

Partner Philippines



KALAYAAN 2018

Pagbabagong Ipinaglaban, Alay sa Masaganang Kinabukasan

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- President Duterte ASEAN Summit Visit - Business Forum & Community Meet
- Investment Opportunities & The Golden Age of Infrastructure



Philippines
Means Business

Message from the Publisher

Philippines as No.1



Through Partner Philippines we have been privileged to chronicle the growth story of the Philippines for many years. With this issue it is our honour to welcome the new Ambassador Joseph Del Mar Yap, who spoke to us about the robust bilateral ties between Singapore and Philippines and in his message to investors said, “I would repeat what our President has already said, that the Philippines is open to business. We are encouraging not just Singapore companies, but also international ones based here, to look at the Philippines”.

ASEAN has been attracting tremendous attention worldwide as a grouping of growth and balance. Last November the Philippines passed the baton of the ASEAN Chair to Singapore. Since then many exciting meetings and exchanges at the highest level, including the 32nd ASEAN Leaders Summit in April, when President Rodrigo Duterte along with other ASEAN’s head of states visited Singapore.

The President also took the opportunity to woo Singapore business leaders on the sidelines of the Summit when he addressed a Philippines Business Forum. He invited potential investors to consider the Philippines as a destination for their investment dollars. He also seriously addressed the concerns of Singapore companies about rule of law and corruption. To stress how serious this issue is being tackled in the country, the President went to the extent of inviting them to reach out to him directly to report any incidence of wrong doing, undue delays or corruption they may face in doing business in the Philippines. He reiterated his government’s Zero Tolerance towards corruption. We were also privileged to witness the exchange of agreements at the Business Forum, where a sum of US\$185.7 million were made across various sectors, we bring you the details. We also bring you some glimpses and flavour of the President’s visit and his interaction with the business and the large Philippine community in Singapore.

When Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Ramon M. Lopez, joined his other ASEAN counterparts in a Ministerial Panel during the ASEAN-EU Business Summit he said, “The Philippines is expected to grow over 7% for the next four years as the country continues to build its production capacity to address trade imbalances.” When numbers speak for themselves, it facilitates business decisions. According to the Fitch forecast the real gross domestic product growth is 6.8 percent for the Philippines in 2018 and 2019 and said it would maintain its place among the fastest-growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Standard & Poor’s credit rating for Philippines stands at BBB with a positive outlook. Moody’s credit rating for Philippines was last set at Baa2 with a stable outlook. Fitch’s credit rating for Philippines was last reported at BBB with stable outlook. All economic indicators are much in favour of Philippines with the highest growth rate in the region; the government is making a consistent effort to ensure its easier for investors to come in and Partner Philippines

The votes of confidence in its economy and future was capped when the Philippines was cited as the No. 1 ‘best country to invest in’, according to a 2018 survey “Best Countries” conducted by the U.S. News in partnership with The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Y&R’s BAV group. The survey was based on scores given by 6,000 business decision makers from 80 countries, ranking countries by the following attributes; anti-corruption, dynamic, economically stable, entrepreneurial, tax environment, innovative, skilled labor force and technological expertise.

Connectivity between Singapore and Philippines is excellent, its tourist attractions are aplenty and it is endowed with pristine beaches and also complemented with cost effective MICE options. The hard working, English speaking work force needs no introduction in these disruptive times. Tapping on the skills of this cost-effective resource is a great advantage for international investors. We at Sun Media encourage you to hop on to a flight and feel the palpable energy of the Philippines market. We are certain you will agree these are exciting times. Many partnerships have borne fruit and are paving the way for more opportunities and are changing lives along the way.

Partner Philippines invites you to invest in the Philippines.

Nomita Dhar,
Publisher & Editor in Chief

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H.E. Joseph Del Mar Yap: The New Ambassador Really Means Business

The new Philippine Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, was a top corporate executive. He shares his plans and vision with Editor-in-Chief Ms Nomita Dhar to fully engage with the Filipino community here to protect their interests and ramp up trade and ties in the business community

YOUR Excellency, you have come to Singapore frequently over the years (including a short stint as the Special Envoy of the Philippine President to Singapore from December 2016 to June 2017). As you are well acquainted with the island republic, and also in the light of the synergy of what the Philippines needs and what Singapore can offer – what are your plans and what do you hope to achieve during your tenure as ambassador here?

As ambassador, my duties encompass two major tasks: The first is the welfare and protection of the rights of the Filipino workforce here. We have 180,000 Filipinos working in Singapore. The second is to continue developing and strengthening bilateral relations with Singapore. Next year we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of bilateral ties between our two nations. So in the light of that we will be working on various aspects of those relations amongst which will also be the trade and investment aspects.

Given my personal background as a business person from the private sector, the trade and investment side of my job is something that I understand quite well. In my previous career, our company had business dealings with Singaporean companies including a joint venture with Government of Singapore Investment Corporation or GIC. In addition, we have also worked with Changi Airports International. So this is something

that I would like to see develop further. I believe there are many opportunities in the Philippines right now with the building up of our infrastructure under the Build, Build, Build program, and the development of the New Clark City. Our consumer driven industries also continue to grow and expand. We have met with and are in close contact with Enterprise Singapore in order to foster more trade and investment relations between the Philippines and Singapore.

Last year the Philippines was the ASEAN Chair, and this year it is Singapore's turn. There appears to be better continuity in developments on that front because of this. So with you here how do you think you can leverage on this?

I think one of the highlights of our relationship with Singapore is that our chairmanship last year was quite successful for ASEAN. We have told our counterparts here that we are ready to render whatever assistance we can to make Singapore's chairmanship a very successful one. We are ready to cooperate in whatever way possible. Many of our cabinet secretaries have already been coming to Singapore to join the senior ministerial meetings for the ASEAN Summit in April. We are also organizing several other activities along the sidelines of the summit meetings to generate more interest for Singaporean businesses if they are interested in investing in the Philippines. Our economic ministers will also be holding meetings on the sidelines to generate this kind of cooperation.

So are there any conferences, seminars and meetings etc being set up in the meantime?

We will be holding certain round tables meetings, may be certain conferences—the details are still being planned. But certainly within this year there will be a couple of times when our ministers will make themselves available to interact with the Singaporean business community, to emphasise that the Philippines is still on the growth track; we are looking for 6 to 7% growth in the next few years and that there are so many opportunities for further investment for Singaporean companies.

What always amazes me is the energy of the Filipino work force, the education level and the immense desire to do better. So with all this going for the Philippines what would you say to Singaporean companies who are waiting in the wings and haven't quite decided to enter this market?

I would repeat what our President has already said, that the Philippines is open to business. We are encouraging not just Singapore businesses but also international companies based here to explore Philippines. Investors should not only look for infrastructure development, new planned city projects; but also other sectors including consumer market.

There is a whole range of opportunities outside Manila, in regional cities, since the Philippines' government is encouraging investments in these areas as well. You will find that even in the regions, there is a huge pool of well-educated workers who can easily be tapped for recruitment for new businesses. There are therefore endless opportunities as well as many resources at the disposal of the new companies that wish to invest in these regional areas.

What is the reason, do you think, for the gap between the potential and the activating of it?

I would say that the reason has to do with past economic policy mistakes of previous governments. But in the past several years this is no longer the case. The Philippines is now realizing its potential. The Philippines has shown.....These are good high paying jobs. The growth of this sector has translated into growth in other areas, such as the consumer market. This is reflected in the boom in many openings of new restaurants and coffeehouses. All these workers now have disposable incomes which they can use on such indulgences with the resultant multiplier factor affecting other sectors of the economy.

The Philippines is no longer considered 'the sick man of Asia' because of slow business development. In the last few years there has been very robust development, a really big jump in employment as well as economic performance.

How ready is the Philippines with regards to new emerging or disruptive technologies that are creating new or a parallel economy so to say?

Actually there are many start-up companies in the Philippines today. Many are in areas such as big data, payment systems etc. They have gone into the digital space of businesses. My son, who has a computer background, has just taken a position in a start-up and my contemporaries also have companies that have set up

start-ups. Many are not afraid, especially the young, millennial generation to enter the digital space. Mainline industries are also finding their voice in this area using digital technology, advertising, reaching out by Facebook and other social media. We are definitely going to see more of this and it can only continue to grow.

Filipino workers have contributed greatly to Singapore's economy and also working here in homes etc. How do you plan to engage with them and what are the issues you would like to shed light on during your tenure here?

Out of the 180,000 Filipinos living and working here in Singapore, 60% are professionals and skilled

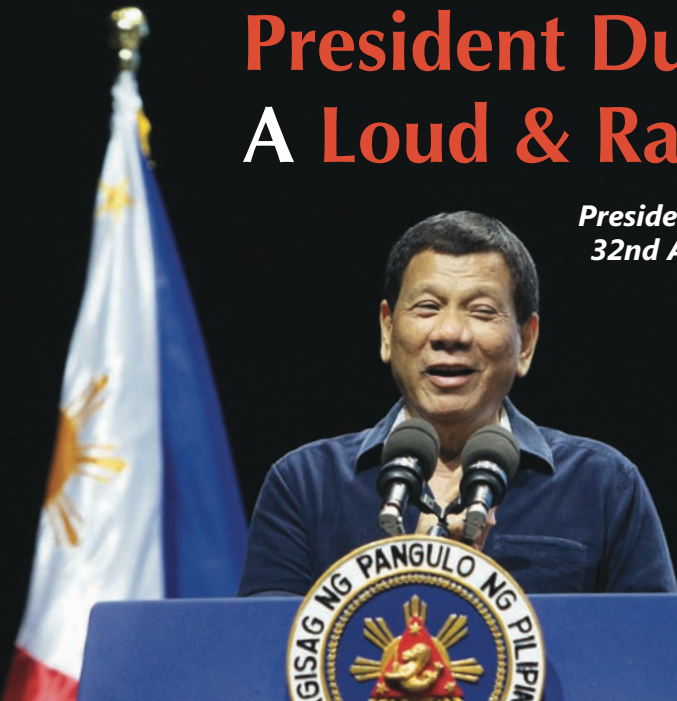
workers, while 40% are household service workers. For us in the embassy, the welfare of our people is our primary concern, so we attach much importance to engagement. We have bi-monthly Filipino Community meetings where we invite the community leaders to meet, discuss and exchange views, and where they can also make announcements on various projects that involve Filipinos here. We have more than 100 Filipino organizations registered with the Philippine Embassy here in Singapore, representing different interest groups. Some are alumni organizations of various Philippine Universities, others are professional organizations such as engineers or architects, some are non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are working primarily for the welfare of our workers by offering training courses or providing legal or other support services. We work hand in hand with these organizations in promoting the welfare of our workers. The embassy will always be at hand to protect the rights and promote the welfare of all Filipinos in Singapore.



HE Joseph Del Mar Yap, Ambassador to Singapore, Republic of the Philippines and wife at the Presentation of Credentials ceremony with President Halimah Yacob on 25th January 2018

President Duterte Gets A Loud & Rapturous Welcome

President Rodrigo R. Duterte was back in Singapore for the 32nd ASEAN Summit and Partner Philippines looks back on other event highlights of the past year



Photos by Michael Ozaki

President at the BIGBOX

ONE of the biggest community events for Filipinos in Singapore this year must surely be when during President Rodrigo Duterte's official trip to the 32nd ASEAN Summit, he took the opportunity to also meet with the Filipino community here on 28 April 2018. That Saturday afternoon saw long lines queuing up to enter the venue which is a 6,000 capacity concert hall called the Zepp@BIGBOX. A full programme of entertainment, songs and dances by Filipino artistes as well as speeches from members of the cabinet who accompanied the President to Singapore warmed up the audience before the main event. The crowd went wild when he finally entered the concert hall. The President updated the audience on the recent developments in the Philippines and that the government has not forgotten their contributions and is committed to look after the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers through their embassy here. As the photos of the event on this page shows the audience were big fans of the popular President.

Senator Legarda Calls for Stronger Stance on Green Growth

Senator Loren Legarda, Chair of the Senate Committees on Climate Change, Finance and Foreign Relations, on 18th May 2018 at the **5th Singapore Dialogue on Sustainable World Resources** called on ASEAN member states to take collective action in transitioning to green growth, citing the growing vulnerability of the region to climate change. During her visit she also called on Singapore's Environment Minister Masagos Zulkifli to discuss climate-smart initiatives. The Senator reiterated to Minister Zulkifli that as Chair of ASEAN this year, Singapore is expected to push for a stronger regional position on carbon pricing and green growth.



(Bottom panel): Enthusiastic Filipino families, friends and fellow workers turn out in full force to support their President at Jurong East's BigBox





From left to right: Mr. Ryan Huang of Singapore Press Holdings who moderated the Ministerial Panel, Cambodian Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak, DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez, and Indonesian Minister of Trade Enggartiasto Lukita.

DTI Secretary Lopez ASEAN Economic Meetings

Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Ramon M. Lopez, joined his other ASEAN counterparts in a Ministerial Panel during the **ASEAN-EU Business Summit** held on 2 March 2018 at Singapore's Grand Hyatt Hotel. During discussions, Secretary Lopez also provided updates on the Philippine economy, particularly on the latest tax reform package: "The Philippines is expected to grow over 7% for the next four years as the country continues to build its production capacity to address trade imbalances."

The ASEAN-EU Business Summit was held at the sidelines of the **24th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat (AEMR), 16th AEM-European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Consultations**, and the **4th Intersessional Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial Meeting**, that took place from 1 to 3 March 2018 in Singapore which he also attended.

At the RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting the Ministers reiterated the commitment to expedite negotiations on rules, geared towards facilitating trade and investment in support of the expansion and deepening of regional value chains. They underscored the immense potentials of an RCEP agreement to not only enhance economic growth, provide more jobs and improve the livelihood of people in the RCEP region, but also contribute significantly to the growth of global trade.



Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano (center) with Ambassador Joseph Del Mar Yap, Minister and Consul General Victorio Mario M. Dimagiba, Jr. and Consul J. Anthony A. Reyes (L-R)

Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano and Filipino Community Leaders Townhall Meeting

The Philippine Embassy in Singapore organized a townhall meeting between Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano and the Filipino Community Leaders in Singapore at the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (ASEAN-FMR) on 4 February 2018. The meeting was held at the newly-renovated and air-conditioned Consular Section of the Embassy Chancery.

Ambassador Joseph Del Mar Yap introduced Secretary Cayetano to the 276 Filipino Community members who were present during the townhall meeting. Secretary Cayetano, in his remarks to the Filipino Community, gave an update on the government's efforts and initiatives on how to improve its services to the OFWs.

Following Secretary Cayetano's remarks, an open forum with the Secretary took place. The members of the Filipino community were able to voice out their concerns particularly on consular and labor matters. A simple *salu-salo* shared by Secretary Cayetano, Mayor Lani Cayetano, members of the Philippine delegation to the ASEAN-FMR, Embassy officers and staff and members of the Filipino community in Singapore, culminated the townhall meeting.

For more news updates of visits and events visit:
www.philippine-embassy.org.sg



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thank you to all Filipino Community Volunteers and Performers

ON 14 May 2018, Ambassador Joseph Del Mar Yap hosted an Appreciation Dinner for the 200 volunteers and 100 performers during the 28 April 2018 meeting of President Rodrigo Duterte with the Filipino Community which was held after his participation in the 32nd ASEAN Summit. The Ambassador personally thanked the volunteers and performers for their invaluable contribution to the success of the event. They were also presented certificate of appreciation and gift t-shirt from the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO).

Recognition Night of the first Filipino-run School in Singapore

Ambassador Joseph Del Mar Yap graced the Recognition Night of the Happy Family School of Excellence (HFSE), the first Filipino-run school in Singapore, on 22 April 2018 at the Orchid Club Road Singapore.

The HFSE was founded by Ninalyn Sulit Cacananta in 2015 and started with a homeschool set up by a group of Filipinos whose children were unable to enter the local schools. It has now expanded into a full swing government-accredited learning institution. Ms Cacananta said the event was a night of appreciation to all those who supported the accreditation of the school.



Consul Musor and Ms. Bengtlars with the Head Master, teachers and a Filipino parent at the Philippine booth of Stamford Primary School

Philippines Culture Promoted on International Friendship Day to Singapore Primary Schools

The Philippine Embassy, represented by Consul Gonarano B. Musor and Cultural Officer Sheila B. Bengtlars, participated in the International Friendship Day Celebration at Stamford Primary School on 4 April 2018 and Changkat Primary School on 6 April 2018.

Consul Musor delivered a lecture on the various aspects of Philippine culture that

included glimpses of Philippine architecture, festivals, performing arts, cuisine, sports and heritage towns and cities to around 900 primary students from the schools. The presentation commenced with a brief background on the role of the Philippine Embassy in fostering friendship between the Philippines and Singapore. Consul Musor also highlighted the upcoming 50th anniversary of the bilateral relations between the two countries next year.



Philippines was in Chingay@Heartland 2018 Celebrations!

Philippines was one of the participating ASEAN countries in the Chingay @Heartland 2018 celebration, with a cultural performance and a booth at the bazaar featuring Philippine products. Chingay is Singapore's biggest annual street festival and the Higaunon Tribe Cultural Dance, a Filipino Community dance group, performed an ethnic dance from the northern and central regions of Mindanao best described as a dance for the "people of the living mountains" and "people of the wilderness". The Philippine booth which featured "Human Nature" beauty products using natural and Philippine ingredients was a hit during the festival.

Embassy Participates in the Feast Day of Sto. Niño and the Sinulog Festival in Singapore

The Philippine Embassy headed by Ambassador Joseph Del Mar Yap, Madame Josephine Gotianun Yap and the officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy and Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), joined the celebration of the Feast Day of Sto. Niño and the Sinulog Festival on 28 January 2018 at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Singapore.

Ambassador Yap, who is also a Sto. Niño devotee, was invited to address the 2,500 Filipino community and fellow devotees after the mass. The Sinulog celebration is the first official function of Ambassador Yap with the Filipino Community in Singapore after presenting his credentials to Singaporean President Halimah Yacob. The pilgrimage image of Sto. Niño de Cebu was flown in from the Basilica Minore del Santo de Cebu for the celebration.



Embassy Spearheads Singapore's First Filipino Community Meeting of 2018

Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Joseph Del Mar Yap led this year's first Filipino Community (FilCom) Leaders' meeting on 21 January 2018. About 240 representatives from various FilCom organizations attended. Consul General Victorio Mario M. Dimagiba, Jr. formally introduced Ambassador Yap to them. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Yap thanked the community for their support for the Embassy's activities. He also emphasized the importance of the FilCom's active participation and asked for its continued support this year which includes the ASEAN Chairmanship of Singapore. He also assured the FilCom that Embassy personnel will continue to find ways to improve the Embassy's services, and welcomed any feedback. The meeting also coincided with the free legal aid mission conducted by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) - Davao City Chapter.

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www.philippine-embassy.org.sg and www.facebook.com/PHinSingapore



New Partners of the Philippines

*Investment pledges of more than
US\$185.7 million will help generate
almost 2,000 jobs for Filipinos*

PRESIDENT of the Philippines, Rodrigo R. Duterte witnessed the signing of various MOUs and Agreements, that were signed between Philippines and Singapore companies. The sentiment among the business leaders who attended the event was clear - with the highest growth rate in the region, Philippines is becoming the destination of choice for investors.



***...with the highest growth rate
in the region, Philippines is becoming
the destination of choice for investors.***

The Philippine President attended the business forum at the sidelines of the 32nd ASEAN Summit last 28 April 2018 that was co-organized by the DTI Philippine Trade & Investment Centre - Singapore, the Singapore Business Federation, and Singapore Manufacturing Federation at the Ritz Carlton Millenia Singapore.

President Duterte witnessed the presentation of six MOUs and four LOIs that included Filinvest Development Corporation, Keppel Corporation, Cebu Pacific, SIA Engineering Co. Ltd., ASEAN Business Advisory Council, Hitachi Asia Ltd., Jollibee, and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, among others.

Areas of Cooperation

These MOUs and LOIs cover various areas of cooperation, such as urban solutions, renewable energy, air services, franchising, plastic packaging and film manufacturing, ICT, financial technology, etc.

President Duterte was joined by a few members of his cabinet

such as Secretary of Trade and Industry Ramon M. Lopez, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Peter Cayetano, Secretary of Finance Carlos Dominguez.

“Now is the best and right time to invest in the Philippines,” Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Joseph Del Mar Yap declared in his opening remarks. The Philippines continues to attract direct foreign investments, as President Rodrigo Duterte secured investment pledges worth US\$185.7 million at the forum. The investment commitments are expected to generate some 1,920 job opportunities for Filipinos.

New Ventures & Opportunities

The Singapore and Philippine companies who signed MOUs and LOIs at the Business Forum who will be working together for new opportunities:

- Keppel Corporation signs MOU with Filinvest Development Corporation
- Jollibee Worldwide Pte Ltd and Golden Beeworks Pte Ltd
- Everhydro and OceanPixel Pte Ltd
- Cebu Air (Pres & CEO Lance Gokongwei) and SIA Engrg Co Ltd (Png Kim Chiang)
- PIL Trade & Ind (Sec Ramon Lopez) and Lepak Packaging Pte Ltd (Lim Seong Nam)
- Filinvest Corp and Hitachi Asia Pte Ltd
- ICS ICT Support Service Corp and Robin Village Intl Pte Ltd
- Ascent Solutions Philippines and Ascent Solutions Pte Ltd
- Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Singapore Manufacturing Federation

Investing and Doing Business in the Philippines

High level Philippine delegation presents a compelling case to potential investors at an exclusive presentation

SECRETARY Benjamin Diokno of the Department of Budget and Management, Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Joseph Del Mar Yap, Director General Charito B. Plaza of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, and SAVP Marie Antoniette Mariano of BDO Unibank Inc. were some of the speakers in the exclusive seminar "Investing and Doing Business in the Philippines" held at UniCredit Bank Singapore on 13 April 2018.

The seminar was organized by the Italian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, in partnership with the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Singapore and the European House of Ambrosetti. It aimed to promote business and investment opportunities in the Philippines among Italian and European companies based in Singapore.

Next Economic Tiger

"The Philippines is on its way to becoming Asia's next economic tiger, and various technological innovations that we introduced have improved immensely the ease of doing business in the country", Secretary Diokno announced during his opening statement.

He mentioned the government's long-term vision of having an economy that not only grows, but also distributes wealth across all sectors of society, particularly the poor and marginalized.

"The Philippines is one of the fastest growing economy in the fastest growing region in the world. With our ambitious economic plans, we assure you that there is no slowing down for us. We will continue this momentum.



The government crafted an economic blueprint by increasing its planned deficit ceiling from 2 to 3 percent in order to provide fiscal space to match spending priorities for its 'Golden Age of Infrastructure' and investment in human capital development.

And as we lay down our lofty goals, we are confident in our country's capacity to be the next investment hub in Southeast Asia." he added.

As outlined in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, the government's economic growth target is to push the PH economy to upper-middle income status by 2022 and achieve annual growth of 7% to 8% in the medium-term. The government also aims to reduce poverty rate from 21.6% in 2015 to 14% by 2022.

The Golden Age of Infrastructure

The government crafted an economic blueprint by increasing its planned deficit ceiling from 2 to 3 percent in order to provide fiscal space to match spending priorities for its 'Golden Age of Infrastructure' and investment in human capital development. The implementation of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law will finance development priorities: 70% will go to infrastructure while 30% will go to social services. This competitive tax system will attract more investments.



Improvements in Public Service Delivery and Ease of Doing Business

Secretary Diokno also mentioned three technological innovations:

- Project DIME (Digital Imaging for Monitoring and Evaluation)
- Budget and Treasury Management System (BTMS) and
- the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS).

The projects aim to improve public service delivery and ease of doing business in the Philippines.

Meanwhile in his welcome remarks, Ambassador Yap cited high growth, its vibrant young population, and big plans on infrastructure spending as reasons why investors should choose the Philippines. "The ranking of the Philippines as the best country to invest in, according to the US News and World Report, attests to the growing international confidence in President Duterte's reform agenda", he added.



(Top row, opp page, from l to r):
Marie Antoniette Mariano of BDO
Unibank, Director General Charito Plaza
of PEZA and Ambassador Yap

(Left photo): Secretary Diokno of DBM
(seated far right) and Mr. Romolo Nati,
Chairman of Italpinas Development Corp

(Second row, opp page): Mr. Lorens Ziller
of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in
the Philippines

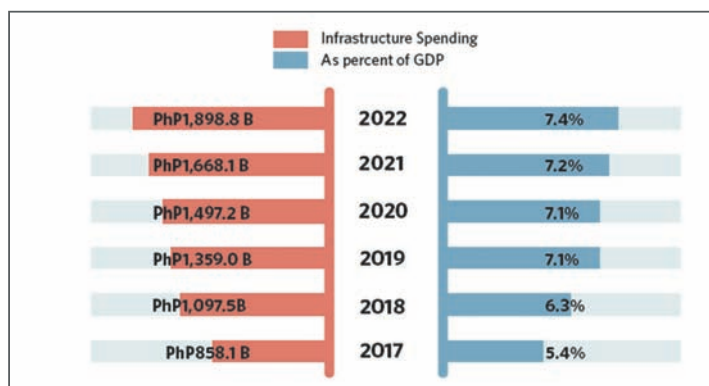
(Below): The select group of potential
European investors in Singapore



The seminar was held on the sidelines of the 2nd Edition of the High Level Dialogue on ASEAN Italy Economic Relations held last 11-12 April 2018 at the Shangri La Hotel where Secretary Diokno also presented the state of the Philippine economy during the closing session.

For more information, visit:

- www.singaporepe.dfa.gov.ph
- www.philippine-embassy.org.sg



(Tables above right & right):
To support the pursuit of the Golden Age of Infrastructure, a budget of PHP 1,097.5 billion is allotted for the public sector infrastructure up from 27.9% from PhP 858.1 billion. The Administration will build well-designed and strategically positioned infrastructure nationwide

Source: 2018 People's Proposed Budget by the Philippines' Department of Budget and Management

Particulars	2016 GAA (In billion Pesos)	2017 (In billion Pesos)	2018 NEP (In billion Pesos)
Road Network	304.6	327.6	424.9
School Buildings	91.3	78.6	92.7
Flood Control Systems	69.0	82.0	133.4
Irrigation Systems	23.6	27.5	28.7
Hospitals and Health Centers	19.2	11.3	22.3
Water Supply Systems	7.7	10.0	6.4
Power Supply Systems	8.5	4.8	4.2
Seaport Systems	1.8	2.6	2.8
Airport Systems	9.6	6.8	10.1
Buildings	28.6	35.8	35.3
Development Fund of LGUs	85.7	97.4	104.5
Reforestation Projects	7.6	6.6	7.4
Railways	12.5	22.1	26.0



Carbon Neutrality and Sustainability: New Ways of Adding Value



Artist impression of Vertis North Garden in Quezon City

How a leading Philippines' property developer is applying cutting edge green building technology and practices to enhance the appeal and value of its property projects

AYALA Land, Inc. (Ayala), the Philippines' largest and most experience real estate developer, recognizes two additional ways of creating value: carbon neutrality and sustainability.

Climate change continues to have a huge impact globally, with the Philippines experiencing the consequences firsthand as tropical storms become more severe and frequent, and as cycles of the wet and dry seasons become more erratic. While progress in many places is perceived to be dependent on carbon-emitting processes, Ayala is guided by four focus areas.

In February 2017, Ayala announced a progressive program for their commercial properties to become carbon neutral by 2022. The company has identified three strategies to achieve carbon neutrality: provide passively cooled spaces, shift to renewable or clean energy, and establish and protect carbon forests.

Carbon forests store more carbon than they emit. Ayala has protected and enhanced 450 hectares of land as carbon forests through assisted natural regeneration and planting of native species.

By declaring portions of their properties as carbon forests, Ayala has gone beyond the traditional means of creating value, enhanced our natural capital and biodiversity, and passed on the benefits generated to the environment and surrounding communities.

Aside from carbon neutrality, Ayala has also incorporated sustainability in its various property developments. The company is also committed to uphold its thrust for sustainability, incorporating into the design and delivery of its projects features that support the four focus areas of site resilience, pedestrian

“Carbon forests store more carbon than they emit. Ayala has protected and enhanced 450 hectares of land as carbon forests through assisted natural regeneration and planting of native species. By declaring portions of their properties as carbon forests, Ayala has gone beyond the traditional means of creating value...”



Artist impression of the FTI project - Canyon Park

and transit-connectivity, eco-efficiency, and local employment. These allow Ayala to create value for the community and the environment.

In terms of site resiliency, Ayala works with the natural lay of the land to avoid unnecessary earth movement. In designing parks and open spaces, they strive to enhance and protect the natural environment by integrating existing native flora into the landscape plan, and respecting waterways even as they are used as retention ponds or retardation basins to mitigate flooding during the rainy season and serve as rock gardens during the dry summer months.

For pedestrian mobility and transit connectivity, Ayala Land incorporates pedestrian only areas, bike lanes and bike parking to reduce vehicle use, thus lessening the carbon footprint within its residential developments.

On eco-efficiency, Ayala uses efficient lighting devices and water fixtures in our community facilities as well as off-grid power sources such as solar-powered lights for guardhouses and streetlamps, to help minimize energy and water consumption. Ayala buildings are also designed to optimize natural light and ventilation.

To contribute to local employment, Ayala makes sure to provide work and livelihood opportunities in areas that they develop.

Ayala Land is the largest property developer in the Philippines with a solid track record in developing large-scale, integrated, mixed-use, sustainable estates that are now thriving economic centers in their respective regions. For more information on their projects, you may visit the Ayala Land office at #02-100 Lucky Plaza or call / e-mail Cyrelle Ricafort at (65) 8118 0015 / ricafort.cyrelle@ayalaland-intl.com

About the Company

Ayala Land, a subsidiary of the Ayala Corporation, is a Philippines-based real estate conglomerate with over a century of envisioning, building, and developing master planned, mixed-use, and sustainable communities. Ayala Land's rich history and enviable reputation has seen it lead the property industry in raising the standard of commitment to innovation and value appreciation. It stands for a pioneering vision and striving for ever higher standards of quality.

Ayala Land recognizes that the value of land lies in how it can be sustained and enriched for future generations to enjoy, through: dramatic transformations that shape raw land into lasting, mixed-use communities, sustainable progress that boldly pioneers new concepts while preserving the environment, and quality developments that create quality moments, embodying the company's thrust of "Enhancing land, enriching lives for more people".

PHILIPPINES

Asia's Top Dive Destination

The country was recognised at this year's ADEX (Asia Dive Exhibition) as the top dive destination in the Asia Pacific region thanks to its conservation efforts that have "preserved the breathtaking underwater ecosystem"

It is an open secret the white sandy beaches of its renown islands extend to pristine waters that are some of the best for diving attracting divers from around the world. The citation reads: **"The Philippines is one of the richest regions in the world for diving, with over 7,000 islands and a well-developed dive industry. The best sites are around the Luzon and Visayas regions, where a plethora of dive experiences abound. Its islands are also the site of some of the greatest biodiversity of marine life in the world, housing numerous coral species, exotic sea snakes, and even resident populations of whale sharks. Divers new to the experience can enjoy relaxing dives among schools of jacks, reel fish, and rays, while intrepid divers can explore deep war wrecks. Waters are warm year-round, but the monsoon seasons from December to March and July to November will bring rain and strong winds."**

TOP 15 ADEX DIVE DESTINATIONS IN 2018

1. Philippines
2. Thailand
3. Indonesia
4. Maluku
5. Raja Ampat
6. Malaysia
7. Taiwan
8. Queensland
9. Christmas Island
10. Fiji
11. Guam
12. Solomon Islands
13. The Marianas
14. Palau
15. Jeju Island

Most Popular Philippines Dive Sites

The Philippines.com is an online guide to the country's islands that boast beautiful, breathtaking bodies of water perfect for boating, snorkeling, jet-skiing and scuba diving. It has also compiled a list of the most popular dive sites to explore:



Photo: www.divefiesta.com.ph / Tom Rock

1. PUERTO GALERA (pictured opp. page)
2. ANILAO, BATANGAS
3. CABILAO ISLAND, BOHOL
4. APO ISLAND, NEGROS ORIENTAL
5. MALAPASCUA ISLAND, CEBU
6. TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK, PALAWAN
7. TAIEI MARU WRECK, CORON, CALAMIAN ISLANDS
8. DIVERS HEAVEN, BALICASAG
9. CROCODILE ISLAND, BORACAY
10. HONDAY BAY, PALAWAN

DIVE TRAVEL INDUSTRY BUSINESS EXPO OCT 2018

Dive Fiesta Philippines 2018 seeks to attract international buyers of dive travel packages into business engagements with Philippine dive resorts and outfitters. According to the organisers despite the Philippines' edge in natural assets and the accolades received, its share of the 7.3 million active divers is a mere 1.7% (Dept of Tourism's Visitor Arrival Survey, 2012). Dive Fiesta Philippines aims to address this issue by directly and aggressively promoting the Philippines to dive travel operators around the globe. For inquiries email: info@tpb.gov.ph



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