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# **DIRECTOR'S BRIEF**

In this issue, we highlight Switzerland's status among the global elites for research activities, underscoring its vibrant innovation and scientific development landscape.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is urging companies to register for the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program to manage plastic packaging waste, calling for concerted action in the face of burgeoning environmental issues. In the coming weeks, the Chamber will host an EPR briefing to streamline public-private sector efforts in implementing this important regulation.

SwissCham Philippines continues to promote innovation, focusing on the empowerment of specific economic sectors through its pioneering cluster initiatives. Meanwhile, we are excited to launch the SwissCham Philippines Directory 2023, a comprehensive guide to member companies, partners, and business opportunities.

We celebrate a new partnership between Switzerland Global Enterprise and Digital Pilipinas, a strategic alliance expected to fuel the growth of the technology industry in both nations.

Our commitment to sustainability is highlighted by projects empowering Filipino cacao farmers with eco-friendly solutions for sustainable export. We are delighted to share ABB's collaboration with Lhyfe and Skyborn to deliver one of Europe's largest renewable hydrogen projects. Likewise, a significant shift in the transportation sector comes as PMFTC, Inc., an affiliate of Philip Morris International, moves towards electric vehicles, signalling a green leap forward.

We pay tribute to the work of His Excellency Alain Gaschen as he ends his tour of duty in the Philippines. He is an important figure who left a lasting imprint on the bilateral relations between Switzerland and the Philippines, hence, SwissCham Philippines passed a resolution as our token of appreciation for his significant contributions to our chamber and the Swiss-Philippines business community.

Lastly, we spotlight member companies SGS and Impact Acoustic on their contributions to industry growth and sustainable development. This issue encapsulates the dedication of the Swiss business community in the Philippines to innovation, sustainability, and mutual growth.

**Kent Marjun Primor**Director of Operations

director@swisscham.ph

# **SWITZERLAND AMONG THE GLOBAL ELITES FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

26 May 2023 | Switzerland Global Enterprise

In 2021, Switzerland spent a total of 24.6 billion Swiss francs on research and development (R&D) activities, further details of which can be found in a press release issued by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO). In comparison with the last survey in 2019, experts from the FSO have observed investment growth of +4 percent in this area.

Measured against Gross Domestic Product (GDP), spending on R&D in 2021 amounted to 3.4 percent. With this level of R&D intensity, Switzerland ranks fourth in a global comparison behind Israel (5.6 percent), South Korea (4.9 percent) and the USA (3.5 percent). This new peak value for R&D intensity also underlines "the importance of R&D activities for Switzerland", as the FSO writes in the press release.

Universities and private companies together account for 96 percent of research activities overall. In terms of funds spent, the private sector takes top spot at 16.8 billion. In 2021, universities spent around 6.9 billion Swiss francs on R&D activities. The Swiss federal government and the cantons contributed 6.6 billion Swiss francs, which mainly went to the universities.

Nearly 140,000 people were involved in the research undertakings during the reporting year. The majority of researchers are employed by universities, while slightly more than one third of research jobs were occupied by women in 2021. However, this share has hardly changed since the last survey in 2019.







# **SwissCham Philippines** drives innovation through cluster initiatives

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (SwissCham Philippines) during its monthly board meeting hosted by John Clements Consultant Inc. discussed the establishment of Innovation Clusters in the domains of Manufacturing, Life Sciences and Digital Health, Professionals Group, and the Information Technology-Business Management (IT-BPM). This initiative aims to industry foster synergies, enhance competitiveness, and drive sustainable growth within the dynamic business landscape of the Philippines.

Kent Marjun Primor, SwissCham Philippines-Director of Operations, emphasized the crucial role of collaboration in harnessing the potential of these key sectors. Through the establishment of Innovation Clusters, SwissCham Philippines seeks to create platforms that facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the cultivation of innovative solutions to common challenges faced by these industries.

During the meeting, the board members engaged in dynamic discussions, focusing on the core action item of organizing cluster assemblies. These assemblies will serve as vibrant forums, bringing together member companies to deliberate on shared priorities. By fostering dialogue and creating a space for interaction, these cluster assemblies will act as catalysts for the exchange of best practices, identification of emerging trends, exploration of collaborative opportunities.

The Manufacturing Innovation Cluster will spearhead a transformative revolution in the country's industrial landscape. By addressing challenges such as supply chain optimization, advanced manufacturing techniques, and the integration of digital technologies, member companies can collectively drive innovation and establish the Philippines as a hub for cuttingedge manufacturing practices.

The Life Sciences and Digital Health Innovation advancements Cluster will prioritize healthcare technologies, telemedicine solutions, pharmaceutical research, and biotechnology. Through cross-sector collaborations, this cluster aims to propel the Philippine healthcare ecosystem toward cutting-edge advancements and improve the overall well-being of the population.

Next, the Professionals Group Innovation Cluster will play a pivotal role in enhancing the skills and competencies of professionals across various industries. By facilitating knowledge exchange, mentorship programs, and capacitybuilding initiatives, member companies can collectively elevate professional standards and expertise in the Philippines.

Lastly, the IT-BPM Innovation Cluster will address the evolving needs of the digital landscape. With a focus on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, software development, and data analytics, this cluster aims to position the Philippines as a global hub for technologydriven solutions and services.

Following in-depth deliberations, the board members agreed on the urgency of organizing cluster briefings to initiate dialogue among member companies. These briefings will provide a dedicated platform for identifying shared priorities, exploring collaborative projects, and fostering a culture of innovation within each respective cluster.

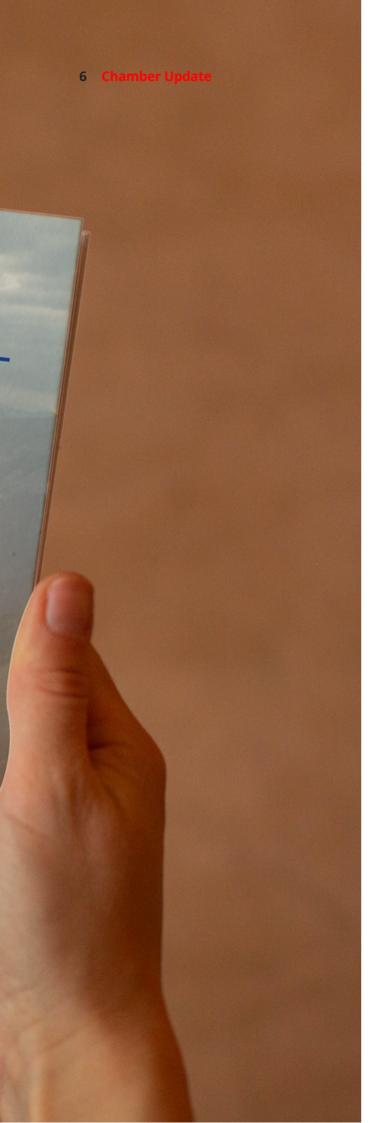
As SwissCham Philippines continues unwavering commitment to unlocking the potential of key sectors, the establishment of Innovation Clusters and cluster assemblies marks another decisive step toward sustainable growth, economic resilience, and global competitiveness. With a shared vision and steadfast dedication to excellence, the chamber and its members are poised to ignite transformative change, fortify the nation's economic standing, and cement their position as esteemed industry leaders in the Philippines.



# MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

2023-2024

Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc. 24/F BDO Equitable Tower, 8751 Paseo de Roxas, 1226 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines



# **Launching of SwissCham Philippines Directory 2023**

The SwissCham Philippines is delighted to announce the release of its <u>membership directory</u> for the year 2023. This comprehensive directory transcends a mere compilation of names, offering in-depth company information, including industry classification, scope of services, and contact details for each esteemed member. By providing such detailed insights, the directory enhances members' visibility within the SwissCham community, creating opportunities for synergistic collaborations, partnerships, and ultimately, elevated business potential.

By granting privileged access to industry events, workshops, and specialized opportunities, the directory empowers members to leverage their SwissCham affiliation for continuous professional development. Furthermore, the directory showcases the diverse composition of the member base, fostering an environment conducive to knowledge exchange and mutual growth. Through this inclusive platform, members can identify potential business partners, clients, or collaborators, nurturing relationships that contribute to the overall success and expansion of their respective enterprises.

In essence, the SwissCham Philippines Directory 2023 stands as a powerful tool designed to maximize business potential, facilitate industry collaboration, and augment member benefits. By leveraging the detailed insights offered within its pages, members can expand their networks, seize new opportunities, and drive businesses forward. With comprehensive data and exclusive offerings, the directory serves as a catalyst for growth and success within the esteemed SwissCham community, enabling members to harness their full potential and flourish in the dynamic business landscape.

For access, interested parties may inquire via email to <a href="mailto:secretariat@swisscham.ph">secretariat@swisscham.ph</a>. Verified members will receive a password, ensuring data security and privacy.

# Switzerland Global **Enterprise and Digital** Pilipinas forge partnership to boost technology industry growth

Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE), the official trade promotion organization of Switzerland, has signed an MoU with Digital Pilipinas to boost bilateral cooperation in the technology industry. The collaboration aims to promote accelerator programs, facilitate start-up connections, and explore emerging technologies. Representative Kent Marjun Primor, Head of Economic & Trade Advisory of the Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines and Director of Operations of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, and Amor Maclang, Convenor of Digital Pilipinas, spearheaded the agreement.

The partnership between S-GE and Digital Pilipinas aims to accelerate technological innovation by enhancing accelerator programs that support tech start-ups in Switzerland and the Philippines. Through their networks and expertise, the organizations will provide resources, mentorship, and funding opportunities to promising entrepreneurs, fostering a thriving ecosystem for cutting-edge technologies.

In addition, the collaboration emphasizes connecting start-ups through networking events, matchmaking initiatives, and knowledgesharing platforms. This aims to facilitate partnerships, idea exchange, and potential collaborations between entrepreneurs from both countries. By fostering a supportive crossborder environment, the MoU seeks to drive innovation and create mutually beneficial opportunities for start-ups.

Furthermore, the partnership will explore the application of emerging technologies in sectors such as fintech, healthcare, and logistics. Leveraging Switzerland's global innovation leadership and the dynamic tech scene in the Philippines, joint research and development efforts, pilot projects, and knowledge exchange programs will be undertaken to unlock the transformative potential of these nascent technologies and drive economic growth.

Overall, the collaboration between Switzerland Global Enterprise and Digital Pilipinas represents a significant step towards fostering bilateral cooperation in the technology industry. With a focus on accelerator programs, connecting start-ups, and exploring emerging technologies, the partnership led by Kent Marjun Primor and Amor Maclang holds great potential to unlock innovative opportunities and drive economic growth in both Switzerland and the Philippines.

Visit Digital Pilipinas to learn more about the partnership.





# SGS in brief

We are SGS - the world's leading testing, inspection and certification company. We are recognized as the global benchmark for sustainability, quality and integrity. Our 97,000 employees operate a network of 2,650 offices and laboratories, working together to enable a better, safer and more interconnected world.

### **OUR FOCUS AREAS**

The SGS focus areas are strategically aligned with global megatrends affecting society today. Each focus area develops and maintains worldclass expertise to support the evolving needs of our customers. Due to capabilities we are able to provide solutions to the challenges they face across the globe.

# **CONNECTIVITY & PRODUCTS**

Enabling better, safer products and services in a more connected world.

### **HEALTH & NUTRITION**

Enabling a better quality of life by assuring the quality, safety and sustainability of the food we eat and the healthcare products we use.

# **INDUSTRIES & ENVIRONMENT**

Enabling safer, more sustainable and environmentally friendly infrastructure, transportation and industries.

# **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Enabling the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

### KNOWLEDGE

Enabling sustainable growth by enhancing knowledge, skills and processes.

### DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Enabling a better, safer, and more interconnected world through digital technology and innovation.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Enabling your organization to become more sustainable, safe and efficient.

# **BUSINESS BENEFITS**

The business benefits are eight concrete ways we make a difference for our customers' businesses and operations. These eight benefits can be used to encapsulate how and what SGS does, and also provide a framework for illustrating competitive advantage from using SGS services.

- Quality
- Safety
- Reduced risk
- Efficiency
- Productivity
- Speed to market
- Trust
- Sustainability

### **BUSINESS PRINCIPLES**

SGS' Business Principles are the cornerstone on which all of our activity rests. They are held to be fundamental, overarching beliefs and behaviours that guide our decisions and allow us to embody the SGS brand in everything we do.



INTEGRITY



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**QUALITY & PROFESSIONALISM** 



RESPECT



SUSTAINABILITY



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# DENR URGES COMPANIES TO REGISTER EPR PROGRAMS FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING WASTE

22 March 2023 | DENR Press Releases

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is calling on enterprises to register their respective <u>extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs</u> following the issuance of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of <u>Republic Act (RA) 11898 or the EPR Act of 2022</u>.

The call is pursuant to a provision in the EPR Act mandating large businesses to set up their EPR programs for plastic packaging within six months after the effectivity of the law.

Specifically, the private sector is expected to submit their registration as an obliged enterprise, as a collective, or as a producer responsibility organization, in compliance with the DENR Administrative Order No. 2023-02 signed by DENR Secretary Antonia Loyzaga, which serves as the EPR's IRR issued on January 24, 2023.

RA 11898, which amended RA 9003 and took effect on August 13, 2022, places responsibility for the entire life cycle of plastic waste on its producers through the development and implementation of its EPR programs that focus on waste reduction, recovery, and diversion.

# Empowering Filipino cacao farmers for sustainable export and eco-friendly solutions

The Swiss Embassy in partnership with <u>Auro Chocolate</u> co-founder Mark Ocampo and <u>Quezon City Government</u> Mayor Joy Belmonte, recently visited Saloy and Rosaroso in Davao with a clear aim: to export sustainable, high-quality grade cacao to Europe and Switzerland, while concurrently promoting the adoption of bamboo housing and natural fiber solutions. This collaborative endeavor represents a significant step towards elevating the Filipino cacao industry and embracing eco-conscious practices.

The primary focus of the visit was to establish the Philippines as exporter of sustainable and high-quality grade cacao in European and Swiss markets. By emphasizing stringent quality assurance and certification standards, the visit sought to understand how cacao is produced by local farmers. This commitment to sustainability extends beyond cacao production, as the delegation actively championed the use of bamboo housing and natural fiber solutions, aiming to revolutionize the construction industry with eco-friendly alternatives.

By exporting sustainable cacao, the visit not only signals support to local farmers' economic growth but also boosts the reputation of the Philippines as a reliable and eco-conscious source of premium cacao. Simultaneously, the advocacy for bamboo housing and natural fiber solutions showcases the nation's commitment to sustainable development and a greener future.







# ABB collaborates with Lhyfe and Skyborn on one of Europe's largest renewable hydrogen projects

Originally published by ABB. 05 May 2023.

ABB is collaborating with Lhyfe, a world pioneer in the production of renewable hydrogen, and Skyborn, a global leader in renewable energy, to jointly realize and optimize one of Europe's most ambitious renewable hydrogen projects ever, SoutH2Port.

The new hydrogen production plant, operated by Lhyfe and Skyborn, will be located in the municipality of Söderhamn, Sweden, and connected to Skyborn's 1 GW offshore wind farm in nearby Storgrundet. When fully operational, it is expected to produce about 240 tons of hydrogen per day, with an installed capacity of 600 MW, making it one of the largest suppliers of renewable hydrogen in Europe.

"This collaboration is a key part of our strategy in both the hydrogen and offshore wind markets," said Brandon Spencer, President of ABB Energy Industries. "Creating a seamless supply chain, through partnerships such as these, is essential to accelerate the energy transition. Hydrogen plays a crucial role in helping achieve the world's climate goals when it comes to decarbonizing the industrial and transportation sectors."

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the companies, ABB will apply critical expertise to optimize the integration of the hydrogen and electricity production across the entire ecosystem including automation, electrical and digital technologies and drive the development of scalable, commercial energy transition projects in and around the region. The aim is to explore opportunities to tie-in Powerto-X conversion technologies turning renewably sourced electricity into carbon-neutral energy carriers, such as hydrogen, and storing the energy for later use.

"We are delighted to have such a global technology leader as ABB, who shares our conviction in the Power-to-X potential of the SoutH2Port project, join our collaboration with Lhyfe. I look forward to taking this project to the next level with the help of ABB and their unrivalled expertise within this field," said Achim Berge Olsen, Chairman of Skyborn Renewables Sweden.

"By combining our expertise and solutions, we can cost-effectively and safely expand the value creation attached to the scale up of renewable hydrogen production," said Taia Kronborg, cofounder and Chief Business Officer at Lhyfe. "Skyborn's track record in offshore wind power, Lhyfe's expertise in renewable hydrogen production coupled with ABB's technological expertise creates new opportunities for enabling Power-to-X solutions linked with renewable hydrogen production at scale."

The new plant will support the decarbonization of the Swedish energy system, either directly with hydrogen supply or by further downstream production of refined fuels such as methanol, sustainable aviation fuel or ammonia – contributing to the government's plans to become the world's first fossil-free welfare country by 2045. SoutH2port will also further contribute to boosting the attractiveness and competitiveness of the region and local society through the creation of new jobs and business opportunities.

ABB is a technology leader in electrification and automation, enabling a more sustainable and resource-efficient future. The company's solutions connect engineering know-how and software to optimize how things are manufactured, moved, powered and operated. Building on more than 130 years of excellence, ABB's ~105,000 employees are committed to driving innovations that accelerate industrial transformation.



# PMFTC shifts to electric vehicles

Originally published by Claire Bernadette Mondares, Manila Times. 03 May 2023.

Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco (PMFTC) Inc. has deployed 10 electric vehicles (EVs) for its service fleet to expand its vision to deliver a smoke-free future.

PMFTC was the first tobacco company in the country to deploy EVs for its salesmen.

The electric vehicles will be used in the company's operations in the cities of Marikina and Pasig and in Rizal province.

PMFTC plans to deploy 10 more EV units before the year ends.

"Our journey of transformation is naturally linked to our sustainable fleet initiative. Just as our ambition is to replace cigarettes with better alternatives as quickly as possible, we have a responsibility to have a net positive impact on society by reducing the environmental impact of our products, operations, and value chain. This is our commitment to become a major part of the Philippines' shift towards electro-mobility," PMFTC President Denis Gorkun said.

The EV deployment is in line with Philip Morris International's low-carbon transition plan which commits to achieving carbon neutrality by 2025 and net-zero emissions of its value-chain by 2040.

PMFTC was the first of PMI's affiliates to shift to EVs. The EVs are expected to reduce carbon emissions by 84,954 kilos per year.

"Reducing consumption to cut greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing fossil fuel use and prioritizing nature-based solutions is us doing our part to make sure our employees, customers and stakeholders improve sustainability," Gorkun said.

The company also plans to enhance its telematics technologies to promote eco-driving behaviors and improve safety, efficiency and productivity among its fleet drivers.



# Honoring the contributions of His Excellency Alain Gaschen

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines recently attended a farewell gathering to pay tribute to His Excellency Alain Gaschen, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation to the Philippines. This small gathering graciously hosted by Céline Fürst, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines, commemorated Ambassador Gaschen's outstanding efforts in bolstering and nurturing the bilateral relationship between the two nations.

Ambassador Gaschen's unwavering dedication to strengthening Philippines-Switzerland bilateral relations has yielded exceptional results. His strategic initiatives and proactive engagement have significantly boosted bilateral trade and investment, stimulating economic growth for both countries. Additionally, he has fostered cultural understanding through diverse exchanges, exhibitions, and educational programs, deepening appreciation for the cultural heritage of both nations.

Moreover, Ambassador Gaschen's contributions extend beyond economics and culture, making a profound impact on social understanding. Through his efforts, dialogues and people-topeople exchanges have flourished, forging stronger bonds and camaraderie between the Filipino and Swiss populations. This enhanced social understanding has laid a solid foundation for closer relationships and collaboration.

The SwissCham Philippines extends profound gratitude to Ambassador Alain Gaschen for his outstanding contributions to Philippines-Switzerland bilateral relations. His visionary leadership and unwavering dedication have laid a solid foundation for cooperation and mutual growth. As Ambassador Gaschen concludes his tenure, his exceptional achievements will leave an indelible legacy of prosperity and collaboration, strengthening diplomatic ties between the Republic of the Philippines and the Swiss Confederation.



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Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco

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SGS Philippines Inc.

STAMM International Inc.

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Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines Global Reporting Initiative Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Switzerland Global Enterprise



# Become a member now!

For queries, please contact your SwissCham Secretariat:



secretariat@swisscham.ph



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# **MEMBERSHIP MILEAGES**

	Regular Corporate	Associate Corporate	Foreign - Based Corporate	Regular Individual	Young Professionals	
Networking Benefits						
SwissCham Philippines Business E- Journal	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	
Daily News Clips	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Member feature in the Swiss-Philippines Business E- Journal	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Representation and Formal Introductions	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>			
Advertising Opportunities	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>			
		Business Consu	ultations			
Economic Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Market Research	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Government and Chamber relations	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>		
Business Support and Network Access	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>		
Business Matching	✓	✓	✓			
FTA Technical Consultation	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>			
Business Visa Support	✓	✓	✓			
Mentorship and Traineeship	✓	✓	✓			
		Chamber E	vents			
Event Participation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Collaboration for Sustainability	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	
Executive Chat Series	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sector Roundtable Discussions	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>			
Trade Exhibits and Business Tours	✓	✓	✓			

# SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

24th Floor BDO Equitable Bank Tower, 8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati, 1226 Metro Manila

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

secretariat@swisscham.ph

www.swisscham.ph

Working together to strengthen economies

OMPANT REPRESENTATIVE	
FULL NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.): POSITION: DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD): EMAIL ADDRESS: MOBILE NUMBER:	<ol> <li>Fill out Membership Application Form</li> <li>Send form to secretariat@swisscham.ph</li> <li>Application will be processed/approved in the next immediate board meeting.</li> </ol>
LTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE	MEMBERSHIP TYPES:
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REGISTERED NAME:	
Agriculture	FILL MANAGE
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I give consent to SwissCham Philippines to use my organization's logo for the website and other social media platforms.  I give consent to SwissCham Philippines to include me in the Viber group, which is exclusive for primary / alternate members only.	I, with due authority, hereby apply for membership to the <i>Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines</i> and agree, if accepted, to be bound by its rules and regulation.  I hereby certify that I have the authority to supply the above information and also certify that it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
SWISSCHAM PHILIPPINES	SIGNATURE ABOVE PRINTED NAME

# SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

# **WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIES**

**SINCE 2003** 

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines is a non-stock and non-profit organization that serves as a channel for initiating and facilitating business-related and networking activities to grow trade and investments between the Philippines and Switzerland.

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Embassy of Switzerland Director of Operations** 

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# **CÉLINE FÜRST**

Embassy of Switzerland

Deputy Head of Mission

# **KENT MARJUN PRIMOR**

Embassy of Switzerland
Head of Economic and Trade Advisory

# **Upcoming Events**



# VIRTUAL BRIEFING ON

# **EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2022**

21 June 2023 | 10:00 AM via Zoom

# **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



# ATTY. IVY DE PEDRO

Head, EPR Monitoring Committee Legal Officer, Pollution Adjudication Board Secretariat, EMB - DENR

# REACTORS



# ATTY. DEEGEE UY-ANASTACIO

Asst. Vice President Government & Industry Affairs - Nestlé Philippines



# MR. RIYANN MOSTER

Commercial and Business Development Manager Geocycle - Holcim Philippines (TBC)



# MR. RYAN GARCIA

Head of Procurement Zuellig Pharma Corporation



Scan the QR Code to register or click on this link: https://forms.gle/riZdCYCpSUYTiJM5A







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# **TEAM SECRETARIAT**

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Academic Intern

**DAZLE EDRALIN** 

Academic Intern

**SwissCham Philippines** would like to thank our contributors, member-companies, and partners.

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