

EuroPH CONNECT

BUSINESS • OPPORTUNITIES • PERSPECTIVES

www.eccp.com

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

Volume XLIII • Issue 4

Issue on Financial Technology and AI



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Interview with Securities and Exchange Commission Chairperson Francisco Edralin Lim
- Applying the Tax on Cross-Border Services to FinTech
- Maya advocates for digital payroll, Open Finance to give workers greater financial choice
- AI is reshaping work in the Philippines: ECCP forum says people will decide its outcome
- ECCP's 2026 Tax Forum Highlights BIR Reforms, Digitalization, and Tax Compliance Priorities
- ECCP Forum Examines Pathways to a More Resilient Energy Future

WELCOME TO MAYA BLACK

INSTANT MILES. GLOBAL LOUNGE ACCESS. NO ANNUAL FEES FOR LIFE.



maya black CREDIT CARD

GET YOURS IN THE MAYA APP

T&Cs apply. Application & offer are subject to credit evaluation. Minimum spend required to unlock lounge access. Maya Bank, Inc. is regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. For 24/7 assistance, visit the Help Center in the Maya app or call us from 8 AM to 7 PM daily at +632 8845-7788.

Published by
European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP)

Head Office
19/F Philippine AXA Life Centre Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Tindalo St., Makati City, Philippines
E-mail: info@eccp.com

North and Central Luzon Office
Clark Welcome Center, Berthaphil VIII Compound, SCTEX Road, Clark Freeport, Mabalacat, 2023 Pampanga
E-mail: northluzon@eccp.com

Visayas Office
Regus Office 5F Park Centrale Building Jose Maria del Mar St., cor. Abad St., Cebu IT Park, Cebu City 6000, Philippines
Tel: +6332) 494 9585
E-mail: visayas@eccp.com

Western Visayas Office
Regus Iloilo, 3F Festive Walk Mall, Iloilo Business Park Mandurriao, Iloilo City
E-mail: western.visayas@eccp.com

Davao Office
ECCP Research Center, 5/F Thibault Building, Holy Cross of Davao College, Sta. Ana Avenue cor. C. De Guzman St., Barangay 14-B, Davao City
Tel: +63 (82) 238 7500
E-mail: davao@eccp.com

Cagayan De Oro Office
Regus Centre, 12th Floor, SM CDO Downtown Tower, Claro M. Recto Ave, Cagayan de Oro, 9000 Misamis Oriental
E-mail: cdo@eccp.com

ECCP Board of Directors
Dr. Diana Edralin - President
Roman Menz - Vice President
Lars Wittig - Vice President
Ruben Camba - Vice President
Albert Perez - Treasurer
Bernd Schneider - Director
Juha-Pekka Hoikka - Director
Jaime Urquijo - Director
Sandeep Uppal - Director
Liher Urbizu - Director
Marjorie Garrovillo - Director

Submissions
Articles and other materials of interest to the general membership are actively solicited and may be sent to the Chamber. All materials submitted for publication become the Chamber's property and are subject to editorial review and revisions.

Honorary Auditors
KPMG R.G. Manabat & Co.

Reproduction
No part of the EuroPH CONNECT may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without prior written permission.

Circulation
Digital copies of the EuroPH CONNECT are distributed free of charge on a bi-monthly basis to ECCP members, partners, and friends of ECCP, as well as to industry associations and government officials with whom the Chamber has dealings.

Subscription Service
Subscriptions from non-members are also accepted: in the Philippines: PHP 1,500 (6 issues); Individual copies may be purchased locally at PHP 220 (members) and PHP 250 (non-members); and for companies outside the Philippines at US\$25.00.

Table of Contents

6	Interview with the Securities and Exchange Commission Chairperson Francisco Edralin Lim
12	Applying the Tax on Cross-Border Services to FinTech
16	Maya advocates for digital payroll, Open Finance to give workers greater financial choice
18	AI is reshaping work in the Philippines: ECCP forum says people will decide its outcome
22	ECCP's 2026 Tax Forum Highlights BIR Reforms, Digitalization, and Tax Compliance Priorities
26	ECCP Forum Examines Pathways to a More Resilient Energy Future
30	Advocacy Corner
48	Inside ECCP
72	New Members Corner
76	Business Opportunities
77	ECCP Calendar of Events

Championing the European-Philippine Business Community



Manila • Cagayan De Oro • Cebu
Clark • Davao • Iloilo



www.eccp.com



@eccponline

Editorial

Dear Reader,

The business landscape continues to evolve at a remarkable pace, and there is no shortage of developments to follow. As we close the third quarter of 2026, shifts across trade, investment, technology, and sustainability continue to influence how companies plan, invest, and grow.

Here in the Philippines, sustained efforts to strengthen infrastructure, attract foreign investment, accelerate digital transformation, and enhance competitiveness are opening new opportunities, while also raising important questions for the business community.

At the Chamber, we regard these changes as an invitation to keep the dialogue alive. Through our events, consultations, and advocacy work, we bring together members, partners, policymakers, and industry leaders to exchange ideas, address shared challenges, and identify new avenues for cooperation between Europe and the Philippines.

This commitment is reflected in the present edition of EuroPH Connect, which places the spotlight on Financial Technology and Artificial Intelligence. Both are fundamentally reshaping how we work, conduct business, and access financial services, unlocking new possibilities for innovation, efficiency, financial inclusion, and growth. At the same time, they raise significant considerations around regulation, data governance, cybersecurity, responsible AI, and consumer protection. As the Philippines advances its digital transformation, these discussions will become ever more central to building an environment in which innovation can thrive and businesses can prosper.

In this context, we are honoured to feature Securities and Exchange Commission Chairperson Francis Edralin Lim, who shares his insights on the Philippine fintech landscape, the rise of emerging technologies and start-ups, and the regulatory considerations surrounding cybersecurity and data protection. His perspectives offer a valuable view of how the country can foster fintech innovation while safeguarding a secure and accountable financial system.

We are also pleased to share several key updates from the Chamber. In August, our Future of Work Forum convened human capital professionals to examine how AI is transforming the workplace and the enduring importance of people in building a resilient economy. We likewise held our inaugural Tax Forum, bringing together BIR officials and industry leaders to address key compliance issues and the practical challenges confronting businesses.

Our European Networking Socials, meanwhile, welcomed more than 200 participants, offering members and stakeholders the opportunity to forge new connections and explore prospective partnerships. We concluded the month with the 15th Energy Smart Forum, featuring DOE Secretary Sharon Garin alongside representatives from the private sector, industry associations, and government.

September brought further opportunities for engagement. Our 5th Nutrition Forum gathered experts, government partners, industry leaders, and development organisations to examine the many factors shaping nutrition in the country. We also



Florian Gottein
ECCP Executive Director

supported the ASEAN-EU Business Summit, organised with the EU-ASEAN Business Council, which brought together government and business representatives from Southeast Asia and Europe to exchange views on regional priorities and ways to deepen cooperation.

These activities were complemented by our continued advocacy work through committee meetings, consultations, and policy dialogues, providing members with meaningful opportunities to share their perspectives and remain engaged on developments affecting their industries.

Looking ahead, the fourth quarter promises an equally full calendar, including the ASEAN Transportation Forum on 8 October, the AI Forum on 22 October, the 24th European Golf Tournament on 13 November, and the Green Innovations Summit and Europa Awards on 18 November. We will also host the November edition of our European Networking Socials, and we look forward to welcoming you at these and our other upcoming events, training programmes, and industry activities.

Beyond these highlights, this issue also brings you the latest from our Advocacy Corner, including developments from our government engagements and committee initiatives, as well as our New Members Corner on page 72, where we welcome the newest additions to our community.

You will also find updates from our branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Clark, and Iloilo, together with details of upcoming events, training programmes, and international trade fairs. Please turn to page 48 for the full details.

Thank you for your continued support of the ECCP. We hope you enjoy this edition of EuroPH Connect and find its stories, insights, and updates of value. We look forward to bringing you further opportunities to learn, exchange ideas, and work together as we continue to grow our community.

Warm regards,

Florian

Francisco Edralin Lim



1. What is your vision for positioning the Philippines as a competitive fintech hub, specifically through the SEC's role in establishing clear, stable regulations for private sector fintech corporations?

The SEC's vision is for the Philippines to become a competitive, trusted, and innovation-friendly fintech hub in the region. This means building a regulatory environment that is clear and stable enough to give private sector fintech corporations confidence to invest, operate, and scale, while remaining sufficiently flexible to respond to the fast-changing nature of financial technology.

Fintech develops at a pace that traditional regulation does not always immediately anticipate. New products, services, and business models may not fit neatly within existing regulatory categories. For this reason, the SEC does not believe that regulation should be overly prescriptive at the outset. Instead, our approach is to establish evidence-based, proportionate, and responsive frameworks that evolve alongside actual market developments. This allows us to make regulatory decisions based not only on theory, but on real-world data, market behavior, and the practical experience of both regulators and industry participants.

This approach is grounded in the SEC's mandate under Section 37 of the Securities

Regulation Code, which recognizes innovative and other trading markets, including those involving technology-based ventures, as part of the capital market framework that the Commission may facilitate and regulate.

A key initiative in this direction is the SEC Regulatory Sandbox, or SEC StratBox, established under SEC Memorandum Circular No. 9, Series of 2024. The StratBox provides fintech firms with a structured but flexible space to test innovative products, services, and business models under the SEC's supervision. It allows innovation to proceed responsibly, without immediately subjecting new models to rigid requirements that may not yet be appropriate, while ensuring that investor protection, market integrity, and public interest remain safeguarded.

The StratBox is designed to create a mutually beneficial ecosystem. For fintech companies, especially startups and emerging players, it provides a safe and guided environment to test their ideas, understand regulatory expectations, and align their operations early with compliance standards. For the SEC, it allows us to observe how new technologies

and models work in practice, gather real-time insights, and determine the appropriate regulatory pathway for innovations that may not yet be fully covered by existing rules. Firms that successfully complete the sandbox process are better positioned to transition toward full regulatory compliance and, where appropriate, prepare for wider capital market participation, including possible public offering readiness.

Through this approach, the SEC aims to build trust, encourage responsible innovation, and attract fintech investment into the Philippines. Clear and stable regulation should not be seen as a barrier to innovation. Done properly, it becomes the foundation that allows innovation to grow with confidence, credibility, and long-term market value.

2. What emerging technologies is the SEC focusing on to drive innovation, and how is the PhiliFintech Innovation Office adjusting its registration processes to support early-stage private startups and entrepreneurs?

The SEC is closely looking at emerging technologies that have the potential to reshape capital formation, investor access, and market efficiency. These include tokenized financial products, crypto asset-related financial product offerings, tokenized real-world assets, crypto-related trading platforms, and more advanced products such as derivatives, margin trading, and event contracts, including binary-type structures.

These innovations can create new ways for businesses to raise capital and for investors to participate in financial markets. At the same time, they raise regulatory questions that may cut across the mandates of different agencies. For instance, where event contracts or binary-type structures may involve gaming or wagering features, the SEC recognizes the need to engage PAGCOR to ensure aligned regulatory treatment. In the same way, we continue to coordinate with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on matters involving virtual assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers.

The SEC's approach is to support innovation early, but within a framework that safeguards investors, promotes accountability, and preserves market integrity. Through the PhiliFintech Innovation Office, innovators, startups, entrepreneurs, and technology-driven financial service providers have a clear point of entry for engaging the Commission on new financial products and services.

One mechanism is the Present-Me-Anything, or PMA, session, where individuals or entities may seek regulatory guidance on financial products and services that fall outside traditional finance. Through these sessions, innovators may present their business models, ask questions, raise concerns, and clarify possible regulatory issues before proceeding further.

The SEC Strategic Sandbox, or StratBox, likewise provides a structured but flexible space for both entities and individuals to test proposed models under the guidance and supervision of the Commission. This allows the SEC to understand emerging technologies in practice, assess their risks, and help innovators transition more smoothly toward full compliance as they scale.

Importantly, both the PMA sessions and the StratBox are open and free of charge. By reducing regulatory barriers at the early stage, the SEC allows innovators to focus their resources on developing sound, responsible, and market-ready solutions. In this way, the Commission supports innovation not by lowering standards, but by helping firms understand and meet those standards from the beginning.

Beyond early-stage guidance, the SEC is also working with agencies such as the Department of Information and Communications Technology and with the Exchange to identify fintech companies that may be ready to list or tap the capital markets. This entails streamlining processes for their capital market activities, so that qualified fintech firms can see the capital market not only as a source of compliance, but as a viable platform for growth.

3. How can the SEC leverage alternative private financing capital markets, like equity crowdfunding frameworks, to help MSMEs access funding without the hurdles of traditional banking?

The SEC can leverage alternative private financing markets by making the capital market a more practical and accessible funding channel for MSMEs. Many small businesses have viable products, sound business models, and growth potential, but may not yet have the collateral, credit history, or scale required under traditional bank financing. Equity crowdfunding can help bridge this gap by allowing MSMEs and startups to raise capital from a broader pool of investors through SEC-regulated online platforms.

This is why the SEC is reviewing and revising its crowdfunding rules to ensure that the framework remains responsive to evolving market conditions and the actual financing needs of MSMEs. We intend to approve the revised framework within the third quarter of this year. The objective is to make crowdfunding more accessible for qualified issuers, encourage broader

investor participation, and maintain appropriate safeguards for the investing public.

But crowdfunding is only one part of the SEC's broader MSME agenda. We are also working to make formalization and compliance less costly and more proportionate for smaller enterprises. This includes discounted registration fees for qualified MSMEs, simplified registration processes, a higher audit threshold, and relief from certain penalties. These reforms help MSMEs enter the formal economy, maintain good corporate standing, and prepare for more structured financing opportunities.

Beyond crowdfunding, the SEC is also developing other capital-raising channels, including a medium-term note program and other alternative fundraising mechanisms that can give enterprises more flexible access to capital beyond traditional bank lending. Through SEC CAFE, roadshows, and information drives, we are also bringing guidance directly to MSMEs so they understand not only the rules, but the actual pathways available to them—from formalization, to compliance, to capital raising.

Ultimately, our goal is to build a more inclusive capital market—one that is not reserved only for the country's largest corporations, but also creates credible and practical pathways for MSMEs to access financing, grow, and participate in national development.

4. As cybersecurity risks evolve, what specific digital compliance or data protection protocols is the SEC expecting from regulated private fintech entities, such as online lending platforms?

Trust is the foundation of digital finance. As more financial services move online, the SEC expects regulated fintech entities to treat cybersecurity, data protection, and responsible technology governance as core obligations, not merely as technical or back-office concerns.

This expectation applies across the Commission's fintech-related regulatory work, whether the entity is a Crypto Asset Service Provider, an online lending platform, a financing company, or a lending company using digital channels. While these entities may differ in business model and regulatory framework, they are governed by one clear principle: innovation must be matched by consumer protection, operational resilience, and market integrity.

The SEC is also developing a cybersecurity framework for market participants with exposure drafts intended to strengthen cybersecurity governance, risk management,

incident reporting, system resilience, and accountability among regulated entities. This recognizes that cybersecurity is now central to market confidence, especially as more transactions, disclosures, onboarding processes, and financial services move to digital platforms.

For Crypto Asset Service Providers, the SEC has established specific safeguards under SEC Memorandum Circular Nos. 4 and 5, Series of 2025. These rules recognize the rights of financial consumers to data privacy and to the protection of their assets against fraud and misuse. CASPs are required to maintain strong security controls, including secure authentication, client identification, data encryption, monitoring systems, audit trails, regular cybersecurity assessments, vulnerability reviews, and contingency, disaster recovery, and backup plans.

For online lending platforms, the SEC is likewise strengthening the framework to ensure that lending through digital channels remains fair, transparent, responsible, and consistent with consumer protection standards. This includes the proper use of credit information to assess affordability and suitability, in line with the Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act. Online lending platforms must ensure that borrowers are not pushed into unsuitable or unaffordable products, and that personal and financial data are collected, processed, stored, and used lawfully and responsibly.

Ultimately, the SEC expects fintech firms to view cybersecurity, data protection, and responsible digital conduct as continuing responsibilities. As threats evolve, regulated entities must continuously assess risks, strengthen internal controls, and invest in systems that protect consumers while supporting responsible innovation.

5. For foreign fintech firms looking to set up private operations here, what upcoming corporate registration or market-entry reforms should they anticipate from the SEC?

For foreign fintech firms looking to set up private operations here, what upcoming corporate registration or market-entry reforms should they anticipate from the SEC?

The SEC welcomes foreign fintech firms that wish to establish operations in the Philippines. Their entry can drive innovation, deepen competition, introduce global best practices, and contribute to a more dynamic financial ecosystem. Our objective is to make market entry clearer, faster, and more predictable, while ensuring that firms maintain an accountable local presence and remain subject to appropriate regulatory oversight.

Through eSPARC and eSAP, the SEC is making it easier for both domestic and foreign corporations to register and submit authenticated documents through digital channels. For foreign investors, this is further supported by SEC FIRST, or the Foreign Investment Registration Station Green Lane, a dedicated fast lane that shortens processing to just one day, and in some cases, only minutes.

The SEC has also proposed an Executive Order establishing a One Business Commencement Date Policy, which would allow ordinary corporations that do not require a secondary license to commence lawful operations upon SEC registration while completing other post-registration requirements within 45 days. An entity whose activities require a secondary license or special regulatory approval may avail this policy after securing such license or regulatory approval.

For foreign fintech firms, these reforms make it easier to establish a Philippine corporate presence, enter the formal business sector, and move from registration to operations through a faster and more technology-enabled process. At the same time, firms offering regulated financial products or services must continue to comply with applicable SEC rules and coordinate with other regulators, such as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

For innovative products or services that may not yet fit squarely within existing rules, the SEC Strategic Sandbox, or StratBox, provides a focused pathway for supervised testing. Participation requires registration of a local entity, ensuring a clear and accountable presence in the Philippines throughout testing and, if successful, during transition to full operations.

Foreign fintech firms should therefore expect a market-entry environment that is more facilitative, digital, and innovation-friendly, but not less rigorous. The SEC will continue to promote responsible fintech development while upholding investor protection, good governance, and market integrity.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Du-Baladad and Associates (BDB Law)** is a Philippine tax and corporate law firm known for its total-client-care approach, delivering practical and strategic advice tailored to each client's needs. The firm combines legal expertise and industry insight to provide responsive and personalized solutions.
- » Its team, composed largely of accountant-lawyers and economist-lawyers, understands the complexities of transactions from both legal and business perspectives, enabling the firm to provide well-rounded and practical advice.

OUR PARTNERS



Benedicta Du-Baladad
Founding Partner and CEO



Fulvio D. Dawilan
Managing Partner



Irwin C. Nidea, Jr.
Senior Partner



Rodel C. Unciano
Partner



Mabel L. Buted
Partner



Jomel N. Manaig
Partner

OUR SERVICES

TAX

- Tax Controversies, Assessments, and Refunds
- Tax Litigation and Defense
- High-end Tax Advisory and Planning
- Training and Advocacy
- Trade and Customs
- Tax Due Diligence and Regulatory Compliance

LEGAL

- Legal Due Diligence
- Contract Negotiation, Drafting, and Review
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Registration and Dissolution
- Business Restructuring
- Post-merger Integration Assistance

CORPORATE

- Incorporation and Registration of Business
- Incentives Availment
- Securing Permits and Licenses
- Corporate Secretarial Services
- Directorship
- Repatriation

INTERNATIONAL TAX

- Pillar II Compliance Assistance
- International Tax and Treaty Benefits
- Global Expatriate Services
- Mobility (Expatriation Services and Immigration)

TRANSFER PRICING

- Back Office Support for TP Compliance
- Benchmarking Analysis
- Transfer Pricing Documentation
- Transfer Pricing Design and Restructuring
- Policy Formulation and Implementation
- Audit Defense
- Restructure and Reorganize Business Models
- MAP, APA Assistance

HOLISTIC. PROFESSIONAL. PERSONAL.



WORLD TAX

Tax Disputes Firm of the Year (2018 and 2025)



WORLD TAX

Tax Firm of the Year (2016 and 2024)

Chambers
AND PARTNERS

Band 1 Tax Law Firm (2012-2026)

ASIA BUSINESS
LAW JOURNAL

Top Tax Law Firm (2019-2025)



Tier 1 Tax Firm (2019-2025)

CONTACT US

+63 2 403 2001

info@bdblaw.com.ph

20th Floor, Chatham House, Rufino cor.
Valero Sts., Makati City 1227, Philippines

www.bdblaw.com.ph

Applying the Tax on Cross-Border Services to FinTech

By Atty. Jomel N. Manaig, Partner at Du-Baladad and Associates (BDB Law)

Final Withholding Tax and Final Withholding VAT imposed on cross-border services are still creeping in assessments against several taxpayers. Even with the issuance of RMC No. 24-2026, we have observed some inconsistent application of the tax – mainly on the characterization of the covered cross-border services.

In my previous article (“BIR’s Clarification on the Tax on Cross-Border Services”), I discussed the basic premise in the imposition of the tax on cross-border services and analyzed the general impact of the supposed clarifications in RMC No. 24-2026. However, not all industries and sectors are affected equally by the tax on cross-border services. Some industries, like the Fintech industry, face unique challenges which require innovative approaches.

One of the failings of the imposition of the tax on cross-border services under RMC No. 5-2024, in my opinion, is the arbitrary and wholesale categorization of various cross-border services supposedly subject to the tax. Because of this arbitrary and wholesale categorization, the factual circumstances which lead to the establishment of the right of the government to impose tax on cross-border services disappear in the background. In effect, as long as a particular cross-border service falls within any of the broad categories listed in RMC No. 5-2024, the revenue officers automatically impose tax on it.

It should be noted that RMC No. 5-2024 is supposedly rooted from the doctrines laid down in the *Aces Philippines* case. A careful reading of the said case would reveal that the Supreme Court imposed tax on a specific cross-border service (“satellite air time services”) after evaluating the unique factual circumstances surrounding the transaction. The doctrine, for all intents and purposes, is heavily reliant on the specific and unique facts of the case.

Unfortunately, RMC No. 5-2024 and its subsequent implementation erroneously used this doctrine and applied it across-the-board to virtually all cross-border services – regardless of whether or not the factual circumstances in the *Aces Philippines* case are actually present.

If one would not pour enough attention and understanding to the actual doctrine in the *Aces Philippines* case, one may mistakenly put satellite air time services in the same basket as Fintech-related services. After all, both heavily rely on the use of technology to render the service and technology

easily transcends geographical borders. The complex technology which enables Fintech to do what it is designed to do may actually make it harder to defend itself against arbitrary and erroneous tax impositions.

In order to avoid this, Fintech entities must be ready to dispel the notion that the mere presence of cross-border services would give rise to the imposition of tax. But how?

The answer to this lie in the *Aces Philippines* case itself. In that case, the Supreme Court held that the satellite air time services are taxable in the Philippines because the activity that produced the income actually occurred in the country. In other words, the service should have some activity occurring in the Philippines for the tax on cross-border services to be applicable. Absent such Philippine-based income-producing activity, no tax may be imposed by our tax authorities.

Following such factual requirement, Fintech entities should analyze and review their cross-border services and document the lack of income-producing activity in the Philippines. Although a basic requirement, it may not necessarily be easy to prove.

Another issue I have observed is the failure to disassociate the fact of utilization of the service in the Philippines to the right to tax the transaction. The implementation of RMC No. 5-2024 brought about the flawed idea that Final Withholding Tax may be imposed on all cross-border services that were utilized or consumed in the Philippines. However, utilization or consumption was never an actual criterion for taxation in the *Aces Philippines* case. But because of how RMC No. 5-2024 was implemented, such flawed criterion has become the decisive factor in assessments.

For Fintech-related services, its nature inherently gives rise to utilization or consumption in the Philippines. As such, Fintech entities must be ready to dismiss this flawed criterion for being baseless and a departure from the case which it supposedly seeks to represent.

As a final word, the imposition of the tax on cross-border services is an inevitable event brought about by the ever-converging and continuously intertwining commercial relations that go beyond traditional boundaries. While it is inevitable, we should still ensure that it would be properly and fairly imposed.



YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION & INNOVATION

Transform with Confidence. Innovate with Experts.



400+

Innovation Projects

0

Zero-Failed
Implementations

65+

Countries

170+

Customers

15+

Industries

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BNEXT?

Strategy & Transformation



Digital Transformation Strategy & Advisory

Shape your enterprise transformation with clear strategy, operating model design, business process optimization, and technology roadmaps aligned to measurable business outcomes.



Intelligent Business Solutions

Accelerate performance with enterprise solutions powered by SAP, Microsoft, Salesforce, Anaplan, and other leading platforms-integrating finance, operations, customer engagement, and analytics across the business.

Technology & Innovation



AI-Powered Automation & Bespoke Solutions

Boost productivity with intelligent automation, generative AI, analytics, and custom digital solutions tailored to your business.



Cloud Transformation Services

Modernize and scale with secure cloud solutions across AWS, Azure, Huawei Cloud, and Alibaba Cloud-from migration to optimization and managed operations.



Managed Application & Technology Services

Ensure reliability and optimization with proactive management, technical support, monitoring, and lifecycle services.

Operation & People



Global Business Process Services

Transform enterprise operations through scalable shared services, managed business processes, and outcome-driven delivery models across finance, procurement, HR, customer operations and other core functions.



Workforce Transformation through Innovation Academy

Build future-ready capabilities with structured learning programs, digital upskilling, global certifications, AI-enablement, and transformation-focused talent development.

LET'S BUILD WHAT'S NEXT!

Your transformation starts
with the right partner.

CONTACT US

(02) 8555 2460

marketing@bnext.tech

www.bnext.tech

@bnexttech

The Nexus Center,
1010 Metropolitan Ave.
San Antonio, Makati City



CONNECT WITH THE **EUROPEAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY** IN THE PHILIPPINES

ECCP PUBLICATIONS AND DIGITAL

Whichever publication you select with this powerful marketing opportunity, you're sure to benefit from establishing your brand through the ECCP network.

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



Maya advocates for digital payroll, Open Finance to give workers greater financial choice

AI can help turn digital payroll and consented financial data into better access to savings, responsible credit and financial health

Maya advocates for digital payroll, Open Finance to give workers greater financial choice

AI can help turn digital payroll and consented financial data into better access to savings, responsible credit and financial health

The future of work should give Filipino employees not only greater flexibility in how they work, but also more control over where they receive their salary and how their financial data can work for them, according to fintech leader Maya.

Speaking at the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) 2026 Future of Work Forum, **Kristoffer Rada, Head of Corporate Affairs at Maya**, said digital payroll can become an important entry point to broader financial health as Open Finance, artificial intelligence, and interoperable payment infrastructure continue to develop.

“The future of work should also mean better financial tools for workers. Reliable digital salary disbursement is the starting point,” Rada said. “When payroll connects people to saving, payments and responsible credit, it can support financial health well beyond payday.”

Modernizing payroll through Maya Business

Maya is working with BPO companies and the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) to expand financial access for nearly 1.9 million digital Filipino workers and explore ways to modernize payroll, disbursement and reimbursement workflows.

Through Maya Business, employers can use secure digital payroll and disbursement solutions to send salaries and other employee payouts at scale. This can help reduce manual processes and administrative work, particularly for large employers operating across multiple sites and around the clock.

Together, Maya Business and the Maya app connect both sides of payroll: employers can disburse salaries digitally, while workers can receive and manage their money in the same ecosystem. Employees can use their salary for everyday transactions, set funds aside in savings and begin building a stronger financial footprint.

As that footprint develops, data and AI can help financial institutions better understand customer needs and make more informed credit decisions, including for customers with limited traditional credit histories. Maya’s work with IBPAP also seeks to expand access to savings and responsibly underwritten credit cards for qualified digital workers.

“Payroll should not end with the disbursement of a salary,” Rada said. “Done well, it can connect workers to financial tools that help them manage everyday needs, prepare for emergencies and build toward longer-term goals.”

Over time, Maya also supports allowing employees to choose where their salaries are deposited. Supporting the Digital Bank Association of the Philippines (DiBA PH), It has advocated payroll portability, which would require bank-agnostic disbursement through interoperable payment infrastructure. Open Finance could complement this by allowing workers, with their consent, to securely share financial information and access services better suited to their needs.

“Digital payroll is the starting point. Payroll portability can eventually give workers more choice over where their salaries go, while Open Finance can help them use their own data to access more relevant services,” Rada said.

Building trust around AI

Rada said the debate around AI and the future of work should move beyond whether technology will automate particular tasks and focus on how businesses can use it to improve productivity and competitiveness without losing trust.

“AI is going to change how work gets done, but the bigger question for businesses is how to capture that value responsibly,” Rada said. “That means knowing where AI creates real value, where people still need to make the call and keeping clear accountability for the outcome.”

At Maya, AI is already used across digital onboarding, credit assessment, fraud detection, personalization, customer service and operations. Maya began building its formal AI governance framework in 2024, followed by a Board-approved policy and controls covering risk classification, testing, monitoring, security and human accountability.

Rada said wider adoption will require more than sophisticated technology. Businesses need people across functions who understand how AI can be applied responsibly, while government and industry need to continue investing in digital infrastructure, workforce capability and responsible AI adoption.

“The opportunity is bigger than adopting new technology,” Rada said. “It is about giving workers more choice, giving businesses better tools and building the infrastructure and trust that allow both to participate more fully in a digital economy.”



TAKAFUL | PRU LIFE U.K.

PRU Term Lindungi is the first Shari’ah-compliant protection for everyone.

- Get ₱100,000 coverage for as low as ₱250
- One-time contribution, renewable yearly
- Built on solidarity with mutual guarantee benefit and no *Riba* (interest)

In empowering communities,
Our reason is *you.*

**Contribution amount varies per age.*

Scan me!



Pru Life UK

@PruLifeUK

@PruLifeUK

Pru Life UK

@PruLifeUKOfficial

Pru Life UK

www.prulifeuk.com.ph

Metro Manila: (632) 88875433

Domestic toll-free: 1800107785465

contact.us@prulifeuk.com.ph

Established in 1996, Pru Life UK is a life insurance company and is not engaged in the business of selling pre-need plans. It is a subsidiary of Prudential plc with market presence across Asia and Africa. Pru Life UK and Prudential plc are not affiliated with Prudential Financial, Inc. (a US-registered company), Prudential Life Insurance Company, Prudential Life Plans, Inc. or Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Inc. (all Philippine-registered companies). Pru Life UK is headquartered in 9/F Uptown Place Tower 1, Uptown Bonifacio, Taguig City. Its main customer center is located in G/F Cluster 2, Uptown Parade, Megaworld Blvd. corner 36th street Uptown Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634, Metro Manila, Philippines. The PRU Customer Assistance Team processes customer concerns based on applicable timelines provided by the law. Visit www.prulifeuk.com.ph/en/contact-us/ for the complete list of our branches. Pru Life UK is legally permitted to provide financial products or services in the Philippines as regulated by the Insurance Commission. The Insurance Commission's head office is located at 1071 United Nations Avenue Ermita, Manila, Philippines. Their Cebu District office is located at Unit 17, Ground and Second Floors, The Gallery, Pope John Paul II Avenue, Barangay Kasambagan, Cebu City, while their Davao District office is in Door 2 & 3, 3rd Floor of YAP Building Quimpo Boulevard, Ecoland, Davao City. Visit www.insurance.gov.ph/contact-us/ for the Insurance Commission's complete contact information.



AI is reshaping work in the Philippines: ECCP forum says people will decide its outcome

MAKATI CITY, Philippines — Artificial intelligence is already reshaping how Filipinos work. The harder question is who gets to shape what comes next.

That was the throughline of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines' (ECCP) 2026 Future of Work Forum, convened by its Human Capital Committee on 06 August 2026 at Dusit Thani Manila.

Under the theme “People, Policy, and Progress: Advancing Workforce Excellence in the Era of Artificial Intelligence,” government leaders, private sector executives, and development partners agreed on one point above all: the future of work will not be decided by technology alone, but by how well institutions invest in people.

“The future of work demands collaboration across sectors,” said Mr. Albert Perez, ECCP Treasurer and Human Capital Committee Co-Chair, in his opening remarks. “It requires government creating an enabling policy environment, educational institutions preparing learners for emerging industries, businesses investing in continuous learning, and international partners sharing global best practices and innovative solutions.”

From AI users to AI builders

The Philippines has no shortage of AI adoption. The challenge is building AI capability.

Dr. Marco Gemmer, Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, opened the forum by underscoring the value of EU-Philippines cooperation on AI governance and workforce readiness.

Hon. Galo B. Glino III, Deputy Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), reframed AI as a call for “all in” cooperation across government, industry, education, and workers. He outlined TESDA’s goal of equipping one million Filipino workers with AI skills through micro-credentials, enterprise-based training, and online learning.

TESDA also highlighted its PHP 641 million allocation to support 35,000 learners in AI and data skills training, as well as around 90,000 enrollments in AI-related online courses as of July

2026.

Mr. Sherwin Pelayo, Executive Director of the Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Association of the Philippines, presented the National AI Upskilling Roadmap, a public-private initiative to build AI literacy and a stronger national talent pipeline. His diagnosis: 95 percent of Philippine organizations are already using AI, but only 12 percent are building homegrown AI capability. The real gap, he said, is not adoption but readiness. The roadmap, he added, is how the country moves from being an AI user to an AI builder.

The panel that followed, featuring Dr. Gemmer, DDG Glino, Pelayo, Mr. Charles Plumley of Great Place to Work Philippines, and Ms. Rowena “Weng” Bravo-Natividad of International Workplace Group, turned to workplace culture. Plumley stressed that successful AI adoption starts by involving employees early and building psychological safety for experimentation. Bravo-Natividad added that even as AI enables more flexible and hybrid work arrangements, human connection remains what builds culture, resilience, and purpose.

Jobs are not simply disappearing. They are transforming.

Skills, the second session argued, are economic strategy, not a side project.

Director Jo-Dann N. Darong of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), who is also the World Economic Forum’s Jobs Accelerator Local Coordinator for the Philippines, called for work to be reimaged, the workforce redefined, and workplaces reformed. MSMEs, he noted, should not be expected to become technology companies overnight, but they need support to understand where AI can improve competitiveness.

Mr. Khalid Hassan, Country Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO), brought the data: 12.7 million jobs in the Philippines, concentrated in services, clerical and administrative work, finance, and IT-BPM, have potential exposure to AI. But exposure, he was clear, is not the same as job loss. The real story is transformation. He also flagged that women, who are more heavily represented in clerical, administrative, and service roles, face

and administrative work, finance, and IT-BPM, have potential exposure to AI. But exposure, he was clear, is not the same as job loss. The real story is transformation. He also flagged that women, who are more heavily represented in clerical, administrative, and service roles, face disproportionate exposure to that shift.

The panel that followed, featuring Darong, Hassan, Ms. Celeste Ilagan of IBPAP, and Mr. Gene A. Gañgan of ZMG Ward Howell, pushed the conversation toward solutions: industry-led micro-credentials, flexible learning, stronger support for MSMEs and workers outside Metro Manila, and the need for companies to move up the value chain.

Building the rules for an AI-ready workforce

The final session turned from opportunity to guardrails.

Atty. Hernan G. Nicdao, Commissioner of the National Labor Relations Commission, walked through how AI intersects with hiring, performance management, and termination disputes. He reminded employers that no matter how technology evolves, labor law, good faith, fair criteria, and proper documentation still apply.

Mr. Christophe Bahuet, Country Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), widened the lens. AI policy, he said, is not just a productivity question. It is also a question of whether AI expands people's choices, capabilities, and opportunities, or deepens inequality within and between countries. He pointed to whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches as common features of effective AI strategies.

In the closing panel, Mr. Ephraim D. Valenzuela, Chief of the Economic Development Group at the House of Representatives' Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, argued for smarter, sector-specific regulation and raised the question of whether some areas may be better served by standards and certification than by rigid legislation.

Mr. Toff Rada, Head of Corporate Affairs at Maya Philippines, Inc., grounded the discussion in practice. He shared how AI is already speeding up identity verification, expanding access to credit, and detecting suspicious transactions in real time. But, he said, Maya is an "AI-first 20

company" and not an "AI-only company," stressing that AI must be balanced with human expertise and close coordination between the private sector and government.

Rada also pointed to payroll portability as a concrete example of how policy and innovation can improve workers' financial lives, allowing workers to choose where best to place their money and access financial tools that can help grow their savings.

People, not just technology, will decide what comes next.

Closing the forum, Atty. Eliseo "Jon" Zuñiga, ECCP Human Capital Committee Co-Chair and Partner at Quisumbing Torres, brought the day back to its central idea.

"While artificial intelligence is transforming the way we work, the future of work has never been more about people," Zuñiga said. "Technology will continue to evolve, jobs will change, new skills will emerge. But our ability to adapt, collaborate, lead with integrity, and invest in people will ultimately determine our success."

Preparing for that future, he added, is a shared responsibility, requiring enabling policies from government, continuous learning and responsible innovation from businesses, and future-ready skills development from educational institutions.

Through initiatives like the Future of Work Forum, the ECCP reaffirmed its commitment to public-private dialogue that supports responsible AI adoption, workforce transformation, and inclusive growth, strengthening the Philippines' competitiveness in the digital age.

The ECCP's 2026 Future of Work Forum is supported by its Embassy Partners: Embassy of Finland in Manila; Industry Partner: Analytics & Artificial Intelligence Association of the Philippines (AAP); Advocacy Leads: Great Place to Work® Philippines and Maya Philippines, Inc.; Advocacy Partner: ZMG Ward Howell; Advocacy Supporter: Regus Management Philippines, Inc.; Table Top Partner: Centre Medicale Internationale; and Media Partners: iMPACT and The Manila Times.



ECCP's 2026 Tax Forum Highlights BIR Reforms, Digitalization, and Tax Compliance Priorities

Makati City, Philippines – The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) held its inaugural **2026 Tax Forum** on 13 August 2026, bringing together tax experts, business leaders, and officials from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), to discuss the latest developments in tax administration, compliance, and digital transformation.

Held under the theme “From Preparation to Protection: Navigating Tax Compliance in a Changing Landscape,” the forum provided businesses with practical insights on pre-filing preparation, regulatory updates, audit readiness, and emerging tax frameworks. The event forms part of the ECCP’s continuing efforts to support companies operating in the Philippines by facilitating timely discussions on policies that impact the business environment.

In his welcome remarks, ECCP Vice President Ruben Camba emphasized the importance of fostering collaboration between regulators and the business community to promote transparency, strengthen compliance, and enhance the country’s investment climate. He also highlighted the Chamber’s commitment to supporting reforms that improve ease of doing business while ensuring a fair and efficient tax system.

BIR outlines strategic priorities for a modern and transparent tax administration

Delivering the keynote address, BIR Commissioner Charlito Martin “Charlie” Mendoza outlined the Bureau’s strategic priorities for 2026 and the years ahead, including its Digitalization and Revenue Enhancement initiatives. He identified four commitments guiding the BIR—reliability, simplicity, fairness, and partnership—supported by its five-point reform agenda.

Among the reforms highlighted was Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 1-2026, which revised policies and procedures for tax audit and assessment to strengthen transparency, due process, and accountability. Commissioner Mendoza also discussed the Registered Business Enterprise Taxpayer Service (RBETS), introduced under the CREATE MORE Act to provide registered business enterprises with a more centralized and responsive tax administration service.

Commissioner Mendoza emphasized the need to balance revenue collection with fair governance and taxpayer trust through transparent, targeted, and service-oriented enforcement.

“We want honest tax payers to have confidence in the system, and we want deliberate tax evaders to know that enforcement is becoming more targeted, data-driven, and harder to avoid,” the Commissioner said.

“That is the balance we are pursuing: clear against evasion, but fair to tax payers who comply,” he added.

The Commissioner also highlighted the BIR’s digital transformation, including the issuance of nearly 420,000 digital team IDs through the eGov app and the expansion of digital services covering registration, filing, payments, taxpayer information, and tax clearances. These include a centralized taxpayer portal, simplified income tax filing, QR-enabled registration certificates, streamlined import transactions, and easier business closure procedures.

On taxpayer relief, Commissioner Mendoza cited the One-Time Tax Abatement Program, extended filing and payment deadlines during emergencies, and clarifications maintaining VAT exemptions for qualified subsidies, including the Lifeline Subsidy, and Green Energy Auction Allowance. The BIR has also updated its list of VAT-exempt medicines to include 2,277 FDA-enforced products.

“Fairness demands credible enforcement. Effective tax administration is not simply about collecting the highest amount possible. It is about building a system capable of generating sustainable revenues over the long term. And that requires trust. It requires all-time compliance. [...] That is why revenue collection and tax payer service are not competing objectives. They reinforce each other,” said the Commissioner.

He further shared: “The BIR cannot determine every factor affecting investment, but we can certainly do our part. And our part is to make the Philippine tax system more predictable, more efficient, more transparent, and easier to navigate.”

BIR highlights audit, digitalisation, and pre-filing compliance

Building on the Commissioner’s priorities, Deputy Commissioner Marissa O. Cabrerros of the BIR’s Strategic Reforms Group discussed reforms to make tax administration more predictable, objective, digital, and accountable.

She highlighted audit reforms aimed at making the process more consistent and transparent, including electronic Letters of Authority, data-driven audit selection, standardized document requirements, and industry-specific audit checklists for large taxpayers. She also noted that taxpayers may verify the authenticity of audit authorities and that VAT audits are now integrated into a single audit approach.

Cabrerros also stressed the 31 December 2026 deadline for electronic invoicing and the continued development of the BIR Taxpayer Portal, which will provide access to registration details, filed returns, payments, and other account information in one place.

She urged businesses to strengthen pre-filing readiness by reconciling financial statements with tax returns and BIR records, documenting unusual transactions and



variances, and ensuring that registration, books, and invoicing systems accurately reflect business operations. She noted that many avoidable penalties stem from process and documentation gaps rather than the tax itself.

Digital services and cross-border tax rules

The forum also examined the Value Added Tax (VAT) on Digital Services, with Mr. Glen Alde, Chief of the Collection Programs Division and Head of the BIR’s VAT on Digital Services Project, outlining compliance requirements for resident and non-resident digital service providers (DSPs).

Beyond this, the discussion turned to the income tax treatment of cross-border services as well. Deputy Commissioner Larry M. Barcelo of the BIR Legal Group provided guidance on Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 05-2024, including withholding tax obligations and tax treaty relief.

Barcelo clarified that while digital services are subject to VAT under the VAT on Digital Services Act, income tax treatment depends on whether the income is sourced within the Philippines. Citing the August 2022 Aces Philippines Supreme Court ruling, he explained that the source of income is determined by the activity, property, or service that actually produces the income—not simply where a particular part of the service is performed.

He further clarified that consulting, IT, outsourcing, and financial services are not automatically subject to Philippine income tax simply because they are cross-border services. Tax treatment depends on the specific facts, service agreement, and source of income of each transaction. The BIR is also working to streamline tax treaty benefits and promote greater consistency in assessing cross-border transactions.

A panel discussion moderated by ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee Co-Chair Atty. Benedicta Du-Baladad followed, allowing participants to raise implementation concerns and compliance questions directly with BIR officials.

Digitalization and audit readiness

The forum further examined how digitalisation is shaping tax administration and how businesses can strengthen their compliance and audit readiness. Assistant Commissioner Mariza R. Uy of the BIR Assessment Service discussed the BIR’s modernization roadmap, covering organisational strengthening, digital systems, governance and standards, and taxpayer services. She emphasized advance preparation, clear responsibilities, proper documentation, and contingency plans for smoother digital filing and payment, particularly during peak periods.

Uy also identified common audit red flags, including late or non-filing of returns, repeated amendments, continuously low sales or excessive tax credits, third-party data mismatches, related-party transactions, transfer pricing concerns, significant financial fluctuations, and large or unexplained refund claims.

She stressed that accurate and organized documentation remains a taxpayer’s strongest protection during an audit. Businesses should reconcile tax returns with accounting records, retain invoices, contracts, receipts, and other

supporting documents, and maintain proper records for related-party and significant transactions. She also encouraged taxpayers to address audit findings early, observe prescribed timelines, and provide clear factual and legal explanations supported by documentation.

Finally, and bringing an industry perspective to the discussion, Anil Rajanala of Cygnet.One discussed how businesses can prepare their systems, processes, and workforce for the Philippines’ evolving e-invoicing environment, emphasizing early preparation and organisational readiness.

A joint Q&A moderated by ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee Vice-Chair Atty. Alden C. Labaguis followed, which explored digitalisation initiatives, compliance challenges, and practical approaches to managing tax risks in an increasingly technology-driven regulatory environment.

Implications of the Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax

The forum concluded with a discussion on the Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax (QDMTT) and its implications for the Philippines’ tax incentive framework.

Atty. Carlo Navarro, Tax & Legal Leader of Deloitte Philippines and Transfer Pricing Leader for Deloitte Southeast Asia discussed the Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax (QDMTT). Under the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework’s Pillar 2 rules, multinational enterprises are subject to a minimum effective tax rate of 15% in each jurisdiction where they operate.

Navarro also explained that QDMTT would allow the Philippines to collect top-up taxes on Philippine-sourced income taxed below 15%, rather than allowing other jurisdictions to collect these taxes. The draft QDMTT legislation is currently with Congress.

His presentation highlighted the potential impact on existing incentives, including the Income Tax Holiday (ITH), Special Corporate Income Tax (SCIT), and Enhanced Deductions Regime (EDR). The Department of Finance is therefore considering adjustments, including refundable investment credits and qualified tax incentives linked to substantive activities, expenditures, or production volume.

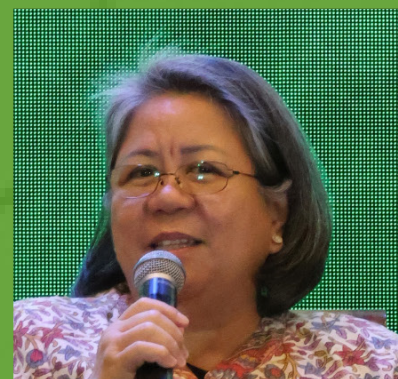
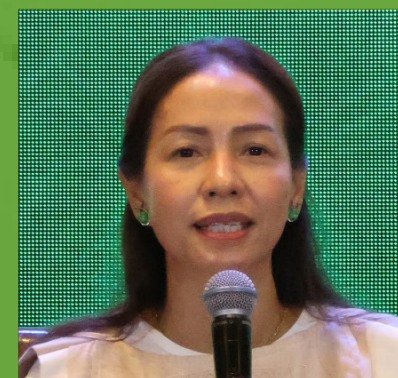
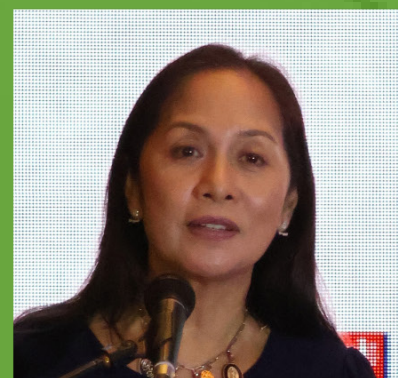
Looking Ahead: Navigating an Evolving Tax Landscape

As tax regulations continue to evolve alongside technological advancements and international developments, the ECCP reaffirmed its commitment to providing platforms that facilitate meaningful dialogue between policymakers and the business community. Through initiatives such as the 2026 Tax Forum, the Chamber aims to support businesses in navigating regulatory changes, strengthening compliance practices, and contributing to a transparent, efficient, and competitive tax ecosystem in the Philippines.

The event was hosted by Atty. Alden C. Labaguis, Vice Chairperson of the ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee and the Customs & Logistics Committee.

The 2026 Tax Forum is co-presented by Deloitte Philippines and Cygnet.One. It is supported by Table Top Partner ClearTax and Media Partners iMPACT Magazine, The Manila Times, and The Philippine Business and News.





ECCP Forum Examines Pathways to a More Resilient Energy Future

Makati City, Philippines – The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) held its **15th Energy Smart Forum** on 27 August 2026, bringing together policymakers, business leaders, investors, and energy experts to discuss the policies, investments, and innovations needed to strengthen the Philippines' energy security and advance its transition toward a more sustainable energy system.

Held under the theme "Philippine Energy at a Crossroads: Powering Resilience, Innovation, and a Just Transition," the forum examined the country's evolving energy landscape against the backdrop of global energy volatility, rising fuel costs, and continued dependence on imported fossil fuels. The event formed part of ECCP's continuing efforts to facilitate dialogue between government, industry, and international partners on policies and solutions shaping the country's energy future.

In his welcome remarks, ECCP Vice President Lars Wittig underscored the importance of collaboration in navigating the Philippines' energy transition, while Dr. Marco Gemmer, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, highlighted the shared goals between the Philippines and Europe in advancing the green transition.

Dr. Tharinya Supasa, Manager of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Department at the ASEAN Centre for Energy, also delivered a virtual opening message highlighting regional cooperation for a resilient and renewable energy future. Her address signified regional alignment with ASEAN clean energy goals, underscoring the vital role of cross-border collaboration and joint infrastructure in accelerating Southeast Asia's clean energy transition.

Energy leaders discuss policy priorities for a more secure energy system

Delivering the keynote message, Hon. Sharon S. Garin, Secretary, Department of Energy, outlined key policy priorities for strengthening energy security and supporting the country's renewable energy ambitions.

"For our part, the government will provide clear policies, efficient regulation, and an investment environment that enables projects moving forward," said Secretary Garin.

The session also featured Atty. Nancy Aurora Q. Fajardo, Executive Director, Energy Regulatory Commission, who discussed market stability, fairness, and regulatory compliance.

"A just energy transition is not simply about moving to cleaner energy; it is about making resilience, innovation, and the energy transition accessible to everyone," shared Atty. Fajardo.

Moderated by Atty. Jose "Jay" Layug, the panel addressed the key policy and investment reforms needed to sustain the Philippines' clean energy momentum. Department of Energy Undersecretary Rowena Cristina L. Guevara highlighted grid expansion, harmonized local permitting, and upcoming hydro and geothermal initiatives as critical priorities, while BOI Acting Director Francis M. Peñaflor noted that renewable energy accounts for 65% of BOI approvals, backed by faster incentive processing times. PIPPA President Atty. Anne Estorco Montelibano called for a capacity market and an updated grid code to ensure long-term regulatory certainty for private generators. Rounding out the discussion, Atty. Nancy A. Fajardo affirmed the Energy Regulatory Commission's push to lower consumer thresholds and streamline retail competition, while Dr. Marco Gemmer of the EU Delegation emphasized European support for Philippine-led, transparent regional and local development plans.

Investment and innovation seen as key to a reliable energy transition

The second session focused on the infrastructure, financing, and technologies needed to translate the country's clean energy ambitions into reliable and affordable power.

In her presentation on financing flexible renewable infrastructure, Ms. Corrie D. Purisima, Treasurer and Head of Markets and Securities Services at HSBC Philippines, highlighted how recent Middle East conflicts exposed global vulnerabilities across critical commodity supply chains, underscoring that the energy transition has shifted from pure emissions reduction to maintaining power grid stability. Addressing the heightened electricity demand driven by emerging data centers, Ms. Purisima outlined HSBC's end-to-end financing framework for every stage of renewable energy assets; from development and installation to long-term operations using Poland's Baltic Power project as a blueprint for how the Philippines can mobilize structured capital to secure its renewable energy future.

Addressing the shift from ambition to implementation, Mr. Ayato Kurokawa, Senior Energy Specialist at the Asian Development Bank, highlighted the Philippines' growing reliance on imported fossil fuels as energy self-sufficiency threatens to drop to 39% by 2040. To achieve national targets of 35% renewable energy by 2030 and 50% by 2040, he emphasized leveraging the country's world-ranking geothermal potential to secure firm, indigenous baseload power. To overcome resource exploration risks that have stalled development under EPIRA, ADB proposed the \$175 million Philippine Geothermal Resource De-risking Facility (PGRDF). This is a financial intermediary loan via the Department of Finance, Department of Energy, and LandBank that covers 50% of exploration drilling costs. Designed to convert sub-loans into grants if exploration fails, the facility de-risks initial capital while ensuring valuable sub-surface data is retained, ultimately aiming to catalyze up to \$1.4 billion in downstream investments, offset \$177.6 million in annual LNG imports, and create 26,000 jobs.

The subsequent panel discussion also brought together Ms. Aurelie Chardon, Principal Investment Officer, International Finance Corporation, and Mr. Dennis Lee, Business Development Manager, Fluence Energy, with the discussion moderated by Mr. Michael Arcatomy H. Guarin, Vice Chairman and Head of Advisory, KPMG. In this, the panel featured energy leaders calling for urgent financial and regulatory reforms to accelerate the Philippines' clean energy transition. HSBC's Ms. Purisima highlighted the shift toward capital markets and transition bonds to connect local suppliers with global investors, while IFC's Ms. Aurelie Chardon identified grid modernization as the primary bottleneck to project deployment. Fluence Energy's Mr. Dennis Lee urged regulators to adapt quickly to new market innovations, and Mr. Kurokawa emphasized that overcoming complex permitting and regional grid integration requires dedicated institutional leadership.

Energy efficiency and smart infrastructure support decarbonisation

The third session examined how smarter systems and energy efficiency can help businesses reduce energy costs, improve competitiveness, and support national decarbonisation goals.

Mr. Alexander Ablaza, President, Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance, highlighted the role of energy efficiency in accelerating industrial and commercial decarbonisation, while Atty. Monalisa Dimalanta, Senior Advisor on Energy Literacy and Energy Democracy, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, discussed the integration of smart infrastructure into the energy transition.

Mr. Ablaza highlighted that "energy efficiency is no longer the clean energy underdog, and with the Philippine ESCO sector now matching the market maturity of Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore, 2027 could launch exponential growth if we execute critical policy reforms. Following global commitments at COP28 to double energy efficiency progress, we must urgently address rising AI data center loads through

self-sufficiency, cut system losses using ESCO contracting, fully enforce RA 11285 and RA 12009, expand fiscal incentives, and deploy development funds to de-risk energy service investments.”

While Atty. Dimalanta complimented these insights by emphasizing that reaching our national targets of 35% renewable energy by 2030, 50% by 2040, and well over 50% by 2050 requires far more than simply adding generation, it demands building a grid truly suited for the energy system of tomorrow. A modern grid is not defined by technology alone, but by its active ability to see through real-time monitoring, predict via advanced forecasting, balance through flexible storage, respond with automated operations, and adapt to shifting demand.”

The panel further featured Mr. Colin Steley, Managing Director, Stratcon, and Mr. Paulo Antonio Burro, Senior Strategy Consultant, Race to Net Zero Philippines and Member of the UNFCCC Roster of Experts, and was moderated by Ms. Ruth Yu-Owen, President & CEO, Upgrade Energy Philippines and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Co-chairperson, ECCP.

In this, Atty. Dimalanta emphasized that building a modern grid requires “a flexible, responsive system capable of seeing, predicting, balancing, and adapting to changing energy demands.” Turning to financing barriers, Mr. Ablaza noted that driving energy efficiency requires “making contracts far more bankable for ESCOs and Energy-as-a-Service projects” by removing uncapped liabilities that deter institutional investors. Highlighting the role of digital innovation, Mr. Steley stressed that successfully integrating new technologies means “moving away from selling a standalone product and focusing on solving problems by delivering energy as a managed service.” Finally, examining corporate adoption, Mr. Burro noted that framing energy efficiency effectively relies on “moving past surface-level optics and demonstrating how decarbonization directly drives long-term cost-effectiveness and corporate performance.”

Intersecting Economic Policy and Creating Green Jobs for a Clean Energy Transition

The fourth session discussed how governments, businesses, and development partners can create green jobs, attract sustainable investments, build a future-ready workforce, and strengthen community resilience while advancing the Philippines’ clean energy goals.

Ms. Yu-Owen detailed the impact of the Solar Nanay Program, a community initiative that breaks traditional gender barriers by training Filipino mothers in solar panel installation, cleaning, and maintenance, providing women with dignified livelihoods while expanding community-level clean energy access. “Solar Nanay is not just a form of Corporate Social Responsibility, it is workforce infrastructure,” stated Ms. Yu-Owen, emphasizing that women should never have to choose between caring for their families and building a career, and that after showing what is possible, the next task is opening these training and maintenance pathways to all.

Complementing this advocacy, Ms. Pascual emphasized the ILO’s commitment to securing decent work and just transitions, stressing that scaling the country’s new energy economy requires developing localized green skills, protecting worker rights, and ensuring that marginalized groups directly benefit from emerging green jobs.

The final panel discussion underscored that a successful energy transition must center on equity and human capital. Mr. Teddy Monroy emphasized UNIDO’s commitment to structural inclusion in clean energy growth, while Ms. Ruth Yu-Owen highlighted how the Solar Nanay initiative shattered gender stereotypes by proving women are equally capable of handling technical solar installations. Addressing the social challenges of the green

shift, Ms. Georginia Pascual outlined the International Labour Organization’s efforts to combat localized job losses, skill mismatches, and information gaps through inclusive planning, transparent communication, and community participation.

Senate President Gatchalian outlines legislative priorities for the energy sector

Closing the forum, Hon. Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian, Senate President, Senate of the Philippines, delivered a virtual closing message on legislative priorities for the energy sector, highlighting the role of policy in supporting energy security, investment, and the country’s long-term transition.

“The Philippines stands at the turning point as the global fuel crisis triggered by the US-Iran conflict exposed the risk of our continued dependence on imported fossil fuels. While immediate measures can help ease the effects of the crisis, we must pursue lasting reforms that will accelerate our shift towards more energy sources,” Senate President Gatchalian shared.

His closing message reinforced the need for sustained policy action and collaboration to ensure that the Philippines can meet its growing energy needs while building a more resilient and sustainable energy system.

Powering the Philippines’ next chapter

Across the discussions, speakers emphasised that the country’s energy transition will require more than increasing renewable capacity. Stronger policy frameworks, strategic investment, modern infrastructure, energy efficiency, and collaboration across sectors will be essential to building an energy system capable of supporting the Philippines’ long-term growth and resilience.

Through this event, the ECCP continues to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange insights, strengthen partnerships, and advance practical solutions for the Philippines’ evolving energy landscape.

The 15th Energy Forum is supported by the EU-PH Green Economy Partnership—a €60 million priority programme of the European Union as part of its Global Gateway initiative—and the European strategy engaging with partners globally and promoting investments around shared priorities such as the transition to a green economy. A component of the programme is co-funded with a €1 million contribution from the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Further components are implemented by UNDP Philippines, Expertise France with the Global Green Growth Institute, and the International Finance Corporation.

The event is also made possible by Advocacy Partners: Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of the Philippines, Embassy of the Republic of Austria in Manila, Embassy of Romania in Manila, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Manila, Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark in Manila, Embassy of the Republic of Finland in Manila, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Manila, and Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Manila; Industry Partners: Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance (PE2); Energy Lawyers Association of the Philippines (ELAP); Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines (IEMOP); Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippine Foundation Inc. (SEIPI); Platinum Partner: Race to Net Zero Philippines; Gold Partner: Advent Upgrade Solar Inc.; Bronze Partners: FLUENCE, HSBC, MPower, and Stratcon; Booth Partners: Berde Renewables, EDM I Philippines Inc., Phoenix SUPER LPG Philippines, Inc., and Buskowitz Energy Inc.; and Media Partners: BusinessMirror, iMPACT, Power Philippines, The Manila Times, and The Philippine Business and News.



Advocacy Corner

House Committee on Agriculture and Food Meeting

2 June 2026

On 2 June, the The Department of Agriculture conducted a briefing for the Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food on the issuance of Executive Order No. 116, entitled “Increasing the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) for Pork Meat under Republic Act No. 8178 or The Agricultural Tariffication Act, As Amended.”

Attending the meeting on behalf of the Chamber was Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto, Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs.



ECCP Aviation Committee Meeting

3 June 2026

On 3 June, the ECCP Aviation Committee convened for a meeting at the ECCP Office in Makati City and hybrid via Zoom. During the meeting, the body discussed the committee plans and priorities for the second half of 2026.

The committee members also shared key regulatory and industry developments such as the progress of the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, recent Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) circulars, updates on airport infrastructure projects across the country, and green aviation initiatives.

Finally, the body elected ECCP Board of Directors Member and Managing Director/Airbus Chief Representative in the Philippines Mr. Jussi Hoikka as the new co-chairperson of the ECCP Aviation Committee.

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



Philippine Sustainable Aviation Fuel Roundtable Dialogue

3 June 2026

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), in partnership with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) organized the Philippine Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Roundtable Dialogue on 3 June, at Conrad Manila.

This initiative builds on the first SAF Investment Forum held on 10 October 2025, co-organized by the Board of Investments (BOI) and GGGI, which convened prospective investors and representatives from government agencies, industry stakeholders, airlines, technology providers, financial institutions, and development partners to discuss opportunities and enabling conditions for accelerating SAF investments and market development in the Philippines.

The Chamber was represented by Atty. Manolito Manalo and Atty. Marvin Masangkay, ECCP Aviation Committee Co-Chairpersons.



2026 Philippine International Motor Show

5 June 2026

On 5 June, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) attended the Philippine International Motor Show at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

The event brought together key players in the automotive industry and showcased the latest developments in mobility. Among the highlights were electric vehicles (EVs), sustainable transportation solutions, and emerging automotive innovations shaping the future of the sector.

Representing ECCP were Sophie Panergo, Advocacy Officer and Coordinator of the Automotive Committee, and Jana Juntereal, Events Associate.

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



ECCP Healthcare Committee Meeting 5 June 2026

On 05 June, the ECCP Healthcare Committee convened for a meeting at the Roche Office in Taguig City. During the meeting, the body discussed the committee plans and priorities for the second half of 2026.

The committee members also shared key regulatory and industry developments, such as the ongoing expansion of national health insurance benefit packages and the implementation of primary care programs. On the regulatory front, updates were provided regarding the modernization efforts of the FDA, particularly initiatives aimed at improving regulatory predictability and streamlining registration timelines. Additionally, the committee reviewed pending health-related legislation, aligning on strategic advocacy positions to ensure that upcoming policies support fair market competition, promote digital inclusion, and preserve patient access to vital healthcare products.

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



Advancing High Seas Governance: Opportunities for Regional Cooperation on the BBNJ Agreement Implementation 9 June 2026

On 9 June, the European Chamber of Commerce attended an event titled “Advancing High Seas Governance: Opportunities for Regional Cooperation on the BBNJ Agreement Implementation,” organized by the Stratbase Institute and hosted at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

The event, which included speakers from government, civil society and academia, fostered discussions on national and international maritime governance with the new BBNJ agreement, especially its effects on the environment, development, security, and international cooperation. Conversations also highlighted the Philippines’ role in promoting the agreement, reinforcing high seas governance, and leading Southeast Asia in maritime affairs.



Healthy Workforce, Stronger Business: Insights from the EpiCOB-PH Study 16 June 2026

On 16 June, Novo Nordisk Philippines, in partnership with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), successfully hosted “Healthy Workforce, Stronger Business: Insights from the EpiCOB-PH Study” at The Westin Manila.

Data from the landmark EpiCOB-PH study revealed the staggering economic and epidemiological realities confronting businesses today.

The Twofold Corporate Impact: Skyrocketing direct medical costs and healthcare insurance claims, coupled with severe indirect productivity losses due to absenteeism and presenteeism.

The Risk to the Workforce: Obesity acts as a major driver for high-burden chronic conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and chronic kidney disease.

Business leaders, healthcare practitioners, and policymakers gathered to shift the paradigm from passive awareness to active health management. By implementing evidence-based wellness interventions, employers are uniquely positioned to protect their organizational bottom lines while safeguarding their most valuable asset – their people.



Leveraging Growth, Securing Futures: Enhancing, Livelihood and Revenue against Illicit Trade 18 June 2026

On 18 June, the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) held the Third International Tobacco Summit, carrying the theme “Leveraging Growth, Securing Futures: Enhancing Livelihood and Revenue against Illicit Trade” in Pasig City.

The Summit emphasized the importance of the tobacco industry while advancing collective strategies to combat illicit tobacco trade through a whole-of-government approach. It further highlighted the need for sustained enforcement and the sector’s role in sustaining livelihoods and generating government revenue, reinforcing the need to protect legitimate trade from illicit activities.

ECCP Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto participated in the event on behalf of the Chamber.



ECCP Visits Control Union's New Office in Taguig

19 June 2026

On 19 June, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) had the pleasure of joining ECCP member Control Union Philippines in celebrating the official blessing of its new office in Taguig City – a significant milestone that reflects the company's continued growth and commitment to supporting sustainable trade and development in the Philippines.

Control Union Philippines plays a vital role in helping Filipino farmers, processors, and traders access both local and international markets through sustainable certifications, commodity inspections, laboratory services, and collateral management solutions.

Present at the gathering were Mr. Tom Van der Meulen, Managing Director of Control Union Philippines and ECCP Agriculture Committee Co-Chair; together with Bea Uy, ECCP Events Officer, and Kyla Uy, ECCP Senior Advocacy Officer.

The ECCP extends its warmest congratulations to Control Union Philippines on this exciting new chapter and wishes the team continued success in the years ahead!



BIR-PMSG MOA Signing

23 June 2026

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Multi-Sectoral Group (PMSG) officially signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) today, 23 June, at the BIR National Office Building in Quezon City. This landmark event marks the formal renewal and institutionalization of the BIR-Multi Sectoral Working Group, which serves as a vital platform for policy consultations, open dialogues, and joint initiatives between the bureau and its partner organizations.

The ceremony featured the formal signing of the agreement, updates on key tax developments, and messages of support from various stakeholder groups. Leading the representation for the foreign business community, Atty. Maria "Con" Simundac-Delos Santos, co-chair of the ECCP's Tax and Financial Services Committee, signed the landmark MOA on behalf of the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) of the Philippines and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP). Her participation underscores the private sector's active commitment to fostering a collaborative and transparent economic environment. Also in attendance to support the JFC representation was Mr. Chris Ilagan, Advocacy Chair for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (CanCham).



ECCP Environment & Water Committee Meeting

24 June 2026

On 24 June, the ECCP Environment and Water Committee convened at the ECCP Office to discuss the Blue Economy and the protection of marine biodiversity. The meeting brought together ECCP members and stakeholders to exchange insights on safeguarding the country's marine ecosystems and advancing sustainable ocean-based development.

Representatives from the ABS-CBN Foundation shared their ongoing initiatives to protect the Verde Island Passage, highlighting its significance as the "Center of the Center of Marine Biodiversity" and one of the world's recognized Hope Spots. The discussion underscored the importance of the area and the need to strengthen conservation efforts.

The Committee emphasized the importance of raising awareness and fostering stronger collaboration among government, industry, civil society, and local communities to ensure the effective protection and sustainable management of the Philippines' marine resources.

For more information or to join the ECCP Environment and Water Committee, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



ECCP Courtesy Visit to EU Ambassador H.E. Massimo Santoro

26 June 2026

ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin paid a courtesy visit to European Union Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Massimo Santoro today, 26 June 2026, marking their first official engagement following her election as President of the Chamber.

Discussions centered on the ongoing EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, areas of cooperation, and opportunities to further strengthen collaboration in support of trade, investment, and sustainable economic growth.

The ECCP looks forward to continuing its close engagement with the EU Delegation in advancing shared priorities that contribute to a more competitive and resilient Philippines and a stronger European-Philippine business community.

Also present were Mr. Austin Sy, ECCP Industry and Government Affairs Manager; Ms. Justyna Lasik, Head of the Economic and Trade Section at the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines; and Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Director for Operations.



ECCP Courtesy Meeting with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines

2 July 2026

On 2 July, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines met with Director General Attorney Teodoro C. Pascua of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL). The meeting addressed the future of Intellectual Property Rights in the midst of shifting markets and radical technological developments.

During the meeting, ECCP took the opportunity to discuss regulatory updates regarding Geographical Indications IP protection, patent and Trademark reforms, IP enforcement and Innovation incentives. Additionally, Atty. Pascua was able to share initiatives, plans and projects he was looking forward to prioritising as the new IPOP HL Director General. Finally, ECCP and IPOP HL shared a few means of potential collaboration between the two organizations, including an invitation for Atty. Pascua to speak at ECCP's 2026 IP Horizons event in September.



Representing the ECCP Board of Directors was Atty. Peter Calimag. Also in attendance were ECCP members Ms. Kim Ng of PMFTC and Mr. Ernie Carlos of Ajinimoto, as well as members of the ECCP Advocacy Team, Senior Advocacy Officer Kyla Uy, Advocacy Research Associate Justine Ocate, and Junior Advocacy Associate Zach Pedernal.

Manila Times Health Forum - Regulating Trust: Ensuring Quality, Safety, and Effectivity in Medicines

7 July 2026

On 07 July, the Manila Times Health Forum, "Regulating Trust: Ensuring Quality, Safety, and Effectiveness in Medicines," gathered regulators, healthcare professionals, industry leaders, and patient advocates at Holiday Inn & Suites Makati. The discussion underscored the Philippine FDA's critical role in safeguarding public confidence in medicines, particularly amid the growing risks of counterfeit and substandard products sold online.

Speakers included Dr. Uriel Cachero (DOH), Dr. Irene Florentino-Fariñas (FDA), Dr. Karl Evans Henson (UP-NIH), Maria Blanca Kim Lokin (PPPI), Kathlyn Rose Reyes (Unilab), and Dr. Roberto Tanchanco (ASMPH), with insights highlighting the importance of rigorous standards, collaborative regulation, and industry accountability in ensuring that medicines remain safe, effective, and trusted by Filipino patients.

In attendance from the Chamber was Atasha Bernardo, Advocacy Research Associate. For more information or to join the ECCP Healthcare Committee, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



Second High-level Roundtable on Trade, Climate and Sustainable Development: Towards a Trade-Related Climate Strategy for a Climate-Resilient Philippines

9 July 2026

On 09 July, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) joined the Second High-level Roundtable on Trade, Climate and Sustainable Development. Hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the WTO and the Forum on Trade, Environment, and the SDGs (TESS), the multi-stakeholder workshop continues the dialogue launched last year, advancing a Philippine Trade-Related Climate Strategy.

The roundtable gathered leaders from government, business, civil society, and academia to discuss the draft strategy in light of new national climate commitments (NDC 3.0), explore trade considerations in climate policy, and identify cooperative pathways for ASEAN and multilateral fora. The Chamber's participation reinforces its advocacy for sustainable, equitable, and development-friendly trade and climate policies.



In attendance from the Chamber were Atty. Jay Layug of DivinaLaw, Co-chair of the ECCP Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Committee, serving as Reactor for Session 2: Energy Sector and Clean Technology; and Justine Yuki Ocate, Advocacy Research Associate as participant.

For more information or to join any of the ECCP Advocacy Committees concerned (Environment & Water, Sustainability, or Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency), please contact advocacy@eccp.com.

2026 IP Boot Camp with Shopee

15 July 2026

On 15 July, the European Chamber of Commerce (ECCP) attended the Shopee 2026 Intellectual Property (IP) Bootcamp. Hosted in partnership with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, the Bootcamp brought together IP lawmakers and representatives from platforms and businesses to align the interests of all parties in the fast-growing domain of e-commerce.

The bootcamp featured discussions on IP protection strategy, technological implications in IP protection, and Shopee's own actions to support businesses in enforcing their IP rights. Throughout the event, discussions consistently returned to the importance of education and understanding surrounding IP rights, continual adaptation to the changing market, and cooperation between sellers, platforms and governments to prevent the continuation of IP violations on online e-commerce platforms.

In attendance from the Chamber were Justine Yuki Ocate, Advocacy Research Associate, and Zach Pedernal, Junior Advocacy Associate.

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



Public Hearing of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs on proposed measures related to the Masterplan for Infrastructure and National Development (MIND) Act
16 July 2026

On 16 July, the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs, joint with the Committees on Public Works and Finance, held its first meeting on the proposed measures related to the Masterplan for Infrastructure and National Development (MIND) Act.

The bills propose a comprehensive national framework outlining strategic infrastructure investments and development priorities intended to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth across all regions. The Chamber relays its initial positions strongly supporting the legislative intent to insulate national development from political shifts and administrative transitions towards a practical, balanced regulatory framework that protects public stakeholders and promotes inclusivity without stifling business flexibility, compromising the Ease of Doing Business, or eroding national competitiveness.



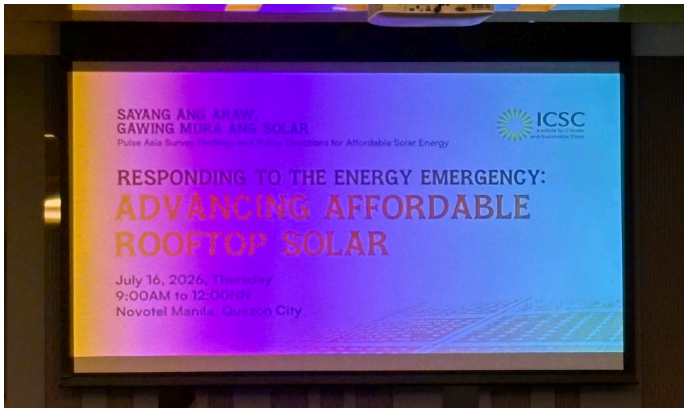
Representing the Chamber as a resource person was Mr. John Reinier Dizon, Co-chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee, with Justine Yuki Ocate, Advocacy Research Associate, from the Advocacy Team.

For more information or to join the ECCP Infrastructure Committee, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.

Sayang ang Araw, Gawing Mura ang Solar: Turning Public Support into Action Roundtable Discussion
16 July 2026

On 16 July, the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) organized the “Sayang ang Araw, Gawing Mura ang Solar: Turning Public Support into Action” Roundtable Discussion in Quezon City. The event was organized in response to growing public support for renewable energy, following recent survey findings indicating that a majority of Filipinos view affordable rooftop solar as a practical solution to lowering electricity costs, reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, and strengthening the country’s energy security.

The event gathered representatives from government, local government units, industry, financial institutions, civil society, academe, and consumer groups to discuss the policy, regulatory, financing, and consumer awareness measures needed to expand access to affordable rooftop solar. Discussions focused on translating strong public support into concrete actions that can accelerate solar adoption, improve energy affordability, and advance the Philippines’ clean energy transition.



Representing the Chamber was Sophie Panergo, Advocacy Officer handling the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee.

For more information or to join the ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.

ASEAN Go Negosyo MSME Summit
18 July 2026

On 18 July, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) attended the Go Negosyo MSME Summit 2026 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall in Pasay City. The summit focused on how micro, small, and medium enterprises can move beyond local markets and become more competitive within the wider ASEAN economy.

The opening discussion examined the role of government, business organizations, and the private sector in creating an environment where MSMEs can grow and participate in regional trade. This was followed by sessions on cross-border market opportunities, entrepreneurship among the youth, live commerce, and the experiences of business owners who successfully expanded their enterprises. The summit also recognized the Go Negosyo Inspiring MSMEs and Kapatid Mentor ME Growth Champions for their contributions to local enterprise development.

Later discussions addressed the practical requirements for business growth, including workforce development, access to financing, digital



platforms, logistics, and other business solutions. Taken together, the sessions emphasized that MSME growth depends not only on funding, but also on skills, market access, digital readiness, and sustained cooperation between government and the private sector.

Representing the Chamber was Atasha Bernardo, Advocacy Research Associate.

For more information on the ECCP’s work supporting MSME development and competitiveness, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.

DepDev oathtaking of the new set of Stakeholders’ Chamber members
22 July 2026

On 22 July, the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) held its oathtaking for the newly approved members of the Stakeholders’ Chamber on the SDGs.

The event marks the start of the new term for civil society organizations, academic institutions, and private sector partners—including the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP)—under the DBCC Subcommittee on Sustainable Development Goals (SC-SDG). The ceremony solidifies government–non-government collaboration to co-finance, monitor, and align private initiatives with the Philippine Development Plan and the UN 2030 Agenda.

Representing the ECCP was Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto, Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs.



DTI Webinar Trade Policy Dialogue
23 July 2026

On 23 July, the Office of the Undersecretary for International Trade hosted a virtual Trade Policy Dialogue (TPD) via Zoom to brief industry leaders and private sector partners on key developments in the Philippines’ international trade agenda.

DTI Undersecretary Atty. Allan B. Gepty presented major updates on the country’s bilateral and regional trade relations, highlighting the conclusion of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) alongside ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with Canada, Chile, and the European Union. Additionally, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Director Atty. Alvin B. Curada discussed DOLE’s key policy initiatives aimed at enhancing the welfare, social protection, and rights of platform workers across the digital economy.

The ECCP Advocacy Team virtually attended on behalf of the chamber. For more information or to contribute to trade and investment advocacies, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



2026 GCash Innovation Summit
24 July 2026

On 24 July, GCash (Mynt) brought industry leaders, and ecosystem partners to iGnite 2026: The GCash Innovation Summit at the SMX Convention Center, SM Aura, BGC. The summit marked a pivotal shift from rapid digital growth to exponential acceleration.

As AI, automation, and tech governance reshape global markets, the summit served as a vital platform to stay ahead of digital transformation, secure financial technologies, and leverage tech for business growth. It hosted hands-on labs, hackathons, and interactive breakout sessions across four key tracks: Business & AI-Driven Innovation, Cybersecurity & Digital Trust, The Future of Work, and RegTech & Governance.

The Chamber was represented by Advocacy Research Associates Justine Yuki Ocate, Coordinator of the Innovation Committee, and Atasha Bernardo, Coordinator of the ICT Committee. For more information or to contribute to Innovation and ICT advocacies, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



July meeting of the Joint Foreign Chambers, hosted by the ECCP
28 July 2026

On 28 July, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) hosted the monthly Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) meeting at the Manila House Private Club in Bonifacio Global City.

The meeting featured key discussions on a post-SONA legislative outlook, as well as critical advocacy priority areas including DOLE AEP centralization, the Pork MAV issue, Bureau of Immigration updates, and the National Nutrition Council’s Nutrient Profile Model. Attendees also discussed chamber-specific priority concerns and upcoming joint engagements.

ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin, Executive Director Florian Gottein, and Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs Atty. Kathyryn Pioquinto were in attendance on behalf of the Chamber, joined by Austin Sy, Industry and Government Affairs Manager, and Kyla Uy, Senior Advocacy Officer.



Post-SONA Business and Policy Analysis 2026
28 July 2026

On 28 July, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) convened its Post-SONA Business and Policy Analysis 2026, offering members a practical readout of the President’s address and its implications for business, investment, and trade.

Opened by ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin, the session featured expert insights from Dr. Julio Teehankee (DLSU), Gonzalo Varela (World Bank), Sandeep Uppal (HSBC Philippines), and Mary Grace Agner (PIDS), moderated by Atty. Maria Concepcion Simundac-Delos Santos.

The discussion explored post-2025 midterm political dynamics, macroeconomic growth outlooks, industrial readiness, and how newly signaled national policy priorities align with market access opportunities and the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.



EU-PH Advancing Research and Innovation on Artificial Intelligence 29-30 July 2026

From 29–30 July, the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) hosted a mission bringing together key stakeholders from the European Union and the Philippines including academia, private sector and business associations to exchange views and explore opportunities for cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence in line with the Philippines’ National AI Strategy and the National AI Center for Research and Innovation (NAICRI) and the EU Global Gateway Initiative.

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines presented during the fourth session, “Advancing EU-Philippines AI Cooperation, Partnerships and Investments,” with a presentation on Potential investment pathways for AI infrastructure, innovation hubs, and AI-enabled solutions delivered by Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto.



Also in attendance for the Chamber was Infrastructure Committee Coordinator and Advocacy Research Associate, Justine Yuki Ocate.

For more information or to contribute towards the Chamber’s advocacies in the AI sector, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.

Cardio-Renal-Metabolic Policy Roundtable 30 July 2026

On 30 July, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines supported ACCESS Health International’s Cardio-Renal-Metabolic Policy Roundtable in Pasig City. The forum brought together representatives from the government, healthcare professionals, academia, and industry partners to discuss CRM as a national health priority.

The discussions centered on CRM policy gaps and opportunities in the Philippines, the cost-of-illness of CKD management, and broader CRM in Asia-Pacific, with a message of support and commitment from PhilHealth Executive Vice President & COO Atty. Eli Dino D. Santos.

For more information or to contribute towards the Chamber’s healthcare advocacies, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



Senate Committee on Energy Second Public Hearing on EPIRA Amendments 31 July 2026

On 31 July, the Senate Committee on Energy had its Second Public Hearing on the EPIRA amendments. Discussions focused on reducing electricity costs by removing VAT and limiting the pass-through of system loss charges to consumers, strengthening regulatory oversight, improving grid reliability, and enhancing consumer protection. The hearing also reinforced the need for a transparent and predictable regulatory environment to attract long-term investments, expand retail competition, and advance the country’s transition toward a more reliable, competitive, and sustainable energy sector.

Representing the chamber was Sophie Panergo, Advocacy Officer, lead coordinator of ECCP’s Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee.

For more information or to contribute towards the Chamber’s renewable energy advocacies, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



EU Organic Day 2026 31 July 2026

On 31 July 2026, Germany-based organic farming organization Naturland, in collaboration with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and Mayani organized the “Organic Day Philippines” conference at Conrad Manila, themed From Pioneer to Mainstream: Creating Organic Pathways and Partnerships for the Philippines. Discussions focused on building scalable organic ecosystems by aligning policy, markets, and production, promoting community-led pathways for resilient food systems, unlocking consumer demand, and greening food supply chains. The event also highlighted the launch of the Seed Catalogue of Traditional & Heirloom Seeds in the Philippines by Global Seed Savers Philippines and featured keynote addresses from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry to advance sustainable agriculture and organic partnerships.



Representing the chamber was Ms. Ruth Novales, chair of the ECCP’s Agriculture committee and Jose Mari Gabriel Tumanan, Advocacy Research Associate, lead coordinator of ECCP’s Sustainability Committee.

For more information or to contribute towards the Chamber’s sustainability advocacies, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.

Sustainability Expo (SUSTEX) 2026
5 August 2026

On 05 August, the Department of Science and Technology and SM Prime organized the Sustainability Expo (SUSTEX) 2026 at SMX Aura Premier, Taguig City. With the theme “Bayanihan Innovation for a Green and Resilient Philippines”, SUSTEX 2026 served as a multi-sectoral platform that showcased innovative technologies and collaborative solutions that support the country’s circular economy goals.

Highlights of the program included keynote presentations delivered by DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum, Jr., who spoke on building a resilient nation through innovation, and DOST Undersecretary Engr. Sancho A. Maborang on regional sustainability programs. Plenary discussions covered policy governance, circular economy partnerships, It also featured interactive exhibitions of various green innovations and advocacies, including an EU-Green



Economy booth that highlighted the strong level of international cooperation in driving green innovation between the EU and the Philippines.

In attendance from the Chamber was Sustainability Committee Coordinator & Advocacy Research Associate Jose Mari Gabriel Tumanan. For more information or to be involved in the Chamber’s sustainability advocacies, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin on Radyo CSR
8 August 2026

On 08 August, ECCP President & General Manager of Roche Philippines Dr. Diana Edralin joined the broadcast of the Radyo CSR program, hosted by Sir Max Todo Max!, Sir Ricky D’ Maestro.

In its second segment, the program featured the recent conduct of the ECCP Healthcare Committee’s 2026 Healthcare Forum, and its key discussion points, takeaways, and paths forward to a more healthy Philippines, with Dr. Edralin and Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go as program guests.

To be a part of the Chamber’s advocacies bringing important industry insights and advocacy priorities to a wider audience and advancing dialogue towards a healthier Philippines, reach out to the Advocacy Team at advocacy@eccp.com.

ECCP-Led JFC Courtesy Meeting with DOLE Secretary Francis Tolentino
11 August 2026

On 11 August, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), alongside delegation members from the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC), paid a courtesy call to newly appointed Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Francis Tolentino on August 11, 2026, in Intramuros, Manila.

The meeting served to introduce foreign business leaders and discuss critical labor policies, focusing on the centralization of Alien Employment Permits (AEP), regional minimum wage review cycles, and ease of doing business for foreign investors. Both parties explored key opportunities for collaboration, including establishing a consultation channel and joint initiatives on workforce readiness and digital and green-economy skills development.

Representing the Chamber was ECCP Vice President Mr. Ruben Camba (ACCIONA) and Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto. Also in attendance were the Coordinators of the Human Capital Committee, Senior Advocacy Officer Kyla Uy and Advocacy Research Associate Justine Ocate.

For more information or to join the Chamber’s Human Capital Committee, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



Business Briefing with HM Trade Commissioner Martin Kent
11 August 2026

On 11 August, the British Embassy Manila and the British Chamber of Commerce Philippines organized a business briefing with HM Trade Commissioner for Asia Pacific, Martin Kent at the Ayala Museum, Makati City.

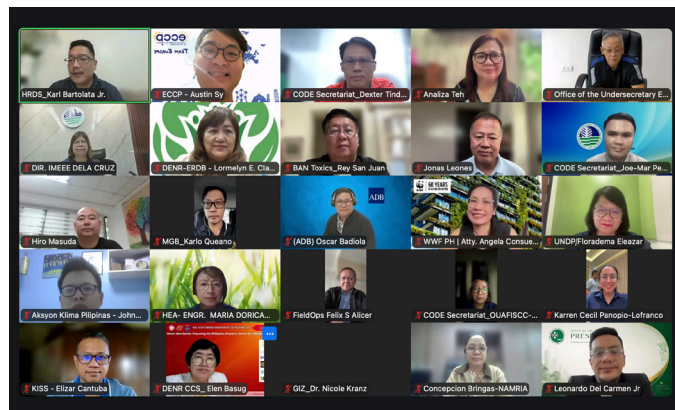
The event convened senior UK and Philippine business leaders to discuss the UK’s trade priorities, commercial opportunities surrounding the Philippines’ ASEAN chairmanship, and input on future trading relationships, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) application. Attendees also participated in an interactive Q&A session to engage directly on key economic priorities and collaboration.

In attendance from the Chamber was Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto. For more information, please contact the Advocacy Team at advocacy@eccp.com.



DENR Optimization Stakeholders' Consultation 18 August 2026

The ECCP participated in the virtual DENR Optimization Stakeholders' Consultation via Zoom, covering the DENR's proposed Optimization Plan under the Government Optimization Act (RA 12231). The meeting focused on reviewing agency mandates and streamlining operations for more efficient public service delivery.



Arangkada Roundtable on Cross-Border Taxes 19 August 2026

Organized by the Arangkada Philippines Project, the dialogue convened government officials, tax practitioners, legal experts, and members of the business community to discuss the implementation of Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 5-2024.

Discussions focused particularly on the taxation of cross-border services, the practical implications of current tax rules for businesses operating across jurisdictions, emerging compliance challenges, and the need for greater clarity and predictability in tax administration.



Towards a Peaceful and Sustainable Future: Addressing Climate Security in ASEAN 24 August 2026

Co-organized by the Stratbase Institute and the German Embassy, the conference convened to address climate change as a critical threat multiplier, examining non-traditional security risks such as resource scarcity, displacement, and disaster resilience. Speakers and attendees emphasised the importance of collective action and strategic partnerships both within the nation and beyond, and outlined a path forward for the Philippines, ASEAN, and its international partners amid intensifying climate conditions.

On 25 August 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) joined the TMF Group to meet with Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Deputy Director General for Policy and Planning Joy Alguso to discuss the current investment landscape of the Philippines and exchange perspectives on recent regulatory and economic developments.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to explore opportunities to further support foreign investors and businesses.



Joining the meeting were PEZA's Investment Promotions Division Acting Chief B Philip Teomar A. Radin, alongside TMF representatives and heads of delivery: Mr. John Paul Sorongon, TMF Group Philippines Country Head; Ms. Joan Reyes (HR and Payroll); Ms. Rubie Pregoner (Entity Management); Liezl Mague (Accounting & Tax); Mary Jane Tongco, Assistant Manager (Global Entity Management); and Business Development Director, Ms. Lyanna Isip, and Manager, Ms. Emy Tan.

Representing the ECCP were Mr. Austin Sy, Industry and Government Affairs Manager, and Mr. Justine Yuki Ocate, Advocacy Research Associate.

ILO National Tripartite Dialogue & MNE Workshop 25-26 August 2026

The National Tripartite Dialogue and Workshop in Manila convenes government, employer, and worker representatives to deepen their understanding of responsible business conduct (RBC) and the ILO MNE Declaration.

ECCP Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs Atty. Kathryn Pioquinto served as panelist during the session, "Fostering Responsible Business, Trade & Investment for the Philippines' Competitiveness and Sustainability."



PPSA Quarterly Talks on Inclusive Systems: Strengthening Supply Chains for Filipino Farmers 26 August 2026

ECCP Agriculture Committee Co-chairperson Ms. Ruth Novales moderated the session on Sustainable Partnerships, with panelists from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, and Department of Science and Technology.



Inside ECCP: Manila

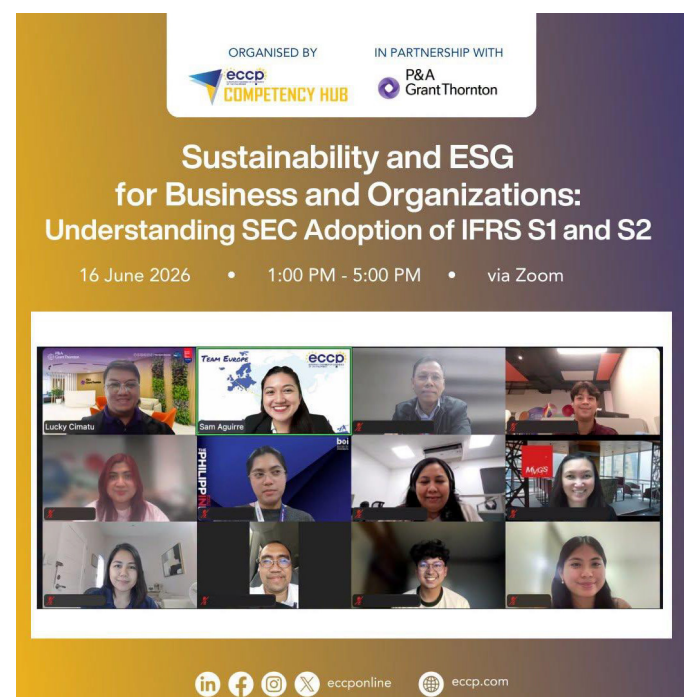
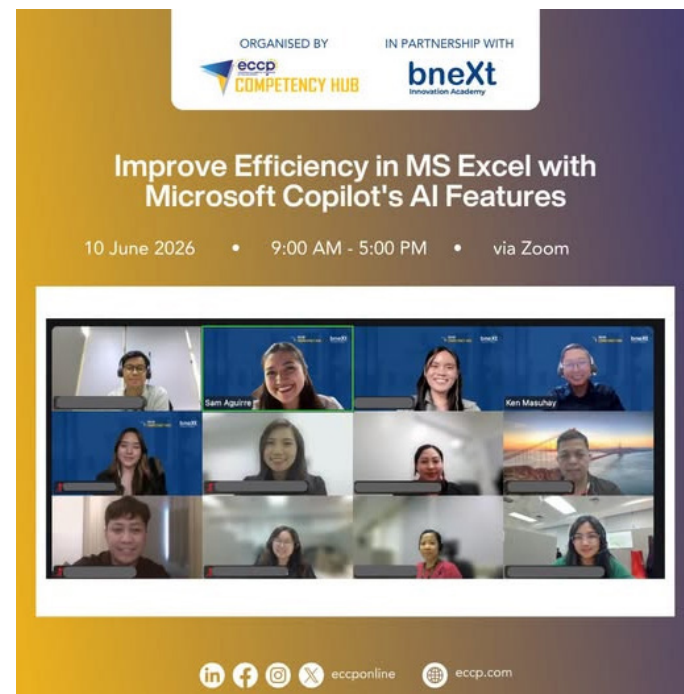
Improve Efficiency in MS Excel with Microsoft Copilot's AI Features 10 June 2026

On 10 June 2026, the ECCP Competency Hub, in partnership with Bnext Innovation Academy, conducted its “Improve Efficiency in MS Excel with Microsoft Copilot's AI Features” training. Facilitated by Kenneth Andre Masuhay, Global Business Unit Head of bneXt Innovation Academy, the session introduced practical ways of using AI to enhance everyday Excel tasks and business processes.

Participants explored how Microsoft Copilot can assist with data cleaning, formula creation, report generation, chart development, and data analysis. The training also covered prompting fundamentals, high-impact Excel and AI use cases, and best practices for transforming raw data into actionable insights. Through hands-on exercises and real-world business applications, participants learned how to streamline workflows and make faster, more informed business decisions.

Sustainability and ESG for Business and Organizations: Understanding SEC Adoption of IFRS S1 and S2 16 June 2026

On 16 June 2026, the ECCP Competency Hub, in partnership with P&A Grant Thornton, conducted the program “Sustainability and ESG for Business and Organizations: Understanding SEC Adoption of IFRS S1 and S2” via Zoom. The session provided participants with practical insights into sustainability-related and climate-related disclosures, as well as the evolving regulatory landscape surrounding ESG



ECCP Courtesy Visit to the Embassy of Poland in the Philippines 17 June 2026

The ECCP paid a courtesy visit to Ms. Katarzyna Wilkowiecka, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of the Philippines on 17 June, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Manila’s office in Taguig City.

The meeting served as a valuable opportunity to exchange insights on shared priorities and explore areas of collaboration between the ECCP and the Embassy.

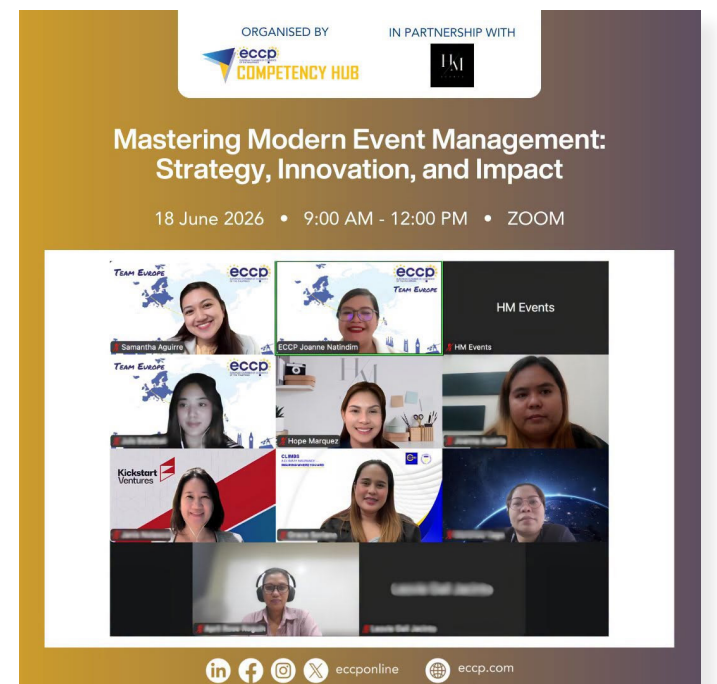
The ECCP team was represented by Dr. Diana Edralin, President; Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan, Director of Operations; and Atty. Kathyrin Pioquinto, Director for Advocacy & Government Affairs.



Mastering Modern Event Management: Strategy, Innovation, and Impact 17 June 2026

On 17 June 2026, the ECCP Competency Hub conducted “Mastering Modern Event Management: Strategy, Innovation, and Impact.” The session provided practical approaches to designing impactful events that deliver meaningful business outcomes and memorable participant experiences.

The session was facilitated by Hope Marquez, Owner and CEO of HM Events, who shared valuable perspectives drawn from over a decade of experience managing corporate events, conferences, training, and large-scale engagements. Participants explored strategic event planning, audience engagement, AI and digital tools, sponsorship development, risk management, event sustainability, and measuring ROI.



2026 Healthcare Forum 18 June 2026

On 18 June 2026, the ECCP hosted its 2026 Healthcare Forum at the Makati Shangri-La, bringing together leading experts and healthcare stakeholders for a day of engaging discussions on strengthening patient-centered Universal Health Care in the Philippines.

The forum featured Dr. Diana Edralin, ECCP President, PHAP President, and General Manager of Roche Philippines; Dr. Valerie Gilbert T. Ulep, Senior Research Fellow of the Philippine Institute For Development Studies; Dr. Beverly Ho, Chief Health Officer of AC Health; and Dr. Alfonso G. Nunez III of the Philippine Cancer Center.

They were joined by Ms. Araceli S. Lanorio, Board Secretary of the Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations; Dr. Herdee Luna, Philippine Cancer Society; Dra. Irene F. Fariñas, Director for Policy and Planning Service of the Food and Drug Administration Philippines; Dr. Jacinto Blas V. Mantaring III, Chairperson of the Health Technology Assessment Council; Dr. Marlon Molano, Medical Coordinator of Quezon City; and Dr. Maria Greta Cortez, Head of Medicine at Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines.

The sessions were moderated by Dr. Diana Edralin and Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go, Senior Research Fellow and Program Director for Leadership and



Innovation at the Ateneo Policy Center, and hosted by Ms. Jacqui Del Castillo, Communication and Organizational Change Manager at Novo Nordisk Philippines.

Also present at the event was ECCP Treasurer, Mr. Albert Perez.

For more photos, visit: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCX6ay>

In support of the shared goal of building a more integrated and accessible healthcare system, the ECCP reaffirms its commitment to fostering public-private collaboration and championing patient-centered Universal Health Care.

Import and Export Fundamentals with an Introduction to EU Free Trade Agreements 22 June 2026

On 22 June 2026, the ECCP Competency Hub, in partnership with Nague Malic Magnawa and Associates Customs Brokers (NMM), conducted the training “Import and Export Fundamentals with an Introduction to EU Free Trade Agreements.” This program was designed to explore opportunities under the EU trade framework and how businesses can maximize tariff preferences while ensuring compliance in their cross-border transactions.

The session was facilitated by Atty. Ferdinand Nague, Managing Partner of NMM. Through his guidance the participants gained practical insights into import-export procedures, customs documentation, trade compliance requirements, and the strategic use of Free Trade Agreements.



ECCP Luncheon Meeting with Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Chairperson and CEO Atty. Francis Saturnino Juan 25 June 2026

On 25 June 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) hosted its Luncheon Meeting with Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Chairperson and CEO Atty. Francis Saturnino Juan at Dusit Thani Manila.

In his keynote presentation, Atty. Juan outlined the Commission’s strategic priorities and ongoing reforms to address longstanding challenges in the power sector while supporting the country’s transition toward a more sustainable and competitive energy market.

The discussion that followed gave ECCP members and stakeholders the opportunity to exchange insights on renewable energy integration, energy efficiency, grid modernization, digitalization, market monitoring, and regulatory reforms.

The panel was moderated by Ms. Ruth Yu-Owen, President and CEO of Upgrade Energy Philippines (UGEP) and ECCP’s Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Co-Chair, and featured Atty. Juan alongside



industry experts Atty. Jose “Jay” Layug, Jr., ECCP’s Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Co-Chair and President of the Developers of Renewable Energy for AdvanceMent (DREAM), and Mr. Alexander Ablaza, President of the Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance.

The event was also attended by ECCP Vice President Mr. Roman Menz and ECCP Treasurer Mr. Albert Perez.

In support of the shared goal of accelerating the country’s energy transition and ensuring long-term energy security, the ECCP reaffirms its commitment to fostering public-private collaboration and championing a robust, transparent, and future-ready Philippine energy sector.

21st Joint Foreign Chambers Networking Night 25 June 2026

What an incredible turnout at the 21st Joint Foreign Chambers Networking Night!

Organized by the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC), the evening brought together members of the foreign business chambers, the diplomatic corps, and the wider business community for a night of meaningful conversations, new connections, and strengthened partnerships.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to making the event a memorable celebration of collaboration and camaraderie. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to network and reconnect with fellow professionals.

View more photos here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCXEY5>

The JFC also extends its appreciation to our valued partners and sponsors for their support in making this event possible.

We look forward to seeing you again at our future JFC events!



AI-Powered Data Privacy Compliance Masterclass
25-30 June 2026

On 25-30 June 2026, the ECCP Competency Hub conducted the “AI-Powered Data Privacy Compliance Masterclass,” a four-day online program designed to help organizations accelerate compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 through practical, AI-assisted workflows.

Participants explored the NPC’s 5-Pillar Framework, built essential compliance documents—including Systems Inventories, Records of Processing Activities (RoPA), Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA), and Privacy Manuals—and learned how AI tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and NotebookLM can streamline privacy compliance while supporting responsible and secure data governance.



ECCP Community Connect
9 July 2026

On 9 July 2026, the ECCP held its 11th ECCP Community Connect at the Forvis Mazars office in Makati Sky Plaza, bringing together members to connect and expand their networks while warmly welcoming the 21 new members to the growing ECCP community.

The event opened with welcome remarks from Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Director of Operations, followed by presentations from Atty. Jacquie Yu-Villar, Country Leader of Forvis Mazars in the Philippines; Mr. Bo Lundqvist, President and CEO of Retail Associates; Pastor Bernie Eseo of World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.; and Ms. Catherine Uy, Chief Operating Officer of Discover IT Corp., who introduced their organizations and shared insights into their expertise.

Participants also received a briefing on ECCP’s membership benefits and services, followed by a testimonial from ECCP Environment and Water Committee Chair, Engr. Meg Anne Santos, who shared their experience as a member and what it means to



be involved in ECCP’s advocacy committees.

The ECCP extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for this initiative. We also gratefully acknowledge our partners:

Session Partners: Discover IT Corp., Retail Associates, World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.

Marketing Partners: Assessment Analytics, Hearn & Hearn Consulting, Intellicare, MASA Group of Companies

Venue Partner: Forvis Mazars in the Philippines

Courtesy Visit to Dole PH
17 July 2026

On 15 July 2026, the ECCP paid a courtesy visit to Dole PH at its office in Makati City.

The visit also served as a venue to strengthen relationships and explore potential avenues for future engagement within the European-Philippine business community.

In photo are (from left to right): Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Director of Operations; Mr. Tyron Mangakahia, Director of Security, Dole Asia Company Limited; Atty. Kathyrin Pioquinto, ECCP Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs; followed by Ms. Catherine Gutierrez (Corporate Services), Mr. Taka Suzuki (Chief Administrative Officer), Ms. Jean Mea (Branding Executive), and Mr. Arbine Dalias (Compliance), all from Dole Asia Company Limited.

Not in photo: Ms. Chantal Freeman, General Counsel, Dole Asia Company Limited.



Leadership and Management Skills for Supervisors
17 July 2026

On 17 July 2026, the ECCP Competency Hub conducted the training “Leadership and Management Skills for Supervisors.” This program was designed to help supervisors and managers understand their role in driving organizational goals, while building the practical skills needed to lead effectively — from managing work and time to resolving conflict and developing their teams.

The session was facilitated by Jeff Cua, Managing Director of Whole Brain Manila. Through his guidance, participants gained deeper insight into the qualities of effective leadership, sound decision-making, and how to build stronger, more motivated teams.



Writing for Impact: Strengthening Your Business Communication Skills

21 July 2026

On 21 July 2026, the ECCP Competency Hub conducted the training “Writing for Impact: Strengthening Your Business Communication Skills,” Module 3 of the Effective Business Writing series. This program was designed to help professionals sharpen their writing for clarity, precision, and results — tackling common pitfalls like rambling sentences, run-ons, and passive constructions along the way.

The session was facilitated by Stephen Banares, Author & Consultant. Through his guidance, participants gained practical insights into structuring stronger sentences, applying the principles of effective business writing, and crafting sharper memos, letters, and reports.



Xcellen Visited the ECCP office

23 July 2026

The ECCP community keeps growing stronger with a new member!

On 23 July 2026, Xcellen visited the ECCP office to explore potential areas for collaboration. The meeting provided an opportunity to get better acquainted, explore meaningful synergies, and discuss ways to maximize the value of their membership through future collaboration.

We are delighted to welcome Xcellen as our newest Foreign-Based Member and look forward to working together on meaningful initiatives in the months ahead.

In photo (from L-R): Xcellen representatives, Commercial Excellence Advisors Mr. Hermie Catedrilla and Ms. Kandy Ruiz Wittig; and Xcellen Partner Mr. Nikhil Gupta. Joining them are Ms. Canela Reillo, ECCP’s Membership Officer; and Ms. Arci Catalan, ECCP’s Associate Director for Events.



XCELLEN PTE. LTD. is a Singapore-based technology and consulting company specializing in Sales Force Effectiveness (SFE) and Commercial Excellence solutions for the global life sciences industry. To know more, visit www.xcellen.com.

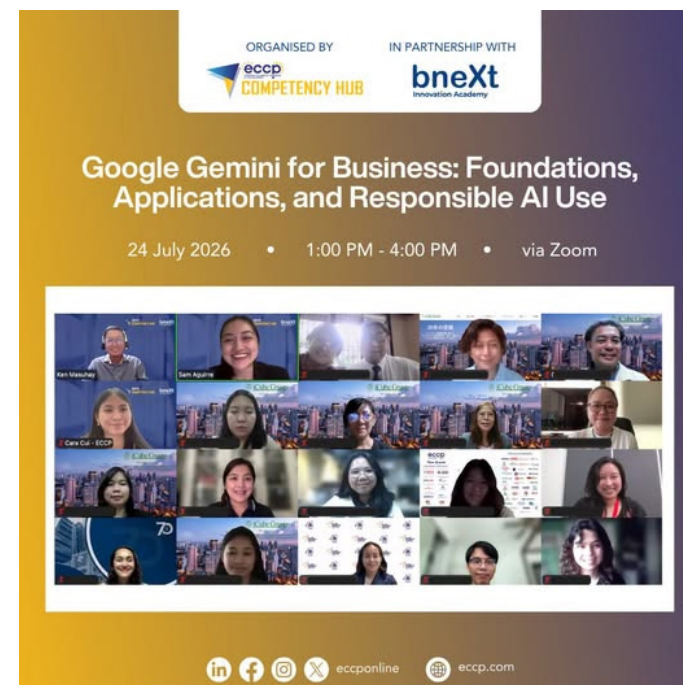
Google Gemini for Business: Foundations, Applications, and Responsible Use

24 July 2026

On 24 July 2026, the ECCP Competency Hub, in partnership with bneXt Innovation Academy, conducted the training “Google Gemini for Business: Foundations, Applications, and Responsible Use.” This program was designed to give professionals a foundational understanding of Google Gemini and how it fits within the broader Generative AI landscape — equipping participants to apply it for writing, summarizing, analyzing, and brainstorming across their daily workflows.

The session was facilitated by Kenneth Andre Masuhay, Global Business Unit Head of Bnext Innovation Academy. Through his guidance, participants gained practical insights into prompt engineering fundamentals, real-world business use cases for Gemini, and the principles of responsible and ethical AI use.

On 24 July 2026, the ECCP Competency Hub, in partnership with bneXt Innovation Academy, conducted the training “Google Gemini for Business: Foundations, Applications, and Responsible Use.” This program was designed to give professionals a foundational understanding of Google Gemini and how it fits within the broader Generative AI landscape — equipping participants to apply it for writing,



summarizing, analyzing, and brainstorming across their daily workflows.

The session was facilitated by Kenneth Andre Masuhay, Global Business Unit Head of Bnext Innovation Academy. Through his guidance, participants gained practical insights into prompt engineering fundamentals, real-world business use cases for Gemini, and the principles of responsible and ethical AI use.

ECCP Attends 45th Anniversary of Gallery Genesis

24 July 2026

On 24 July 2026, the ECCP attended Gallery Genesis’ 45th Anniversary celebration, honoring the legacy of its founder, Mrs. Araceli “Chichi” Salas, wife of Mr. Ernesto “Ernie” Salas, Owner and CEO of Elsal Ventures.

Today, Gallery Genesis is led by their daughter, Ms. Patrice Salas, who serves as its President.

The anniversary exhibition featured 30 of Mr. Rolan Guina’s finest watercolor paintings, showcasing the extraordinary realism, technical excellence, and artistic vision that have defined his distinguished career spanning more than five decades.

In photos are ECCP representatives (from left to right): Ms. Jana Juntereal, Events Associate; Ms. Canela Reillo, Membership Officer; and Ms. Samantha Ferrer, Marketing and Communications OIC.



ECCP Met with the Polish Delegation

25 July 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines met with the Polish delegation led by H.E. Wojciech Balczun, Minister of State Assets of the Republic of Poland, on 25 July 2026 at One Fort Santiago.

The lunch meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on strengthening Polish-Philippine business cooperation, including developments on the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement, potential investment opportunities, and key private-sector considerations for companies looking to enter or expand in the Philippine market.

ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin and ECCP Vice President Mr. Lars Wittig shared how the Chamber supports European investors through business networks, policy advocacy, government engagement, and sectoral platforms. The discussion also touched on ECCP's work in representing members' business concerns, including market access, regulatory predictability, permitting, customs and logistics, digital compliance, infrastructure, energy, and other practical issues affecting investors.

The meeting formed part of the delegation's engagements in Manila, following Minister Balczun's participation in ASEAN-related activities.

In photo are, from left to right: Honorary Consul General Fernandino T. Lising; Atty. Alden Labaguís, Vice Chairperson of the ECCP Tax and Financial Services



Committee; Dr. Diana Edralin, ECCP President; H.E. Wojciech Balczun, Minister of State Assets of the Republic of Poland; Ms. Katarzyna Wilkowiecka, Head of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of the Philippines; Mr. Lars Wittig, ECCP Vice President; and Atty. Kathyryn Pioquinto, ECCP Director for Advocacy and Government Affairs.

Also present were Mrs. Joanna Dopierała-Konkołowicz, Director of the Asia-Pacific Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Szymon Wudarski, Head of Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Łukasz Graban, Head of the Political and Economic Section of the Embassy of Poland; Mr. Paweł Nowacki, First Secretary of the Political and Economic Section of the Embassy of Poland; and Mr. Bartek Wasiewski, Head of the Polish Investment and Trade Agency Foreign Trade Office in Manila.

Post SONA Business and Policy Analysis

28 July 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) convened its Post-SONA Business and Policy Analysis 2026 today, 28 July 2026, offering members a practical readout of the President's address and its implications for business, investment, and trade.

Opened by ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin, the session featured expert insights from Dr. Julio Teehankee (DLSU), Gonzalo Varela (World Bank), Sandeep Uppal (HSBC Philippines), and Mary Grace Agner (PIDS), moderated by Atty. Maria Concepcion Simundac-Delos Santos.

The discussion explored post-2025 midterm political dynamics, macroeconomic growth outlooks, industrial readiness, and how newly signaled national policy priorities align with market access opportunities and the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.



Naturland Philippines, in collaboration with ECCP, successfully held the first Organic Day Philippines

31 July 2026

On 31 July 2026, Naturland Philippines, in collaboration with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), successfully held the first Organic Day Philippines at Conrad Manila.

With the theme, "From Pioneer to Mainstream: Creating Organic Pathways and Partnerships for the Philippines," the event brought together farmers, industry partners, government representatives, businesses, retailers, the hospitality sector, and advocates to exchange insights and strengthen partnerships in advancing organic agriculture in the Philippines.

The conference highlighted key milestones, opportunities, and collaborative initiatives aimed at fostering a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive organic sector.

Representing the ECCP (from left to right) were Paulo Serrano (Junior Events Associate), Jana Juntreal



(Events Associate), Ruth Novales (Co-chair, ECCP Agriculture Committee), Gabe Tumanan (Advocacy Research Associate), and Martina Torres (Member Relations Associate).

The ECCP is proud to support initiatives that promote sustainable agriculture, strengthen public-private collaboration, and contribute to the continued growth of the Philippine organic industry.

Partnership Signing Ceremony with new Premium Member Plastic Bank

4 August 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) officially welcomed Plastic Bank as its newest Premium Member during a Partnership Signing Ceremony held today, 4 August 2026, at the ECCP Office in Makati City.

The ceremony was attended by Plastic Bank representatives Mr. Rene Guarin, Vice President of Asia; Mr. Ted Guayco, Business Development Manager; and Ms. Audrey Trinidad, Marketing Manager. Representing the ECCP were Mr. Florian Gottein, Executive Director, and Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan, Director of Operations.

As a new Premium Member, Plastic Bank joins the ECCP's growing network of organizations committed to advancing responsible and sustainable practices. Through this partnership, the ECCP looks forward to collaborating with Plastic Bank on initiatives that promote the circular economy, environmental



sustainability, and stronger engagement within the European-Philippine business community.

Plastic Bank is a social enterprise founded in 2013 by David Katz with the mission of addressing plastic pollution by tackling its root cause, poverty. Operating across the Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil, Egypt, Thailand, and Cameroon, the organization enables underserved communities to exchange collected plastic waste for income and social benefits while helping prevent plastic from entering the environment. To know more, visit plasticbank.com.

ECCP Vice President Attends Groundbreaking Ceremony for Lufthansa Technik Philippines, Inc. 6 August 2026

On 06 August 2026, ECCP Vice President Lars Wittig participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for Lufthansa Technik Philippines, Inc. (LTP) new maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility at Clark International Airport, Pampanga.

Representing an investment of approximately \$400 million, one of the largest European investments in the Philippines in recent years, the 157,000-square-meter MRO facility is expected to create around 1,200 jobs and is scheduled to open in 2028.

The Chamber congratulates Lufthansa Technik Philippines, a longstanding ECCP member, on this major investment and looks forward to collaborating with LTP through its Aviation Committee to build a sustainable and thriving Philippine aviation sector.



Unlocking Private Sector Potential for a Dynamic and Inclusive BARMM and BIMP-EAGA

The CRESCENT Project under the Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Program (BAEP) implemented by the ECCP through the financial support of the European Union in the Philippines and in partnership with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and Ayala Foundation, Inc. brought together leaders from the government, businesses, investors, development partners, financial institutions, MSMEs cooperatives, and other stakeholders for “Unlocking Private Sector Potential for a Dynamic and Inclusive BARMM and BIMP-EAGA.”

Held on 17 August 2026 at the Ayala Museum, the event provided a space for stakeholders to openly discuss where opportunities exist and what needs to be done to help businesses grow in BARMM and across the BIMP-EAGA region. Discussions focused on improving access to financing and markets, strengthening skills and infrastructure, creating a more supportive business environment, and building stronger connections between the public and private sectors.

The program opened with remarks from ECCP President Dr. Diana Edralin, followed by Mr. Frederic Grillet, Charge d’Affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, and a message of support from Mr. Tony Lambino, President of Ayala Foundation Inc. The keynote addresses from the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and the



Office of the Chief Minister of BARMM were delivered by Deputy Executive Director ASec. Romeo Montenegro and Minister Farserina Mohammad of the Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism, respectively setting the context for discussions that followed. ASec. Montenegro introduced BIMP-EAGA and moderated the open forum, then followed presentations on investment and trade opportunities from the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam, Embassy of Malaysia in Manila, and DTI Philippines. The discussions provided participants with a closer look at the region’s opportunities and the potential areas for collaboration.

The event concluded with the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), reflecting ongoing partnership efforts among government agencies, the private sector, financial and development institutions, MSMEs, and cooperatives in strengthening the agri-fishery value chain of BARMM.

ECCP Attends All Transport Network (ATN)’s 40th Anniversary 19 August 2026

On 19 August 2026, the ECCP joined long-standing member All Transport Network (ATN) to celebrate a remarkable milestone: 40 years of excellence in the logistics and freight forwarding industry!

An ECCP member since 1997, ATN has been an integral part of our community for nearly three decades. Founded in 1986 by Mrs. Mary Lou Teano Estrada, the company has evolved into a thriving family-led enterprise, now guided into its next chapter by second-generation leaders Ms. Penny Estrada (Chief Growth & Global Strategy Officer) and Mr. Anton Estrada (Chief Operating Officer).

Representing the ECCP at the celebration were Operations Director Ms. Gen Anaquita-Gatan and Membership Officer Ms. Canela Reilo. The team also joined in commemorating the 30th anniversary of ATN’s major subsidiary, All Systems Logistics (ASL).



European Networking Socials 20 August 2026

On 20 August 2026, the ECCP hosted the European Networking Socials at Revel at The Palace, BGC gathering over 200 business leaders, members, and industry partners for a vibrant evening of networking and strengthening connections.

ECCP Treasurer Mr. Albert Perez led the toast and reflected on the ECCP community’s remarkable journey from 51 founding members to a growing community of close to 1,000 members today.

For official event photos, please visit: flic.kr/s/aHBqjD2Kob



ECCP Courtesy Visit to GSK Philippines
26 August 2026

Connecting history with new opportunities.

On 26 August 2026, the ECCP paid a courtesy visit and held a membership check-in with GSK Philippines, one of ECCP’s founding members in 1978.

The meeting provided an opportunity for both parties to discuss member benefits and objectives, review potential areas for collaboration, and explore GSK Philippines’ advocacy on life-course immunization.

In photos are GSK Philippines representatives: Mr. Ceyhun Cakar, General Manager; Dr. Teng Dioko, Communications, Government Affairs and Market Access Lead; Dr. Edgardo Ortiz, Medical Director, Vaccines; and Ms. Nina Isabelle Tolentino, Government Affairs and Health Policy Manager. Representing the ECCP were Ms. Canela Reillo, Membership Officer, as well as Mr. Austin Sy, Industry and Government Affairs Manager.

GSK Philippines, the local operations of GSK plc (GlaxoSmithKline plc), is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and delivering innovative vaccines and medicines to prevent and treat diseases.



Inside ECCP: Cebu

ECCP Executive Director concludes Strategic Engagements in Cebu
6-7 August 2026

On 6–7 August 2026, ECCP Executive Director Mr. Florian Gottein undertook a series of strategic engagements in Cebu aimed at strengthening partnerships, advancing the Chamber’s advocacy initiatives, and fostering collaboration with key stakeholders from the business community, government, and industry.

Mr. Gottein participated in the 7th Session of the ECCP Coffee Mornings with the MSMEs, which brought together business leaders, renewable energy developers, government representatives, investors, and industry stakeholders to discuss renewable energy opportunities, energy efficiency, financing, emerging technologies, and strategic partnerships that support sustainable business growth.



Following the roundtable, Mr. Gottein met with UNISOL Chief Executive Officer Jonas Kee Quilantang to discuss opportunities for collaboration between ECCP and the company. The delegation also paid a courtesy visit to Lifestyle Anthology, where discussions focused on strengthening industry cooperation. The visit culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ECCP and the Cebu Furniture Industries Foundation, Inc. (CFIF), reaffirming both organizations’ commitment to supporting the continued growth and competitiveness of Cebu’s furniture industry.



On 7 August, Mr. Gottein joined the 3rd Quarterly CEO Breakfast Meeting, where he shared updates on the Chamber’s advocacy initiatives, organizational developments, and upcoming activities. The meeting also featured discussions on sectoral priorities, welcomed new and returning member companies, and included a presentation by the Securities and Exchange Commission on its latest regulatory priorities and corporate governance initiatives.

Through these engagements, ECCP reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening partnerships, promoting meaningful dialogue among stakeholders, and advancing opportunities for trade, investment, and sustainable economic development in Cebu and the Visayas.



Inside ECCP: CDO

ECCP CDO Successfully Conducted an Executive Assistant Training 31 July 2026

On July 31, 2026 the ECCP CDO successfully delivered “The Strategic Executive Assistant: Building Relationships and Empowering Support”. Various participants joined the training from executive assistants, admin professionals moving into executive support roles, personal assistants, office managers and coordinators supporting senior executives with high-volume responsibilities.

The session was designed to strengthen the capacity of participants to provide strong and strategic Executive support. It also served to give them very practical experience and skills in personalizing the support, creating solid professional relationships, and facilitating more meaningful briefings to the executive.

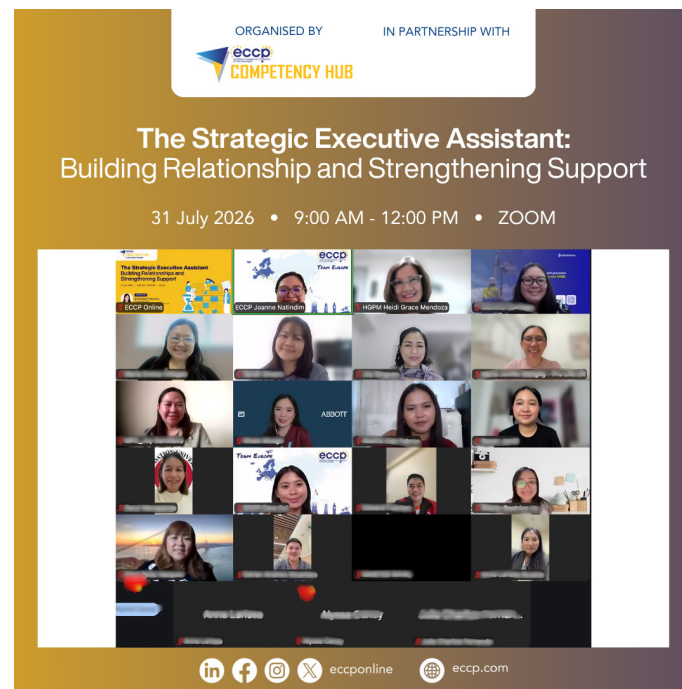
This ECCP competency hub training is in partnership with ECCP Northern Mindanao member, HGPM Strategic Management Services with its Founding Lead, Dr. Heidi Grace Mendoza.

Northern Mindanao Investments Assistance Center MOU Signing 11 August 2026

On August 11, 2021 ECCP Northern Mindanao Business Council Chairperson Mr. Jaime Rafael Paguio was invited to serve as one of the witnesses for Northern Mindanao Investments Assistance Center MOU Signing.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the re-constitution of the Investment Assistance Center in Region 10 (IACT) has been executed following Regional Development Council-X (RDC-X) Resolution No. 78, s. 2024 aims to enhance investment facilitation by better coordinating the actions of national government ministries, local government units, and private sector actors; providing a comprehensive system for guiding investors through relevant processes; and promoting more competitive and supportive investment services in Northern Mindanao.

It is designed to bolster partnership between public and private entities that will help provide effective investment services, speed up business registration as well as ease licensing procedures in Northern Mindanao.



ECCP Engages with Mindanao Business Leaders at the 35th Mindanao Business Conference

11-13 August 2026

European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Executive Director Florian Gottein and ECCP Vice President Lars Wittig participated in the 35th Mindanao Business Conference (MinBizCon) held from 11–13 August 2026 in Cagayan de Oro City. The conference, themed “Accelerating Inclusive Growth for Business Through Innovation and Sustainability: Bridging the Gap, Scaling the Future,” brought together business leaders, policymakers, government representatives, investors, and other stakeholders to discuss Mindanao’s economic priorities and opportunities.



Across the three-day engagement, Mr. Gottein and Mr. Wittig took part in discussions and networking activities centered on Mindanao’s economic development, investment potential, regional connectivity, sustainability, innovation, and stronger integration with regional and global markets.

The programme highlighted key areas for Mindanao’s future growth, including trade and export development, agriculture and aquaculture, sustainable energy, digital infrastructure, MSME modernization, smart urban development, and sustainable tourism. These discussions provided opportunities to exchange perspectives with public- and private-sector stakeholders on strengthening the region’s competitiveness and building a more resilient business environment.

A key highlight of ECCP’s participation was Lars Wittig’s speaking engagement on the third day during Plenary 3: “Geopolitics & Trade: Navigating the Global Supply Chain.” He shared perspectives on the impact of regional geopolitics on trade routes and global supply chains, including how MSMEs can make greater use of regional trade agreements and duty-free arrangements to improve market access and competitiveness.



The three-day conference also served as a valuable platform for networking and relationship-building, allowing the ECCP representatives to engage with business leaders, chambers, government officials, and other stakeholders from across Mindanao.

The engagement concluded with a continued emphasis on the importance of regional economic integration, sustainable growth, innovation, and stronger business linkages—areas that align closely with ECCP’s commitment to fostering greater cooperation between the Philippine and European business communities.

Through their participation in MinBizCon 2026, Gottein and Wittig reinforced ECCP’s engagement with the Mindanao business community and its interest in supporting opportunities for collaboration, trade, investment, and sustainable economic development across the region.



ECCP Engagements with USTP: Strengthening Academe-Industry Collaboration

19 August 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) participated in the University of Science and Technology of the Philippines (USTP) Charter Day celebration and Tribute to Partners, where ECCP was recognized as one of the University's industry partners. The recognition highlights the importance of sustained collaboration between the academe and industry in supporting innovation, skills development, knowledge exchange, and stronger linkages with the business community.

In the afternoon, ECCP also took part in the formation of the Academe-Industry-Community-Government Council for the development of the USTP Science and Technology Park. The Council brings together stakeholders from the academe, private sector, community, and government to support the development of a collaborative ecosystem focused on science, technology, innovation, research, and enterprise.

The activities underscore ECCP's continued engagement with academic institutions and industry stakeholders in promoting partnerships that contribute to innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable economic development. ECCP looks forward to supporting further collaboration with USTP and other stakeholders in advancing the University's Science and Technology Park and strengthening academe-industry linkages in Northern Mindanao.



Inside ECCP: Davao

ECCP Attends UP Mindanao's 28th Commencement Exercises

7 July 2026

On 7 July 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao, represented by Ms. Rie Realingo, Davao Branch Officer, participated in a Courtesy Meeting with Hon. Angelo A. Jimenez, President of the University of the Philippines, and Mr. Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh, Consul General of the Consulate General of Malaysia in Davao City.

Held alongside ECCP Davao's attendance at the 28th Commencement Exercises of the University of the Philippines Mindanao, the engagement explored opportunities to strengthen collaboration among academe, diplomacy, and the private sector. Discussions included potential university participation in a Malaysia-based conference focused on leadership, empowerment, and training, as well as strengthening institutional linkages and regional cooperation through platforms such as BIMP-EAGA.

The meeting underscores ECCP Davao's commitment to fostering strategic partnerships that promote knowledge exchange, leadership development, and greater regional collaboration.



ECCP Conducts Exploratory Meeting with La Consolacion University Philippines (LCUP)

8 July 2026

On 08 July 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) welcomed representatives from La Consolacion University Philippines (LCUP) for an educational visit aimed at strengthening industry-academe engagement and promoting knowledge exchange on current business trends, international best practices, and the evolving needs of the business community.

ECCP Davao was represented virtually by Ms. Rie Realingo, ECCP Davao Branch Officer and Education Committee Coordinator, who joined the ECCP team in discussions on opportunities to deepen industry-academe collaboration.

The engagement also introduced ECCP's initiatives and membership opportunities while highlighting workforce readiness, institutional partnerships, and knowledge exchange. As part of the Education Committee's initiatives, the visit reinforced ECCP's commitment to fostering stronger academe-industry linkages and supporting a competitive, resilient, and future-ready workforce.



At **RepsMate**, we help BPOs turn every conversation into better performance.

Our AI learns from your top agents, guides teams in real time, and transforms customer interactions into coaching, QA, and business intelligence. Trusted by 50+ enterprises and recognized as a Deloitte Fast 50 honoree, we're built to elevate Filipino agents, not replace them.

ECCP Conducts Exploratory Meeting with the Investment Promotions and Public Affairs Office (IPPAO) Team of Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA)
9 July 2026

On 09 July 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce (ECCP) Davao conducted a meeting with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) to discuss possible collaboration for an upcoming BIMP-EAGA event this year.

Present in the meeting were Ms. Rie Realingo, ECCP Davao Branch Officer; Usec. Janet M. Lopez, Executive Director of Mindanao Development Authority; and the Investment Promotions and Public Affairs Office (IPPAO) team of MinDA.

The ECCP continues to foster meaningful partnerships that champion business opportunities and strengthen alliances in the Mindanao region.



ECCP Visits Aria Hotel & Residences
29 July 2026

On 29 July 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines (ECCP) Davao visited Aria Hotel & Residences, one of Davao City’s rising luxury hotels, for an ocular visit and discussion on potential future collaboration.

Representing the ECCP were Ms. Rie Realingo, ECCP Davao Branch Officer, and Ms. Sam Gura, BAEP Project Associate, who were warmly welcomed by the management representative of Aria Hotel & Residences.

The ECCP would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Aria Hotels & Residences for its warm hospitality and for taking the time to show the team around its world class facilities.



Coordination Meeting with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA)
10 July 2026

On 10 July 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao held a virtual coordination meeting with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) to discuss preparations for the proposed BIMP-EAGA Investment Advocacy Forum.

The meeting focused on the proposed schedule, venue, programme, and strategies to encourage greater private sector participation, promote investment opportunities in Tawi-Tawi and BARMM, and strengthen regional collaboration across the BIMP-EAGA subregion. Discussions also covered the potential involvement of government agencies, diplomatic missions, and key industry stakeholders in supporting the event’s objectives.

The meeting was attended by representatives from ECCP and MinDA, including Mr. Antonio Peralta, ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Chairperson, Mr. Jonathan Miral, International Relations Chief of MinDA, and Ms. Rie Realingo, ECCP Davao Branch Officer.

The engagement reinforces ECCP Davao’s commitment to advancing investment, connectivity, and sustainable economic growth across Mindanao and BIMP-EAGA.



ECCP Davao Joins the Davao-Borneo Growth Corridor 2026 Roadshow
5 August 2026

On 5 August 2026, Ms. Rie Realingo, ECCP Davao Branch Officer, represented the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao at the Davao-Borneo Growth Corridor 2026 Roadshow, organised by the Davao City Investment Promotions Center (DCIPC) in preparation for the Davao Global Connect: Davao-Borneo Growth Corridor Forum 2026.

The roadshow presented the forum’s objectives, theme, and priority areas, highlighting efforts to strengthen the Davao-Borneo Economic Corridor and expand trade, investment, and business connectivity under the BIMP-EAGA framework. Discussions covered key sectors including agribusiness and halal, infrastructure and sustainability, logistics and connectivity, green energy, tourism, and urban development.

ECCP Davao’s participation reflects its continued collaboration with government and regional stakeholders in promoting investment, strengthening business linkages, and supporting sustainable economic development across Mindanao and the wider BIMP-EAGA subregion.



ECCP Attends Eastern Communications Experience Center Davao Launch

10 August 2026

On 10 August 2026, ECCP Davao Branch Officer Ms. Rie Realingo and ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council Chairperson Mr. Antonio Peralta represented the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) at the opening of the Eastern Communications Experience Center Davao. Mr. Peralta served as Guest of Honor and delivered remarks highlighting the importance of bringing reliable connectivity and business solutions closer to enterprises across Mindanao.

The opening marks Eastern Communications’ first business center in Mindanao and strengthens access to innovative connectivity and digital solutions for businesses, particularly SMEs. The new Experience Center provides enterprises with opportunities to explore solutions supporting operations, connectivity, and digital transformation.

ECCP Davao welcomes this development and looks forward to continued engagement with Eastern Communications and other private sector partners in advancing connectivity, accessibility, and business opportunities across Mindanao.



European Business & Beers: Kadayawan Mixer

19 August 2026

On 19 August 2026, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao hosted European Business & Beers: Kadayawan Mixer at Gatekeep Davao, bringing together members, partners, and friends of the business community in celebration of Kadayawan.

The gathering provided an opportunity for meaningful networking, collaboration, and relationship-building among representatives from the consular community, hospitality sector, business community, academe, and various organisations in Davao.

Mr. Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director, delivered the welcome remarks, while Mr. Abel Paras of Gatekeep Davao and Philippine FarmFix Solutions, Inc. was featured in the ECCP Member Highlight. Ms. Rie Realingo, ECCP Davao Branch Officer, delivered the closing remarks.

The successful event was made possible through the support of ECCP Davao’s partners and sponsors, reflecting the Chamber’s commitment to strengthening connections and fostering collaboration within the Southern Mindanao business community.



ECCP Davao Attends the Philippine Economic Briefing (PEB)

24 August 2026

On 24 August 2026, ECCP Davao Branch Officer Ms. Rie Realingo and ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) Chairperson Mr. Antonio Peralta attended the Philippine Economic Briefing (PEB) 2026 at dusiD2 Davao Hotel, held under the theme “Make Future Industries Happen.”

The briefing brought together senior government officials and private sector leaders to discuss the Philippines’ macroeconomic outlook, regional development priorities, the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP), and initiatives to strengthen the country’s competitiveness as an investment destination.

Discussions highlighted opportunities to develop future industries in Mindanao and translate national investment priorities into regional opportunities, with insights from key government agencies and stakeholders.

ECCP Davao’s participation underscores its commitment to engaging government and private sector partners in advancing investment, strengthening regional competitiveness, and supporting sustainable economic development across Mindanao.



ECCP Davao Conducts Persuasive Speaking and Presentation Skills Program

27 August 2026

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Davao successfully conducted “Persuasive Speaking and Presentation Skills: How to Influence and Engage Your Audience” on 27 August 2026 via Zoom. The session equipped participants with practical techniques to communicate with clarity, confidence, and impact when engaging professional audiences.

Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, participants learned how to craft compelling business stories, strengthen stage presence, and effectively engage diverse audiences. The training also covered the effective use of voice modulation, gestures, visuals, and other media cues to enhance message delivery and create more impactful presentations.

The session reflects ECCP’s continued commitment to providing meaningful learning opportunities that empower professionals with practical communication skills they can immediately apply in real-world settings, helping them build credibility, influence audiences, and inspire action.



Inside ECCP: Iloilo

Roundtable Discussion on Export and Agriculture

25 August 2026

The Roundtable Discussion on Export and Agriculture, held on 25 August 2026, brought together key stakeholders from the Department of Agriculture VI (DA VI), Department of Trade and Industry VI (DTI VI), Philippine Organic Producers Association (POPA), Iloilo Economic Development Foundation (ILEDf), Iloilo Business Club (IBC), and Visayas Container Terminal.

The discussion focused on strengthening Western Visayas' agricultural and export potential, identifying industry challenges, and exploring opportunities for collaboration and access to international markets. The session provided a platform for government, business, and industry stakeholders to exchange insights and identify concrete areas for partnership and follow-through.



Signing of Partnership of Iloilo City with RTNZ and ECCP

26 August 2026

On August 26, 2026, Iloilo City made history by becoming the first Local Government Unit in the Visayas to sign on to the Race to Net Zero (RTNZ), in partnership with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP).

The signing was headed by Hon. Raisa S. Treñas, Mayor of Iloilo City, alongside Florian Gottein, Executive Director of the ECCP, and Dawn Cabigon, Race to Net Zero Campaign Lead for the Philippines, marking a significant commitment to accelerating the transition towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient, and sustainable future.

By joining the Race to Net Zero, Iloilo City is strengthening its commitment to collective action—bringing together the local government, businesses, and other stakeholders to turn climate ambitions into concrete and meaningful initiatives.

As the first LGU in the Visayas to take this step, Iloilo City sets an important example for cities and communities across the region to accelerate their own journey towards net zero.



New Members Corner

Premium Member



Plastic Bank

Plastic Bank is a social fintech with a global bottle deposit program that helps end poverty and stops plastic pollution.

Collectors exchange plastic for money and access to social benefits. Traceable collection, secured income, and verified reporting are delivered through our blockchain-secured platform.

Regular Member



Jacobi Carbons Philippines, Inc.

Jacobi Carbons is a wholly owned subsidiary of Osaka Gas Chemicals Co., Ltd. (OGC), which acquired the company in 2014. As a global leader in activated carbon solutions, Jacobi is committed to becoming the industry's most sustainable supplier by prioritizing safety, customer satisfaction, employee well-being, and the communities where it operates. The company also emphasizes innovation to meet evolving customer needs while reducing its environmental footprint. Recognized as the world's largest manufacturer of coconut shell-based activated carbon, Jacobi has more than twice the production capacity of any other manufacturer. Coconut shells are considered the most sustainable commercial raw material for producing activated carbon, reinforcing the company's commitment to environmental responsibility. Jacobi operates a global manufacturing network comprising 20 manufacturing and processing facilities, along with two reactivation plants in Europe.

Associate Members



APEX Mining

APEX is a publicly listed mining company. It operates the Maco Gold Mine in Maco, Davao de Oro while its fully owned subsidiary, Itogon-Suyoc Resources, operates the Sangilo Mine in Itogon, Benguet. Another fully owned subsidiary, Monte Oro Resources, Inc. owns the other business interests of APX, both in the country and abroad. Its subsidiary, Asia-Alliance Mining Resources Corp is currently on its permitting and development phase.



First Philec

First Philec, Inc.

First Philec Inc. (FPI) is a pioneer and leader in electrical transformer solutions in the Philippines with over 55 years of experience delivering innovative energy distribution solutions to power utilities and commercial and industrial companies.

First Philec plays a vital role in driving national development by supporting companies in key industries and public infrastructure. Hand in hand with its pursuit of an expanding global presence, FPI has committed to advancing the transition to a decarbonized future by providing high-performance solutions that enhance reliability and operational efficiency of its customers.

To ensure long-term growth and resilience in the rapidly changing energy landscape, FPI continues to innovate and develop resources that meet customer needs while driving sustainable growth of the transmission and distribution industry.



Asialink Finance Corporation

Asialink Finance Corporation is a leading Philippine financing company headquartered in Pasig City. Established in June 1997, it operates a nationwide network of over 250 branches supported by 1,000+ employees and thousands of independent loan consultants, delivering accessible lending solutions across the country.



North Trend Marketing Corporation

North Trend Marketing Corporation (NTM) is a Philippine distributor of automotive and industrial products, specializing in lubricants, greases, and technical lubrication solutions. The company serves various industries including transportation, manufacturing, marine, energy, and commercial fleets across the Philippines.



HGPM Strategic Management Services

HGPM Strategic Management Services is a strategic partner that offers integrated professional services. At its heart is a cross-functional pool of experts, composing a high-caliber collective of digital strategists, certified financial analysts, and management consultants. It drives business growth by aligning creative visibility, financial intelligence, and professional mastery under one roof.



CASTERLY VENTURES CORP.

Casterly Ventures Corp. is a premier IT Asset Disposition (ITAD) and enterprise hardware recovery provider in the Philippines. We specialize in helping large-scale BPOs, multinational corporations, and financial institutions safely manage the end-of-life lifecycle of their IT infrastructure.

Our core solutions address the operational, legal, and environmental challenges of decommissioning legacy hardware. We provide 100% certified data destruction and hard drive wiping to guarantee absolute data security and eliminate breach risks. Additionally, our rapid site-clearing operations assist enterprises during office relocations, downsizings, and tech refreshes.

Beyond compliance and logistics, Casterly unlocks trapped capital by purchasing decommissioned laptops, desktops, monitors, and peripherals—turning dead real estate and retiring tech liabilities into recovered cash for our partners.



Melcon Marine Contractors Inc.

We are a company in the SHIPPING / MARITIME INDUSTRY which specializes in Terminal Operations, Vessel Support Services, Dredging, and Offshore Marine Engineering.



POWER EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES, INC.

INNOVATION AND PROTECTION STARTS HERE

Power Equipment & Supplies, Inc.

With 53 years of expertise in the power & electrical industry, aimed at providing solutions to customers using innovative, high quality, and environmentally friendly products with customer-centric services.



Atanante & Ilagan (AI Law)

Built on Experience, Driven by Purpose

Built on a foundation of seasoned leadership and nationwide collaboration, Atanante & Ilagan stands as a dynamic full-service firm committed to excellence in legal practice.

Atanante & Ilagan Law is a full-service law firm based in Quezon City. The firm was established by partners who previously served as name partners in the multi-awarded law office Gargantiel Ilagan & Atanante Law, bringing with them extensive experience, professional leadership, and a strong foundation in legal practice.

Though a new firm, Atanante & Ilagan Law is supported by established legal networks across major cities and key jurisdictions in the Philippines, including Baguio City, Angeles City, Parañaque City, Muntinlupa City, Naga City, Puerto Princesa City, Cebu City, Bohol, Iloilo City, Malaybalay City, Cagayan de Oro City, Tagum City, and General Santos City.

This network is rooted in the partners' active participation and leadership in the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, as well as their connection with the Philippine Legal Network (PHILNET), a network of competent and principled lawyers in private practice across the country.



Espa-fil Import & Export Corp

Founded in 1987 by Pablo and Maria Luisa Garcia-Morera, Espa-Fil Import Export Corp. stemmed from the desire to introduce the best of Spanish and other European food products to the Philippines. Espa-Fil began its operations in the bustling commercial district of Sta. Cruz, Manila. The first products Espa-Fil introduced were canned fruits and vegetables by well-known Spanish brand, Molinera. Olive oils and canned tomatoes by the same brand soon followed, and since then have become staples in many Filipino kitchens.



ALTPAYNET CORP

ALTPAYNET CORP. is a Philippine-based Fintech Company that is engaged in Payment Gateway Technology and Multi-SAAS Solutions. We developed merchant solutions that cater to both private and government accounts. We have been in the business for more than 10 years.



PESTALES AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE

Pestales Agriculture Cooperative (PAC) is a duly registered cooperative committed to sustainable agriculture, community development, and the delivery of quality agricultural products and services. Established to improve the livelihoods of local farmers through cooperation and innovation, the cooperative supports responsible farming practices while creating opportunities for economic growth.

PAC produces and markets fresh agricultural produce, value-added food products, and agricultural raw materials. The cooperative also engages in training, farm learning activities, and partnerships with government agencies, private organizations, and other stakeholders to promote sustainable farming and strengthen local agricultural value chains.

Foreign-Based Member



EmbedIT

150M+ customers impacted · €20B+ annual loan volume · 25+ years of experience

EmbedIT delivers AI-driven financial platforms built for growth in regulated markets. Part of PPF Group and with more than 25 years in consumer finance and digital lending, we build enterprise-grade systems that let banks and fintechs scale while meeting strict regulatory and cybersecurity requirements.



Xcellen Pte. Ltd.

Xcellen is a leading advisory and technology firm providing a suite of Sales Force Effectiveness (SFE) consulting services and technology platforms to pharmaceutical and consumer health clients. Xcellen's cloud solutions empower companies to increase productivity and customer engagement through superior sales force effectiveness strategies.

Business Opportunities



Turkey integrated energy solutions provider looking for local partners and clients

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



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

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



German expert in industrial milling technology in search for buyers

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

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

Q4 CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 8 Transportation Forum
- 13 Managed Event for Oracle
- 15 Afternoon Assembly with DTI/BOI
- 20 ECCP Community Connect
- 22 3rd AI Forum
- 28 9th Speed Networking Night

NOVEMBER

- 3 Luncheon Meeting with BSP
- 13 24th European Golf Tournament
- 18 Green Innovations Summit and Europa Awards
- 19 European Networking Socials
- 26 Partners' Appreciation Dinner

DECEMBER

- 3 Economic Outlook

