



Foundation  
for Media  
Alternatives.

# #DIGITALTRADEPH

LATEST NEWS & UPDATES ABOUT THE DIGITAL  
TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES

MARCH 2023



### **Southeast Asia business group offers help in developing MSMEs in PH**

The pledge of assistance was made during the series of meetings of members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) with top Philippine government officials as part of the continuation of its chairmanship roadshow across the region.

### **Converge, Korea's KT plan digital transformation tie-up**

The MoU is the plan of pursuing digital transformation solutions in the Philippines such as a cloud-based surveillance solution called Video Surveillance as a Service and transportation management technology Mobility as a Service.

### **DTI chief hopeful about GSP+ renewal**

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo Pascual is optimistic about the possible renewal of the Generalized System of Preference Plus (GSP+) trade agreement with the European Union (EU) following a recent meeting with EU lawmakers.

### **PBBM, Anwar vow to enhance political, security, trade cooperation**

This developed after the two leaders held a bilateral meeting at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Wednesday afternoon. Marcos said he and Anwar had a "cordial and productive" discussion on the Philippines and Malaysia's bilateral cooperation, reaffirming their desire to revitalize the two nations' relations amid the shift to the "new normal."

### **Teehankee reappointed to WTO**

Palace briefer Daphne Paez announced Teehankee's reappointment as well as new appointees in the agriculture, information and communications technology, labor and trade departments and National Security Council (NSC).

### **Philippines to host the APEC Business Advisory Council in Cebu**

THE Philippines will host the third leg of this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in Cebu from July 27 to 30, headlining the region's private sector priorities on economic integration, sustainable growth, financial services, inclusion, and digitalization and innovation under the theme of "Equity, Sustainability, and Opportunity."

### **DTI warns online platforms against violating VAPE law**

DTI Undersecretary for CPG Ruth B. Castelo issued the warning during a meeting with various e-commerce Platforms and online marketplaces in the country to address the proliferation of prohibited vaporized nicotine and non-nicotine products being advertised and sold online despite the ongoing monitoring and enforcement efforts of the DTI.

### **Planned construction of hyperscale data centers in PH elates PBBM**

During the meeting, the two companies informed Marcos of their ongoing negotiations to build hyperscale data centers in Tarlac province and New Clark City, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Cheloy Garafil said in a statement.

### **PH 'reliable' trade partner, sourcing destination, says Marcos**

The Philippines is a "reliable" trading partner and sourcing destination, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said Friday, trumpeting the "Filipino brand of excellence" in showcasing Philippine-made products.

### **PBBM seeks cable, telco sector's help for full digitalization**

Marcos stressed the importance of working with cable and telecommunications sector, as his administration pursues initiatives for the digitization of public services and better interconnectivity in remote areas.

### **Pasig LGU, BSP launch public market digital payment system**

The Paleng-QR PH Plus, created by the BSP and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), utilizes quick response (QR) code technology and digital devices as the primary mode of payment for daily small transactions in public markets, public transportation, and other retail sectors. It serves as an alternative to the traditional cash-based system of transactions.

### **Marcos: Gov't reforms making PH 'ideal' export player**

Speaking to exporters, diplomats, and international trade partners at the first “Tanyag” trade networking event of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) i

### **P&G expands Philippines operations**

Consumer goods giant P&G Philippines has expanded its operations in the country as it inaugurated its P864 million production line for diapers to be exported to South Korea and Vietnam.

### **[ANALYSIS] Winning the trade by doing your homework**

Foreign investors, who became net sellers for the week, appeared to have significantly contributed to the bearish bias of the market as they accounted for 48.25% of total market transactions.

### **The Philippines could be a blockchain powerhouse, and BSV blockchain could help**

The Philippines, in particular, shows promise at achieving this, with new President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. singling out the growth potential of information and communications technology. He has called for a “digital transformation” of the country at all levels, from education and agriculture to government records and physical infrastructure—and is looking for ideas that could amplify that transformation, distinguishing the Philippines from others and even marking it as a world leader.

### **E-Governance and Open Access**

This government's efforts toward digitalization are in line with our vision and the Eight-Point Socioeconomic Agenda, which includes eliminating red tape in government processes, and digitizing and centralizing important government data.

### **Lazada to invest in 'hundreds' of delivery hubs all over Philippines**

At a media roundtable in Taguig City on Thursday, Lazada Philippines CEO Carlos Barrera said that the e-commerce platform is launching a “faster delivery” campaign this year as the company celebrates its 11th year.

### **Philippine Tycoon To Build \$300 Million AI Hub With Singapore-Based Evolution Data Centres**

Megawide Industries, owned by Filipino business magnate Edgar Saavedra, is making a foray into the AI and data center industry with a \$300 million co-location center development in Cavite, just outside the country's capital city of Manila, in cooperation with Singapore's Evolution Data Centres.

### **Banks maintain digital momentum in the face of economic uncertainty**

While growth opportunities remain top-of-mind, banks are closely monitoring loan demands, liquidity and funding mixes, credit risks and costs. Top-line revenue growth will become more challenging for most banks, with economic uncertainty not yet in the rearview mirror. Through it all, though, there is room for cautious optimism in the banking industry.

### **Indonesia's digital economy projected to double by 2025**

Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto has said with a positive work performance and a strong foundation, the government is confident of achieving twofold digital economy growth by 2025.

### **UnionBank: Tech innovation positively impacts economy**

In the presentation, Asuncion tackled issues that are currently fueling volatility and uncertainty including: record high inflation, the fragmentation of globalization, and the global labor market.

### **Harnessing the benefits of the RCEP**

Covering the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and East Asia's growth engines (China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand), the RCEP is important because these countries account for almost a third of the world population and the global gross domestic product (GDP).

### **A Short Guide to the Philippines' Evolving Common Tower Policy**

DICT's Department Circular No. 008 was closely followed by Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 001 from the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), DICT, and partner agencies like the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

### **Data center trends 2023: What drives Philippines' infrastructure growth this year?**

The Philippines remains one of the leading countries for new data center hubs. According to the Philippines Data Center Market - Investment Analysis & Growth Opportunities 2023-2028 report, the market is expected to grow at a compounded of 11.01 percent.

### **Multisys partners with Bruneian firm DST to co-develop a digital platform for telcos**

The two companies recently signed a Joint Intellectual Property (IP) Development and Commercialization Agreement in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. The ceremony was witnessed by Awang Haji Sofian bin Hj Mohd Jaini, Acting Managing Director of Brunei Investment Agency and Chairman of DST Digital. Also in attendance was Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, Philippines Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

### **Digital creative industry seen fueling PH growth**

Digital technology can make the creative and cultural industries a key driver of economic growth and provide opportunities that are borderless. Presidential Adviser and Secretary on Creative Communications Paul David Soriano underscored the economic importance of digital technology in the creative industry during the Philippine Creative Industry Summit 2023 on Tuesday at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

### **2022 PH economy growth remarkable but threats remain**

In a world characterized by pandemic, war, global uncertainty, high commodity prices, high inflation, and rising interest rates, the 7.6-percent growth.

### **DTI pushes strategies to boost growth of creative industries**

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo Pascual said challenges in the creative industries need to be addressed for the development of the local sector and to determine the contribution of the sector to the economy.

### **Ecommerce BPO Philippines: The top destination for outsourcing CX-related functions**

The Philippines has become a leading outsourcing destination for online retailers due to its highly skilled and English-speaking workforce, as well as its cost-effectiveness. Ralf Ellspermann is the CEO of PITON-Global, a leading outsourcing provider in the Philippines, specializing in omnichannel BPO solutions for the eCommerce industry.

### **Factbox-China moves towards digital economy dream with national data bureau**

China has announced plans for a national data bureau, describing it as part of an effort to coordinate data resources in the country and to achieve a vision of "digital China" conceived by President Xi Jinping.

### **Indonesia Shepherding an ASEAN Digital Community**

A truly regional digital community with borderless transactions and equitable access to online services must start with actual progress in the smallest of goals for an ASEAN-wide digitisation and digitalisation.

### **Women's participation in the EU's digital economy — bridging the gap**

The European Institute for Gender Equality has shown that Europe would benefit macroeconomically from a successful, all-encompassing gender equality strategy. In this situation, digital transformation is crucial. According to the report of the European Commission, "ICT for work: Digital skills in the workplace", 90% of occupations now require basic digital skills.

### **The future is bright for IT-BPM in PH**

According to the Information Technology and Business Processing Association of the Philippines (IBPAP), the sector saw an increase of 8.4 percent or 121,000 full-time employees (FTEs) in the Philippines in 2022, with 1.57 million in total headcount. The industry also saw a growth of 10.3 percent in revenues to reach a total of US\$32.5 billion in 2022, surpassing the 2021 earnings of US\$29.5 billion.

### **BIR eyes ways to tax online sellers**

Mr. Lumagui said the BIR is prioritizing ways to better collect taxes from online sellers and other new platforms this year. The pandemic forced many entrepreneurs to shift to online selling using e-commerce platforms like Shopee and Lazada, as well as social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Tiktok.

### **Getting more Filipinos into data literacy is an economic imperative**

Filipinos are present in the more than 100 countries that the branchless, digital-only bank Overseas Filipino Bank (OFBank) — a wholly owned subsidiary of the Land Bank of the Philippines — gets its clients. It had a presence in 113 countries and territories as of May 31, 2021. There were an estimated 1.83 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in these countries during the period of April to September 2021.

### **Diagnosing the Policy Environment for Women-Led MSMEs in Cross-Border E-Commerce Trade**

This Policy Note looks into the challenges preventing WMSMEs from participating fully in the digital economy and cross-border e-commerce. It finds the Philippine policy landscape strong in (1) networks, representation, and visibility and (2) digital literacy, e-payments, e-commerce, and digital trade regulations.

### **Philippines falls to 54th spot in UNCTAD's Frontier Technology Index**

UNCTAD said in its Technology and Innovation Report that the Philippines' ranking in the Frontier Technology Index was lower compared with 44th place in the previous year's index.

### **Indonesia seeks stronger border cooperation, trade with Philippines**

Ambassador Agus Widjojo said it is important for the Philippines and Indonesia to review existing legal framework on border patrol and security and counter-terrorism cooperation as non-traditional threats and cross-border crimes persist.

### **PHL seeks \$400-million digital transformation loan from WB**

"The proposed operation in the amount of \$400 million is the first of a programmatic series of two development policy loans (DPLs) that aims to assist the government of the Philippines to foster an enabling environment for digital transformation, to boost inclusive and resilient economic growth," according to a document uploaded on the World Bank website.

### **Philippine creative economy grows to P1.6 trillion in 2022**

The value of the country's creative economy went up by 12 percent last year from 2021 as more people were employed in the creative industries, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

### **Tech for good: What it means and how we can deliver on it**

Digital technologies and the digital economy can drive sustainable, equitable and inclusive development as well as economic growth.

### **Transnational Filipino Families in the Digital Era**

Digital devices have transformed family life. For high remittance countries like the Philippines this can be both a blessing and a problem, particularly if the government continues to seek development through the transnational employment efforts of its citizens.

### **Kadin pushes regional QR Code at ASEAN-BAC meeting**

The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) called for the adoption of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Quick Response (QR) Code by all ASEAN countries at the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC) meeting on Wednesday.

### **UPS projects PHL trade with Asia tripling to \$393B by 2030**

Citing the results of a company study, UPS said expanded Philippine trade with 11 other Asian countries that it services will be driven by efforts to develop more domestic manufacturing.

### **DTI partners with Singapore-based firm, Globe for MSME online courses**

The training arm of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has partnered with Singapore-based Proxtera and Globe Philippines to offer online courses to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to help them upgrade their skills in the digital economy.

### **Getting more Filipinos into data literacy is an economic imperative**

Filipinos are present in the more than 100 countries that the branchless, digital-only bank Overseas Filipino Bank (OFBank) — a wholly owned subsidiary of the Land Bank of the Philippines — gets its clients. It had a presence in 113 countries and territories as of May 31, 2021. There were an estimated 1.83 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in these countries during the period of April to September 2021.

### **Diagnosing the Policy Environment for Women-Led MSMEs in Cross-Border E-Commerce Trade**

This Policy Note looks into the challenges preventing WMSMEs from participating fully in the digital economy and cross-border e-commerce. It finds the Philippine policy landscape strong in (1) networks, representation, and visibility and (2) digital literacy, e-payments, e-commerce, and digital trade regulations.

### **Philippines falls to 54th spot in UNCTAD's Frontier Technology Index**

UNCTAD said in its Technology and Innovation Report that the Philippines' ranking in the Frontier Technology Index was lower compared with 44th place in the previous year's index.

### **Indonesia seeks stronger border cooperation, trade with Philippines**

Ambassador Agus Widjojo said it is important for the Philippines and Indonesia to review existing legal framework on border patrol and security and counter-terrorism cooperation as non-traditional threats and cross-border crimes persist.

### **PHL seeks \$400-million digital transformation loan from WB**

"The proposed operation in the amount of \$400 million is the first of a programmatic series of two development policy loans (DPLs) that aims to assist the government of the Philippines to foster an enabling environment for digital transformation, to boost inclusive and resilient economic growth," according to a document uploaded on the World Bank website.

### **Philippine creative economy grows to P1.6 trillion in 2022**

The value of the country's creative economy went up by 12 percent last year from 2021 as more people were employed in the creative industries, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

### **Tech for good: What it means and how we can deliver on it**

Digital technologies and the digital economy can drive sustainable, equitable and inclusive development as well as economic growth.

### **Transnational Filipino Families in the Digital Era**

Digital devices have transformed family life. For high remittance countries like the Philippines this can be both a blessing and a problem, particularly if the government continues to seek development through the transnational employment efforts of its citizens.

### **Kadin pushes regional QR Code at ASEAN-BAC meeting**

The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) called for the adoption of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Quick Response (QR) Code by all ASEAN countries at the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC) meeting on Wednesday.

### **UPS projects PHL trade with Asia tripling to \$393B by 2030**

Citing the results of a company study, UPS said expanded Philippine trade with 11 other Asian countries that it services will be driven by efforts to develop more domestic manufacturing.

### **DTI partners with Singapore-based firm, Globe for MSME online courses**

The training arm of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has partnered with Singapore-based Proxtera and Globe Philippines to offer online courses to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to help them upgrade their skills in the digital economy.