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

Issue on Transportation

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- *European Country in Focus: Hungary*
- *Interview with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Hungary to the Republic of the Philippines H.E. Dr. Titanilla Tóth*
- *Interview with the Department of Transportation Undersecretary Hon. Jesus Ferdinand Ortega*



# PARIS

3 WEEKLY DIRECT FLIGHTS  
FROM MANILA \*



\*From December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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# Editorial

Dear reader,

Greetings and Happy Holidays!

How fast the year has passed by! This 2024 has become a year full of events and activities for our members, along with dialogues with partners and stakeholders in the public and private sector.

We had an exceptionally productive 2024, filled with numerous activities and accomplishments. Highlights include the European-Philippine Business Dialogue and our annual Energy Smart Forum. We also hosted the Sustainable Agriculture Forum, which tackled pressing issues in the agriculture sector and outlined sustainable plans to address these. In its second year, the Aviation Summit brought in more than 600 participants for a two-day event focused on topics and strategic plans for the local aviation industry. We also held our 22nd European Golf Tournament for a day of camaraderie and sportsmanship with our partners and members. The Chamber remains dedicated to the advocacies of its members and partners, and to ensuring they are at the forefront of our engagements and dialogue with government and investors.

As we end the year, we are pleased to present the final 2024 issue of the EuroPH Connect Magazine. This edition continues our commitment to delivering the latest news and updates while providing a platform for our members and partners to share their insights and perspectives on topics that matter most to the European-Philippine business community.

Transportation remains as one of the many challenges here in the country, particularly concerning the availability of safe and accessible transit for commuters, as well as the provision of effective solutions to alleviate traffic congestion and improve infrastructure. These difficulties are underscored by the findings of the 2023 Urban Mobility Readiness Index (UMRI), conducted by the Oliver Wyman Forum and the University of California, Berkeley. Notably, Manila ranked 60th among 65 cities worldwide, indicating its status as one of the cities with the poorest public transit systems.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach that combines strategic investments and collaborative efforts among stakeholders. In this issue, we feature Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary Jose Ferdinand Ortega, who discusses the Philippine government's initiatives to promote comfortable, accessible, safe, sustainable, and affordable (CASSA) transportation. He also explores opportunities within the transportation sector and addresses sector-specific issues. Learn more about these efforts on page 12.

On page 8, read our feature on the Embassy of Hungary, as Ambassador Dr. Titanilla Tóth shares her insights on strengthening business relations between Hungary and the Philippines. In the article, she emphasizes key areas of cooperation, such as trade, investment, and technological exchanges, all of which are crucial for the economic growth of both nations.



**Florian Gottein**  
ECCP Executive Director

In this issue, we also feature stories and initiatives from our members and stakeholders that are helping shape the transportation agenda. Read more stories from our members and partners such as Corporate Partner Turkish Airlines who discuss their new Stopover program. We also have Premium Member Royal Cargo, who shares its participation in delivering equipment for the Metro Manila Subway Project. We invite you to take a look at Air France as it inaugurates its nonstop flight from Manila to Paris.

Check our Advocacy Corner on page 39 for more highlights 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 46. 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 23. Meanwhile, take a look at the available business opportunities on page 48. We are pleased to feature our lineup of events for 2025 with our Events Calendar on page 50 as well as international trade fairs you might be interested in joining for next year.

As we celebrate the holiday season with our loved ones, we are grateful for your continuous participation throughout the year! We are excited to bring more events and activities to 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 next year at our upcoming activities. Until then, stay safe and have a wonderful holiday season!

Best regards,  
Florian



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European Country in Focus

# Hungary



93,012

square kilometers



POPULATION

9.86 M

approximately



CAPITAL

Budapest

## HUNGARIAN TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Since Hungary is located in Central Europe, it boasts a strategic location with easy access to EU markets, an educated and skilled workforce, and a prominent infrastructure. Alongside this are the supply chain opportunities in the automotive, electronics, and manufacturing sectors and the government's emphasis on the state's innovation and knowledge-based technologies, which led huge companies like Microsoft, IBM, Coca-Cola, etc. to invest in manufacturing and services facilities in the country

In recent years, Hungary received increased EU funding, greater demand for Hungarian exports, and a resurgence in domestic household consumption, which allowed their GDP to escalate. In 2018, the Hungarian government implemented a six-year phased increase in minimum wages, reduced taxes, and lowered personal income tax to boost household consumption. In 2021, EU funding drove the Hungarian growth for thousands of projects to enhance energy, highway, and telecommunications infrastructure. The Hungarian government made it a priority to direct its budget on projects to increase the state's competitiveness in both economic and social terms. However, Hungary faces a few economic challenges, such as labor shortages, reliance on Russian energy import, high corruption index and underdevelopment of some parts of the country. Such issues contribute to a state's debt, and in the case of Hungary, their debt stood at 7.17 percent of GDP in 2023 June—which is relatively high compared to its EU Central European rivals. However, the 2024 budget envisages a deficit of 2.9 percent of GDP and state debt falling to 66.7 percent of GDP.

## HUNGARY



**Geographical Location:** Hungary is a landlocked country located in Central Europe's Carpathian Basin, northwest of Romania. Its bordering states are Austria to the west, Croatia and Serbia to the South, Romania to the east, Slovakia to the north, Slovenia to the southwest, and Ukraine to the northeast. The two most significant rivers that surround Hungary are the Danube and the Tisza, which crosses the state from north to south.

**Climate:** Hungary's climate is considered temperate, with cold and humid winters, and warm summers. It has a continental climate affected by its three climatic zones, namely: continental, oceanic, and Mediterranean climates.

**Official Language:** Hungarian

**Government Type:** Hungary is a parliamentary republic. The unicameral parliament is called Országgyűlés or the National Assembly. The head of the State is the President, who is elected by the parliament but has a largely ceremonial role. While the Prime Minister serves as the head of government and holds most executive power.

**Standard of Living:** Hungary surpasses the average work-life balance and social connections of states. However, it underperforms in the average life satisfaction of humans. The average net-adjusted disposable income per capita of each household is USD 21,026 per year, less than the USD 30,490 OECD average per year.

**Organizations:**

- United Nations (since 1955)
- International Labor Organization (since 1955)
- International Monetary Fund (since 1982)
- World Bank (since 1982)
- World Health Organization (since 1991)
- International Organization for Migration (since 1992)
- World Trade Organization (since 1995)
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (since 1996)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (since 1999)
- European Union (since 2004)

## FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Hungary's financial district is located in its capital, Budapest, specifically District V, also known as Belváros-Lipótváros, which caters to the state's financial institutions, such as banks, insurance companies, and investment firms. Since the state's membership in the European Union, its financial sector has been stable in recent years.

## TOP 3 TOURISM DESTINATIONS



LAKE BALTON

Lake Balaton, often referred to as the "Hungarian Sea" is one of the most prominent natural treasures of Hungary and the largest freshwater body in Central Europe. The Zala River provides the largest water inflow to the lake, and Sió canal is the only outflow. Despite its large surface area, it is an extremely shallow lake.



PUSZTA

The Puszta is a World Heritage property represented by the Hortobágy National Park, located on the Great Hungarian Plain in the eastern part of Hungary. In the 19th Century, it became the national landscape of Hungary - it is a mosaic of natural flat grasslands, alkaline pastures, loess ridges, and wetlands with extreme temperatures.



BUDAPEST

Budapest is the capital of Hungary and its biggest and most populous city situated on the banks of the Danube and at the foot of the Buda hills. It is the center of the country's political, cultural, commercial, industrial, and transportation sectors. Central Europe's biggest river, the Danube, traverses the capital city from north to south.

## INTERESTING FACTS

- "Hungary" came from the Medieval Latin word Hungaria, derived from the name of its people, called *ungari* or *ungri*. Its citizens often refer to the state as Magyarország, a term they derived from "Magyars" or the most prominent Hungarian tribe.
- Hungary was founded by King Stephen I in 1000 as he defeated various tribes and adopted and implemented Christian religion as its standard.
- The Hungarian language belonged to the Finno-Ugric language family, specifically as the Westernmost branch of the Uralic family of languages. Also, they are the largest Uralic language-speaking population.
- The third-largest parliament building in the world can be found in Hungary, specifically on the Danube bank—the Hungarian Parliament Building in Budapest. The building is often referred to as the "House of the Country" as it serves as the home of the legislative branch and the guardian of the Hungarian Holy Crown.
- In 1896, the second-oldest underground railway in Europe after the London Metro was built in Hungary. The Budapest Metro Line M1 is the oldest line in Budapest and became part of the UNESCO World Heritage in 2002, which is why it is frequently visited by both locals and international visitors.



Interview with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the Embassy of Hungary to the Republic of the Philippines

# H.E. Dr. Titanilla Tóth



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

Since the reopening of the Embassy of Hungary in Manila in 2016, the partnership between Hungary and the Philippines has seen remarkable and rapid expansion across various fields. This growth is particularly evident in the frequent high-level exchanges and cooperation in multiple domains. We are indeed experiencing a vibrant and transformative phase in Hungarian-Philippine relations.

High-ranking officials from both nations have been visiting each other regularly, fostering deeper political and economic ties. The two countries have held numerous consultations and meetings to address mutual interests and advance collaborative projects. In addition to diplomatic and economic dialogues, there has been consistent engagement from both countries' legislative branches, further solidifying the relationship.

Since celebrating the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Hungary and the Philippines, I have noticed the eager interest of both nations with each other. Business missions were established, high-level meetings were organized and many initiatives were created since then.

Notably, our Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Péter Szijjártó, visited the Philippines in June 2024. During this visit, he engaged in discussions to enhance bilateral relations and met with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. This visit underscores the ongoing commitment to strengthening ties and exploring new areas of cooperation between Hungary and the Philippines.

Also, a delegation from the newly established Hungarian Council of the Philippine Chamber and Industry, representing 10 sectors, visited Hungary this September, conducting successful business forums and meetings.

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

Despite the geographical remoteness of countries such as Hungary and the Philippines, their values are very alike and include the sense of a very sound-work ethic, and commitment to sustainable development. The two states have developed through the time experiencing changes that define their present profiles in economic terms. Hungary has adapted itself to become a key force in the global economy especially in Europe as it is strategically located thereby providing it easy access to other European countries with historical relations with them. This strategic location is inviting Filipino companies targeting to penetrate the European market with potentials in trading and investment. Furthermore,

an improved transportation network as well as a favorable business climate in Hungary, makes it even more appealing as a strategic partner.

On the other hand, the economic growth rate of the Philippines and the opening of its market has inclined as a pace setter in the economic liberalization process in the Southeast Asian region. These changes have created a number of opportunities for cooperation in both countries which are worth mentioning. Both nations remain open for development and innovations hence creating many opportunities for exports, investments and cooperation in several fields that complement each other and share similarities in terms of values.

Another important factor for outsourcing is that the Philippines has a strong population of people that are fluent in English, which is the key language of international business operations for Europe-based corporations that might want to expand their business into this region. On the other hand, the Philippines is experiencing rapid digitalization of its economy and has a promising technology industry that relates much to Hungary's goal in digitization and technological advancement.

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

As a rapidly emerging economy, the Philippines attracted a number of opportunities for the expansion of Hungarian companies towards various markets. This interest is informed by the growing population of consumers, favorable geographical location, and potential to act as a gateway to the larger SEA region.

The economic cooperation between the countries is complemented by the peculiarities of their specialization. Hungary has strong skills in technology, innovations and agricultural fields. These advancements offer remarkable prospects for partnership, and particularly for creating new technologies, as well as other manageable agricultural initiatives. In terms of research and development and innovation, Hungary has a significant R&D ratio that matches the current global trends and demands.

This matches the two nations' strengths which mean that the two could have a good working relationship. Partnerships between the Hungarian and Filipino industries should be able to tap on Hungary's technology and agriculture on the one hand and the Philippines' manufacturing strengths and manpower on the other. Cohesive partnerships like these not only expand the potential of the country's economy but can also engender new approaches to solve global issues.

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



Since 2020, Hungary and the Philippines succeeded in holding the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation annually. The JCEC plays a key role in enhancing economic relations between the two countries. The Commission remains one of the main platforms in reaching the main foreign economic goals while offering the right forum for considering and building upon the existing bilateral cooperation as well as the relations in general. The result of the 5th JCEC held in December 2023 in Budapest outlined many important concepts and requirements based on a vision of further work in the framework of financial cooperation, water, labor force, and agriculture.

Entrepreneurship in Hungary is diverse with firm operations across various industries. The most recognized are IT, healthcare, medical devices, smart cities, food and beverages, water and waste management, and agriculture. Water and waste management is a famous industry due to the high level of technology and innovation in the country. Pharmaceuticals and biotechnology industries have ample research and production facilities and information technology industry is a rapidly growing sector focusing primarily on software development and information technology start-ups. The major advantages of the food and beverage industry is to combine traditional products and tastes with excellent quality. In addition, the agriculture sector of Hungary is also a significant economic sector as the country is known for its great legacy of the agricultural industry already using the new techniques of the agriculture 4.0.

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

The prospects for the further development of business and trade relations between Hungary and Philippines are rather promising and can become a nucleolus of prospects for the parties' cooperation. The two countries are steadily experiencing growth in their political, economic, and strategic realms; thus, there are vast possibilities of erecting a solid partnership founded on the strengths of both nations. In my perspective, I feel that our nations will be able to experience an expanded horizon towards their trade and investment relations. The Philippines can complement Hungary by providing access to the fast-growing consumer market and being geographically located in a strategic position in Southeast Asia while Hungary can provide manufacturing prowess and technological know-how. On the other hand, the Philippines is a growing economy, and its growing population requires expensive but better-quality products and services for a better and healthier lifestyle.

The future establishment of the EU-Philippines FTA will also greatly enhance the economic relations between Hungary and the Philippines, as this is aimed

at improving the bilateral trade and investment ties between the European Union and the Philippines. With the lowering of tariffs and the facilitation of market access, especially for agricultural and industrial products, this will increase the exports from both nations.

### **How would you describe the current state of Hungary's transport infrastructure and logistics, especially in light of recent growth and development?**

Hungary's transport infrastructure and logistics have developed significantly in recent years. For instance, 5,000 billion forints has been invested in road and rail improvements up to 2022. Hungary has been focusing on developing intermodal logistics, integrating road, rail, and water transport to optimize supply chain efficiency. The country is a critical part of the European rail freight corridors, connecting Western Europe with the Balkans, the Black Sea region, and even beyond. This is particularly important for the country's role as a transit point for goods moving between Western Europe and Asia.

As for the air transfers, the Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport is a growing hub for both passenger and cargo traffic with constant developments. The Danube River is a crucial transport route for Hungary, facilitating the movement of goods through inland waterways. Ports along the Danube, such as the port of Budapest, are important logistics centers that support international trade, particularly for bulky and heavy cargo. The Hungarian government's plan to join forces with neighboring countries to make the Carpathian Basin Europe's fastest developing, unified economic, trade and transport area by 2030. This ambition is also served by, among other projects, the modernization of the Budapest-Belgrade railway line, expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

### **The European Union has set ambitious targets to reduce carbon emissions in the transport sector. How does Hungary align its policies and strategies with these EU objectives, especially in terms of reducing emissions and promoting sustainable transport?**

Hungary is actively working to align its policies and strategies with the European Green Deal, which is the European Union's roadmap to making the EU climate-neutral by 2050. Regarding the targets for reducing carbon emissions, greening the transport sector is a priority, as transport is responsible for a significant share of the country's emissions. Hungary's NECP (National Energy and Climate Plan) outlines the country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy sources. The plan includes specific targets for the transport sector, such as increasing the share of electric vehicles and to have at least 5,900 charging points in the country by 2030, as well as improving public transportation to reduce reliance on private cars.

Following the European Commission's proposals, Hungary is also striving to increase transport connections and the share of rail and inland waterway transport. The government has launched various support programmes including the European Mobility Week and Car Free Day, to promote environmentally friendly transport options. Hungary invests in infrastructures to promote cycling and walking as sustainable modes of transport including building new bike lanes and pedestrian pathways. These programmes contribute to the achievement of the carbon emission reduction targets of the Climate Action Plan involving the citizens as well.

### **How is Hungary's readiness and progress in adopting and integrating new technologies in the transport industry, such as intelligent mobility solutions or digital systems, considered?**

Hungary has been making notable strides in adopting and integrating new technologies in the transport industry, particularly in intelligent mobility solutions and digital systems. New technologies in the transport industry have been steadily involved in Hungary.

As for the Intelligent Transport Systems, Hungary has been developing and implementing numerous elements to enhance traffic management in urban areas and to optimize public transport operations. Real-time information systems provide passengers with updates on bus and train schedules, while smart ticketing systems streamline fare collection and improve the efficiency of public transport networks.

Hungary has been actively participating in global events like the ITS World Congress, showcasing the advancements in smart mobility. For instance, the ZalaZONE Vehicle Test Track is a significant project that creates a "digital twin" for transport situations, allowing for real-time responses and testing. Hungary has also made substantial progress in enhancing its digital infrastructure. The country has improved its broadband connectivity and basic 5G coverage. It also boasts high adoption rates of cloud services and data analytics among enterprises.

### **Sustainability is becoming increasingly important in the global travel industry. How does Hungary address environmental concerns and promote sustainable practices in its transportation infrastructure and logistics activities?**

Hungary has taken several measures to promote sustainability in transport infrastructure and logistics activities. Our country is making significant progress in sustainable energy production and transport, with an above EU average share of renewable energy in transport.

The above-mentioned Climate and Nature Action Plan includes a number of measures to promote electric mobility thus sustainable practices.

Hungary also promotes the use of electric vehicles and smart mobility solutions for sustainable transport and logistics to deliver parcels from urban logistics centres. Our country relies on solar energy, biomass, wind energy, geothermal energy, but lately in order to help to achieve decarbonised public and private transport as soon as possible, Hungary has been investing in creating electric battery factories. All these factories will have a positive impact on the performance of domestic electric vehicle manufacturers, their suppliers and the battery industry as well as on the modernisation of the Hungarian fleet. These measures will contribute to making Hungary's transport and logistics systems more sustainable, reducing environmental pressures and improving quality of life.

### **Given Hungary's strategic location within Europe, what role does the country consider to facilitate the flow of international trade and travel, especially considering recent global economic changes and consumption trends and the challenges of functioning?**

With well-developed road, rail and air infrastructure, Hungary is strategically positioned to support the flow of goods and people across major European trade corridors, acting as a bridge between Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans.

To further support the countries' capacities, there have been numerous developments on the national motorway network, as well as the noted Budapest-Belgrade railway line. Also, from June 2024, the Budapest Airport Zrt. is back in national majority ownership after 20 years. On a regional level, Hungary is actively involved in the development of the European Union's Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) to integrate and improve transport infrastructure between Member States. Globally speaking, the country's economy is highly export-oriented and the importance of East Asian sourcing markets has increased in recent decades.

The main challenge of functioning these days is sustainability. Hungary is focused on aligning with EU climate goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable growth and transport solutions via for instance the "green corridors" for road transport and the support of zero-emission vehicles. Another challenge is for example the shift of global consumption trends, such as e-commerce. While in 2022 the sector was still characterized by stable growth and the dominance of local players, by 2023 the explosion of foreign online marketplaces posed new challenges to the market, which began to fundamentally reshape the Hungarian online retail market. The Hungarian government remains open for foreign companies from the sector but in the meanwhile has taken a number of measures to support the Hungarian market players, especially small and medium-sized enterprises.



Interview with the Department of Transportation Undersecretary

# Hon. Jesus Ferdinand Ortega



## How does the National Transport Policy address the need for sustainable transport solutions?

The NTP addresses the need for sustainable transport solutions by promoting an integrated, inclusive, and environmentally sound approach to mobility. Central to its framework is the prioritization of people-mobility over vehicle-mobility, encouraging the use of public transportation, non-motorized transport or active transport, and shared mobility services to reduce dependency on private vehicles.

The NTP emphasizes the adoption of clean and energy-efficient technologies, such as electric and hybrid vehicles, as part of its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the environmental impacts of the transport sector. It also supports the rationalization of routes through Local Public Transport Route Plans (LPTRPs) to ensure efficient and optimized transport services that minimize fuel consumption and emissions while still being responsive to the emerging demand of passengers, specifically in the areas of affordability, reliability, convenience, safety, among others.

The NTP integrates land use planning with transport development, ensuring that transport systems are designed to complement urban growth and promote accessibility, to achieve long-term sustainability. It also promotes active transport infrastructure, such as walkways and bikeways, to encourage sustainable modes of travel. Additionally, the policy underscores the importance of data-driven planning and international standards for vehicle emissions and fuel economy to continuously improve the sustainability of transport systems. Establishment of monitoring, evaluation, adaptation, and learning systems is also promoted to facilitate evidence-based adaptation of transportation services according to the evolving needs of both the travelers and efficient movement of goods.

The NTP, through these various strategies, aims to create a transport network that not only meets current mobility demands but also ensures environmental preservation and equitable access for future generations.

## What are the major projects currently underway or planned under the Build, Better, More Program that will improve the overall physical connectivity in the country, and how do they align with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028?

Transport Infrastructure Projects such as the Taguig City Integrated Terminal Exchange, North Integrated Transport System, EDSA Greenways and Unified Grand Central Station are expected to improve interconnectivity and provide seamless transfers across different modes of transport, including planned Bus Rapid Transit and Railway Projects of the Department such as the NCR EDSA Busway Project, LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension, LRT Line 2 East and West Extensions, MRT Line 7, Metro Manila Subway and North-South Commuter Railway Projects, among others.

Outside NCR, the DOTr also has big-ticket projects including the Cebu Bus Rapid Transit, Mindanao Railway, and Davao Public Transport Modernization Projects, among others,

which are aimed at providing an efficient transport system in other metropolitan areas of the country.

These projects are aligned with the Philippine Development Plan, especially on the outcome strategy: seamless and inclusive connectivity achieved by moving people through modernized and expanded transport infrastructure and addressing universal mobility and connectivity needs.

These pipeline of infrastructure projects are envisioned to facilitate the increase of public transportation mode share while minimizing the rate of transport crashes both outlined in the Philippine Development Plan Results Matrices.

## What are the priorities of the current administration in strengthening the enforcement of the Euro 4 emission standards?

Through the issuance of Department Order 2024-015, the Department provided the revised guidelines for the accreditation of Modern Public Utility Vehicles (MPUVs) that will take part in the Public Transport Modernization Program.

Among the requirements for MPUV accreditation is the compliance documents from the Department of Energy and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau. For Internal Combustion Engines, the Certificate of Conformity to Emission Standards is required. This ensures that the vehicles are compliant to the Euro IV or better engine requirements of the DENR. Similarly, for Electric Vehicles, the Certificate of Non-Coverage from Emission Standards is applicable.

The Department remains very strict in the enforcement of compliance to emission standards, and does not entertain MPUV accreditation applications that lack the said documents from the DENR.

## Are there any updates on the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2028?

As part of its mandate as the primary agency for road safety, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), in collaboration with various government agencies, non-government organizations, and civil society groups, developed the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan (PRSAP) 2017-2022. This plan served as a roadmap for implementing road safety initiatives across the country.

To further enhance these efforts, the World Health Organization (WHO) engaged The Policy Center to assist the DOTr in evaluating the PRSAP and creating a new medium-term plan aligned with the 2021-2030 Decade of Action for Road Safety Global Plan. This process provided an opportunity to address challenges encountered during the implementation of road safety initiatives and to strengthen strategies aimed at reducing road traffic fatalities and injuries in the Philippines.

The updated Philippine Road Safety Action Plan (PRSAP) 2023-2028, launched in May 2023, now serves as the nation's comprehensive framework for road safety. It aims to reduce road traffic deaths by 35% by 2028.



In May 2024, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) incorporated International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) targets into its strategy for 2028. This includes increasing the percentage of national primary roads meeting a 3-star or better safety rating and implementing iRAP or Road Safety Audit recommendations in all completed road projects.

Similarly, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and its partners introduced the Metro Manila Road Safety Action Plan (MMRSAP) 2024-2028. This regional framework aligns with the PRSAP's goals and targets a 35% reduction in road crash fatalities in Metro Manila by 2028.

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has also intensified efforts through its "Stop Road Accident Program," supporting the PRSAP's goals of cutting road accident deaths by 35% by 2028 and 50% by 2033, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly directives.

To bolster these efforts, the Philippine government has committed to forming a task force to collaborate with the United Nations on road safety. During a press conference at the UN Philippines office in Mandaluyong on November 11, 2024, DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista emphasized that the task force would ensure broader participation from other agencies in implementing the PRSAP 2023-2028.

These coordinated efforts across government agencies and stakeholders reflect a unified commitment to significantly improve road safety and reduce traffic fatalities in the Philippines.

**What are the immediate and long-term strategies to address traffic congestion in Metro Manila and other urban areas? How is the DOTr working with local governments, private sector, and other stakeholders to implement these strategies effectively?**

Improving the traffic conditions in Metro Manila requires a multi-faceted approach that is in line with the National Transport Policy (NTP) and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP). Strategies include:

1. Promotion of Non-Motorized Transport or Active Transport (AT). Walking, cycling, and types of AT should be prioritized as they serve as the last-mile connectivity for commuters. Being at the top of the hierarchy in the NTP, infrastructures should revolve around the development and improvement of pedestrian walkways, green parks, bike lanes, and other related infrastructures. This is to encourage and induce the demand for a greener and more active mobility option for commuters.
2. Improvement of Public Transportation (PT) Systems. This is next in line from AT, wherein it allows the movement of more people while occupying fewer spaces. Mass Transit Systems like Trains, High-Quality Buses, Trams, and the like should be improved and developed in Metro Manila. Along with these, the rationalization of road-based public transport routes such as Jeepneys, Utility

Vans, Minibuses, and buses should also be prioritized to improve the services being provided by these transport modes, as these are the widely used transport modes in Metro Manila. By improving and rationalizing these routes, we can determine the appropriate modes to be used, the number of units to be allocated in those routes, and the most efficient route it should traverse while being responsive to the demand, road networks, and other related factors. Through the improvement of PT Systems, we encourage people to shift from the use of private cars to PT services, which will lead to the reduction of vehicles on the roads.

3. The development of Transport Infrastructures should also revolve around the active transport and public transport systems in Metro Manila. Dedicated lanes for bikes and public transport should be developed in all major corridors to improve the services of these systems. In other types of roads, pedestrian lanes, walkways, bike lanes, and other related infrastructure should be improved to provide safe mobility options to commuters. Multi-modal transport hubs should also be developed in key areas in Metro Manila to allow seamless transfer from one mode of transport to another. Stops for PUVs, charging stations and other EV-related facilities, transport terminals, and other transport-related facilities are also key infrastructures to encourage commuters to utilize active transport and public transport services.
4. Sustainable Urban Planning is also one way to improve traffic conditions in Metro Manila. By proper planning and designing of urban communities, we can ensure that our key areas are easily accessible by walking and public transport. Building more parks, planting more trees and bushes in walkways, and other related initiatives will encourage people to walk and cycle. Transit-oriented development (TOD) will ensure that public transport is accessible in highly developed areas within 20 minutes of walking.
5. Traffic Management will also ensure that the flow of traffic is forecasted and planned during peak and off-peak hours. With good traffic management and the prioritization of the flow of public transport, the volume of vehicles on roads is controlled and well-managed, while ensuring the quality of services of PT are maintained to good standards.
6. Hybrid Working Arrangements. This initiative will also reduce the number of people traveling, while also ensuring the reduction of vehicles on the road for certain periods of time. Encouraging private companies and other offices to adopt flexible working schemes for their employees will provide balance in the flow of people and will aid in the reduction of traffic in Metro Manila.





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**Breaking New Ground: Royal Cargo Delivered Equipment for the Metro Manila Subway Project**

A monumental feat in the Metro Manila Subway Project has been achieved with the arrival of a colossal Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), also known as “moles.” This cutting-edge machine, critical to the project’s success, will significantly accelerate the construction process by efficiently excavating underground tunnels, moving the project closer to completion.

the TBM to Camp Aguinaldo Station on Boni Serrano Avenue, completing the journey on March 17, 2024.

The operation required a specialized fleet of heavy-duty vehicles, including tractors, trailers, and cranes, specifically designed to handle oversized and overweight cargo. To ensure public safety and minimize traffic disruptions, Royal Cargo worked closely with key local authorities to secure necessary permits and implement traffic management strategies.



**Specialized Logistics and Expertise in Action**

Royal Cargo has played a pivotal role in successfully delivering this massive equipment. With extensive experience handling complex logistics operations, Royal Cargo expertly managed the safe and efficient transport of the TBM and its components, with a maximum width of 7.02 meters and a weight of up to 75.0 tons. This achievement marks another milestone in the company’s extensive portfolio of heavy transport solutions.

The TBM shipment arrived at Manila Harbour Centre Port on March 5, 2024, and was unloaded the next day. Over the following 12 days, the Royal Cargo team coordinated a carefully handled and transported



**Showcasing Excellence in the Philippine Infrastructure Development**

This successful operation underscores Royal Cargo’s commitment to excellence and capacity to overcome complex logistical demands. By delivering this essential TBM, Royal Cargo reaffirms its role in supporting the Philippines’ infrastructure ambitions, paving the way for further advancements in the Metro Manila Subway Project and setting the foundation for continued progress in the nation’s underground construction project.



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\*From December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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# AIRFRANCE

ELEGANCE IS A JOURNEY



## This winter, Air France inaugurated a new non-stop service between Manila and Paris-Charles de Gaulle.

With Paris being the most visited and celebrated city in the world, with the well-known Eiffel Tower, the many art museums, and historical landmarks such as Notre Dame, we are proud Air France is expanding its network with a non-stop 3-weekly flight between Manila and Paris-Charles de Gaulle.

Starting 8 December 2024, Manila will be linked to Air France's global hub at Paris-Charles de Gaulle. The 3 weekly direct flights will operate every Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays with an Airbus A350-900, offering 34 seats in the Business cabin, 24 seats in Premium, and 266 in Economy.

Together with our partner airline KLM Royal Dutch Airlines via Amsterdam, Air France and KLM ensure a combined daily service from Manila. Both Air France and KLM flights are fully combinable, providing travelers with various travel options to connect from Manila to Europe and beyond.

### The art of Travel, a la Française.

Air France has been sharing French excellence with the world since 1933. With France being well known for its gastronomy, Air France prides itself in being an Ambassador of French fine dining. On flights from Paris, Air France partners with Michelin-starred chefs to create Signature dishes in all cabins.

But that's not all, with ever more comfortable travel cabins, curated airport lounges crafted by world-renowned designers and architects, uniforms by exceptional couturiers, and complimentary champagne in all cabins, Air France takes French elegance to new heights.

### An extensive network operated with an optimized fleet.

The Air France-KLM group currently operates one of the most diversified networks between Europe and the rest of the world. The 'Group' composed of Air France, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Transavia has a fleet of 551 aircraft - and together fly to over 320 destinations

in 100 countries. (Source 2023 registration Doc) The Group is not only a global player in the passenger business but also in cargo and maintenance.

Organized around its dual hubs of Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam-Schiphol, which are two of the four largest connecting platforms in Western-Europe, Air France and KLM aim to enhance its route network for the benefit of its customers from all around the world and share the commitment to providing a seamless, premium and customer centric travel experience.

Confirming its strategy of continuing to modernize its fleet, the Group has ordered new-generation narrow-body and wide-body aircraft that will deliver a strong contribution to the Group's environmental roadmap and generate substantial financial benefits. By 2025, up to 37% of the Group's fleet should be composed of new-generation aircraft and up to 80% of the fleet should be new-generation aircraft by 2030.

### The Air France-KLM Group's ambitions.

The purpose of the Air France-KLM group is to be 'At the forefront of a more responsible European aviation, uniting people for the purpose of the world of tomorrow'. The group's business brings people, economies, and cultures together, and drives economic growth and social progress. The overarching ambition of the Air France-KLM group is to become a European aviation champion and one of the most powerful in the world, while acting as an industry leader in sustainable aviation. As such, Flight safety is an absolute imperative that the Group owes to its customers and staff, and a daily commitment.

### SkyTeam

Air France and KLM are members of SkyTeam, which offers the most comprehensive priority of any alliance, easy and efficient transfers, and the opportunity to earn and redeem miles across all member airlines.

The SkyTeam network operates 13,600+ daily flights to 1000+ destinations in 160+ countries.





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# Inside ECCP: Manila

## Finance in the Climate-Health Nexus: Adapting to Heat

19 November 2024

Current investments in the critical intersection of climate change and health remain alarmingly low – how do we change this?

In the recently concluded dialogue, Finance in the Climate-Health Nexus: Adapting to Heat, organized by the ECCP in collaboration with its Special Committee on Open Finance and Financial Inclusion (SCOFFI) and partner Pru Life UK, industry leaders and experts came together to explore sustainable strategies to safeguard public health in the face of escalating climate-related challenges.

Leading this important discussion were Climate Change Commission PH Deputy Executive Director Romell Antonio Cuenca, Prudence Foundation Executive Director Nicole Ngeow, Employers Confederation of the Philippines Occupational Safety and Health Academy Head Rhodora “Dang” Buenaventura-Snyder, and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Climate Change Adaptation Specialist Dr. Natasha Kuruppu.

Hosting and moderating the event was Atty. Michael Macapagal, Partner at Quisumbing Torres.



The dialogue highlighted the staggering impact of climate on health and livelihoods, barriers hindering effective cross-sectoral collaboration between healthcare practitioners, financial sector, policymakers, and environmental agencies, actionable solutions to undertake, and available opportunities for innovation and co-investment in climate and health.

Our sincerest thanks to Pru Life UK CEO Sanjay Chakrabarty for opening our event, and to Pru Life UK for hosting us!

For official photos, please visit [https://lnkd.in/gJHM3k\\_8](https://lnkd.in/gJHM3k_8).

## Managing Filipino Teams: Expat’s Guide to Creating Effective Workforce

27 November 2024

Last November 27, the ECCP Competency Hub and Kaizen Leadership Asia held the Managing Filipino Teams: Expat’s Guide to Creating Effective Workforce training workshop.

Led by Kaizen Leadership Asia CEO Mike Grogan, the session provided expat managers insights and strategies into the Filipino work culture and practical tools to help manage Filipino teams more effectively. Other topics covered include Filipino work culture, communication, leadership styles, and motivation in the Filipino workplace.

Thank you to our attendees for their active participation and to our venue Alpha Suites Makati!

To learn more about our remaining training sessions for the year, visit [eccp.com/upcoming-trainings](https://eccp.com/upcoming-trainings).





## Designing for a Changing World: Adapting Architecture to Modern Needs

27 November 2024

On November 27, 2024, the ECCP Real Estate Committee and Leechiu Property Consultants held the final installment of the Insights Series: Designing for a Changing World: Adapting Architecture to Modern Needs.

The session brought together industry leaders and experts to explore how architecture and design can rise to the challenges of our rapidly evolving world. From integrating sustainability and AI technologies to creating adaptable, livable spaces – the discussion highlighted innovative strategies for designing environment-conscious and resilient communities.

We would like to thank our esteemed speakers Arch. Felino Palafox, Principal Architect-Urban Planner and Founder of Palafox Associates; Yee Tak Lau, Director at KPF; Christopher Reyes, General Sales Manager at Haworth; and Sylvester Wong Vice President and Asia Lead for ESG + Sustainability Services at AECOM.



As our 2024 Insights Series comes to an end, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the members of the ECCP Real Estate Committee, Leechiu Property Consultants, and all our attendees for their support and participation!

Stay tuned for next year's installment as we continue shaping the future of design, one conversation at a time!

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

## ECCP and Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Company courtesy visit to the Embassy of Belgium in Manila

28 November 2024

Last November 28, ECCP and its member company, Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Company, paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Manila.

Discussions focused on exploring business opportunities, fostering collaboration, and gaining insights into European market entry and government support. A key highlight was AG&P's recent milestone: the successful delivery of pre-assembled units for INEOS to the Port of Antwerp, Belgium. AG&P Industrial has employed more than 2,100 for the project Batangas, Philippines, with all craftsmen trained and certified to European standards.

Present at the meeting were (L-R), Mia Abela, Chief Trade and Economic Representative, Embassy of Belgium; Anupam Ahuja, President for Corporate Strategy & Development, AG&P; Florian Gottein,



Executive Director, ECCP; H.E. Michel Parys, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium; Roberto Juanchito Dispo, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director, AG&P; Amaya Legarda, Assistant Vice President for Marketing Communications and Public Affairs, AG&P; and Gen Anaquita-Gatan, Director of Operations, ECCP.

## MS Excel Advanced Skills for Business

29 November 2024

Unlocking smarter decisions, streamlining operations, and boosting business success one excel sheet at a time!

Last November 28, the ECCP Competency Hub held the final run of its best-selling MS Excel Advanced Skills for Business program for 2024.

Facilitated by Microsoft Lecturer Mr. Ralph Mapute, participants gained a deep understanding of the Excel environment and its powerful tools, explored advanced functions, learned to build business systems for time management and sales tracking, and mastered pivot tables to efficiently summarize and analyze data.



## 19th JFC Networking Night

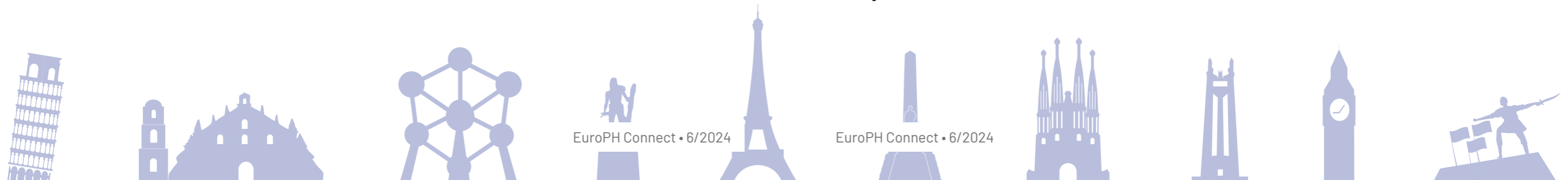
28 November 2024

Cheers to new connections and to what has been a phenomenal year for the foreign and Filipino business community at the 19th JFC Networking Night!

Organized by the Joint Foreign Chambers, the event was a celebration of connections, collaboration, and camaraderie among members of foreign chambers and esteemed guests from the diplomatic and business communities.

For official photos, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBTJ8h>. We hope all our attendees had an excellent time!

The JFC would like to thank its sponsors 3M, AGS Four Winds Global Movers, Alaska Milk Corporation, BPI Tokyo Century Rental Corporation, Brentville by Filinvest, Canon, Centre Medicale Internationale, Coca-Cola Philippines, Crown Worldwide Group, Dana Asia, Discovery Primea, Dusit Thani Manila, Eve Grocer Sustainable Marketplace, First Philippine Industrial Park, Four Points by Sheraton, HMR, Howden, Kaizen Leadership Asia, San Miguel Brewery, Marubeni, myStay Hotels, Nestle, New World Makati, Philippine Retirement Authority, Robinsons Offices, Santos Knight Frank, Sheraton Manila, SM Prime, Sun Life, Sunlight Air, The Bellevue Manila and Veratech.





## ECCP Community Connect

3 December 2024

On December 3, 2024, the ECCP proudly hosted its final Community Connect event of the year at Spaces by IWG.

This gathering facilitated valuable interactions between new and longstanding members, and provided insights into membership benefits, chamber services, and opportunities for collaboration.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our esteemed session partners— Phil Ecology Systems Corp., HURIS Inc., Oak Drive Capital Inc, LHH Philippines, TESTEX, and Forvis Mazars in the Philippines—for their support, as well as to all participants for making this event successful.

We look forward to many more inspiring gatherings that foster connection and advancement within our community in the upcoming years!

For official photos, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBTS6x>



## 2025 Philippine Economic Outlook

5 December 2024

How can business professionals stay ahead in the coming year while effectively leveraging the opportunities presented by the Philippine economy?

On December 5, the ECCP together with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Manila and Deloitte hosted the 2025 Economic Outlook Forum.

In his keynote presentation, World Bank Group Lead Economist Dr. Gonzalo Varela discussed recent developments in the global economy, the growth trends in the East Asia and Pacific region, and the risks such as economic shifts, policy changes, climate challenges, and technological advancements.

Meanwhile, ING Bank N.V. Managing Director and Country Manager Mr. Jun Palanca highlighted business opportunities, especially in the prime sectors of banking, energy, telecommunications, and infrastructure.

Moreover, the Chamber has released the results of its 2024 Business Sentiment Survey. Presented by ECCP Director for Public Policy, Advocacy, and Projects Sophia Ordoña, the survey showed that 85% of respondents are expecting an increase in trade and investment over the next four years, and with 81%



anticipating company expansion. However, concerns remain regarding policy continuity, geopolitical risks, and regulatory transparency.

We would like to thank our Advocacy Partner Embassy of Belgium in Manila and Advocacy Lead Deloitte for organizing this event with us!

Our sincerest thanks to our moderator Ms. Kaye Macaisa-Peña, Partner at SGV & Co. and to our host, Atty. Maria Concepcion Simundac-Delos Santos, Lead Legal Counsel of ING Bank N.V. Manila Branch!

For more photos, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBU5Cq>.

To access the 2024 Business Sentiment Survey, visit <https://eccp.com/2024BSSR>.

## Business Meeting with H.E. Katalin Bihari, Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

4 December 2024

Business meeting with H.E. Katalin Bihari, Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, on 4 December 2024.

Attended by ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein, the meeting organized by the Embassy of Hungary in the Philippines offered a platform to discuss the bilateral trade relations between Hungary and the Philippines. The dialogue was particularly pertinent in the context of the ongoing EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement negotiations.

In photo (from L-R): H.E. Titanilla Tóth, Ambassador of Hungary; H.E. Ms. Katalin Bihari, Deputy State Secretary; and ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein.



## ECCP Partner's Appreciation Night

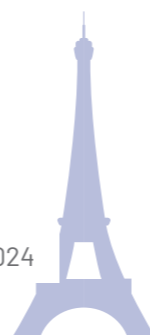
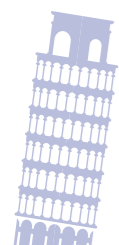
5 December 2024

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to everyone who attended the Partner's Appreciation Night on December 5 at the Manila House, BGC. This gathering was not merely a celebration; it was a testament to the remarkable partnerships that have flourished, the collective milestones we have achieved, the challenges we have surmounted together, and our shared commitment to fostering growth and exploring new opportunities.

As we celebrate another successful year, the ECCP expresses its warmest gratitude for the connections forged and the progress made possible through the efforts and support of our members and partners.

With a spirit of resilience and a shared vision for sustainability, let us embark on the journey ahead and continue to nurture connections and create new opportunities for both European and Philippine businesses to flourish. Here's to a year filled with promise, progress, and partnerships that thrive!

For a glimpse into this memorable evening, please visit <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBU5Tg>





**Luncheon Meeting with Hon. Chuchu Fonacier, Deputy Governor of the Financial Supervision Sector (FSS) of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)**  
21 October 2024

On December 10, the ECCP, together with the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and Salmon Philippines, held the final luncheon meeting of the year with Hon. Chuchi Fonacier, Deputy Governor of the Financial Supervision Sector (FSS) of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

In her keynote speech, Deputy Governor Fonacier outlined the objectives and implications of the Anti-Financial Account Scamming Act (AFASA) in enhancing the integrity of financial accounts and the overall financial system.

AFASA prohibits various acts of financial account scamming, including money muling and social engineering schemes, while placing significant responsibilities on financial institutions to protect clients' accounts. Under AFASA, the BSP is authorized to investigate financial accounts, apply for cybercrime warrants, and enforce risk management practices among institutions.

Additionally, the presentation discussed the evolving landscape of digital banking in the Philippines with the establishment of a digital banking framework in December 2020 and the licensing of six digital banks in 2022. The BSP plans to lift the moratorium on new digital bank licenses starting January 2025, allowing for a maximum of 10 additional banks.



The keynote address was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Atty. Maria Concepcion Simundac-Delos Santos, ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee Chairperson and Director and Lead Legal Counsel at ING Bank Philippines. Panelists included Hon. Chuchi G. Fonacier, UBX President and CEO Mr. John Januszcak, SGV & Co. Partner and Financial Services Organization Leader Mr. Christian Lauron, RCBC Executive Vice President and Chief Innovations and Inclusion Officer and Fintech Alliance PH Founding Chairman Mr. Lito Villanueva, Salmon PH Co-Founder and Rural Bank of Sta. Rosa Laguna President and CEO Mr. George Chesakov, and Bank of the Philippine Islands Vice President, Enterprise Information Security Officer and Data Protection Officer Mr. Jonathan John Paz.

We extend our gratitude to our Event Supporters Bank of the Philippines Islands and Salmon Philippines for organizing this luncheon meeting with us, and we likewise thank Atty. Maria Ana Camila Jacinto-Lagustan of Quisumbing Torres for hosting our event!

# Inside ECCP: Cebu

**ECCP Cebu had an Exploratory Meeting with CEO & Founder of Together, We Can Change The World, Mr. Scott Friedmann**  
7 November 2024

ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Jillian Sitchon had an exploratory meeting with Mr. Scott Friedmann, CEO and Founder of Together, We Can Change The World last November 7 at the Quest Hotel and Conference Center - Cebu. The meeting presents an exciting opportunity to discuss future collaboration, membership, and shared advocacies. The Chamber's robust network of businesses, policymakers, and thought leaders aligns well with Mr. Friedmann's mission of fostering positive global change. The discussion will center on how both organizations can work together to advance key social causes, while also exploring the benefits of Chamber membership for expanding outreach and leveraging resources.

Topics include advocacy strategies, joint initiatives, and the potential for leveraging the Chamber's services to further the organization's objectives. This meeting



is a pivotal step toward building a strong, mutually beneficial partnership that drives impactful change on both local and international levels.

We would like to sincerely thank Mr. Friedmann for his time and invaluable insights, and we look forward to the opportunity for future collaboration that will drive impactful change on both local and international levels.

**ECCP Cebu Business Council had an Exploratory Meeting with the Embassy of Hungary - Commercial Section**  
11 November 2024

A meeting with the Embassy of Hungary's Commercial Section provided a valuable platform to discuss investment and business opportunities in both the Philippines and Hungary. The conversation explored potential areas for collaboration between the Embassy and the European Chamber of Commerce, particularly in relation to events planned for 2025 that could highlight Hungarian business interests and foster stronger bilateral ties. Key topics included fostering trade relations, encouraging investment in both markets, and identifying mutual opportunities for growth.

Additionally, the meeting offered insightful perspectives on the Cebuano market, with its unique economic landscape and potential for Hungarian businesses looking to expand into the region. This discussion marks the beginning of a promising partnership between the Embassy, the Chamber,



and business leaders, with the goal of unlocking new opportunities for both Hungarian and Filipino enterprises in the coming years.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Embassy of Hungary for their time, effort, and thoughtful contributions, as well as for taking the opportunity to visit the Chamber and engage with its council members. We look forward to exploring future collaborations and strengthening the ties between our two nations.





## ECCP Cebu participated in the Embassy of Hungary's 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.



## ECCP Cebu had a Catch Up meeting with General Manager Brian Connelly of Jpark Island Resort and Waterpark, Cebu 14 November 2024

A catch-up meeting with General Manager Brian Connelly of Jpark Island Resort and Waterpark, Cebu focused on the resort's latest promotions and initiatives aimed at boosting tourism in Mactan Island. Mr. Connelly shared exciting plans to attract more visitors through exclusive offers, special packages, and enhanced guest experiences that highlight the resort's unique appeal.

During the meeting, ECCP Cebu also extended an invitation to JPark Island Resort to participate in its upcoming events, emphasizing the opportunity for further collaboration. Notably, ECCP Cebu proposed a potential partnership for the Chamber's Christmas Party event in December 6, offering a platform for the resort to showcase its offerings while also contributing to the festive celebrations.



We would like to sincerely thank Mr. Connelly for his continued support of the Chamber and for always accommodating any request with warmth and generosity. This meeting marks the beginning of what promises to be a fruitful partnership, aimed at driving tourism to Mactan and creating new avenues for collaboration between the resort and the Chamber.

## ECCP Cebu attended the #BiyahengEastern, 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.

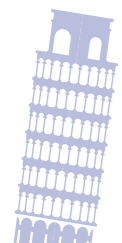


## ECCP Cebu had an Alignment Meeting with RISE for its membership renewal and partnerships 19 November 2024

The alignment meeting between ECCP Cebu and RISE focused on discussing the renewal of RISE's membership and exploring opportunities for deeper collaboration. As part of the discussions, the two organizations also outlined a potential partnership for the upcoming European Festive Socials on December 6. The event aims to bring together the local business community, diplomats, and key stakeholders for an evening of celebration, networking, and cultural exchange.

ECCP Cebu and RISE are excited about the opportunity to jointly host the event, offering a platform to showcase European businesses while fostering stronger ties within the Cebuano and international communities. We would like to sincerely thank RISE for its continued support of the Chamber and for always accommodating any request with enthusiasm and commitment.

The meeting marked an important step in reinforcing the partnership and setting the stage for a successful and impactful European Festive Socials celebration this December.





## SEC Investor Protection Week Launching 20 November 2024

On November 20, ECCP Cebu Assistant Branch Officer Sheridan Tan participated in the launch of the SEC Investor Protection Week, an event aimed at raising awareness about investment opportunities and promoting financial literacy among the public. The launch brought together key stakeholders from the financial sector, regulatory bodies, and business communities to highlight the importance of protecting investors and fostering a safe investment environment. During the press conference, the SEC highlighted that there has been an increase in digital scams and phishing, and encouraged the public to be vigilant with the link sent by SMS.

ECCP Cebu's involvement in the event underscored its commitment to supporting initiatives that promote transparency, accountability, and investor confidence in the Philippines. During the event, ECCP Cebu engaged with various stakeholders to discuss best practices and explore collaborative efforts that can further strengthen the local investment climate.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the SEC for its kind invitation and for organizing this important initiative.



## ECCP Cebu participated in the 26th All Aboard! Startup Cebu Mixer 20 November 2024

ECCP Cebu participated in the 26th All Aboard! Startup Cebu Mixer, marking the final mixer of the year, which brought together a dynamic group of entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, and business leaders from Cebu's thriving startup community. This event served as a valuable platform for networking, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing, as participants explored new business opportunities and discussed the latest trends in the startup ecosystem.

As part of its ongoing commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, ECCP Cebu actively engaged with the attendees, offering insights and connecting local startups with resources to help them grow. The mixer also provided an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past year and look ahead to



the future of Cebu's startup scene. ECCP Cebu is proud to support initiatives like All Aboard! that continue to nurture and empower the next generation of entrepreneurs in the region.

We would like to sincerely thank DOHE for the kind invitation and look forward to more fruitful collaborations in the near future.

## Leading GenZ Pinoys Without Micromanaging Workshop 21 November 2024

ECCP Cebu, together with Kaizen Leadership Asia, recently organized the Leading GenZ Pinoys Without Micromanaging workshop, aimed at equipping business leaders and managers with the tools and insights to effectively lead the emerging generation of Filipino professionals. The workshop focused on understanding the unique traits, values, and work styles of Generation Z, providing practical strategies for fostering a positive and productive work environment without resorting to micromanagement. Participants learned how to harness Gen Z's strengths, such as their digital fluency, creativity, and desire for meaningful work, while also navigating potential challenges in communication and collaboration. The session emphasized the importance of trust, autonomy,



and clear expectations in leadership, empowering managers to develop strong, self-driven teams.

ECCP Cebu continues to support the professional growth of businesses in the region by addressing contemporary leadership challenges and offering valuable learning opportunities.

## ECCP Cebu had an Alignment Meeting Cebu Landmasters Foundation 22 November 2024

ECCP Cebu recently held an alignment meeting with Cebu Landmasters Foundation to discuss potential collaborations and strengthen efforts in promoting sustainable business practices. The meeting provided a platform for both organizations to align their goals and explore opportunities for integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into their operations and initiatives.

Cebu Landmasters, a leader in real estate development, shared its ongoing sustainability initiatives and future plans, while ECCP Cebu offered insights on how local businesses can enhance their sustainability efforts through strategic partnerships and resources. This collaborative discussion underscored the shared commitment to advancing sustainable practices



within Cebu's business community, and both parties expressed enthusiasm for future joint initiatives that contribute to long-term environmental and social impact.

In photo: ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Jillian Sitchon and Cebu Landmasters Foundation Sustainability and Community Relations Manager Vera Alejandria





## Exploratory Meeting with Mr. David Thomas of APAC Financial Services

25 November 2024

ECCP recently held an exploratory meeting with Mr. David Thomas, Managing Director of APAC Financial Services, to discuss potential areas of collaboration and explore business opportunities within the financial services sector. The meeting focused on identifying ways to align ECCP's initiatives with APAC Financial Services' expertise in financial planning, wealth management, and investment solutions. Mr. Thomas shared valuable insights on the current financial landscape and opportunities for businesses to enhance their financial strategies. Both parties expressed a strong interest in working together to support the growth and financial well-being of local businesses in Cebu. ECCP looks forward to exploring future partnerships with APAC Financial Services



to drive innovation and financial literacy within the business community.

In photo: ECCP Cebu Assistant Branch Officer Sheridan Tan, Seda Central Bloc Cebu General Manager Ron Manalang, APAC Financial Services Managing Director David Thomas, and ECCP Cebu Branch Officer Jillian Sitchon

## Essential Legal Safeguards: A Comprehensive Guide for MSMEs

27 November 2024

ECCP Cebu recently organized the Essential Legal Safeguards webinar in collaboration with Padin & Partners Law Office, aimed at providing businesses with crucial insights into legal frameworks and best practices for protecting their operations.

The webinar covered a range of topics, including contract law, intellectual property protection, labor regulations, and dispute resolution, equipping participants with the knowledge to navigate legal challenges and minimize risks. Padin & Partners' experienced legal professionals shared valuable advice on how businesses can safeguard their interests and ensure compliance with local and international laws.

The session was well-received by business owners, managers, and legal professionals, highlighting ECCP Cebu's commitment to supporting the business community with timely and relevant resources.



## ECCP Cebu supported ACEN Res' Resurgence

28 November 2024

On November 28, ACEN RES, the retail electricity supply unit of ACEN, recently organized a conference aptly dubbed "Resurgence", ACEN RES gathered business leaders and decision-makers from different industries in Cebu City to make the sustainable choice of switching to renewable energy. The conference was designed to give business leaders the insights necessary to make informed decisions about incorporating renewable energy into their operations lead. The theme, "Resurgence," highlighted the growing exploration of how Renewable Energy (RE), Sustainability, Green Mobility, and their integration with business strategies can positively impact the bottom line. ACMobility CEO Jaime Alfonso Zobel de Ayala, who delivered a visionary closing speech on the future of electric mobility in the Philippines, encouraged businesses to shift to electric vehicles (EV) for their mobility and logistics operations to reinforce their sustainability commitments while providing a cost-saving solution for their operations. The event also showcased Cebuano talents and an astonishing performance from the Ultimate Performer, Ms. Vina Morales.



ECCP Cebu would like to sincerely thank ACEN RES for inviting us to be part of this insightful event. We truly appreciate the opportunity to engage with industry leaders and are excited about the potential for collaboration in the future. We look forward to working together next year and contributing to the shared goals of sustainability and innovation.

## Leveraging Innovation: Overcoming Financial Challenges through Emerging Technologies

3 December 2024

Last December 3, ECCP Cebu, in partnership with UHY, Leechiu Properties Consultants Inc., Johndorf Tower, and Flowtrack, organized the "Leveraging Innovation: Overcoming Financial Challenges through Emerging Technologies" forum which brought together industry leaders, financial experts, and technology pioneers to explore how cutting-edge innovations are reshaping the financial landscape. The event delved into the transformative impact of technologies like blockchain, AI-driven wealth management, and digital payments on the financial services sector, highlighting how tools such as personalized financial planning platforms and robo-advisors empower individuals to make informed financial decisions. Additionally, the forum addressed the role of emerging tech in building financial resilience through advancements in cybersecurity, fraud detection, and AI-driven risk management. By fostering collaboration and sharing practical insights,



the forum equipped attendees with the knowledge and connections needed to navigate the future of finance confidently, whether they are financial professionals, entrepreneurs, or individuals looking to enhance their financial literacy.

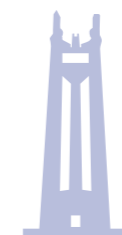
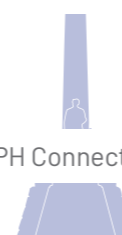
A heartfelt thank you to our event partners for their unwavering support and generosity, which played a vital role in making this event a resounding success:

Event Partner: UHY

Bronze Partner: Flowtrack

Venue Partners: Leechiu Properties Consultants Inc. and Johndorf Tower

This event wouldn't be possible without your support.





# Inside ECCP: CDO

## Capitol University Graduate School's Knowledge Festival 2025: ECCP as Key Partner

23 November 2024

The Capitol University Graduate School (CUGS) recently hosted its annual Knowledge Festival, gathering distinguished professionals, academics, and industry leaders to explore innovative solutions for pressing societal challenges. Themed "Public Service Innovation: Advancing Digital Governance for a Better Future," this year's event spotlighted the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) as the main partner, strengthening the festival's impact and relevance in addressing critical issues such as digital governance, food safety, and disaster management.

The ECCP's involvement was formally recognized during the Message of Partnership, delivered by Mr. Jaime Rafael Paguio, Northern Mindanao Business Council Chairperson of the ECCP. The partnership between



Capitol University and ECCP highlights a shared commitment to bridging the gap between education and industry, particularly in advancing governance and technology solutions for a better future.

As Capitol University and ECCP continue to strengthen their partnership, the Knowledge Festival stands as a shining example of how education and industry can work hand-in-hand to create meaningful and lasting change.

## ECCP Northern Mindanao Representative Hosts the 8th National Technology Business Incubator Summit

26 November 2024

Last November 26, 2024, ECCP Northern Mindanao Branch Officer Ms. Joanne Natindim became one of the hosts to this year's National 8th Technology Business Incubator Summit hosted this year by CDO Bites of the University of Science and Technology of the Southern Philippines. The National 8th TBI Summit gathered all the startups, business incubators, and experts from both the public and the private sectors to strengthen the startup ecosystem of the country. The first time to be held in Mindanao, the Summit was also graced by the presence of DOST Secretary Hon. Renato U. Solidum, Jr.



## HQ Center Launches its second IWG Center in CDO

3 December 2024

On December 3, 2024, Ms. Joanne Natindim, ECCP Northern Mindanao Branch Officer, had the honor of attending the launch of the HQ Center at SM CDO Downtown Premier. This event celebrated the opening of the second IWG center by Damosa Land, Inc. in Cagayan de Oro and the fourth in Mindanao. Adding to the significance of the occasion was the presence of IWG Country Manager and former ECCP President Lars Wittig. The establishment of this new center marks a major milestone in expanding flexible workspace solutions in Northern Mindanao, fostering innovative and adaptable workspaces tailored to the evolving needs of modern professionals.



## Project emPOWER Brings 3-Day Internship Training Program to Marawi City

2-4 December 2024

From December 2 to 4, 2024, Project emPOWER successfully conducted a 3-day internship training program in Marawi City, benefiting 600 students by providing essential training in electrical systems and safety. Jointly implemented by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST), an ECCP member, the initiative was made possible through the generous support of KfW and Schneider Electric, highlighting their dedication to sustainable development and empowering local communities.

The program included interactive, hands-on sessions led by skilled electrical engineers from CEPALCO, Iligan Light and Power Inc., and MORESCO-1, ensuring students gained practical insights and technical expertise aligned with industry standards. The program also included a site tour of their own distribution utility - LASURECO. This initiative serves



as a vital step in equipping individuals with the skills needed to contribute to the region's sustainable energy development.

The success of the training underscores the value of collaboration among key stakeholders in promoting inclusive growth and opening opportunities for communities to rebuild and thrive, particularly in areas like Marawi City that have faced significant challenges like the siege and the global pandemic.



# Inside ECCP: Davao

## Integrated Coffee Farming Management Training

2-6 December 2024

The ECCP, through the Bangsamoro Agri Enterprise Program - CRESCENT Project, conducted a five-day intensive workshop on Integrated Coffee Farming Management. Led by Ms. Marivic Dubria of Dubria Farms, a top producer of award-winning Arabica coffee in Purok Pluto, Sitio Balutakay, Barangay Managa, Bansalan, Davao del Sur, the workshop provided participants with comprehensive knowledge of coffee production, from seed to cup. It covered essential stages such as harvesting, processing, and cupping. Farmer-representatives from Lanao del Sur, specifically from Amaí Manabilang and Madamba, attended the workshop gaining valuable insights and practical skills that they can apply and replicate on their own farms. One of the key highlights was Ms. Dubria's introduction of the pioneering use of yeast fermentation in coffee production. Coffee cherries were fermented anaerobically before being depulped,



leaving the mucilage intact. This process enhances the coffee's flavor profile, resulting in fruit-forward notes, improved acidity, and a natural sweetness—qualities that make it competition-grade coffee. This workshop was initiated by CRESCENT Senior Project Officer Jake Almanzor and supported by Project Officer for Southern Mindanao, Sam Gura. With an added ambiance of the scenic foothill of Mt. Apo, the training provided participants with an immersive experience in coffee processing techniques.

## MOA Signing with Lyceum of the Philippines Davao

6 December 2024

The ECCP, represented by its Davao Chapter Officer Andriane Sam Gura, participated in the MOA signing for an internship partnership agreement hosted by Lyceum of the Philippines Davao through its College of Accountancy, Business, and Management. As a newly onboarded member of the Chamber, LPU Davao aims to strengthen its ties with the industry and advance its internationalization efforts. The institution also expressed interest in actively contributing to the Education Advocacy Committee alongside other schools in the Davao region. This initiative seeks to create opportunities for students, including scholarships, knowledge-sharing sessions, and hands-on training exposure. Present in the signing



were Dr. John Joseph P. Villotes CABM Dean and other faculty members. During the meeting, initial discussions focused on providing interns with valuable experience in facilitating investments in Mindanao through engagement with the Chamber's programs and activities.

# Advocacy Corner

## ECCP Environment and Water Committee Meeting with House Committee of Economic Affairs Secretary Atty. Ma. Luz Concepcion Balduenza-Principe

18 November 2024

On 18 November, the ECCP Environment and Water Committee convened with Committee Secretary Atty. Ma. Luz Concepcion "Alou" Balduenza-Principe of the House Committee on Economic Affairs via Zoom.

During the meeting, Atty. Alou presented the recent developments of the proposed Circular Economy Act covering its salient provisions, issues, challenges, and next steps needed to propel the bill forward. Following this presentation, the committee members discussed industry updates regarding the creation of the Department of Water and the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act.

To join or inquire about the Environment and Water Committee, please reach out to [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com)

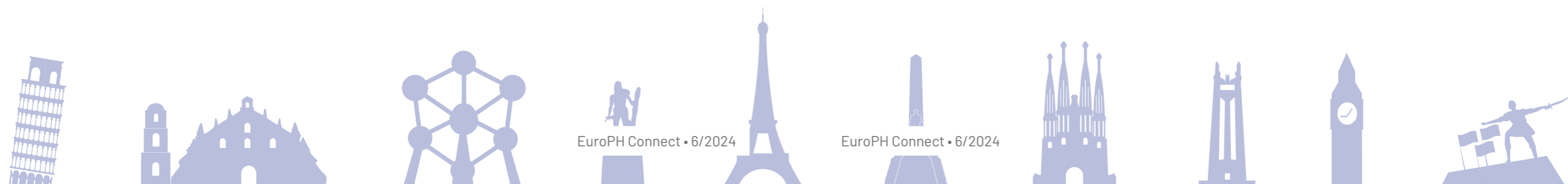


## ECCP Healthcare Committee Meeting

22 November 2024

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Healthcare Committee held a meeting on 22 November 2024, via Zoom. The session delved on the committee's position with regard to the Government Procurement Reform Act or Republic Act (RA) No. 12009. During the hour-long discussion, members discussed their recommendations, insights, and perspectives on what should be included in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 12009 and the best way for the healthcare and pharmaceutical sector to be represented.

To join or inquire about the Healthcare Committee, please reach out to [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com)





## ECCP-AsBAA Meeting with CAAP

22 November 2024

Last November 22, 2024, the ECCP and Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA) met with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) at their main office in Pasay City to discuss potential areas of collaboration for the 2025 Aviation Summit. Co-organized by ECCP and AsBAA, the 3rd installment of the Summit aims to showcase the Philippines on the international stage and advance key discussions on aviation development.

The meeting was attended by key representatives from CAAP, including Atty. Danjun Lucas, Deputy Director General for Administration; Capt. Chuck Aquino, Flight Standards Inspectorate Service (FSIS) Chief; Atty. Nester Mendoza, Corporate Secretary; Atty. Ice Iruguin, Corporate Planning Office; Sofia Fulmaran, Strategic Planning Office; Atty. Irish Precion, FSIS; John Beau Masiglat, Executive Assistant V; and Jose Edison Torres from the Events Team.

From ECCP, participants included Director Jussi Joikka and Aviation Committee Co-Chair Atty. Manolito Manalo. Meanwhile, COO for Southeast Asia Penny Lim and Member of the Board of Governors Max Motschmann represented AsBAA.

To inquire about the 2025 Aviation Summit, email [avsummit@eccp.com](mailto:avsummit@eccp.com).



## 2nd Public Consultation of the Draft Implementing Guidelines of the Philippine Transport Vehicles Fuel Economy Labeling Program on Fuel Economy Label for Road Transport Vehicles (VFELP-IG on FEL-RTV)

26 November 2024

The ECCP participated in the 2nd Public Consultation of the Draft Implementing Guidelines of the Philippine Transport Vehicles Fuel Economy Labeling Program on Fuel Economy Label for Road Transport Vehicles (VFELP-IG on FEL-RTV). Chaired by Department of Energy Director Patrick Aquino, the session was held virtually on 26 November via MS Teams and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to share their insights.



## JFC Meeting with DOTr Secretary Bautista

27 November 2024

Represented by President Paulo Duarte and Aviation Committee Co-Chairperson Atty. Manolito Manalo, the ECCP took part in a Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines (JFC) meeting with Department of Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista. Held on 27 November at PRIMEX Tower in San Juan; the Secretary, along with other DOTr officials, shared the plans and projects of the Agency until 2028. The JFC likewise handed over the Arangkada Philippines 2024 Airports Policy Brief, as well as tackled the policy recommendations on aviation, maritime, railway, and road sectors.

## ECCP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee Meeting

2 December 2024

On 2 December, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Committee convened for its last committee meeting of the year. Hosted by DivinaLaw, the meeting was held at Restaurant Aurora, Pacific Star Building in Makati City.

The discussion focused primarily on the committee-led events and initiatives that occurred within 2024, highlighting the committee's engagements with high-level government officials and agencies including Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), and key personnel from the Department of Energy (DOE). Additionally, the body shared industry-specific updates and concerns while also identifying the most relevant stakeholders to engage with in the following year.

To join or inquire about the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Committee, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com)

## ECCP Automotive Committee Meeting

3 December 2024

The ECCP Automotive Committee convened on Tuesday, 3 December 2024, via Zoom Video Conference. Chaired by Committee Leaders Paulo Duarte and Willy Tee Ten, key discussions included the 2024 committee activities and initiatives, industry updates on the expanded scope of the temporary tariff removal scheme for electric vehicles, the draft Department Administrative Order on automotive products certification, and the draft Implementing Guidelines of the Philippine Transport Vehicles Fuel Economy Labeling Program (VFELP-IG on FEL-RTV). The meeting also served as a platform for sharing insights and developments across the sector, fostering collaboration, and advocacy for the industry.

To join or inquire about the Automotive Committee, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).





## ECCP Automotive Committee Meeting with NEDA

3 December 2024

The ECCP Automotive Committee held a productive meeting earlier today, 3 December 2024, with National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Assistant Secretary for Sectoral Policy and Planning Reynaldo Cancio via Zoom. The agenda focused on advancing the electric vehicle (EV) industry, including discussions on ECCP's policy recommendations on EV incentives, and updates on the expanded scope of Executive Order (EO) 12 on the temporary tariff removal for EVs.

Joining the meeting were ECCP President and Automotive Committee Co-Chair Paulo Duarte, Committee Co-Chair Willy Tee Ten, members Yeale Frokjaer of Autohub Group and Diego Bautista of Bosch Philippines, and Senior Advocacy Officer Chin Nethercott.

To join or inquire about the Automotive Committee, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



## ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee Meeting

3 December 2024

The ECCP Tax and Financial Services Committee Meeting convened its last committee meeting for the year 2024 last 03 December. The meeting was held at the ECCP Office Board Room, Makati City. Key discussions included industry updates such as CREATE More, Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No.5-2024, VAT on Digital Services, BSP Memorandum No. N-2024-035 or the User Guide for Circular No. 1187 on the Adoption of the Philippine Sustainability Finance Taxonomy Guidelines, BSP Circular No. 1203, Series of 2024 or the BSP Guidelines on Operational Resilience, and Base Erosion and Profit Sharing (BEPS) Pillar II. The meeting also served as a platform for sharing insights and developments across the sector, fostering collaboration, and advocacy for the industry.

To join or inquire about the Tax and Financial Services Committee, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).



## 3rd EU-Philippines Partnership Conference - Unlocking the EU Market: Achieving exports and trade success in the EU for Philippine MSMEs

4 December 2024

The ECCP is thrilled to have partnered with the International Trade Center (ITC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines at the 3rd EU-Philippines Partnership Conference: Unlocking the EU Market - Achieving Exports and Trade Success for Philippine MSMEs. This event successfully brought together key experts and stakeholders to empower our MSMEs for global success.

The conference tackled critical topics such as the GSP+ scheme, EU trade policies, consumer trends, and sustainability-focused regulations, with a focus on actionable insights for Philippine exporters. It also highlighted the ongoing EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations and celebrated 60 years of EU-Philippines relations.

The Chamber proudly contributed to the discussions with Vice President Roman Menz delivering an opening



message, Tax and Financial Services Committee Vice Chair Atty. Alden Labaguis serving as a panelist in Session 1 titled "The EU Market: Opportunities and Challenges for Philippine Exporters," and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Committee Chair Atty. Tony Abad moderating the last session on Decoding the EU Green Deal.

## DOE 2024 Energy Investment Forum

5 December 2024

The Department of Energy (DOE) hosted the 2024 Energy Investment Forum on 5 December at the Hilton Manila Hotel. With the theme "Energy Transition: A Symphony of Change," the forum focused on the transformative role of innovation, collaboration, and sustainable practices across the energy supply chain.

Represented by Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Co-Chair Ruth Yu-Owen, the ECCP delivered a presentation providing insights on the role of collaborative frameworks and partnerships in driving the energy transition. Ms. Yu-Owen also touched on the ECCP's key efforts in facilitating sustainable energy initiatives as well as the challenges and opportunities for European firms and partners in the Philippines' renewable energy landscape.





## Bosch x TESDA MOU Signing

5 December 2024

On 5 December 2024, the ECCP witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between its Technology Partner Bosch Philippines and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) at the TESDA Board Room in Taguig City.

This significant collaboration marks a new chapter in advancing workforce training and development, particularly in the field of advanced manufacturing. Together, TESDA and Bosch are committed to empowering Filipino workers with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an evolving industry landscape.



## ECCP and CIP Courtesy Meeting to ERC Chairperson Atty. Monalisa Dimalanta

9 December 2024

The ECCP, together with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, paid a courtesy visit to Energy Regulatory Commission Chairperson Atty. Monalisa Dimalanta on 9 December at the ERC Office in Pasig City. At the meeting, the Chamber, CIP, and ERC discussed the country's current energy landscape compared to its regional neighbors within ASEAN.

Present from CIP were Partner Robert Helms, Co-CEOs Rune Damgaard and Jesper Holst, Head of Legal in the Philippines Atty. Teodulo San Juan, Head of External Affairs Jasper Manlapaz, and Business Development Director Francis Daba. Joining CIP was Atty. Crisitina Collantes-Garcia, partner at Romulo Law Firm.

At the conclusion of the meeting, ECCP Executive Director Florian Gottein presented Atty. Dimalanta with the 2024 Edition of the ECCP Advocacy Papers and the 2024 Doing Business in the Philippines Handbook. ECCP Director for Public Policy, Advocacy, and Projects Sophia Ordoña, and Advocacy Officer Joaquin Relej also took part in the engagement.



## ECCP Agriculture Committee Meeting

9 December 2024

On 9 December, the ECCP Agriculture Committee convened via zoom for their final committee meeting of 2024. During the meeting, Agriculture Committee Chairperson Ms. Ruth Novales recalled the committee-led activities and initiatives that transpired throughout the year, which includes the launch of the 2024 edition of the Agriculture Advocacy Papers and the 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Forum.

Agriculture Committee Co-Chairperson Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc also presented the most recent industry updates and developments surrounding some of the committee's advocacy recommendations. The body, likewise, conducted a preliminary planning session for the coming year.

To join or inquire about the ECCP Agriculture Committee, please contact [advocacy@eccp.com](mailto:advocacy@eccp.com).

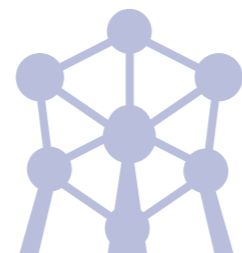
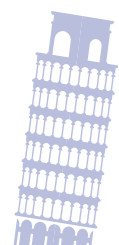


## Private Sector Consultation for CREATE MORE IRR

10 December 2024

The ECCP participated in the Private Sector Consultation on CREATE MORE Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) held on 10 December 2024 at the PEZA Convention Center. Represented by ECCP Director for Public Policy, Advocacy, and Projects Sophia Ordoña, we joined industry leaders, business groups, and other stakeholders in discussing key insights and recommendations to ensure the effective implementation of the CREATE MORE Act.

The Chamber remains committed to collaborating with the government and private sector to foster a more competitive and inclusive business environment in the Philippines. To access the latest draft of the CREATE MORE IRR, please visit this link: <https://firb.gov.ph/resources/create-more/>





# New Members Corner

## Premium Members



### Techne SSI Corporation

To engage in, conduct, and carry on the business of developing, marketing, distributing, and selling technology products, software, and services; to localize and adapt foreign technologies for the Philippine market; to invest in and manage other technology-related companies; to establish partnerships with foreign and local entities for technology transfer, commercialization, and distribution; to provide information technology consultancy services, including but not limited to, systems integration, software development, and IT infrastructure management; and to perform all acts necessary or incidental to the attainment of the foregoing purposes.



### Electro Premier Venture Int'l Inc.

The utmost electrical power equipment and technology supplier company that provides safe, reliable and efficient world-class products, solutions and services.

We provide the power industry with cutting edge technology solutions, state-of-the-art equipment and modern day metering instruments for a safer, effective and efficient power distribution system which benefits both industry players and consumers.

Our products are designed to create value to our clients thus empowering their operations in the power industry's competitive market.

## Regular Member



### DHL Supply Chain Philippines

DHL is the world's largest logistics specialist that offers the best in class integrated supply chain and transport service solutions maximizing its global reach and local expertise. Having access to a network of 160,000 cross-industry experts in more than 56 countries and territories, DHL connects people and businesses securely and reliably, enabling global sustainable trade flows. With specialized solutions for growth markets and industries including technology, life sciences and healthcare, engineering, manufacturing & energy, automobility and retail, DHL is decisively positioned as "The logistics company for the world".

# Associate Members



### Lyceum of the Philippines - Davao

The Lyceum of the Philippines - Davao is a higher education institution located in Buhangin, Davao City. An affiliate campus of the Lyceum of the Philippines University system, the institution is the first LPU campus built outside Luzon. LPU Davao opened its doors and offered baccalaureate degrees and Senior High School in 2019.



### Paglas Corporation

Paglas Corporation is a family-owned business that engages in banana export, trucking, and agricultural consultancy services. The company was established on August 8, 1997, by the late Datu Ibrahim "Toto" Pendatun Paglas, considered one of the strongest pillars of the Muslim community in the ARMM who advocated business development, employment, and education in the ARMM. Paglas Corporation with its partner company, La Frutera Inc., the largest and only foreign investment in the Philippine Region which employed over 2,000 workers on its 1,200 hectares of banana plantation in Datu Paglas town in Maguindanao and its main office in Mamay bypass road Davao City where 90% are Muslims, and a good number of women.



### Brightbox Inc.

Electronics Communications Engineering, IT, Tech Services, Broadcasting, Renewable Energy, LED, Digital Signage



### APAC Financial Services

#### 1. Investing in Asia

We work with leading Asian Fund Managers to raise funds in Australia's large and deep capital markets. By raising awareness of opportunities to invest across Asia's diverse and dynamic economies, we connect Australian wholesale investors to specialist managers and experts in key Asian markets.

#### 2. Capital-Raising

We facilitate Asian investment into Australian innovative startups and SMEs via our missions and accelerator programs. We promote collaboration in HealthTech, Fintech and AI, empowering entrepreneurs to commercialise and scale their innovations throughout the Asia Pacific region.

#### 3. Co-Investment

We facilitate co-investment opportunities across the Asia-Pacific region by engaging with Fund Managers, Family Offices, and Venture Capitalists who seek diversification, risk mitigation, cross-border exposure, and new long-term relationships.





# 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](mailto:catherine.lee@eccp.com) or visit [www.eccp.com](http://www.eccp.com) for more information. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

# 2025 International Trade Fairs

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

For more information reach us at <https://fairsandmoreph.com> or [team@fairsandmoreph.com](mailto:team@fairsandmoreph.com)





**Q1**

**JANUARY**

- 16 Islamic Finance with Pru Life UK (Cagayan de Oro)
- 23 Doing Business in the Philippines Guidebook Launch / Ambassadors' Meeting / New Year's Reception

**FEBRUARY**

- 6 Luncheon Meeting
- 13 CEO Forum
- 20 Greenovation with NEO
- 27 YPC Socials

**MARCH**

- 6 Women's Month by Women in Business Committee
- 20 Luncheon Meeting
- 27 ECCP Community Connect

**Q2**

**APRIL**

- 3 H1 European Golf Tournament
- 10 Climate Change Forum
- 30 Sustainable Agriculture Forum

**MAY**

- 5 -9 Europe Week
- 15 Luncheon Meeting
- 22 Annual General Membership Meeting

**JUNE**

- 5 Luncheon Meeting
- 19 European-Philippine Business Dialogue
- 26 CEO Forum

**Q3**

**JULY**

- 10 Luncheon Meeting
- 24 Nutrition Forum

**AUGUST**

- 7 Luncheon Meeting
- 14 European Networking Socials
- 28 Energy Smart Forum

**SEPTEMBER**

- 11 Waste Management Forum / Circular Economy
- 18 ECCP Community Connect
- 30 Luncheon Meeting

**Q4**

**OCTOBER**

- 8 - 9 Aviation Summit
- 16 CEO Forum
- 23 Luncheon Meeting

**NOVEMBER**

- 6 H2 European Golf Tournament
- 13 European Networking Socials
- 19 Europa Awards
- 23 Luncheon Meeting
- 26 Appreciation Dinner

**DECEMBER**

- 2 ECCP Community Connect
- 4 Economic Outlook



