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Subject: Interview Opportunity with Philippine Delegate on Philippines' Vision as a Smart & Sustainable Manufacturing Hub

Dear [Insert Editor Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out on behalf of the Philippine economic team to gauge your interest in interviewing **Mr. Henry Rhoel Aguda, Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)** and **Dr. Ceferino Rodolfo (Perry), Undersecretary for Industry Development and Investment Promotions at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)**, on the sidelines of the Philippine Economic Briefing in San Francisco.

US technology companies are making significant investments in the Philippines' semiconductor supply chain. Analog Devices is building a $200 million R&D facility, while Texas Instruments has committed $1 billion to expand operations. At the same time, the US is the highest recipient of electronics goods out of the Philippines, receiving almost a quarter of total exports (24.2%).

The Philippines is rising in the global semiconductor value chain, driven by a whole-of-society approach where every sector fuels innovation, growth, and impact. The secretaries can discuss:

- **As the world adjusts to the Middle East conflict, the Philippines remains a strategic hub in the global technology value chain**: The Philippines is implementing a number of measures to ensure energy security and business continuity to keep powering vital industries. As the world's ninth-largest chip exporter with one of Asia's most established electronics manufacturing bases, the Philippines is advancing beyond back-end manufacturing toward higher-value activities such as R&D, design, and smart manufacturing. The Philippine Semiconductor and Electronics Industry Roadmap is guiding that shift, with a national target of lab-scale wafer fabrication by 2028.
- **Fundamentals of the Philippine economy include a workforce and ecosystem built to accelerate scaling:** More than 825,000 graduates enter the Philippine workforce each year, offering companies a young, English-speaking talent pipeline and a mature manufacturing ecosystem to scale operations and move up the value chain into design, engineering, and advanced manufacturing.
- **The Philippines' investment opportunities for US technology companies:** Record investment approvals (PHP 1.56 trillion in 2025), 14% year-on-year merchandise export growth, and a reform agenda, including the CREATE MORE Act, a new PPP Code, extended investor lease terms, and SEC streamlining, that is making it faster and more predictable for tech companies to set up and scale.

Secretary Aguda and Undersecretary Rodolfo have some availability in San Francisco on **20 or 21 April**. Would you be interested in scheduling a conversation?

We are happy to tailor the conversation's focus to your editorial interests or provide additional background. Thank you!

Best regards,

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Subject: [TEST] [Press Release] PH showcases investment opportunities, economic stability at San Francisco economic forum
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 1:37:20 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: BSP Media
To: rebecca.rice@bursonglobal.com, maxson.tsang@bursonglobal.com, ashley.bailey@bursonglobal.com, goran.shiao@bursonglobal.com, thomas.ng@bursonglobal.com, tanvi.sethi@bursonglobal.com

PH showcases investment opportunities, economic stability at San Francisco economic forum

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Philippine economic officials present investment case to Silicon Valley, highlighting semiconductor sector growth, reform momentum, and macroeconomic resilience amid global energy uncertainty

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 April 2026 — The Philippines brought its investment pitch to Silicon Valley, as Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go and senior economic officials engaged with US technology executives, investors, and industry leaders at the Philippine Executive Forum in San Francisco.

Held at Autodesk, Inc. in partnership with the Bay Area Council, the Forum positioned the Philippines as a stable, reform-driven base for US companies seeking to diversify supply chains and expand in Southeast Asia. The event coincided with the 80th anniversary of Philippines–US diplomatic relations, a partnership that has expanded from its strategic and defense foundations into technology, supply chains, and innovation, as well as the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN Chairmanship, which gives the country a leading role in shaping regional trade and digital economy frameworks.

Secretary Frederick Go, who delivered the keynote following his participation in the IMF–World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington, D.C., outlined the country's macroeconomic position and the government's response to global energy market volatility.

"In a volatile global economy, resilience is a premium," Secretary Frederick Go said. "The Philippines has built an economy designed not just to grow, but to hold steady when it matters most. We are taking decisive, coordinated action to navigate the energy challenge while keeping the Philippines firmly on track as one of Asia's strongest growth and investment stories. We are offering a disciplined, high-growth opportunity in a market that is ready for investments and partnership."

To mitigate rising energy costs, the government enacted Republic Act No. 12316, allowing the Philippine President to temporarily suspend or reduce fuel excise taxes, along with targeted subsidies and energy conservation measures under the “UPLIFT” framework.

The Philippines posted GDP growth of 4.4% in 2025, above the global average. The banking system remains well-capitalized, with capital adequacy and liquidity ratios well above regulatory and international standards. International reserves stand at $106.6 billion, equivalent to 7.0 months of import cover. The country maintains investment-grade credit ratings across all five major agencies, with S&P Global reaffirming its BBB+ rating and Fitch Ratings reaffirming its BBB rating in April 2026, while Moody's reaffirmed its Baa2 rating in April 2026.

National government debt remains well below the 70% international threshold. DTI Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo highlighted the Philippines' technology and semiconductor value proposition alongside the broader investment environment. The semiconductor and electronics sector accounts for 58% of total Philippine exports, and major US chipmakers are expanding operations across the country.

"The Philippines is accelerating policy reforms, streamlining permitting processes, and strengthening partnerships to create the most open and liberal investment environment in its history," Undersecretary Rodolfo said. "Across high-value manufacturing, digital infrastructure, mining, and other priority sectors, the CREATE MORE Act provides up to 40 years of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. Our PPP Code is making infrastructure participation faster and more predictable, while lease terms have been extended to 99 years. For US companies ready to build and scale in Southeast Asia, the moment is now."

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The Philippines has 20 free trade agreement partners, with negotiations advancing on agreements with the European Union, Canada, and Chile. It recently signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the UAE, marking the country's first FTA with a Middle Eastern nation.

A moderated panel brought together DTI Undersecretary Rodolfo and BSP Senior Assistant Governor Dr. Edna C. Villa alongside US private sector leaders with active Philippine operations, including ATMO AI, Astranis Space Technologies, and Scrubbed.

BSP Senior Assistant Governor Dr. Edna C. Villa spoke on deepening capital market reforms driven by AI and digitalisation: “At the BSP, we consider AI and digital assets as key areas for capital market development. We are open to partnering with US companies to experiment on AI, stablecoins, and tokenised remittances to deepen market reforms, while ensuring that they are tested and governed responsibly first before we scale.”

Vince de Leon, CEO of Scrubbed, a US-headquartered professional services firm founded by Filipino finance professionals with more than 1,000 team members in the Philippines, spoke to the country's talent and growing infrastructure advantage: "15 years ago, we were able to scale Scrubbed in the Philippines because of the talent and resourcefulness of Filipino professionals. Today, with the renewable energy and digital infrastructure now being developed to support high-value industries like AI and blockchain, companies shouldn't be asking why the Philippines. They should be racing there."

Alex Levy, CEO of ATMO AI, whose company deploys AI-powered weather forecasting in partnership with Philippine science agencies, described the Philippines as a technology co-development partner: "The Philippines is an incredibly dynamic country with forward-looking policies. Within two years, the country went from mid-pack to operating Southeast Asia's highest-performing AI weather model. This has shown that American companies like ATMO AI can prove out frontier capabilities here at a national scale and take them global. That has been the brilliance of this partnership."

The Forum took place amid deepening US semiconductor investment in the Philippines, with major American chipmakers, including Texas Instruments, Analog Devices, and ON Semiconductor, expanding operations across the country in assembly, testing, R&D, and advanced manufacturing.

Organized by the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Silicon Valley, Department of Finance, BSP Investor Relations Group, and the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco, the forum forms part of a broader engagement with the Bay Area's innovation and investment community that includes executive meetings with US companies and a networking reception with Filipino-American business leaders.

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The Board of Investments recorded an all-time high of PHP1.56 trillion in investment approvals in 2025, marking the second consecutive year above the PHP1.5 trillion threshold, with approved projects expected to generate over 40,000 jobs. Merchandise exports grew 14% year-on-year through November 2025, with overseas Filipino remittances reaching USD35.63 billion. The government has committed PHP300 billion in infrastructure investment for Q1 2026 under its Build Better More program, which features 201 flagship projects.

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Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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