



Deutsch-Philippinische
Industrie- und Handelskammer
German-Philippine Chamber
of Commerce and Industry

President's Review of the Year

As we gather to reflect on the past year, it fills me with immense pride to announce yet another successful chapter in the history of GPCCI. Together, we have navigated through challenges and celebrated numerous milestones, reinforcing our commitment to fostering economic ties between Germany and the Philippines.

In 2023, we commemorated 15 years of German excellence with a Filipino heart. A celebration that culminated in our flagship event, Mabuhay Germany™. Under the theme "Unleashing the Potential of Tomorrow," Mabuhay Germany brought together diverse industries and featured insightful discussions on sustainability, smart cities, renewable energy, and startups. This event also provided us with the opportunity to honor our loyal members and individuals who played pivotal roles in shaping the Chamber to what it is today.

Throughout the year, we made significant progress in various aspects of our Chamber's development. We organized delegations spanning industries such as energy efficiency, wastewater management, and cosmetics, fostering development and collaboration. Additionally, our delegation to the first physical ADB Opportunities Fair in years exemplified our commitment to fostering growth and partnerships across key sectors.

We strengthened our partnerships with government agencies through the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding, including those on Ease of Doing Business with ARTA, Skilled Labor Migration with TESDA, and on Green Hydrogen with NAPOCOR.

We hosted over 70 events attended by almost 4000 individuals, covering a wide range of topics. Notably, we have established the Policy and Advocacy Committee to address pertinent issues. Our increased visibility in the media - over 120 media mentions, interviews featured on ANC's Market edge, and a collective 3,000 new followers across our social media platforms - underscored our relevance in the community.

A significant highlight of the year was the visit of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to Germany, the first visit from a Philippine Head of State since 2014. President Marcos was the keynote speaker at the German-Philippine Business forum, an event GPCCI has co-organized. I was an honor to take part as moderator during the panel discussion with esteemed individuals, Mr. Jaime Alfonso and Mr. Vijay Ratnaparkhe, where we explored topics on Philippine investment climate, ease of doing business, discussion of key sectors, the EU-Philippine Free Trade Agreement, among others.

The achievements of the past year have laid a solid foundation for the future success of our Chamber. With unwavering dedication and collective effort, we are poised to achieve even greater heights in the coming year.



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Before concluding, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member and partner for your unwavering support throughout my tenure as President. It has been an honor and privilege to serve alongside esteemed peers, and I eagerly anticipate the contributions of the incoming Board of Directors.

Together, let us continue to strengthen the economic bonds between our nations and advance the interests of our members. Thank you!

mit freundlichen Grüßen / With Best Regards,

Stefan Schmitz
President
25 March 2024