



EU-ASEAN Business Council

Leaders in EU-ASEAN Interview Series Questions

Could you share with us what sparked your interest in coming on board as President in ECCP? How have previous experiences in your career affected this decision?

As one of the leading foreign chambers in the Philippines, I am honored to have the opportunity to contribute to the good work that the chamber has done for the past 41 years. The ECCP has an established reputation, not only within the Philippines, but also around the region and the world. So, it was an easy decision to accept the nomination and election as President and to want to contribute my part in the success of EU-Philippines business relations.

As the CEO of Republic Cement, are there any industry topics or committee areas you would be focusing on specifically during the early stages of your presidency?

In line with the current administration's thrust, ECCP will be focusing on its advocacies in infrastructure and transportation especially with the ongoing "Build, Build, Build" program. Moreover, the proposed tax reform is an area that we will be closely monitoring and working on given the gravity of its impact on current and potential foreign direct investments. Environmental sustainability and agricultural development are also definitely on top of mind.

Are there any CSR or sustainable projects you are especially passionate about in your work?

One advocacy I am particularly passionate about is road safety in the Philippines. In particular, road safety including occupational safety, training and knowledge transfer for drivers and all those involved in the land transport logistics aspect of the supply chain, building safer and more connected road infrastructure, improving commuter safety, and promoting safer vehicles on the road. It is my hope that we can highlight this very important issue, especially in the Philippines where not a lot of attention is given to potentially life-saving safety solutions.

What projects or partnerships of the ECCP can we look forward to in 2019?

This 2019, the ECCP hopes to foster a stronger sense of partnership and cooperation among all European business organizations present in the Philippines. The goal is to move forward together as one "Team Europe" in the Philippines and to create or solidify synergies between existing European business organizations. Given the challenges of doing business in the Philippines, it is crucial for European businesses to collectively speak as one voice in order to be heard loud and clear: European business is here to stay and European and Filipino business along with the Philippine government must work closely together so that the economic benefits will be inclusive.