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PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

April-June 2026

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Philippines Inaugurates World's Largest Integrated Solar and Battery Storage Facility

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Manuel V. Pangilinan led the ceremony for the inauguration of Phase 1 of the 3,500 MWp Terra Solar project, envisioned to be the world's largest solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery energy storage system (BESS) in a single site. The initial phase delivers around 1,373 MW of solar capacity and 825 MW of battery storage (about 3,300 MWh), significantly boosting clean power supply.

For the full article, visit: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1279430

Philippines Expands Ecozone Network to Boost Regional Investment

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. proclaimed the expansion of the Suntrust Ecotown Tanza ecozone in Cavite and the Light Industry & Science Park IV in Batangas, and the establishment of the Robinsons Dumaguete IT Park in Negros Oriental. Implemented under the Special Economic Zone Act and updated tax incentive rules, these new and expanded ecozones will strengthen regional economic development by channeling investment and employment opportunities beyond Metro Manila, particularly in manufacturing, information technology, logistics, and export-oriented activities.

For the full article, visit: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1279320

Philippines Opens New Sectors for Foreign Ownership

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has signed Executive Order 113, revising the foreign investment negative list to further modernize the Philippines' investment landscape.

Key highlights from the updated policy:

- Renewable Energy: Confirms up to 100% foreign ownership for solar, wind, hydro, and ocean energy projects
- Telecommunications: Allows up to 100% foreign equity subject to reciprocity to Filipinos (Otherwise capped at 50%)
- Retail Trade: Standardizes minimum paid-up capital for foreign retailers at $500,000 (down from previous higher thresholds of $2.5M–$7.5M for non-luxury goods)
- Public Utilities/Services: Opens more transport, logistics, and infrastructure "public services" to higher/full foreign participation.

This signals the Philippines' commitment to attracting FDI while safeguarding strategic sectors.

For the full article, visit: https://governance.depdev.gov.ph/marcos-unveils-new-foreign-investment-limits-under-eo-113/

Philippines & Germany Outline New Pathways for Enhanced Economic Partnership in Trade Meet

The Philippines and Germany convened the 3rd Joint Economic Commission (JEC) in Berlin, bringing together over 30 representatives from government and industry to advance dialogue on trade, investment, and key sectors for cooperation.

Co-chaired by Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Allan B. Gepty and Economic Affairs and Energy Parliamentary State Secretary for Stefan Rouenhoff, the meeting also reinforced shared interest in progressing negotiations toward a Philippines-EU Free Trade Agreement.

As global economic conditions evolve, platforms like the JEC play a vital role in aligning priorities and unlocking new avenues for bilateral growth.

Philippines' Chief Negotiator Deep Dives on Anticipated Philippines-European Union FTA in a Dialogue in Berlin

The Philippines' Chief Negotiator for the Philippines–European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Trade Undersecretary Allan B. Gepty led a high-level dialogue in Berlin on 23 June, highlighting the strong momentum behind ongoing negotiations for a modern and forward-looking agreement.

"(The Philippines) sees this FTA as not merely a market access instrument, but as a strategic framework for regulatory cooperation, sustainable growth, resilient supply chains, and good governance," Undersecretary Gepty said.

The discussion brought together stakeholders from government, business, the academe, and civil society, reflecting broad interest in a comprehensive agreement anchored on transparency, high standards, and a rules-based international order.

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Germany joins Pax Silica

The Philippine Embassy welcomes Germany's announcement that it has joined the Pax Silica Initiative -- an alliance to strengthen secure supply chains for semiconductors, AI, critical minerals, and digital infrastructure.

The Philippines earlier joined this initiative on 16 April 2026, underscoring the idea that economic security and national security are inseparable. The move highlights the country's key capabilities and human talent in technology manufacturing, including semiconductors and electronics. The Philippines became the 13th signatory after Australia, Finland, India, Israel, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Singapore, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Under Pax Silica, the Philippines and Germany and their partners can better promote economic security, innovation, and sustainable growth through stable global supply chains.

A 4,000-acre industrial zone in the Luzon (Philippines) Economic Corridor is envisioned to serve as the first AI-native industrial acceleration hub under this initiative.

What is Pax Silica?

In December 2025, the United States launched the "Pax Silica" coalition to counter China's dominance in tech manufacturing, particularly in semiconductor production and rare earth supply chains. China is said to control of about 90% of rare earth refining and its use of export controls in response to US tariffs, highlighted the strategic need for the initiative.

The original members of the coalition initially included key US allies such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Australia, later expanding to additional partners including Finland, Sweden, Qatar, India and the Philippines. Pax Silica aims to secure the "silicon supply chain" and strengthen cooperation in critical minerals, energy, advanced manufacturing, and AI development.

US officials frame the initiative as central to 21st-century economic and geopolitical competition, where computing power and its underlying resources are as vital as oil and steel were in the past, while also reinforcing alignment among partner countries.

For the full article, visit: https://www.rappler.com/technology/features/things-to-know-pax-silica-philippines-goals-concerns/

Luzon AI Hub Draws Strong Investor Interest

At least 20 firms, including over a dozen US companies, have expressed interest in investing in the Luzon Economic Corridor's first AI-driven industrial hub under the Pax Silica initiative. This signals early momentum for the Philippines' push into advanced manufacturing and supply chain security.

The planned 4,000-acre hub in New Clark City aims to anchor an ecosystem for AI-enabled industries and allied manufacturing, with additional interest from Middle Eastern countries, which expressed plans to invest in the Philippines. The project also aims to tap the Philippines' reserves of nickel, copper, chromite, and cobalt - minerals critical to global supply chains.

For the full article, visit: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1275248

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ASEAN CORNER

48th ASEAN Summit in Cebu

A major milestone reached as ASEAN Leaders adopted the **Declaration on Maritime Cooperation**, reaffirming their shared commitment to maritime security. A key highlight is the establishment of an **ASEAN Maritime Center** in the Philippines. This new hub will strengthen regional coordination, ensuring freedom of navigation and safer seas for everyone.

For the full article, visit: https://asean2026.gov.ph/post/view/?title=asean-leaders-declaration-on-maritime-cooperation&

Huge Milestone for ASEAN!

ASEAN has officially concluded negotiations for the historic Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA). DEFA stands to shape the future of trade, innovation, and digital integration in ASEAN.

DEFA translates to:
📈 Robust economy: Propels the region's digital economy toward $2 trillion by 2030.
💼 New business opportunities: Opens new trade and investment doors for all businesses, including SMEs.
🔒 Safer e-transactions: Creates a more secure, seamless online environment for consumers.

For the full article, visit: https://asean2026.press/SEOM-DEFA-Negotiations

Powering New Clark City with Sun and Storage

A 500-hectare utility-scale solar and battery energy storage project is set to rise in New Clark City, positioning the estate as a flagship hub for clean, reliable power in Central Luzon, Philippines. Developed under a long-term land lease between the Bases Conversion Development Authority and ACWA Power Philippines, the facility is designed to deliver up to 500 MW of PV plus storage capacity — tailored to the 24/7 needs of data centers, advanced manufacturing, and other energy-intensive locators.

Beyond adding green megawatts to the grid, the project supports the Philippines' goal of raising renewables' share in its power mix and showcases New Clark City's ambition to be a smart, resilient, and investment-ready urban hub built on clean energy.

For the full article, visit: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1276457

Philippine Business Confidence on the Rise

Philippine firms are looking past global headwinds and betting on stronger growth over the next 12 months, according to the latest BSP Business Expectations Survey.

These firms are preparing for stronger demand, continued expansion, and a more supportive macro environment, driven by moderating inflation and ongoing structural reforms.

For the full article, visit: https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1276119

The Philippines Powers Ahead on Renewable Investment

In the first five months of 2026, the Philippine Board of Investments fast-tracked, under the Green Lane Program, the clearance of Euro 4.92 billion (Php 344.62 billion) in renewable energy investments, accounting for 99.6% of all total investments approved during that time.

"Renewable energy is not a side story in our economic growth; it is the headline," Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said in a statement. "The 344.62 billion pesos that investors are committing to renewable energy under the Green Lane is proof that the Philippines is a destination for clean energy business, and that Filipino workers will be the first to benefit."

The projects are expected to generate 38,716 direct jobs and accelerate the country's push toward higher renewable energy shares, targeted at 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040, while reinforcing the Philippines' position as an emerging destination for clean energy investment.

For the full article, visit: https://bilyonaryo.com/2026/06/11/green-energy-boom-boi-clears-p344-billion-in-renewable-investments-in-five-months/power/

Philippine Bonds Receive Global Spotlight with JP Morgan Bond Index Debut

Big milestone for the Philippines: Nine eligible Philippine government bonds, worth about $49 billion, are set to join the JP Morgan emerging-market bond index in 2027.

Finance Secretary Frederick Go is expecting about $5 billion in foreign funds to flow to the local debt market with this inclusion, based on the size of the Government Bond Index - Emerging Markets fund and the Philippines' projected index weight of 1.78 percent once fully phased in.

Secretary Go notes that this development is "a strong vote of confidence in (the Phlippines') solid fundamentals and fiscal discipline" and should help broaden the country's investor base, improve its liquidity, and lower borrowing costs.

For the full article, visit: https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/04/24/2523094/philippines-join-jp-morgan-bond-index

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Fedex Expands Clark Gateway, Boosts Philippines' Global Trade Role

Logistics giant FedEx has broken ground on a major expansion of its Clark gateway facility, reinforcing the Philippines as a key trans-shipment hub in its Asia Pacific network.

"The expansion of FedEx will deepen global connectivity and strengthen local trade capabilities. Filipino firms and consumers can reach more markets while more foreign traders can reach ours. As the Asia-Pacific region grows, the Philippines will be better positioned to ride on this momentum and drive our economic growth," Finance Secretary Frederick Go said.

The upgraded site, spanning over 78,000 square meters, will feature upgraded handling and capabilities that support shipment flow reliability and service flexibility for customers. The expansion will enhance the company's capacity to handle express, e-commerce, and freight shipments, while reinforcing network resilience amid rising cross-border trade in the region.

For the full article, visit: https://newsroom.fedex.com/newsroom/asia-english/fedex-strengthens-regional-connectivity-with-expansion-of-its-clark-gateway-in-the-philippines

Boeing Supplier Taps Clark for Asia-Pacific Expansion

Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) has secured a 25-year lease with Heatcon Asia Inc., a Washington-based aerospace supplier serving Boeing, marking a key step in positioning Clark as a regional maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) hub. The facility, set within the Clark Civil Aviation Complex, will cover manufacturing, material distribution, and composite repair services, supporting both Philippine and Asia-Pacific operations.

The investment strengthens Clark's growing aerospace ecosystem, complementing Lufthansa Technik Philippines' planned MRO expansion and advancing CIAC's vision of transforming the 2,300-hectare complex into the country's aviation capital.

For the full article, visit:
https://business.inquirer.net/594733/boeing-supplier-to-build-aerospace-facility-in-clark

Nickel Corridor Partnership Gains Momentum

The Philippines and Indonesia are advancing a landmark "Nickel Corridor" partnership aimed not only at focusing on commodity trade but also on building stronger industrial value chains.

The Indonesian Nickel Miners Association and the Philippine Nickel Industry Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the sidelines of the 48th ASEAN Summit in Philippines. The MOU covers the exchange of nickel data and information, policy and regulatory dialogue, cross-border investment promotion, development of ESG methodologies, and human resource capacity building in the nickel sector and paves the way for joint investments, including a planned nickel processing facility in the Philippines to support EV and battery production.

With the two countries projected to supply approximately 73.6 % of global nickel mining production, the partnership positions ASEAN as a key player in the critical mineral supply chain.

For the full article, visit:
https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1274705

Philippines to Host PSECE 2026 and ASEF 2026 Amid ASEAN Chairship

The Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI) organized the Philippine Semiconductor and Electronics Convention and Exhibition (PSECE) 2026, which will take place from 26–28 October 2026 at the SMX Convention Center Manila, alongside the ASEAN Semiconductor and Electronics Forum (ASEF) 2026. The event will bring together global industry leaders, manufacturers, investors, policymakers, and technology providers.

PSECE serves as the Philippines' flagship gathering for the semiconductor and electronics sector, highlighting the country's role as ASEAN host in 2026 and positioning it as a hub for regional collaboration, partnerships, and business opportunities.

ASEF, held in parallel, is a high-level executive forum focused on shaping ASEAN's semiconductor strategy, convening senior leaders from industry, government, academia, and investment sectors to strengthen the region's competitiveness in the global value chain.

Philippines Payment Ecosystem Expands with Garmin Pay Launch

Visa has activated Garmin Pay for eligible debit and credit cardholders in the Philippines, allowing users of compatible Garmin smartwatches to make secure, contactless payments at NFC-ready terminals nationwide. This adds another rail to the country's fast-evolving digital payments ecosystem, alongside QR, mobile wallets, and contactless cards.

By using Visa's tokenization technology to replace sensitive card details with encrypted tokens, Garmin Pay helps reduce fraud risks and strengthen trust in everyday digital transactions.
The rollout taps into strong regional demand for mobile-first payments, with over 71% of Asia-Pacific consumers now preferring digital devices for everyday transactions and supports the Philippines' own push toward a more cash-lite, inclusive economy.

For the full article, visit:
https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1276470

Digital Finance Gaining Headway in the Philippines

The Philippines has emerged as the world's third fastest-growing market in Southeast Asia for finance applications in 2025, underscoring the country's accelerating digital transformation. According to US-based market intelligence firm Sensory Tower, the Philippines posted a 10% year-on-year increase in downloads, the third fastest in the region after Thailand with 21% and Vietnam with 14%.

This trend points to a deepening structural shift in financial access in the country, driven by a mobile-first population, a dynamic fintech sector, and sustained policies to broaden financial inclusion. GCash and Maya continued to dominate the space, underscoring strong demand for digital payments, lending, and banking. Both platforms are also drawing investor attention, with potential stock market listings on the horizon.

For the full article, visit:
https://business.inquirer.net/590938/filipinos-3rd-fastest-growing-finance-app-marke

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AMBASSADOR'S CORNER

Ambassador Almojuela at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference

"I greatly enjoyed the substantive exchange yesterday at panel on "Decarbonization in a Fracturing World," organized by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) at the sidelines of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference (HSC).

"I was honored to speak with former President of Costa Rica Carlos Alvarado, BMUKN State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth, and South African Institute of International Affairs Chief Executive Elizabeth Sidiropoulos to share visions and approaches to implement the Paris Agreement 2015 amidst energy supply volatilities and prevailing current geo-political conditions.

In her closing remarks, former Vice President of Panama and HSC Vice Chair Isabel de St. Malo, cited the importance of global conversations to strengthen solidarity for climate action.

"Moderated by Lindsay Iversen of the CFR, the panel affirmed the enduring value of multilateralism & welcomed the emerging spaces that complement the UNFCCC state-centered processes to deliver climate outcomes."

Copyright: Hamburg Sustainability Conference

Filipino Young Leaders at HSC: From Leyte to the World

"Pleased to have met fellow Filipinos 🇵🇭 Mr. Lemuel Honor, Mayor of Silago, Southern Leyte Philippines and Mr. Resurreccion "Rex" Caparas, former Sanggunian Bayan Member of Kananga, Leyte, at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference!

"Mayor Honor was selected by Rare.org and coastal500.org to showcase bioconservation projects he spearheaded in Silago, including the Ridge to Reef ecotourism and the typhoon-proof housing projects.

"Rex is participating in the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's School for Young Politicians, which connects him with young leaders across the region and provides them exposure on democratic governance.

"You make us proud, Mayor Honor and Rex!"

Philippines and Germany Gear Up for the Philippines-European Union Free Trade Agreement

"I had a wonderful meeting with Der Ostasiatische Verein (OAV) Chair Dr. Arnd Nenstiel and new OAV Managing Director Anna-Lena Schütte today. OAV is our long-time friend and partner in promoting 🇵🇭🇩🇪 trade relations, and we are looking ahead to take this cooperation forward in the coming years. We are building on a strong political momentum in our ties & expanded prospects as we conclude PH-EU Free Trade Agreement" - H.E. Maria Teresa Almojuela, Ambassador of the Philippines to Germany