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Issue on Sustainability

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Air France's new non-stop service between Manila – Paris Charles de Gaulle*
- *SNAP-Magat powers remote areas in Nueva Vizcaya*
- *MPower, partners plant 1,500 trees in Sierra Madre, Laguna*



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Editorial



Florian Gottein
 ECCP Executive Director

Dear reader,

Sustainability has become a central focus in addressing some of the world's most pressing issues, including waste management, carbon emissions, and environmental degradation. The call for a more sustainable future urges businesses, governments, and individuals to rethink how we live, consume, and interact with our environment.

Across the Chamber and the business community, the shift is clear. Business investors are looking into ESG principles, consumers are demanding transparency and ethical practices, and governments are prioritizing policies that target climate change and sustainable growth. For the European-Philippine business community, this momentum presents opportunities to foster innovation across sectors and create avenues for discussions on sustainable solutions to take place.

In this issue, we feature stories and initiatives helping shape the sustainability agenda from our members and stakeholders. Trends and Concepts Interior Solutions, Corporate Partner and ECCP Workspace Solutions Partner, shares about the sustainable one-stop-shop nature of their services and how they employ many theory and data-driven practices. At the same time, Premium Members such as Converge and NEO share their sustainability initiatives. Converge has ramped up its sustainability efforts with the introduction of its Zero Waste Campaign, targeting zero landfill waste by 2030 through proper handling and restoration of customer premises equipment (CPE). NEO sets a

benchmark for the building industry and how they integrate resilience and equity into all aspects of their operations, ensuring a forward-thinking approach to sustainable business. Read more stories from our members and partners.

On the side of the Chamber, the ECCP and its Aviation Committee held the 2024 Aviation Summit last 2 & 3 October with more than 600 participants in attendance. With a broad mix of speakers from the government and private sector of the Aviation industry, topics on sustainable aviation fuel and the latest regulatory and legislative frameworks were front and center during the two day event. Look forward to the next Aviation Summit in 2025 with more announcements in the coming months!

Last October 21, the ECCP officially signed a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with key partners and investors under the European Union (EU)-funded BAEP CRESCENT Project which marks a significant milestone in promoting agribusiness growth and investment in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

For more highlights, check our Advocacy Corner on page 52 where we include the latest updates on our engagements with key government offices and insights from our committee meetings focused on pressing industry concerns and issues.

We warmly welcome our new members under the New Members Corner found on page 64. Stay up to date on the Chamber activities from our branches in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Clark, and Iloilo. Read about this on page 33. Meanwhile, take a look at the available business opportunities on page 67. We also feature our lineup of events and training as well as international trade fairs you might be interested in joining.

As we approach the holiday season, there will be more events to look forward to as we end the year on a high note! Brace yourselves for the upcoming weeks and months as we still have many activities and pillar events lined up for our members and partners. Looking ahead, we are also deep in our planning as we gear up to bring more activities and events for our dear members this coming 2025.

As always, we are grateful for your continued trust and support. I hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming activities.

Best regards,
 Florian

THE
WORLD
IS
A
BEAUTIFUL
PLACE

Keeping it that way is at the centre of all we do. That's why, with our unwavering commitment to decarbonisation, Airbus is pioneering sustainable aerospace for a safe and united world. Discover more about how our technological developments are shaping a brighter future for generations to come.

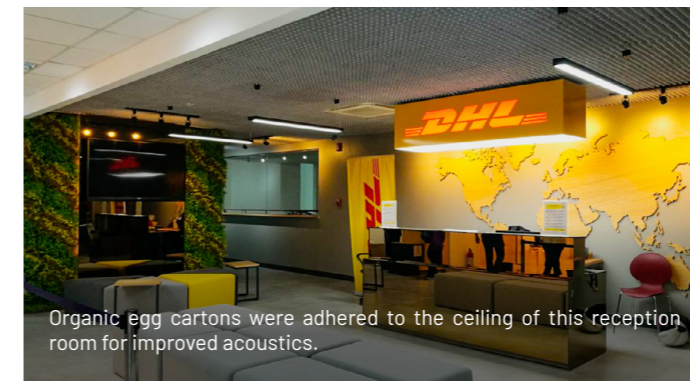
AIRBUS



A custom tree-shaped bookcase and coffee table, both made from reclaimed wood designed and built by Trends and Concepts.

Sustainability in Construction: A Trends and Concepts Perspective

Sustainability is more than just a buzzword. It ensures a company's present growth without taking from future generations.' Beyond social responsibility, studies have shown that going green can also help in driving business, keeping up with government requirements, and talent retention and performance.



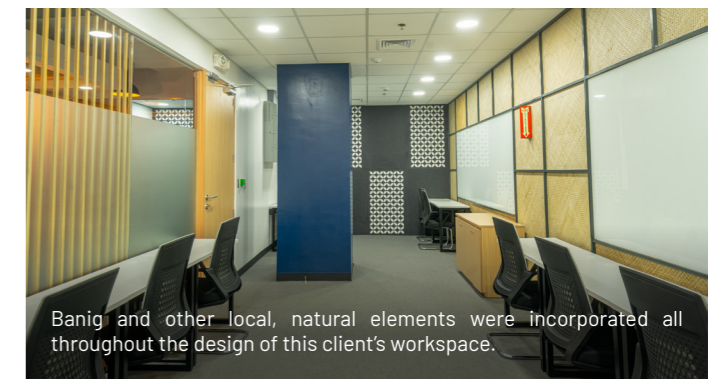
Organic egg cartons were adhered to the ceiling of this reception room for improved acoustics.

To us at Trends and Concepts, sustainability is a core value throughout all phases of the office fit-out journey. We pride ourselves in the efficient, sustainable one-stop-shop nature of our services where we strive for global quality yet allow nothing to go to waste. We employ many theory- and data-driven practices backed by employees' decades of experience. Here are a few:

1. *Energy-efficient fixtures.* In our projects, we incorporate appliances that consume the least wattage while still performing well, such as inverter-type refrigerators and air conditioners. For lighting, we often combine LED and natural light. Natural light is free, can double as a means

of ventilation (from windows), and offers the possibility of great views or access to Vitamin D.

2. *Testing and commissioning.* To mitigate errors, we perform tests before and after installation of fixtures, furniture, etc. to ensure no surprises for our clients upon moving in. This also lessens the need to mobilize employees or equipment beyond what is needed for a given project.
3. *Proper Waste Management.* Our Construction Management Division's protocol is to always get the exact quantities needed for each part of the project. In the event of excess, our Procurement and Operations Divisions stores the materials appropriately at our regional warehouses for later reuse. Otherwise, we dispose of them accordingly.
4. *Upcycling.* From source to end, we carefully choose furniture that have good durability and repairability. We always recommend recycling or upcycling worn or broken items into décor, etc. before considering disposal.



Banig and other local, natural elements were incorporated all throughout the design of this client's workspace.

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Fiber-Woven Future of Connectivity and Sustainability

Groups like the European Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines have been leading the charge against climate change in the country. It provides a forum for government-business dialogue to strike a balance between current needs and future sustainability. ECCP has been serving as an interchange of the best ideas on environmental sustainability, and social responsibility, aligning with international standards and growing and encouraging its associated companies into models of good governance.

Converge ICT Solutions Inc., the Philippines' fastest-growing provider of fiber broadband and business solutions, has seamlessly integrated sustainability into its mission. Facilitated by the company's long-standing culture of service. Dennis Anthony Uy, Converge CEO and Co-Founder, states, "As we build a future-proof company, we want to make sure sustainability is embedded in our core processes. We want to move forward and expand with cutting-edge innovation while maintaining the highest standards of compliance to environmental, social, and governance regulations." Converge's 707,000KM Fiber Optic Cable Network forms the foundation of its initiatives; this infrastructure consumes less energy, resulting in a reduced carbon footprint, while delivering superior capacity and performance compared to traditional alternatives.

Converge's commitment to service extends beyond its fiber-based products, with its recent submission of its 2023 Communication on Progress (CoP) to the United Nations. CoP details the ICT company's sustainability gains in areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption, as enshrined in the UN Global Compact. Benjamin B. Azada, Converge Executive Vice President, Chief Commercial Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer, notes, "As of 2023, Converge has increased its share of renewable energy sourcing to 32%, with non-renewables dropping to 68% in our total energy mix¹. In this same period, two of our data centers and head office transitioned fully to run on 100% renewable energy. This transition resulted in savings of around PHP 40M on power expenses. Demonstrating that corporate and social responsibility are not mutually exclusive—they're mutually reinforcing."².

Converge has ramped up its sustainability initiatives with the introduction of its Zero Waste Campaign, targeting zero landfill waste by 2030 through proper handling and restoration of customer premises equipment (CPE) successfully refurbishing

112,485 modems in 2023. Improvements in waste management have led to a decrease in total generated waste by 171.7 MT, respectively, in 2023, compared to 387.4 MT of waste generated. Converge recovered 68 MT of material, of which 58% were reused and 42% were recycled. To bolster its efforts, Converge recently became a member of the ASEAN Circular Economy Business Alliance (ACEBA), a consortium of private companies dedicated to promoting business actions that embrace circular economy strategies and practices across Southeast Asia.

Beyond environmental initiatives, Converge has made substantial progress under the new United Nations imperative of Universal and Meaningful Connectivity—a call to enable access to fast, reliable internet to the unconnected of humanity. On the heels of FiberX's success, the company unveiled two products to address Filipinos' ever-growing connectivity needs: Surf2Sawa and BIDA Fiber. These offerings were made to provide affordable, hassle-free internet connection without compromising performance and reliability—a quality recognized by Ookla® in its award of *Fastest Internet Provider in the Philippines. Through providing accessible, reliable, and tailor-fit connectivity, Converge has contributed to expanding access to quality education and fostering inclusion and sustainability by enabling access to job opportunities and entrepreneurial resources.

Converge's commitment to environmental sustainability and social responsibility earned improved ESG scores from leading ESG bodies. MSCI awarded Converge an A rating for managing relevant ESG risks and opportunities effectively. The most significant improvement came from the S&P Global CSA Score. Converge achieved a CSA score of 50 in 2023, up from 40 in 2022, reflecting enhanced sustainability practices. As Converge continues to expand, it is not just leading the Philippines in fiber-powered internet but setting a benchmark for sustainability and governance. By intertwining these principles with its core business, Converge demonstrates how companies can thrive while making a meaningful impact on society and the planet.

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¹ <https://corporate.convergeict.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-Sustainability-Report.pdf>

² Converge ICT Solutions Inc. (2024, May 21). Converge ICT. <https://corporate.convergeict.com/news/converge-takes-strides-towards-sustainable-development-on-world-telecommunication-and-information-society-day/>



TIBAY AT TATAG, sa Holcim Solutions panatag ka!



PARA SA MAKAPIT AT MABILIS NA PALITADA AT ASINTADA



PARA SA MAKINIS NA WALL FINISH

PARA SA MATIBAY NA BUHOS SA PUNDASYON, POSTE AT BIGA



PARA SA TILES NA MAKAPIT

BEYOND GREENWASHING: JCVA'S COMMITMENT TO TRUE SUSTAINABILITY

In the evolving landscape of sustainable construction, certifications like LEED, BERDE, and EDGE have emerged as indicators of eco-conscious building practices. However, the increasing prevalence of "greenwashing" – where developers exploit loopholes to obtain certifications without truly embracing sustainability – threatens to undermine the credibility of these standards.

JCVA recognizes that true sustainability is not a checkbox exercise but a long-term commitment to our planet and future generations. We believe in going beyond superficial measures and embedding sustainable practices throughout the entire lifecycle of a building.

Our Approach:

- **Holistic Evaluation:** We conduct comprehensive assessments encompassing every stage, from design and construction to operation and eventual demolition. This ensures that sustainability is not an afterthought but an integral part of the project's DNA.
- **Expert Collaboration:** Our team collaborates closely with certified sustainability consultants, navigating the complexities of green building certifications and ensuring genuine compliance and measurable impact.

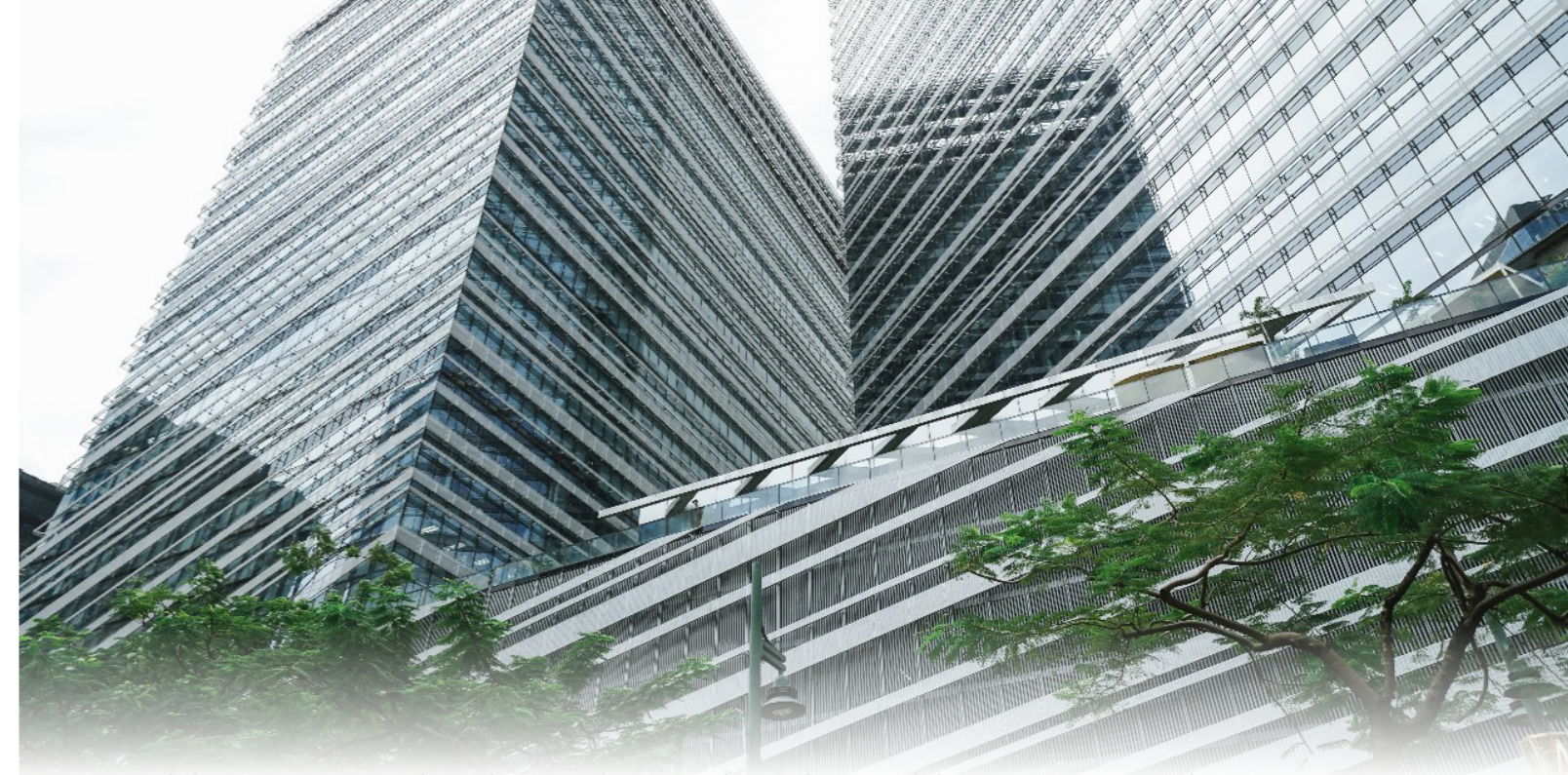
- **On-Site Validation:** Our commitment to transparency extends to on-site validation by certified partners, ensuring that our sustainable practices are implemented effectively and consistently.
- **Continuous Improvement:** We view sustainability as an ongoing journey, constantly monitoring, adapting, and integrating the latest technologies and best practices to enhance our performance.

By prioritizing genuine sustainable practices, JCVA not only meets stringent certification standards but strives to exceed them. We aim to set a benchmark for the industry, demonstrating that true sustainability is achievable and essential for a responsible future.

Ready to build a legacy that lasts? Partner with JCVA and embrace a future where sustainability isn't just a label, but a reality. Contact us today, visit www.jcvassociates.ph.



NEO is the owner, developer, and manager of seven of the Philippines' top certified green buildings located in Bonifacio Global City (BGC). NEO has achieved various certifications for all buildings in its portfolio by implementing green building operations and design elements, nurturing tenant connection, and continual management improvement. Placing great value on tenants, their well-being, and the environment, NEO has evolved to be a recognized leading sustainable developer in the Philippines.



All buildings of the NEO portfolio received A+ Ratings, becoming the first portfolio in the world to be rated with the BRI.

Redefining Sustainability with Resilience and Equity

NEO has redefined sustainability by focusing on resilience, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I), setting a benchmark for the building industry.

In 2023, NEO was honored with the prestigious Europa Award for Green Building, recognizing its leadership in sustainable development. In response to the growing challenges of climate change, NEO integrates resilience and equity into all aspects of its operations, ensuring a forward-thinking approach to sustainable business.

NEO is the first portfolio in the world to complete a verified resilience assessment through the World Bank's Building Resilience Index (BRI), earning an A+ resilience rating for all seven of its buildings. This rating demonstrates NEO's proactive stance on disaster preparedness, ensuring that its buildings can withstand natural hazards and protect both assets and occupants. This initiative sets a new standard for resilience in the Philippines' real estate sector, encouraging other developers to follow suit.

As the Priority Lead for Resilient Infrastructure under ARISE, the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, NEO actively supports disaster preparedness efforts aligned with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Through ARISE, NEO contributes to global efforts to reduce risks, build resilient communities, and support the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Furthermore, NEO is the first portfolio in Southeast Asia to earn the WELL Equity rating from the International WELL Building Institute. This certification highlights NEO's commitment to promoting diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplaces that prioritize occupant health and well-being.

By integrating resilience, sustainability, and equity, NEO continues to lead the way in building sustainable futures. These initiatives position NEO as a leader in sustainable development, demonstrating how environmental responsibility and inclusivity can go hand in hand in creating resilient, future-ready spaces in the Philippines.



NEO is the first office developer in Southeast Asia to achieve the WELL Equity Rating



Air France’s new non-stop service between Manila – Paris Charles de Gaulle

On Sunday 8th December, Air France will inaugurate its first of 3 weekly non-stop flight from Manila to Paris. The flight will operate on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

Air France has opted for the Airbus A350-900 to serve the route with 34 seats in the Business Cabin, 24 seats in Premium and 266 in Economy class. The Airbus A350 fleet is known as the most fuel efficient and silent aircraft of its generation.



The Air France-KLM group has prioritized the development of a more sustainable transport industry

The objectives are to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% per passenger per kilometer by 2030 compared to 2019. This target, validated on scientific criteria, confirms that the trajectory is consistent with the Paris Agreement’s objective of limiting global warming to below +2°C.

What measures are we taking to achieve these goals?

Kerosene consumption is the main source of CO₂ emissions. To significantly reduce these emissions as quickly as possible, the focus is on several areas: the modernization of the fleet, the use of sustainable fuel and the practice of eco piloting. The roadmap also includes developing intermodal transport and offer a more responsible catering.

Fleet renewal

Air France is investing more than 1 billion euros per year in the acquisition of new-generation aircraft. By 2025, 38 Airbus A350’s will join the long-haul fleet and 60 Airbus A220’s will join the short and medium haul fleet, replacing the A318 and A319 fleet.

Air France aircraft currently consume an average of 3.3 liters per passenger/100km. By 2030, our goal is to consume less than 3 liters per passenger/100km.

The A350 consumes 2.5 liters per passenger/100km, i.e. almost 25% less fuel consumed per passenger compared to previous generation aircraft. The noise footprint is also significantly reduced by around 40%.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

Air France is committed to advancing the use of sustainable aviation fuels as much as possible, viewing them as a crucial tool for reducing carbon emissions in aviation transport. Air France aims to be a leader and supports the development of production facilities in France, Europe and around the world. These sustainable fuels are produced from non-fossil resources, such as used oils and agricultural waste, serving as an alternative to fossil fuels. They adhere to stringent sustainability standards, avoiding competition with food chains and not being derived from palm oil. Additionally, they can be mixed with conventional fuel without requiring modifications to aircraft, engines, or logistical and storage systems.

Practice eco-piloting

Eco-friendly piloting and operational measures immediately reduce fuel-consumption (and therefore CO₂ emissions) on the ground and in the air by 4% to 5%. Different practices can be used, including weight reduction onboard, using a single engine during taxiing, adapting flight paths, or employing a continuous descent approach.



Opting for more sustainable dining

In our lounges in Paris, and also on flights departing from Paris, across all cabin class, Air France offers 100% French meat, poultry, dairy products, eggs, bread, pastries, fish from sustainable fisheries, and a selection of fresh, local, and seasonal products.

Food wastage is reduced by offering customers travelling in the Business cabin the option of pre-selecting their hot meal before departure, available on selected routes on long-haul flights.

Recycling wrappings and removing single-use plastics

On flights to Paris, packaging is sorted for recycling in France or Europe. And since 2018, 90% of single-use plastic items on board has been eliminated.

On the ground and in the air, plastic-free containers are used and in compliance with French regulations and to limit the use of plastic bottles, water fountains are installed in all lounges in France.

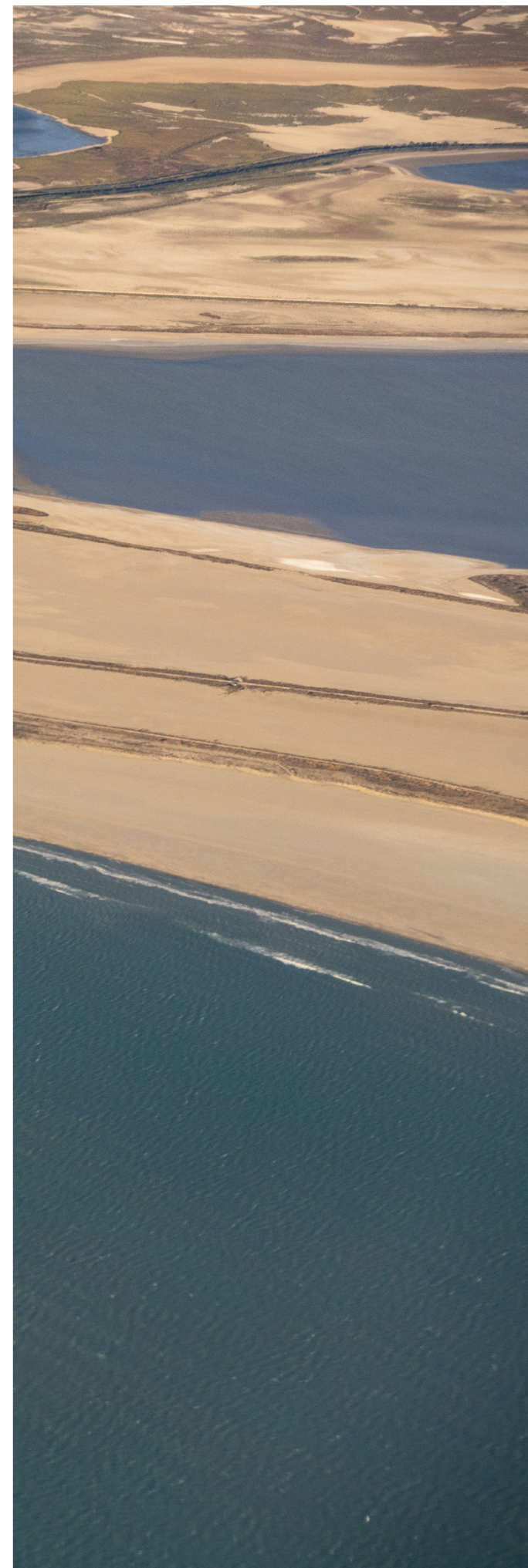
What can a company or individual do to travel responsibly with Air France and KLM?

To accelerate the usage and production of SAF, corporate customers can join the Air France-KLM “Corporate SAF Program”. The annual contribution will be invested in the sourcing of SAF. At the same time, the company can reduce their carbon footprint from business travel and contribute to its sustainability goals.

Since 2022, Air France offers the ‘Sustainable Aviation Fuel’ option when customers purchase their Air France flight on airfrance.com or the Air France app. All the funds raised are invested in the purchase of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF).

To learn more about Air France sustainability commitments, visit Air France ACT:

[Sustainable development \(airfrance.com\)](http://airfrance.com)



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#SeaTurtleSaga: Our Commitment to Marine Conservation



At Four Points by Sheraton Palawan, Puerto Princesa, we are passionate about protecting the natural beauty that surrounds our resort, especially the vibrant marine life.

Our Sea Turtle Saga initiative is dedicated to the conservation and protection of sea turtles like the Olive Ridley and Green Sea Turtle that call our pristine beachfront home.



TAG Resort's Commitment to SUSTAINABLE TOURISM In Coron, Palawan



In the heart of Coron, Palawan, TAG Resort Coron stands as an example of sustainable tourism in a region known for its ecological significance. The resort blends seamlessly with nature, designed thoughtfully with architecture meant to reduce its environmental footprint. Solar power provide a portion of the resort's daily energy requirements, while an efficient greywater recycling system is in place to reduce water consumption and help conserve freshwater resources on the island.

Sustainability extends to guest experiences as well, down to the smallest detail including mobility. The resort introduced its fleet of electric vehicles for transport when it opened its doors in 2021, in a conscious effort to use cleaner fuel alternatives and reduce carbon emissions.



TAG Resort also fosters collaboration with local residents as well as the vibrant Tagbanwa community, in an effort to promote eco-friendly practices and sustainable livelihoods. The resort organizes activities that emphasize environmental awareness, such as eco-tours, diving programs, and nature walks. Guests are invited to engage with Palawan's rich biodiversity in ways that prioritize conservation and respect for natural habitats.

"At TAG Resort, we believe that sustainability is a necessity that goes beyond trends," says Stephen Rey Tagud, TAG Managing Director. "Our efforts aim to ensure that Coron remains a stunning biodiversity haven for people to experience and appreciate."

Rather than a bold statement of green ambitions, TAG Resort's sustainability measures reflect a



Stephen Tagud painting repurposed driftwood to create wall art tribal masks for the resort.

quiet yet ongoing commitment to protecting the unique, natural beauty of Palawan. The approach is not just about reducing impact but ensuring that tourism enhances rather than detracts from the environment and local culture, preserving them as they are for future generations.

SN|ABOITIZ
POWER GROUP

SWITCH TO RESPONSIBLE ENERGY

SN Aboitiz Power Group (SNAP) is the country's leading renewable energy (RE) supplier offering 100% clean energy harnessed from the flowing water of four hydroelectric power plants in Magat and Benguet.

The combined technical expertise, stakeholder experience, and local and global best practices of our partners, Scatec of Norway and AboitizPower, make SNAP the ideal partner for growing businesses.

With SNAP, customers are guaranteed with responsibly-produced energy that is Renewable, Reasonable, and Reliable.



SNAP-Magat powers remote areas in Nueva Vizcaya

In Nueva Vizcaya, several remote areas deprived of electricity have been lit by solar light kits under the "Silaw ti Umili Project" led by Governor Jose Gambito in partnership with its stakeholders which include SN Aboitiz Power-Magat (SNAP-Magat).

At the launch of the project on September 28, 2024, Governor Gambito expressed his commitment to ensure that all households in Nueva Vizcaya will have access to electricity. Approximately 13,109 households in the province who were deprived of access to electricity will now be powered by solar power.

The solar home kits distributed can power five

light bulbs and charge mobile phones, with a five-year product lifespan and a two-year warranty.

The sustainable practice project is valued at Php14.7 million and is funded by the Provincial Development Fund, SNAP-Magat contributed Php700,000 from the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund, and other partners. The province of Nueva Vizcaya is one of SNAP-Magat's host provinces.

Initiatives such as this are fully supported by SNAP-Magat. Initiatives that are aligned with the company's commitment to improving the lives of its host communities while staying true to its commitment to energizing a sustainable future.

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MPOWER, partners plant 1,500 trees in Sierra Madre, Laguna

In a strong commitment to sustainability and environmental preservation, MPower, the local retail electricity supplier of Manuel V. Pangilinan-led Manila Electric Company (Meralco), recently organized its 9th CommuniTrees program in Siniloan, Laguna. The tree planting activity brought together over 200 partners from leading corporations and industries, having planted a total of 1,500 seedlings to help reforest the Sierra Madre, the Philippines' largest mountain range. The Sierra Madre plays a crucial role in the country's biodiversity and ecology and is also known for its rich flora and fauna, as well as its significance in protecting against typhoons and other natural disasters.

MPower Retail Sales Head, Eddie John V. Aduag said "We are deeply committed to promoting environmental sustainability not just through provision of renewable energy, but also through the way we give back to our communities. This program, together with our partner companies and One Meralco Foundation (OMF) will make a meaningful contribution to reforestation efforts and environmental sustainability."



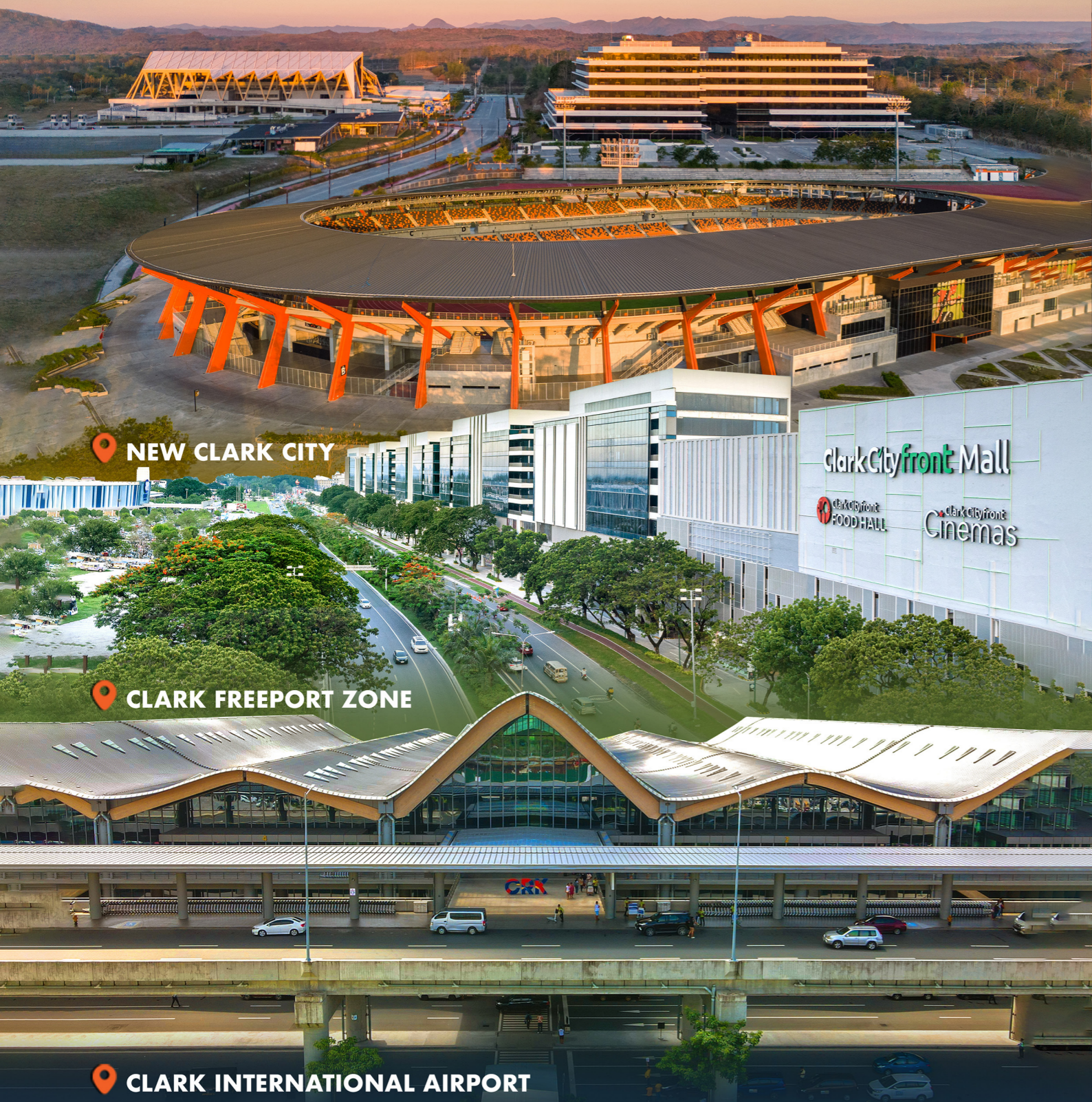
MPower together with its partners have planted more than 13,000 native trees since the program's launch in 2015. Meralco Senior Assistant Vice President and

The trees planted during the activity will boost support for OMF's One for Trees environmental campaign which aims to rehabilitate threatened ecosystems through reforestation. Initiated in 2019, One For Trees has nurtured over 2.3 million trees through its active partnerships with various organizations and local government units across the country.



Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

BCDA
Bases Conversion and
Development Authority



NEW CLARK CITY

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE

CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ClarkCityfront Mall
ClarkCityfront FOOD HALL
ClarkCityfront Cinemas



A vision of one

What began as a dream is now unfolding into a transformative reality.

Fast forward to present, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority is aggressively unlocking the full potential of the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone (CFSEZ).

With these massive developments taking place, the CFSEZ—comprising the Clark Freeport Zone, the Clark International Airport, and New Clark City—finds itself in a strategic position to become Asia’s preferred tourism and investment destination.

The Clark Freeport Zone is now a vibrant hub for commerce and manufacturing. Partnered with the presence of the Clark International Airport, the Philippines enjoys enhanced access to global markets, driving inclusive economic growth, and opening up more livelihood opportunities for all.

The Clark International Airport, emerging as the preferred international gateway in the country, is set to expand, becoming the viable alternative to Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Its expansion will offer travelers a faster, more efficient, and convenient travel experience.

Built with sustainability at its core, New Clark City represents the future of urban development in the Philippines. Soon to be the home of the country’s largest central park coupled with other features that make it a 15-minute city, New Clark City is designed to be a model for smart and sustainable cities.

Together, these three components—Clark Freeport Zone, Clark International Airport, and New Clark City—create a comprehensive approach to regional development, providing economic, social, and environmental benefits that position the Philippines as a key player in the Asia-Pacific region.



GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

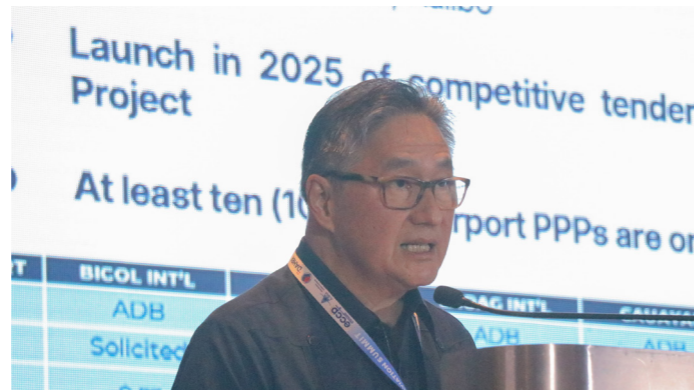
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SCAN THE CODE



Aviation leaders heed call for safer, smarter, and more sustainable sector

Pasay City, Philippines—The Philippines is poised to become a leading regional player in the aviation sector by 2028, and government and key players are gearing to prime the industry through public sector involvement and increased investments, especially in the areas of infrastructure, digitalization, safety, and sustainability.

To chart a comprehensive path towards the industry's long-term success and ensure collaboration among industry leaders, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and the Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA), together with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), launched the 2024 Aviation Summit on October 3-4. The annual event gathered government officials, foreign diplomats, and key stakeholders of the aviation industry to dissect pressing issues and challenges, present its outlook for the year ahead, and discuss sustainable solutions for both the private and public sectors to undertake.

In his opening remarks, ECCP President Paulo Duarte highlighted the need to bolster coordinated efforts now that the sector is ripe for growth, especially following gains since last year's summit.

"The country is getting 7.7 million visitors yearly, and the demand for robust safety systems all requires urgent attention," said Duarte. "But there is a silver lining. The strengths of this summit lie in the partnerships we have forged between the public and the private sectors, the local and international stakeholders, as well as the innovators and policymakers."

Hon. Frederick Go, Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs (SAPIEA) Office of the President, also noted the event's goal to strengthen the Aviation Sector as a driver of economic

growth as "timely and significant as the industry serves as a critical engine for the economy that fuels trade and investments, tourism, regional and national development."

"Aviation goes beyond simply transporting people. It transports our essential goods and services, facilitates logistics, connects markets, and creates business opportunities. It generates jobs, boosts tourism and infrastructure, links our regions, and integrates our nation to the global economy," said Secretary Go.

On aviation's impact on EU-PH relations in particular, Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines Ambassador, H. E. Massimo Santoro stated that closer economic links between the Philippines and the European Union will enhance transfer connectivity, particularly in helping European firms find the right contributions to facilitate Philippine economic growth. Moreover, with the resumption of talks on the Free Trade Agreements, Ambassador Santoro said that the agreement will complement the EU-ASEAN Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement, which will connect 1.1 billion people in 37 countries.

An extensive transformation

In his keynote address, Philippine Transport Secretary Jaime J. Bautista emphasized the Department of Transportation's commitment to elevating the country's four transport sectors to global standards, with a primary focus on aviation and airport development. Central to this initiative is the agency's plan to upgrade and modernize the country's major airports, with the success of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) through a public-private partnership agreement as a prime example.

Through similar Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects in airports across the country, the Secretary aims for the Philippines to “finally catch up on the significant underinvestment in airport development over the years.” The extensive agenda also entails an increase in airport capacity to almost double from 35 million passengers to 62 million, an uptick in the air traffic movement from 14 movements per hour to 48, and airport rehabilitation to generate more than 50,000 jobs due to increased tourism arrivals.

Moreover, Secretary Bautista also cited other initiatives beyond modernizing and upgrading airports, such as the completion of an upgrade of the country’s air navigation management systems and surveys by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. He also added that further upgrades and improvements in Communications, Navigation, Surveillance / Air Traffic Management (CNS ATM) systems will be undertaken.

Meanwhile, according to the Department of Transportation Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports Hon. Roberto C.O. Lim, more airport PPP projects are underway, with three already awarded in 2024 which include NAIA, Laguindingan, and Bohol-Panglao, and with three additional airport PPP projects to be awarded in 2025.



An Outlook on Philippine Aviation

On the state of the Global, Regional, and Philippine Aviation Industry, Area Manager for Southeast Asia International Air Transport Association (IATA) Yuli Thompson cited data that the 2024 global aviation sector has recovered and passed 2019 levels and is anticipated to reach 30.5 billion USD dollars in terms of profit. However, the recovery of regional aviation is behind other regions at only 3% above 2019 levels, with Vietnam being the only country to have recovered both domestic and international traffic.

As for local aviation, Thompson notes the current forecast of the Philippines recovering by 2025, which is delayed from the original 2024 forecast due to the slow recovery of international travel. She adds, notably, that the Asia Pacific region is expected to have the highest growth and hold almost half of the world’s traffic in 20 years.

In order to capitalize on the forecasted passenger growth, Thompson stressed that airports and related infrastructure have to be in place to avoid congestion, which could ultimately affect customer experience.

On the legislative side, Senator Grace Poe urged for the establishment of a national transport policy and plan that will guide the development of a safe, efficient, affordable, intermodal, and sustainable transport system.

“[The system] should aim to service every corner of the vast archipelago, and connect it seamlessly with the rest of the globe,” said Senator Poe.

Senator Poe also filed Senate Bill 1073, or the proposed creation of the Philippine Airports Authority, a separate entity that would focus solely on modernizing all airport facilities in order to provide safe, efficient, and reliable services for domestic and international air travel.

From the airline industry, Cebu Pacific Air Chief Executive Officer Mike Szücs highlighted the need for balanced infrastructure investment across the Philippines to support sustainable economic growth and regional development.

“The Philippines continues to have one of the biggest economic growth rates in Southeast Asia, but it should not solely be about Manila,” said Szücs. “The rest of the country needs attention too, and it is great to see that domestic tourism has become such a big part of stimulating economic growth, building confidence in addressing infrastructure hurdles, and sustaining investment on infrastructure.”

“We must do all we can to support agencies and institutions tasked with boosting the Philippine aviation industry,” he added.

Future-proofing PH Aviation

On addressing the talent gap in the aviation industry, Cebu Pacific Air Chief Human Resources Officer Felix Lopez noted that local talent lags in comparison to global employment which has rebounded to 95% of pre-COVID levels. According to Lopez, industries play a crucial role in influencing and improving academic training in the aviation industry, such as introducing skills-based incentives and effective pipelining strategies to retain locals.

“If private companies and academes align, it will be much easier to tap interns, cadets, and pilots to upskill and be involved in the growth of the Philippine aviation industry. It is imperative to democratize entry training and education for current and future Filipino pilots,” said Lopez.



Dr. Joel Joseph Marciano, Jr., Director General of the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), also added that issues in the curriculum can also be addressed by incorporating fundamental programs in the basic education sector.

“The aviation industry needs to support faculty development as academic institutions, such as the PhilSCA, can address or instigate industry developments. This synergy can produce better pilots, technicians, and technologies to address impending industry gaps,” said Dr. Marciano. “We need to intensify these training sessions and expose aviation students early. It should also be reinforced with recalibrated hiring procedures.”

Meanwhile, on safeguarding local aviation, Hon. Joselito B. Ramos, Assistant Secretary for Logistics, Acquisitions, and Self-Reliant Defense Posture of the Department of National Defense, emphasized that co-developing surveillance technologies with other government agencies is vital.

“These can optimize operations in defense and security, such as in readily assisting the CAAP when their system is faulty or down and in boosting the capacity of military and civilian aircrafts,” adds Ramos.

A Greener Aviation Sector

In line with the global aviation industry’s commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, experts also discussed the need for innovative technologies and sustainable practices to drive decarbonization.

Ditmar Gorges, Managing Partner at SAF Inc., highlighted the Philippines’ potential as a future global production hub for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), citing its abundant biomass, renewable energy sources, and available land.

“Producing sustainable aviation fuel from plant materials, municipal waste, and agricultural residues will shift the value chain from centralized to decentralized production, offering an opportunity to empower rural communities in the Philippines.”

On the side of aircraft manufacturers, Anand Stanley, President at Airbus Asia Pacific, adds that SAF remains the most promising environmentally and

economically. “Airbus Asia Pacific has been constantly working on decarbonization over the last 50 years. We have successfully reduced carbon footprint in our operations by 50%,” said Stanley.

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

The event featured many distinguished speakers, including SAPIEA Sec. Frederick D. Go; Senator Grace Poe, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Public Services; Hon. Jaime Bautista, Secretary of the Department of Transportation; Hon. Roberto Lim, Undersecretary of the Department of Transportation; Dr. Joel Joseph Marciano, Director General of the Philippine Space Agency; Hon. Mary Jean Pacheco, Undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry E-Commerce Group; Executive Director Cynthia Hernandez of the Public-Private Partnership Center; Mr. Mike Szücs of Cebu Pacific Air; Mr. Benoît de Saint-Exupéry of AIRBUS; Ms. Yuli Thompson of the International Air Transport Association; Mr. Kurt Edwards of the International Business Aviation Council; and General Manager Angelito Alvarez of New NAIA Infrastructure Corp., among others.

The Summit was organized in partnership with the Department of Transportation; Bases Conversion and Development Authority; British Embassy Manila and the German Embassy Manila; Co-Presenters Cebu Pacific Air and AIRBUS; Platinum Partner Philippine Airlines; Bronze Partners Aviation Concepts Technical Services Inc., SITA, and Rotary Fixed Wing Aviation Incorporated; Networking Partners Ocampo & Manalo Law Firm, Lufthansa Technik AG, MedAire, Metrojet, and Wingbox Aviation Inc.; Conference Kit Partner Daher Industrial Services; Advocacy Partner Secure Connections; Session Partner WANZL Harle Hospitality; Booth Partner Berthaphil; Minor Prize Partner AirAsia; Table Top Partners Universal Aviation Philippines, Federal Land, Filinvest; Beverage Partners Le Cellier and Stella Artois; and Media Partners Aviation Updates Philippines, AvGeek Philippines, PortCalls, and Travel and Tour World.

More than 300 participants, including representatives from government officials as well as experts and leaders hailing from European and Asian aviation industry businesses and organizations, took part in the Aviation Summit held on 2-3 October 2024 at the Marriott Hotel Manila in Pasay City. The event is one of the biggest dialogues of the Philippine aviation sector.



ECCP North & Central Luzon Office Launch & Networking Night

Last November 7, the ECCP proudly inaugurated its newest office at the Clark Welcome Center in Clark, Pampanga, to serve the greater North and Central Luzon region and its surrounding areas. This event marks the ECCP's growing presence across the Philippines and the Chamber's goal of connecting local businesses to European investors to facilitate trade and drive investments.

Leading the cutting ceremony (from L-R) were Mr. Albert Perez, ECCP Director; Ms. Joanie Mitchell, Berthaphil Inc. Business Development Director; Atty. Gil G. Taway IV, APECO President and CEO; Mr. Erwin Kenneth R. Peralta, The BCDA Group Vice President; Mr. Roman Menz, ECCP Vice President; Dr. Diana Edralin, ECCP Vice President and Mr. Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director.

The launch of the new office is one of the key activities of the ECCP North and Central Luzon Business Mission 2024, a key endeavor representing ECCP's ongoing commitment to foster collaboration and drive investments in the region and across the country.

To mark this milestone, the ECCP, in partnership with Berthaphil Inc. and Prime Waste Solutions, hosted an evening of networking at the Kingsley Hotel Gastro and Pub, Clark Center. Esteemed guests joined us up north to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter of growth and collaboration.

As the Chamber expands its reach, our commitment to fostering partnerships and leveraging business opportunities for shared success remains. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us on this memorable occasion.

This is only the beginning of many more initiatives in this dynamic region of the Philippines. The ECCP looks forward to creating many future collaborations and partnerships for the European-Philippine business community here in North and Central Luzon!

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

ECCP North and Central Luzon Business Mission

Last 6 to 8 November, the ECCP had the honor of hosting a Business Mission for delegates across European and local businesses, investors, and government stakeholders to explore opportunities for collaboration, investment, and growth in the promising North and Central Luzon Region.

The three-day mission highlighted many key activities, including the lively ECCP Golf Tournament which provided an excellent networking opportunity against the backdrop of the Mimosa Golf Course on the first day of the trip. The following day saw a courtesy visit to the Clark Development Corporation, where the delegation met with President Atty. Agnes VST Devanadera.

In the afternoon, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted to formally launch the ECCP North and Central Luzon Office. Attendees then participated in an investment site tour of Berthaphil Inc., gaining insights into business opportunities in the area. The day culminated with the ECCP North and Central Luzon Office Launch and Networking Night.

On the third day, the mission concluded

with an in-depth briefing with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, Clark Development Corporation, and Clark International Airport Corporation. Attendees also enjoyed a comprehensive tour of New Clark City's impressive facilities, including the Athletics Stadium, Aquatic Center, Government Building, and Filinvest Innovation Park.

Our warmest appreciation to the Clark Development Corporation, Berthaphil Inc., Kingsley Hotel & Gastropub, The BCDA Group, Clark International Airport Corporation, and New Clark City for being such gracious hosts as we explored the North!

Lastly, we extend our deepest gratitude to all partners, attendees, and stakeholders who contributed to making this business mission a resounding success. We look forward to more initiatives that will continue to open doors for meaningful European-Philippine collaborations and investments in this burgeoning region.

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



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

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

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

Inside ECCP: Manila

MS Excel Advanced Skills for Business 4 October 2024

Excel can be more than just numbers—it's a powerful business tool too!

Last October 4, the ECCP Competency Hub hosted its best-selling program on MS Excel Advanced Skills for Business led by Microsoft Lecturer Mr. Ralph Mapute.

By the end of the course, participants gained a deep understanding of the Excel environment and its powerful tools. They explored advanced functions, learned to build business systems for time management and sales tracking, and mastered pivot tables to efficiently summarize and analyze data.



Effective Business Writing: Professionalizing your Communication Skills

7 October 2024

Effective writing is key for impactful business communication!

The ECCP Competency Hub concluded the advanced program of its best-selling workshop, Effective Business Writing: Professionalizing your Communication Skills last October 7, 2024.

Led by expert trainer Stephen Banares, participants sharpened their business writing skills by mastering verb tenses, parallel structure, the use of punctuation marks, and addressing common errors in business correspondence. The training also featured practical writing exercises focused on email guidelines, drafting and revising memos, emails, business letters, and reports.



Doing Business With Finland

8 October 2024

Aimed at fostering business connections between Finland and the Philippines, the Doing Business With Finland event held on 8 October 2024 brought together leaders from the education, IT-BPM, circular economy, renewable energy and sustainability sectors.

Organized in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Finnpartnership, Education Finland, and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), the seminar provided valuable insights into Finland's expertise in key sectors while exploring the Philippines' promising market opportunities.

Speaking on Finland's renowned education and Information Technology strengths and innovations were H.E Saija Nurminen, Ambassador of the Finnish Embassy in Manila; Minnamari Marttila, Administration Director and Deputy to the CEO at Finnfund; Nikke Karjalainen, Grant Financing Manager at Finnpartnership; Jaakko Skantsi, Programme Director at Education Finland; and Outi Hakanen, Ambassador for Education at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.



On the Philippines side, key officials and business leaders further discussed the country's investment opportunities in the same sectors. Speakers included Mr. Evariste Cagatan, Executive Director of the Department of Trade and Industry - Philippine Board of Investments; Mr. Crispian Lao, Vice Chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Commission; and Mr. Jack Madrid, President and CEO of the I.T. & Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP).

The forum was a strong platform for knowledge sharing and networking, particularly in the sectors of education, IT, and sustainability, which are crucial for the future development of both countries. Moreover, the networking session provided Finnish companies with opportunities to meet and initiate meaningful discussions with Filipino firms and pave the way for potential partnerships.

Negotiation Skills Workshop

9 October 2024

Effective negotiation isn't just about winning—it's about finding common ground and fostering lasting partnerships!

On October 9, the ECCP Competency Hub hosted another run of its best-selling "Negotiation Skills Workshop," facilitated by ECCP Training Consultant Clive Villanueva. Through engaging lectures, group discussions, and hands-on exercises, attendees enhanced their abilities to negotiate confidently and secure favorable agreements.

Participants were also equipped with practical tools to navigate discussions, manage conflicts, present counter-offers, and achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.



The Race to Zero in the Philippines Summit

10 October 2024

1st Race to Zero in the Philippines Summit: A Milestone in Climate Action

The Race to Zero in the Philippines Summit marked a major milestone for the nation's climate action efforts, uniting business leaders, government officials, and civil society under the shared goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2030.

Organized by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) in partnership with Spring Rain Global and ASSIST, the summit served as a platform to accelerate climate solutions and build a sustainable future.

Key Highlights:

Department of Agriculture's Commitment - Dr. Gina Nilo, Director of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, delivered a message on behalf of DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., emphasizing the DA's alignment with net-zero goals. Agriculture remains a critical player in this transformation, focusing on sustainable and resilient food systems.

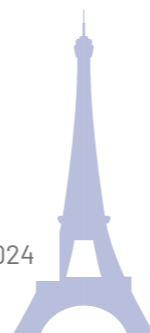
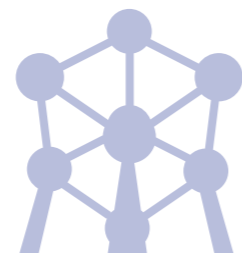
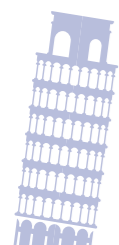
ECCP Leadership - ECCP President Paulo Duarte reaffirmed the chamber's role in leading climate action, driving innovation, and fostering partnerships between European and Filipino industries to meet global Race to Zero targets.



Call to Action - Ramiro Fernandez, Race to Zero Campaign Director, stressed the urgency of immediate action to halve emissions by 2030. He highlighted the opportunity for the Philippines to lead climate action in the Asia-Pacific region through strong public-private collaboration.

The summit concluded with Race to Zero partners and advocates being recognized for their contributions. Participants reaffirmed their commitment in the Race to Zero Pledge Wall as well!

An interactive workshop also took place, guiding participants through the Race to Zero framework's five pillars: Pledge, Plan, Proceed, Publish, and Persuade. Insights from these discussions will contribute to the COP29 planning report.



ECCP Luncheon Meeting with DepEd Secretary Sonny Angara

16 October 2024

On October 16, 2024, the ECCP and Event Patron Wadhvani Foundation organized a Luncheon Meeting with Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Sonny Angara.

During his keynote speech, Secretary Angara provided updates on the agency's most recent initiatives and programs, along with outlining key priority areas in the education sector.

This was followed by a panel discussion featuring panelists Mr. Elvin Ivan Uy, Executive Director of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP); Dr. Chito Salazar, Advisory Council to the Congressional Commission on Education of the Philippines and President of PHINMA Education and the Philippine Business for Education (PBED); and Ms. Angela Chen, Vice President of Wadhvani Foundation.



Moderated by Mr. Andrew Masigan, Columnist at the Philippine Star & BusinessWorld, the session provided valuable insights into the current Philippine education landscape, strategies to upskill Filipino teachers, pathways to increase student participation in STEM fields and to bridge graduates to employment, and other joint efforts that the public and private sectors can undertake.

Our gratitude goes out to Atty. Renz Javier Ayongao, Associate at DivinaLaw, for hosting our event, and to our attendees for making it an engaging session!

Business and Beers: Corporate-Startup Mixer

16 October 2024

New connections and opportunities are always on the menu with the European-Philippine business community!

On October 16, the ECCP, in partnership with Kickstart Ventures, hosted the Business and Beers: Corporate-Startup Mixer where industry professionals were introduced to some of the budding companies in the Philippine startup ecosystem.

With introductions given by Marrione Camacho, Strategic Partnerships Senior Manager at Kickstart Ventures, attendees had the opportunity to hear from representatives of Xendit Philippines, Edamama, Eezee, Sprout Solutions, Trancelestial and Squadzip. The rest of the evening was filled with Mastermind sessions and more networking over delicious food, refreshments, and of course, beer!



As highlighted by ECCP Director Albert Perez in his closing remarks, the event was truly an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and explore new horizons for business growth.

Our gratitude goes out to Kickstart Ventures for partnering again with us on this event, and to our attendees who spent the evening building new connections.

ECCP Courtesy Visit to Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines

16 October 2024

Thank you for the refreshing reception, Coca-Cola Philippines!

On 16 October 2024, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein and Director of Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan paid a courtesy visit to the office of Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines. The engagement aimed to further strengthen relations and foster partnerships in advocacy, sustainability, and membership initiatives.

The Chamber was welcomed by Atty. Marc Cox, Director for Stakeholder Relations; Chrisette Agustin, Regulatory and Sustainability Compliance Manager; and Kamiya Garcia, External Communications Associate Manager.

A big thank you to Coca-Cola Philippines for the invaluable exchange of ideas. We look forward to exciting joint efforts in the future!



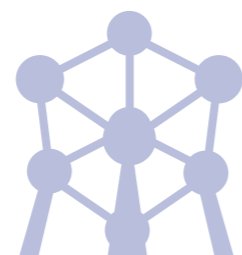
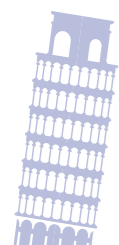
Courtesy Visit to the new Ambassador of the Embassy of Italy in the Philippines

17 October 2024

ECCP President Paulo Duarte and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein paid a courtesy visit earlier this week to H.E. Davide Giglio, the new Ambassador of the Embassy of Italy in the Philippines.

The meeting served as an opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen and further the continuous progress of Italian-Philippine relations. Both parties emphasized the importance of fostering collaboration across sectors and exploring new opportunities for growth between Italy and the Philippines.

We look forward to supporting and expanding our ties with the Italian business community in the Philippines!



ECCP signed MOU with key partners and investors under EU-funded BAEP CRESCENT Project

21 October 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) has officially signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with key partners and investors under the European Union (EU)-funded BAEP CRESCENT Project. The signing ceremony marks a significant milestone in promoting agribusiness growth and investment in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Key government agencies entering the agreement include the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Department of Trade and Industry - RAPID program, and the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA).

The event featured the participation of H.E. Ambassador Massimo Santoro, Head of the EU Delegation to the Philippines (European Union in the Philippines); Hon. Minister Abuamri Taddik of BARMM's



Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism (MTIT); Hon. Datu Hamsur Zaid, Chief-AMAD of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) and BAEP Project Director.

Held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on October 21, 2024, the event signifies the ongoing efforts to foster peace, rural development, and agribusiness growth in the region, aligned with the EU's commitment to promoting sustainable development in Mindanao.

Green Economy Forum & Exhibition (GEFE 2024)

21-23 October 2024

The ECCP, represented by its Executive Director Florian Gottein and Fairs & More, Inc. General Manager Dawn Cabigon, attended the Green Economy Forum & Exhibition (GEFE 2024) organized by EuroCham Vietnam on October 21-23, 2024, in HCMC, Vietnam.

During the three-day event, the ECCP joined other business leaders, investors, diplomats, and officials from Europe and Vietnam to engage in high-level policy discussions and advocate for sustainable practices, policies, and initiatives. On the second day of the event, Mr. Gottein participated in a panel discussion of European Chambers in the ASEAN region on the topic of the EU Green Deal and the opportunities and challenges it presents.

On the same day, the ECCP also attended the EuroCham Vietnam Business Awards 2024 where more than 550 guests gathered to honor notable achievements in the Europe-Vietnam business community.



With its theme of "Building Green Futures", the GEFE 2024 was an incredible platform for aligning businesses with global environmental goals and fostering critical partnerships across Europe and Vietnam.

The ECCP is proud to have been a supporting partner of the event, and thank EuroCham Vietnam for inviting us. We look forward to even more strategic initiatives, partnerships, and advocacies that Champion a greener, more sustainable future!

ECCP attends UNIAPAC World Congress

24 October 2024

On 24 October at the Manila Marriott Hotel, ECCP President Paulo Duarte delivered a business briefing to the delegates of the XXVIII UNIAPAC World Congress. Mr. Duarte provided insights on the experiences of a European company doing business in the Philippines.

He was introduced by Mr. Joe Bantiling, ECCP Western Visayas Business Council Chairperson. Mr. Bantiling also joined the panel discussion moderated by Mr. Jon Bulaong of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

The XXVIII UNIAPAC World Congress is hosted by The Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP), the Philippine member of the International Christian Union of Business Executives or UNIAPAC International. Held in Manila, Philippines - this marks the Congress' first run in Asia.

The central theme of the congress, "New Paradigms for Business Sustainability," underscores the pressing need for innovative approaches in business practices in the post-pandemic landscape.



ECCP Courtesy Visit to Corporate Partner and Official Banking partner ING Bank N.V. Manila Branch

31 October 2024

The ECCP team recently paid a courtesy visit to Corporate Partner and official Banking Partner ING Bank N.V. Manila Branch.

ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein and ECCP Director for Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan engaged in discussions with the ING team on upcoming initiatives, especially those planned for 2025. The meeting also provided an opportunity to touch base on membership matters, and discuss relevant topics in the banking sector, including funding and sustainability efforts.

The ECCP looks forward to continued partnership with ING Bank as we work together to support the evolving needs of the European-Philippine business community!



In attendance (from L-R) were Mallie Daguiso, ING Philippines Business Development Manager; Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Director of Operations; Florian Gottein, ECCP Executive Director; Jun Palanca, ING Philippines Country Manager and Head of Wholesale Banking PH; Atty. Maria Concepcion Simundac, ING Philippines Director/Lead, Legal Counsel; and Francis Nicolas Chua, ING Philippines Director.

Collide: Bridging Startups and Corporate Mixer

11 November 2024

It's always a treat to host the young and dynamic professionals of the local startup and business scene! Earlier this week, the ECCP Young Professionals Committee held the Collide: Bridging Startups and Corporate Mixer at the vibrant Manila House in support of Philippine Startup Week.



ECCP Courtesy Visit to the new Ambassador of Ireland to the Philippines

12 November 2024

On November 12, ECCP President Paulo Duarte and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein met with H.E. Emma Hickey, the new Ambassador of Ireland to the Philippines. The courtesy visit discussed ongoing advocacy efforts and potential collaborations between the Embassy and the Chamber. We're excited to build on this new foundation and usher in greater business and investment opportunities between Ireland and the Philippines!

In photo (from L-R) are ECCP President Paulo Duarte, Consul Naomi McElroy, Ambassador Emma Hickey, Deputy Head of Mission Erica Duffy, and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein.



ECCP Meeting with Novo Nordisk

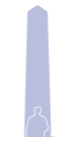
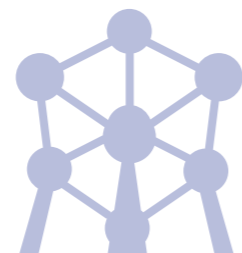
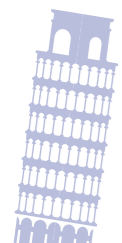
13 November 2024

Last November 13, the ECCP met with global healthcare company Novo Nordisk to discuss membership matters, explore partnership opportunities, and learn more about the work being conducted by the company locally and globally.

Founded in 1923 and headquartered just outside Copenhagen, Denmark, Novo Nordisk works to discover better treatments for people living with serious chronic diseases. They aim to do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to their medicines, and working to prevent and ultimately cure the diseases we treat.

We are truly excited to build on this strengthened relationship and find areas for collaboration in the dynamic pharmaceutical and health space, especially with Novo Nordisk's commitments to health equity and sustainability!

In attendance (from L-R) were Novo Nordisk Patient Access & Public Affairs Manager Daniel Ladia, ECCP Senior Advocacy Officer Austin Sy, ECCP Director for Operations Gen Anaquita-Gatan, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, Novo Nordisk General Manager and Vice President Wei Sun, Communication & OCM Manager Jacqueline Anne Del Castillo and Public Affairs and Communications Director Eric Sajor.



Inside ECCP: Cebu

ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) Awareness Training 30 September 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Cebu, in collaboration with Bureau Veritas Philippines, successfully conducted a comprehensive Quality Management System (QMS) ISO 9001:2015 Awareness Training on September 30, 2024, via ZOOM.

The training program delved into the core concepts of QMS, elucidating the true essence of “quality” and its paramount importance in driving organizational success. Participants from diverse sectors gained valuable knowledge on how QMS can be strategically integrated to streamline processes and foster sustained excellence.

The ECCP Cebu extends its sincere gratitude to Bureau Veritas for their invaluable partnership and to all participants for actively engaging in this enriching training event.



Food Safety System Certification v.6 Awareness Training 2 October 2024

The ECCP Cebu and Bureau Veritas Philippines collaborated to present the Food Safety System Certification v.6 Awareness Training on October 2, 2024, conducted virtually via ZOOM.

The training session provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the FSSC 22000 Version 6 requirements and their significance in safeguarding food safety within the supply chain. Attendees acquired valuable insights into effectively applying and implementing food safety management system principles to ensure consumer protection and organizational excellence.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Bureau Veritas and all participants for their valuable contributions to the success of this event.



Visayas Joint Foreign Chambers Mixer 18 October 2024

The Visayas Joint Foreign Chambers Mixer was a resounding success, illuminating JEG Tower on the evening of October 18, 2024. This prestigious event gathered a distinguished crowd of professionals, business leaders, and influential figures from the foreign chambers and the wider business community.

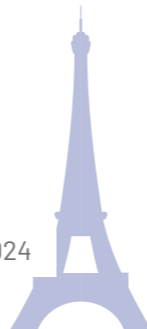
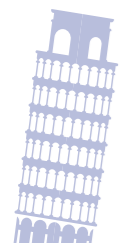
Attendees enjoyed a memorable evening of networking, socializing, and building valuable connections. A sumptuous buffet and refreshments were served, providing ample opportunities for guests to engage in meaningful discussions and explore potential partnerships.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our valued partners for their invaluable support:

- Gold Partners: Petnet Forex Solutions, VFS Global, Rockwell Land Corporation, and AppleOne Group
- Silver Partners: Eastern Communications and Visayan Electric Co.
- Venue Partner: JEG Tower
- Raffle Partners: Badian Island Wellness Resort, bai Hotel Cebu, Beanleaf, Belmont Hotel Mactan, Citadines Cebu City, La Panetteria di Luigi Bakeshop and Cafe, lyf Cebu City, Marco Polo Plaza Cebu, Mövenpick Hotel Mactan Island Cebu, Radisson Blu Cebu, The Bellevue Resort, and Tuburan 360 and Tuburan Coffee

The Visayas Joint Foreign Chambers Mixer was a testament to the power of collaboration and the strength of the region’s business community. We look forward to hosting future events that foster stronger connections and drive economic growth.

Photo credits: Eastern Communications



Embassy of Hungary Tourism Promotional Event

12 November 2024

On November 12, 2024, the ECCP Cebu Business Council Chairman Mr. Jochen Bitzer and ECCP Cebu Assistant Branch Officer Ms. Sheridan Tan attended the VFS Global Event, hosted in collaboration with the Embassy of Hungary, celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations between Hungary and the Philippines at the City Sports Club in Cebu. The event brought together diplomats, business leaders, and distinguished guests to discuss expanding trade initiatives and fostering new business opportunities, particularly in the Visayas region. H.E. Titanilla Tóth, Ambassador of Hungary, and Consul Joy Benedicto-Tan were honored for their leadership in strengthening the relationship between the two nations, underscoring the importance of international cooperation and shared business goals.



Biyaheng Eastern: Thanksgiving Party of Eastern Communication

14 November 2024

Last November 14, ECCP Cebu participated in the #BiyahengEastern Appreciation Night at Bai Hotel Cebu, where Eastern Communications expressed their gratitude to their valued clients and partners in Cebu, the Queen City of the South. This event was a testament to the strong relationships built and the mutual respect shared.

Throughout the evening, participants were able to engage in meaningful conversations and celebrate the collective successes. The night was not just about reflection but also about looking forward to the future, as ETPI continues to work alongside its partners to drive innovation and growth. Our continued partnership is vital to business and community success, and we look forward to strengthening our collaboration in 2024 and beyond.



Inside ECCP: CDO

Success Achieved at the Executive Meeting Management Workshop!

27 September 2024

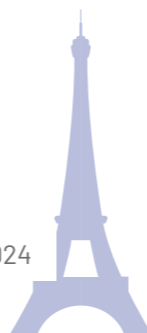
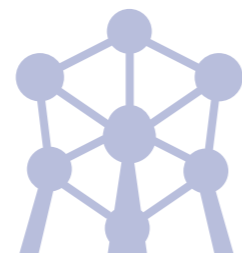
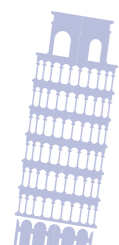
The Executive Meeting Management Workshop held on September 27, 2024, concluded on a high note, equipping managers, supervisors, and administrative staff with essential tools and techniques to transform routine meetings into strategic, results-driven sessions. The event focused on enhancing the ability of participants to set clear objectives, manage discussions, and ensure effective follow-ups on action items, driving success in their respective organizations and was facilitated by Dr. Heidi P. Mendoza, Dean of Capitol University Graduate School.



ECCP Northern Mindanao strengthen ties with Ozamis Oriental

7 October 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Northern Mindanao Branch, represented by Ms. Joanne Natindim-Turtoga, recently conducted courtesy visits to key stakeholders in Ozamis City. Meetings were held with representatives from the Mayor's Office and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Ozamis, as well as with the Chairman and the Board of Trustees of the Ozamis Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



ECCP Northern Mindanao Co-Organized Successful Forum on Internationalization and Innovation

8 October 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) Northern Mindanao Branch had the privilege of attending the forum titled Internationalization and Innovation – Strengthening Global Collaboration in International Education: Forging Strategic Partnerships with Businesses and Industries Across Europe, held on October 8, 2024, in partnership with Misamis University and took place at the Grand Pavilion in Ozamis City. The event underscored the importance of forging strategic partnerships between educational institutions and industries, particularly in Europe, to foster innovation and global collaboration. It highlighted how internationalization can play a critical role in shaping the future of education and business.



ECCP Northern Mindanao Conducts a Workshop on AI Automation

22 October 2024

On October 22, a transformative workshop titled “AI Automation: Unlocking Efficiency and Growth for Your Business” brought together seven participants from various industries to explore the potential of artificial intelligence in enhancing business operations. This hands-on session aimed to equip attendees with practical knowledge and tools to implement AI solutions effectively. Key takeaways included a deeper understanding of AI automation, industry applications, implementing AI solutions, overcoming challenges, and future trends.



Inside ECCP: Davao

ECCP meeting with A-Banana Company

16 October 2024

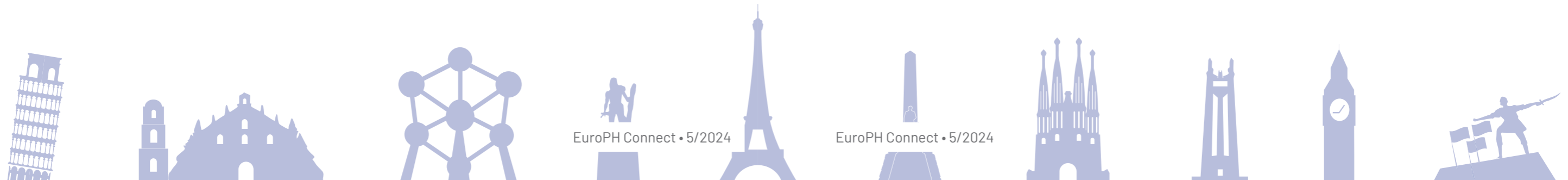
ABS Support Philippines Inc. (A-Banana Company) recently paid a courtesy visit to the ECCP project office in Davao. Innovation and Science Head Methushella Gaon and CEO Engr. Mark Lanaban met with ECCP Davao Branch Officer Sam Gura to explore potential partnerships. The discussions focused on collaborating with ECCP members involved in banana farming and those diversifying into other crops, with an emphasis on sustainability and introducing innovative farming technologies. They also shared plans for the upcoming A-BC Experience Days in both Padada, Davao del Sur and Davao City, where board members from Brazil and the Netherlands will participate. The ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) will be supporting this activity through a speakership on future collaboration and growth opportunities for the Agriculture industry.



ECCP attends CONVERGE Thanksgiving Party

16 October 2024

ECCP Davao attended the CONVERGE Thanksgiving Party held on October 16, 2024, at the Vanda Restaurant of Park Inn by Radisson Davao. With the annual theme “Cheers!”, the event drew a lively crowd of clients and partners, featuring music, cocktails, raffle draws, and open mic singing. CONVERGE, an ECCP Davao member since 2021, continues to be a key partner in the Chamber’s events and activities. The event was attended by ECCP members like Aquila Softwares, Park Inn General Manager Sven Toune along with Branch Officer Sam Gura.



ECCP attends coordination meeting for ATMA

22 October 2024

The Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) is committed to supporting its members, particularly schools under the Education Advocacy Committee of Davao City. On October 22, ECCP attended a meeting for the upcoming Archbishop Thibault Media Awards 2025, which will bring together stakeholders and community partners to emphasize the media's role in social communication. The event aims to recognize leading organizations and media outlets that promote truthful reporting, especially those highlighting Catholic inspiration in mass media. The association of schools sought support from the business sector, with members like Davao Light and Power Co., various foreign chambers in Mindanao, and Catholic schools attending the meeting. This endeavor is also strongly supported by the Davao Citizens Media Council.



ECCP SMBC Agriculture Committee Meeting and Open Doors Site Tour

8 November 2024

The ECCP Southern Mindanao Business Council (SMBC) held its first Agricultural Committee Meeting last November 8 during a site visit to the BioGrow Factory in Malalag, Davao del Sur.

The Open Doors site visit was led by Clement Jacquot, Managing Director of BioGrow Philippines and Vice Chairman for Agriculture at ECCP SMBC. Mr. Jacquot graciously hosted the meeting and provided an in-depth tour of their facility and their filtering, processing, storage, and shipping operations.

Key points discussed included the advantages of participating in the ECCP Agri Committee, strategies to enhance connections with suppliers and clients, ways to create networking opportunities, solutions to systemic and government-related issues, and opportunities to link with local government agencies. Attendees included representatives from Vigour Seeds, LimaDOL, BF Industries, FREEDOM Inc., and the EU BAEP-CRESCENT Project Agri-Fishery Enterprise Development. This meeting aimed to strengthen the agricultural sector in Mindanao through knowledge sharing and collaborative efforts.

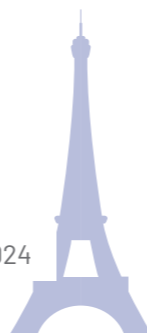
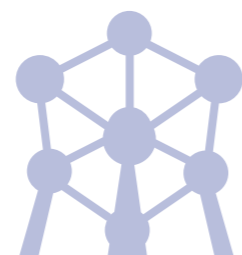
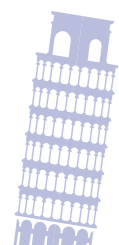


Avoiding Burnout in the Workplace

30 October 2024

Workplace burnout shouldn't be a personal battle, but an organizational challenge!

In celebration of World Mental Health Day, the ECCP Competency Hub, in partnership with MindNation, closed the month with an impactful e-Learning session on "Avoiding Burnout in the Workplace." Led by psychologist Lucille Foja, the session shed light on myths and misconceptions about burnout, practical tips to avoid it, and strategies that leaders can implement to foster a healthier work environment. Managers left with a great key takeaway: "Workplace stress is a management responsibility. A great leader is attuned to their team's stress levels and actively works to reduce it. By doing so, not only do they enhance the well-being of their team, but they also cultivate a space where productivity and workplace satisfaction thrive." A big thank you to all who participated! Let's put these insights into action and make our workplaces better for everyone!



Inside ECCP: Iloilo

Driving Iloilo Towards a Sustainable Future

28 October 2024

The ECCP Western Visayas, in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden in Manila, co-organized a forum on sustainable transportation titled, "Driving Iloilo Towards a Sustainable Future," on October 28, 2024, at the Richmond Hotel Iloilo.

This event brought together passionate voices and expert insights on revolutionizing urban transportation, reducing emissions, and paving the way for a greener, more efficient Iloilo. Speakers included H.E. Harald Fries, Head of Mission at the Embassy of Sweden in Manila; Johann Lennefalk, Trade Commissioner for the Philippines at Business Sweden; Atty. Sedfrey Cabaluna, Iloilo City Councilor; and Architect Wilfredo Sy, Jr., Architect II at the Office of the City Architect.

Dawn Cabigon, the campaign lead for Race to Zero in the Philippines and GM of Fairs & More Inc., highlighted in her closing remarks the significance of the event and congratulated the Embassy of Sweden for facilitating a sector breakthrough aligned with the global Race to Zero initiative, enabling travel from point A to point B with zero emissions. The success of the feasibility study discussed during the forum promises cleaner air and quieter streets for the people of Iloilo.

Special thanks to our expert speakers from the Iloilo City Government and our partners who are all committed to advancing sustainable solutions that benefit both the environment and our city's future. Together, we're on the road to a more sustainable Visayas!

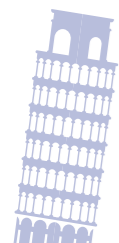


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Advocacy Corner

Health-Tax Session with BDB Law 27 September 2024

On September 27, 2024, the ECCP collaborated with its premium member Du-Baladad and Associates (BDB Law) to organize a seminar addressing healthcare and tax matters. The event welcomed members from the ECCP Healthcare Committee, particularly companies in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. Key topics discussed included withholding taxes, tax return audits, tax incentives, and compliance with relevant legislation. The session began with opening remarks from the Healthcare Committee Chairperson Dr. Ma. Teresa Dioko, followed by comprehensive presentations from BDB Law Partners Atty. Jomel N. Manaig, Atty. Rodel Unciano, and Atty. Mabel Buted. BDB Law Managing Partner, Atty. Fulvio D. Dawilan served as the moderator for the discussion.



NEDA Workshop on the Formulation of the Stakeholders' Chamber Indicator Framework for the SDGs 30 September 2024

Last September 30 2024, the ECCP participated in a workshop on the Formulation of the Stakeholders' Chamber Indicator Framework for the SDGs held by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in Pasig City. The workshop gathered members of the Stakeholders' Chamber and Secretariats of the SC-SDG and its TWGs to discuss the Philippines' trajectory toward achieving the SDGs as well as collaborate on the measures by which we can measure its indicators. The ECCP participated as a member of the Economic Working Group (Econ-WG).



NEDA Workshop on the Formulation of the Stakeholders' Chamber Indicator Framework for the SDGs 4 October 2024

With the goal of exploring partnerships to sharpen industry's competitiveness for advanced manufacturing, the ECCP paid a courtesy visit to newly-appointed Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Secretary Jose Francisco "Kiko" Benitez earlier today at the TESDA Main Office in Taguig City. At the meeting, the Chamber, together with its Technology Partner Bosch Philippines, had the opportunity to discuss the private sector's role in boosting the country's industry 4.0, among others.

Joining the Secretary were TESDA Deputy Director General Nelly Nita Dillera; Executive Director Floramel Joy Songsong; Chief PLO-PNAD Ma. Bernadette Refuerzo; and Supervising TESD Specialist Rodger Patrick Castillo.

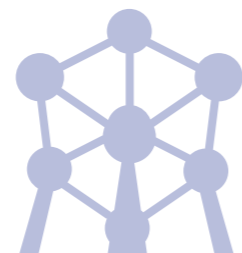
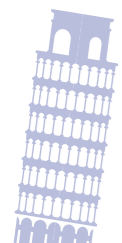
ECCP President and Bosch Philippines Managing Director Paulo Duarte; Bosch Philippines Business Development Manager Karla Ravida and Corporate Communications and Government Relations Officer Juan Diego Bautista, as well as ECCP Senior Advocacy Officer Chienie Nethercott took part in the engagement.



ECCP Courtesy Meeting to the EU Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Massimo Santoro 8 October 2024

Last 8 October, the ECCP paid a courtesy visit to the new Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to the Philippines, His Excellency Massimo Santoro. The Chamber and the Delegation reinforced their commitment to advance the EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as well as explored opportunities for collaboration to support the negotiations.

Joining the meeting were EU Delegation Minister Counsellor and Head of the Economic and Trade Section Philipp Dupuis; ECCP President Paulo Duarte; and ECCP Director for Public Policy, Advocacy, and Projects Sophia Ordoña.



Human Capital Committee Meeting with DOLE

9 October 2024

On October 9, 2024, the ECCP Human Capital Committee convened with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Director for Bureau of Working Conditions, Atty. Alvin B. Curada in Taguig City. The meeting was led by ECCP Human Capital Committee Chair, Atty. Jon Zuñiga.

At the meeting, the committee discussed contractual arrangements, particularly Department Orders No. 174 and 150. Atty. Curada shed light on the impacts of such provisions towards employees and employers alike. The director also discussed areas of collaboration for ECCP and the DOLE in the future.

To learn more about the Human Capital Committee, please reach out to advocacy@eccp.com



Real Estate Insights Series: Elevating Lifestyles: Trends and Opportunities in the Philippine Luxury Condominium Market

10 October 2024

A bright future ahead for the Philippine Luxury Condo Market!

On October 10, 2024, Leechiu Property Consultants in partnership with the ECCP, held the second installment of the Insights Series - Elevating Lifestyles: Trends & Opportunities in the PH Luxury Condo Market at the Leechiu Property Consultants Office in Makati City.

The exclusive session featured insights into the local luxury condo market from speakers John Kendrick Peña, Sales Development Unit Head of Arthaland Corporation; Jemelle Sosa Pastor, COO of SosaJB Property Management, and May Liwanag-Coronel, High End Residential Segment Sales Head of Rockwell Land Corporation.

Key discussions revolved around emerging trends in luxury condo development, the latest sustainability and green building initiatives, and the evolving buyer preferences shaping the Philippine real estate landscape.

Leechiu Property Consultants Executive Director of Commercial Leasing Lyla Fronza-Ledonio gave the welcoming remarks, while Director for Commercial Leasing Mikko Barranda closed the session. Hosting the event was Tam Angel, Investment Sales Director at Leechiu Property Consultants.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our participants and, of course, to Leechiu Property Consultants for hosting this event with us!



JFC Meeting Hosted by the ECCP

11 October 2024

The Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC) convened for its monthly meeting last 11 October at the Manila House Private Club in Bonifacio Global City, chaired by ECCP President Paulo Duarte. During the meeting, the group discussed key policy and legislative updates to address industry concerns with a particular focus on the CREATE MORE Bill, led by AmCham Philippines, and Administrative Order No. 23-2024 or the Implementation of a Digital and Integrated System for the Pre-Border Technical Verification and Cross-Border Electronic Invoicing of All Import Commodities, led by the ECCP.

Moreover, the JFC finalized preparations for the 13th Arangkada Philippines Forum happening on 24 October at the Marriott Grand Ballroom in Pasay City. With the theme "Level Up: Upskill. Upscale. Uplift.," the forum will explore opportunities and challenges for the labor market posed by shifting demographics and rapid technological advancements – focusing on key economic sectors like agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and other emerging industries.



Courtesy Visit of Holy Cross of Davao & Anhalt Germany to the ECCP

16 October 2024

Holy Cross of Davao College (HCDC) and Anhalt University of Germany paid a courtesy visit to the ECCP on 16 October 2024 to discuss their newly forged partnership. This collaboration marks a significant milestone as HCDC becomes the exclusive Philippine partner of Anhalt University, paving the way for the first Transnational Higher Education (TNHE) institution in the region. This visit sets the stage for further cooperation and explored opportunities for the Chamber to support this initiative.



ECCP meeting with Digital for Development (D4D) Hub

16 October 2024

Last October 16, the ECCP met with the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub to explore areas of cooperation. The discussion focused on aligning efforts to drive digital transformation and development initiatives. Additionally, the D4D Hub shared an insightful overview of their work and key projects. Both parties expressed optimism about future partnerships to promote digital innovation in the Philippines.



Launch Ceremony of the Copernicus Mirror Site in the Philippines

18 October 2024

In cooperation with the ECCP, the European Union and Expertise France organized a private sector engagement workshop as part of the initiatives of the Launch Ceremony of the Copernicus Mirror Site in the Philippines held on 17-18 October 2024 at Fairmont Hotel, Makati. This workshop explored how Copernicus National Capacity Support Action Programme in the Philippines (CopPhil)'s capabilities can support business in key sectors such as resilient agriculture, sustainable fisheries, and green tourism.

In February 2023, the EU, through its Global Gateway initiative, launched the first CopPhil. In partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA), CopPhil provides Filipino institutions with access to free and open Earth Observation (EO) data from the EU's Copernicus programme, alongside advanced tools for developing EO services. These services are vital for protecting ecosystems and supporting local livelihoods.



ECCP Automotive Committee Meeting with DOTr Undersecretary Andy Ortega

22 October 2024

The ECCP Automotive Committee met with Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Hon. Jesus Ferdinand "Andy" Ortega earlier today in San Juan City. Chaired by ECCP President and Automotive Committee Leader Paulo Duarte, the discussions covered the committee's policy recommendations on electric vehicles, road safety, and effective implementation of the motor vehicle inspection system (MVIS), among others.

Joining the meeting were Autohub Group Presidential Management Officer Yeale Frokjaer, Bosch Philippines Communications and Government Relations Officer Diego Bautista, and ECCP Senior Advocacy Officer Chin Nethercott.



Food and Drug Administration Public Consultation

22 October 2024

On 22 October, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Food Regulation and Research - Product Research and Standards Development Division (CFRR-PRSD) held a public consultation in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The public consultation covered four draft circulations of the FDA concerning the management and marketing of processed food products as well as the adoption of certain Codex Guidelines as technical regulation.

Present at the public consultation were ECCP Food and Beverage Committee chairperson Helen Grace Baisa and ECCP Advocacy Officer Joaquin Reloj.

To join or inquire about the Food and Beverage Committee, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



13th Arangkada Philippines Forum

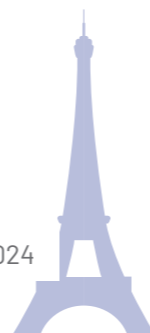
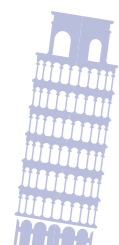
24 October 2024

Organized by the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC), the 13th Arangkada Philippines Forum convened various stakeholders to explore perspectives on upskilling and upscaling human capital to accelerate the country's growth last 24 October at the Marriott Grand Ballroom.

The forum identified opportunities and challenges for the labor market posed by shifting demographics and rapid technological advancements, with a focus on key economic sectors like agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and other emerging industries. It also tackled economic reforms for a future-ready Filipino workforce.

ECCP President Paulo Duarte delivered the welcome remarks as well as the closing keynote address. We were likewise honored to host several distinguished resource persons, including Danish Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Franz-Michael Mellbin, Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma, and Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Rafaelita Aldaba. The JFC was also pleased to have Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero and Congressman Marquez "Mark" Go delivering the Special Addresses, outlining the legislative priorities of the Senate and House of Representatives, focusing on human capital development.

Photo by The Manila Times



Launch of the Philippine Standards Coalition

25 October 2024

The ECCP is pleased to participate in the official launch of the Philippine Standards Coalition (PSC), an industry-wide initiative promoting responsible practices in the sale, marketing, and promotion of alcohol in the Philippines. Held on 25 October 2024, at Dusit Thani, Makati, the event brought together key stakeholders to collaborate on reducing harmful alcohol use and supporting public health objectives through self-regulation.



ECCP meeting with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland

25 October 2024

The ECCP had the privilege to welcome a Finnish business delegation led by Mr. Ville Tavio, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland, on October 25 at EDSA Shangri-La. ECCP shared insights on the Philippine business landscape, highlighting key opportunities and challenges in sectors such as ICT, cybersecurity, water, and waste management. Discussions also covered recent economic reforms, updates on the EU-PH FTA, ease of doing business efforts of the Chamber, and opportunities in the mining sector's downstream industry. With a positive outlook on bilateral trade, ECCP looks forward to strengthening EU-Philippines relations and supporting Finnish businesses entering the market.



CICAC 2nd General Assembly and 8th CICAC Meeting

25 October 2024

The ECCP is honored to have taken part in the Customs Industry Consultative Meeting and Advisory Council's (CICAC) 2nd General Assembly and 8th CICAC Meeting, represented by ECCP Customs and Logistics Committee Co-Chair Mr. Michael Kurt Raeuber and ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee Vice Chair Atty. Alden Labagu. The discussions focused on streamlining customs processes, addressing industry challenges, and strengthening partnerships between the private sector and government for a more efficient trade environment in the Philippines.



Closing the Gap Workshop 2024

28-29 October 2024

The Closing the Gap Workshop is a regional workshop organized by the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package - Higher Education Programme (SCOPE-HE) held in Bangkok, Thailand from 28 to 29 October. It marks the beginning of an annual series that aims to foster stronger connectivity between Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET institutions), the private sector, and regulators.

This first workshop primarily focuses on mapping and identifying key issues and gaps in employability within the agri-food sector in the ASEAN region. Relatedly, it featured discussions on tackling the diversity of the agriculture sector, navigating sector-specific challenges, and building resilient societies through relevant skills training of the workforce.

Present at the workshop was ECCP Agriculture Committee Chairperson Ms. Ruth Novales.

To join or inquire about the Agriculture Committee, please contact advocacy@eccp.com.



ARTA Doing Business Convention Day 1

28 October 2024

The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) commenced the 2024 Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Convention on 28 October at the Sheraton Manila Hotel. The three-day event aims to highlight government reforms and policy shifts that would create a more business-friendly Philippines.

The first day of the convention identified opportunities, challenges, and accomplishments for EODB policies in the country with a focus on identifying ways to become more competitive, transparent, and inclusive. It further examined the results of the World Bank's inaugural Business-Ready Report and how the Philippines is positioned in regional and global terms. While significant progress has been made, the convention outlines how there is much more to be done in improving ease of doing business in the country. Specific areas of improvements were in the areas of business entry, business location, taxation, market competition, and business insolvency.

ARTA Director General Ernesto V. Perez delivered the welcome remarks followed by a keynote speech by Mr. Guillermo "Bill" Luz, Chairman of the Advisory Council at the Asian Institute of Management - Rizalino S. Navarro Policy Center for Competitiveness. The convention also hosted several distinguished resource persons, including Navotas City Mayor John Tiangco, MAP President Mr. Rene Almendras, PCCI President Ms. Eunina V. Mangiio, DTI Usec. David L. Almirol Jr., and World Bank economist Mr. Gonzalo Varela.

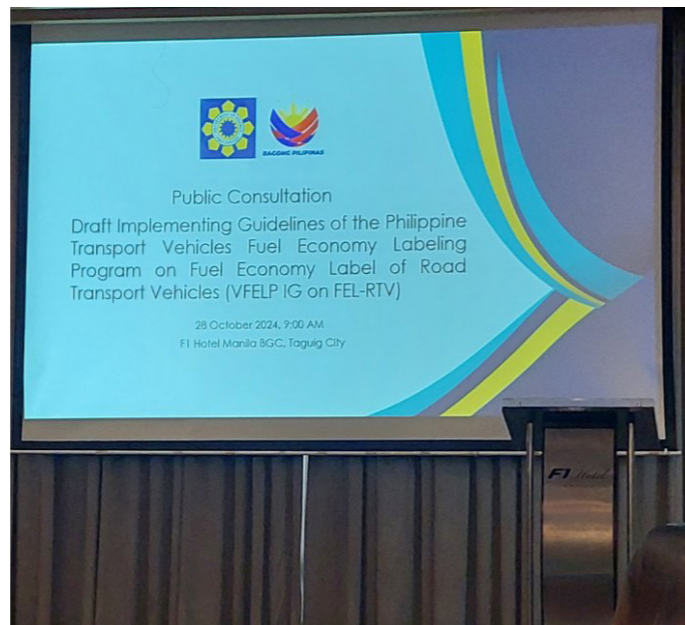
Present at the first day of the convention was ECCP Senior Advocacy Officer Austin Sy.



DOE Public Consultation on the Draft Implementing Guidelines of the Philippine Transport Vehicles Fuel Economy Labeling Program on Fuel Economy Label of Road Transport Vehicles (VFELP-IG on FEL-RTV)

28 October 2024

The ECCP took part in the Public Consultation on the Draft Implementing Guidelines of the Philippine Transport Vehicles Fuel Economy Labeling Program on Fuel Economy Label of Road Transport Vehicles (VFELP-IG on FEL-RTV) organized by the Department of Energy. Held on 28 October in Taguig City, the Chamber was represented by its Premium Member Shell Philippines and member companies Autohub Group and Civic Merchandising Inc.



ARTA Ease of Doing Business Convention 2024 Day 3

30 October 2024

At the 3rd day of the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Convention 2024, themed "Partners in Progress: Recognizing Government and Industry Champions/Stakeholders," the ECCP was honored to be recognized by the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) for its unwavering dedication to advance ease of doing business in the Philippines.

The Chamber extended its sincerest gratitude to ARTA for this recognition, which highlights the Chamber's continuous efforts to improve the business climate in the country. Over the years, the ECCP has strongly supported the passage of Republic Act No. 11032 or the EODB Act of 2018, which led to the creation of ARTA, now a strong partner of the Chamber and the business community.

Representing the ECCP at the Awards ceremony are Board Member Albert Perez, Director for Public Policy, Advocacy, and Projects Sophia Ordoña, and Senior Advocacy Officer Chin Nethercott.



Pilipinas Conference 2024: Day 2

7 November 2024

On 7 November, the Stratbase Group hosted The Pilipinas Conference 2024 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City. This event aims to advance multi-sectoral collaboration to shape policies that address the complex social, political, and economic challenges impacting the Philippines and the broader Indo-Pacific region.

Day 2 of the Pilipinas Conference 2024 emphasized the strategic initiatives necessary for fostering a robust economy and resilient society through the creation of green and high-quality jobs, with a particular focus on sustainable infrastructure, critical minerals, and clean energy to position the Philippines as a key player in the global supply chain.

Representing ECCP at the conference were Director for Public Policy, Advocacy, and Projects Sophia Ordoña, Senior Advocacy Officer Austin Sy, Advocacy Officer Kyla Uy, Advocacy Officer Joaquin Reloj, and Advocacy Research Associate Alyssa Marcos.



Ceremonial Signing of the CREATE MORE Act

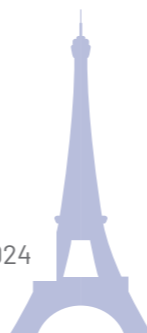
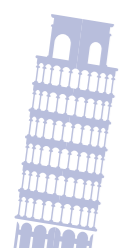
11 November 2024

The ECCP is proud to witness a new milestone in Philippine economic reform! ECCP President Paulo Duarte proudly joined key leaders today at the Malacañang Palace for the Ceremonial Signing of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act.

For years, ECCP has championed policies that strengthen the Philippines' position as a premier investment destination. This landmark legislation sets the stage for a level playing field, more robust economic growth, and expanded opportunities for businesses to thrive.

We commend the Philippine government for taking this significant stride and eagerly anticipate the positive impact it will provide to the European and local business communities alike. With the CREATE MORE Act in place, ECCP is optimistic about the stronger momentum this will generate for economic progress.

To view and download a copy of the law, please visit this [link](#).



ASEAN Policy Forum on Higher Education 2024

11-12 November 2024

ECCP proudly participated in the ASEAN Policy Forum on Higher Education 2024, with our Director for Public Policy, Advocacy, and Projects Sophia Ordoña representing the Chamber at this key event held from November 11-12 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Hosted by the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports in partnership with UNESCO and the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package – Higher Education Programme (SCOPE-HE), the forum gathered leaders from policy, academia, industry, and international organizations to drive forward the theme, “Moving Higher Education Forward Together: Building Resilience and Flexibility by Connecting and Including All.” Participants discussed strategies to strengthen ASEAN higher education, tackling the challenges of rapid technological progress, economic shifts, and environmental change.



ECCP meets ECCIL EuroCham Laos

12 November 2024

ECCP Director for Public Policy, Advocacy, and Projects Sophia Ordoña met with Enrico Bargnani, Deputy Executive Director of the European Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lao PDR (EuroCham Laos) earlier today. They discussed ongoing advocacy efforts, member initiatives, and exciting opportunities for collaboration to support shared goals across Southeast Asia.

We're thrilled to explore new avenues for partnership with EuroCham Laos, reinforcing our commitment to enhancing business climate and advocating for policy initiatives that drive growth and development in the region.



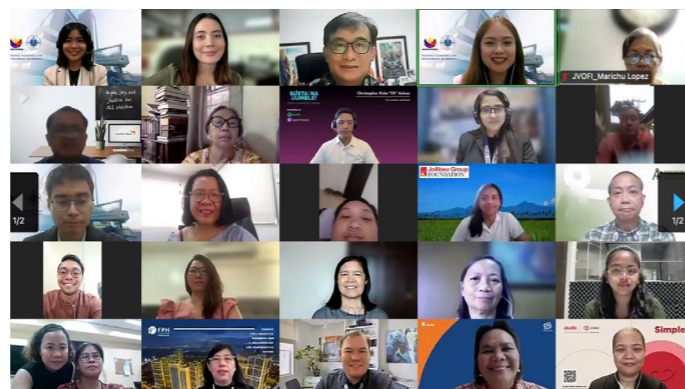
Special Online Meeting of the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs

14 November 2024

The ECCP is proud to have joined the NEDA Special Online Meeting of the Stakeholders' Chamber on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 14 November 2024, via Zoom.

The meeting focused on reviewing inputs from working groups for the Stakeholders' Chamber Indicator and Strategy Framework for the SDGs and the Stakeholder Partnership Accelerator for Convergence and Engagement (SPACE) Web Application.

Collaborating on these initiatives is key to accelerating sustainable development in the Philippines, and the Chamber is committed to supporting these impactful efforts.



Insights That Shape The Future: Strategic Conversations with Data Center Leaders

14 November 2024

On 14 November, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein and Advocacy Officer Joaquin Relej participated in the “Insights That Shape The Future: Strategic Conversations with Data Center Leaders” event jointly organized by the Data Center Association of the Philippines (DCAP) and Meralco at the Manila House Private Club in BGC, Taguig City.

The event featured a keynote speech delivered by Mr. Samir Borkar, Siemens SVP for Data Center Business in Asia and the Middle East. Ensuing discussions highlighted the growing demand from hyperscalers, the current landscape of the data center industry in the Philippines, and the country's position as a viable hub for hyperscale data centers. Participants also addressed their comments and pain points that could be hindering data center operators from entering the market.



TWG Public Consultation on the Draft CAO w/ BOC

14 November 2024

On 14 November, the ECCP participated in a Technical Working Group (TWG) Public Consultation held by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on the Draft Customs Administrative Order (CAO) on Rules and Regulations in the Determination of Cost of Transport, Loading, Unloading, and Handling Charges, as Adjustments to the Price actually Paid or Payable for the Imported Goods, and on the Charges Imposed by Shipping Lines. The public consultation took place at the Federation Center in Binondo, Manila.

The consultation delved into the details of the CAO, section by section and point by point. Stakeholders from various companies and industries involved in import and export shared their insights and perspectives on how to make the CAO more effective. More meetings and consultations are expected to accommodate further discussion and feedback.



New Members Corner

Regular Members



Accel4U Business Solutions Inc.

Our company provides comprehensive and specialized services tailored to meet the unique needs of businesses worldwide. With a team of highly skilled professionals, our company excels in delivering top-notch solutions across various sectors. Our mission is to transform business operations through cost optimization, innovation, and improved business reporting and analysis. We are committed to accuracy and integrity to help our clients navigate the complexities of business management. By ensuring compliance, optimizing financial performance, and supporting long-term growth, we empower businesses to thrive in today's competitive landscape.

At Accel4U, we pride ourselves on our commitment to excellence and industry best practices to deliver efficient, reliable, and scalable solutions. We enable growth for our customers and accelerate their success.



Embassy of Italy in the Philippines

Embassy of Italy Manila



Wärtsilä Philippines, Inc.

Wärtsilä is a Finnish company with HQ at Helsinki and is listed on the Nasdaq Helsinki. Wärtsilä is a global leader in complete lifecycle power solutions for the marine and energy markets. By emphasizing technological innovation and total efficiency, Wärtsilä maximizes the environmental and economic performance of the vessels and power plants of its customers.

Wärtsilä has operations in more than 200 locations in nearly 80 countries around the world including the Philippines.

Associate Members



Kaptan Talent Solutions, Inc.

Kaptan Talent Solutions is a dynamic recruitment and staffing company that excels in delivering customized talent support services to meet your company's objectives. Our offerings encompass a diverse array of services, including Technical Recruitment, Executive Search, Employer of Record, Market Intelligence, and Managed Payroll. These services not only streamline costs but also provide access to top-tier talent, empowering companies to thrive.



Cebu Institute of Technology-University

CEBU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY-UNIVERSITY INC., [CIT-UNIVERSITY for brevity] a domestic corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Philippines. Cebu Institute of Technology - University is a private, non-sectarian academic institution founded in 1946. It provides basic (early childhood, elementary, high school), vocational, higher, and non-conventional or alternative education.

Science & Technology is a way of academic life among administrators, faculty, and students. In the design, administration, and implementation of curricular programs, technology is embedded, articulated, and actuated.



Partnerships for Sustainability Education Inc.

Partnerships for Sustainability Education (PSE) is a network of schools, organizations, businesses, government entities, and individuals committed to practicing innovation, leadership, and sustainability.

We empower partners to grow and thrive sustainably by providing meaningful development opportunities for teams, fostering positive impacts locally and globally.

By providing relevant professional development programs and opportunities to collaborate and learn from experts and other partners, we enable partners to support the growth of individuals within their organizations.

We empower visionary leaders to inspire and champion sustainable choices for the greater good.

PSE seeks to create a collective impact that goes beyond what an organization can achieve on its own. Together, we work to develop innovative solutions to global sustainability challenges and help mold present and future change-makers.



Volo Altus Management S.A. Corporation

A think tank in the Philippine air transport industry, involved in research, policy development, consulting, management and technology focused on sustainable aviation and travel.

Volo Altus' expertise and network is acquired through years of experience together with strategic partners in the fields of sustainability consulting, stakeholder communications, and reporting strengthen its position to deliver its vision of uplifting the Philippine ATI and its profession at par with global best practice and players while fulfilling its industry-based (ICAO) and national (SDG) through commitments through PPP projects.

Leveraging the expertise of seasoned and established consultants, Volo Altus drives the Philippine air transport industry to meet global benchmarks.

Purpose:

Propel the Philippine air transport industry towards global standards, mindset, goals, and practice.

Promise:

A world-class Philippine air transport industry.



HM Weddings and Events Planning

Weddings with Elegance and Class



AVC Solutions Corp

AVC offers expert guidance in software evaluation and selection, providing a well-rounded perspective on crucial factors such as functionality, scalability, compatibility, and cost-effectiveness. By partnering with AVC, businesses can save time and effort and make confident decisions, accelerating their path to success. AVC's streamlined approach and expert guidance empowers businesses to harness the power of software excellence. are a management technology company,



Mercantile Venture Partners Asia Pacific Inc.

Offshore MVP connects global businesses to outsourced professionals in the Philippines while offering premium solutions to unique business challenges.



Business Opportunities



A Finnish software solutions company is seeking to establish partnerships and have dialogues with Philippine enterprises to exploring supply chain solutions

A Finnish software solutions company specializing in unified supply chain and retail planning services is seeking to establish partnerships and have dialogues with Philippine enterprises to exploring supply chain solutions.



Portuguese global consulting firm with expertise in Advanced Data Analytics is seeking for partners or clients

A Portugal headquartered global consulting firm with expertise in Advanced Data Analytics and AI is looking for partners and clients for operations improvement and success by using their tailor fit business solutions. They cater to various industries such as but not limited to Energy & Utilities, Telecommunications, Retail & Ecommerce, Transport & Logistics, Consumer Goods, Process Industries & Manufacturing.



Spanish wholesale company, specializing in the global distribution of perfumes and selective cosmetics, is seeking to establish partnerships with Philippine enterprises

A Spanish wholesale company, specializing in the global distribution of perfumes and selective cosmetics, is seeking to establish partnerships with Philippine enterprises to explore business opportunities in the perfume and cosmetics market. They work with the leading brands in perfumery and cosmetics, and offer competitive pricing and personalized service to clients.



Finnish company is looking for a supplier of animal fat oils to export from Manila/within the Philippines to Malaysia/ASEAN and in the EU

A Finnish global trailblazer in sustainable solutions and renowned as the producer of sustainable aviation fuel, renewable diesel, and innovative feedstock solutions is looking for a supplier of animal fat oils to export from Manila/within the Philippines to Malaysia/ASEAN and in the EU.



Finnish Waste Management Company Seeks Importers, Distributors, and Long-Term Partnership Opportunity of their Compactors and Shredders

A leading Finnish company specializing in waste management solutions is seeking long-term partnerships with importers and distributors in the Philippines. They are particularly interested in patterns with proven experience in importing heavy equipment specifically, landfill compacting machines and shredders. If you have expertise and/or interest in the import and distribution of industrial waste management equipment, this is an excellent opportunity for long-term collaboration.

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

NOVEMBER

NOV **28** NETWORKING EVENT
19TH JFC NETWORKING NIGHT
06:00 PM - 09:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

NOV **29** E-LEARNING SESSION
MS EXCEL ADVANCED SKILLS FOR BUSINESS
09:00 AM - 04:00 PM | ZOOM

DECEMBER

DEC **3** LEVERAGING INNOVATION: OVERCOMING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES THROUGH EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
02:00 PM - 05:00 PM | Johndorf Tower, Cebu City

DEC **3** ECCP COMMUNITY CONNECT
03:00 PM - 05:00 PM | Spaces, PNB Building, Makati City



★ DEC **5** **2025 PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**
01:00 PM - 03:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

DEC **6** ECCP CEBU COMMUNITY CONNECT AND THE LAUNCHING OF THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND WOMEN IN BUSINESS COMMITTEES CEBU CHAPTER
03:00 PM - 05:00 PM | Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino

DEC **6** NETWORKING EVENT
EUROPEAN FESTIVE SOCIALS
06:00 PM - 09:00 PM | Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino

DEC **10** LUNCHEON MEETING
LUNCHEON MEETING WITH BSP DEPUTY GOVERNOR HON. CHUCHI FONACIER
11:00 AM - 02:00 PM | Dusit Thani Manila

2025 International Trade Fairs

FEB	ISM COLOGNE Sweet & Snacks 2-5 Cologne, Germany	APRIL	ANUGA SELECT CHINA AND SIGEP CHINA Food and Beverages 24-26 Shenzhen, China	AUG	GAMESCOM Games & Entertainment 21-25 Cologne, Germany
	SOURCE HOME & GIFT AT SPRING FAIR ★ Gift & Home 2 - 5 Birmingham, England		IFAT BRASIL Environmental Technologies 25-27 Sao Paulo, Brazil		SOURCE HOME & GIFT AT AUTUMN FAIR Gift & Home Birmingham, ENGLAND
MARCH	F.R.EE Travel & Leisure 19-23 Munich, Germany	APRIL	INTERNATIONAL HARDWARE FAIR ITALY Tools & Hardwares 8-9 Milan, Italy	SEPT	ISM MIDDLE EAST ★ Sweets & Snacks Dubai, UAE
	SOURCE FASHION Fashion 9-11 London, England		IBA ★ Bakery, Confectionary & Snacks 18-22 Düsseldorf, Germany		DRINKTEC ★ Beverage and liquid food 15-19 Munich, Germany
MARCH	THAIFEX HOREC ASIA Hotels, restaurants and cafes 5-7 Bangkok, Thailand	MAY	INTERZUM Furniture & Interior Design 20-23 Cologne Germany	OCT	ANUGA ★ Food and Beverages 4-8 Cologne, Germany
	INDIAN CERAMICS ASIA Ceramics & Bricks 5-7 Gandhinagar (Gujarat), India		VITAFOODS EUROPE Nutraceuticals 22-24 Geneva, Switzerland		EXPO REAL Real Estate 6-8 Munich, Germany
MARCH	H+H COLOGNE Handicraft 7-9 Cologne Germany	MAY	THAIFEX ANUGA ASIA ★ Food & Beverage 27-31 Bangkok, Thailand	NOV	GAMESCOM ASIA ★ Games & Entertainment Singapore
	ANUGA SELECT BRAZIL Food and Beverages 8-10 Sao Paulo, Brazil		ART COLOGNE Art Cologne, Germany		
APRIL	BAUMA ★ Construction & Machinery 7-13 Munich, Germany	JUNE	SPOGA+GAFA Garden & BBQ 22-24 Cologne, Germany	NOV	PRODUCTRONICA Electronics' production and improvement. 18-21 Munich, Germany
	ISM JAPAN & ANUGA SELECT JAPAN ★ Sweets, Confectioneries & Snacks; Food and Beverages 15-17 Tokyo, Japan		SOURCE FASHION ★ Fashion London, England		
APRIL	ELECTRONICA CHINA Technologies 15-17 Shanghai, China	JULY			
	IEXPO Technology Solutions 21-23 Shanghai China				

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