

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE  
GERMAN-PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INC.**

Held at the Owners' Lounge, Raffles Hotel Makati  
On 13 April 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

**Directors Present:**

Stefan Schmitz  
Christopher Zimmer  
Marie Antoniette E. Mariano  
Tore Henriksen  
Tristan Arwen Loveres  
Dr. Marian Norbert Majer  
Ma. Ligaya M. Menguito  
Peter Rankl  
Christian Scheld

**Also Present:**

Alexander Grenz  
Judy P. Uri  
Kat Rodriguez Reyes  
Maria Aileen Gay Leviste-Arao  
Monna Lissa Gayumba  
Noel A. Laman  
Regina G. Santos

**Directors Absent:**

Constantin Robertz

**1. Call to Order**

The Chairman of the Board, Mr. Stefan Schmitz ("Mr. Schmitz" or the "Chairman"), called the meeting to order and presided over the same. The Corporate Secretary, Atty. Noel A. Laman ("Atty. Laman" or the "Corporate Secretary"), recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

**2. Proof of Notice and Certification of Quorum**

The Chairman asked the Corporate Secretary whether the members received the notice of the AGM. The Corporate Secretary replied in the affirmative, stating that, in accordance with Art. 13, Para. 1 of the Chamber's New By-Laws, copies of the Notice of today's Annual General Meeting were sent to each Member by email least twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the meeting.

The Chairman then asked the Corporate Secretary if there was a quorum for today's meeting. The Corporate Secretary replied in the affirmative and certified that out of the total of 144 Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members entitled to vote, at least 33 members, corresponding to at least 23% of the total Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members entitled to vote,

were present by proxy or had voted *in absentia* (ballots) and were therefore deemed present for purposes of quorum.<sup>1</sup>

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Secretary and informed the members that in accordance with the Internal Procedures for the Conduct of the 2023 Annual General Meeting which had been approved by the Board of Directors on 29 March 2023, each Regular Corporate Member and Associate Member entitled to vote had been given the opportunity to vote, by proxy or *in absentia* (ballots), on the following matters:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 07 April 2023;
2. Approval of the President's Report;
3. Approval of the Outlook of the Executive Director;
4. Approval of the Treasurer's Report;
5. Ratification of the acts of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Chamber for the year 2023 and until the date of this Annual General Meeting; and
6. Appointment of SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co. ("SGV & Co.") as the independent or external auditor of the Chamber for the current fiscal year.

The Chairman further explained that for the orderly conduct of the AGM, all proxies received by the Chamber as of 10:00 a.m. on 10 April 2023 were validated, all ballots received as of the same deadline were canvassed, and all votes were counted and tabulated, by the Election Committee with the assistance of SGV & Co. Hence, for each matter to be voted on at the meeting by the Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members entitled to vote, he said that Mr. Tristan Arwen "Bobbit" Loveres ("Mr. Loveres"), the Head of the Voting Committee, will just read out the results of the voting.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting of the Members**

The Chairman informed the members that the meeting would then proceed with the approval of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of the Members held on 07 April 2022. He asked the Corporate Secretary if each member had been given a copy of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held on 07 April 2022. The Corporate Secretary replied in the affirmative and stated that each member had been given an electronic copy of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Members held on 07 April 2022, prior to today's meeting. The Chairman then thanked the Corporate Secretary and asked Mr. Loveres what the results of the voting

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<sup>1</sup> Art. 13, Para. 5 of the Chamber's New By-Laws provides that unless otherwise provided by the New By-laws (*ie.*, Art. 13, Para. 6 on the quorum requirement for the election of the members of the Board of Directors), a General Meeting has a quorum if at least ten percent (10%) of the members entitled to vote is present or represented.



were with regard to the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 07 April 2022. Mr. Loveres certified that based on the ballots received by the Chamber, 33 Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members representing 23% of the Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members entitled to vote, voted in favor of the approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 07 April 2022. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Loveres and declared that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 07 April 2022 were therefore approved.

#### 4. President's Report

The Chairman informed the members that the next item in the agenda was the President's Report dated 30 March 2023, a copy of which was uploaded on GPCCI's website for the convenience of the members prior to today's meeting. He then delivered the President's Report as follows:

*"Another exciting year has passed.*

*As we approach another year as a Chamber, I am proud to reflect on the growth and accomplishments of GPCCI over the past year. When I was re-elected as president last year, I knew that we had a strong foundation and seeing the growth of GPCCI from that time I am happy to report that we are indeed going strong. Since then, we have worked tirelessly to strengthen our community, build new relationships, and promote economic growth and prosperity.*

*We have increased our membership, expanded our programs and initiatives, and established new partnerships and collaborations with organizations both locally and internationally. In this regard, I would like to extend my thanks to our Premium Partners for 2022 and welcome those for 2023. Your patronage and support for our organization is greatly appreciated.*

*Through our initiatives, we have provided around 100 events centered on valuable networking opportunities and resources for our members, helping them to grow their businesses and stay informed on the latest developments in our industry. With almost 5,500 participants in these events, we are happy to see that our activities are relevant and utilized by all. 2022 also saw the return of our beloved event, GPCCI's German Ambassador's Cup. It is nice to see our members and friends on the green field once again!*

*I am pleased to report that over the past year, we have had around 50 meetings with the government and other key stakeholders to advocate for policies that support our industry and promote economic growth. Last year, we held the first German-Philippine Business Forum featuring DTI Secretary Alfredo Pascual. His earlier meeting with*



*German Minister Robert Habeck is a great indication of future economic collaboration of our countries. The recently established Policy and Advocacy Committee further reflects our active engagement in discussions on issues ranging from trade policy and regulation to infrastructure development and investment.*

*In addition, we have had over 120 media mentions, including coverage in major news outlets and industry publications, highlighting our efforts and initiatives. This exposure has helped to raise awareness of our organization and the important role that we play in promoting economic growth and development.*

*One of our key initiatives has been trade promotion between the Philippines and Germany. In this regard, we have organized delegations centering on Waste Management & Recycling and Cold Chain & Cold Storage to connect local companies with potential partners from Germany. These delegations have been highly successful, with B2B meetings and site visits conducted during the week-long delegations as well as well-attended conferences.*

*In addition, we had been actively managing over 300 inquiries from foreign companies interested in doing business in the Philippines. We have been working closely with these companies to provide them with the information and support they need to make informed decisions about doing business in the Philippines.*

*Supporting Dual Education and Training activities in the Philippines, we continued our quality assurance and exam facilitation for the Porsche Aftersales Vocational Education Program, a partnership which has been growing since 2016. We have also been retaining our training portfolio through the facilitation of our standard Train the Trainer and Intercultural trainings. Furthermore, we have been exploring partnerships with educational institutions to ensure a pipeline of skilled workers here in the Philippines and abroad. We focus on equipping Filipinos with skills that support the renewable energy industry as technicians and researchers.*

*As we look ahead, I am excited about the opportunities that the coming year holds. We have a strong foundation to build upon, and I am confident that we will continue to grow and expand our reach.*

*I want to thank all of you for your support and dedication to our Chamber. It is because of your contributions and commitment that we have been able to achieve so much together. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in the coming year to promote the growth and success of our business community as well as to celebrate our 15 years as the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.*



*Maraming Salamat, Danke Schön!"*

After delivering the President's Report, the Chairman asked if there were any questions with regard to the President's Report dated 30 March 2023.

Since there were no questions, the Chairman asked Mr. Loveres what the results of the voting were with regard to the President's Report dated 30 March 2023. Mr. Loveres certified that based on the ballots received by the Chamber, 33 Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members representing 23% of the Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members entitled to vote, voted in favor of the approval of the President's Report dated 30 March 2023. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Loveres and declared that the President's Report dated 30 March 2023 was therefore accepted and approved.

5. Outlook of the Executive Director

The Chairman informed the members that the next item in the agenda was the Outlook of the Executive Director dated 30 March 2023, a copy of which was uploaded on GPCCI's website for the convenience of the members prior to today's meeting. The Executive Director, Mr. Christopher Zimmer, then delivered his Outlook as follows:

*"Thank you, everyone, for the warm welcome I have received.*

*As I reflect on the past year since starting my role, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the incredible support and dedication that you have shown to GPCCI. Together, we have achieved so much and made significant strides towards our shared goals.*

*I am thrilled to share that 2023 is shaping up to be an incredibly strong year for us. With the global economic shift towards ASEAN, we are more optimistic than ever about the future of our organization and the opportunities that lie ahead.*

*In the coming months, we have many exciting plans in store. We will be hosting more face-to-face events and activities here in the Philippines, as well as increasing our trade promotion events in Germany. After our meeting last year between Secretary Alfredo Pascual and Economic Minister Robert Habeck in Singapore, we are looking forward to Secretary Pascual's visit to Germany as the next step in furthering our cooperation.*

*We are also eagerly anticipating the benefits that RCEP will bring to our economy and our members. By joining RCEP, the Philippines will be able to strengthen its economic ties with its neighbors and play a more significant role in the region's economic integration.*



*As a Chamber, we remain committed to exploring important topics such as sustainable supply chains, securing skilled personnel, and providing valuable training opportunities.*

*Throughout it all, our relationship with the government will continue to be a key focus. We will work tirelessly to ensure that your voices are heard and that your needs are met.*

*Moreover, our commitment to fostering economic growth and strengthening trade ties between Germany and the Philippines remain steadfast. Our team is continuously exploring new and innovative ways to promote the country as an emerging economic hotspot and a bullish market, as well as to assist in the market entry for new businesses.*

*I want to take a moment to express my appreciation to you! Your membership provides us with a diverse and talented group of professionals, whose expertise and knowledge are essential to achieving our mission. Your active participation in our business community is critical and the reason for our continued success. Thank you for your constant engagement in our committees, events, and initiatives as this is essential to advancing our shared goals and ensuring that our organization is responsive to your needs.*

*Before closing my message, I am excited to share with you that our flagship event, Mabuhay Germany, will be making its comeback this year! Mabuhay Germany has long been one of the most anticipated events on our calendar, providing a platform for our members to showcase their products and services, connect with potential partners and customers, and build new relationships. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the deep cultural and economic ties between the Philippines and Germany. This year, we are planning an even bigger and better event, with new features and opportunities for our members to engage and connect. We are confident that this event will be a huge success, and we are looking forward to seeing all of you there – so please mark your calendars for the 16th to 18th of November for this much-awaited event.*

*Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities that the coming year holds. We have a robust calendar of events and initiatives planned, which will provide us with numerous opportunities to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another.*

*Again, thank you, maraming salamat, danke schön!"*

After the Executive Director delivered his Outlook, the Chairman asked if there were any questions for the Executive Director with regard to the Outlook of the Executive Director dated 30 March 2023.



Since there were no questions, the Chairman asked Mr. Loveres what the results of the voting were with regard to the Outlook of the Executive Director dated 30 March 2023. Mr. Loveres certified that based on the ballots received by the Chamber, 33 Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members representing 23% of the Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members entitled to vote, voted in favor of the approval of the Outlook of the Executive Director dated 30 March 2023. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Loveres and declared that the Outlook of the Executive Director dated 30 March 2023 was therefore accepted and approved.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report

The Chairman informed the members that the next item in the agenda was the Treasurer's Report dated 28 March 2023, a copy of which was uploaded on GPCCI's website for the convenience of the members prior to today's meeting. The Treasurer, Mr. Alexander Grenz, then delivered his Report as follows:

*"Thank you, Mr. Chairman.*

*The Chamber started 2022 with confidence and anticipation for more face-to-face events in the second half of 2022. The reopening of the Philippine economy following Ferdinand Marcos Jr's presidency showed positive outlook 2022. It was noted during the first Statement of the Nation Address that the president vowed not to implement another lockdown so as not to hurt the economy anymore proved to be true. On the second half of 2022, the Chamber successfully connected members and partners through a number of face-to-face networking events, which showed a positive result of the Chamber's overall finances.*

*The Chamber looks back on a financially solid year 2022, hence, the Chamber is able to strengthen its own funds. This positive and successful development bases on three factors:*

*First of all, a strong and vivid membership with many loyal and committed sponsors. We wholeheartedly thank our partners of 2022: Allianz PNB, Antrak Philippines, BASF, BDO, Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines, Continental, Eastern Telecommunications, German Entrepreneurship Asia, GlueUp, Go4moreSchool, Goldmünzen, MHE-Demag, Porsche, PPI Pazifik Power, Rödl & Partner Philippines, Saisy Professionals, SGV, Steag, TÜV Rheinland, and Weigand & Partners.*

*Secondly, the close and trustful cooperation with the DIHK and the global AHK network: Financial developments were anticipated, best practices shared among AHKs and advice and flexibility provided.*



*The third aspect was the strong service orientation of GPCCI's portfolio. The resumption of face-to-face events following the economic reopening, the continuous development and the flexibility helped to ensure important projects to be acquired and projects to continue.*

*The Philippine economy is still seen as one of the top performing economies in the region. Physical events are planned for the whole year 2023. The Chamber marked its 15th year last February 2023 and will be highlighted during the planned Mabuhay Germany 2023 which will happen sometime on the 4th quarter. Mabuhay Germany™ is the signature event of the Chamber that continues to show bilateral relations have gone far and beyond business connections. Since its foundation in 2008, GPCCI upholds its mission to promote and foster bilateral trade. The strong bilateral trade continues in 2023 as the Chamber started strong by facilitating a business mission of German companies in the Philippines about energy efficiency which gathered 100 participants, including Germany and Philippine industry experts. The Chamber is confident to see another financially solid year.*

*The numbers of the 1st quarter are promising. Besides this, sponsorship plays a key role again and therefore I am very grateful for the sponsors 2023: Allianz PNB, Antrak Philippines, BASF, BDO, Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines, Continental, Eastern Telecommunications, German Entrepreneurship Asia, GlueUp, Go4moreSchool, Goldmünzen, MHE-Demag, Porsche, PPI Pazifik Power, Raffles Fairmont, Rödl & Partner Philippines, Saisy Professionals, SGV, Steag and TÜV Rheinland, and Weigand & Partners.*

*Let me finish by reporting the formal aspects: The audit closing meeting with SGV was held on 21 February 2023. The audited financial statements were presented and approved by the Board of Directors on 3 March 2023.*

*Danke Schön! Salamat! Thank you!"*

After the Treasurer delivered his Report, the Chairman asked if there were any questions for the Treasurer with regard to the Treasurer's Report dated 28 March 2023.

Since there were no questions, the Chairman asked Mr. Loveres what the results of the voting were with regard to the Treasurer's Report dated 28 March 2023. Mr. Loveres certified that based on the ballots received by the Chamber, 33 Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members representing 23% of the Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members entitled to vote, voted in favor of the approval of the Treasurer's Report dated



28 March 2023. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Loveres and declared that the Treasurer's Report dated 28 March 2023 was therefore accepted and approved.

**7. Ratification of Acts of Officers and Directors**

The Chairman informed the members that the meeting would then proceed with the ratification of the acts of the Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the Chamber performed or undertaken in year 2022 to date. He added that a summary of these acts as well as a copy of the proposed resolution<sup>2</sup> for the ratification were uploaded on GPCCI's website for the convenience of the members prior to today's meeting. He then asked if there were any questions about the acts of the Officers and Directors of the Chamber for the year 2022 to date.

Since there were no questions, the Chairman asked Mr. Loveres what the results of the voting were with regard to the ratification of all acts of the Officers and Directors of the Chamber for the year 2022 to date. Mr. Loveres certified that based on the ballots received by the Chamber, 33 Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members representing 23% of the Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members entitled to vote, voted in favor of the ratification of all acts of the Officers and Directors of the Chamber for the year 2022 to date. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Loveres and declared that all acts of the Officers and Directors of the Chamber for the year 2022 to date were therefore ratified, approved and confirmed.

**8. Appointment of External Auditor**

The Chairman informed the members that the meeting would then proceed with appointment of SGV & Co. as the Chamber's independent or external auditor for the current fiscal year. A copy of the proposed resolution therefore<sup>3</sup> was uploaded on GPCCI's website for the convenience of the members prior to this meeting.

Since there were no questions, the Chairman asked Mr. Loveres what the results of the voting were with regard to the appointment of SGV & Co. as the Chamber's independent auditor for the current fiscal year. Mr. Loveres certified that based on the ballots received by the Chamber, 33 Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members representing 23% of the Regular Corporate Members and Associate Members entitled to vote, voted in favor of the appointment of SGV & Co. as the Chamber's independent auditor for the current fiscal year. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Loveres and declared that SGV & Co. was therefore appointed as the Chamber's independent auditor for the current fiscal year.

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<sup>2</sup> Please see Annex "A" hereof.

<sup>3</sup> Please see Annex "A" hereof.



9. Other Matters

The Chairman informed the members that the next item in the agenda was Other Matters.

He said that he wanted to take the opportunity to express the Chamber's gratitude to its outgoing Director and Treasurer, Mr. Alexander Grenz.

The Chairman said that Mr. Grenz has been the Director and the Treasurer of GPCCI from 2022 to date. He added that Mr. Grenz has been a crucial member of the Board, and that the Chamber thanks him for his support and dedication to improving the ways of GPCCI, especially in 2022 when GPCCI achieved the least write-offs of membership fees. The Chamber gave Mr. Grenz a round of applause.

The Chairman asked if there were any other matters which the members wished to discuss. Dr. Günter Matschuck said that it was time to honor the Chamber's Corporate Secretary, Atty. Noel A. Laman, as he was now the longest-serving official of the Chamber at 15 years. The Chamber gave Atty. Laman a round of applause and the Chairman thanked Dr. Matschuck.

10. Adjournment

The Chairman asked if there were any other matters which the members wished to discuss. As there were no other matters to discuss or further business to transact before the meeting, the same was, upon motion duly made and seconded, adjourned.

ATTEST:



STEFAN SCHMITZ  
Chairman of the Board/President



NOEL A. LAMAN  
Corporate Secretary



**Annex "A"**  
**Resolutions**

1. Ratification of the acts of the Officers and members of the Board of Directors of the Chamber performed or undertaken in year 2022 to date

**"RESOLVED, that the Members of the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (the "Chamber") hereby approve, ratify and confirm, as they do hereby, all the acts, decisions and resolutions of the Board of Directors and Officers made or undertaken in the year 2022 and until the date of this meeting as they are reflected in the books and records of the Chamber."**

2. Appointment of Independent Auditor

**"RESOLVED, that the Members of the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (the "Chamber") hereby approve, ratify and confirm the appointment of SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co. as the independent or external auditor of the Chamber for the current fiscal year."**