



# PHILIPPINE - BRITISH BUSINESS COUNCIL



PBBC NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2014

## Message from the Chairman of the Philippine-British Business Council



**Jesus P. Tambunting**

It is of utmost significance to note that the Philippine-British Business Council (PBBC) starts 2014 on the heels of a successful year for our council, the business community, and our country. In the previous year, the PBBC focused on creating a vibrant forum for mutual business development and contact among local and international partners and reinforcing linkages within our expanded business network.

Since the establishment of the PBBC in 1995, the council has been instrumental in building partnership structures leading to the generation of investment opportunities and action for both the Philippine and British private sectors. In light of the country's robust economic fundamentals, the competitiveness of its business environment, and the cooperative efforts between government and the private sector to achieve inclusive growth, the PBBC recognizes that "there is no better time than now" to push our initiatives to promote trade, investment, and collaboration. In the words of President Benigno S. Aquino III, we are indeed "open for business."

Last year, in partnership with the Philippine and British governments, the PBBC launched a Philippine Trade and Investments Promotion mission to the United Kingdom, and was able to engage over 200 representatives of London's illustrious business community. We rightfully attribute the success of our mission to the resilience of both the Philippine economy and its decision-makers, the primary drivers of interest and optimism directed at our country. Along with our British counterparts, we applaud the Aquino administration's path of good governance and its staunch stand against corruption, which have rightfully earned back global investors' trust in the Philippine market.

The PBBC would like to acknowledge the partnerships and linkages whose support and formation over the past year have been invaluable to the realization of our council's objectives: the British Embassy in Manila under Ambassador Asif Ahmad, the British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Asia House, the UK-ASEAN Business Council, the London City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, among countless others.

We enter the New Year, running. Having posted 7.2% GDP in 2013, the Philippines is now hailed as one of the best performing economies in Asia, second only to China. The PBBC welcomes this development with fervor and enthusiasm, and a renewed sense of commitment to strengthen our bilateral relationships and networks. The Philippine-British Business Council sees great opportunity in 2014 and will step up our mission to promote and encourage business and investment in the Philippines, in unity with the nation's drive towards sustainable economic prosperity. ■

A quarterly publication of the Philippine-British Business Council, the **PBBC Newsletter** provides the latest socio-economic updates, as well as news on developments in trade and investments between the two countries.

### **PBBC Chairman**

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GILLIAN JOYCE G. VIRATA  
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### **PBBC Executive Director**

PETER ANGELO V. PERFECTO

### **PBBC SECRETARIAT**

2/F, AIM Conference Center  
Benavidez Street cor. Trasierra Street  
Legaspi Village, 1229, Makati City  
Philippines Tel (+63 2) 751-1143  
Fax (+63 2) 751-1160

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## MANILA WEAR

at the International Fashion Showcase 2014

13-23 February 2014  
180 Strand, London WC2R 1EA

Organized by



## Filipino community gives thanks to the UK for help after “Yolanda”

LONDON – In the shadow of world-renowned British landmarks, Big Ben and Nelson’s Column, more than a hundred Filipinos braved the winter cold to publicly express heartfelt thanks to the people and the government of the United Kingdom for their assistance in the wake of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan).

Last 12 January, over a dozen UK-based Filipino organizations came together in historic Trafalgar Square and staged a Thanksgiving Rally to show their gratitude and appreciation for all the British support towards the typhoon victims in the Philippines.

The rally’s overall chairman, Mr. Renato Lucero of Guian, Samar, addressed the gathering and emotionally recounted the devastating effects of the typhoon, as well as the heartening response of the international community, particularly the UK, to the subsequent appeal for help.

“Within a short span of time, it became obvious that the people of the United Kingdom and its Government showed unprecedented generosity in the amount of financial and material help raised and given” Mr. Lucero said. “The magnanimity and munificence of the British heart and soul echoed amongst the volunteers.”

In his remarks, Philippine Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo likewise cited the significant British contribution to the critical rescue and relief operations. “During this difficult time, we did not stand alone,” Ambassador Manalo said. “In an unprecedented manner, the UK Government and the British people manifested their solidarity with the Filipino people through their generosity and valuable support for the relief and rehabilitation efforts in the affected areas.”

Press release by the Philippine Embassy in London; photos by Mr. Edward Del Rosario & Mr. Rosendo Rodriguez  
<http://philembassy-uk.org/filipino-community-gives-thanks-to-the-uk-for-help-after-yolanda>

Members of the Filipino community presented a Thank You Letter to Mr. Mathew Warnock-Parkes of the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), the umbrella UK organization coordinating British charity assistance to the typhoon-ravaged areas. The letter thanked the UK government and people for, among others, having: “opened your arms and hearts to us without hesitation and without condition; resolutely stood by us throughout this difficult time; (and) encouraged and empowered us to move on knowing we are not alone.”

The thanksgiving rally also staged a moment of silence and floral offering for the typhoon victims. The event concluded with the gathering linking arms and singing “If We Hold On Together.”

According to the Philippine government’s Foreign Aid Transparency Hub (FAITH), the UK government has pledged US\$954,000 in cash and US\$95,400,000 in non-cash assistance. The DEC’s Philippine Typhoon Appeal has also raised £86,000,000.00, and its different partners and member organizations have helped over 1.6 million Filipinos.

The Philippine Embassy in London has likewise been informed of numerous meaningful acts of assistance by the British public, including no-uniform days in schools, cake sales in care homes for the elderly, Christmas parties transformed into fund-raising events, prayers and retiring collections in churches and mosques, and Christmas cards for children in Tacloban hand-made by children in the UK.

“We are moved by all these expressions of support and sympathy, and we draw inspiration from them as we face the more difficult task of rehabilitation and reconstruction,” said Ambassador Manalo. ■



## Join the Philippine-British Business Council!

The PBBC was established in 1995 to promote trade and investments between the Philippines and the United Kingdom. The council is composed of top business executives who seek to explore business opportunities between the two countries and to promote the exchange of views on policies of mutual concern. The Makati Business Club serves as the secretariat of the PBBC.

For membership inquiries, contact Ms. Maria Victoria Sibal, PBBC Coordinator at (+63 2) 751-1143 or send an email to [v.sibal@mbc.com.ph](mailto:v.sibal@mbc.com.ph) or [mbc.businesscouncils@gmail.com](mailto:mbc.businesscouncils@gmail.com)