

# FINEX FOCUS

GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FINEX

## Energy Crisis, Economic Crossroads: Charting the Philippines' Financial Future



President's Message  
Page 3

Guest Speakers  
Page 4

Financial News  
Page 5

GMM Gallery Wall  
Page 6



JUNE 2026

VOL 21 ISSUE 06

# FINEX FOCUS



PRESIDENT

**CARLO ENRICO B. LAZATIN**

LIAISON DIRECTOR

**MHARICAR C. CASTILLO-REYES**

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

**BLANCA C. MERCADO  
IAN REY A. FERNANDEZ**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**IAN REY A. FERNANDEZ**

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**MICHAEL B. VINLUAN**

SECRETARIAT-IN-CHARGE

**JOHN LORENZ N. GUZMAN**

CONTRIBUTORS

**ALBERT GAMBOA  
EJ QUA HIANSEN  
ROSE MARIE KING-DOMINGUEZ  
BENEL LAGUA**

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past 120 days have been complex and difficult. Energy, markets, inflation, and policy have moved in ways that require clearer judgment from finance leaders. In this environment, **FINEX remains purposeful as we build momentum around our agenda of confidence, capital, integrity, and innovation.**

**To our new members, welcome to FINEX. You are joining a community of finance leaders at a time when leadership requires clarity, discipline, and courage.**

After more than 100 days of volatility, the dust has settled enough for us to confront the energy crisis with clarity and urgency.

By now, it is clear that energy is no longer a narrow power-sector concern. **It is a cost issue, a competitiveness issue, a household issue, a fiscal issue, a monetary issue, and ultimately, a confidence issue.**

**That is not simply volatility. That is exposure. That is dependency. When prices move because of events beyond our borders, vulnerability has a cost.**

Read the full message of his speech [HERE](#).

*Carlo Enrico B. Lazatin*  
**PRESIDENT**



# GUEST SPEAKERS

*Atty. Jose M. Layug, Jr.*  
SENIOR PARTNER, DIVINA LAW OFFICES



Read about his full presentation [HERE](#), and his full Profile [HERE](#).

**It is time to implement deep institutional reforms, rebuild investor confidence, and secure a resilient financial future.**

When we look at our macroeconomic headlines, it is easy to assume that our post-pandemic recovery is moving forward smoothly on its own momentum.

We are standing at a crossroads where internal governance issues are colliding with major international disruptions. If we do not restore institutional credibility and actively drive structural productivity, the Philippines risks settling permanently into a low-growth equilibrium.

**When we look at the horizon of our nation's development, we find ourselves standing at a critical juncture.**

We cannot build a strong economy without a solid foundation. Under the Philippine Development Plan, our immediate national priority is strategic infrastructure renewal.

What does that mean in plain terms? It means we are aggressively modernizing our connectivity networks, upgrading our water resources, and re-engineering our energy systems.

*Dr. Jan Carlo P. Punongbayan*  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UP SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS



Read about his full Profile [HERE](#).

# FINANCIAL NEWS

## *The next frontier of competitiveness*

*By Ira Paulo Pozon*

The Philippines has the ingredients for a genuine competitiveness transformation: a young, digitally fluent population, a growing fintech ecosystem, over 3.3 billion digital transactions processed in 2024, a diaspora that connects us to global markets, and reformers in both government and the private sector who understand what is at stake.

## *Understanding fiscal and monetary policy*

*By EJ Qua Hiansen*

In discussions about the economy, we often hear two terms: fiscal policy and monetary policy. These affect our daily lives more than most people realize – influencing expenses, jobs, loans, and overall business confidence.

## *Business with borders: a quick issue list for cross-border transactions*

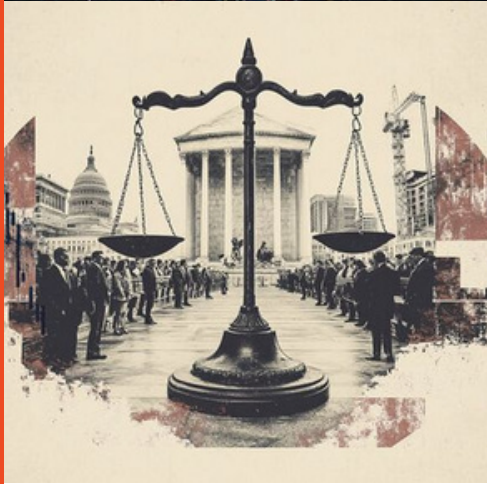
*By Rose Marie King-Dominguez*

The Philippines is emerging as one of the fastest-growing digital economies in Southeast Asia, with a 20-percent increase in digital gross merchandise value of \$31 billion. The pandemic accelerated the adoption of e-commerce, digital payments, mobile connectivity and financial technology (fintech) services, fueled by a young and tech-savvy population.

## *Tax reform and the growth imperative*

*By Benel Lagua*

A simpler tax system can be just as important as a lower tax rate. Simplicity encourages compliance, reduces opportunities for corruption, lowers administrative costs, and encourages enterprises to operate within the formal economy.



# FN

FINANCIAL NEWS

# GALLERY WALL



Check out more photos [HERE](#)

**GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**



# GMM: WHAT'S AHEAD



**FINEX**  
FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE  
OF THE PHILIPPINES

**FINEX GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

## The Future of China–Philippine Relations: *The Path Ahead*

FEATURING

### H.E. JING QUAN

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



 **FRIDAY**  
**17 JULY 2026**

 **12:00 NOON – 2:00 PM**  
(REGISTRATION STARTS AT 11:30 AM)

 **FAIRMONT MAKATI**  
1 RAFFLES DRIVE, MAKATI CITY

 Join fellow leaders from government, business, academe, and civil society for an **insightful discussion** on the opportunities, challenges, and the way forward in building a stable, mutually beneficial, and forward-looking China–Philippine relationship.

 **REGISTER NOW!**

 alexis.canon@finex.org.ph

 +63 2 8114052

BUILDING TRUST. | SHAPING FUTURES. | CREATING VALUE.

Click the link to register: <https://bit.ly/7thGMM>



**Make sure to stay updated with the latest in FINEX.  
Follow, like and subscribe to our official social media accounts.**

**FINEX Email: [finexadmin@finex.org.ph](mailto:finexadmin@finex.org.ph)**

