



## Successful PH trade mission to UK to attract more investments

An official high-level trade and investments promotion mission to London was held on 2-3 October 2013 led by Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory L. Domingo and Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima. The official delegation also included Department of Trade and Industry-Trade and Investments Promotions Group (DTI-TIPG) Usec. Chito Manalo, BSP Deputy Gov. Diwa Guinigundo, PPP Executive Director Cosette Canilao, together with a 25-member business delegation led by Philippine-British Business Council (PBBC) Co-chairman Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting. Also joining the business delegation were British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (BCCP) Chairman Roger Lamb and PBBC London Co-chairman Nigel Rich.



Photos courtesy of Asia House/Matt Chung.

(Top to bottom, left to right: Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting, Ambassador Asif A. Shmad, DTI-TIPG Undersecretary Ponciano C. Manalo, Jr., DTI Secretary Gregory L. Domingo, Lord Stephen Green of Hurstpierpoint, DOF Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, PPP Executive Director Cosette V. Canilao)

On 2 October, Philippine government officials and the business delegation hosted a conference in London to showcase the Philippines' economic success story and showcase its continuously improving business climate. "Invest Philippines: Philippine Economic Briefing and Trade & Investment Opportunities Conference" featured a keynote address by Sec. Domingo, messages from Lord Stephen Green of Hurstpierpoint, UK Minister of State for Trade and Investment, and Philippine Ambassador to the United Kingdom Enrique Manalo, as well as an open forum with the Philippine government officials and delegation members, Shell Country Chairman Ed Chua and HSBC CEO Wick Veloso.

The afternoon session of the forum featured messages, business testimonials, and an open forum with Usec. Manalo, Exec. Dir. Canilao, and members of the Philippine business delegation on opportunities for British investment in the Philippines and Philippine-British business partnerships, especially in PEZA zones and

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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.

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Amb. Tambunting delivers the keynote address at the Open For Business! forum on October 3.



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in public-private partnership projects. An estimated 200 participants attended the conference, mostly representatives of British companies and business organizations.

On October 3, mission partners, the UK-ASEAN Business Council and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, together with the BCCP, hosted a forum entitled, "Open For Business! Practical Advice on Doing Business in the Philippines." Setting the tone of the forum was PBBC Co-chairman Amb. Tambunting, who emphasized in his keynote address that "there is no better time for UK businesses to come and do business in the Philippines than now." Representatives from various UK-based SMEs and companies attended the forum, actively engaging the panel speakers from DTI, PBBC, BCCP, and invited private sector representatives.

In the afternoon, some members of the business delegation, along with the government delegation, were invited to a Crossrail business meeting and site visit at Canary Wharf—one of London's two main financial centres—for a project orientation on one of Europe's current biggest railway and infrastructure construction projects. The business delegation was also invited to join the government delegation for a visit to the Palace of Westminster, the meeting place of Parliament.

To formally conclude the mission, a farewell reception was co-hosted by the DTI and the Philippine Embassy in London for all members of the mission, with Sec. Domingo describing the visit as the "the best he has attended" this year. The secretary expressed confidence that, through the mission's success, more British investments to the Philippines may be expected in the months to come.

Following up on the London trip, two inbound trade missions from the UK are due to arrive in the Philippines before the year ends.



Photo courtesy of Atty. Michael T. Toledo





## Delegation Photos

Photo courtesy of Atty. Michael T. Toledo.



(Back row - visible, L-R) Mr. Peter Angelo Perfecto, MBC Executive Director; Mr. Jamie Willis, Andrews & Wykeham, Mr. Raul Dimayuga, BPI; Mr. Roger Lamb, British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines; Mr. Paul Dimond, former UK Ambassador to PH; Mr. Martyn Skinner, PBBC London; Mr. Juan Felipe Alfonso, ASEAGAS Corporation; Atty. Cirilo P. Noel, SGV & Co.

(Front row, L-R) Ms. Jeri Ramos, Shore Solutions, Inc.; Mr. Alfonso Salcedo, BPI; Atty. Mike Toledo, MVP Group of Companies; Mr. Nigel Rich, PBBC Co-chair; Mr. Roberto Eugenio, British American Tobacco; Amb. Stephen Lillie, former UK Ambassador to PH; Amb. Jesus P. Tambunting, PBBC Co-chair; DTI Secretary Gregory L. Domingo; UK Amb to PH Asif A. Ahmad; PH Amb to UK Enrique Manalo; Mr. Guillermo D. Luchaneco, The ICCP Group; PTIC Commercial Attache Kitchie Umali; DTI-TIPG Undersecretary Ponciano C. Manalo, Jr.



## 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)