



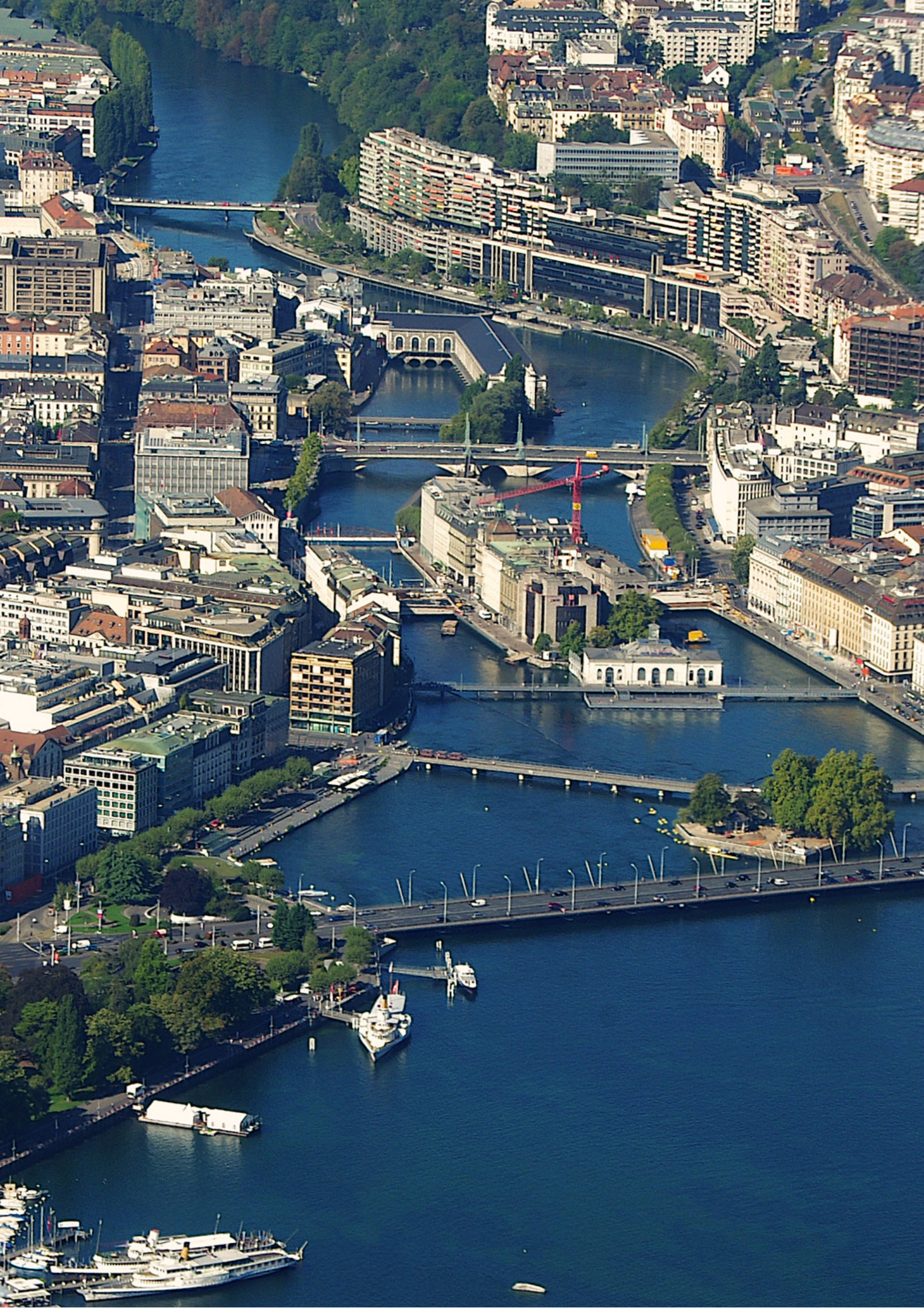
Swiss Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines

APRIL 2023
Volume II, Issue 4

SWISSCHAM PHILIPPINES BUSINESS E-JOURNAL

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE PHILIPPINES

*working together
to strengthen
economies*





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SPACES.

BOGE

BOGE



DIRECTOR'S BRIEF

In this issue, we present a diverse array of topics encompassing digital transformation, sustainability, and strategic business expansion. SwissCham Philippines facilitated a high-level roundtable dialogue, featuring DICT Secretary Ivan John Uy, to underscore the critical role of digitalization across industries. The event convened industry experts and business leaders to deliberate on DICT's strategic priorities and initiatives aimed at augmenting the Philippine economy's digital infrastructure. Focus areas encompass enhancing internet connectivity, fostering digital literacy, and encouraging public-private collaborations.

In a parallel endeavour, we participated in a forum hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs - Foreign Service Institute (DFA-FSI) and Digital Pilipinas related to Digital Diplomacy opportunities. The initiative seeks to strengthen the Philippines-Switzerland relationship by harnessing digital platforms for effective communication, collaboration, and exchange in promoting trade and investments.

RepRisk, a prominent ESG risk intelligence provider, has introduced its ESG risk data offering on the Snowflake Marketplace. This development grants users access to RepRisk's extensive ESG risk exposure data for companies, projects, and sectors, promoting informed decision-making in business and investment activities.

Swiss Sanitary Parts Company Geberit is strategizing to broaden its presence in the Philippines. Focused on delivering innovative, sustainable, and premium sanitary solutions, Geberit aims to cater to the increasing demand within the Philippine market and contribute to the nation's infrastructural progress.

Aboitiz-backed Fresh Depot has collaborated with SwissCham Philippines to transform agri-tech through an innovative cold chain solution. Utilizing cutting-edge supply chain technologies, Fresh Depot seeks to enhance the quality and longevity of perishable goods, benefiting both farmers and consumers.

Ivoclar Vivadent, a renowned dental company, is preparing to commemorate its 100th anniversary. With a rich history of pioneering innovation and excellence, Ivoclar Vivadent has significantly influenced the dental sector through the development of advanced dental materials, technologies, and treatment methodologies.

For our Executive Insights, Bryan Giger of Dashlabs elucidates the transformation of healthcare through digitalization and innovation. Giger emphasizes the potential of digital technologies and data-driven solutions to revolutionize healthcare, leading to superior patient outcomes, streamlined processes, and cost-effectiveness.

We likewise spotlight three dynamic organizations - Ascona International Corporation, DDC Land Inc., and LTS Luggage Trading & Services, and invite you to explore their respective industries and innovative strategies.

Kent Marjun Primor
Director of Operations

director@swisscham.ph

SwissCham Philippines and DICT Secretary discuss digitalization initiatives in the Philippines

SwissCham Philippines recently hosted a roundtable discussion with the Department of Information Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Ivan John Uy on the importance of digitalization in various industries. The event brought together experts and business leaders from different sectors to discuss the priorities and initiatives of the DICT in upgrading the digital infrastructure of the Philippine economy.

Health and Medical Industry

Bryan Giger, CEO and Co-Founder of Dashlabs.ai, emphasized the importance of bridging the digital divide across different business industries and government services, particularly in the medical sector. Dr. Herdee Luna of the Philippine Cancer Society expressed her support for the initiative called Act Now, which integrates telemedicine, mobile clinics, and digital radiology to improve early technological detections and survival outcomes.

Tech Industry

Pavo Kohler, ERNI APAC Managing Director, highlighted the responsibility that different communities need to bear in the usage of technology. Secretary Uy established that the DICT has a division within the department that handles talent development and capacity building.

He also mentioned that there are training centers which foster the need for upskilling and right-skilling, further strengthening the enforcement of necessary knowledge and skill set. Zaza Soriano Nicart, Managing Director of CISCO Philippines, talked about how the presence of basic connectivity could put forward innovation and development in the country, significantly contributing to its economic growth.

Manufacturing and Logistics

Beverly Archangel of Prozone Xpress Logistics Inc emphasized the need to enhance businesses with efficient information technology, logistic-wise, to help facilitate faster transactions and development. She also highlighted the need to address the issue of cybersecurity for a safer and more secure space for logistic business industries. Urs Hebeisen of the STAMM Group of Companies raised questions about who is supporting and financing the infrastructure and services of DICT.

Secretary Uy shared that DICT is exerting efforts in improving the competitive stance of the country in the global digital economy through its initiative aimed at providing cost-effective and high-quality affordable internet connectivity across the Philippines, especially in remote areas. He also mentioned government projects such as e-governance apps that are designed as a citizen-centric approach wherein communities are able to engage with the government and digitally access its services.

The roundtable discussion provided an opportunity for the Swiss business community to collaborate with the Philippines in finding a path towards greater digitalization. With the increasing importance of digitalization in business and the economy, the SwissCham Philippines' initiative is a significant step towards building stronger partnerships between the two countries.







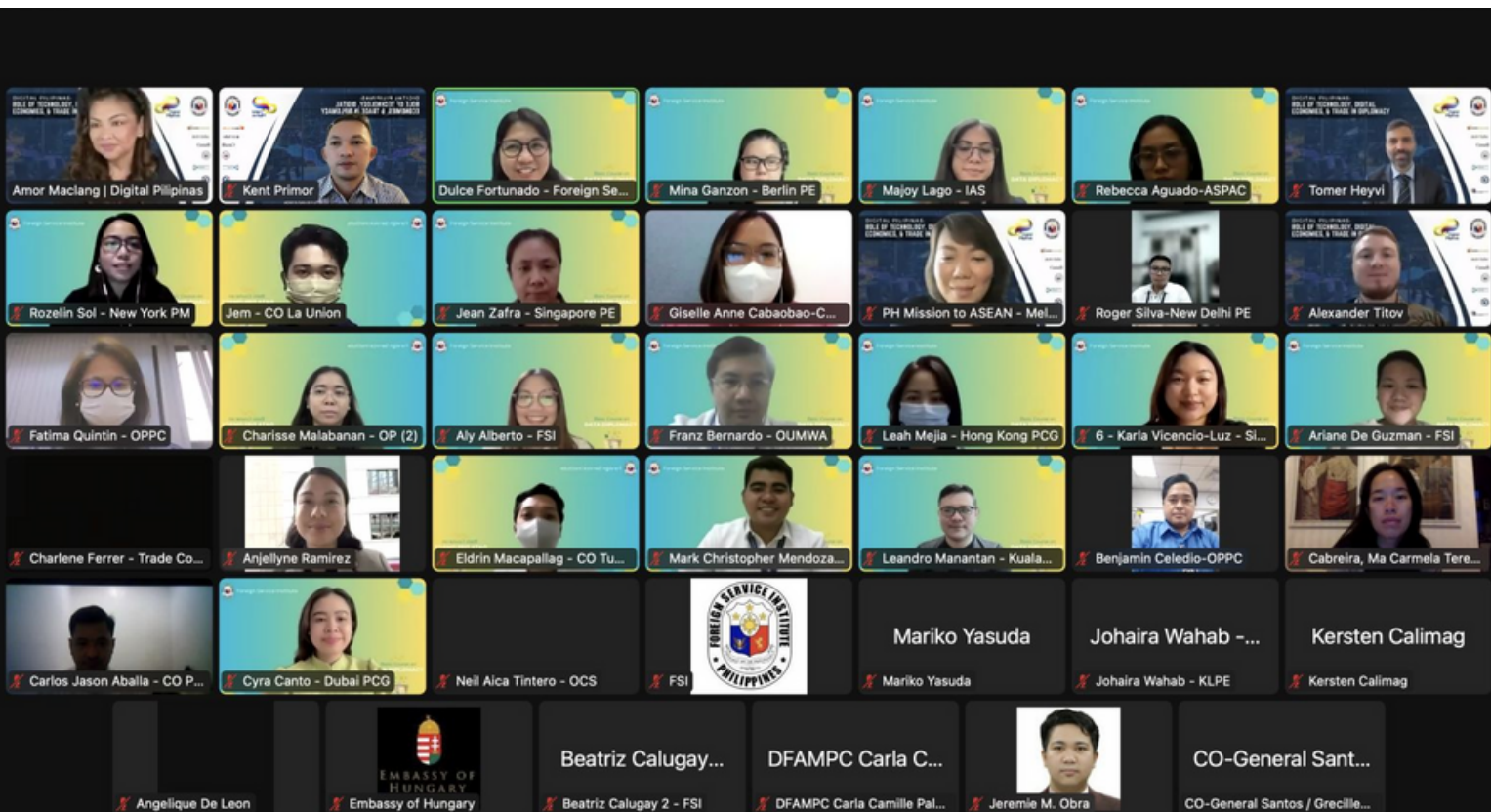


SwissCham Philippines explores Digital Diplomacy with DFA and Digital Pilipinas in online Forum

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines recently participated in an online forum organized by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and Digital Pilipinas. The forum focused on the role of technology, digital economies, and trade in diplomacy, and featured Kent Primor, Head of Economic and Trade Advisory at the Swiss Embassy and concurrent SwissCham Director of Operations, as one of the panel speakers.

Mr. Primor shared his insights on the importance of digitalisation in diplomacy, citing it as one of the four pillars of Swiss Foreign Policy Strategy. He highlighted the active participation of Swiss companies in various digital sectors such as fintech, digital health, agritech, and e-commerce.

SwissCham Philippines, as a business organization that promotes bilateral trade and investment between Switzerland and the Philippines, recognizes the significance of digitalisation in business and trade. The forum provided a platform for the organization to showcase Swiss companies' expertise in various digital sectors and explore potential partnerships with Philippine businesses.





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RepRisk launches ESG risk data on Snowflake Marketplace

Joint customers can identify and assess material ESG risks to inform financial decision-making with RepRisk ESG risk data

Originally published by RepRisk. 28 March 2023

RepRisk, an ESG data science firm, today announced that it has launched ESG risk data on Snowflake Marketplace. ESG risk data availability on Snowflake Marketplace will enable joint customers to access independent ESG risk data efficiently while simplifying and safeguarding their internal data processes.

Jenny Nordby, Head of Business Development at RepRisk commented: "This partnership represents the growing consensus across financial services that ESG data is imperative for robust and decisive financial decision making. We are happy to partner with Snowflake to enable our joint customers to seamlessly plug ESG data into their internal systems, and ultimately, use that data to mitigate risk and improve business conduct."

RepRisk and Snowflake are working together to help customers make informed business decisions and drive innovation by enabling effective data security, scalability, assessment, and governance. Making the Zurich-based company's data more seamlessly available will result in more flexibility in data processing and manipulation for new and existing clients that include asset managers, banks, hedge funds, corporates, insurance providers, and governments.

"With its capacity to identify and assess material ESG risk, RepRisk's dataset is aligned with Snowflake's efforts to drive more sustainable, informed, and smart financial decision-making – all within a more streamlined and efficient process. We're looking forward to seeing how this addition will lead to the consideration and implementation of ESG for our customers," said Kieran Kennedy, Head of Snowflake Marketplace.

Joint customers can now leverage RepRisk ESG risk data on Snowflake Marketplace, allowing them to gain a better understanding of their ESG risk exposure by leveraging an ESG risk dataset that is unique in the industry. To generate their dataset, RepRisk intentionally excludes company self-disclosures to provide clear and transparent insights on a company's ESG and business conduct risks. RepRisk takes an outside-in approach by looking at a broad range of public media and stakeholder sources in 23 languages to identify ESG risks – with daily data updates across 102 ESG risk factors mapped to standards such as UNGC, SASB, and SDGs. RepRisk enables companies, investors, and others to proactively mitigate these risks that can lead to reputational, compliance, and financial impacts for the company and its stakeholders, as well as impacts on people and the planet.

Snowflake Marketplace is powered by Snowflake's ground-breaking cross-cloud technology, Snowgrid, allowing companies direct access to raw data products and the ability to leverage data, data services, and applications quickly, securely, and cost-effectively. Snowflake Marketplace simplifies discovery, access, and the commercialization of data products, enabling companies to unlock entirely new revenue streams and extended insights across the Data Cloud. To learn more about Snowflake Marketplace and how to find, try and buy the data, data services, and applications needed for innovative business solutions, click [here](#).



Swiss Sanitary Parts Company Geberit seeks to expand presence in the Philippines

Geberit recently visited SwissCham Philippines to explore potential business partnerships. The meeting was attended by Geberit NSEA Managing Director Michael Allenspach, PH Country Head Gerald Poblador, and Sales Manager Ronnie Enriquez, as well as SwissCham Philippines Chairperson Christine Fajardo and Director of Operations Kent Marjun Primor.

Geberit is a Swiss multinational group that specializes in manufacturing and supplying sanitary parts and related systems. The company is looking to contribute innovative solutions in hydraulics and process engineering, among other areas. With the aim of increasing its presence in the Philippines, Geberit hopes to find new business partners and establish a foothold in the country's growing market.

Geberit's visit to SwissCham Philippines highlights the increasing interest of Swiss companies in the Philippine market. As one of the fastest-growing economies in Southeast Asia, the Philippines presents numerous opportunities for businesses looking to expand in the region. Through partnerships with local companies, foreign businesses like Geberit can tap into the country's growing market and contribute to its economic growth.

To know more about their services, visit www.geberit.com.





Transforming Healthcare

The Role of Technology in Improving Healthcare Access in the Philippines

The diagnostic lab industry in the Philippines has undergone significant changes in recent years. The industry has been driven by the government's push to improve healthcare access across the country, as well as new opportunities created by the increasing adoption of technology, even in remote areas.

However, there are still many challenges that the industry faces, particularly in terms of access to healthcare. The full potential of the diagnostic tests the industry could process is limited by the shortage of medical professionals and the industry's reliance on paperwork. The limitations not only cause longer turnaround times but also lead to a higher overall cost of healthcare.

This is where Dashlabs.ai comes in. Dashlabs.ai helps diagnostic labs automate their manual processes. We provide diagnostic labs and their patients with an information system that can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection. Our software provides a platform for labs to streamline their operations and improve their efficiency, ultimately resulting in faster turnaround times for patients and more accurate results.

As a co-founder and the CEO of Dashlabs.ai, I am proud to say that our company has made a significant impact in improving access to diagnostic tests across the Philippines. During the pandemic, we built technology facilitating fast and affordable COVID-19 tests for more than 5 million Filipinos.

About 40% of the Philippines lab test volume comes from corporate referrals, usually in the form of Annual Physical Exams (APEs) for employees and Pre-Employment Medical Exams (PEMEs) for outgoing OFWs. One of the biggest challenges with conducting APE/PEME is the flow of information. Diagnostic labs often spend a significant amount of time encoding handwritten documents and compiling reports for the APE/PEME tests.

With our lab partners, we expanded our technology to ease these problems in 2022. We have built tools that digitize the processing of APE/PEME tests and provide corporate partners with a real-time dashboard to track the progress of their employees' tests. Companies also receive their reports digitally, which has helped them stay compliant with regulations.

At Dashlabs.ai, we are committed to improving access to healthcare in the Philippines, and we believe that our mobile lab service is just the beginning. We are constantly exploring new ways to leverage technology to improve healthcare outcomes across the country, and we are excited to see what the future holds.

In conclusion, the diagnostic lab software industry in the Philippines has made significant strides in recent years. However, there is still much work to be done, particularly in terms of providing healthcare services to underserved areas. Dashlabs.ai is proud to be at the forefront of this effort, and we look forward to continuing to improve healthcare access for all Filipinos, regardless of where they live or their socio-economic status.

Our goal is to make high-quality diagnostic lab tests accessible and affordable to everyone, regardless of their location or socio-economic status.

Dashlabs.ai - Automating Labs, Simplifying Healthcare.

Bryan Giger
CEO & Co-Founder
Dashlabs.ai



We are Building Homes for Life.

For 33 years, DDC Land Inc.'s vision is to fulfill the wishes of the Filipino people to have a home they can call their own in the most sustainable way possible. The Swiss value of precision and quality combined with Filipino ingenuity has brought immense success to the company; cementing its name as being one of the top developers in the country.

DDC Land Inc. focuses on sustainability. By developing homes using blocks made with pulverized plastic waste, the company has built a life-long legacy of providing **sustainable living in an eco-friendly community for the Filipino people.**

Since its establishment in 1990, DDC Land Inc. has developed multiple projects within the National Capital Region and other parts of Luzon. From Sta. Rosa, Laguna, DDC Land Inc. has expanded its development projects to Dasmariñas and Tanza, Cavite; a proof to its commitment on providing sustainable and affordable housing to the Filipino people.



Luxury Homes made Affordable.

Bamboo for Environment and Livelihood is one of the Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) of DDC Land Inc. The company has donated hundreds of thousands Bamboo propagules covering hundreds of hectares of land and participated in various bamboo planting activities all throughout the Philippines. In collaboration with the Dumagat and Remontado Tribe of Antipolo, DDC Land Inc. recently participated in the bamboo planting along the mountainous area of the Sierra Madre mountain range.

The company has built cold storage plants for Tuloy Don Bosco and built kilometers of solid concrete drainage canal system in Sta. Rosa, Laguna which helped eliminate the flooding within the area.

DDC Land Inc. also recognizes the need for more schools in the Philippines, thus, its engagement in the rehabilitation of a school in Nueva Ecija and donating two thousand (2000) square meters of land to Barangay Punta 1, Tanza, Cavite, for the construction of the public high school in the barangay.

DDC Land Inc. truly is committed to its Corporate Social Responsibilities through its contribution to sustainable development.



Photo by PortCalls

Aboitiz-backed Fresh Depot joins SwissCham Philippines to revolutionize agri- tech with innovative cold chain solution

Fresh Depot, an agri-tech firm backed by Aboitiz, has joined the SwissCham Philippines as its latest member. Fresh Depot offers a unique cold chain solution that aims to help farmers increase their harvest yields by extending the shelf life of their produce. This system not only reduces food waste but also delivers a cost-effective, energy-efficient, and flexible solution for farmers. Fresh Depot's platform utilizes community hubs and smart storage units to optimize the cold chain process.

Fresh Depot's solution comes at a crucial time when the agricultural sector is facing several challenges such as post-harvest losses and supply chain disruptions caused by the ongoing pandemic. With their innovative cold chain solution, Fresh Depot aims to provide much-needed support to farmers by helping them increase their profits while contributing to the reduction of food waste.

By joining the SwissCham Philippines, Fresh Depot is expected to receive additional support and exposure to help expand their reach and impact in the agri-tech industry.

Visit [Fresh Depot](#) to know more.

OPERATION HEALTHY HOME: HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT DETERGENT?



Ecological detergents

Many people decide to switch to ecological products, which nowadays make up for about 5% of all detergents sold on the market... And this percentage is constantly rising.

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3. An ecologically responsible detergent

Unlike most industrial cleaning products, sold in non-recyclable packaging, aquama® does not contain any chemicals. By making your own aquama® detergent, you are committing yourself to ecology and significantly reducing your waste production.

4. A no-allergen detergent

The solution produce with the machine in a few minutes' time is no more than a 100% alcohol-free, fragrance-free, and endocrine-disruptor-free detergent. Any contact with the skin or eyes is no problem whatsoever!

5. A virucidal as well as bactericidal detergent

It is effective against various types of viruses, including Covid-19! The solution meets the European bactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal standards. Not only can you clean your whole house with aquama®, but you can also use it to disinfect your hands.

Ivoclar Vivadent set to celebrate its 100th birthday

Originally published by Liechtenstein. 9 January 2023

The Liechtenstein business group Ivoclar Vivadent is set to turn 100 later this year. The globally active dental and medical company based in Schaan is celebrating this milestone year with a big anniversary celebration, during which the new main building in Schaan will be opened. A family day for employees and their families is also being organized to take place shortly after the centenary celebrations.

The Ivoclar Group was founded in 1923 in Zurich. At the start of the 1930s, the company moved to Liechtenstein and created 100 new jobs in the process. In 1948, the German mechanical engineer Adolf Schneider acquired the company, before rebranding it as Ivoclar - a name it carries to this day - just three years later.

His grandson Christoph Zeller joined the family business in 1982 and became Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Board in 1990. From 2003, Robert Ganley as CEO and Christoph Zeller as Chairman of the Board of Directors formed the top management team, before Diego Gabathuler and Helmut Schuster respectively filled these two key roles in 2019.

Ivoclar employs 3,500 people around the world and supplies its solutions for dental applications such as dentures to dental technology labs and dental practices in 130 countries. The business group has 47 subsidiaries, branch offices and production facilities. In 2021, the company generated record sales of 842 million Swiss francs, which it followed up with further sales growth in financial year 2022.

“We are delighted and grateful that we are in a position to celebrate this milestone at a moment when the company is healthier and fitter than ever”, comment Christoph and Christina Zeller, who represent the entrepreneurial family on the Board of Directors, in the press release.



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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE

FULL NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.):
POSITION:
DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD):
EMAIL ADDRESS:
MOBILE NUMBER:

ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE

FULL NAME:
POSITION:
EMAIL ADDRESS:
MOBILE NUMBER:

COMPANY PROFILE

REGISTERED NAME:
INDUSTRY:
 Agriculture Financial Activities Real Estate
 Manufacturing Arts and Entertainment Transport and Storage
 Construction Health and Allied Services Administrative, Support Services
 Wholesale, Retail Trade Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities Others: _____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS (30-50 WORDS):

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (PH):
GROSS ANNUAL REVENUE:
COMPANY WEBSITE:
COMPANY ADDRESS:

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

1. Fill out Membership Application Form
2. Send form to secretariat@swisscham.ph
3. Application will be processed/approved in the next immediate board meeting.

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- Young Professionals
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- Regular Individual
Php 8,000

Corporate

- Regular Corporate
Php 30,000
- Associate Corporate
Php 20,000
- Foreign-Based
Corporate CHF 500

OTHER OFFICERS (OPTIONAL)

FULL NAME:
POSITION:
EMAIL ADDRESS:

FULL NAME:
POSITION:
EMAIL ADDRESS:

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- 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 *Swiss Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines* 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.

SIGNATURE ABOVE PRINTED NAME

SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES
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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.

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Layout and design by: Christian Fampulme

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