



Foundation
for Media
Alternatives

#DIGITALTRADEPH

LATEST NEWS & UPDATES ABOUT THE DIGITAL
TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES

SEPTEMBER 2022



Digital infra, policy, workforce critical to recovery – experts

Digital infrastructure is crucial to economic recovery and development, but it can only be achieved if the Philippines has investment-friendly policies and if the combined workforces of the public and private sectors possess the digital skills that would support and sustain the transition. [READ MORE](#)

DICT: PH vies for ITU council seat

The Philippines is making a bid for the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) council seat in 2023-2026 and is banking on the organization's support to promote the national digital agenda.

[READ MORE](#)

PH economy to go beyond pre-pandemic level: PBBM

PBBM expressed hope to get more investments for his administration's priority sectors, which include agriculture; nuclear energy; health systems; information technology and business process management; digital connectivity; and manufacturing, including the critical sectors of semiconductors, green metals, and electric vehicles. [READ MORE](#)

DFA sees more PH interactions with UAE, Malaysia

In 2021, Malaysia was classified as the Philippines' tenth most important trading partner and fifteenth most important investment partner. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia has expressed a special interest in collaborating with Manila on the digital economy. [READ MORE](#)

PH economic team presents key reforms before int'l community

Some of the major digitalization expenditures in the proposed 2023 national budget are the Department of Information and Communications Technology's National Government Data Center Infrastructure and National Broadband Plan, and the Department of Trade and Industry's Exports and Investments Development Program and the Board of Investments' Investment Promotion Program for the registration and supervision of investment projects. [READ MORE](#)

House Reps. Abante, Lara and Dy elected as chair of House committees on human rights, population and Family Relations and Special committee on globalization and World Trade Organization

Aside from Abante, Isabela 3rd District Rep. Ian Paul Dy and Cagayan 3rd District Rep. Joseph Lara were also elected to head Committee on Population and Family Relations and Special committee on globalization and World Trade Organization respectively, after Deputy Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos made the motion. [READ MORE](#)

GSP+ extension, free trade agreement with EU eyed

Angelo Salvador Benedictos, director of the DTI-Bureau of International Trade Relations, said they want the renewal of the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) as "it benefits a lot of industries, a lot of areas in the Philippines". [READ MORE](#)

Toward a more confident Philippine foreign policy

The elder Marcos spoke of alleviating poverty for what was then designated as the "third world": "The problems cannot wait. The price of inaction multiplies in severity for nations and the world alike." The Philippines had just signed on to the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and the liberalizing effects of the ASEAN FTA (Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Agreement) was still years away. [READ MORE](#)

Why haven't Philippines, Myanmar followed Indonesia and ratified the RCEP trade deal?

The Philippines and Myanmar are the only countries yet to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) after Indonesia cemented its membership of the China-backed trade deal this week. [READ MORE](#)

Calls to ratify RCEP raised anew

In a message to The Manila Times, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) cited the advantages of the regional trade and investment agreement, as well as the consequences if the Senate fail to ratify the landmark trade agreement, which is already in force in Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Japan, Korea, Laos, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. [READ MORE](#)

DTI, DFA defend RCEP before Senate

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) faced on Thursday the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations chaired by Senator Imee Marcos with the assurance of safeguards within the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). [READ MORE](#)

PH, Singapore renew stronger ties in personal data protection

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on September 7, 2022 by Privacy Commissioner John Henry D. Naga of the National Privacy Commission (NPC) and Commissioner Lew Chuen Hong of Singapore's Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC), the two countries reaffirmed their agreement to promote exchanges in personal data protection and facilitate trusted cross border data flows. [READ MORE](#)

Marcos' independent foreign policy push faces test with IPEF

The level of the Philippines' participation in the Washington-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) would be a litmus test for the Marcos administration's independent foreign policy push. It would also determine the extent of the Philippine leader's protectionist bent. [READ MORE](#)

Philippine competitiveness lags ASEAN due to high business costs

The cost of doing business is causing the Philippines to lag in regional competitiveness, the Management Association of the Philippines. [READ MORE](#)

Grant for nickel project jumpstarts investments in green metals

In a statement, the Department of Trade and Industry said the US firm, which owns patents in the manufacture of batteries, supplies US military and critical industries including hyperscaler data centers, renewable energy projects, and long-haul trucking companies. [READ MORE](#)

VAT on digital transactions could have 'chilling effect' – solon

Daza of Northern Samar 1st District cautioned the government that consumption-based tax such as VAT "is not always good for the economy." [READ MORE](#)

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

RCEP is a free-trade agreement between the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members plus Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea.

Why Is RCEP Important To The Philippines?

SME trade services startup 1Export opens Indonesia office

1Export said in a statement that the new office is tasked with helping Philippine SMEs achieve compliance with Indonesian trade rules, find distributors, and ship products at a “competitive rate.”

[READ MORE](#)

Philippine trade year-on-year performance

The demand for locally made products contracted for the first time in over a year in July while imports eased, bringing the trade deficit widening to another record, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

[READ MORE](#)

Economic team woos investors from Singapore to do biz in PH

Speaking before the Singaporean and international business community, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno wooed investors to do business in the Philippines, reaffirming the two countries’ strong and enduring ties in trade, commerce, and development. [READ MORE](#)

‘Digitally driven economic development possible with multi-sectoral collaboration

At the core of economic recovery and development lies a stable digital infrastructure across the country, with the government, private sector and civil society working together and complementing each other’s strengths. [READ MORE](#)

After pulling out of Trans-Pacific Partnership, US forges Asia trade framework

At the first ministerial for the Indo-Pacific Economic Prosperity Framework (IPEF), officials sketched the basis for common standards on key pillars, which also include green energy and the fight against corruption, in 14 countries accounting for 40 percent of the global economy. [READ MORE](#)

PH to lure investors in China fair

BOI said it targets to get investors from China specifically in areas of high technology manufacturing industries, such as electronics manufacturing services, medical devices, electric vehicles, battery manufacturing, green metals, hyperscale computing, innovation and start-ups, and renewable energy, among others. [READ MORE](#)

DICT vows to support the IT-BPM Industry

In his keynote speech at the 10th Annual Conference of the Visayas ICT Organization (VICTOR), DICT Secretary Ivan Uy underscored the huge contribution of the Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT-BPM) industry in pushing the country’s ICT development and digital economy. [READ MORE](#)

US, Indo-Pacific countries including Philippines agree on roadmap to strengthen trade ties

IPEF will not include tariff cuts that are the bedrock of traditional free trade deals, but the talks are part of a US effort to re-engage economically with countries in Asia. [READ MORE](#)

Future-proofing Philippine cooperatives

We are now beginning to see Philippine cooperatives also following the digitalization trends but this is largely confined to the large ones only. It looks like the digitalization of local small and micro cooperatives remains a challenge that can primarily be attributed to financial capacity, lack of skills, and a low level of awareness. [READ MORE](#)

New Disaster Recovery App Unveiled in the Philippines

This app, which will systematically generate RRP's using science-based information and Pro-forma templates, will significantly help LGUs plan for quick and resilient recovery. [READ MORE](#)

Young & migrant workers drive optimism for PH future, says Marcos

Young workers and migrant laborers are key reasons to be optimistic about the Philippines' future, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said, as he wooed American business leaders and investors for investments back home. [READ MORE](#)

BSP amends rules on digital banks

The BSP's policy making-arm, the Monetary Board, approved Circular No. 1154 or the "Prudential Requirements Applicable to Digital Banks" on Sept. 14 which amended Circular No. 1105 or the "Basic Guidelines in Establishing Banks" issued last December 2020. The review of the draft circular took almost one year since it was first proposed and circulated among banks and non-banks in October 2021.

[READ MORE](#)

PEZA counting on upgraded trade facilitation, seamless logistics to draw ecozone locators

PEZA is one with the Bureau of Customs (BoC) and other participants in the local supply and global value chains in enhancing the ecozone business ecosystem and our overall competitiveness to make the Philippines a viable investment destination in the region. [READ MORE](#)

Grow with Google: How Filipino youth can develop job-ready skills for high-demand areas

Google on Wednesday launched the Google Career Certificate scholarships which aim to upskill 39,000 Filipino youths and jobseekers so they could land career opportunities in high-demand areas. [READ MORE](#)