

#DIGITALTRADEPH

LATEST NEWS & UPDATES ABOUT THE DIGITAL
TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES

JANUARY 2023



Speeding up our digital journey

With the imposition of quarantines during the peak of the pandemic and frequent local lockdowns for two years, mobility was severely curtailed. This effectively ground physical economic activity to a halt. Yet, people needed to continue functioning, albeit from within the confines of their home. There was only one recourse: go digital. [READ MORE](#)

Amid setback, PPA vows to pursue digital registration, monitoring of container vans

In a statement, PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago said they could not abandon the implementation of the Trusted Operator Program-Container Registry and Monitoring System (TOP-CRMS) since it is part of the digitalization commitment of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. in a bid to rationalize port operations and prevent smuggling. [READ MORE](#)

Digital government: Creating real connections

This global study looked at what these respondents value, their top concerns, and how they feel about the impact of technology. The study then aimed to examine their expectations of the function of the government, the provision of public services, and the nature of the interaction between those in power and those under it. [READ MORE](#)

Farm modernization, more industry, services trade seen key to addressing inflation

Leonardo A. Lanzona, an economics professor at the Ateneo De Manila, said the government needs to act decisively to bring inflation down to within the 2-4% target range. [READ MORE](#)

Unions: Delivery riders and WFH staff need more protection, louder voice in welfare decisions

E-commerce and tech companies in the Philippines have benefited from the gig economy but those who actually work in it need better mechanisms to protect them from exploitation, unions and workers' associations said in a unified labor agenda that includes digital platform and freelance workers. [READ MORE](#)

PH joins elite club of best performing economies in Southeast Asia

The Chief Executive said that he learned of the development during his trip to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland which served as a platform for him to showcase the Philippine economy's strong performance. [READ MORE](#)

PH participation in WEF gains new investment pledges

Marcos said his attendance at WEF enabled the Philippine government to open new trade and investment opportunities for potential foreign investors, forge key partnerships in support of his administration's economic development agenda, and secure commitments for increased levels of cooperation with various countries. [READ MORE](#)

Global fintech firm targets PH market

Over the short term, in just in a couple of years, the company expects to haul in \$10 million revenues per annum, around P546 million, from the software requirements of Philippine banks undergoing digital transformation, Rajesh Saxena, CEO, Global Consumer Banking. [READ MORE](#)

PH firms to showcase halal-certified food at Gulfood 2023

The Philippine participation will highlight small and medium enterprises (MSEs) with halal certification and high-value and innovative products under the banner of the country's collective food promotion program, FOODPhilippines. [READ MORE](#)

Importance of SMEs on the Philippine economy

MSMEs in Southeast Asian economies mainly focus on domestic markets, and their level of entrepreneurship remains suboptimal. Supporting the development of MSMEs, particularly in technology adoption and participation in global supply chains, will contribute to inclusive growth and aid in recovery efforts from Covid-19. [READ MORE](#)

GCash, Grab Philippines join forces for more convenient direct cashless payment option

The landmark partnership will give Grab users access to the easiest, most convenient, and secure cashless transactions when they add GCash as a direct payment method on the Grab app. [READ MORE](#)

Southeast Asia poised to scale up digital drive

The Philippines is a major adopter of blockchain technology in Southeast Asia, second only to Vietnam, where the digital economy, particularly in banking and e-commerce, is being deepened through the application of artificial intelligence among small and medium-sized enterprises including startups. [READ MORE](#)

Marcos tells advisors he will certify E-Governance bill as urgent, backs RCEP

Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signaled his intent to certify as urgent a measure that will digitalize the bureaucracy to his business-sector advisors. He is also pushing the Senate to act on the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement. [READ MORE](#)

PHL urged to upgrade cybersecurity infrastructure, policies

A South Korea cybersecurity solutions company said the Philippines urgently needs to fast-track upgrades to its cybersecurity infrastructure and policies as it emerges from the pandemic. [READ MORE](#)

Swiss firms pledge \$24.7 million investments in Philippines – BOI

In a statement yesterday, the BOI said the initial investment commitments, which were generated in the business meetings arranged by the BOI and Philippine Trade Investment Center in Switzerland from Jan. 9 to 13. [READ MORE](#)

Philippines improves in green finance, digitalization index

Based on the Asia House Annual Outlook 2023 released by the independent think tank and advisory service, the Philippines improved seven notches in the economic readiness index for both green finance and digitalization. [READ MORE](#)

Philippines Economy Grows 7.6% Despite Inflation Threat

The Philippines' economic growth beat expectations last year, expanding to its fastest pace in 46 years on the back of strong consumer spending despite rising inflation. [READ MORE](#)

EO on telco towers, internet infra to speed up building of PH digital infrastructure: Group

The immediate issuance of an executive order that would “spell out the guidelines governing the establishment of telecommunication towers and other internet infrastructure” would help speed up the building of the country’s digital infrastructure. [READ MORE](#)

Synergized action to address unemployment: solon - Philippine News Agency

In his Senate Bill No. 129 or the proposed "Trabaho Para sa Lahat ng Pilipino Act," which establishes the National Employment Action Plan (NEAP) that would set the direction for job creation, Villanueva said the solution must start with the government and private sector to take the same path in combating unemployment. [READ MORE](#)

IBPAP touts PEZA's ease of doing business

The IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) touted the ease of doing business being offered to investors when they choose to locate in special economic zones administered by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA). [READ MORE](#)

UBX, AIM Global and its newest subsidiary Orbix Victus International join hands to launch financial super app for 3M distributors

Under the groundbreaking partnership, UBX, OVI and AIM Global will work together to develop a mobile app that will enable AIM Global distributors to process digital financial transactions, such as accepting payments for products, bills payments, loans, remittances, and money transfers. [READ MORE](#)

US touts possible role in PHL nuclear transition

US AMBASSADOR Mary Kay L. Carlson said Washington is moving forward with talks that would unlock US assistance for the Philippines' transition to nuclear energy. In a speech before the Makati Business Club (MBC) on Tuesday, Ms. Carlson said signing a “123 agreement” — referring to Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act — would pave the way for US assistance in starting up a Philippine nuclear power industry. [READ MORE](#)

Digital infrastructure gaps will need Presidential action

In statements at various events of the World Economic Forum, Mr. Marcos acknowledged the need to digitally transform the bureaucracy, to ensure wider and better quality connectivity for all Filipinos across the archipelago, to partner with the private sector in bringing about investments in digital infrastructure, to ensure the security of public and private information in cyberspace, and to constantly improve and upgrade the skills of our human capital so they can fully participate and prosper in the digital economy. [READ MORE](#)

Telecom infrastructure advocates urge Marcos to issue permanent guidelines

CitizenWatch Philippines lead convenor Orlando Oxaes cited the “undisputable” results of two joint memorandum circulars (JMCs) that streamlined guidelines for issuing permits and clearances for the erection, construction, and installation of telecommunication and internet infrastructure.

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ZTE releases new G5 Series Servers to boost digital economy

A company committed to boosting the digital economy, ZTE released five types of servers, including the 5200 G5 high-density server, R5300 G5 full-scenario universal server, R5500 G5 mass storage server, R6500 G5 heterogeneous computing power server, and R8500 G5 high-performance server. [READ MORE](#)

ECCP-Scoffi: Govt should double down on open finance

As the new administration assures that it will prioritize digital transformation on a national scale, ECCP-Scoffi believes it is high time that the government places more premium on the development of policies and the rollout of more open finance initiatives in the country. [READ MORE](#)

PHL-Israel trade not seen sufficiently developed to warrant FTA

THE PHILIPPINES and Israel have not yet reached the point in their trade relationship that warrants a free trade agreement (FTA), Ilan Fluss, Israel’s ambassador to the Philippines, said. [READ MORE](#)

Maharlika fund OK urgent amid high costs of power, fuel: Speaker

House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez underscored on Sunday the urgency of the Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF) amid the high cost of electricity and fuel, even as he vowed to prioritize digital transformation bills when sessions resume. [READ MORE](#)

Asialink teams up with e-commerce giants

Asialink Finance Corp., one of the Philippines’ fastest-growing finance companies, has partnered with e-commerce giants Lazada and Shopee to give its clients an easier way to make loan payments. [READ MORE](#)

U.S. Provides Php 118 Million Grant to Support 5G Deployment in the Philippines

The United States government, through the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), is providing NOW Telecom Company, Inc. a Php 118 million (\$2.15 million) grant to fund a feasibility study for the development of reliable and secure nationwide 5G mobile and broadband networks in the Philippines. [READ MORE](#)

Digido: Filipinos spent equivalent 9 years’ time in digital lending apps

One of every 30 adult Filipinos access the services of the ten digital lending platforms at least once a month. [READ MORE](#)

PH, Denmark in talks for digital cooperation

DICT Undersecretary for Public Affairs and Foreign Relations Anna Mae Yu Lamentillo said the Philippines can learn a lot from Denmark's approaches on cybersecurity, e-governance, digital health and maritime digital transition. [READ MORE](#)

PBBM at Davos: Rich harvest for PH

President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. was invited to the annual meeting by WEF last year. He immediately accepted the invitation from founder Klaus Schwab. But he later had second thoughts, saying that he had done so many trips abroad since taking his oath of office on June 30 last year. [READ MORE](#)

Netherlands pledges \$10 mn for UNCTAD's e-com, digital economy project

The Netherlands will provide \$10 million to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to help developing countries benefit more from e-commerce and the digital economy and facilitate business and investment. Around \$6 million will be dedicated to research and technical cooperation activities under UNCTAD's e-commerce and digital economy programme. [READ MORE](#)

Singapore Based BI Consulting Bags Multiple Projects Across Asia And Africa

The Philippines economy is on track and is expected to grow around 7% this year. The real estate market in the Philippines is expected for a bull run with a steady recovery and progress from 2023. The digital economy across the "ASEAN-6" (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam) is expected to reach a GMV of USD330 billion by 2025. At BI Group, we have the tools, expertise, and the eco-system to help our clients transform and navigate this digital journey" added Mr. Ariel Victoria, Managing Partner of BI Consulting Philippines. [READ MORE](#)

PH official delegation played important role in WEF: PBBM

In an interview with Philippine media in Zurich, Switzerland before flying home, Marcos said the participation of the members of the delegation was needed to seal important deals and strengthen strategic investments and partnerships with key economic leaders, including the chief executive officers (CEOs) of Fortune 100 companies. [READ MORE](#)

Singapore, Malaysia to sign MOC in digital, green economy – Tengku Zafrul

Under the Framework of Cooperation in Green Economy, both countries agree to cooperate in, among others, next-generation mobility (including electric and autonomous vehicles); environmental, social and governance (ESG) policy exchanges and capacity development for exporters as well as low-carbon solutions. [READ MORE](#)

Trumpets and drums: selling the Phi at Davos

The (WEF) is hosting a Country Strategy Dialogue for us where we are given the opportunity to promote the Philippines as leader and driver of growth and a gateway to the Asia-Pacific region. One that is open for business – ever ready to complement regional and global expansion plans for both foreign and Phil-ippine-based enterprises anchored on the competent and well-educated Filipino workers, the managers and professionals. [READ MORE](#)

Equipping youths with digital skills in PH

In today's digital world, organizations have been continuously embracing and adopting modern technologies in their business practices to stay competitive. With this reality, businesses require digital skills not only from their current workforce but from the next generation of IT professionals.

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Cayetano underscores importance of improving digital infrastructure

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano has assured foreign chambers that the Senate is taking seriously their concerns about poor internet connectivity in the country. The quality of digital infrastructure is the cornerstone to economic development and would consequently improve the general welfare of the Filipino people. [READ MORE](#)

Reaping benefits through heightened economic partnerships

In the case of the Philippines, headline inflation accelerated to 8.1% in December 2022, the highest since November 2008. This brought the average inflation rate for 2022 to 5.8%, which was substantially higher than the 3.9% recorded in the previous year. [READ MORE](#)

PH urges ASEAN to remain united

The Philippines has urged fellow ASEAN members to remain united as the region plays a key role being now the center of global economy. [READ MORE](#)

House eyes digitalization bills passage to boost Davos trip gains

House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez on Thursday vowed to work with fellow lawmakers for the immediate passage of measures aimed at ramping up "digitalization" which President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. highlighted in the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2023 in Davos, Graubunden, Switzerland. [READ MORE](#)

Gov't should continue to pursue open finance to boost inclusion

THE GOVERNMENT must continue to pursue open finance to bring more Filipinos into the formal financial system, UnionBank of the Philippines, Inc.'s financial technology unit said. [READ MORE](#)

DTI chief stresses importance of digital transformation to attract more investors

During the dialogue, Pascual discussed the country's trade and investment priorities aimed at uplifting the lives of Filipinos and attracting strategic trade and investments in the Philippines, especially in renewable energy, high-tech manufacturing, and innovation sectors. [READ MORE](#)

DA, BOC prepare PH digital shift in sharing customs documents with ASEAN members

The Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Bureau of Plant Industry, said the move is part of the Philippine government's commitment to the ASEAN Single Window System wherein member-countries would be able to electronically exchange export declarations issued by their respective customs officials. [READ MORE](#)

Globe's 5G network expands to 237 sites in VisMin, connects more consumers and businesses

The expansion of 5G technology in Visayas and Mindanao is intended to help bridge the digital divide between these regions and the rest of the country. It aims to support economic development and enable residents to access a wider range of digital services and opportunities.

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Marcos touts PH's strong economic recovery

During the Country Strategy Dialogue at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, Marcos presented the current state of the Philippine economy and the opportunities that are expected to be unlocked. Marcos, in his opening remarks, cited that while the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) forecast for the 2023 global economic growth is only 2.7 percent, the Philippines projects that its economy would grow by at least 7 percent this year. [READ MORE](#)

'We are confident': ASEAN officials promote positive economic outlook at Davos 2023

Despite a rather somber global economic outlook for 2023, countries in Southeast Asia are expected to experience relatively positive levels of economic growth. The optimism—particularly among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries—was showcased throughout the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting 2023 in Davos, Switzerland. [READ MORE](#)

PBBM showcases strength of PH economy at WEF country dialogue

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. showcased Tuesday the state of the Philippine economy and the opportunities awaiting to be unlocked, telling investors about the initiatives being undertaken to ensure the country's continued recovery and making it more conducive for business. [READ MORE](#)

Regional Competition Report 2022 - Digital and E-Commerce

2022 has been an interesting year as the world emerged from the pandemic. Hard core restrictions from the pandemic are all but gone and face-to-face meetings are starting to become the norm again. We are not quite at the fervour that we were at pre-pandemic, although the chorus would agree that 2021 remains an exceptional year. [READ MORE](#)

Marcos vows to improve online connectivity, cyber security

President Marcos, cognizant of low internet speed and access in the Philippines, vowed to undertake measures to improve online connectivity and step up cyber security. During an open forum at the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Tuesday in this Swiss city, Marcos admitted that the government has to do better in connecting Filipinos and advancing the digital economy. [READ MORE](#)

Is ASEAN on the cusp of fulfilling its long-held promise?

For ASEAN watchers, this wasn't a surprise; many suggest the time has come for the bloc to capitalize on its assets, size, growing wealth and burgeoning global clout. [READ MORE](#)

Innovative & Inclusive – The Philippines Chamber of Commerce CANADA

Filipino-Canadians in Canada will be receiving a voice within the entrepreneurial community, thanks to Founder Grace Yan (President/CEO). Launching the Philippines Chamber of Commerce Canada in Calgary and opening chapters worldwide, this will be a great opportunity for both aspiring entrepreneurs and experienced business owners to be unified. With this diversified blend of members (open to all nationalities), they will be able to share commonalities and strengthen the global business community. [READ MORE](#)

[USAid taps PCCI for digitization](#)

In his speech at the USAid's Strengthening Private Enterprise for the Digital Economy (Speed) Project launch on Jan. 11, 2023, PCCI President George Barcelon said he welcomes the partnership, believing digital technology and innovation are the way to go to achieve a better quality of life for all. [READ MORE](#)

[Clear roadblocks to PH growth](#)

Chris Nelson, executive director and trustee of the British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, said his group is "very much optimistic for the Philippines," but "obviously inflation is still a concern because that directly impacts the consumers." [READ MORE](#)

[PhilSys needs adequate digital infrastructure](#)

As more Filipinos become netizens and thus consumers of digital services and online transactions, the need to address the ongoing threat of online scammers and cybercrime syndicates stalking the internet and mobile networks is now a serious risk to both individual and big enterprise users. [READ MORE](#)

[Philippine public markets, tricycle drivers embrace digital](#)

Public markets and tricycle drivers in the Philippines joined the digital wave as the government and leading mobile wallet companies rolled out a program encouraging the use of Quick Response or QR codes. [READ MORE](#)

[DTI urged to probe 'missing' Shopee parcels](#)

A group of digital advocates is urging the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to investigate Shopee customers' problems with delayed and even missing parcels. [READ MORE](#)

[DOST shows off tech at par with int'l inventions at two prestigious tech events in US](#)

In the two events, DOST sought to strengthen emerging technologies such as Semiconductor Manufacturing Services (SMS), Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Space Technology industry in the country, by presenting engagement opportunities to scientists. [READ MORE](#)

[PH gains in PBBM's China visit](#)

The investment pledges were secured by the President during his roundtable discussions with Chinese businessmen. This includes US\$1.72 billion for agribusiness, US\$13.76 billion for renewable energy, and US\$7.32 billion for strategic monitoring (electric vehicle, mineral processing). These investments are expected to create many jobs for Filipinos. [READ MORE](#)

[Speed up issuance of digital national IDs — PBBM](#)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. wants to fast track the digitalization of the National Identification (ID) system that could be used for public and private transactions. [READ MORE](#)

[The Future of Cyber Warfare in the Indo-Pacific](#)

To date, cyber warfare is generally perceived through the lens of state-to-state conflicts where one state uses computer technology to deliberately disrupt, manipulate, degrade, or destroy the information and communications technology (ICT) systems of another state for strategic, political, or military purposes. [READ MORE](#)