

“MAPping the Future” Column in *INQUIRER*



Mr. REX C. DRILON II

***“Harmonizing AmBisyon Natin 2040 and
Dream Philippines 2040”***

January 24, 2022

1st of 2 Parts

Background

It has been almost six years since the President issued Executive Order (EO) No. 5 mandating all government agencies to align their respective strategies to AmBisyon Natin 2040, a NEDA-initiated project started in 2015 and completed during the term of former Sec. Arsenio Balisacan of the Aquino Administration and adopted with some updating by succeeding NEDA Director-General Ernesto Pernia. In the MAP general membership meeting in 2016 where Sec. Pernia was the keynote speaker, he was asked whether he would push the Ambisyon Natin 2040 of his predecessor and he not only said yes, he actually convinced the President to issue the EO on October 5, 2016.

AmBisyon Natin 2040

What is AmBisyon Natin 2040? It is a document that articulates the collective long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for their country in the next 25 years. More than 300 citizens participated in the focus group discussions and close to 10,000 answered the national survey. The respondents represented the proportionate distribution of the Philippine population in terms of gender, age, socio-economic status, geographic location, etc.

For himself, the Filipino envisions that by 2040, “he will enjoy a stable and comfortable lifestyle, secure in the knowledge that he has enough for his daily needs and unexpected expenses, that he can plan and prepare for his own and his children’s future. He aspires that his family lives together in a place of his own and that he has

the freedom to go where he desires, protected and enabled by a clean, efficient and fair government.”

On the other hand, the Filipino “envisions his country, the Philippines, to be a prosperous middle class society where no one is poor. People live long and healthy lives, are smart and innovative. The country is a high-trust society where families thrive in vibrant, culturally diverse and resilient communities.” (The original vision statement for the Philippines, which I prefer, was stated in the following manner: The Philippines shall be a country where all citizens are free from hunger and poverty, have equal opportunities, enabled by fair and just society that is governed with order and unity. A nation where families live together, thriving in vibrant, culturally diverse and resilient communities.)

The eight priority sectors that have direct impact on AmBisyon 2040 were identified by NEDA then as follows: 1) Health and urban development, 2) Manufacturing, 3) Connectivity, 4) Education services, 5) Tourism and allied services, 6) Agriculture, 7) Health and wellness services, and, 8) Financial services.

Moving on to Dream Philippines

At the turn of the millennium in the year 2000, former Finance Secretary Dr. Jesus P. Estanislao established the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) which is the country’s leading advocacy that teaches and promotes good governance in the public sector. Its first project was to organize a “gathering of friends” that eventually produced a Roadmap called Philippines 2030. During that time, the Senate was conducting the impeachment trial of President Estrada. Estanislao and his friends were concerned about the outcome of the Senate hearings – it could result in either a constitutional or extra-constitutional succession and there was a need to craft a program of governance in case the successors would need such roadmap. Fortunately, the succession was constitutional and the then Vice President GMA took over as president. Because she was then assumed to be well-qualified for the position, the Philippines 2030 project, unfortunately, was shelved.

Only to be revived in 2016 when President Duterte took over as President. While the EO he issued in October 2016 on AmBisyon Natin 2040 was popularly appreciated, it became obvious, as the years went by, that his unorthodox style of governance would result in an environment that would make it difficult for the Vision 2040 to be achieved.

Dr. Estanislao then revived the project for ISA to craft a roadmap to update the original ISA Roadmap for Philippines 2030. Together with the then ISA President and current senatorial candidate Atty. Alex Lacson, Estanislao conceived of a “Dream Philippines” which they both articulated as follows:

“We dream of a beautiful and prosperous Philippines -
a country where there is enough for everyone,
where no Filipino is left behind in poverty,
where every Filipino family enjoys a life of comfort,
where every child has a future.

We dream of a country that can bring out

the best in the Filipino people -
one that can make the Filipino truly great
and respected in the eyes of the world.

But for us to attain this Dream Philippines,
we need a government that delivers,
leaders who serve,
and citizens who get involved.”

For several years now, working on a new Philippine Roadmap based on the above definition of Dream Philippines has been a challenging task and has gone through several iterations. However, the coming elections in May 2022 has made it imperative that the Roadmap be completed before the campaign season officially starts in February. (Details about Dream Philippines 2040 to be continued next week.)

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines or MAP. The author is Co-Chair for Governance of the MAP Committee on ESG. He is also Vice Chair of Center for Excellence in Governance (CEG) and ISA, and former Chair of Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD). Feedback at <map@map.org.ph> and <rex@drilon.com>).



“MAP Insights” Column in BUSINESSWORLD

“You Want A Seat at the B-Suite?”

January 25, 2022

Ms. MA. AURORA “Boots” D. GEOTINA-GARCIA

Corporations, especially publicly listed corporations (PLCs), are constantly on the “lookout” for individuals who can be invited or recruited to become Board members. With the push towards good corporate governance, there is no question that having competent individuals sitting as Board members more so if they are independent and external directors can bring valuable experience and provide value to a company through its different growth stages. One of the first questions an aspiring or even current director may ask, **“How can I claim a seat in the B-Suite of a company?”**

To respond to this question, the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD), as part of its Board Directorship Development Program, organized a webinar on this topic last November 2021. I actually had the privilege of moderating the panel composed of Alex Genil, CEO of ZMG Ward Howell – who assists clients in selecting suitable candidates, Chiqui Escareal-Go, CEO of Mansmith & Fielders, who has a strong

anthropology and sociology background, and Edwin Villanueva – an experienced director of several companies. Allow me to share some of my key takeaways from the discussions.

What are companies looking for in director candidates?

Ideal directorship qualities involve a combination of good technical, personal, and social traits. Candidates through their knowledge, expertise, and experience are expected to add value to any Board that will invite them – and these can be in the form of unique talents and skills. Industry and functional experience is key. And in today’s environment, specific competencies, such as fintech, data analytics, digital transformation, IT security and cybersecurity, and organizational transformation, are now more in demand. Of course, aspiring directors should be equipped with governance skills as compliance, risk, fraud, among others.

One’s network, connections, and influence are likewise important. Without disregarding the technical skills, there is some truth in the saying that “it’s not only what you know but also who you know.” Having a strong network will be valuable to the organization in accessing resources through the directors’ contacts, promoting the company and its interests, and enhancing its reputation. I must add a word of caution on being politically connected, as this can sometimes be a disadvantage. It is important to bear in mind that as a director, you are representing the company – and not yourself.

On personal traits, the candidate should demonstrate independent thinking or what I sometimes describe as “independent independent” directors who are ready to challenge management’s decisions and recommendations and are willing to ask the difficult questions that others may not ask – of course, always with respect. With the varied challenges that companies are facing today, creativity and “out of the box” thinking will be helpful in providing solutions to such challenges. Values, such as integrity, will play a critical role in the director’s decision making, such as in “conflict of interest” situations.

How does one acquire these desirable qualities?

Here’s my advice:

- Aim for a Board directorship as part of your career plan.
- Assess your directorship qualities and identify any gaps you should address.
- Continue enhancing your skills and acquiring new skills, as these days, changes are happening at a faster speed.
- Make each job an opportunity to build your skills and expertise, supplemented by training.
- Build and expand your networks: business, professional, social, and civic – as these will be useful sources of referrals.
- Develop a unique personal brand, be it a competence, or an advocacy.
- Publish articles, speak on your expertise and advocacies, and engage in similar activities which will make you visible and “top of mind”.

How can I get in and “take a dip” in the talent/ candidate pool?

Certain situations, like trends and developments, have strongly influenced companies to seek candidates for their Board. In line with their long-term plans, and in anticipation of future gaps due to retirement, and possible changes in business models, some companies are crafting board succession plans to develop a pipeline of directors. With the increasing consciousness for board diversity not only in gender, age, skills as well as other dimensions of diversity – more and more, companies are considering candidates to improve their diversity metrics, coupled with the pressure from regulators, funders, and other stakeholders for sustainable corporate practices.

Assuming you have built your credentials, the next challenge is to land in the shortlist of potential candidates. Here are some practical tips for your consideration:

- Prepare and update your resume. You must highlight your key qualities and competencies, tailor-fitted to the company seeking candidates.
- Keep track of potential vacancies, especially for PLCs and industries, where regulators have set term limits for independent directors.
- Apply for director openings that you may become aware of.
- Tap on the network you have built for referrals.

The road to success in claiming that seat at the B-Suite requires and entails a lot of work and preparation – but becoming a Director is just a part of the journey. Claiming that seat means that you also carry a tremendous responsibility to make a difference.

Keep all of these “tips” in mind, work hard, stay the course, and be a valuable and significant voice in that Board.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines or MAP. The author is member of the MAP ESG Committee, and the MAP Diversity & Inclusion Committee. She is Vice Chair and President of ICD and President of Mageo Consulting Inc., a corporate advisory services firm. Feedback at <map@map.org.ph> and <magg@mageo.net>. For previous articles, please visit <map.org.ph>)

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC



JOINT STATEMENT ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP) AGREEMENT

January 21, 2022

We urge the Senate to ratify Philippine membership in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the largest economic bloc in the world's history. Its 15 member economies, consisting of the ten ASEAN members plus Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea, together account for 30 percent of the world's population and of global GDP. As such, it is a huge market that Filipino producers would gain preferential access to via membership in RCEP.

RCEP already entered into force on January 1, 2022, having been ratified earlier by 10 signatories, while South Korea comes in as the 11th on February 1, after the prescribed 60 days from its ratification last December 2. The other remaining countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar, are reportedly poised to ratify the agreement shortly.

Like any free trade agreement, RCEP provides wide economic opportunities for our country, along with certain threats to uncompetitive industries, and individual producers and their workers. And like in the other free trade agreements the country has joined (of which our country has the least, compared to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam), the overall economic gains in terms of net job creation, economic growth and price stabilization will well outweigh the costs. Government has the responsibility to assist those adversely affected meaningfully and effectively, to allow them to achieve competitiveness or adjust to alternative products or livelihoods.

RCEP will help MSMEs expand market access, especially with more liberal rules of origin on traded products to qualify for trade concessions. It will also provide broader and cheaper alternative sources for inputs and reduce costs of doing business through improved trade facilitation, especially customs and trade clearance procedures.

Exclusion from RCEP would be immensely costly to our economy and our people. We can anticipate a significant decline in our exports to RCEP countries, which now account for nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of our total exports, as trade with us will logically be diverted to fellow members. It would also make us even more unattractive to job-creating investments than we already are, as these would best locate in RCEP member countries to take advantage of free access to its vast market. For the same reason, our membership could attract more foreign investments into the country from firms wishing to produce and sell to the large RCEP market.

RCEP skeptics should find comfort in the fact that little will immediately change in the country's trade relations, since RCEP only reaffirms existing trade concessions we already have with all RCEP members via the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) among ASEAN members and the ASEAN-Plus Free Trade Agreements with the rest. Tariff elimination will take up to 20 years, giving ample time for us to shape up and achieve the competitiveness that will allow our producers to take full advantage of the vast market opportunities RCEP offers. Even so, our negotiators had excluded from tariff liberalization "sensitive" farm products including swine and poultry meat, potatoes, onions, garlic, cabbages, sugar, carrots and rice, along with manufactured products like cement and certain steel products.

We see our membership in RCEP as an important challenge to our government to step up genuine and meaningful support for Filipino producers, especially in the agriculture sector, which is the backbone of the Philippine economy. We, therefore, urge the government to provide a substantial increase in the agriculture budget commensurate to that provided in our comparable ASEAN neighbors, as we urge our Senators to ratify the RCEP Agreement without delay.

**FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX)
MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC)
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)
PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS (PCFR)**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



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DIGITAL BANKS AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

January 26, 2022 | Wednesday | 11:00 a.m.



MELCHOR PLABASAN
Director of Technology Risk and Innovation Supervision Department
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Speaker



MANISH BHAI
Founder & CEO
UNO Bank
Speaker



CARMELITA R. ARANETA
General Manager
Philippine Payments Management, Inc.
Speaker



SHAILESH BAIDWAN
Director, Maya Bank and Voyager Innovations
President, PayMaya Philippines
Speaker



LUZ WENDY T. NOBLE
Multimedia Reporter
BusinessWorld
Moderator

Catch it **LIVE** on BusinessWorld's and The Philippine STAR's Facebook pages!



Moment of Truth:

A Conversation with Maria Ressa

27 January 2022
Thursday
10:00AM-11:00AM

zoom
<https://bit.ly/mariaressameeting>



President & CEO, Rappler
First Filipino Nobel Prize Laureate

Joint Membership Meeting:



AS CLIMATES CHANGE, PANDEMICS ARRIVE,
INEQUALITIES RISE AND MOBILITY/MIGRATION
FURTHER INTENSIFIES...

THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP IS CULTURAL AGILITY

COMPLIMENTARY THOUGHT LEADERSHIP WEBINAR FOR LEADERS



Dr. PAULA CALIGIURI

Distinguished Professor
of International Business and Strategy
D'Amore-McKim School of Business,
Northeastern University



Mr. STEPHEN KREMPL

CEO, Krempl Communications International
Corporate Communications Coach
Global Trainer / Bestselling Author



Welcome Remarks

ALFREDO E. PASCUAL

• President, Management Association
of the Philippines (MAP)

FRIDAY · JANUARY 28, 2022 · 9AM TO 11AM SG/PH TIME

REGISTER VIA ZOOM: bit.ly/culturalagility2022



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• Leadership Coach

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TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE FOR DIRECTORS **SINK, FLOAT, OR SWIM**

IN THE WAVES OF **E-COMMERCE**

28 January 2022 , Friday 01:00 PM - 3:00 PM (GMT+08)



Cherrie Atilano

Chief Executive Officer
AGREA Agricultural Systems International, Inc.
Keynote Speaker



Yang Yang Zhang

CEO & Managing Director
Xendit Philippines
Keynote Speaker



Ricardo Nicanor Jacinto, FICD

Trustee and Teaching Fellow
Institute of Corporate Directors
Moderator



Daphne Ashley Sze

Research Analyst
Maybank Kim Eng Securities, Inc.
Analyst Overview



Henry Aguda, FICD

Senior Executive Vice President CTOO and CTO
Union Bank of the Philippines
Panelist

Participation in this course meets the recommended best practices for continuing directors education prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Only the first 25 MAP members who will register for this January 28 ICD Webinar thru the following link can be accommodated:

<https://forms.gle/qHNK2Xpr1ZygN89K6>



MAP Arts & Culture Lecture

The Art of Kaiseki Cuisine

A Project of MAP Arts and Culture Committee

FEBRUARY 2, 2022, WEDNESDAY, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM via ZOOM



Each dish is meticulously prepared down to every detail, freshly made by Dusit Thani Manila's Japanese chef Hiroyuki Fukata



Thanks to UMU of Dusit Thani Manila
Food and wine pairing specially curated by:



MR. JAY LABRADOR
Chaine des Rotisseurs



MR. EDUARDO "Eddie" YAP
Chair, MAP Arts and Culture Committee
President and CEO, Clairmont Group

Webinar ID : 868 2682 8626
Passcode : MAPAC22

This event is FREE for
MAP Members and Guests.

MAP Circular No. 007-2022

**Special Japanese set meals from Dusit Thani Manila
FOR ONLINE ORDER AT SPECIAL PRICES**

(Prices include taxes and service charges but exclude delivery charges)

UMU STEAK GOZEN - Php1,800 NET

*Chef's appetizer selection, 2 kinds of sashimi, salad, pan-grilled US rib eye in wafu steak sauce,
Japanese rice, miso soup, pickles, and sliced fruits*

TONKATSU STEAK GOZEN - Php1,400 NET

*Chef's appetizer selection, 2 kinds of sashimi, salad, breaded pork tenders,
Japanese rice, miso soup, pickles, and sliced fruits*

YAKIMONO GOZEN - Php1,800 NET

*Chef's appetizer selection, 2 kinds of sashimi, salad, grilled salmon,
Japanese rice, miso soup, pickles, and sliced fruits*

Delivery Schedule and Charges

All set meals ordered will be delivered by Dusit Thani Manila within Metro Manila only on February 2, 2022, Wednesday, not later than 5:00 PM.

The applicable delivery charges, depending on your location/residence, will be relayed to you by Dusit Thani Manila.
(Php150 for the first 5 kms from Dusit Thani Manila and Php50 for every additional km.)

Please note that the set meals are also available for pick-up arrangement.

How to Order and Pay

Please contact the Dusit Hotel Restaurant Reservation thru <dtmnresadm@dusit.com> or (+632) 7238 8888.

Dusit will guide you with the payment process accordingly.

DEADLINE FOR PLACING YOUR ORDER

February 1, 2022, Tuesday, 5:00 PM



MAP ECONOMIC BRIEFING and GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2022, THURSDAY
12:30 PM to 2:30 PM via ZOOM

Updated List of Speakers



**Sec. KARL
KENDRICK T.
CHUA**
National Economic
and Development
Authority (NEDA)



**Dr. CIELITO F.
HABITO**
Chair
Brain Trust Inc. (BTI);
Professor, Ateneo de
Manila University



**Dr. RONG
QIAN**
Senior Economist
World Bank in the
Philippines



Moderator:

Mr. ROMEO L. BERNARDO
MAP Governor and Assistant Treasurer
Managing Director
Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates

This event is FREE for
MAP Members and Guests.

MAP Circular No. 008 - 2022

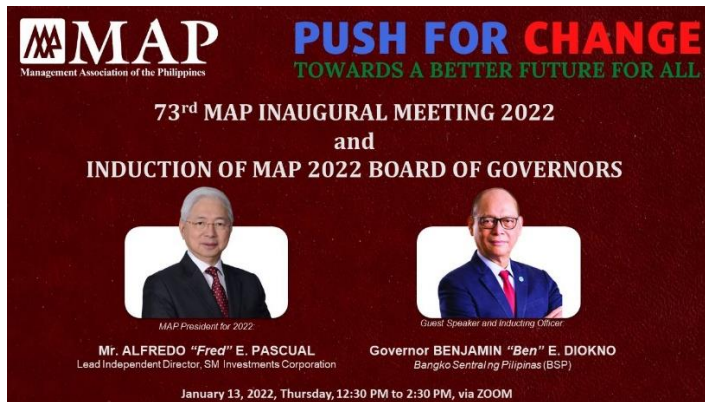
Webinar ID : 878 7720 6484
Passcode : MAPGMM210

MAP Talks on Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheMAPph>

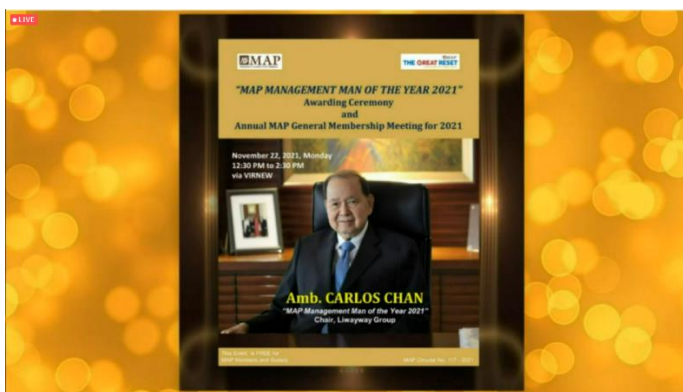
<https://web.facebook.com/map.org.ph>

Video Recording of January 13, 2022 MAP Inaugural Meeting and Induction of MAP 2022 Board of Governors



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzfmOPOZ0k>

Video Recording of November 22, 2021 “MAP Management Man of the Year 2021” Awarding Ceremony and MAP Annual General Membership Meeting



<https://www.facebook.com/map.org.ph/videos/32636086554281>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlwo8hGMTpo>

Video Recording of 2nd MAP NextGen Conference



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMd6j1EqXgA>

Video Recordings of MAP GMMs

- 1. October 25, 2021** MAP Special General Membership Meeting on “Ensuring Clean, Honest, Accurate, Meaningful and Peaceful Elections” with COMELEC Commissioner MA. ROWENA AMELIA V. GUANZON and Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) Chair MYLA C. VILLANUEVA as speakers and Mr. AUGUSTO “Gus” C. LAGMAN, National Chair of National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), Atty. CHRISTIAN “Chris” S. MONSOD, Chair of Eleksyon 2022 Koalisyon, and Dr. RONALD “Ron” U. MENDOZA, Dean of Ateneo de Manila University - School of Government (ASOG)
- 2. October 12, 2021** MAP General Membership Meeting on "Addressing the Learning (Education) Crisis” with Secretary LEONOR M. BRIONES of the Department of Education (DepEd), Ms. RINA LOPEZ BAUTISTA, Co-Founder and President of Knowledge Channel Foundation, and Mr. RAMON R. DEL ROSARIO, JR., Chair of Philippine Business for Education (PBEd)
- 3. September 7, 2021** MAP-PMAP Annual Joint General Membership Meeting (GMM) on “Leap-frogging Digital Talent Development” with Ms. JO ANN ROSARY ASETRE, APAC Customer Success Manager of Lee Hecht Harrison, Usec. EMMANUEL REY R. CAINTIC, Undersecretary for Digital Philippines of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Sec. FORTUNATO T. DE LA PEÑA of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Mr. REX WALLEN TAN, General Manager of Hopkins International Partners, Inc., and EurIng. HENRY K. H. WANG, International Advisor and Author, President of Gate International and Member of G20/B20 Global Taskforce, as speakers
- 4. August 25, 2021** MAP Special GMM on “ADDRESSING THE COUNTRY’S HUNGER PROBLEM” with Cabinet Secretary KARLO A.B. NOGRALES, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) President REYNALDO ANTONIO D. LAGUDA, and Ms. MARGOT TORRES, Private Sector Lead of *Pilipinas Kontra Gutom!* As speakers; and *Tanging Yaman* Foundation Chair, Fr. MANUEL V. FRANCISCO, S.J.!, Brain Trust, Inc. Chair, Dr. CIELITO F. HABITO, and Maginhawa Community Pantry Founder ANA PATRICIA NON as Reactors

5. **August 18, 2021** MAP Arts & Culture Lecture and Virtual Tour of "*HERITAGE AND ANCESTRAL HOMES*" featuring Ms. JOVY ACUZAR, Corporate Marketing Director of *Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar*, and Mr. DEXTER MANANSALA, Arts & Culture Director of *Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar*

6. **August 10, 2021** MAP General Membership Meeting on "ENSURING THE COUNTRY'S ENERGY SECURITY" with Sen. SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN, Chair of Senate Committee on Energy, as the main speaker and Atty. RAY C. ESPINOSA, President and CEO of MERALCO, Atty. JOSE M. LAYUG, JR., President of Developers of Renewable Energy for AdvanceMent, Inc. (DREAM), and Atty. ANNE E. MONTELIBANO, President of Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (PIPPA), as Reactors

7. **July 13 2021** MAP General Membership Meeting on "Governance Champions: HOW INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS CREATE VALUE?" with Atty. ANGELICA "Nenet" LAVARES, Director of Metrobank and Prulife UK; Mr. ALFREDO "Fred" E. PASCUAL, Lead Independent Director of SM Investments Corporation, Ms. FLORENCIA "Flor" G. TARRIELA, Former Independent Director and Board Chairwoman of the Philippine National Bank (PNB) and the first and only Independent Director Chairwoman in the Commercial Banking Industry; and Mr. ROMAN ZYLA, Senior Corporate Governance Officer and currently the Regional Corporate Governance Lead for East Asia Pacific of the International Finance Corporation; as Panelists; and Mr. JONATHAN JUAN "JJ" DC. MORENO, Co-Vice Chair of the MAP Corporate Governance Committee and Chief Strategy and Governance Officer of Metro Retail Stores Group, Inc. (MRSGI), as Emcee/Moderator.

8. **June 8, 2021** MAP General Membership Meeting on "ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS" with Deputy Speaker LOREN LEGARDA, Representative of Lone District of Antique of House of Representatives, Mayor ANDRES "Andy" D. DANGEROUS, Mayor of Municipality of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, and Mr. ILLAC ANGELO "Illac" A. DIAZ, Founder and Executive Director, Liter of Light and MyShelter Foundation

Video Recording of the September 14, 2021 MAP International CEO Conference



FACEBOOK - <https://www.facebook.com/map.org.ph/videos/914003119213053>

YOUTUBE – www.youtube.com/TheMAPph

Speakers' presentations <https://mapceoconference.ph>

News Articles about the January 21, 2022 JOINT STATEMENT ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP) AGREEMENT

1. **“Biz groups push PSA, RCEP ratification”** by Tyrone Jasper C. Piad BusinessMirror January 24, 2022

LOCAL and foreign business groups are pushing two economic measures—ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Public Service Act (PSA) amendments—before legislators go into election campaign recess. They said these will allow more investments and business activities that can aid recovery.

The Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC), in a statement, called on the Senate to finally ratify the Philippines’s membership in RCEP, one of the world’s biggest economic deals, to access more business opportunities.

Over 70 agricultural sector groups, however, are seeking the opposite (story below, anchor), asking senators to either reject, or at least defer approval of, RCEP.

RCEP, which entered into force this month, is a free trade agreement among Asean countries and their trading partners including Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. This represents 30 percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP) or \$26.2 trillion.

“As business associations representing major industrialized economies, we are concerned the Philippines export industry that has been severely hit by the pandemic, will miss out unless this free trade agreement is approved by the Senate,” Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines President Julian Payne said, warning that non-participation puts the country at a disadvantage compared with other RCEP signatories.

Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines President Lars Wittig, meanwhile, said that ratifying RCEP will complement other economic reforms that the government has been pursuing to liberalize the economy, such as the Foreign Investment Act, Retail Trade Act and PSA.

“The ratification of the RCEP will be instrumental to instilling foreign-investor confidence in the country, which will be urgently needed to revive the economy,” said Daniel Alexander, president of the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

The local garment industry, through Confederation of Wearable Exporters of the Philippines (Conwep) and its affiliate the Coalition of the Philippine Manufacturers of PPE (CPMP), also called for the Senate’s concurrence of RCEP to allow them to source raw materials such as yarn and fabric from foreign markets.

Conwep Executive Director Maritess Jonson-Agoncillo and CPMP Executive Director Rosette Carrillo, in a letter to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), stressed that the industry needs “RCEP to sustain such opportunities.”

“Otherwise, we again lose these orders, as well as significant planned investments on apparel and textile from countries such as China, Taiwan, and others, to Vietnam which is expected to resume its operations in the next couple of months,” they added.

In an earlier joint statement, several Philippine business organizations expressed the same sentiment. These include the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines and Philippine Council for Foreign Relations.

“Like any free trade agreement, RCEP provides wide economic opportunities for our country, along with certain threats to uncompetitive industries, and individual producers and their workers. And like in the other free trade agreements the country has joined, the overall economic gains in terms of net job creation, economic growth and price stabilization will well outweigh the costs,” they said.

The business groups said the trading agreement will allow micro, small and medium enterprises gain further market access, in addition to cheaper alternative sources for inputs and lower costs for doing business given the improved trade facilitation.

“Exclusion from RCEP would be immensely costly to our economy and our people. We can anticipate a significant decline in our exports to RCEP countries, which now account for nearly two-thirds [64 percent] of our total exports, as trade with us will logically be diverted to fellow members,” the statement read.

2. “Groups urge Senate to ratify PHL RCEP membership”

by L.M.J.C. Jocson

BusinessWorld

January 21, 2022

THE Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX), Makati Business Club (MBC), Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR) urged the Senate to ratify the country’s membership in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in a joint statement on Friday.

“Like any free trade agreement, RCEP provides wide economic opportunities for our country, along with certain threats to uncompetitive industries, and individual producers and their workers. And like in the other free trade agreements the country has joined (of which our country has the least, compared to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam), the overall economic gains in terms of net job creation, economic growth and price stabilization will well outweigh the costs,” the industry groups said.

The RCEP currently has 15 members, consisting of ten ASEAN member economies along with Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea. It is considered to be the largest trade bloc in the world, representing 30% of global gross domestic product.

The trade agreement took effect on Jan. 1, although the Senate was unable to ratify the RCEP before 2021 ended.

“RCEP will help MSMEs expand market access, especially with more liberal rules of origin on traded products to qualify for trade concessions. It will also provide broader and cheaper alternative sources for inputs and reduce costs of doing business through improved trade facilitation, especially customs and trade clearance procedures,” they said in the joint statement.

They said exclusion from the RCEP would be “immensely costly to our economy and our people.

“We can anticipate a significant decline in our exports to RCEP countries, which now account for nearly two-thirds (64%) of our total exports, as trade with us will logically be diverted to fellow members. It would also make us even more unattractive to job-creating investments than we already are, as these would best locate in RCEP member countries to take advantage of free access to its vast market,” they added.

“For the same reason, our membership could attract more foreign investments into the country from firms wishing to produce and sell to the large RCEP market,” they said.

The groups noted tariff elimination will take up to 20 years, giving enough time to enhance production and improve competitiveness.

“RCEP skeptics should find comfort in the fact that little will immediately change in the country’s trade relations, since RCEP only reaffirms existing trade concessions we already have with all RCEP members via the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) among ASEAN members and the ASEAN-Plus Free Trade Agreements with the rest,” they added. — L.M.J.C. Jocson

**3. “Business groups urge RCEP ratification but want safety nets for agriculture”
by Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat
Manila Bulletin
January 21, 2022**

With apparent hesitation, three major business groups and a foreign relations firm have called for the ratification of the country’s participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as they equally stressed the need for government to increase substantially the budget for agriculture as safety nets for local producers.

The groups — Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Management Association of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, and Philippine Council for Foreign Relations — believe that the Philippines membership in RCEP is an important challenge for the government to step up genuine and meaningful support for Filipino producers, especially in the agriculture sector.

Despite their call for the Senate to ratify RCEP, the groups also equally stressed the need for government to put in place safety nets for local producers.

“We, therefore, urge the government to provide a substantial increase in the agriculture budget commensurate to that provided in our comparable ASEAN neighbors, as we urge our Senators to ratify the RCEP Agreement without delay,” the groups said in the joint statement.

They acknowledged that like any free trade agreement, RCEP provides wide economic opportunities for the country, along with certain threats to uncompetitive industries, and individual producers and their workers.

And like in the other free trade agreements the country has joined, they noted that the Philippines has the least, compared to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, in the overall economic gains in terms of net job creation, economic growth and price stabilization will well outweigh the costs.

As such, the four groups stressed that “Government has the responsibility to assist those adversely affected meaningfully and effectively, to allow them to achieve competitiveness or adjust to alternative products or livelihoods.”

Nonetheless, the groups believe that RCEP will help MSMEs expand market access, especially with more liberal rules of origin on traded products to qualify for trade concessions. It will also provide broader and cheaper alternative sources for inputs and reduce costs of doing business through improved trade facilitation, especially customs and trade clearance procedures.

“Exclusion from RCEP would be immensely costly to our economy and our people. We can anticipate a significant decline in our exports to RCEP countries, which now account for nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of our total exports, as trade with us will logically be diverted to fellow members. It would also make us even more unattractive to job-creating investments than we already are, as these would best locate in RCEP member countries to take advantage of free access to its vast market. For the same reason, our membership could attract more foreign investments into the country from firms wishing to produce and sell to the large RCEP market,” the group said.

It could be recalled that more than 50 groups from farmers and non-governmental organizations have expressed strong opposition against RCEP, resulting in the delayed action by the Senate and the subsequent delay in the country’s participation in the trade deal that took effect Jan. 1 this year.

The groups also said that RCEP skeptics should find comfort in the fact that little will immediately change in the country’s trade relations, since RCEP only reaffirms existing trade concessions the Philippines already have with all RCEP members via the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) among ASEAN members and the ASEAN-Plus Free Trade Agreements with the rest.

Tariff elimination will take up to 20 years, they said, giving ample time for the country to shape up and achieve the competitiveness that will allow local producers to take full advantage of the vast market opportunities RCEP offers.

Even so, our negotiators had excluded from tariff liberalization “sensitive” farm products including swine and poultry meat, potatoes, onions, garlic, cabbages, sugar, carrots and rice, along with manufactured products like cement and certain steel products.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement, the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines (ANZCHAM), strongly urged the Senate to concur with the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

ANZCHAM believes that the RCEP will be important to support the recovery of the Philippines from the devastating economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The RCEP is an economic treaty brokered by the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which the Philippines is a member.

“As an organization representing businesses with strong ties to countries that have already ratified the RCEP (Australia and New Zealand), we understand that the Philippines, especially its export industry severely hit by the pandemic, stands to miss out if this groundbreaking free trade agreement is not ratified. We urge the Senate to prioritize concurrence before the adjournment of the session in February,” said Daniel Alexander, President of ANZCHAM.

He said the ratification of the RCEP will be instrumental to instilling foreign-investor confidence in the country, which will be badly needed to revive the economy.

The RCEP has already entered into force on 1 January 2022 for ten countries, namely, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Japan, Laos, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, with Australia as an original party. For the Republic of Korea, RCEP will enter into force on 1 February 2022. The Philippines has yet to fully ratify RCEP. President Rodrigo Duterte ratified the agreement last 2 September 2021, but it needs concurrence of the Senate to take full effect.

RCEP comprises of 15 member economies, consisting of the ten ASEAN members plus Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea, together account for 30 percent of the world’s population and of global GDP or \$26.2 trillion. As such, it is a huge market that Filipino producers would gain preferential access to via membership in RCEP.

RCEP already entered into force on January 1, 2022, having been ratified earlier by 10 signatories, while South Korea comes in as the 11th on February 1, after the prescribed 60 days from its ratification last December 2. The other remaining countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar, are reportedly poised to ratify the agreement shortly.

**4. “4 business groups urge Senate to ratify PH membership in world’s largest trade bloc”
by Othel V. Campos
Manila Standard
January 21, 2022**

Four business groups on Friday backed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership as they urged the Senate to ratify the Philippine membership in what is considered the world’s largest trade bloc.

“We see our membership in RCEP as an important challenge to our government to step up genuine and meaningful support for Filipino producers, especially in the agriculture sector, which is the backbone of the Philippine economy,” the groups said in a statement Friday.

The groups, composed of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations also called on the government to provide a substantial increase in the agriculture budget that is comparable to those of ASEAN neighbors.

The groups said the RCEP partnership would provide a huge market where Filipino producers and traders are expected to gain preferential access through membership in the trade bloc.

RCEP, consisting of the 10 ASEAN members plus Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea, account for 30 percent of the world's population and global GDP.

RCEP entered into force on Jan. 1, 2022, having been ratified earlier by 10 signatories. South Korea will come in as the 11th member on Feb. 11, 2022 after its government ratified the agreement on Dec. 2, 2021. The other countries—Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar—are also expected to ratify the agreement.

The business groups said RCEP provides wide economic opportunities, along with certain threats to uncompetitive industries and individual producers and their workers. Trade experts said like in other free trade agreements the country joined, the overall economic gains in terms of net job creation, economic growth and price stabilization would well outweigh the costs.

RCEP will help micro, small and medium enterprises expand market access, especially with more liberal rules of origin on traded products to qualify for trade concessions, according to the Trade Department.

The agency said this would also provide broader and cheaper alternative sources for inputs and reduce costs of doing business through improved trade facilitation, especially customs and trade clearance procedures.

“Exclusion from RCEP would be immensely costly to our economy and our people. We can anticipate a significant decline in our exports to RCEP countries, which now account for nearly two-thirds of our total exports, as trade with us will logically be diverted to fellow members. It would also make us even more unattractive to job-creating investments than we already are, as these would best locate in RCEP member countries to take advantage of free access to its vast market,” the business groups said.

They said the Philippine membership would attract more foreign investments into the country from firms wishing to produce and sell to the large RCEP market.

“RCEP skeptics should find comfort in the fact that little will immediately change in the country's trade relations, since RCEP only reaffirms existing trade concessions we already have with all RCEP members via the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement among ASEAN members and the ASEAN-Plus Free Trade Agreements with the rest,” the groups said.

Studies showed that tariff elimination would take up to 20 years, giving ample time for the Philippines to achieve the competitiveness that would allow producers to take full advantage of the vast market opportunities RCEP offers.

5. “More business groups call for RCEP passage”

by Roy Stephen C. Canivel
Philippine Daily Inquirer
January 22, 2022

Four more business groups have joined the growing clamor for the Senate to approve the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and make the Philippines part of the world's largest trade bloc.

But at the same time, the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Council

for Foreign Relations emphasized that joining the global trade bloc should be accompanied by an increase in the budget of the agriculture sector so that the local farmers would not be sidelined.

“We see our membership in RCEP as an important challenge to our government to step up genuine and meaningful support for Filipino producers, especially in the agriculture sector, which is the backbone of the Philippine economy,” the business groups said in a joint statement.

Together, the RCEP countries account for around 30 percent of the global economy. The deal took effect on Jan. 1, although a few countries have not ratified it yet, including the Philippines.

The Philippines signed the RCEP in November 2020 with the rest of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) along with Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Japan, and China. It used to include India, until the latter opted out of the negotiations.

Under the Philippine Constitution, no treaty or international agreement will be valid and effective unless concurred by at least two-thirds of the Senate.

In this case, the Senate had not yet approved the RCEP, after agricultural groups feared how this might hurt the vital sector.

“We, therefore, urge the government to provide a substantial increase in the agriculture budget commensurate to that provided in our comparable Asean neighbors, as we urge our Senators to ratify the RCEP Agreement without delay,” the business groups said.

Like other free trade agreements, the groups said RCEP comes with both economic opportunities and threats for uncompetitive industries and their workers.

Nevertheless, the benefits of being part of the bloc were still expected to outweigh the costs.

6. “More groups press Senate to ratify RCEP”

by Louella Desiderio

The Philippine Star

January 22, 2022

MANILA, Philippines — Five business organizations yesterday made an urgent call to the Senate to approve the Philippines’ participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) mega-trade deal, citing economic opportunities it would open for the country.

“We urge the Senate to ratify Philippine membership in the RCEP, the largest economic bloc in the world’s history,” the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines and Philippine Council for Foreign Relations said in a joint statement yesterday.

RCEP, which will account for 30 percent of the world’s population and global gross domestic product, entered into force last Jan. 1 for Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, China, Japan and New Zealand.

It will start for South Korea on Feb. 1, while Southeast Asian countries Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar are reportedly poised to ratify the agreement soon.

The groups said the RCEP is expected to provide a huge market for Filipino businesses.

“Like any free trade agreement, RCEP provides wide economic opportunities for our country, along with certain threats to uncompetitive industries, and individual producers and their workers. And like in the other free trade agreements the country has joined (of which our country has the least, compared to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam), the overall economic gains in terms of net job creation, economic growth and price stabilization will well outweigh the costs,” the groups said.

RCEP would help expand market access of micro, small and medium enterprises through more liberal rules of origin on trade, as well as provide alternative sources for inputs, and lower the costs of doing business through improved trade facilitation.

The groups warned the country’s non-participation would be costly both to the economy and the people, citing its impact on exports and investments.

In particular, the Philippines’ exports to RCEP countries, which now account for nearly two-thirds of total exports, are expected to decline as trade with the country will be diverted to fellow members.

“It would also make us even more unattractive to job-creating investments than we already are, as these would best locate in RCEP member countries to take advantage of free access to its vast market,” the groups said.

For those with concerns on the RCEP, the groups said they may find comfort to know that little would immediately change in the Philippines’ trade relations since the deal only reaffirms existing trade concessions the country has with all RCEP members through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Trade in Goods Agreement and the ASEAN Plus free trade agreements.

“Tariff elimination will take up to 20 years, giving ample time for us to shape up and achieve the competitiveness that will allow our producers to take full advantage of the vast market opportunities RCEP offers,” the groups said.

The groups said the government has the responsibility to assist those to be affected, and enable them to become competitive or adjust to alternative products or livelihood.

RCEP also excludes sensitive farm products including swine and poultry meat, potatoes, onions, garlic, cabbages, sugar, carrots and rice, along with manufactured products like cement and certain steel products from tariff liberalization.

With the country’s membership in RCEP seen as an important challenge to the government to step up efforts to support Filipino producers, especially those in agriculture, the groups also pushed for a higher budget for the sector.

“We, therefore, urge the government to provide a substantial increase in the agriculture budget commensurate to that provided in our comparable ASEAN neighbors, as we urge our Senators to ratify the RCEP Agreement without delay,” the groups said.

In a separate statement, the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines (ANZCham) also strongly urged the Senate to concur with the ratification of RCEP as such would support recovery from the pandemic.

“As an organization representing businesses with strong ties to countries that have already ratified the RCEP (Australia and New Zealand), we understand that the Philippines, especially its export industry severely hit by the pandemic, stands to miss out if this groundbreaking free trade agreement is not ratified. We urge the Senate to prioritize concurrence before the adjournment of the session in February,” ANZCham president Daniel Alexander said.

7. “Groups urge Senate for RCEP approval”
by Mayvelin U. Caraballo
The Manila Times
January 22, 2022

THE Senate has been urged by a number of organizations to approve the Philippine membership in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which they believe will provide the country with a wide variety of economic benefits.

The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines and Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, said in a statement on Friday that RCEP is the world's largest economic bloc in history.

They went on to say that it has 15 member economies that combined account for 30 percent of the world's population and global gross domestic product.

"As such, it is a huge market that Filipino producers would gain preferential access to via membership in RCEP," the associations noted.

They also said that the RCEP presents the Philippines with a wide range of economic opportunities, as well as certain risks to uncompetitive industries, as well as individual producers and their workers.

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"And like in the other free trade agreements the country has joined, the overall economic gains in terms of net job creation, economic growth and price stabilization will well outweigh the costs," the groups stressed.

It is pointed out that the RCEP will assist MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) in broadening their market access, particularly by allowing more liberal rules of origin on traded goods in order to qualify for trade subsidies. Through enhanced trade facilitation, particularly customs and trade clearance procedures, it will also give a wider range of lower-cost inputs and lower company costs.

Exclusion from the bloc, the groups warned, would be extremely costly to the economy and the Filipino people in terms of exports to RCEP nations, which now account for nearly two-thirds or 64 percent of the country's total exports.

"It would also make us even more unattractive to job-creating investments than we already are, as these would best locate in RCEP member countries to take advantage of free access to its vast market," they added.

To that end, the groups emphasized that the Philippines' inclusion in the bloc might help to attract more foreign investment from companies looking to produce and sell to the enormous RCEP market.

"RCEP skeptics should find comfort in the fact that little will immediately change in the country's trade relations, since RCEP only reaffirms existing trade concessions we already have with all RCEP members via the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement," they also said.

Happy Birthday to the following MAP Members who are celebrating their birthdays within January 1 to 31, 2022

January 1

1. Mr. ADOR A. ABROGENA, EVP, BDO Unibank, Inc.
2. Usec. ROWENA CRISTINA "Gev" L. GUEVARA, Undersecretary for Research and Development, Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
3. Mr. MANUEL "Manny" L. WONG, General Manager, Acer Philippines, Inc. January 1

January 2

4. Mr. JOSE MARIA "Hochi" A. ABAYA, Chair, Cagayan Electric Power & Light Company, Inc. (CEPALCO)

January 3

5. Mr. LAURENT P. LAMASUTA, President and CEO, Ayala Properties Management Corporation (APMC)

January 4

6. Mr. ALLEN L. LEE, President and General Manager, MESCO, Inc.
7. Mr. NELSON C. PAR, Chair, Pascal Resources Energy, Inc.
8. Ms. ELIZABETH "Liza" CARLOS TIMBOL, COO and SEVP, Guagua Rural Bank, Inc. (GRBank)

January 5

9. Mr. RAYMUND "Ray" T. AZURIN, Chief Executive, Zuellig Pharma Corporation
10. Mr. FRANCISCO "Paquito" A. DIZON, Chair and President, Pacific Northstar, Inc.
11. Mr. FERNANDO "Fern" O. PEÑA, President, MOF Company (Subic), Inc.
12. Engr. TELESFORO "Porsche" E. PEÑA, Founder, T & D Design Consultancy, Co.
13. Dr. TONY TAN CAKTIONG, Chair, Jollibee Foods Corporation

January 6

14. Mr. JOSE JEROME "Jeng" R. PASCUAL III, Independent Director, Philippine Dealing System (PDS) Group
15. Ms. LOLY N. UY, CFO, San Roque Supermarket Retail Systems, Inc. (SRS)

January 7

16. Mr. ARMANDO "Armand" S. NG, General Manager, Asia Cargo Container Line Inc.
17. Mr. BENJAMIN R. "Ben" PUNONGBAYAN, Founder, P&A Grant Thornton

January 8

18. Mr. RICO T. BAUTISTA, President and CEO, Etiqa Philippines
19. Mr. JOSE "Jomie" S. FRANCISCO, President, Wire Rope Corporation of the Philippines (A DMCI Holdings, Inc. subsidiary)
20. Dr. JAIME "Jimmy" C. LAYA, Chair, Philtrust Bank
21. Mr. BERNIDO "Bernie" H. LIU, CEO, GOLDEN ABC, Inc.
22. Atty. RICARDO "Dick" J. ROMULO, Senior Partner, Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & de los Angeles

January 9

23. Ms. LORRAINE "Rain" BELO CINCOCHAN, President and CEO, Wilcon Depot, Inc.
24. Mr. JEFFREY JOHNSON, SVP for Human Capital Resource Management, Teleperformance
25. Mr. RICHMOND D. LEE, Founder and Director, ATLASOFFICE, INC.

January 10

26. Ms. MARIA NOEMI "Noemi" G. AZURA, President and CEO, Insular Healthcare Inc.
27. Dr. ROBERTO "Bobby" F. DE OCAMPO OBE, Chair and CEO, Philippine Veterans Bank
28. Mr. FREDERIC "Ricky" C. DYBUNCIO, President and CEO, SM Investments Corporation
29. Mr. SEBASTIAN "Baste" C. QUINIONES JR., Executive Director, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.

January 11

30. Mr. ELMER U. SARMIENTO, President and CEO, Royal Cargo Inc.

January 12

31. Cong. HARRY C. ANGPING, President, AP Genco North Services, Inc.
32. Mr. DANILO "Danny" VALENTON FAUSTO, President, DVF Dairy Farm, Inc.
33. Mr. WILSON P. TAN, Chair and Managing Partner, SGV & Co., EY Member Firm

January 13

34. Mr. MANUEL "Manny" U. AGUSTINES, Chair, Ramcar, Inc.

January 15

35. Mr. FRANCISCO "Frankie" C. EIZMENDI JR., Chair, Dearborn Motors Company, Inc.

January 16

36. Mr. OSCAR B. BIASON
37. Mr. KASIGOD "Kas" V. JAMIAS, President and CEO, The Zuellig Corporation

January 17

38. Mr. ANTONIO "Tony" A. TURALBA, Chair, President and CEO, Active Group, Inc.

January 18

39. Mr. VICTOR "Vic" Y. LIM JR., President, Banco Mexico Inc.
40. Mr. ROBERTO "Bert" G. MANABAT, Independent Director, Union Bank of the Philippines

January 19

41. Mr. LUIS M. "Louie" CAMUS, Chair and President, L. M. Camus Engineering Corporation
42. Ms. MA. BELEN "Bel" B. LIM, CEO, Golden Press
43. Mr. GEORGE I. ROYECA, Chief Transport Advocate, DBDOYC, Inc.

January 20

44. Dean RODOLFO "Rudy" P. ANG, Vice President for Administration and Information Systems, Ateneo de Manila University
45. Mr. ROBERTO "Dondi" D. BALTAZAR, EVP, Philippine National Bank (PNB)
46. Ms. MARICRIS "Cris" MEDINA CAMPIT, President and CEO, Airfreight 2100 Inc. (AIR21)
47. Mr. SANTIAGO "Santi" F. DUMLAO JR., Secretary-General, Association of Credit Rating Agencies in Asia (ACRAA)
48. Ms. ANNA GREEN, CEO, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group

January 21

49. Mr. RAMON "Mon" L. JOCSON, COO, Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)

January 22

50. Dean PASCUAL "Al" SAYO GUERZON, President, Melior Realty Services

January 23

51. Mr. VICENTE "Ting" R. AYLLON
52. Ms. JEANETTE "J'net" BAUTISTA ZULUETA, Chair, ZMG Ward Howell, Inc.

January 24

53. Mr. YU MING CHIN, Executive Director, Viventis Search Asia
54. Mr. FELIPE ANTONIO "Felipe/ Poopi" P. ESTRELLA III, President, Volkswagen Philippines
55. Atty. ROBERTO "Bobby" P. LAUREL, President, Lyceum of the Philippines University (Manila, Makati, Cavite)
56. Mr. ALFREDO "Fred" B. PARUNGAO, President, Ligaya Management Corporation

January 25

57. Mr. NESTOR E. CONSTANCIA, Marketing and Sales Manager, Gardenia Bakeries (Phils.), Inc.
58. Ms. ANA MARIE LORENZANA "Ana" DE OCAMPO, President and CEO, Wildflour Cafe + Bakery Corporation

January 26

59. Mr. ROMEO "Romy" G. DAVID, Chair and President, BNL Management Corporation

60. Gen. JOSE “Joemag” P. MAGNO, Chair, Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corporation
61. Mr. ROMUALDO “Boyet” V. MURCIA III, Partner for Audit and Assurance, Punongbayan & Araullo
62. Ms. ELIZABETH “Beth” G. RABUY, General Manager and Director, FPD Asia Property Services, Inc.
63. Mr. ALFREDO “Fred” C. RAMOS, Chair, The Philodrill Corporation
64. Mr. RODOLFO “Jun” B. STA. MARIA JR., Chair and CEO, Paxforce Corporation
65. Atty. SYLVETTE Y. TANKIANG, Senior Partner, Villaraza & Angangco (V&A) The Firm

January 27

66. Atty. FABIAN “Fame” K. DELOS SANTOS JR., Partner and Head of Tax Services, SGV & Co.
67. Mr. ANGELITO “Lito” VILLANUEVA, EVP and Chief Innovation and Inclusion Officer, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC)

January 28

68. Mr. VIRGILIO “Vio” O. CHUA, President, SB Capital Investment Corporation

January 29

69. Amb. FRANCISCO “Toting” V. DEL ROSARIO
70. Mr. JOSE EMMANUEL “Joel” P. GUILLERMO, President and Chief Executive, Royal Class Group of Companies
71. Mr. CARLOS MA. “Caloy” G. MENDOZA, Managing Director and Senior Country Officer, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.

January 30

72. Ms. ABIGAIL TINA “Gail” M. DEL ROSARIO, President and CEO – OIC and Head of Community Financial Services, Maybank Philippines, Inc.
73. Atty. SERAFIN “Jun” U. SALVADOR JR., Managing Partner, Salvador Llanillo & Bernardo, Attorneys-at-Law
74. Ms. EVELYN R. SINGSON, Vice Chair and President, Dusit Thani Philippines, Inc.

January 31

75. Mr. EMMANUEL “Noel” D. BAUTISTA, Executive Director, Head of ASEAN, LF (Philippines), Inc.
76. Mr. KARIM MANUEL “Karim” G. GARCIA, VP for Business Development, Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC)

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