



ACPACI FILES



Official Newsletter of the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ACPACI: Ensuring our Legacy has Enduring and Positive Impact

Warmest greetings to the esteemed ACPACI members. As we reflect on the second half of our term, I extend heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Together, we've achieved remarkable milestones. Let us revisit some of the highlights:

July Highlights: PICPA Presidential Award, Chair-ISO Honor, AWC and 1st IC in Vietnam

In July, we celebrated the recognition of our Immediate Past President, Mr. Aphot C. Martinez, Jr., who received the prestigious PICPA Presidential Award. Sir Aphot's dedication as PICPA's Chair of Special Events and Presidential Affairs, along with his role as Co-chair of the Annual National Convention, exemplifies our commitment to excellence. It was an honor to receive the Chair-ISO during the PICPA Ball Thanksgiving and Graduation Night. This recognition underscores our collective efforts in maintaining high standards and promoting quality.

Also, we attended the PRBoA Oathtaking of successful May 2023 CPA board examinees at PICC. Through our collaboration with BNI Philippines, led by National Director, Mr. Dexter F. Ortega, we continue to foster growth and support SME development. Our meeting with the Cebu Chapter officers to discuss their

resurgence, marked a pivotal step in revitalizing their activities and the chapter itself. We actively participated in the various activities during the Accountancy Week Celebration, starting with the Eucharistic Mass and Luncheon for a moment of reflection and thanksgiving; AWC Muse and Escort contest and AWC Bowling Tournament, our two teams earned the title "Best in Uniform"; In the AWC Opening Ceremonies, ACPACI took part in the processional and awarding of the Keynote Speaker, Hon. Sen. Maria Imelda Josefa Remedios "Imee" Romualdez Marcos; In the AWC Spotlight on Commerce and Industry last July 19, Hon. Sen. Lorna Regina "Loren" B. Legarda graced the occasion and inspired us with her Keynote Address. Kudos to our distinguished speakers for sharing their expertise in the technical sessions; new members were inducted during the GMM segment of the AWC. We virtually connected with AWC PICPA Bulacan Chapter Leader's Insights via Zoom, fostering



ANNA LISSA C. CHUA-DYCAICO
ACPACI President
2023

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SME SUMMIT 2024
BEYOND NUMBERS

REGULATORY UPDATES

FEATURED SPEAKERS

HOST

MARCH 7, 2023
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
CROWN PLAZA HOTEL, QC
8 CPD POINTS

REGISTRATION FEE:
FOR MGRS: P3,500 (INCLUSIVE OF VAT)
FOR NON-MEMBERS AND NON-MGRS: P4,000 (INCLUSIVE OF VAT)

Induction and Turnover Ceremonies

19 FEBRUARY 2024
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Palawan Ballroom
EDSA Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

Dress Code: Modern Filipiniana / Business Attire

REGISTRATION FEE: PHP 3,000

Theme: **TRANSCEND BEYOND 50**

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SCAN TO REGISTER

50TH YEAR Anniversary Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from page 1

linkages beyond geographical boundaries. Our CSR activity in collaboration with PICPA Central Luzon Region, ACPACI Central Luzon, ACPAPP Central Luzon and ACPAPP Bulacan Chapters touched the lives of 300 Aeta families in Floridablanca, Pampanga. We concluded the month of July with a bang! ACPACI proudly held its 1st International Conference in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam last July 27 – 30, 2023. The event featured four technical sessions; city tour and fellowship and games.

August Highlights: Historical MOA Signing, 3rd GMM

August started with the historical MOA signing with the BIR. ACPACI joined forces with nine (9) professional groups as part of the Partnership with Multi-Sectoral Group (PMSG). We also attended the Induction and Turnover Ceremonies of PAMA. We also represented the Association during the Stakeholders Consultative Workshop #2 Accountancy Programs by CHED; we contributed our insights to shape the future of the accountancy education. Our 3RD GMM covered the essential topics: "ABCs and XYZs of Handling Tax Assessments and Disputes," "Uncovering the Unconscious Bias in the Workplace," and "Burning Issues on Tax and Accounting," handled by expert resource persons.

September Highlights: PMSG, ACPACI Scholars, 25th SOASP and ANC in Palo, Leyte

September engagements included productive meetings with the PMSG group. Collaboratively, we defined guidelines, roles, and responsibilities for each member. The Scholarship Committee led by Chairs, Ms. Cynthia A. Campos, Ms. Luisa A. Caleon and Ms. Victorina B. Bautista, along with Chair of Ways and Means, Ms. Edna L. Constantino; VP for Community Development, Ms. Elaine E. de Guzman; Auditor, Ms. Cecilia C. Carandang, met with and provided the ACPACI Scholars from PLM and PUP personalized attention and support. Additionally, ACPACI participated in the MOA Signing with P&A Foundation and PICPA for the 25TH SOASP. We extended our warm greetings to our fellow ACPACIans during the PICPA Northern Mindanao Region Commerce and Industry Virtual Summit, thanks to the invitation of PICPA VP-Education, Mr. Edwin delos Santos. Then, we embarked on a journey to Palo, Leyte for the ACPACI 39TH Annual National Convention (ANC). Over two days, we engaged in eight technical sessions, fostered fellowship and explored the beauty of the island.

October to December Highlights: PICPA ANC/C&I Forum, 4TH GMM, Election of Officers and Year-end Christmas Party

We continued our support by standing alongside ACPACI 2007 President, Ms. Estelita C. Aguirre during her talk on Teaching Beyond Numbers at the PICPA Central Luzon Region Education Summit. We also attended the FY2023-2024 PICPA 1st Luzon Geographical Area Office (LGAO) Conference for two days, October 13 to 14, which was held at Balin Sambali Hotel, Iba, Zambales.

In November, we attended meetings with the

PMSG group and presented to our BIR TWG counterpart our top 3 wish list per group. We spoke before the attendees of the Commerce and Industry (C&I) Sector Forum at the PICPA's 78TH ANC in Sorsogon State University, and I am pleased to let you know that our very own ACPACI officers and members received awards: Outstanding CPA in C&I, Atty. Aristeo R. Cruz; Outstanding PICPA Member Central Luzon Region, Ms. Yolanda S. Rotap; and Honorary Life Member, Ms. Myrna Fernando, during the National Awards Night held at Sorsogon Convention Center. We again, at the invite of PRBoA, graced the CPA Oathtaking of the October 2023 batch of successful examinees at the PICC.

In December, we spread Christmas joy through gift giving of food packs and groceries to the special children of Oblate Sisters of St. Francis Xavier in Paranaque as the beneficiaries. This community outreach event marked our 11th year of charitable work with the Oblate Sisters. We were invited and took part in the Christmas party of PICPA Bulacan Chapter and PAMA Central Luzon Chapter. Likewise, the year-end meeting and Christmas Party of the BIR and PMSG working groups held in Taguig City. We celebrated the yuletide season with PICPA Central Luzon Region at Siano's Clark, Pampanga.

We held our 4TH GMM with the topics: Resilience and Reinvention: Overcoming Hardships and Challenges and Year-End Tax Reminders. Also, we welcomed and inducted new members and elected the new set of board of directors and officers for 2024 during the GMM. Afterwards, we had a year-end thanksgiving mass and our Christmas party themed, "Denims & Diamonds," which was enjoyed by all ACPACIans and special guests in attendance.

There you have it, ACPACI's 3RD and 4TH quarter activities and accomplishments. So many things to do, yet so little time to accomplish. Our board of directors, committee chairs, co-chairs, and advisers worked hard to benefit our members in every way, individually and professionally. All the extended support of our sponsors was properly channeled to the intended beneficiaries, and our membership showed strong and steady commitment to our activities and programs.

Thank you for giving this '*probinsiyana*' from ACPACI Central Luzon Chapter the chance to lead our distinguished organization. We achieved most of the plans we set at the beginning of our term. I hope that these accomplishments have advanced and impacted our profession and contributed to our Association's legacy in line with our theme for CY2023, "Sustaining Sustainability. Living Our Legacy."

To God Be All The Glory!

ANNA LISSA C. CHUA-DYCAICO
ACPACI President
2023

ACPACI Celebrates AWC 2023 with PICPA



The Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) joined the Philippine Association of CPAs (PICPA) in celebrating the Accountancy Week Celebration (AWC) 2023, a long-established tradition that honors the accounting profession every third week of July. The Commerce and Industry sector held its commemorative event on July 19, 2023, Wednesday, at the Marquee Tent, Edsa Shangri-la Plaza, Mandaluyong City.

ACPACI and PICPA’s current themes to guide their decisions and initiatives in the year 2023 are: “Sustaining Sustainability. Living our Legacy.” and “Beyond Numbers: Redefining the Roles of the CPAs,” respectively. The meeting was opened by the PICPA National Sectoral Director for C & I, Ms. Teresita L. Cervantes, who welcomed the attendees at the AWC.

The technical sessions kicked off with the topic, “Business Outsourcing Outlook in 2023,” ably handled by Ms. Lynaira Ann Pineda, Growth & Strategy Officer/ Corporate Finance Director of Scrubbed, an outsourced professional services firm with main office in San Francisco, California, and with operations in the Philippines. An open forum immediately followed, moderated by Ms. Meljorie Cruz, ACPACI National Secretary. Ms. Pineda was bestowed with a token of appreciation for sharing her time and expertise with the ACPACI members and guests in attendance. The memento was presented by Ms. Anna Lissa Chua-Dycaico, ACPACI National President; Atty. Randy B. Blanza, PICPA National President; Ms. Norine G. Recio, PICPA AWC Chairperson (morning session), Mr. Ronaldo B. Alvarez, AWC Co-Chair (afternoon session), along with the 2023 ACPACI Board of Directors.

ACPACI Fellowship & Sports Committee, headed by its chairperson, Mr. Ronald S. Leabres, provided icebreakers and fun activities after each training sessions to keep the audience energized and engaged, adding an element of excitement to the program. Afterwards, Atty. Blanza delivered his message to the plenary, followed by a photo opportunity with the ACPACI officers and members.

To ensure that ACPACI members stay up-to-date and remain

compliant with the ever-evolving accounting standards, auditing and tax rules and regulation, the Association offered learning session no. 2, which was about “Tax and Accounting Updates.” The lecture was delivered by a seasoned professional and expert, Mr. Ramon Felipe S. Reyes, Chairman of Reyes, Tacandong & Co. Being well-versed in the latest developments allows the members to add value by providing timely advice and strategic insights, it builds confidence and enables them to serve their respective companies and clients more effectively. The open forum portion was led by Ms. Floredee T. Odulio, International Conference Chair of ACPACI.

Before lunchtime, ACPACI conducted its General Membership Meeting (GMM) wherein President Chua-Dycaico delivered her message to keep the members informed about the Association’s accomplishments and achievements during the first six months of her tenure, as well as the future plans and projects for the remaining months of her 2023 term. Also, the new members were presented by Ms. Ofelia P. Oroceo, Membership Committee Chair and inducted by Pres. Chua-Dycaico. At the luncheon meeting, Ms. Corazon Rey, 2019 ACPACI





President, introduced the keynote speaker, Hon. Senator Loren Legarda, President Pro Tempore, Senate of the Philippines. Senator Legarda gave her keynote address, **“Beyond Numbers: Redefining the Roles of CPAs.”** The roles of the accountants have evolved significantly. CPAs are no longer “number crunchers.” Today, they are required to possess a diverse set of skills apart from financial acuity; they should embrace and understand the changing technology and data as well as environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues.

They are no longer confined to spreadsheets; they are strategic advisors, ethical guardians, and they navigate complex landscapes and they shape the future of organizations. The luncheon session was moderated by Atty. Aristeo R. Cruz, VP for Capacity Building.

The afternoon technical sessions began with a presentation on **“The Relevance of Sustainable Leadership”** by Mr. Edwin C. Ebreo, CEO of ExecServe HR Solutions. Next, the audience was positively impacted and inspired by the **“Success Story: Recipe of a Young Restaurateur,”** shared by Mr. Mark Vincent T. Del Rosario, Founder and Community Director of Let’s Eat Pare Communities. The open forum of these two sessions were conducted by Ms. Elaine De Guzman, VP for Community Development, and Ms. Cecilia C. Carandang, National Auditor, respectively.

Finally, the head honchos of the country’s top auditing firms: Mr. Roderick M. Danao, Chairman and Senior Partner of PwC Philippines; Mr. Romualdo V. Murcia III, Chairman and Managing Partner of P



&A Grant Thornton; Atty. Fredieric B. Landicho, Managing Partner and CEO, Deloitte Philippines, and Mr. Wilson P. Tan, Chairman and Managing Partner, SGV & Co. joined the AWC in panel discussion format of the **“CEOs Most Important Business Challenges in 2023”** moderated by Mr. Michael Arcatomy H. Guarin, Head of Deal Advisory, KPMG. The Q and A/ Open Forum session was handled by Mr. Elano C. Marcelo, VP, Partnership with Regulators and Other Stakeholders.

In the closing ceremonies, Mr. Marvin L. Madrigalejo, VP for Professional Development and Relevance Sustainability, concluded the technical sessions and Mr. Jodelito G. Diga, EVP, delivered the closing remarks on a positive note and expressed gratitude to the members, officers, resource speakers and guests for gracing the important occasion. Ms. Rowena I. Lemen, VP Operations and Mr. Apat C. Martinez, Jr., 2022 ACPACI President, hosted the event. As emcees, they successfully ensured seamless shifts from one speaker to another and maintained the flow and energy of the celebration.

ACPACI Hosts First International Conference in Vietnam



The Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) hosted its first international conference on July 27 – 30, 2023, at the Harmony Hotel and Spa in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The conference, with the theme “Sustaining Sustainability: Exploring International Perspectives,” aimed to provide a platform for learning, networking, and collaboration among CPAs in commerce and industry not just in the Philippines, but also beyond borders.

July 28: Opening Ceremony, Technical Sessions

The opening ceremony included the following:

- Declaration of Opening of the International Conference by Ms. Consuelo O. Cadelina, 2013 ACPACI President
- Welcome Remarks from Ms. Floredee T. Odulio, 2023 Chairperson for International Conference
- President’s Message from Ms. Anna Lissa C. Chua-Dycaico, 2023 ACPACI National President
- Introduction of Guests of Honor done by Dr. Estelita C. Aguirre, AFA 2014 – 2015 President, and ACPACI 2007 President

Guests of honor delivered their messages to the delegates: H.E. Meynardo Los Baños Montealegre, Philippine Ambassador to Vietnam; Atty. Randy B. Blanza, FY2022-2023 PICPA National President; Mr. Romualdo V. Murcia III, 2023 ACPAPP National President; Mr. Francis M. Caliwan, Jr., FY2023-2024 NACPAE National President; and Atty. Alexander B. Juliano, FY2023-2024 GACPA National President.

Mr. Marvin L. Madrigalejo, 2023 VP for Professional Development and Relevance Sustainability, introduced the first resource speaker, Mrs. Tran Thi Thuy Ngoc, Deputy CEO, Sustainability & Climate Leader, Deloitte Vietnam. Her topic was, “Opportunities for CPAs in the ASEAN Region,” moderated by Ms. Elaine E. De Guzman, VP for Community Development.

Tokens of appreciation were bestowed to the IC’s esteemed guests

of honor and resource speakers by Ms. Chua-Dycaico, Ms. Odulio and Mr. Madrigalejo after they have delivered their respective messages and presentation. After the opening ceremony, fellowship games were facilitated by Ms. Ester Rachel M. Sy-Carvajal, 2023 Co-chair, Chapter Affiliation. They were designed to create a more relaxed and fun learning environment and enhance the delegates’ engagement.

In the afternoon, the conference featured diverse topics and speakers related to business and work environment, and their current trends and future patterns. The first learning session kicked off with the discussion of the topic, “Achieving Emotional Balance, Inclusion and Connection at the Workplace” expertly handled by Ms. Mai Nguyen, General Manager of the Groove Technology, and moderated by Mr. Elano C. Marcelo,





VP for Partnership with Regulators and Stakeholders. The second technical session “*Workforce of the Future - The Competing Forces Shaping 2030*” was discussed by Mr. Christopher Lee (Aik Sern), Director, Workforce Transformation from PwC Vietnam, with the Q and A segment facilitated by Atty. Aristeo R. Cruz, VP for Capacity Building. The last speaker was Ms. Du Nguyen Thi Mai Anh, Director, Tax Services of KPMG Vietnam, presented her assigned topic, “*Key Trends on Regulations Influencing Market and Industries – Sharing from Vietnam.*” Mr. Paul Ryan M. Balon, who facilitated a lively and engaging discussion between the speaker and the audience, was the moderator.

The conference was a blast! Everyone enjoyed the insightful presentations, the productive discussions, and the networking opportunities. The closing remark was addressed by Mr. Danilo C. Navarro, 2023 Chairperson for Annual National Convention. He thanked the speakers, the organizers, and participants for making this maiden international convention a success. It was a memorable and positive experience for them. Also, Mr. Apat C. Martinez, Jr., 2022 ACPACI



President, livened up the conference stage as the master of ceremony. The delegates wrapped up their technical sessions on July 28, with a dinner cruise.

**July 27: Arrival and Ho Chi Minh City Tour
Vietnam Welcomes ACPACI!**

The delegates landed in Vietnam on July 27, 2023, and wasted no time in discovering the charms of Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. They started their tour at the Independence Palace, also known as the Reunification Palace, a symbol of the country’s history and culture. The palace, designed by the renowned architect Ngo Viet Thu, was the site of the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

They then admired the elegant architecture of the French colonial era, such as the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office, both built in the late 19th century. They also visited the War Remnants Museum, which showcased the artifacts and stories of the Indochina Wars. They savored the delicious Vietnamese cuisine at a local restaurant, and then checked in at the cozy Eden Star Saigon Hotel.

In the afternoon, they continued their adventure in the city. They headed to *Cho Lon*, the bustling Chinatown of Ho Chi Minh City, and explored the *Thien Hau* Pagoda, a temple dedicated to the goddess of the sea. They then hopped on a boat and enjoyed the scenic views of





July 29-30: Discovering Mekong and Saying Goodbye

The delegates looked forward to exploring the Mekong Delta, the southernmost region of Vietnam. On July 29, they arrived at *My Tho*, a charming city on the banks of the *Tien River*, one of the two main branches of the Mekong River. They boarded a cruise boat and sailed along the river, admiring the four islets named after mythical creatures: Dragon, Unicorn, Phoenix, and Tortoise. They saw the fish rafts and the *Rach Mieu* bridge, which connects the two provinces of Tien Giang and Ben Tre over the Mekong. They also got a glimpse of the rural life as they cruised past the village road. They stopped at an orchard and tasted the fresh fruits and honey tea, while listening to the soothing melodies of the Southern Vietnamese folk music.

They then switched to a hand-rowed sampan, a traditional wooden boat, and paddled through the Tan Thach Canal, surrounded by the lush foliage of the water coconut trees. The coconut trees functioned as a natural canopy and provided them shade that shielded them from the sun, making their voyage more comfortable. They enjoyed a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, and then headed back to Ho Chi Minh City for their last-minute shopping and preparations for their departure the next day. The Mekong Delta trip was a wonderful experience that gave them a deeper appreciation of the culture and the people of Vietnam.

The IC was a resounding success! It was not only a learning and networking opportunity, but also a cultural enrichment and recreational one. The delegates left Vietnam with a smile on their faces and a promise of return and more welcomes from Vietnam.



the city from the water. They were amazed by the contrast between the traditional and the modern, as they saw the Vinhomes Central Park, a green oasis in the urban jungle, and the Landmark 81 and the Bitexco Financial Towers, which resembles Tony Stark's (aka Ironman) Avenger Headquarters in New York. These are two of the tallest skyscrapers



in Southeast Asia. They understood why Ho Chi Minh City was often compared to Paris, as they witnessed its beauty and diversity.

BIR and Multi-Sectoral Group Partnership MOA Signing

Our ACPACI President, Ms. Anna Lissa Chua-Dycaico, represented our Association as one of the signatories of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the BIR and Multi-Sectoral Group Partnership's (MSGP) last August 8, 2023 at the BIR Executive Office. The objective of the MOA is to improve the tax payment services and to facilitate cooperation between business and government to build a better nation. There are nine members of the MSGP: ACPACI, PICPA, ACPAPP, FINEX, MAP, TMAP, PHILEXPORT, JFC AND PCCL.



PICPA 78TH ANC, C&I Sector

President Lizel Chua-Dycaico attended the PICPA's 7th ANC and delivered her message before the accountants during the Commerce & Industry Sector Forum held last November 23, 2023 at the Sorsogon State University.



PRBoA's Oathtaking Ceremony of New CPAs at PICC



On November 27, 2023, ACPACI President, Ms. Anna Lissa Chua-Dycaico attended the PRBoA's Oathtaking Ceremony of the new CPAs who passed the Licensure Exam in October 2023 at the Plenary Hall, Philippine International Convention Center, in Pasay City

PICPA CLR Education Summit in Tarlac State University

ACPACI President, Ms. Lizel Chua-Dycaico attended the PICPA Central Luzon Education Summit held last October 6, 2023 in Tarlac State University. She graced the occasion as ACPACI representative and also to give support to Dr. Estelita C. Aguirre, ACPACI Past President 2007 and Asian Institute of Taxation President. Dr. Aguirre was once of the resource speakers.



PICPA LGAO Conference, Turnover Ceremonies and Induction



President Chua-Dycaico attended the PICPA Luzon Geographical Area Office (LGAO) Conference and its induction of officers and turnover ceremonies last October 13 – 14, 2023 at the Balin Sambali Hotel in Iba, Zambales. She was joined by other ACPACI officers from Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and Pangasinan Chapters

BIR-PMSG Year-end Meeting and Christmas Party

On December 11, 2023, ACPACI President Ms. Anna Lissa C. Chua-Dycaico, together with ACPACI Past President Edward D. Roguel and Co-Chair for Social Involvement Committee Almelito Casas, attended the BIR-PMSG Year-end Meeting and Christmas Party held at the PCCI Office, Taguig, Manila. Mr. George T. Bacelon, PCCI President and Overall Chairperson of the Private Sector Committee delivered his Opening Message. ACIR Lilibeth B. Maranan, PMSG Head, BIR Project Management and Implementation Service (PMIS) greeted the attendees and the meeting ensued.



After the meeting, lunch was served. During the thanksgiving party, raffle, gift-giving, picture taking, and fellowship was enjoyed by all the attendees.

ACPACI Holds 39th Annual National Convention in Palo, Leyte



The Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) successfully held its 39th Annual National Convention (ANC) on September 28 to October 1, 2023 at The Oriental Hotel in Palo, Leyte. The theme of the convention was “Sustaining Sustainability. Living our Legacy.”

The convention was attended by more than 100 CPAs from various companies and industries, who gathered to learn from the experts, network with peers, and enjoy the cultural and historical attractions of Leyte.

Welcome! And Say Hello to Palo!

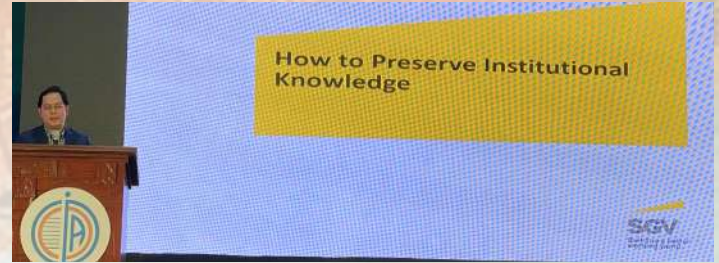
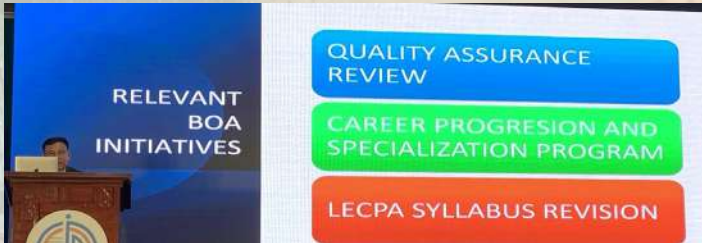
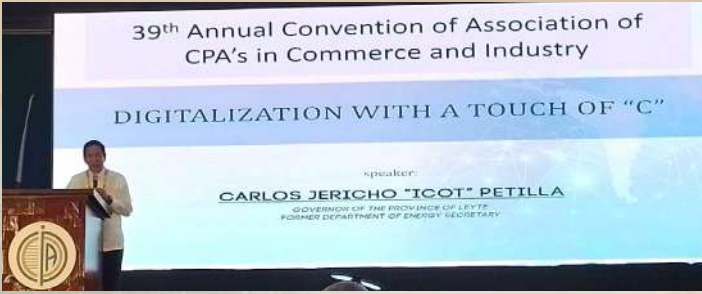
Day 1: Opening Ceremony, Technical Sessions & Fellowship Night

The convention officially opened with the declaration of Mr. Danilo C. Navarro, the Chair of the 39th ANC., and the Welcome Remarks of Mr. Aphant C. Martinez, Jr., the 2022 ACPACI President and Over-all Adviser of the 39th ANC. They both gave warm reception to the delegates, distinguished guests, and resource speakers, and thanked the officers, members, sponsors and partners for their support.

The opening ceremony also featured the messages of Ms. Anna

Lissa C. Chua-Dycaico, the 2023 ACPACI National President; Hon. Remedios Matin L. Petilla, the Mayor of Palo, and Hon. Carlos Jericho L. Petilla, the Governor of Leyte. They expressed their appreciation for the CPAs’ contribution to the economic and social development of the country, and in the speech delivered by Gov. Carlos Petilla, he encouraged the participants to embrace the opportunities and challenges of the digital age and e-commerce. The Petillas also invited the delegates to explore and enjoy the beauty and hospitality of Leyte. Prior to the opening ceremony, the audience were entertained by a cultural dance and presentation of the students of St. Paul School of Professional





Studies - Leyte. The ACPACI Board of Directors, Past Presidents, and Officers presented tokens of appreciation to the speakers and guests of honor. A photo opportunity with the Mayor and Governor followed.

The first day of the convention also featured three technical sessions, covering varied and relevant topics: Technical Session 1 with the topic: *“Advancing the Profession and the Filipino CPAs,”* was lectured by Hon. Noe G. Quiñanola, Chair, PRC Board of Accountancy; Next was *“On Track: The Philippine Economic Outlook 2023,”* handled by Mr. Michael L. Ricafort, Chief Economist of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.; Last session was *“Dealing with Health and Wellness Issues in the Workplace”* by Dr. Marvin Jed C. Soledad, Medical Officer III, Promotion and Media Affairs Unit, Eastern Visayas Center for Health Development, Department of Health.

The delegates actively participated in the discussions and raised questions and insights on the relevant issues affecting the profession and the society during the open forum segments.

The first day ended with fellowship games facilitated by the Fellowship Committee and dinner, featuring a taste of Waray



culture. The delegates enjoyed the local delicacies, music, and dances, and mingled with their fellow CPAs.

Day 2: More Technical Sessions and Fellowship Night

The second day of the convention continued with five more technical sessions, focusing on topics such as *“Achieving Ethics and Honesty in the Workplace (Ethical Leadership and*





Ethical Decision Making)” in Technical Session 4, discussed by Fr. Marc Will R. Lim SDB, CPA, LFT, Administrator of Don Bosco Technical College. Session 5 entitled, *“How to Preserve Institutional Knowledge as Employees Depart?”* was lectured by Mr. Christian G. Lauron Partner, SGV & Co. In Session no. 6, Mr. Neal Ysart, Forensic Leader of Deloitte Philippines tackled an interesting topic about Artificial Intelligence aptly titled: *“CPAs, Technology and AI.”* Up next was *“What’s In: Focus on Accounting Updates”* handled by Mr. Arvin Lemuel A. Yanga, Partner, Head of Technical Advisory Group, KPMG. Final learning session for day 2 was *“Navigating Key ESG Trends: Shaping the Business Landscape in the Philippines,”*

presented and explored by Ms. Geraldine H. Apostol, Partner, PwC Philippines.

The delegates learned from the best practices and experiences of the speakers and exchanged views and opinions on the emerging trends and issues in the accounting profession.

The back-to-back-to-back training sessions were punctuated with fellowship games, where the delegates had fun with the parlor games and waited with anticipation if their names or number were called in the raffle.

The closing ceremony was held in the afternoon, with the technical session wrap-up by Mr. Danilo C. Navarro, the Chair of the 39th ANC. He summarized the key points and takeaways





from the eight technical sessions and thanked the speakers and the delegates for their active involvement and cooperation.

The closing remarks were delivered by Mr. Aphat C. Martinez, Jr., the 2022 ACPACI President and Adviser of the Ways and Means. He congratulated the organizers and the participants for the successful convention and urged the CPAs to apply the learnings and insights they gained to their respective fields and industries.

The convention concluded with a festive fellowship night, themed “Asian Night”. The delegates donned their dazzling Asian costumes, representing the diversity and richness of their cultures. One of the major highlights of the night was the search for Mr. and Miss ACPACI, a friendly competition among the “brave” ladies and gentlemen who sashayed and cat-walked in their National Asian Costumes before the cheering audience. But wait, there’s more. The contest also featured a fearsome and nerve-racking Q and A portion, where the contestants had to answer random questions. This segment was hilarious and enjoyable,

thanks to the skillful hosting of Mr. Aphat C. Martinez, who won the crowd with his quick wit, impeccable improvisation, comedic timing, and physicality. People were cracking up and guffawing with hearty laughter! He was like Jokoy or Vice Ganda, and perhaps, someone should advise him to consider stand-up comedy as a second career.

The delegates also savored the delicious Visayan cuisine prepared by Oriental Hotel, which included dishes like lechon, kinilaw, and stir-fried veggies. They danced the night away, enjoying the music and the company of their fellow professionals. It was a night to remember, full of fun, laughter, and good fellowship.

Day 3 and 4: City Tour and Departure Discovering the Beauty of Leyte

On the third and fourth day of the convention, the delegates enjoyed a city tour of Leyte’s scenic and historical attractions.



They visited the Kawayan Café at Linta-on Peak in Baybay, where they marveled at the panoramic view of Baybay City. Initially, they planned to go to the famous *Kalanggaman* Island, known for its beautiful beach and diamond-like waters, but the trip was cancelled due to rough sea conditions. The Coast Guard advised the convention organizers to find an alternative destination.

The delegates then opted to explore the Cuatro Islas, a group of four islands off the coast of Leyte and Southern Leyte. They only visited two of them: Mahaba Island and Digyo Island. In Mahaba Island, they relaxed on the white sand beach, tasted the *niño de buco* (small coconuts), and savored the *moron* suman (rolled sticky rice cake with chocolate filling wrapped in banana leaves). In Digyo Island, they had a delicious lunch, and took photos of the island's beauty and their memorable moments.

They also had the chance to cross the San Juanico Bridge, the second longest bridge in the Philippines, connecting Leyte and Samar. They also witnessed the weaving skills of the locals in Basey, Samar, where they bought some traditional crafts and souvenirs.

The group also visited the MacArthur Leyte Landing Memorial National Park, where they saw the statues of General Douglas MacArthur and his men, commemorating their historic return to the Philippines in 1944. I shall return! They also went to the Palo Provincial Government Complex, the seat of the Leyte provincial government, and Palo Cathedral, where they saw the mass graves of the victims of the typhoon Yolanda, one of the strongest and deadliest cyclone ever recorded, in November 2013. They also toured the Sto. Nino Shrine and Heritage Museum, where they admired the collection of paintings, artifacts, and memorabilia of the Marcos family, and paid their respects to the M/V Eva Jocelyn Shrine, where they saw the remains of the cargo

ship that was washed ashore by and again, typhoon Yolanda.

The delegates also did some *pasalubong* shopping at the Tacloban City Convention Center (TCCC), where they bought some local delicacies and products, such as *roscas* (ring-shaped biscuits), *tahong* chips (mussel chips), chocolate *moron* (chocolate-filled sticky rice cake), *binagol* (sweetened taro pudding packed with halved coconut shell and covered with banana leaves), key chains, and ref magnets. Added info about the history of the TCCC, it served as a refuge for thousands of people during the onslaught of typhoon Yolanda, and later as a hub for relief operations and rehabilitation efforts.

The delegates departed from Leyte on the fourth day, bringing with them the memories and learnings from the convention, as well as the friendship and camaraderie of their fellow CPAs.

Leyte did not disappoint, indeed! ACPACI shall return!



ACPACI Holds GMM3, Seminars on Tax Disputes and Updates and Biases in the Workplace



Part of its mission to keep its members updated with the current trends and to provide them with continuing professional education, the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry held its 3rd General Membership Meeting (GMM) at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City, on August 25, 2023.

Featured at the seminar/ meeting were three learning sessions. First was “The ABC’s and XYZ’s of Handling Tax Assessments and Disputes” lectured by Atty. Fabian De Los Santos, Partner, Head of Tax Services of SGV & Co. Next was a talk from Ms. Pamela Gregorio, Human Capital Director of PwC entitled, “Uncovering the Unconscious Bias in the Workplace,” and third was team teaching conducted by Mr. Eduard Roguel, Tax Partner, P&A Grant Thornton and ACPACI Past President 2015; and Mr. Christopher Ferarezza, Partner, P&A Grant Thornton. They discussed the topic “The Burning Issues in Tax and Accounting.”

Other segments of the meeting were the fellowship games and the introduction and induction of new ACPACI members.



ACPACI Convenes 4th GMM and Celebrates Party with Denims and Diamonds Theme



On December 15, 2023, the Association of CPAs in Commerce & Industry (ACPACI) held its 4th General Membership Meeting (GMM) and Yuletide party at the Crown Regency Hotel in Makati. The theme of the party was “Denims and Diamonds,” a stylish combination of casual and elegant attire.

The GMM began with the Oath of CPAs led by Ms. Meljorie A. Cruz, ACPACI Secretary, followed by the Welcome Remarks and President’s Message of Ms. Anna Lissa C. Chua-Dycaico, 2023 ACPACI President. The event featured two technical sessions: “*Resilience and Reinvention: Overcoming Hardships and Challenges*,” by Mr. Enrique D. Pampolina, Risk Advisory Partner of Deloitte Philippines; and “*Year-End Tax Reminders*,” by Mr. Aaron C. Escartin, Global Compliance and Reporting Partner, SGV & Co. The Q and A and open forum segments were moderated by Ms. Meljorie Cruz and Atty. Cesar G. Ilagan, Chair for Regulatory and Special Project Committee, respectively.



The meeting and seminar also introduced and inducted new members by Ms. Ofelia P. Oroceo, Co-Chair for Membership Development, Retention and Services, and Ms. Anna Lissa C. Chua-Dycaico, President. The members cast their ballots to vote for the 2024 ACPACI officers and chairpersons. Mr. Marvin L. Madrigalejo, VP Professional Development and Sustainability, delivered the closing remarks. Ms. Rowena I. Lemen, VP Operations, emceed the event.



After the GMM, a Thanksgiving Mass was officiated by Fr. Mark Will R. Lim, SDB, CPA, LPT. Then, the “Denims and Diamonds” Christmas party commenced, with members, friends and guests dressed in denim outfits and sparkling diamond accessories. This theme reflected a fascinating blend of practicality and opulence, often seen in runways and red carpets, such as the 2001 American Music Awards where Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears wore matching denim outfits.

The opening remarks were given by Mr. Apat C. Martinez, ACPACI 2022 President,



and special messages were expressed by the Association's special guests for the evening: Hon. Ma. Teresita Dimaculangan, PRBoA Member; Prof. Francisco M. Caliwan, Jr., NACPAE President; and Mr. Richard Ibarra,

PAMA President. Atty. Beatriz B. Salvador, Past ACPACI President, concluded the event with her closing remarks. The event's hosts were Ms. Cecilia C. Carandang, Auditor, and Mr. Ronald S. Leabres, Chair for Fellow-

ship Committee. ACPACI and the organizers expressed their gratitude to the donors of the gifts and door prizes up for grab for the raffle. The event ended with festive greetings and best wishes for the holiday season.



ACPACI Brings Christmas Joy: Gift Giving to the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis Xavier

The Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) celebrated the spirit of giving during the holiday season by organizing an early Christmas gift-giving event for the 40 special children under the care of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis Xavier. The heartwarming occasion took place on San Antonio Avenue, San Antonio Village 1, Paranaque City last December 9, 2023.

A Tradition of Compassion

This year marked the eleventh consecutive year of ACPACI's unwavering commitment to supporting these remarkable children, each with unique conditions including deafness, muteness, blindness, Down syndrome, and autism. Over the years, ACPACI has witnessed their growth and resilience.



Bringing Smiles and Blessings

The anticipation was palpable as the children eagerly awaited the arrival of the ACPACI team. Their faces lit up with joy when they learned that gifts were on their way. The blessings included essential groceries, food packs, and an assortment of goodies—a small gesture that meant the world to these young souls.

The event was graced by ACPACI's dedicated officers, including its National President, Ms. Anna Lissa Chua-Dycauco; Director for Social Involvement, Ms. Elaine De Guzman; Chairperson of the Social Involvement Committee, Mr. Noel T. Ang; Co-Chair, Mr. Almerito Casas; Director Ms. Edna Constantino, and ACPACI Secretariat, Ms. Jaden Medina-Cruz. Their presence

exemplified the organization's commitment to making a positive impact in the community.

The children, overflowing with excitement, entertained their guests with heartfelt songs and lively dance performances. Simple yet delightful games were organized by the Oblate Sisters, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and shared joy.

Gratitude and Love

Sister Vivian Dominguez, the head of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis Xavier, expressed profound gratitude to ACPACI. She acknowledged the association's tireless efforts and genuine love for these special children. The event was a testament to the power of compassion and the spirit of Christmas.

As the children laughed, danced, and unwrapped their gifts, the true meaning of the season came alive—the joy of giving and the warmth of human connection.



Note: ACPACI's commitment to social involvement and community service continues to make a difference in the lives of those they touch.

Gift Giving
Floridablanca, Pampanga

Aetas from Floridablanca Get Gifts from ACPACI, PICPA and ACPAPP

On July 22, 2023, ACPACI National Office and Central Luzon (CL), in collaboration with PICPA CL, ACPAPP Bulacan and ACPAPP CL, distributed gifts and treats to the Aeta communities of Floridablanca, Pampanga. These accounting associations generously donated their time and resources to bring happiness and relief to about 300 Aetas, mostly kids, who faced hunger. The Aetas received bags with groceries, lunch packs from Jollibee and hot rice porridge.

This gift giving program is a fulfillment of ACPACI's civic and social responsibilities, and it strengthened the sense of community and belongingness with our Aeta brothers. President Liezel Chua-Dycaico and Social Involvement Chair, Ms. Elaine De Guzman were there to represent ACPACI.



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