarkable progress in realizing the vision of transforming the country into a tourism powerhouse in Asia. Guided by the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) 2023–2028, the Department of Tourism (DOT) continues to pursue a tourism development agenda anchored on the strategic pillars of Connectivity, Convenience, and (E)quality.

On Connectivity, the DOT, in partnership with the Department of Transportation and other stakeholders, actively pursued airport and seaport upgrades, as well as expanded international and domestic routes. Our momentum extends to the skies with renewed and expanded air connectivity. As of 2025, the Philippines has welcomed historic direct flights to destinations such as the United States of America (USA), Paris, Canada, and India—set to commence by October this year—opening up vibrant new gateways for international visitors.

Complementing these efforts is the expansion of the Cruise Visa Waiver Program and the rollout of the Digital Nomad Visa, reflecting the government's push for greater global mobility and access.

On Convenience, digitalization initiatives such as the enhanced "Travel Philippines" app and the integration of travel tax collection into airline ticketing have streamlined travel processes for tourists. As a flagship program of the DOT that is aimed at providing convenience and a complete travel experience for guests, the DOT is on its road to constructing 100 Tourist Rest Areas nationwide. The Department has also institutionalized service excellence training, training airport and seaport personnel in the Filipino Brand of Service Excellence (FBSE) and Barrier-Free Tourism.

On (E)quality, the DOT has aggressively pushed for inclusive growth through the development of emerging destinations, strategic tourism infrastructure investments such as the construction of 700km tourism roads under the Tourism Roads Infrastructure Program (TRIP), and the promotion of cultural heritage and sustainable tourism.

These efforts are now clearly reflected in the gains we made, as reflected in the 2024 Philippine Tourism Satellite Accounts (PTSA). Tourism Direct Gross Value Added reached ₱2.35 trillion, contributing 8.9% to our GDP, up from 8.7% the previous year. Internal tourism expenditure rose to ₱3.86 trillion, a 13.1% increase from 2023. Domestic travel continues to be a strong pillar, with a 16.4% increase in spending. Meanwhile, Employment in tourism-related industries grew to 6.75 million in 2024, accounting for 13.8% of the national workforce.

These numbers affirm the impact of our NTDP strategies. More importantly, they reflect how tourism continues to serve as a vital engine of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic growth for the Philippines.

How does the Philippine government plan to incorporate sustainability into its tourism initiatives, and what specific measures are being taken to ensure that tourism development is environmentally friendly?

At the Department of Tourism, sustainability is the guiding principle in how we shape the future of Philippine tourism. We're actively incorporating eco-friendly practices into all our programs, and one of our standout initiatives is the Philippine Experience Program, which promotes regional culture, heritage, and eco-tourism. We also launched the Philippine Dive Experience, where tourists can enjoy our marine wonders while participating in conservation activities like coastal cleanups and learning about marine biodiversity.

In addition, we've introduced the Tourism Champions Challenge to encourage local government units to propose sustainable and resilient tourism infrastructure. Last year, President Marcos awarded PHP 255 million to 15 LGUs for outstanding projects that balance tourism growth with environmental and cultural preservation. More recently, we convened the National Ecotourism Summit, where we launched the National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2028). This strategy focuses on building climate-resilient ecotourism products and infrastructure, supported by a whole-of-government approach, ensuring that sustainability becomes a standard in every tourism destination in the country.

What are the key strategies outlined in the Philippine Hotel Industry Strategic Action Plan (PHISAP) 2023–2028 and how do they align with the objectives and priorities of the NTDP? What initiatives are in place to ensure the availability of a skilled workforce?

The Philippine Hotel Industry Strategic Action Plan (PHISAP) is a comprehensive framework developed by the Philippine Hotel Owners Association (PHOA) and the Department of Tourism in collaboration with key stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality sectors. It is designed to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the Philippine hotel industry by addressing various challenges and capitalizing on emerging opportunities in both domestic and international markets.

PHISAP is built around six strategic pillars known as the "6Ts," which define the direction for the hotel industry. First is Targets, which aims to address the projected demand of over 456,000 hotel rooms by 2028. Time underscores the urgency of decisive action to ensure that the industry keeps pace with global standards and rising visitor expectations. Tourist Route focuses on enhancing physical and digital connectivity to ensure a seamless travel experience, from planning to arrival and onward travel. Trust emphasizes the importance of maintaining high standards in safety, hygiene, and sustainability—factors that are essential in restoring and maintaining traveler confidence. Technology plays a key role in boosting operational efficiency through the adoption of smart, sustainable solutions. Finally, Talent highlights the need to strengthen the tourism workforce and invest in human capital development.



To support this, the DOT has been actively implementing programs such as the Filipino Brand of Service Excellence (FBSE) and the Tourism Industry Skills Program (TISP). These initiatives aim to upskill tourism frontliners and professionals across the country to deliver world-class service.

Through FBSE, the Department of Tourism has successfully trained individuals from a wide range of tourism-related sectors, helping raise service standards across the industry. We take great pride in the program's impact and the recognition it has received—most notably being awarded *Training Program of the Year – Tourism* at the 2024 GovMedia Conference & Awards. As of June 18, 2025, over 313,212 individuals have been trained under the FBSE program, reflecting our firm commitment to strengthening human capital as a key pillar of tourism development.

With the recent enactment of the law on the Value Added Tax (VAT) refund for nonresident tourists, what measures are being considered to ensure the efficient and seamless rollout of the refund system to enhance the overall tourist experience?

The Philippines is making remarkable strides in the tourism industry, excelling in metrics that drive sustainable economic growth. While neighboring Southeast Asian countries may record higher tourist arrivals, the Philippines shines among them, showcasing high-value tourism.

The implementation of the Value-Added Tax (VAT) refund for non-resident tourists is further boosting tourism spending, making the country an increasingly attractive destination for travelers seeking both leisure and shopping opportunities. This allows non-resident tourists to claim refunds on purchases worth at least ₱3,000 per transaction. Refunds are applicable to goods bought in-person at accredited stores, provided these items are taken out of the country within 60 days of purchase.

With shopping consistently recognized as a key driver of tourism activity, the VAT refund scheme is anticipated to further elevate the country's appeal, encouraging tourists to invest in our unique offerings, from handcrafted souvenirs to premium local brands.

How does the DOT plan to work with other government agencies to streamline visa processes and attract more international tourists?

Since the beginning of the Marcos administration, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has actively collaborated with other government agencies to streamline visa processes and remove barriers to travel—reflecting our shared commitment to enhancing the Philippines' global competitiveness and accessibility as a tourist destination.

A major milestone is the rollout of electronic visas for Indian nationals, initiated by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) with strong advocacy and support from the DOT. This was followed by the DFA's decision to grant 14-day visa-free entry for Indian nationals, and revised visa policies for Indian travelers holding valid visas from the U.S., Japan, Australia, Canada, Schengen, Singapore, or the U.K. (AJACSSUK).

These travelers may enter the Philippines visa-free for up to 30 days for tourism, further improving ease of entry for high-spending, long-haul markets.

Another positive development is the recent announcement from the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) that Taiwanese tourists may enter the Philippines visa-free for 14 days starting July 1, 2025. This is a timely boost in anticipation of stronger inbound travel from Taiwan, one of our priority markets in the region.

These visa reforms are part of a broader effort to modernize and digitalize Philippine tourism, consistent with the President's directive to improve travel convenience. The DOT is also supporting initiatives to establish direct air links between key cities and major Philippine gateways, including Manila, Cebu, Clark, and Boracay.

Beyond air travel, we're expanding cruise tourism. The Philippines welcomed 104 cruise calls in 2024, and to capitalize on this momentum, the DOT—together with the Bureau of Immigration, Department of Justice, and private partners—launched the Cruise Visa Waiver Program. This initiative simplifies visa access for foreign nationals arriving and departing through cruise ships.

All these efforts are now bearing fruit as the Philippines was recently awarded Asia's Best Ports of Call in the Asia Cruise Awards, showing the impact of responsive, coordinated government action in making the Philippines a more welcoming, tourist-ready nation.

How is the DOT addressing the need for cohesive and comprehensive digitalization and connectivity within the tourism sector, and what technologies are being prioritized?

Digitalization is another focus area of the NTDP 2023-2028, with the Department of Tourism launching initiatives like the Travel Philippines App and the country's first Tourist Assistance Call Center, which has received 16,250 transactions from 72 countries as of 31 May 2025, demonstrating its effectiveness as a reliable platform for assisting both local and international travelers.

The enhanced Travel Philippines App, which has been downloaded more than 71,000 times, has been connecting our tourists to our destinations since it was launched last year.

These tools simplify travel planning, provide real-time support, and enhance the overall convenience for tourists. Alongside these efforts, improved Wi-Fi access in tourist destinations ensures that travelers remain connected and informed throughout their journeys.

Additionally, our partnership with Klook strengthens our efforts in tourism digitalization, providing seamless booking and reservation services for these destinations. Through the Klook Lokal initiative, we encourage stakeholders to package well-known attractions alongside emerging ones, giving visitors more diverse travel experiences and promoting exploration of the Philippines' next potential tourist hotspots.

What steps is the government taking to improve tourism infrastructure and Experience? Accessibility, particularly in lesser-known destinations, to enhance the overall tourist experience?

In collaboration with our attached agency, the TIEZA and local government units nationwide, the DOT has enhanced the travelers' experience by building Tourist Rest Areas all over the country in various stages of development. We are also ensuring sustainability by introducing solar-powered TRAs with rainwater harvesting facilities.

To further strengthen diver safety, the DOT has prioritized the establishment of additional hyperbaric chamber centers in key dive destinations across the country: Dauin in Negros Oriental, Daanbantayan in Cebu, Catarman in Camiguin, Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, and Boracay in Aklan—to add to the 15 existing facilities in the country.

What strategies are being implemented to maximize domestic tourism? In what ways is the national government collaborating with local government units (LGUs) to strengthen tourism governance and ensure effective implementation of tourism policies?

The Department of Tourism remains committed to catering to travelers who are eager to go beyond traditional tourist hotspots and uncover the rich stories of lesser-known destinations across the country. In response to this growing trend, we launched the Philippine Experience Program (PEP)—a cultural, arts, and heritage caravan that shines a spotlight on emerging destinations. The goal is to promote a more inclusive and balanced tourism landscape, ensuring that all regions benefit from the growth of the tourism industry.

To date, PEP has been successfully launched in 12 regions: Ilocos (Region I), Cagayan Valley (Region II), Central Luzon (Region III), CALABARZON (Region IV-A), MIMAROPA (Region IV-B), Bicol (Region V), Western Visayas (Region VI), Zamboanga Peninsula (Region IX), Northern Mindanao (Region X), Davao Region (Region XI), SOCCSKSARGEN (Region XII), and CARAGA (Region XIII)—reaching 32 provinces, 31 cities, and 51 municipalities. More launches are scheduled throughout the year. In partnership with Klook, we have also made it easier for both local and international travelers to explore these destinations through curated PEP travel packages now available for Ilocos, CALABARZON, Bicol, and Western Visayas, making authentic Filipino experiences more accessible than ever.

What do you see as the main challenges facing the Philippine tourism industry today, and how is the government planning to overcome these challenges while seizing new opportunities for growth?

The Department of Tourism (DOT) remains steadfast in its mission to position the Philippines as a premier global destination. Despite the challenges—both external and internal—the Department continues to respond with creativity, strategic foresight, and a strong commitment to innovation. A key focus of this effort is market diversification. In response to shifting global travel dynamics, the DOT has broadened its reach to high-potential markets, such as India, where the recent rollout of the e-visa system has

unlocked new opportunities to attract one of the world's fastest-growing groups of outbound travelers.

While the temporary suspension of the e-visa system for Chinese travelers has affected arrival numbers from this traditionally strong market, the DOT remains proactive—engaging stakeholders to find balanced solutions that uphold both security and traveler convenience. Simultaneously, the Department continues to strengthen its foothold in other key source markets to ensure the Philippines remains highly visible and competitive on the global tourism stage. At the heart of this renewed push is the “Love the Philippines” campaign which we launched in 2023, celebrating the country's vibrant culture, stunning natural beauty, indigenous heritage, and rich culinary diversity. This campaign has not only reignited interest among overseas Filipinos and international tourists but has also gained significant traction across digital and global platforms.

PBBM Signing of the Digital Nomad program

To position the Philippines as a top destination for remote professionals, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signed Executive Order No. 86 on April 24, 2025, officially launching our Digital Nomad Visa program. This initiative gives eligible foreign nationals—those earning income from overseas employers or clients—the opportunity to live and work remotely from the Philippines for up to a year, with the option to renew for another year.

To qualify, applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a foreign-sourced income, valid health insurance, a clean criminal record, and come from countries that have reciprocal arrangements with the Philippines.

This visa is very much aligned with our National Tourism Development Plan for 2023–2028, which focuses on boosting tourism receipts and encouraging longer stays. It also encourages improvements in our digital infrastructure and services—important steps as we build a future-ready tourism economy. The program is being rolled out in coordination with multiple national government agencies. It's a powerful example of how inter-agency collaboration can deliver innovative solutions that strengthen both our tourism and digital economies.

How does the Philippines adapt to the challenges of geopolitics, climate change, and geography?

The Department of Tourism continues to face challenges such as limited air connectivity, strict visa policies, and peace and security concerns. The recent suspension of the e-visa system for Chinese tourists by the DFA has significantly reduced arrivals from China—a key market—especially when compared to neighboring ASEAN countries with more relaxed entry policies.

In response, the DOT is actively diversifying its source markets to reduce reliance on any single country.

We are expanding our efforts in emerging markets such as India, the Middle East, and parts of Europe, including France, Spain, Italy, and the Netherlands. We're also strengthening our presence within ASEAN—particularly in Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam—as well as in Russia.

At the same time, we continue to focus on our more stable and high-performing markets, including South Korea, the U.S., Canada, Japan, and Australia. South Korea and Japan remain priority markets for us, not only because of their consistency but also because their travelers tend to spend more. We're also seeing growing interest among younger travelers from these countries, particularly in niche segments such as scuba diving, surfing, golf, and even English as a Second Language (ESL) tourism.

When it comes to Western markets, such as the U.S., the UK, Germany, and Australia, we're targeting them for their longer stays and higher spending. We're also leveraging our strong Filipino diaspora to encourage more visits from second-

generation Filipinos and their families.

The Middle East, particularly the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, has shown considerable promise due to improved air connectivity and rising interest in luxury and medical tourism. India is another exciting growth market, especially in the area of wedding tourism and family travel, and recent improvements in our visa policies are helping us tap into that potential.

All of these efforts are part of our strategy to ensure our tourism industry remains strong, adaptable, and future-ready.



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VAT Refund for Non-Resident Tourists

By Atty. Rodel C. Unciano, Partner at BDB Law

One significant amendment recently introduced in our tax laws is Republic Act (RA) No. 12079 which provides Value-added tax (VAT) refund mechanism for non-resident tourists. The law aims to boost tourism and encourage more foreign tourists to travel, shop and spend more in the Philippines, thereby bolstering economic growth.

For a long time, VAT refund mechanism of this kind was not available in our tax laws until the signing into law of RA 12079 last December 2024. With the effectivity of RA 12079, a non-resident tourist shall now be eligible for refund of VAT on locally purchased goods if the following requisites are present: the goods are purchased in person by the tourist in duly accredited stores, the goods are taken out of the Philippines by the tourist within sixty (60) days from the date of purchase, and the value of goods purchased per transaction is equivalent to at least Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00), subject to review and adjustment every three (3) years by the Secretary of Finance.

As defined, tourist refers to a non-resident foreign passport holder who visits the Philippines and

who comes to the Philippines for a definite purpose which in its nature may be promptly accomplished. Filipinos with dual citizenship shall be eligible to avail a VAT refund if they use their foreign passport in entering the Philippines and they fall under the definition of "tourist". Sales to citizens and residents of the Philippines, and foreign nationals residing in the country are not eligible for VAT refund.

Under the Implementing Rules and Regulations, the VAT refund shall only apply to retail and tangible goods, such as clothing, apparel, electronics, gadgets, jewelry, accessories, souvenirs, food or non-food consumables, and other goods intended for personal use. Purchase of goods in commercial quantity, goods to be consumed fully or partially in the Philippines, goods purchased from e-marketplaces and other digital or online stores, and services, such as transportation, accommodation, or other hospitality services, are not qualified for VAT refund.

Under the law, the Department of Finance has been tasked to engage the services of reputable, globally recognized and experienced VAT Refund System (VRS) operators to provide end-to-end solutions to the

government for the establishment and operation of a VAT refund system for tourists. The VRS operator shall be responsible for the design, build, and overall operations of a fully digital end-to-end VAT refund system.

The tourists who intend to avail a VAT refund shall present their valid passport and E-Travel System-issued QR code to the duly accredited store prior to the purchase of eligible goods. The duly accredited store shall verify the identity and eligibility of the tourist for VAT refund by checking the passport and E-Travel System-issued QR code presented. The duly accredited stores shall issue a corresponding invoice with an indicator that the transaction is qualified for VAT refund to the tourist.

At the airport or seaport, the tourist claiming VAT refund shall present their foreign passport to the VRS operator for validation. After the successful validation of the claim for VAT refund, the same shall be approved and be paid by the VRS operator in Philippine currency either in cash or electronically (e.g., digital wallets, bank transfers, or credit cards). The electronic payment of the VAT refund shall only be made directly to the digital wallet, bank, or credit card account of the tourist claiming such refund.

VAT-registered retail establishments intending to participate in the VRS shall undergo accreditation with the VRS operator. The VRS operator shall provide duly accredited stores with hardware and/or software for processing transactions, training, performance reporting, marketing and promotions support, and other services required to ensure the efficient processing of sales transactions subject to VAT refund.

The VRS operator shall apply for reimbursement of the amount of VAT refunded to tourists with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), subject to the submission of documentary requirements as may be required by the BIR. The BIR shall verify the documents submitted and shall process the reimbursement of the refund amount, subject to disallowances in case of any discrepancy or deficiency that may be found in the supporting documents.

Hopefully, true to its objective, RA 12079 will be able to boost tourism in the country and, in its own little ways, help uplift the Philippine economy.

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Expanding horizons: Ascott Philippines celebrates 25 years of defining global living

Metro Manila, Philippines— A globally recognized serviced residence and hospitality brand, The Ascott Limited marks its 25th anniversary in the Philippines this year. To celebrate the milestone, Ascott Philippines hosted its Filipino-themed Silver Jubilee Anniversary event on June 16 at the National Museum of Natural History in the City of Manila.

“It is with immense pride and profound gratitude that Ascott Philippines celebrates our 25th anniversary, which serves as a powerful testament to our sustained commitment to excellence and innovation,” Ascott Philippines Country General Manager Mr. Patrick Vaysse said. “We look forward to many more decades of growth here in the Philippines, as we continue to offer highly curated spaces that guests can count on and call home.”

The special night was filled with exquisite artistic performances and remarkable culinary creations. In the spirit of celebration, Ascott also recognized the important stakeholders who have helped shape the company’s evolution over the past 25 years by presenting the Diamond Star Award.

Ascott takes pride in having a strong global presence across 40 countries and being the first international-class serviced residence in the Asia Pacific in 1984. The company entered the Philippines in 2000 with the opening of Somerset Millennium Makati. Since then, Ascott has developed 17 properties in major cities nationwide, while elevating service experiences to global standards. Ascott presents upscale modern amenities and the signature Filipino brand of hospitality through five distinct brands: Ascott, Oakwood, Citadines, Somerset, and lyf.

Ascott Philippines looks to keep its momentum going and targets to have 30 properties and 6,000 keys by 2028. This year alone, the company is preparing for the opening of Somerset properties in Valero Makati and Gorordo Cebu.

For more information about Ascott Philippines, follow @discoverasrphilippines on Instagram and Discover ASR Philippines on Facebook. Visit <https://www.discoverasr.com/en/offers/on-the-horizon-25-years-of-ascott-in-the-philippines>.

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Questions about flu prevention?
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References: 1. WHO. Factsheet: Influenza (Seasonal) [www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-\(seasonal\)](http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-(seasonal)) (Accessed February 2025)

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Boosting Business Resilience: The Power of Employee Vaccination

In today's business environment, where tourism drives significant economic activity in the Philippines, workplace vaccination programs are more than a health measure – they're a strategic investment in organizational resilience. As the nation welcomes international visitors, protecting your workforce is crucial.

to staff wellbeing – increasingly valued in today's market.

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Are your employees vaccinated against flu? While the Philippines experiences peak influenza activity from June to November, year-round protection against flu remains vital.²

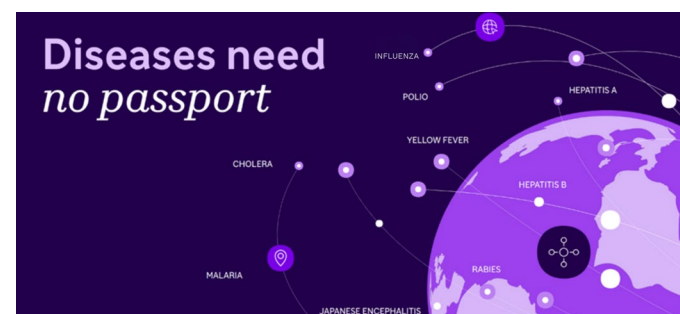
Workplace vaccination comes with these benefits!¹

- Reduced absenteeism**
due to sickness and doctor visits
- Improved health and morale**
- Convenience**

Businesses in the Philippines face unique challenges in maintaining workforce health. With tourism creating increased international interaction, vaccination programs offer a competitive edge while demonstrating leadership in health safety standards. Benefits include:

- Reduced employee absenteeism
- Decreased healthcare costs
- Enhanced productivity
- Improved stakeholder confidence¹

In a country where tourism is key, stakeholders are increasingly health-conscious. By prioritizing vaccination, your company demonstrates commitment



While the Philippines experiences peak influenza activity from June to November², year-round tourism means continuous protection is vital. Sanofi stands ready to support your programs with the same dedication and scientific excellence that define our legacy.

As the leading French supplier of influenza vaccines in the Philippines, Sanofi ensures reliable supply through world-class manufacturing expertise. Our 50-year legacy underpins our dedication to public health.

Investing in your team's health strengthens your position as a health-conscious organization in this vibrant tourist destination. Learn more why flu vaccination matters for you and your team – talk to a healthcare provider today.

For inquiries about flu prevention, contact
<https://www.sanofimedicalinformation.com>

¹ Workplace influenza vaccination to reduce employee absenteeism. Workplace influenza vaccination to reduce employee absenteeism: An economic analysis from the employers' perspective – PubMed Date accessed- January 20, 2025. ² Lucero, Marilla G. et al. "National Influenza Surveillance in the Philippines from 2006 to 2012: seasonality and circulating strains" vol. 16, 2016



Your Gateway to Coron



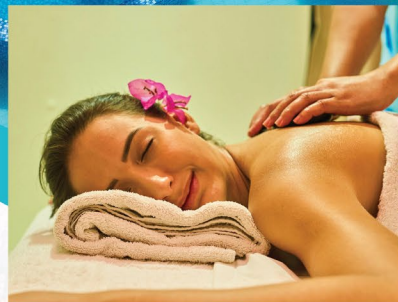
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Experience an unparalleled island escape with plush accommodations designed for your restful retreat.



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Satisfy your palate with expertly crafted meals and signature drinks at Bacau Bay's dining outlets, featuring varied cuisines for an indulgent gastronomic experience.



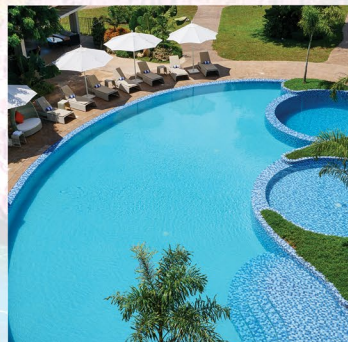
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Enjoy a full pamper day with relaxing treatments at Alon Spa, where our expert therapists accompany you through a rejuvenating wellness journey.



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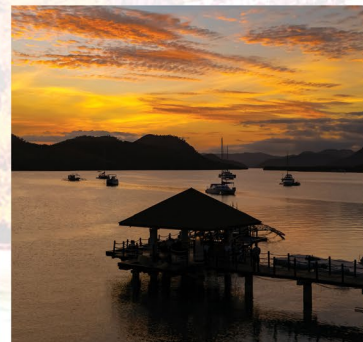
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Lihim offers private access to premium courts for tennis, pickleball, and basketball—purposeful spaces to move, play, and unwind.



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DRIVING TOURISM EXCELLENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

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As the Philippines continues to solidify its position as a premier destination in Southeast Asia, a key government agency is quietly and diligently working behind the scenes to ensure that the country's tourism infrastructure meets high-quality standards and that visitors have access to reliable and quality tourism facilities—the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) plays a crucial role in making this vision a reality.

TIEZA AT THE FOREFRONT OF PHILIPPINE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Operating as the implementing arm of the Department of Tourism (DOT), TIEZA is mandated to develop, manage, and supervise tourism infrastructure projects nationwide. The Authority is also responsible for designating, regulating, and supervising Tourism Enterprise Zones (TEZs) that are designed to attract investments in tourism-related enterprises.

Apart from infrastructure stewardship, TIEZA, through its Assets Management Sector, also manages several government-owned tourism assets. These iconic properties are gateways to some of the most culturally rich, naturally stunning, and historically significant sites in the Philippines.

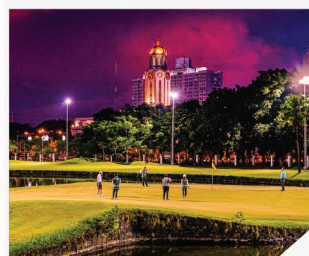
Here is a closer look at some of the key tourism assets under TIEZA's management—each offering unique experiences from hotel and leisure facilities to eco-tourism parks and heritage sites:

1 MOUNT DATA HOTEL – Bauko, Mountain Province



A boutique hotel perched more than 7,000 feet above sea level, offering breathtaking views of the Cordillera mountains and a peaceful atmosphere. It was renovated in 2020 and reopened in May 2022, featuring 22 hotel rooms, dormitory rooms, conference facilities, in-house restaurant, café, and picnic grounds. It is open to partner with private sector for its management.

2 CLUB INTRAMUROS GOLF COURSE – Intramuros, Manila



One of the oldest golf courses in the Philippines, set within the historic walls of Intramuros. An 18-hole golf course that offers a short yet challenging game, uniquely enhanced with the experience of playing night golf in the Metro. It features a clubhouse, locker rooms, practice facilities, pro shop, restaurant, and banquet halls.

3 BALICASAG ISLAND DIVE RESORT – Panglao, Bohol



A diving destination and accommodation facility that offers a unique underwater experience at Balicasag Island. Guests can engage in a variety of activities, including scuba diving, snorkeling, and marine life observation. The resort's facilities include beachfront accommodations, bar and restaurant, function room, and dive shop. Currently, TIEZA is looking for the redevelopment of the resort.

4 INTRAMUROS AND RIZAL'S BAGUMBAYAN LIGHT AND SOUND MUSEUM

Intramuros, Manila



An immersive experience dedicated to the life and works of the Philippines' national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, through interactive and educational exhibits using innovative light and sound technology. With state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, interactive exhibits, well-curated displays, and detailed dioramas that bring history to life. TIEZA plans to reopen this newly improved museum this year.

5 ZAMBOANGA GOLF COURSE AND BEACH PARK

Zamboanga City



Regarded as the second oldest golf course in the Philippines, with an 18-hole course, par-72 layout spanning 6,404 yards, complementing a beachside park overlooking the scenic Basilan Strait. It features well-maintained greens and facilities that offer a unique blend of sport and leisure for both golfers and beachgoers. TIEZA has created a master plan to further enhance the property's facilities and services for an improved visitor experience.

6 GARDENS OF MALASAG ECO-TOURISM VILLAGE

Cagayan de Oro City



Nestled within the lush slopes of Cugman Watershed in Cagayan de Oro City, this 6.2-hectare eco-cultural paradise offers a rich blend of nature and Mindanaoan indigenous heritage. Visitors can enjoy eco-trails, themed cottages, and trekking activities to Pegtawagan Peak and Mt. Isaac. It offers comfortable accommodation rooms, resto café, campground, swimming pool, picnic sheds, and souvenir shop.

7 BANAUE HOTEL AND YOUTH HOSTEL – Banaue, Ifugao



As the gateway to the iconic UNESCO-listed Banaue Rice Terraces, this premier accommodation facility provides stunning views of the rice terraces, with interiors that reflect the rich heritage of the Ifugao people. The hotel features well-appointed accommodation rooms, restaurant and cocktail lounge, conference room, function room, souvenir shop, and swimming pool. TIEZA is currently redeveloping the hotel to modernize its facilities while preserving its cultural integrity.

Enabling Growth and Sustainable Tourism




Through its multifaceted role, TIEZA is more than a steward of tourism assets—it is a champion of sustainable development, heritage conservation, and inclusive growth. Through effective and efficient management of these key properties, TIEZA not only supports the national tourism agenda but also fosters regional economic development by generating employment and stimulating local economies—a testament to tourism excellence.

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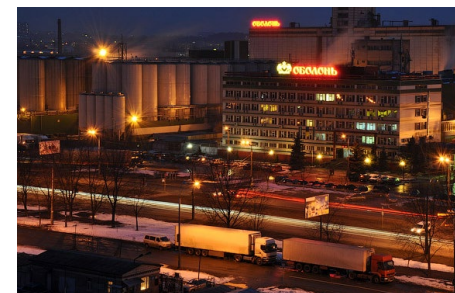


"Obolon" is a leading Ukrainian enterprise specializing in the production of beer, non-alcoholic beverages, malt beverages, mineral water, and low-alcohol products. Founded in 1980, PJSC "Obolon" is now one of the largest brewing companies, not only in Ukraine but also in Eastern Europe.

The company boasts a robust production infrastructure, which includes its main brewery in Kyiv and regional facilities across the country. With its own malt houses and water sources, rigorous quality control at all stages of production, and a constant focus on innovation, Obolon ensures high-standard products that meet international standards.

PJSC "Obolon" exports its products to over 40 countries worldwide, proudly representing Ukraine on the global market and enhancing the reputation of domestic manufacturing. The company is also committed to environmental initiatives, supports social projects, and adheres to principles of sustainable development.

With decades of experience, a strong sense of responsibility to its consumers, and a clear strategic vision, PJSC "Obolon" continues to grow confidently while maintaining its position as a national industry leader.



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DISCOVER MORE



AppleOne Group: Pioneering World-Class Hospitality in the South

As the country's beloved tourist hotspots welcome more visitors, a quiet transformation is underway in Visayas and Mindanao. From Panglao to Mactan to Cagayan de Oro, the South is proving that world-class hospitality can thrive far beyond Metro Manila.

At the center of this momentum is Cebu-based premier developer **AppleOne Group**, steadily redefining Philippine tourism with strategic developments that are both globally recognized and deeply rooted in place.

Elevating VisMin Tourism

Backed by 15 years of expertise and a portfolio that includes the award-winning Sheraton Cebu Mactan Resort, AppleOne is building with a long-term vision: to create legacies that celebrate local culture, uplift communities, and bring global standards to regional destinations.

Recent market activity highlights Mactan and Panglao as key growth areas, with upscale developments drawing interest from both local and international travelers. For AppleOne, this means more than just new properties, but laying the groundwork for the next generation of tourism.

The Sheraton Cebu Mactan Resort has already set a new benchmark for luxury hospitality in the Queen City, blending international standards with the warmth of Cebuano hospitality, and becoming a landmark destination in the region.

Expanding its Cebu presence, the company is also developing the **Mahi Center**, a dynamic mixed-use complex in Lapu-Lapu City. It will feature office spaces, a boutique mall, and **Fairfield by Marriott Cebu Mactan**—a premier global business hotel designed to offer an inviting and effortless experience for both vacationers and business travelers. Supporting both local communities and the growing business ecosystem, Mahi Center reflects AppleOne's vision of integrated developments that elevate lifestyle and opportunity.

In nearby Bohol, AppleOne is building on this momentum with the **JW Marriott Panglao Island Resort & Spa**, poised to become Panglao's first five-star hotel by 2028. Its residential counterpart, **JW Marriott Residences Panglao Island**, underscores its commitment to creating distinctive living spaces that deliver the highest standards of luxury, sophistication, and convenience.

Further south in Northern Mindanao, the developer is marking its bold entry with the upcoming **Radisson Blu Hotel & Residences Cagayan de Oro** which will be the city's first five-star hotel and branded residence. Slated to rise in a key urban growth area, it is designed to elevate Cagayan de Oro's status as an emerging metropolitan hub, while boosting its appeal for tourism and business travel.

Together, these properties illustrate AppleOne's commitment to shaping world-class destinations that elevate both lifestyle and opportunity across VisMin.

Enriching Lives Beyond Tourism

By partnering with global hospitality leaders like Marriott International and Radisson Hotel Group, AppleOne brings global expertise to emerging destinations while creating opportunities that uplift entire communities.

For young professionals in the South, this means access to global training, international standards, and meaningful career growth, all without leaving their home region. Building on this impact, its developments also help grow local economies by supporting small businesses, farmers, and fisherfolk; bringing their products and services into the fold of world-class hospitality, and ensuring progress is shared across the community.

Each development is designed with a clear intention: to deliver exceptional experiences while reflecting the unique character of its location. Whether it's the coastline of Mactan, the serenity of Panglao, or the growing energy of Cagayan de Oro, AppleOne approaches each project with a deep respect for local context.

In this way, AppleOne is helping expand the definition of what tourism in the Philippines can look like. It goes beyond just beaches or resorts but about building resilient, inclusive ecosystems that foster meaningful economic growth.

While others follow, AppleOne leads with unwavering commitment to local communities—proving the South is no longer an emerging market but a dynamic, thriving hub actively shaping the future of Philippine tourism.

For more information on AppleOne Group and its developments, visit www.appleone.com.ph or email inquire@appleone.com.ph.

Powering Paradise Sustainably:



LEADS THE SHIFT TO GREEN ENERGY

*P*ampering guests in the heart of one of the Philippines' most breathtaking island destinations, TAG Resort Coron wears its sustainability badge with pride as one of the primary green resorts on the island.



TADHANA POOLSIDE CASITA

CORON POWER RATES		
MONTH	RATE (P/KWH)	NOTES
October 2023	*P13.56	NGCP and NPC subsidies helped keep the cost artificially low.
November 2023	*P14.05	Start of EPSAs caused higher cost pass-throughs; removal of subsidy elevated prices.
December 2023	*P13.70	Slight decrease from November as EPSA rates normalized, but still under high TCGR.
May 2024	*P12.30	Fuel prices dropped and more efficient dispatch possibly reduced generation costs.
February 2025	*P19.00	Sharp increase due to cost recovery, oil price hikes, or transition gaps between EPSA and long-term power supply agreements.

MONTH	EFFECTIVE RATE (P/KWH)	RATE INCREASE ANALYSIS
January	*P18.91	From January to May 2025, power rates in Coron rose from P18.91 to P19.59/kWh due to high diesel costs, full TCGR pass-through, and delays in cheaper power contracts—keeping rates well above the national average. *data based on customer billing statements from BISELCO (Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative), reflecting effective end-user rates.
February	*P19.00	
March	*P19.29	
April	*P19.36	
May	*P19.59	



TAMPISAW (MAIN LAGOON POOL)

From its green architecture and water recycling technology, to its practice of reducing single-use plastics and promoting eco-friendly transport, TAG Resort has steadily become a model for responsible tourism in Palawan.

But even as it continues to champion sustainable tourism, TAG Resort and other Coron establishments face an urgent and growing challenge – high power costs.

Coron's electricity rates have surged in recent months, placing added pressure on business operations and potentially affecting job creation and the sustainable growth of the local tourism industry. For a business like TAG Resort, which provides employment to dozens of locals and serves as a gateway for community-based tourism, the burden of soaring energy costs poses a growing challenge.

To address this, TAG Resort is actively seeking partners—grant providers, investors, and green energy advocates from the Philippines and across the world, to help scale up its solar power infrastructure.

"While our current solar capacity offsets a portion of our needs, a full transition to renewable energy would reduce operating costs, ensure long-term resilience, and serve as a replicable model for other tourism establishments in Coron and other places in the Philippines," says TAG Resort Managing Director Stephen Rey Tagud.

European companies and organizations known for supporting sustainability initiatives and grassroots community development are in a unique position to make a meaningful impact—not just for TAG Resort, but for the greater Coron tourism economy.

In the absence of strong local policy support, private sector collaboration and international investment become critical to the resilience and long-term viability of tourism establishments and other enterprises, not just in Coron but across the Philippines.

"It is partnerships with international stakeholders that will enable destinations like Coron to thrive sustainably, through innovation, investments, and a shared commitment to renewable energy," adds Tagud. "Together, we can power paradise—responsibly and sustainably."



TAG GREEN VEHICLE TAKES GUESTS TO THEIR ROOMS

To know more about TAG Resort Coron's Green Energy Program and how you can pledge your support, email Investor Relations: eric@tagresorts.com.ph

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TEAM BUILDINGS BY
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HiveRooms: Empowering Local Communities Through Purposeful Tourism

HiveRooms, a proud Filipino brand, offers digital and management solutions for the travel and hospitality sector. We blend smart technology with immersive, educational tour packages to create meaningful experiences that connect travelers with the unique people, culture, and traditions of the Philippines, starting in Cebu and expanding nationwide.



Our core mission is to boost local businesses and foster inclusive growth in tourism. We achieve this through strategic partnerships and community-driven initiatives, empowering grassroots organizations. We help them gain visibility, increase profitability, and share their compelling stories with a wider audience. Our community development efforts champion sustainable tourism by working closely with diverse coastal and upland communities. These collaborations not only enrich traveler experiences but also ensure that the economic benefits of tourism reach local communities.

A highlight of our pilot immersive offerings, developed in partnership with the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) through their AFOS-Foundation Fish Visayas project, the Municipality of Cordova,

Cebu, and Seed4Com, is "Fisherman-for-a-Day" in Cordova, Cebu. This hands-on activity invites travelers to experience the daily life of a local fisherman, learning traditional techniques, understanding their role in the marine ecosystem, and appreciating their vital place in Cebuano culture.

In Bantayan Island, we're privileged to partner with the Women Association of Basawon (WAB) and the Seaweed Cracker Makers of Luyong Baybay, also with CCCI. These partnerships showcase the creativity, resilience, and heritage of local women, transforming each visit into an opportunity for cultural appreciation and economic support.



HiveRooms champions a tourism model deeply rooted in community, experience, and sustainability. Through our corporate social responsibility efforts, we strive to make every journey impactful, benefiting both travelers and the communities that graciously welcome them.

Together, let's redefine tourism, where every interaction, every story, and every step supports a stronger, more inclusive Philippines.



Advocacy Corner

TESDA Meeting on the Establishment of Industry TVET Board (ITB) for the Energy Sector

6 May 2025

On 6 May, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) hosted a virtual meeting regarding the establishment of an industry TVET Board (ITB) for the Energy Sector. During the meeting, TESDA Deputy Director General Nelly Nita Dillera and her team discussed the process and relevance of establishing an up-to-date ITB to further upskill and reskill the country's workforce.

The proposed ITB will serve as a platform for industry leaders to actively participate in shaping the direction of TVET programs. This ensures that TESDA's programs will produce graduates equipped with the relevant skills and competencies to meet the evolving demands of the industry.

Present at the meeting were Industry and Government Affairs Manager Chin Nethercott and Senior Advocacy Officer Joaquin Reloj, alongside several ECCP members and various industry associations who also participated in the dialogue.



ECCP Education Committee Meeting

6 May 2025

The Education Committee, led by Ms. Sheryl Jo Urdaneta, officially launched its activities with a productive first meeting held virtually on May 6th. A key highlight of the session was the insightful presentation by Atty. Lily Freida M. Milla, the Director-in-Charge of the International Affairs Service of the Commission on Higher Education. Their talk provided insights on the ongoing efforts to internationalize the Philippine education system.

The meeting provided a valuable platform for representatives from various industries and academic institutions to connect, share insights, and discuss the implications of this important trend. The ECCP Education Committee is committed to fostering dialogue and driving initiatives that contribute to a globally competitive Philippine workforce.

To join or inquire about the Education Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.



ARTA Shipbuilding Initiative Virtual Seminar: Revitalizing the Philippine Shipbuilding Initiative

7 May 2025

On 7 May, 2025, the ECCP participated in a virtual seminar hosted by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), and the Royal Danish Embassy in Manila on Revitalizing the Philippine Shipbuilding Industry. The over two-hour seminar covered current updates and strategies for strengthening the country's shipbuilding and ship repair (SBSR) industry. The event drew close to 200 attendees from the local and international public and private sectors.

Transportation Secretary Vivencio B. Dizon, Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs Secretary Fredrick D. Go, ARTA Director General Ernest V. Perez, Royal Danish Ambassador H.E. Franz-Michael Mellbin, MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan, among others, highlighted their optimism and commitment to strengthening the Philippine SBSR sector and regaining its position as a global shipbuilding leader.



Think Tank for Effective Front-of-Pack Labels

8 May 2025

On 8 May 2025, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) participated in the Think Tank for Effective Front-of-Pack Labels organized by Adobo Magazine and Mondelez. The event convened key stakeholders from the food and beverage industry, the creative sector, and government agencies to discuss evolving measures and policy directions on front-of-pack (FOP) labelling in the Philippines.

The think tank featured insightful presentations from representatives of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, who shared updates on the development and implementation of FOP labelling standards. Representing the ECCP Food and Beverages Committee was Advocacy Officer Kyla Uy, who took part in discussions on the role of industry in promoting transparent and health-conscious food labelling practices.



L'Oréal Philippines' Create the Beauty that Moves the Philippines: Sense of Purpose Event

8 May 2025

On 8 May 2025, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) participated in L'Oréal Philippines' "Create the Beauty that Moves the Philippines: Sense of Purpose" event. The ECCP was represented by Environment and Water Advocacy Officer Sophie Panergo, who actively took part in the discussions on sustainability and inclusive growth.

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including dignitaries, government officials, representatives from non-governmental organizations, local government units (LGUs), and students. It highlighted L'Oréal's strong commitment to social and environmental responsibility, digital innovation, and women's empowerment.

The event also marked the inauguration of L'Oréal Philippines' new headquarters and reaffirmed the company's pledge to empower 10,000 Filipinos by 2030 through inclusive and sustainable initiatives. Key programs such as the Digital Beauty Academy and women's empowerment training were showcased, demonstrating L'Oréal's dedication to creating economic opportunities and driving meaningful social change through skills development and community engagement.



ECCP Healthcare Committee Meeting

13 May 2025

On May 13, the Healthcare Committee, led by Dr. Ma. Teresa Dioko and Ms. Wei Sun, and joined by ECCP Vice President Dr. Diana Edralin, held a face-to-face meeting at the Roche Office in Taguig City.

During the meeting, the committee assessed its strategic priorities, key stakeholders, and tangible objectives for the present year and the future. Members emphasized the vital role of the European Chamber of Commerce in its engagement with the government to promote foreign investment and improve the nation's business climate. They also stressed the importance of collaborative dialogue with public and private partners to advance their advocacies and expressed their support for the upcoming Healthcare Forum on July 9th.

To join or inquire about the Healthcare Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.



ECCP Automotive Committee Meeting with Director Patrick Aquino 14 May 2025

The ECCP Automotive Committee met with Department of Energy (DOE) Director Patrick Aquino and OIC Chief Science Research Specialist of the Energy Utilization Management Bureau Andy F. Ulgado on 14 May 2025 at the DOE Energy Center in Taguig City.

The discussion focused on the latest updates in the Philippine electric vehicle (EV) landscape, the Committee's advocacy recommendations to support the EV ecosystem, and opportunities for collaboration in the lead-up to ECCP's Transportation Forum this September.

Thank you to Director Aquino and the DOE team for the productive dialogue and continued partnership in advancing sustainable mobility in the Philippines.



Slovenian Water Technology 16 May 2025

Last 15 May 2025, ECCP Advocacy Officer Sophia Panergo and Membership Officer Canela Reillo attended a product presentation hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Manila and the International Center for the Promotion of Enterprises, in collaboration with JT Business Development & Touchcore Solutions Inc.

The event showcased innovative Slovenian technologies and solutions for a sustainable future, with a strong focus on water management and sustainability. We look forward to continued dialogue and partnerships that advance green innovation and sustainability goals in the Philippines and beyond.



JFC meeting hosted by the ECCP 15 May 2025

The ECCP had the pleasure of hosting the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) Meeting on 15 May 2025 at Dusit Thani Manila. The session featured a dynamic exchange on key national and industry developments, including the 2025 election results, regional and Philippine foreign direct investments, the Konektadong Pinoy bill, proposed wage hike, regulatory concerns on cosmetic product registration and renewal, and the potential removal of excise tax exemptions for pickup trucks—among other timely issues.



ECCP and other Foreign Chambers Engage Senator Gatchalian on Cross- Border Tax Policy 19 May 2025

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), alongside fellow members of the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC), participated in a high-level dialogue with Senator Sherwin Gatchalian at the Philippine Senate on 19 May 2025. The discussion addressed the wide-reaching effects of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 5-2024 on the business environment, particularly for companies engaging foreign service providers.

The JFC, composed of the European, American, Canadian, Japanese, and Korean Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines, as well as PAMURI, has been vocal about how RMC 5-2024 broadens the application of the Supreme Court's decision in the Aces Philippines case, now subjecting a wide range of cross-border services to **25% final withholding tax and 12% VAT**, regardless of where services are rendered.



AIEEX: Philippines – EU-PH Expert Workshop on Earth Observation technology for Disaster Early Warning 21 May 2025

ECCP Director and Airbus Managing Director Jussi Hoikka participated as a speaker at the Day 2 of EU-Philippines Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Makati City. Mr. Hoikka emphasized the wide ranging Earth Observation satellite capabilities of ECCP Premium Member Airbus for disaster risk reduction.

Organized by the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines in partnership with the Department of National Defense, the event brought together experts from both the EU and the Philippines to exchange insights on the use of satellite imaging and remote sensing data to strengthen disaster preparedness and early warning systems.

The workshop was held under the EU-Philippines partnership on Copernicus, the EU’s earth observation programme supporting disaster risk management, environmental protection, and climate change adaptation.



Philippine Hospitality on Sustainable Tourism (PHILHOST) 2025 22 May 2025

On 22 May 2025, TAJARA Hospitality conducted the fourth installment of the Philippine Hospitality on Sustainable Tourism (PHILHOST), bringing together over 200 hospitality leaders at Ascott BGC to shape the future of sustainable tourism in the Philippines. With the theme “Pursuing Sustainability,” the event featured expert-led panels, solution-focused workshops, and exhibits highlighting innovations in green building, circular economy, renewable energy, and more.

As an event supporter, the ECCP was proud to contribute to the initiative’s success. A key highlight was the session “Design Innovations in Sustainability,” moderated by Ms. Gie Garcia, ECCP Sustainability Committee Co-Chairperson and Co-Managing Director & Chief Sustainability Officer at NEO Office PH.



Sustainability Solutions Exchange Conference (SSXCon) 22 May 2025

On 22 May, our very own Vice President Dr. Diana Edralin spoke at the first day of Sustainability Solutions Exchange Conference (SSXCon) organized by Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) at the Philippine Trade Training Center.

With the theme “Green Innovations: Navigating Sustainability Solutions to Future-Proof the Philippine Food Industry,” SSXCon underscored the role of technology and innovation in driving sustainable business practices. In her message of support, Dr. Edralin highlighted the importance of ECCP’s role as a bridge, linking investors and government partners to promote a climate-resilient and resource-efficient economy.

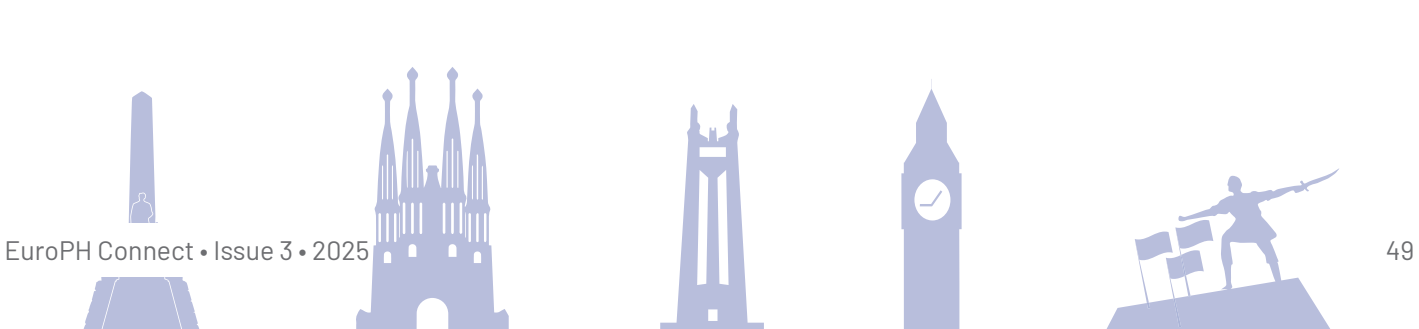


7th State of the ARTA Address 22 May 2025

On May 22, 2025, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) hosted its 7th State of the ARTA Address at the Manila Hotel. Under the theme “Building Bridges @ 7: Moral and Digital Transformation for a Business-Ready Philippines,” ARTA Secretary Ernesto V. Perez outlined the agency’s past achievements and future goals.

Throughout the address, a strong emphasis was placed on ARTA’s unwavering commitment to improving the ease of doing business in the Philippines and fostering stronger collaboration with its partners, both local and international. The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) is proud to be an ARTA Champion and remains committed to working with ARTA in building a transparent, efficient, and accessible business environment.

Notable attendees and speakers at the event included ARTA Director General Secretary Ernesto V. Perez, Senator Risa Hontiveros, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Henry Aguda, Congressman Ferjenel G. Biro of Iloilo, and several foreign dignitaries.



Launching of the Philippine Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Reform Guidebook and Awarding of EODB Partners 22 May 2025

On May 22, 2025, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) participated in the launch of the Philippine Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Reform Guidebook and the Awarding of EODB Partners held at the Manila Hotel.

The EODB Reform Guidebook outlines key reform measures across ten (10) critical areas identified in the World Bank’s Business Ready (B-READY) Report: business entry, business location, utility services, labor, financial services, international trade, taxation, dispute resolution, market competition, and business insolvency. The event marked a significant milestone in the Philippine government’s efforts to streamline regulatory processes and enhance the country’s global competitiveness.



As a staunch partner of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), the ECCP remains committed to supporting initiatives that foster a more transparent, efficient, and business-friendly environment in the Philippines—helping to improve business conditions, generate employment opportunities, and attract greater foreign investment.

DOLE RTWPB-NCR Wage Hike Consultation for the Employer Sector 28 May 2025

On 28 May, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) participated in the Department of Labor and Employment’s (DOLE) Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board – National Capital Region (RTWPB-NCR) Wage Hike Consultation for the Employer Sector. The consultation brought together representatives from various employer groups across more than 10 industries to engage with the RTWPB-NCR and discuss concerns regarding the proposed Php 200 daily minimum wage increase currently being deliberated in Congress.

During the consultation, the ECCP conveyed its members’ concerns on the potential impact on MSMEs, inflationary pressures, and competitiveness, emphasizing the implications such a labor cost adjustment may have on business operations and the country’s attractiveness to foreign investors. Representing the Chamber at the meeting were Ms. Kyla Uy and Mr. Austin Sy from the ECCP Advocacy Department. The ECCP has also been invited to participate in the upcoming public hearing on the proposed minimum wage adjustment scheduled for June 2025.

For more information or to join the Human Capital Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.



5th Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Review and Assessment 28 May 2025

On May 28, 2025, Atty. Reena C. Mitra-Ventanilla, ECCP Intellectual Property Rights Committee Chair, represented the Chamber at the 5th Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Review and Assessment convened by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL).

The hybrid event focused on reviewing the MOU on eCommerce between Platforms and Brand Owners, Industry Associations, and Chambers of Commerce. This vital review mechanism aims to ensure effective implementation of the MOU and further institutionalize a code of practice among online marketplaces, especially with the recent passage of Republic Act (RA) 11967 or the Internet Transactions Act (ITA).

For more information or to join the Intellectual Property Rights Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.



ARTA Champions Online Orientation 28 May 2025

On 28 May 2025, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) held a virtual ARTA Champions Online Orientation. As an ARTA Champion, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) continues to collaborate with and support ARTA in its efforts in reducing barriers to business and investment.

The online orientation delved into the salient features of Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Services Delivery Act where the presentations delved into the different descriptions, processes, and violations under the law. The orientation also gave insights on ARTA’s handling of initial complaints and the guidelines on accreditation of ARTA Champions.

Representing the Chamber at the event was Senior Advocacy Officer Austin Sy.



Fair Business Forum: Launching of Competition Compliance Toolkit
30 May 2025

On 30 May, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) attended the Fair Business Forum, hosted by The Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) at Richmonde Hotel Ortigas. Discussions at the forum centered on the role of competition compliance in promoting fair businesses in the country with insights from Atty. Leah Banagui-Han, Deputy Administrator for Legal Affairs Services from the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA); Dr. Diana Edralin, President of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) and Vice President of ECCP; and Mr. Ferdinand Pagua, Director of the PCC Communications and Knowledge Management Office.

During the event, the PCC announced the launch of its Competition Compliance Toolkit, in accordance with the government’s Philippine Development Plan 2023-



2028, which aims to promote business integrity and raise awareness about the Philippine Competition Act (PCA). The toolkit provides key information on market competition and emphasizes the importance of an effective competition compliance program.

Representing the Chamber at the event were Senior Advocacy Officer Joaquin Reloj, Competency Hub Officer Samantha Aguirre, and Business Consultancy and Research Officer Mikee Andres.

Ceremonial Awarding of CREATE MORE Export-Oriented Enterprise Certificates
2 June 2025

Congratulations to our ECCP Corporate Partners, Bosch Philippines and DOLE Asia, for being among the first recipients of the Export-Oriented Enterprise (EOE) certificates awarded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) through its Export Marketing Bureau!

The awarding ceremony was held on 02 June 2025 at Makati Diamond Residences, where Bosch Service Solutions Philippines and Dole Philippines, Inc., along with Philsaga Mining Corp. and Krystle Exports Phil., Inc., were recognized as the pioneering batch of EOE-certified companies.



This recognition was granted under the CREATE MORE Act, for companies that have met the 70% export sales threshold. As EOE certificate holders, these companies are now entitled to VAT zero-rating on local purchases and VAT-exempt importation of goods directly attributable to their export activities.

Investments Facilitation Network Joint Memorandum Circular Ceremonial Signing
2 June 2025

The ECCP proudly took part in the Investments Facilitation Network (INFA-Net) Joint Memorandum Circular Ceremonial Signing, with President Paulo Duarte in attendance at the event held on 02 June 2025 at Makati Diamond Residences.

To further promote ease of doing business in the Philippines, the DTI-BOI launched INFA-Net—a milestone initiative that brings together 38 government agencies to streamline processes and foster a whole-of-government approach to investment facilitation.



ECCP Human Capital Committee Meeting with the Philippine Statistics Authority
2 June 2025

On 2 June, the ECCP Human Capital Committee held a meeting with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Held at the PSA Central Office, the session served as a platform for discussion on the agency’s data methodologies and statistical frameworks related to the Philippine labor market.

Regional Director Paciano B. Dizon, Chief Statistical Specialist Jing Rocabo, along with officials from the PSA’s Office of the Social Sector Statistics Service, delivered an in-depth presentation on the agency’s key labor and employment surveys. These included the Labor Force Survey (LFS), the Occupational Wages Survey (OWS), and the Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment (ISLE).

Committee members gained insights into how the PSA collects, analyzes, and interprets labor data. The PSA representatives walked us through sample



computations, core indicators, and the parameters applied in survey design and implementation. The discussion also provided clarity on the scope, frequency, and reliability of these surveys. Present to preside over the meeting were Committee Chairperson Mr. Albert Perez, Advocacy Officer Ms. Kyla Uy, and Senior Advocacy Officer Mr. Austin Sy.

For more information or to join the Human Capital Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.

ECCP Infrastructure Committee Meeting 3 June 2025

On June 3, the Infrastructure Committee, co-chaired by Reinier Dizon and Sajith Edirisuriya, convened an in-person meeting at the ECCP Office in Makati City.

The committee discussed its key priority areas, including developments in mining, construction, and the Philippine government’s flagship infrastructure projects. Members also noted the gradual progress of the country’s infrastructure sector and underscored the important role of the ECCP in engaging with the government to attract foreign investments and enhance the overall business environment. The committee also highlighted the importance of sustained collaboration and dialogue with both public and private sector stakeholders to effectively advance policy advocacies.

To join or inquire about the Infrastructure Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.



Stratbase Institute’s France & Philippines: Strengthening Cooperation for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity 5 June 2025

On 5 June 2025, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), participated in Stratbase Institute’s France & Philippines: Strengthening Cooperation for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity. The event, in partnership with French Embassy in the Philippines, brought together members from the Philippine and French officials, the Philippine Coast Guard, and Civil Society, including French Ambassador Marie Fontanel, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science Carlos David and Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Marine Environmental Protection Commodore May Marfil.

The ECCP was represented by Senior Advocacy Officer Austin Sy and Project Officer Naomi Rivera.



National Skills Summit 2025 5 June 2025

On 5 June 2025, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) took part in the National Skills Summit 2025, organized by member company Viventis Asia. The summit brought together prominent leaders in the education and workforce development sectors, including Department of Education Secretary Juan Edgardo “Sonny” Angara, TESDA Director General Francisco Benitez, IBPAP President Jack Madrid, and Special Assistant to the President in Investment and Economic Affairs Frederick Go.

The ECCP was represented by Advocacy Research Associate Bernard Advincula, Advocacy Officer Kyla Uy, Membership Officer Canela Reilo, Member Relations Associate Martina Torres, and Competency Hub Officer Samantha Aguirre.



Philippine Launch of the 2025 Global Human Development Report 9 June 2025

On 9 June, the ECCP participated in the Philippine launch of the 2025 Global Human Development Report (HDR) hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines and the Philippine Human Development Network (HDN) in Makati City.

Titled “A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI,” the HDR delves into the transformative potential of artificial intelligence and underscores the importance of deliberate, inclusive policymaking in determining its impact on human development.

Representing the Chamber at the event were Atty. Kathyryn Pioquinto, ECCP Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs, and Bernard Advincula, Advocacy Research Associate.



ECCP Meeting with Mr. Tomasz Piotr Poreba and ZEN
17 June 2025

The ECCP hosted Mr. Tomasz Piotr Poreba, former member of the European Parliament and current President of New Direction – the foundation for European Reform, along with representatives from ZEN.COM on 17 June at the ECCP Office in Makati City. The dialogue centered its discussions on the regulatory landscape, key opportunities, and challenges within the fintech industry in the Philippines.

ZEN.COM is a disruptive fintech company providing innovative financial solutions for both individuals and businesses with the goal of creating an ecosystem connecting buyers and sellers worldwide. Present at the meeting were ZEN Global Expansion Director Mr. Michał Mazur and ZEN Global Licensing Director Mr. Oleg Leonov, accompanied by Ms. Bianca Aquino, Ms. Javee Algenio, and Mr. Gab Bueno from the Office of Senator Win Gatchalian.

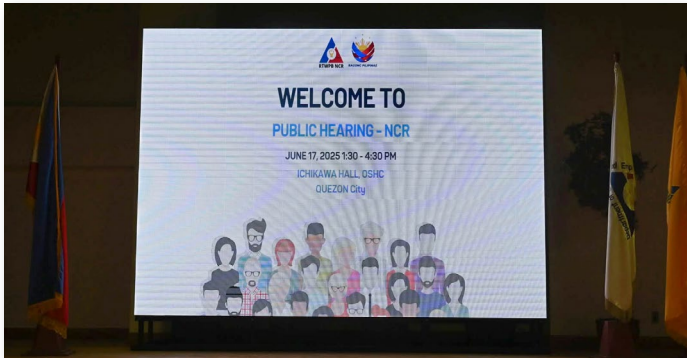


Representing the Chamber were Mr. Paulo Duarte, ECCP President; Mr. Lars Wittig, ECCP Vice President; Atty. Maria Concepcion Simundac-Delos Santos, Tax and Financial Services Committee Co-Chair; Atty. Alden Labaguis, Tax and Financial Services Committee Vice Chair; Mr. Lenin Dueñas, ING Bank Head of Corporate Sector Coverage and Financial Institutions; and Atty. Katrina de Castro, Pru Life UK Compliance Officer.

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Public Hearing on Minimum Wage Adjustment
17 June 2025

On 17 June, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) participated in the Public Hearing on Minimum Wage adjustment, hosted by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board - National Capital Region (RTWPB-NCR).

This event convened representatives from labor and employer sectors, alongside key government agencies such as the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev). The session provided essential updates on the socio-economic situation and oil market prices within the National Capital Region, among other relevant factors. These insights are vital for informing the ongoing deliberations regarding wage petitions and position papers filed in the region.



The proceedings were expertly facilitated by Board Chairperson Atty. Sarah Buena S. Mirasol DOLE-NCR). She was joined by Vice Chairperson Desiree Joy O. Narvaez (Director, DEPDev), Vice Chairperson Jay A. Acar (Acting Regional Director, DTI-NCR), Jose Roland A. Moya and Federico R. Marquez Jr. representing the Employers Sector, and Angelita D. Señorin and Atty. Rosalío Aragon, Jr. from the Labor Sector.

ECCP Healthcare Committee Meeting
19 June 2025

On June 19, the Healthcare Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Ma. Teresa “Teng” Dioko and Wei Sun, convened a virtual meeting via Zoom.

The committee discussed its key priority areas, including expanding healthcare access and innovation in the country. Members were also updated on the status of the **2025 Healthcare Forum, entitled Advancing Together: Enhancing Healthcare Access and Innovation**. Scheduled for **09 July 2025, from 1:00pm to 5:30pm at the Makati Diamond Hotel**, the forum will convene key stakeholders from the government, diplomatic corp, private sector, and civil society to explore actionable strategies and policy recommendations aimed at strengthening the Philippine healthcare infrastructure and expanding healthcare accessibility.

To join or inquire about the Healthcare Committee, or for registration and partnership opportunities at the Healthcare Forum, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.



ECCP ICT Committee Meeting with the Department of Information and Communications Technology - Cybersecurity Bureau (DICT-CSB)
19 June 2025

The ICT Committee convened for its second committee meeting on 19 June at the ECCP Office in Makati City and via Zoom. Joining the session was resource speaker Ms. Christine Apple Pre, Division Chief for the Critical Infostructure Evaluation and Cybersecurity Standards Divisions at the Department of Information and Communications Technology - Cybersecurity Bureau (DICT-CSB).

Ms. Pre provided key updates regarding the DICT's National Cybersecurity Plan 2023-2028 and the Cybersecurity Bureau's programs geared towards the strengthening of the Government Network (GovNet) infrastructure, improving ICT literacy in the country,



and developing relevant legislative measures, among others.

The session also featured Mr. Jana Subramanian, Head of Cybersecurity and Compliance at SAP Asia, who provided insights on the implications of data localization on cybersecurity for the private sector.

To join or inquire about the ICT Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.

JFC Meeting hosted by JCCIPI
19 June 2025

Last 19 June, ECCP President Paulo Duarte and Industry and Government Affairs Manager Chin Nethercott took part in the Joint Foreign Chambers meeting hosted by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines Inc (JCCIPI) in Makati Diamond Residences.

During the session, the group discussed the status of the priority policies, the ongoing 2010 Arangkada Book update, and the upcoming 2025 Arangkada Forum in September, among others.



ECCP Customs and Logistics Committee Meeting
24 June 2025

On June 24, the Customs and Logistics Committee, co-chaired by Atty. Mark Tamayo and Mr. Michael Raeuber, convened at the ECCP office, Makati City.

The meeting was attended by Atty. Ferdinand Pauig, from the Port Operations Service of the Bureau of Customs. Atty. Pauig presented to the committee updates on Administrative Order No. 20, Further Streamlining Administrative Procedures and Policies, And Removing Non-Tariff Barriers on the Importation of Agricultural Products, and Joint Administrative Order: Guidelines for Administrative Order No. 23, Series of 2024 "Implementing a Digital and Integrated System for the Pre-border Technical Verification and Cross-border Electronic Invoicing of All Import Commodities. The Committee was also invited to an upcoming Round Table Discussion on Seaports scheduled on 01 July 2025, from 1:30 - 4:00 pm.

To join or inquire about the Customs and Logistics Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.



ECCP-led Arangkada Airports Roundtable Discussion
19 June 2025

The ECCP-led Arangkada Philippine Airports Roundtable Discussion successfully took off last June 19 at SPACES PNB Makati Center!

Hosted as part of the ongoing update to the 2010 Arangkada Philippines: A Business Perspective publication, the roundtable gathered key voices in the aviation sector for a productive exchange on current challenges, opportunities, and forward-looking policy recommendations.

Thank you to our distinguished speakers and participants, including ECCP Aviation Committee Co-Chairs Atty. Manolito Manalo and Atty. Marvin Masangkay, IATA Country Manager for the Philippines Samuel David, as well as our co-moderators AsBAA Board of Governors Member Maximilian Motschmann and Aviation Consultant Junard Cruz, for steering such a dynamic and insightful discussion.

Draft of the policy book update will be circulated by the ECCP team in the coming weeks.



1st Philippine Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Policy Development Roundtable Discussion
24 June 2025

On 19 June, the ECCP participated in the 1st Philippine Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Policy Development Roundtable Discussion hosted by the Island Skies Alliance (ISA) in partnership with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)/ NBB SAF Committee and the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (SCAD). The event had a hybrid setup with the onsite component at the Civil Aviation Training Center in Pasay City while the online component was conducted via Google Meet.

The roundtable discussion brought together key public and private sector stakeholders to gather their inputs in shaping a national policy framework for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Against the backdrop of aviation decarbonization, early coordination on policy directions will help ensure alignment with global standards while promoting practical, locally grounded implementation.



Inside ECCP: Manila

DELIVER Asia 2025

5-6 March 2025

Deliver Events, ECCP member and the leading retail and supply chain matchmaking event, concluded its first Asian leg conference last March 5-6 in Singapore.

DELIVER's Deputy CEO Aurore Colella opened the event with welcome remarks and an introduction to the organization, its initiatives, and the two-day conference activities. The ECCP is proud to have attended and supported the event as a media partner!

Canela Reillo, ECCP Membership Officer, and Samantha Ferrer, ECCP Marketing and Communications Officer-



in-Charge, attended the two-day event to engage and network with fellow participants and exhibitors from the retail, logistics, and supply chain industries.

Courtesy Visit to Singapore Members:

KLM Air France, Kering, and Cegos

4-7 March 2025

From March 4-7, ECCP Membership Officer Canela Reillo and Marketing & Communications OIC Samantha Ferrer conducted a series of courtesy visits in Singapore to foster deeper collaboration with its foreign-based members.

The team met with KLM Air France, where discussions focused on strengthening collaboration, particularly in light of Air France's upcoming resumption of direct flights to the Philippines. They also had the opportunity to present a copy of the 2025 Doing Business in the Philippines (DBIP) Guidebook to Stephanie Ip Cho, Southeast Asia & Oceania Regional B2C Marketing Manager, in recognition of Air France's role as a publication partner.

At Kering, a global luxury group, the team were warmly welcomed by Mary Tso, Senior Counsel for Global Brand Enforcement. The meeting explored ways to maximize Kering's engagement as a foreign-based ECCP member and identified potential collaborations on topics such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), a key area of advocacy for the Chamber.

They also visited Cegos, a leader in professional learning and development with a strong global presence, where they met with Learning Advisor & Business Development Manager Daryl Tan. Discussions revolved around workforce training, upskilling initiatives, and how Cegos' expertise aligns with the evolving needs of businesses in the European-Philippine community.

These engagements reinforce the Chamber's growing presence and efforts to foster partnerships for the ECCP community and the greater European business community in the Philippines.



5th ECCP Board Meeting for 2024-2025

19 March 2025

On 19 March 2025, the ECCP Board of Directors gathered for the fifth board meeting of the term to review recent accomplishments and map out strategic priorities for the year ahead. ECCP President Paulo Duarte presented a report highlighting the Chamber's recent feats, followed by discussions on industry updates with insights gleaned from recent advocacy committee meetings.

The meeting also covered the Chamber's ongoing activities across its regional offices, plans for the upcoming Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting, and key initiatives aimed at growing ECCP's membership base and impact in the local and international business landscape.

In attendance from the ECCP (from L-R) were Industry and Government Affairs Manager Chienie Nethercott, Vice President Roman Menz, Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto, Director Jaime Urquijo, Executive Assistant Gigi De Leon, President Paulo Duarte, Vice President Dr. Diana



Edralin, Executive Director Florian Gottein, Treasurer Mimi Concha, Director Albert Perez, Director Bernd Schneider, Director of Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan, Director of Projects Gerry Constantino, Membership Officer Canella Reillo, and ECCP Director Juha-Pekka Hoikka.

Joining the meeting virtually were ECCP Director Rudy Abrahams and ECCP Assistant Corporate Secretary Atty. Peter Calimag.

As we move forward into the year, the ECCP remains committed to driving advocacy efforts and fostering stronger collaboration among its members and with partners in the European-Philippine business community.

ECCP pays courtesy visit to H.E. Anna

Ferry of the Embassy of Sweden in Manila

19 March 2025

Last March 19, ECCP President Paulo Duarte and Executive Director Florian Gottein met with Ambassador Anna Ferry, where the Chamber presented its 2025 Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook. The ECCP also had the opportunity to discuss potential areas of strengthened cooperation between the two organizations to further bolster the business relationship between Sweden and the Philippines.

Also present at the meeting were ECCP Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto, Senior Trade Promotion Officer Giselle Yap, and Business Sweden Consultant Mae Balandan.



Meralco pays courtesy visit to ECCP

21 March 2025

On March 21, the ECCP welcomed representatives from newest Premium Member, Manila Electric Company (Meralco).

Pictured (from L-R) are ECCP Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto, ECCP Director of Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan, Meralco AVP and Head of Meralco Enterprise Commercial and Conglomerates Bernice Gretchel Garcia - Rama, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, Meralco Industry Lead for Hospitality & Financial Institutions Bezie Mae Mina and Meralco Industry Lead for Retail John Kenneth Bejar, REE, MBA.

The meeting delved into discussions of potential initiatives and opportunities for stronger collaboration, especially in the areas of energy security and sustainability. ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein also presented a copy of the Chamber's 2024 Advocacy Papers.



Beyond Capital: How Private Equity Builds Businesses That Last

21 March 2025

On March 21, the ECCP and Navegar hosted the Beyond Capital: How Private Equity Builds Businesses That Last forum at Shangri-La, Ayala, Makati City.

The event centered on discussions on how private equity (PE) can help mid-market companies in the Philippines scale and aim for sustainable growth, pursue innovative business models, and even drive innovation.

During the first part of the program, Navegar Vice President of Execution Ms. Hao-Min Liao led a presentation on Understanding Private Equity & Growth Strategies. In her talk, she introduced the complexities of navigating growth from investment to long-term value among promising businesses.

Following the session, attendees enjoyed a Fireside Chat and Panel Discussion on the PE advantage and how PE fuels business growth, as well as key considerations and the PE landscape.



The talk was led by Navegar Co-founder and Managing Partners Mr. Javier Infante and Nori Poblador, and moderated by Mr. Stephen Sieh, Country Strategy, Risk & Transactions Leader at Deloitte Philippines.

Setting the tone of the program was Ms. Mimi Concha, ECCP Treasurer and Country Head of Wholesale Banking at HSBC Philippines. Meanwhile, serving as the host for the event was Marketing Strategist of Navegar, Mr. Arren Quezada.

For official photos, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjC6foU>.

ECCP pays courtesy visit to Vouno Trade and Marketing Services Corporation

26 March 2025

On March 26, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein and ECCP Director of Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan met with Vouno Head of External Affairs, Regulatory & Communications Atty. Ricky Salvador. The meeting delved into discussions of shared advocacies and opportunities for stronger collaboration, with a particular focus on the growing food and beverage sector.

Vouno is the marketing arm in the Philippines of PT Mayora Indah of Indonesia, makers of well-known brands such as Kopiko, Energen, Le Minerale, Beng Beng, CalCheese and many more.



First ECCP Community Connect of 2025

27 March 2025

Held on March 27, 2025, at the Makati Commerce Tower, the event brought together more than 100 ECCP members—both new and longstanding—for an afternoon of networking, collaboration, and insightful discussions.

ECCP Vice President Dr. Diana Edralin warmly welcomed the newest members, encouraging them to leverage the Chamber's vast network, advocacy initiatives, and business development opportunities. "This afternoon, we come together not only as attendees but as a community with a shared purpose—to create avenues for growth, build partnerships, and forge lasting connections that will propel our collective success forward," she emphasized.

Also present at the event were session partners MR Travel, DHL Supply Chain Philippines, Forvis Mazars in the Philippines, Phil Ecology Systems Corp., Ocampo & Manalo Law Firm, and Asalus Corporation - Intellicare, who offered information on innovative business services and solutions spanning travel, logistics, and even tax and audit. Members also had the opportunity to engage in interactive discussions and network with other industry professionals.

With ECCP's continued focus on advocacy and partnerships, Dr. Edralin also highlighted the Chamber's role in fostering a thriving business environment. "We remain dedicated to nurturing strong partnerships and close cooperation with the Philippine government and all stakeholders to propel the country's business environment to new and greater heights," she shared,



reaffirming ECCP's commitment to supporting its growing network of 860 members—the highest in the Chamber's history.

We truly appreciate the presence of our presenters, partners, and attendees for making this event a success. Our sincerest gratitude as well to our venue partner Colliers International Philippines and Makati Commerce Tower!

For official photos, visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjC72VR>.

ECCP pays courtesy visit to the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of the Philippines
6 May 2025

Last May 6, ECCP Vice President Roman Menz and Executive Director Florian Gottein met with H.E. Yuliia Fediv and Chargé d’Affaires Oleksandr Lysak.

The meeting served as a platform to strengthen ties between the European-Philippine business community and the Embassy of Ukraine, while exploring potential collaborations in trade and investment. Key discussions also focused on how the ECCP can support Ukrainian companies looking to enter the Philippine market, promoting deeper economic engagement and mutual growth.

The Chamber also presented its 2024 Advocacy Papers, the latest Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook, and Sustainability Whitebook.



ECCP Courtesy Visit to GCash
8 May 2025

On May 8, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein and ECCP Membership Officer Canela Reillo paid a courtesy visit to GCash, the country’s leading mobile wallet, to discuss upcoming Chamber events, advocacy initiatives, and potential collaborations—particularly in driving innovation and inclusive growth within the financial technology sector.

The team met with Gcash representatives, including Gilda Maquilan, Vice President and Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Head; Gret Baltazar, Public Affairs Strategy Head; Mabel Niala, Public Affairs Manager; Bruce Rodriguez, Corporate Communications Manager; Jerome Lantin, External Affairs Manager; and Angelo Labahanan, Digital Content Manager.

Since its public launch in 2004, GCash has remained committed to advancing financial inclusion and



security by offering accessible investment and insurance solutions. Through continuous innovation enabled by GCash, more Filipinos have gained access to digital financial services, further empowering them to take control of their finances.

ECCP Luncheon Meeting with TESDA Director General Jose Fransisco “Kiko” Benitez
7 May 2025

On May 7, the ECCP, together with Event Patrons Bosch Philippines and Wadhvani Foundation, hosted a Luncheon Meeting featuring TESDA Director General Jose Francisco “Kiko” Benitez, who underscored the agency’s commitment to building a workforce powered by skills.

In his keynote speech, DG Benitez underscored the importance of stronger collaboration between industry and academe, encouraging businesses to integrate academic learning into real-world work environments and ensure that classroom instruction reflects current industry needs and practices.

During the panel discussion, he was joined by Vice President for Skilling at the Wadhvani Foundation Angela Chen-Delantar, Save the Children Philippines Chairperson Alicia Dela Rosa-Bala, Bosch Philippines Business Development Manager Karla Ravida, who



echoed the role of private sector engagement in upskilling the Filipino workforce.

Our gratitude goes out to keynote speaker DG Benitez, host and moderator DivinaLaw Associate Atty. Renz Ayongao, and to our attendees for joining us in advancing the dialogue on skills development!

For official photos, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCdms1>.

2025 JFC Clark International Mixer
14 May 2025

An evening well spent at the 2025 JFC Clark International Mixer!

Set against the elegant Clark Marriott Hotel, the second edition of the Clark International Mixer hosted by the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines gathered members of the foreign business community for an engaging night of networking, collaboration, and connection.

Thank you to all guests and partners who joined us for a night of expanding networks beyond borders. Until the next one!

For more event highlights, visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCeaCs>.



6th ECCP Board Meeting for 2024-2025
15 May 2025

The ECCP recently convened its 6th Board Meeting of the year to facilitate discussions on key industry developments and strategic priorities. Among the topics tackled were preparations for the upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting slated for May 27, updates on regional chamber activities, and initiatives to further strengthen ECCP's role in the business community.

In attendance were (from L-R): Director of Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan, Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs Atty. Kathyryn Pioquinto, Director Lars Wittig, Executive Director Florian Gottein, Vice President Roman Menz, President Paulo Duarte, Treasurer Albert Perez, Director Bernd Schneider, and Director of Projects Gerry Constantino.

The meeting was hosted by ECCP Premium Member Republic Cement Services.



Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
Forum
20 May 2025

The ECCP, in collaboration with the Belgian, British, Dutch, French, German, Spanish, Swiss, and Nordic Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines hosted the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Forum on 20 May, at Makati Shangri-La.

This event covered relevant updates on the implementation and impact of the EPR Act in the Philippines after it took effect in 2022 featuring presentations from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and GIZ Philippines. The forum, likewise, provided a platform for Obligated Enterprises (OEs), Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs), and other concerned stakeholders to share best practices enabling the European business community to be at the forefront of circularity and sustainability in the Philippines.

Representing the Chamber in the program were Mr. Roman Menz, ECCP Vice President, and Engr. Meg Santos, ECCP Environment and Water Committee Chairperson.



Introduction to Microsoft Copilot in Excel
15 May 2025

In a time where digital transformation is rapidly reshaping the workplace, artificial intelligence is driving a revolution in productivity.

Earlier this month, the ECCP—in partnership with Bnext Innovation Academy—concluded its introductory training session “MS Copilot in Excel: Boost Productivity with AI-Powered Assistance.”

The session briefly examined Microsoft Copilot’s AI features in Excel, such as auto-generating formulas, simplifying data analysis, trend summarization, and streamlining workflows.

Our thanks to Bnext for co-organizing this workshop with us, and to all our attendees who joined the class!



ECCP met with Willis Tower Watson
(WTW)
21 May 2025

On May 21, the ECCP met with Willis Tower Watson (WTW) to exchange updates on the Chamber's upcoming initiatives, advocacy priorities, and member engagement opportunities.

WTW, a British-American multinational company that provides commercial insurance brokerage services, strategic risk management services, first became a member of the Chamber in 1984. The company also provides employee benefits and compensation management, and actuarial analysis and investment management for pension plans and financial endowments.

Present at the meeting (from L-R) were WTW Head of Retirement Philippines Maria Katrina Mariano-Munsayac, AASP; WTW Managing Director for Health, Wealth, & Career James Matti; ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein; WTW Sales Operations Philippines Lead Marian Albano; and ECCP Membership Officer Canela Ysabel Reillo.



2025 ECCP Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting
27 May 2025

Celebrating another year of growth!

The 2025 ECCP Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting marked another milestone in our journey as a Chamber as we reflected on our accomplishments and reaffirmed our shared commitment to driving growth and collaboration in the European-Philippine business community.

Since our last gathering, the ECCP has seen historic progress—reaching a record-high membership count and leading over 160 engagements with government, 44 collaborations with the business community, 112 committee meetings, and 48 position papers and letters co-signed. These efforts have helped move critical reforms forward and shape a more competitive and investment-friendly Philippine business environment.

The event also featured the unveiling of our new website, corporate AVP, and 2024-2025 Annual Report, which details our collective vision, work, and regional impact. We also elected our newest set of Board of Directors and Officers for 2025-2026!



Lastly, we were honored to be joined by the Department of Transportation - Philippines Spokesperson Hon. Maricar Bautista and DTI Philippines Undersecretary Ceferino “Perry” Rodolfo, who shared updates and directives from their respective agencies.

Thank you to everyone who made the day a meaningful celebration of community and progress. Your engagement continues to move the European-Philippine business community forward—stronger, bolder, and ever committed.

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

Sunset Socials
27 May 2025

Check out the highlights of our Sunset Socials, a vibrant close to the 2025 ECCP Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting!

With the generous support of 32 partners, our more than 400 guests and attendees enjoyed free-flowing wine, gourmet food, interactive booths, and great company. It was definitely a great way to celebrate our growing ECCP Community!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a memorable evening. For official photos, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCfZHR>.

And another thank you as well to our incredible partners:

Official Airline Partner: Turkish Airlines

Platinum Partner: PMFTC Inc.

Gold Partner: Converge ICT Solutions Inc. and EAP Phils Inc

Silver Partner: International Container Terminal Services, Inc., IWG, Nord Anglia International School Manila, Republic Cement, and Royal Cargo

Table Top Partners: Cloudstaff, Descorp Inc., DHL Supply Chain, East-West Seed Philippines, Exceller



Corporate Support Inc., Guard-All Electronic Security Systems, Inc., Lambretta Philippines, MidPark Towers (Aseana City), PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority, Qatar Airways, Quanby Solutions Inc., Retail Associates, and OEKO-TEX

Raffle Partner: The Alpha Suites, The Bellevue Manila, Edsa Shangri-La, Manila, Joy Nostalg Hotel & Suites Manila Managed by The Ascott Limited, Microtel by Wyndham, Mondelēz International, and Sheraton Hotels & Resorts

Beverage Partner: Le Cellier French Wine Selection (Le Cellier Quality Store Corp.) and Lucullusph

Gift Partner: Gardenia Philippines

ECCP Courtesy Meeting with ENGIE
28 May 2025

On May 28, the ECCP was pleased to meet with the ENGIE Southeast Asia team to explore ways to maximize their membership and deepen engagement with the Chamber’s network. The meeting included discussions on potential collaboration in upcoming events such as the Energy Smart Forum and Luncheon Meetings, as well as other strategic initiatives.

Present at the meeting were (from L-R): ECCP Membership Officer Canela Reillo, ECCP Events Manager Arci Catalan, ECCP Director of Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ENGIE Head of Regional Marketing & Communications Zann Chua, ENGIE Regional Chief of Staff Karen NG, ENGIE Marketing & Communications Manager Yvonne Yap, and ENGIE Business Development Manager (Industry Solutions) Marion Datu.

Thank you to ENGIE Southeast Asia for the kind visit, and we look forward to an impactful partnership ahead!



5th Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Review and Assessment
28 May 2025

On May 28, 2025, Atty. Reena C. Mitra-Ventanilla, ECCP Intellectual Property Rights Committee Chair, represented the Chamber at the 5th Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Review and Assessment convened by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL).

The hybrid event focused on reviewing the MOU on eCommerce between Platforms and Brand Owners, Industry Associations, and Chambers of Commerce. This vital review mechanism aims to ensure effective implementation of the MOU and further institutionalize a code of practice among online marketplaces, especially with the recent passage of Republic Act (RA) 11967 or the Internet Transactions Act (ITA).

For more information or to join the Intellectual Property Rights Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.



CREATE MORE and BEPS 2.0: Unlocking opportunities amidst a shifting tax landscape

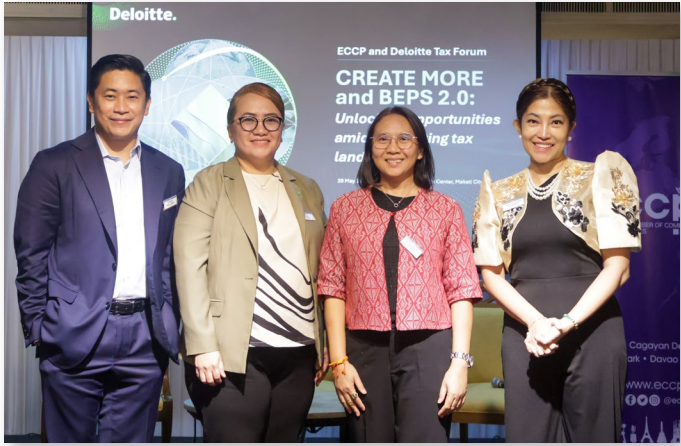
29 May 2025

Amidst a dynamic business environment, keeping abreast of tax reforms and financial reporting standards has never been more crucial.

On 29 May, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and Deloitte Philippines concluded its tax and financial reporting forum, “CREATE MORE and BEPS 2.0: Unlocking opportunities amidst a shifting tax landscape” at Dusit Thani Manila.

Expert speakers from Deloitte, namely Global Investment & Innovation Incentives (Gi3) Leader Senen Quizon, Transfer Pricing Leader Daniel Alexander Laoh, and Audit & Assurance Partner Jenny Isabel Menes, delved into the CREATE MORE Act and its implications for businesses, including a summary of tax incentives and compliance requirements, and discussed recent developments in transfer pricing regulations, Pillar Two, and the new requirements of IFRS 18.

Our deepest thanks once again to Deloitte and to all attendees who made this session a success!



ECCP Meeting with Ascendion

4 June 2025

On June 4, the ECCP Membership Team paid a courtesy visit to ASCENDION to strengthen rapport and discuss potential areas for collaboration and mutual growth. The visit included sharing of best practices, identifying opportunities for joint ventures and partnerships in the IT, AI, and digital innovation space, and a tour of their Makati City (AI Studio) office.

In first photo (from L-R): ECCP Membership Associate Shaireen Angeline Dayao, ECCP Membership Officer Canela Ysabel Reillo, ASCENDION SVP for APAC & Country Head Mr. Manan Mehta, and Director of Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan.

In second photo (far left): ASCENDION Senior Director - Sales Sheryl Mondares and ASCENDION Alliances and Partnership Manager Haifa Carina B.

Ascendion is a leading provider of AI-first software engineering services. With expertise in applied AI, software engineering, cloud, data, experience design, and talent transformation, the company accelerates innovation for Fortune 500 clients.



2025 EBO Worldwide Network Annual Conference

2-6 June 2025

ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein joined over 50 delegates from European Business Organisations (EBOs), EU institutions, and international stakeholders at the 2025 EBO Worldwide Network Annual Conference, held from 2 to 6 June in Brussels.

Hosted by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), the high-level discussions focused on empowering EU businesses in third markets, enhancing coordination on EU-funded programmes, and strengthening EBO Worldwide Network's role as a trusted EU partner globally.

Representing the ECCP, Mr. Gottein underscored the growing opportunities in Southeast Asia, particularly the Philippines, as a strategic destination for European investments and trade partnerships.

We are also proud to share that following the conference, Mr. Gottein was elected as one of the directors of the EBO Worldwide Network (EBOWN) Board for 2025-2026!

EBOWN is the first global network representing the voice of European business abroad. The network is represented in over 59 countries worldwide outside the European Union.



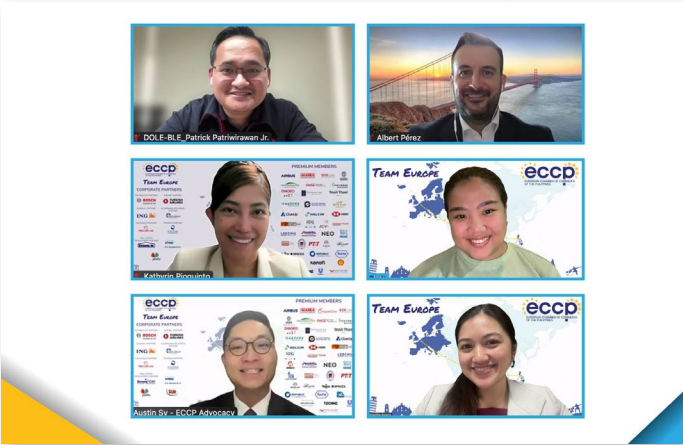
Foreign Talent, Local Rules: Understanding DOLE DO 248 Series of 2025

10 June 2025

On 10 June 2025, the ECCP Human Capital Committee, in partnership with the ECCP Competency Hub, organized an Infor Session on Department Order No. 248, Series of 2025, issued by the Department of Labor and Employment - DOLE concerning the Alien Employment Permit (AEP) for foreign nationals.

The session featured DOLE Bureau of Local Employment Director, Asec. Patrick Patriwirawan, along with an open forum moderated by Atty. Kathyrin Pioquinto, ECCP Director for Advocacy & Government Relations.

The session provided the attendees with a valuable opportunity to gain firsthand insights into the key changes in the new provision. The dialogue also fostered a clearer understanding of how businesses can align their workforce strategies with the updated



labor policies, reinforcing ECCP's commitment to supporting its members in navigating regulatory developments.

For more information on the Competency Hub, please reach out to trainings@eccp.com.

For more information on the Human Capital Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com.

ECCP onboarding meeting with new Premium Member Meralco

11 June 2025

Last June 11, the ECCP had the pleasure of welcoming its newest Premium Member, Manila Electric Company (Meralco), through an onboarding meeting to deepen collaboration and maximize membership value.

In the discussions, the ECCP shared its core focus areas—including advocacy, business support, networking, and capacity-building programs—and introduced Meralco to the range of member benefits such as participation in advocacy committees and increased brand visibility across ECCP’s platforms.

The Chamber also highlighted upcoming events in the energy and sustainability space where Meralco’s leadership can contribute to meaningful dialogue and sector-wide progress.

With Meralco’s growing renewable energy portfolio and dedication to building a sustainable energy future, we look forward to working together in powering a greener, more inclusive future.



ECCP welcomes Healthy Workplace to the ECCP office

18 June 2025

It was a pleasure to welcome Healthy Workplace to the ECCP office!

Last June 18, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) officially welcomed its newest Regular Member – Healthy Workplace. Held at the Makati office, the onboarding meeting served as a platform to explore meaningful synergies and discuss ways to maximize the value of their membership through future collaboration.

In the photo (from L-R): ECCP Member Relations Associate Shaireen Dayao, ECCP Director of Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Member Relations Associate Martina Torres, and Healthy Workplace Chief Wellbeing Officer Mr. Jeroen van Straten.

Healthy Workplace is a leading provider of indoor environment assessments and customized solutions for offices, schools, manufacturing facilities, and commercial buildings across the country.



ECCP meets with Food Industry Asia

11 June 2025

On June 11, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) convened a meeting with Food Industry Asia (FIA), represented by Ms. Bea Baldonado, Public Affairs Manager for the Philippines.

The meeting centered on exploring collaborative opportunities and aligning industry priorities between both organizations. Discussions also focused on how the ECCP and FIA can work together to address key challenges within the food industry, advocate for favorable policies, and drive sustainable growth in general.

The ECCP is enthusiastic about forging strategic partnerships, as it will bring significant advantages and foster a more robust food industry landscape.



Inside ECCP: Cebu

27th Startup Ecosystem Builders (SEB) Meeting

6 May 2025

The 27th Startup Ecosystem Builders (SEB) Meeting, held on May 6, marked a significant milestone for the Cebu startup community. With strong engagement from key stakeholders, we began laying the groundwork for our first-ever Strategic Planning Session—a pivotal move toward establishing a unified voice to champion innovation and entrepreneurial growth in the region.

We are also pleased to welcome the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development – Region VII (formerly NEDA) to the ecosystem. Their involvement signals a valuable step forward in fostering strategic, policy-aligned collaborations that can further empower our collective efforts.

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) remains committed to supporting



and strengthening the startup community by facilitating multi-sector dialogue, enabling access to opportunities, and advocating for innovation-led development.

The energy is palpable and the momentum is strong — together, we're shaping a more vibrant, inclusive, and future-ready startup ecosystem for Cebu. Let's keep building!

Sustainable Strategies for Responsible Operations: Organic Waste Management, Water Stewardship, and Transparent Reporting

13 May 2025

ECCP Cebu's Building a Greener Bottom Line webinar series, Episode 2, delivered actionable insights on sustainable business practices. Held with the ECCP Sustainability, Environment and Water Committees, and partner Bureau Veritas, the session centered on 'Sustainable Strategies for Responsible Operations: Organic Waste Management, Water Stewardship, and Transparent Reporting.'

Industry leaders from the Philippine Coastwise Shipping Association and Bureau Veritas provided expertise on waste minimization, water stewardship, and transparent sustainability reporting. Key takeaways highlighted how circular economy models and transparency reduce environmental impact, boost efficiency, and build stakeholder confidence.

Attendees are now better equipped with strategies to meet global sustainability benchmarks, fortify



operations, and generate lasting business value. ECCP Cebu thanks Bureau Veritas, our speakers, and all participants for contributing to this vital discussion on advancing corporate responsibility and success.

Alignment Meeting with REBAP, Hiveroom, and Filinvest: Exploring Synergies for Membership and Collaboration

14 May 2025

On May 14, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Cebu welcomed representatives from the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (REBAP), Hiveroom, and Filinvest for an alignment meeting focused on exploring potential membership, partnership, and collaborative opportunities.

Held at the ECCP Cebu office, the meeting served as a valuable platform for dialogue on shared goals, particularly in advancing industry engagement, strengthening regional networks, and co-developing programs that support the growth of the real estate and property technology sectors.

Discussions touched on the potential for strategic collaboration in upcoming events, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and advocacy efforts. The exchange



also underscored the importance of multi-sector partnerships in fostering innovation, sustainability, and inclusive economic development within the Visayas region.

ECCP remains committed to cultivating strong relationships with key industry players and is encouraged by the enthusiasm and shared vision expressed by REBAP, Hiveroom, and Filinvest. We look forward to building meaningful partnerships that create value for our members and contribute to a more vibrant business community.

Inside ECCP: CDO

ECCP Northern Mindanao Wraps Up Two-Day Behaviour-Based Safety Training with J3 Trainers & Consultants, Inc.

19-20 May 2025

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) – Northern Mindanao successfully concluded two insightful and impactful days of learning through the Behaviour-Based Safety Training, held on May 19–20, 2025 in partnership with J3 Trainers & Consultants Inc.

The training brought together professionals from various industries for an intensive session focused on reducing workplace risks and cultivating a safety-first mindset across all levels of the organization. Emphasizing real-world application, the training tackled key behavioural principles that influence safety, the psychology behind unsafe actions, and how companies can effectively build and reinforce safety-driven workplace cultures.

Through expert facilitation, practical discussions, and interactive exercises, participants were given tools and frameworks to better identify risk behaviours, implement targeted interventions, and empower employees to take ownership of safety in their respective workplaces. ECCP Northern Mindanao extends its deepest thanks to all the participants for their active engagement, and to J3 Trainers & Consultants Inc. for their continued partnership in delivering high-impact learning programs in the region. Together, let us continue to champion a more proactive, responsible, and resilient safety culture—one workplace at a time.



ECCP CDO Facilitates Strategic Business Dialogue Between CEPALCO and China's Hongwang Group

29 May 2025

Last May 29, 2025, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) – Northern Mindanao recently hosted a high-level meeting between long-standing member Cagayan Electric Power and Light Company, Inc. (CEPALCO) and representatives from the Hongwang Group, a Chinese conglomerate expressing keen interest in exploring business opportunities in the Philippines and in Cagayan de Oro.

The dialogue, held at CEPALCO's Admin Building office, served as an initial platform for both parties to exchange insights on investment priorities, infrastructure readiness, and potential areas for collaboration in the power and energy sectors. Hongwang Group, known for its significant footprint in industrial manufacturing and steel production, is currently exploring entry points for green and energy-intensive investments in emerging Philippine cities. Both parties acknowledged the increasing potential of Cagayan de Oro as a strategic investment hub due to its access to industrial parks, logistics corridors, and skilled workforce.



The meeting concluded with both parties expressing interest in further discussions and continued engagement—with ECCP serving as the platform to foster trust, transparency, and connectivity. This initiative highlights ECCP's role as a catalyst for cross-border business collaboration and underscores the growing confidence of international firms in the economic potential of Cagayan de Oro and Northern Mindanao.

ECCP Northern Mindanao Conducts the 3rd Run of Navigating the Role: Basic Skills Training for Executive Assistants

25 June 2025

On 25 June 2025, the ECCP Northern Mindanao successfully conducted the 3rd run of Navigating the Role: Basic Skills Training for Executive Assistants via Zoom. The session was led by Ms. Heidi Grace Mendoza, who shared valuable insights on effective communication, time management, prioritization, and other key administrative skills. Executive assistants from various industries participated in the interactive training. This initiative reflects ECCP's continued commitment to empowering professionals in the region.



Inside ECCP: Davao

ECCP Davao Introductory Visit to HSBC Davao

27 May 2025

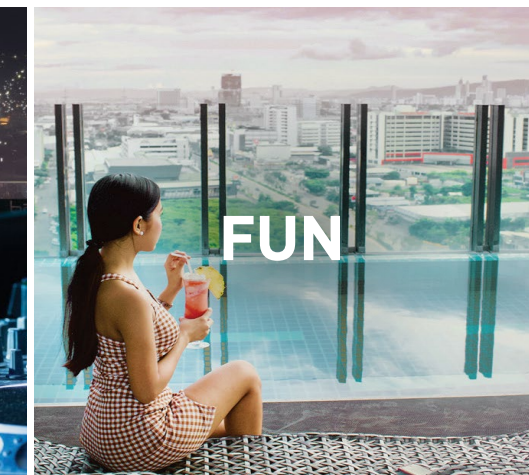
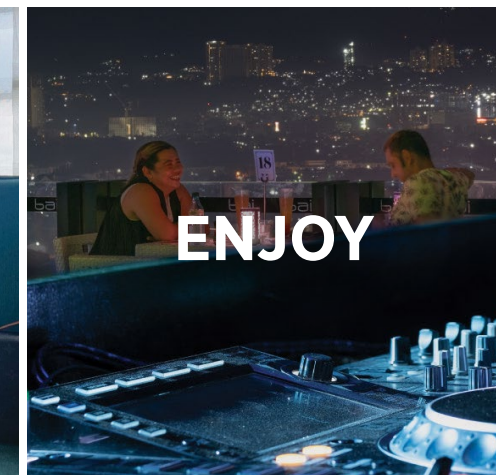
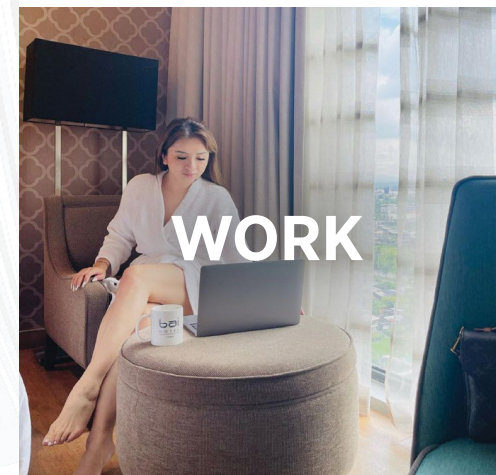
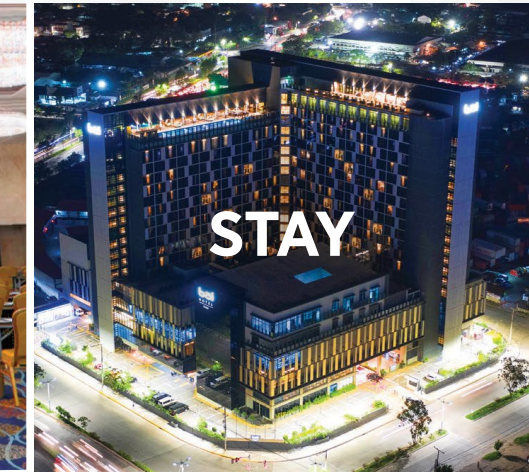
On May 27, the ECCP, represented by Officer-in-Charge Sam Gura, conducted an introductory visit to the HSBC Davao office and met with Manager Rita N. Santiago, Retail Branch Head. The meeting explored potential areas of collaboration, particularly in serving the international business community in Davao through co-hosted events, financial learning sessions, and HSBC's involvement in regional business activities. The HSBC team also provided a brief office tour at their 2nd floor location in Abreeza Mall and highlighted their range of financial products focused on investment, savings, and credit for wealth creation.



ECCP attends CREATE MORE Mindanao Leg by Board of Investments

10 June 2025

The ECCP participated in the final leg of the CREATE MORE Roadshow for Mindanao held on June 10, 2025, at Acacia Hotel, Davao City, organized by the Board of Investments through its Davao Extension Office. The event served as a high-level platform to raise awareness on Republic Act 12066, also known as the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act, which seeks to modernize the Philippines' tax incentive system by making it more transparent, predictable, and globally competitive. Featuring insights from the private sector and Mindanao's institutional development agencies, discussions focused on the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) and identified key sectors to drive inclusive national growth. The forum was graced by MinDA Chairman Leo Tereso Magno as keynote speaker and gathered key stakeholders from both public and private sectors to reaffirm the country's commitment to fostering an investment-friendly environment in Mindanao.



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New Members Corner

Premium Members

Jollibee Foods CORPORATION

Jollibee Foods Corporation

As one of the largest and fastest-growing quick-service restaurant chains in the world, Jollibee has gained international recognition for its delicious meals, including their famous Chickenjoy and Jolly Spaghetti. Now, Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC, or more commonly known as Jollibee Group) is home to 19 well-loved brands with over 9,500 stores across 32 countries.



Manila Electric Company (MERALCO)

Meralco marches on to its 115th year of service in 2018. Consistently in the list of the Philippines' top five corporations and cited among Asia's finest, Meralco today serves over 6 million residential, commercial and industrial customers. It is strategically located to serve the country's center of commerce and industry and its hub of government services and infrastructures. Moreover, the turnover of business establishments in the franchise area accounts for more than 50% of the country's Gross Domestic Product or GDP.



Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals (Philippines) Inc.

Novo Nordisk is a global healthcare company with 95 years of innovation and leadership in diabetes care. This heritage has given us experience and capabilities that also enable us to help people defeat obesity, haemophilia, growth disorders and other serious chronic diseases. Headquartered in Denmark, Novo Nordisk employs approximately 43,100 people in 79 countries and markets its products in more than 170 countries. In the Philippines, Novo Nordisk started its operations in 1976 under the umbrella organization of its distributor. In 1999, steps were taken to establish an affiliate office in the Philippines with the vision of making Novo Nordisk a market leader in its areas of expertise. In June 30, 1999, the Philippine Office was finally able to obtain approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission to operate as an independent Pharmaceutical Company.

Regular Members



EAP Phils Inc.

EAP Phils. Inc., formerly a bus division of Euro Auto Part Center Inc. was established in 2015 due to the blooming Construction & Infrastructure development in the Philippines. Big companies are looking for alternative suppliers to help them cut down on their maintenance cost by providing them with OEM or aftermarket parts at a reasonable price with faster delivery lead time.



Aeven Philippines, Inc.

Aeven always had a strong identity even before private equity firm, Agilitas, saw our potential as a stand-alone business and helped us create a business separate from NNIT. Like us, they believed that the industry needed to redefine itself in order to make sense in our rapidly changing world. Hence, the idea of Adaptive Digital Infrastructure was born.



BSI Group Philippines, Inc.

The British Standards Institutions (BSI) is a business improvement and standards company that partners with more than 84,000 clients in 193 countries globally across multiple industry sectors. BSI provides organizations with the confidence to grow by working with them to tackle society's critical issues – from climate change to building trust in AI and everything in between – to accelerate progress towards a fair society and a sustainable world. We exist to create positive change for people and the planet.



MASA Group

MASA Group of Companies was formed in October 2019. It consists of companies in different industries, such as advertising, distribution, consultancy, products, and hospitality. The group wants to create organizations dedicated to empowering people in a collaborative culture of self-development, innovation, and environmental awareness that creates value for everyone.



CLEAR Leadership Consulting

Our Mission to make Career, Leadership and Executive Aspirations a Reality. That's why we are C.L.E.A.R. Leadership Consulting. We work with Organizations who want to re-assess their existing organizational strategy, structure and processes so they can focus on running their business. We provide one-on-one coaching services to Executives, Managers and other professionals who want to propel their career and make things happen in their personal lives or their organizations. We can design or improve your HR systems from Talent Acquisition to Talent Retention and the Exit Cycle. We also provide outsourced HR support such as Talent Search, HR Administration, among others.



Descorp Inc

DESCORP Inc, is a dynamic company specializing in the beauty and personal care industry. We are committed to transforming innovative ideas and product concepts into tangible, trustworthy brands that consumers are looking for.



ZE Electronic Manufacturing Services Limited

ZAMA Corporation and the Elrad International Group partnered to create a joint venture focused on manufacturing electronic assemblies.

This collaboration is established under the name ZE Electronic Manufacturing Services Ltd.



STADA Philippine Inc.

STADA is a leading manufacturer of high-quality pharmaceuticals. With a long-standing heritage rooted in pharmacies, we are perceived as a reliable and trustworthy partner for 125 years. With our products we help people protect and regain a dignified and able life. With our proven Generics, we ensure that everyday health remains affordable. To our employees, we offer an attractive working environment in which they can develop personally.

STADA focuses on specialty pharmaceuticals and non-prescription consumer healthcare products. In the Philippines, STADA markets consumer healthcare products such as FERN-C, Nature's Aid, Oilatum, Walmark, Zerochol, Specialty products such as Thea products, Hibor, Hyabak, and Bistapro. STADA is also a player in the generics market.



Infinite Care Philippines Inc

Employee Well-being Platform



Cegos Asia Pacific

Cegos is Europe's largest Training Organisation and one of the world's leading Global Learning & Development companies.

Established and founded in 1926 in France, Cegos has a strong foundation with close to 100 years of experience within Human Resource Development, Corporate Training and Leadership Consulting, and is responsible for the Talent Development needs for many Multinational Companies.

Cegos specializes in the development and growth of managers & their teams, particularly in 20 Key Competencies consisting of Leadership, Sales & various Soft Skills, and has a significant number of Global MNCs as world-wide training partners.



MARCO POLO
PLAZA
CEBU

Marco Polo Plaza Cebu

Majestically situated 600 feet above sea level along the prestigious Nivel Hills district, Marco Polo Plaza, is considered a landmark in Cebu City, Philippines. It's an urban resort and business hotel that offers a panoramic view of the city, the Mactan Channel and the neighboring islands, with land surrounded by 7.5 hectares of lush greenery. The 24-storey hotel is 45 minutes from the Mactan International Airport and 10 minutes from the main business district and shopping malls.



Nasdaq Technology AB Philippines Branch

Nasdaq is a global technology company that is relentlessly reimagining the markets of today. Not by chasing the possibilities of tomorrow. But by creating them.



Alliance Software Inc.

Alliance Software, Inc. is a global IT services and solutions company. Alliance was established in 2000 and has since grown to become one of the Philippines' largest and most respected independent software development outsourcing company. Alliance's delivery model is anchored on both on-shore and off-shore approach stressing on effective use of our key strengths in our people, process and technology. As part of Alliance's strategic delivery model, Alliance has established offices in the key markets of Tokyo, Cebu and Manila.

As an IT services company, Alliance has developed service capabilities to include the entire spectrum of the Software Development process starting from Design (UI and Logic), Development (on various proprietary and open source technologies), QA/Testing, Deployment to Documentation (in English and Nihongo).



Moët Hennessy Philippines Inc.

As the wine and spirits division of LVMH, world leaders in luxury, we manage the growth and development of 27 exceptional Maisons, each internationally recognized for their rich heritage and terroir and the unique artistry and excellence of their products. Our motto, Crafting Experiences, reflects our ambition to create meaningful connections for our consumers and customers and offer our talents limitless opportunities to grow their careers.



QIMA

Focused on the consumer products industry, over the years we have expanded to cover the needs of clients in the food and life sciences industries.



Repeat Hybrid Solar Panel Corp.

Repeat Solar is your trusted partner in providing you with clean, environment-friendly and sustainable energy directly to your homes, offices and other facilities.

HYBRID SYSTEM: Produce electricity for day, nights that works during brown outs, with batteries.



Draeger Philippines Corporation

Draeger Philippines Corporation consists of a team of trained professionals – customer service specialists, product specialists, and also service engineers to provide product applications, upgrades, repairs, and advanced technical support for our partners and customers in Philippines.

With over 125 years of experience around the world, our solutions include hospital patient monitors, anesthesia machines, ventilators, infant incubators and warmers, medical supply units, surgical lights, industrial gas detectors, fire-fighting breathing apparatus, and various customized solutions to save and support lives.



Healthy Workplace

The Healthy Workplace Certification helps organizations earn recognition for providing a space that truly supports employee health, focus, and performance—using real environmental data from the workplace itself. No surveys. No checklists. Just clear, measurable insights that show how your space impacts the people in it.

The certification is awarded to organizations that achieve a Total Wellness Score of 71% or higher, based purely on actual environmental metrics. Unlike traditional certifications, HWP is driven by data across key wellbeing categories: comfort, cognitive function, productivity, performance, and physical health. This science-backed recognition highlights your commitment to creating a healthier, high-performing workplace.



Renoir Implementation Services Inc.

Global boutique consultancy firm specialized in generating tangible results through excellence in project and change management. Established in a number of countries, but with its roots in the UK and Europe.



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA EMBASSY MANILA

Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia



Embassy of Sweden Manila

Embassy of Sweden in Manila



MAERSK

Maersk Filipinas Inc

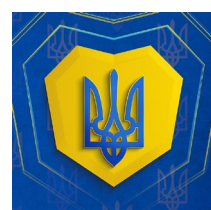
Maersk Filipinas Inc. (the Company) was incorporated and registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on September 9, 1981 and is engaged primarily to carry on a general shipping agency business by acting as agent or representative of ship owners, brokers, charterers, consignees and any person, corporation or firm engaged in any business, enterprise or undertaking related to or connected with overseas shipping or international trade.

The Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Maersk Agency Holding A/S and its ultimate parent is A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S (APMM), both organized under the laws of Denmark.



EMTS INC

Founded in 2024. EMTS Inc is built to help the healthcare facilities in the Philippines and a road map for future expansion across the Asia Pacific Region. An independent organization with a focus on Biomedical Services, the company provides unbiased business offers. EMTS Inc. is dedicated solely to delivering exceptional onsite and offsite MedTech services, without involvement in the equipment sales business. As a supplier independent entity, we bring a European state of the art quality approach, aligning with WHO standards and ISO certifications.



Embassy of Ukraine

The Embassy of Ukraine in Manila serves as the official diplomatic mission of Ukraine to the Republic of the Philippines. Established to strengthen bilateral relations, the embassy facilitates cooperation between Ukraine and the Philippines in areas such as trade, education, culture, and political dialogue. It provides consular services to Ukrainian citizens residing or traveling in the Philippines and promotes Ukrainian interests through diplomatic engagement and public diplomacy.



MaceTpm Inc.

Mace is a global company of delivery consultants and construction experts, providing services for many of the world's most inspiring building and infrastructure projects and programmes – from Olympic parks and iconic skyscrapers to global corporate real estate, airports, schools and hospitals.

The privately-owned company, headquartered in London, UK, has an annual turnover of £1.9bn. Over 30 years, its growth has been fuelled by an adventurous spirit and the relentless pursuit of a better way. Today, the company employs over 7,000 people across four global hubs in the UK & Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the Americas and Asia Pacific.

Associate Members



SFI Human Resources Consultancy, Inc. (BusinessTrends)

SFI Human Resources Consultancy, Inc. (SFIHRCI) is a registered legitimate service contractor under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

SFIHRCI operates under the trade name BusinessTrends and provides complete workforce management solutions in the Philippines since 1999. It is supported by Servicio Filipino, Inc. (SFI), a leader in total human resource solutions, offering quality services in engineering, property management, building cleaning/management, and technical services for over 55 years.



PamavTech

PAMAV Training Institute and Technology Center, Inc

Competency based training center for technical training and leadership programs



Viva International Food and Restaurants, Inc.

Viva Foods (Viva International Food & Restaurant Inc.) is a dynamic and innovative company in the global food & restaurant industry.

We at Viva Foods, strive to create extraordinary dining experiences for our customers, with a twist!

It all started when Boss Vic tasted the original mille crepe of Paper Moon in Tokyo and New York. Known for having the instinct and the "golden touch" in tapping creative geniuses and transforming them into superstars, Boss Vic has convinced Madam Emi Wada, Paper Moon's grand dame, to let the Filipinos experience the exquisite taste of the Original Mille Crepe and her other signature specialty cake creations.



Island Fleet (PH)

Island Fleet Transport Services has a DTI Certificate of Business Name Registration No. 05639823 dated November 28, 2018. Island Fleet started its operations and solely managed with more than a decade of experience from an international brand of car rental.

Island Fleet started thru non- pooling or partnership with various suppliers with same commitment- relaxed and friendly customer service, affordable and quality rentals to meet the market demand. Fortunately, in less than a year Island Fleet has acquired brand new vehicles to serve the clientele.

We, at Island Fleet "Navigating your Journey with Excellence"



Quanby Solutions Inc

At Quanby Solutions, Inc., we're more than just an IT firm, we're your trusted partner in navigating the complex world of technology. With a wealth of experience and expertise, we specialize in providing top-notch IT equipment and solutions tailored to meet the unique needs of small businesses and government agencies.



Center for Global Best Practices Foundation, Inc.

Established in May 2004, CGBP is at the forefront of training and consulting industry.



Clark International Airport Corporation

The Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) is a subsidiary and the premier aviation and land development arm of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA). It is also tasked by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to exercise oversight functions over the Clark International Airport while managing the 2,367-hectare Clark Aviation Capital, the aviation-centric business capital of the country with a dynamic ecosystem combining aviation, logistics, commerce, and sustainable urban development contributing to national economic progress.

The CIAC is a non-chartered Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC), duly registered with the Securities & Exchange Commission. It was created primarily to develop, operate, manage and maintain the Clark Civil Aviation Complex within the Clark Freeport Zone in the province of Pampanga.



AJDA Enterprises, Inc.

AJDA ENTERPRISES, INC. (formerly AJDA Industrial Supply) is a duly registered company that started in 2018 and incorporated in 2024, supplying hard-to-find tools, machinery, equipment, and other items to construction and industrial companies in the Luzon and GMA areas. From there, the demand grew to supply affordable yet high-quality Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), tools, and equipment to its expanding clientele nationwide. Today, we serve major corporations across the country. We've established our presence in Cagayan de Oro City to be closer and better serve our clients in the Visayas and Mindanao regions. We are focused on providing premium-quality safety and hygiene products, primarily to manufacturing plants, across all industries and categories.



Swyftly Technologies Inc

Swyftly enables importers and freight forwarders to send international payments faster, cheaper, and with more control. No need for USD accounts, in-person bank visits, or risky remittance agents.



Maya Philippines, Inc.

E-Money/Digital Banking



WESTCO Electrical & Equipment Corp.

Electrical Engineering products, services, energy audit, oil laboratory for energy efficiency and sustainability.



Biodev Inc.

Biodev Inc. is an urban planning, design, and management firm that provides specialized services to local governments and private entities to enable them to achieve service excellence, resiliency, and sustainability.



Hagane Sekkei Corporation

The beginnings of Hagane Sekkei Corporation or HSC dates to the year 2022, when a spike in the demand led to several Oil and Gas/Petrochemical companies to approach us through our parent company, Quadstruct Inc.

Although HSC is relatively new, Quadstruct Inc. has been in the design business for 15 years. Having designed a wide range of projects such as highrise buildings, warehouses, airports and other civil related works, our parent company has been offering safe and economical solutions at competitive prices for numerous clients. Since petrochemical plant design is specialized, HSC was formed to cater this niche in the design market with the help of our Senior Engineering Consultants each having more than 15 years of experience in the Oil and Gas field.



ProHance Philippines Inc.

We have a cloud-based solution that optimizes your workforce processes through powerful real-time analytics.

ProHance offers best-in-market analytics with real-time view combined with customizable smart reporting & dashboards. Enables organisations to become more agile and achieve operating goals. Provide leaders with data and analytics, allowing them to manage their distributed teams effectively and ensuring key operations metrics are met.

A rapidly expanding organization with 380,000+ users across 25 countries.



Zukify- Novel Prime Inc.

We are poised to transform the traditional landscape of acquiring discounts and perks by introducing a pioneering approach to our merchant partners nationwide. At Zukify, we believe in redefining the way individuals and businesses access exclusive offers. Our platform is designed to seamlessly connect users with a diverse array of merchants, ensuring a win-win situation for both parties. Through innovative technologies and strategic partnerships, we are dedicated to creating an unparalleled experience for our subscribers and merchant collaborators alike. Join us on this exciting journey as we usher in a new era of accessible and dynamic discounts, setting the standard for a mutually rewarding discount ecosystem.



World Vision Development Foundation Inc

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians and a development, relief, and advocacy organization dedicated to working with the most vulnerable children, families, and communities to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.



Gonzalez Gupit & Laudencia Law Offices

GONZALEZ GUPIT & LAUDENCIA ("GGL Law") is a full-service law firm offering personalized and client-oriented professional advice and service in core areas of legal practice in the Philippines.

GGL Law is comprised of the partners FRANCISCO B. GONZALEZ, RAMONCITO GERARDO S. GUPIT and MARICO GABRIELLE NAVARRO LAUDENCIA. Atty. Gonzalez and Atty. Gupit are both experienced practitioners with over thirty years of legal practice. Meanwhile, Atty. Laudencia is a product of the combined mentorship of the different partners with a variety of training in various fields of law.



Infinite Vida Global Corp.

Infinite Vida is a Philippine-based start-up company engaged in wholesale, retail and e-commerce trade of our own brand of cosmetics, health supplements and personal care products. While Infinite Vida is a new player in the market, our founders and the management team are seasoned business people and executives in various industries including: automotive sales, fmcg, manufacturing, trade, and distribution. Mr. Willy Q. Tee Ten is our Chairman.



Hiverooms Corporation

HIVEROOMS is revolutionizing the way hotels work. We are a unique product that fills the gap between our accommodation partners and new technologies to reach their customer/travelers. We have a range of product to support the hospitality industry.



Vanguard Workforce Mobility Solutions Corporation

Vanguard Mobility caters to clients in need of assistance in Relocation and Destination (Home and School relocations), Visa and Immigration (Inbound and Outbound), and Move Management. Experience and expertise in these areas make the company one of the best regarded in the industry. As it keeps growing both by the numbers, the clientele and the scale of new and related services, it will always be a major focus to serve clients with a seamless and stress-free solutions doing it with passion, adhering to best practices and serving nothing but excellence.



CloudCFO Inc.

CloudCFO is a cloud accounting services provider founded in 2016 and based in Mandaluyong City, Manila. Specializing in helping startups and SMEs in the Philippines, CloudCFO delivers innovative, tech-enabled solutions that simplify financial operations. With a growing client base of over 400 businesses, CloudCFO serves a diverse range of industries, including tech, fintech, e-commerce, finance and lending, marketplace platforms, F&B, hospitality, manufacturing, retail, healthcare, logistics, and other general business services.

CloudCFO offers a comprehensive suite of services, including accounting, bookkeeping, tax compliance, and financial reporting, all powered by cloud technology. Our fully online approach ensures that businesses can access real-time financial insights, streamline their processes, and stay compliant with ease.



Bamboo Ecologic Export Philippines Inc

Bamboo Ecologic Export Philippines, Inc. is a subsidiary of Bamboo Ecologic Corporation, dba RIZOME, a USA company, and global manufacturer of bamboo engineered lumber.



Omoda and Jaecoo Motor Philippines Inc

Omoda and Jaecoo Motor Philippines Inc. is a dynamic automotive company that brings together two distinct yet complementary vehicle series designed to cater to the evolving needs of modern drivers. OMODA represents a stylish, cross-border vehicle line crafted for the new generation of LOHAS (Lifestyle of Health and Sustainability) consumers. With a strong foundation in futuristic design, fashion, sustainability, and cutting-edge technology, OMODA aims to redefine conventional driving experiences and inspire a bold, personalized lifestyle.



Nague Malic Magnawa and Associates Customs Brokers

NMM is the largest professional partnership firm of customs brokers in the Philippines primarily engaged in rendering customs consultancy, compliance, clearance, release, and post-clearance audit services. With over 15 years of operations, we are consistently being recognised as a top customs broker and lauded by the Bureau of Customs for our significant contributions to the revenue collection and trade facilitation initiatives of the government.



Puno and Puno Law Offices

PunoLaw is the leading law firm recognized for our highest quality legal service and representation of clients. Justice Ricardo Puno, Sr. founded the firm in 1984 on the core values of excellence, integrity, and professionalism. We strive to follow his example in assisting clients to attain their objectives and overcome legal challenges.



Chelsea Logistics & Infrastructure Holdings Corp.

Chelsea Logistics and Infrastructure Holdings Corp. (Chelsea Logistics), the biggest shipping and logistics company in the Philippines, operates through its wholly-owned subsidiaries: Chelsea Shipping Corp., Trans-Asia Shipping Lines, Inc., Starlite Ferries, Inc., TASLI Services, Inc., The SuperCat Fast Ferry Corporation, and Worklink Services, Inc. Chelsea Logistics understands the crucial role it plays in providing shipping and logistics services within the country's archipelagic physical setting. It has continuously expanded its fleet and reach through several regional partnerships and strategic acquisitions of reputable local shipping lines and logistics brands, fulfilling its vision of being the finest shipping and logistics company known for its unrivalled customer service.



FMES Solutions Inc.

FMES aims to be the "TOP OF MIND" in Energy Saving Technologies, Commercial Kitchen Equipment Supplier & Installer and Specialized Engineering Services Provider with the mission To "Find Solutions Innovatively in managing the most-valued assets of a diversified and complex real estates and properties through sustainable stewardship, and through the professional and unconventional approach in Integrated Facilities Management services and to be the employer of choice through harmonious work culture and environment that attracts and retains superior employees that will make a happy and satisfied customers.



Seda Hotels

Seda Hotels is a Filipino hotel chain owned and operated by Ayala Land Hotels and Resorts Corporation (AHRC). The brand aims to provide a blend of seamless service, exceptional value, and modern accommodations in strategic locations across the Philippines. Seda Hotels is known for its urban lifestyle approach, catering to both business and leisure travelers.



Global Resource for Outsourced Workers Inc.

GROW is a dual-licensed recruitment agency by the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). We are your one-stop shop for all recruitment and hiring needs.



Le Chef Institute of Culinary Arts and Gastronomy

Le Chef is a Culinary Arts and Gastronomy Institute in Iloilo City. We strive to provide our students with a comprehensive culinary education using the French Culinary technique that is the foundation of international cuisine. We blend these traditional techniques with modern practices to ensure that our students are well-prepared in the global culinary industry. Our state-of-the-art facilities and expert instructors create an environment where passion for cooking can flourish into a professional career. Chef Hicham Merouane has a 7-year Culinary Arts and Hotel Management training in Morocco and in Germany and acquired his license to train in Hotel Management in Germany. Our students have internship in top trier hotels and restaurants and are prepared to work globally.



Global Schools Group in the Philippines

Global Schools Group (GSG) is an international education network with over 60 campuses across 11 countries, serving more than 45,000 students from diverse nationalities. With a strong presence in Asia, the Middle East, and beyond, GSG is committed to delivering high-quality, holistic education across its global campuses. In the Philippines, GSG proudly operates Domuscula International School in Pasig and Chinese International School of Manila in BGC—both known for their progressive, inclusive, and globally minded learning environments.

Foreign-Based Members

ALEXMORGAN

Executive Search

Alex Morgan Pte Ltd

Alex Morgan Pte Ltd is a premier Human Resources consultancy firm dedicated to providing strategic talent acquisition solutions to both local organizations and multinational corporations. With a focus on connecting businesses with top-tier talent, Alex Morgan specializes in executive search, recruitment, and HR advisory services tailored to a wide range of industries.

LEVER

Lever Foundation

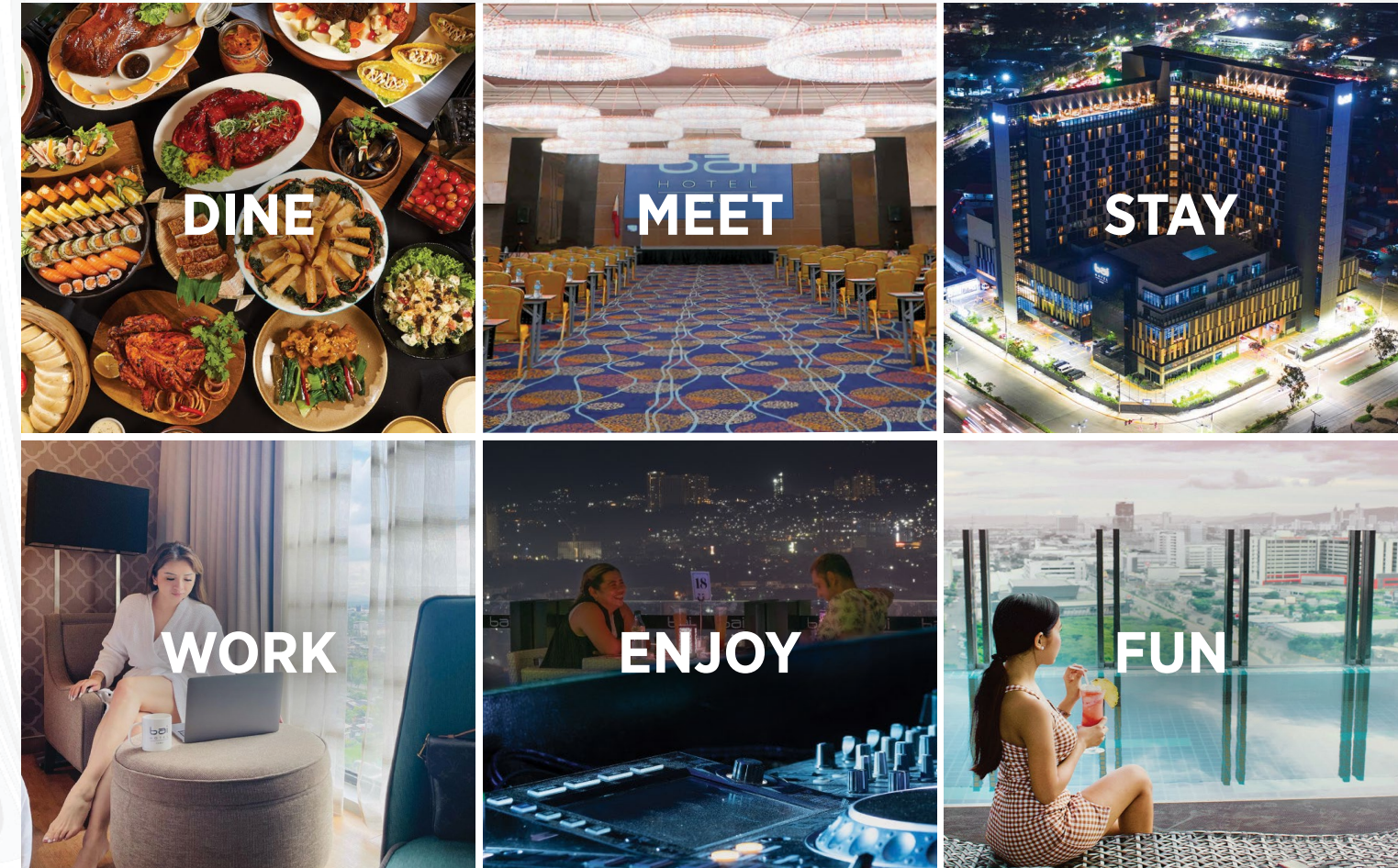
Lever Foundation is a U.S. 501(c)3 tax-exempt public charity. Our team is based primarily in Asia, with staff on the ground in Greater China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore, and additional staff in Europe and the Americas. Lever Foundation is a global NGO that works with leading companies to help them upgrade their protein sourcing for a more humane, safe and sustainable supply chain, focusing on upgraded animal protein and alternative protein. We think like a business, and our bottom line is creating the greatest amount of positive change possible with each dollar spent.

Individual Member



Harmen Brenninkmeijer

Harmen Brenninkmeijer is a seasoned entrepreneur and executive with over 32 years of experience driving innovation and strategic growth in emerging markets. A consistent early adopter of transformative technologies—from internet and mobile to blockchain—he has founded and scaled multiple successful companies across technology, distribution, and operations-led sectors. In addition to leading his own ventures, Harmen has played a key role in expanding independent companies he believes in, supporting global growth and market entry. A recognized thought leader, he is frequently invited to speak at international conferences and has advised several governments on developing regulatory frameworks focused on operations and technology.



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2023
Hotel of the Year



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ASEAN MICE Venue Standards
(Category Meeting Room)
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Q1

JANUARY

- 16 9th Joint Economic Briefing
- 21 IPR Forum with IPSME Helpdesk
- 23 Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook Launch / Ambassadors' Meeting / New Year's Reception

MARCH

- 5 Luncheon Meeting with ARTA Director General Ernesto Perez
- 5 - 6 DELIVER Asia 2025, Singapore (Supported Event)
- 11 She Means Business: Accelerating Vision into Action by Women in Business Committee
- 21 Beyond Capital: How Private Equity Builds Businesses That Last
- 27 ECCP Community Connect

Q2

APRIL

- 3 Sustainability Forum & Europa Awards
- 23 Luncheon Meeting with DOT Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco
- 30 Sustainable Agriculture Forum

MAY

- 7 Luncheon Meeting with TESDA Director General Francisco Benitez
- 14 2nd JFC Clark International Mixer
- 20 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Forum
- 21 Luncheon Meeting with DTI Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque
- 27 Annual General Membership Meeting & Sunset Socials

JUNE

- 25 Luncheon Meeting with IPOPHL DG Atty. Brigitte Da Costa-Villaluz

Q3

JULY

- 9 Healthcare Forum
- 22 Securing the Future: Strengthening Cybersecurity in the Philippines' Digital Banking and Fintech Landscape
- 24 Nutrition Forum

AUGUST

- 7 Luncheon Meeting
- 13 Bridging Innovation and Integrity: Charting the Path for Equitable AI
- 14 European Networking Socials
- 28 Energy Smart Forum

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Human Capital Forum
- 11 Transportation Forum
- 18 ECCP Community Connect
- 30 Luncheon Meeting

Q4

OCTOBER

- 8 - 9 Philippine Aviation Summit
- 16 European-Philippine Business Dialogue & European Investors' Night
- 23 Luncheon Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 4 23rd European Golf Tournament
- 13 European Networking Socials
- 26 Appreciation Dinner

DECEMBER

- 2 ECCP Community Connect
- 4 Economic Outlook

JUNE

SPOGA+GAFA

Garden & BBQ
24–26 | Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

AUTOMATICA

Smart Automation and Robotics
24–27 | Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

IE EXPO CHENGDU

Environmental Technology Solutions
25–27 | Chengdu, China (Western China International Expo City)

IFAT BRASIL

Water, Sewage, Drainage and Waste Recovery Solutions
25–27 | São Paulo, Brazil (São Paulo Expo)

SOURCE FASHION

Fashion
08–10 | London, England (Olympia London)

CEMAT AUSTRALIA

Materials Handling/Intralogistics and Logistics
22–24 | Greater Western Sydney, Australia (The Dome, Sydney Olympic Park)

ANUGA FOODTEC INDIA

Food & Beverage
20–22 | Mumbai, India (Bombay Exhibition Centre)

ANUGA SELECT INDIA

Food & Beverage
20–22 | Mumbai, India (Bombay Exhibition Centre)

GAMESCOM

Games & Entertainment
20–24 | Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

SOURCE HOME & GIFT AT
AUTUMN FAIR

Gift & Homeware
07–10 | Birmingham, England (National Exhibition Centre)

KIND + JUGEND

Maternity, baby and kids products
09–11 | Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

JULY

AUG

ISM MIDDLE EAST

Sweets & Snacks
15–17 | Dubai, UAE (Dubai World Trade Centre)

DRINKTEC

Beverage and Liquid Food
15–19 | Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

CYBERSECURITY
SMART WEBINAR

Cybersecurity
16 | Online

ORGATEC WORKSPACE SAUDI
ARABIA

Workspace Solutions
16–18 | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Center)

ELECTRONICA INDIA

Electronic Components, Systems, Applications, and Solutions
17–19 | Bengaluru, India (Bangalore International Exhibition Centre)

IE EXPO GUANGZHOU 2025

Environmental Technology Solutions
17–19 | Guangzhou, China (China Import and Export Fair Complex)

2ND RACE TO NET ZERO
DIALOGUE: ACCELERATING
SUPPLY CHAIN

DECARBONIZATION IN THE
PHILIPPINES

Climate Action
Makati, Philippines (Ayala Museum)

ANUGA

Food and Beverages
Oct 4–8 | Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

EXPO REAL

Real Estate
Oct 6–8 | Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

SEPT

OCT

IFAT INDIA 2025

Water, Sewage, Solid Waste and Recycling
14–16 | Mumbai, India (Bombay Exhibition Centre)

ASEAN CERAMICS

Ceramics
15–17 | Bangkok, Thailand (IMPACT Exhibition & Convention Center)

GAMESCOM ASIA X
THAILAND GAME SHOW

Games & Entertainment
16–19 | Bangkok, Thailand (Queen Sirikit National Convention Center)

IDD COLOGNE

Homes and Hospitality
26–29 | Cologne, Germany (Koelnmesse)

CEMAT ASIA

Materials Handling, Automation Technology, Transport Systems and Logistics
28–31 | Shanghai, China (Shanghai New International Expo Center)

TRANSPORT LOGISTIC
SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AIR
CARGO SOUTHEAST ASIA

Logistics, Mobility, IT and Supply Chain Management
29–31 | Singapore (Sands Expo & Convention Centre)

BAU CHINA

Building Systems, High-end Tech and Materials
5–8 | Shanghai, China (Shanghai New International Expo Centre)

GLASSTECH ASIA &
FENESTRATION ASIA

Glass and Facade
6–9 | Jakarta, Indonesia (Indonesia Convention Exhibition)

ART COLOGNE

Art
6–9 | Cologne Germany (Koelnmesse)

NOV

DEC

AGRITECHNICA

Agricultural Machinery
9–15 | Hanover, Germany (Hanover Exhibition Center)

PRODUCTRONICA

Electronics Development and Production
18–21 | Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

ISPO MUNICH

Global Sports Community
30–02 Dec | Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

ISPO MUNICH

Global Sports Community
30 Nov–02 | Munich, Germany (Trade Fair Center Messe München)

INDUSTRIAL
TRANSFORMATION SAUDI
ARABIA

Solutions for Industrial Transformation and Innovation
01–03 | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center)

