



## A Message from ANZCHAM Executive Director, Kimmi Siu Dewar

### Going Offsite, Going Regional, and Gearing Up for More

ANZCHAM's July was a whirlwind of energy, ideas, new connections and a lot of rain! In line with our goal to create fresh experiences while staying true to our values, we took a bold leap—**hosting our Monthly Members' Meeting offsite at none other than Timezone**. Why? Because what better way to explore business success than through the lens of play?

As our newest **ANZCHAM Silver Key Partner**, **Timezone** offered more than just free play arcade credits—they shared their incredible journey as an Aussie consumer brand that's thrived in the Philippines for over 27 years, now with 65+ locations and **a solid joint venture with Ayala Land**. Their story is a masterclass in long-term partnership, resilience, and staying fun while staying relevant.

Business in the Philippines, like anywhere, comes with its challenges—regulations, relationships, and rapid innovation all in the mix. But as we heard firsthand from **Miguel Crisostomo**, with a strong business model, deep cultural awareness, and an open mind (*plus a shot of tequila or whiskey on the side*), great things are possible. Judging from the buzz, photos, and member's feedback—it's safe to say this offsite hit the mark.

Meanwhile, our **President Benj Romualdez** flew the ANZCHAM flag high in Kuala Lumpur as a guest speaker at the **ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Summit**. Benj tackled the tough stuff: while tariff cuts have helped open markets, non-tariff barriers like port congestion, bureaucracy, and clunky customs still drag us down. ANZCHAM's message was clear—**let's encourage investment beyond Metro Manila**, champion digital reforms through **ARTA**, and back investment agencies like **PEZA** and **BCDA** to build a more open, efficient, and investor-ready Philippines.

With the endorsement of the **Department of Tourism**, we had the opportunity to meet with **Atty. Karen Mae G. Sarinas-Baydo**, Assistant Chief Operating Officer, Tourism Enterprise Zone Management Sector of the **Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA)**, who shared their robust incentive programs aimed at attracting foreign investors and businesses to help boost and modernize

tourism-related developments across the Philippines. **Fun fact:** *Aussies and Kiwis aren't just coming for the beaches—they're also among the top visitors landing in the Philippines for medical and wellness tourism.*

We also officially launched **ANZCHAM's Australia Outbound Business Mission** scheduled for this September 2nd- 7th, signing on BCDA and the Board of Investments as key partners for our upcoming roadshow in Melbourne and Brisbane. Since the Philippines is identified as a priority market for Australian investment and trade expansion, ANZCHAM's primary objective of this roadshow is to showcase the capabilities, talent, services, infrastructure and investment opportunities that make the **Philippines a prime destination for business in Southeast Asia.**

This year's support for our ANZCHAM mission has been phenomenal, and we're calling on organisations who are ready to explore new opportunities in the Aussie market, build stronger government ties, sip great wine, and connect with Aussie business leaders—all in world-class company—to join us. A few seats are still open, and we'd love to have you on board!

Warm Regards,

**Kimmi Siu Dewar**

Executive Director, **ANZCham**

Marketing Director, Asia , **Aristocrat Gaming**

## July Monthly Members' Meeting



Breaking away from traditional formats, ANZCham's July Monthly Members' Meeting (MMM), co-presented by **Timezone**, delivered a memorable evening of business insights and interactive experience. Held on 8 July 2025 at Timezone Greenbelt 3,

Makati City, this month's MMM centered on the theme **"How to Navigate Partnerships in the Philippines."**

The night opened with the much-anticipated launch of the mission agenda for the upcoming **ANZCham Australia Roadshow 2025**, September 2–7, in Melbourne and Brisbane. Attendees were among the first to get a preview of the program highlights and key objectives.



During the evening's fireside chat, moderated by **Kimmi Siu Dewar**, ANZCham Executive Director and Marketing Director Asia at Aristocrat Gaming, **Juan Miguel Crisostomo**, Chief Commercial Officer of Timezone, shed light on how Timezone, a proudly Australian brand, has become one of the Philippines' most successful and enduring foreign consumer ventures, thanks to its **nearly three-decade-long joint venture with Ayala Corporation**. Notably, the Philippines remains the only Timezone market operating under a joint venture, a testament to the exceptional nature of the partnership.

A significant factor in Timezone's successful expansion in the Philippines, Miguel noted, was an **understanding of local consumer behavior**. The "mall culture" that defines Filipino leisure habits, positioned Timezone's offering as a natural fit. This local cultural awareness, combined with a partner that shared their long-term business vision, created a foundation for sustained growth.

Later in the session, attendees were asked to describe what makes a partnership work in one word, the overwhelming response was: **Trust**. To which Miguel affirmed "*You don't have a relationship if there's no trust*". It was a reminder that beyond contracts and strategies, enduring partnerships are ultimately built on shared values and mutual confidence.



ANZCham also paid tribute to outgoing Director of Partnerships Nancy Castiglione, recognizing her leadership in driving key initiatives and strengthening stakeholder ties. The Chamber extends its heartfelt thanks and best wishes as she embarks on her next chapter.



To cap off the night, attendees were invited to enjoy **free play access** across Timezone's arcade and invited to a fun and collaborative **team building session** facilitated by **Fran Academy**.



**The July MMM captured what ANZCham does best: combining thought leadership with real engagement.** With the Australia Roadshow ahead, the Chamber continues to champion the power of partnerships and shared experiences in strengthening the ties between Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines.

Access official event photos by joining our Viber Community

## ANZCHAM Strengthens Ties with the Philippine Board of Investments



On 30 June 2025, the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines (ANZCHAM) held a courtesy meeting with **Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo** of the

**Philippine Board of Investments (BOI)** aimed at **deepening collaboration** and **aligning on shared priorities** for trade and investment.



Led by ANZCham President Benjamin Romualdez and Executive Director Kimmi Siu Dewar, alongside Director of Operations Ina Azarcon, Marketing Lead Katie Ynzon, and Communications Lead Kyle Granadillos, ANZCHAM shared key updates on its current initiatives, recent accomplishments, and upcoming programs, including the Outbound Business Mission to Australia this September, where BOI will serve as one of the Chamber's government partners.

BOI and ANZCHAM have long found common ground in **advancing inclusive growth, regularly engaging in key business forums and participating side-by-side in trade and investment missions.** This meeting reaffirmed their mutual commitment to enabling greater market access, policy dialogue, and investor confidence across sectors.



ANZCHAM extends its appreciation to Usec. Rodolfo and the BOI team for the warm welcome and meaningful exchange. As the Chamber continues to serve as a **conduit for cross-border engagement**, it looks forward to strengthening this productive partnership in the shared pursuit of advancing investment and economic growth across the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand.

Photos courtesy of the Philippine Board of Investments (BOI).

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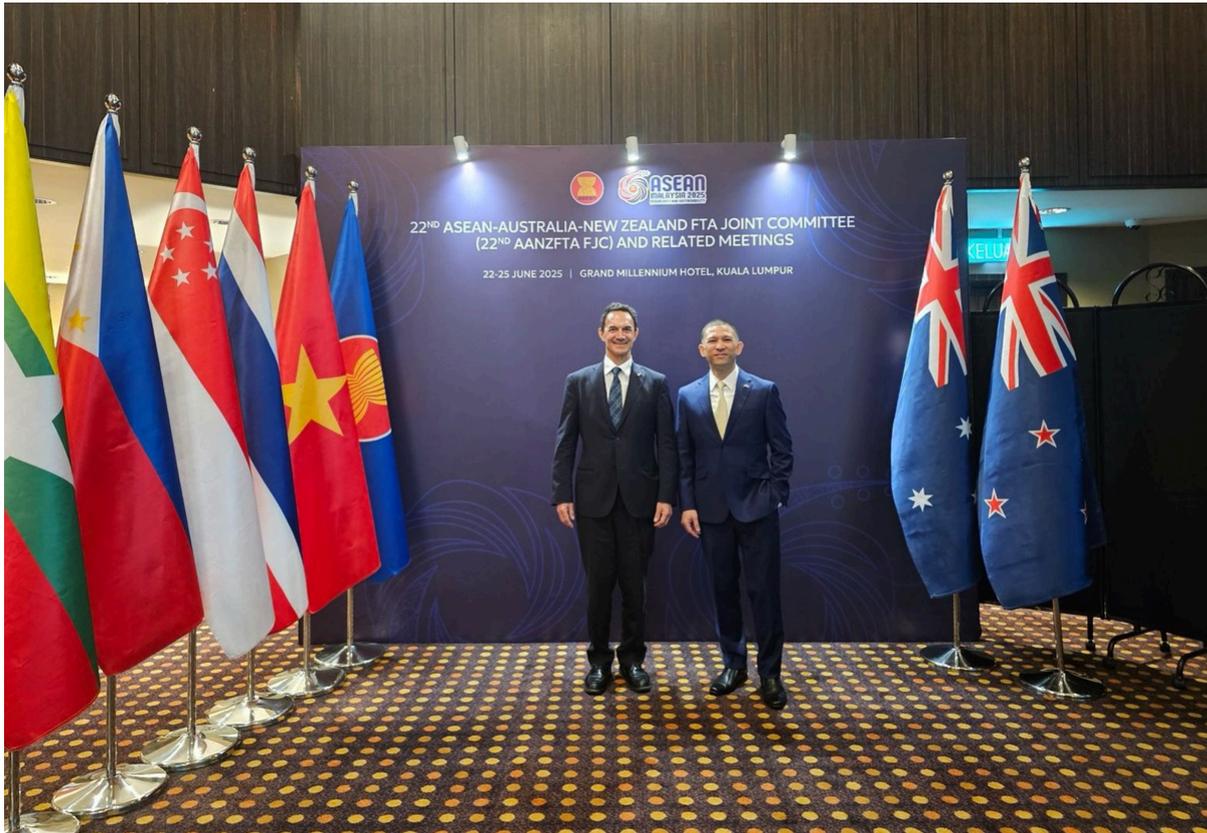
## ANZCHAM President Joins AANZFTA Regional Dialogue on Non-Tariff Barriers



ANZCHAM President **Benjamin Romualdez** joined key regional stakeholders at the **ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) Joint Committee Workshop on Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) to Trade and Investment**, held on June 24–25, 2025 at the Grand Millennium Hotel, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The two-day forum brought together influential voices from across the region’s public and private sectors to examine the persistent challenges posed by NTBs—challenges that, while less visible than tariffs, continues to undermine the benefits of trade liberalization across the AANZFTA region. As part of this high-level dialogue, Romualdez, in his remarks, emphasized that **non-tariff barriers such as port**

congestion, regulatory complexity, and customs procedures remain deeply felt by the business community.



**Peter Kell**, Former New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines and Director of Economic Diplomacy & Policy at New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (left) and **Benjamin Romualdez**, ANZCham President and Managing Director at Telstra Philippines (right)

He outlined three core focus areas that ANZCHAM actively supports to mitigate NTBs and promote economic decentralization. First, **encouraging investment beyond Metro Manila**, especially in growth corridors like Clark and Subic in North Luzon. Second, **strengthening the role of Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) in driving regulatory efficiency through digitalization**. And lastly, **maximizing the efforts of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs)** such as PEZA, CDC, SBMA, and BOI to create investor-friendly environments.

Other distinguished speakers at the forum included **Peter Kell**, Director of Economic Diplomacy & Policy at New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; **Joyce Ngeow**, R&D Director-Asia, The Arnott's Group; **Daniel Rae**, Director of National Trade & Customs Practice at KPMG; and **Lester Khoo**, Director of International Affairs at Charoen Pokphand Foods.



Benjamin Romualdez's participation signaled the Chamber's growing influence in shaping solutions to business challenges on the ground. As the region works toward deeper economic integration, **ANZCHAM remains a trusted bridge between government and business, helping turn dialogue into progress, and conversations into opportunities.**

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## ANZCham Meets with TIEZA to Explore Deeper Tourism Investment Collaboration



Following a recent courtesy visit with Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines (ANZCham) continued its engagement with the tourism sector through a productive meeting with its investment arm, the **Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA)** on **3 July 2025**. The meeting was held with Atty. Karen Mae G. Sarinas-Baydo, Assistant Chief Operating Officer, and Ms. Catherine Sta. Clara, Administrator of the Corregidor Flagship Tourism Enterprise Zone, both leading figures within TIEZA's **Tourism Enterprise Zone Management Sector**.

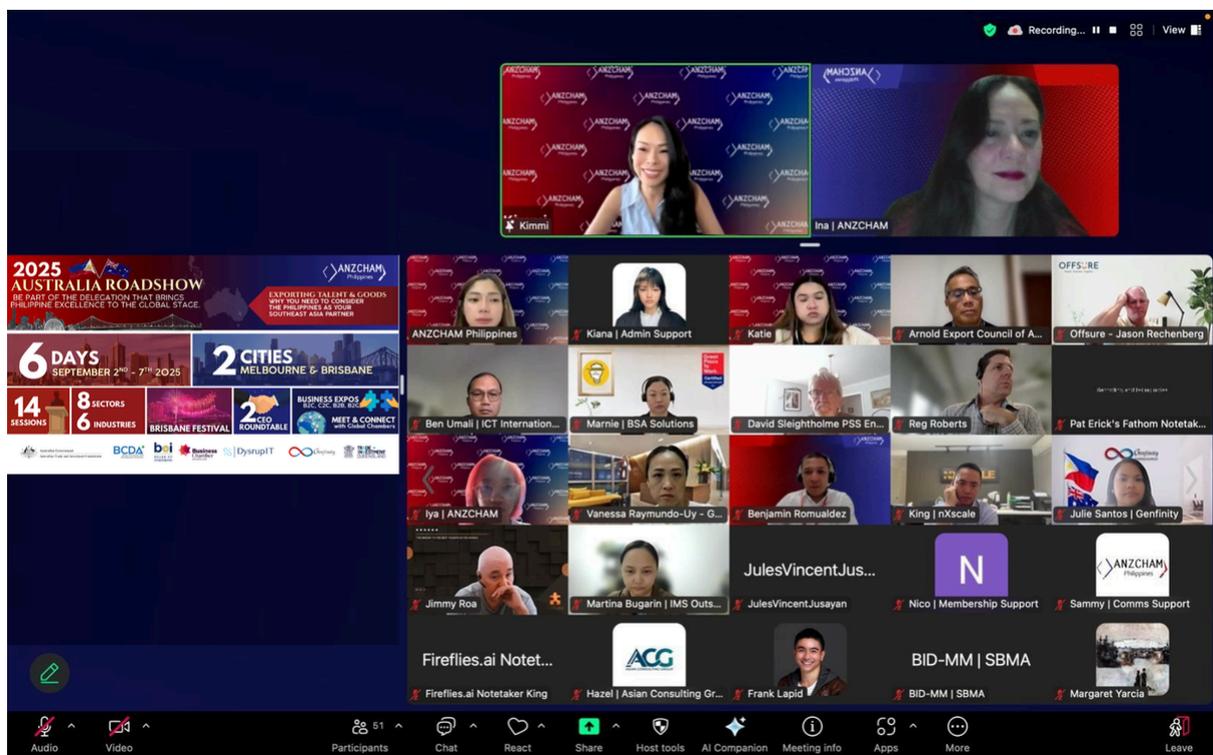
Led by Executive Director Kimmi Siu Dewar, Director of Operations Ina Azarcon, together with, Marketing Lead Katie Ynzon, and Communications Lead Kyle Granadillos, shared recent updates on the Chamber's initiatives, including the upcoming **ANZCham Australia Roadshow 2025**.

With tourism as a catalyst industry, ANZCham sees this mission as a powerful platform to connect Australian investors with the Philippines' **rich pipeline of tourism development opportunities**, flagship enterprise zones, and available incentives.

ANZCham expressed strong enthusiasm to champion these opportunities across its Australian and New Zealand business networks. With **aligned ambitions and a shared outlook**, the Chamber extends its gratitude to TIEZA for the warm welcome and looks forward to co-creating the next chapter of Australia-Philippines tourism investment.

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## ANZCham Roadshow Pre-Mission Info Session



On July 1, ANZCHAM hosted a **Pre-Mission Info Session** in anticipation of **Australia Roadshow 2025**, drawing the interest of **over 50 attendees** from across the Philippine business community. Designed to prepare participants for the week-long program, the session provided a comprehensive walkthrough of the **mission agenda**, including key engagements designed to **position the Philippines as a strategic partner** for Australian businesses.

A follow-up information session was held on **22 July** to accommodate further interest and provide updates. Both sessions offered attendees an overview of what to expect on the ground, from business forums to networking opportunities, and guidance on how participants can **maximize their involvement** by aligning their goals with the mission's objectives, preparing for sector-specific opportunities, and building meaningful connections with counterparts in Australia.

Importantly, delegates were reminded that the mission's broader aim: to showcase Philippine business capabilities, promote investment-ready sectors, and foster long-term bilateral partnerships in line with the **Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040**.

The **ANZCHAM Australia Roadshow 2025** will take place from **September 2 to 7 in Melbourne and Brisbane**. To learn more or express interest in joining the mission, please contact **Katie Ynzon, ANZCham Marketing Lead** at [marketing@anzcham.com](mailto:marketing@anzcham.com)

With strong momentum and **growing interest from both the private and public sectors**, the ANZCHAM Australia Roadshow 2025 is shaping up to be a powerful platform for collaboration, market access, and regional growth.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Australian–New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

## August Monthly Members' Meeting



CO-PRESENTED BY



AUGUST MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING

# From Skills to Impact

*Is your training creating workers or game-changers?*

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Panel Speaker

**ADAM BRIMO**  
Founder & CEO,  
OpenLearning



Panel Speaker

**NANNIE F. MACALINCAG**  
Foundation Operations  
Head, Telstra Foundation  
Philippines



Moderator

**SIMON TERRY**  
Director, ANZCHAM  
General Manager -  
Philippines, GHD

**12 AUGUST 2025**  
05:30 PM -8:00 PM  
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA  
MANILA A & B

TICKET:  
ANZCHAM Members: Free  
Addtl. Members: P2,500  
Non-members & Guests: P2,900

BOOTH PARTNER:



Register Here for AUGUST MMM

## **Upskilling your team is a necessity to your business**

Join us this **12 August**, 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM at Makati Shangri-La, to learn how you can **tap into 100+ Australian universities** through **OpenLearning**, a platform born in Australia and used worldwide, supporting over 3 million learners.

Discover how to design custom learning experiences that **boost your company's Employee Value Proposition (EVP)** and long-term growth.

This month's panel features Adam Brimo, Founder & CEO of OpenLearning (Australia), and Nannie Macalincag, Foundation Operations Head at Telstra Foundation Philippines.

### **TICKET**

ANZCham Members: Free

Additional Members: ₱2,500

Non-Members: ₱2,900

*ⓘ Please note: Payment is required upon registration regardless of attendance. Tickets for no-shows are non-refundable*

[Register Here for AUGUST MMM](#)

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**AUSTRALIA ROADSHOW 2025**



AUSTRALIAN - NEW ZEALAND  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHILIPPINES

OUTBOUND MISSION



# AUSTRALIA ROADSHOW

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*champion the Philippines as a competitive destination for trade and  
investment.*

**MELBOURNE & BRISBANE | SEPTEMBER 2-7, 2025**

Be part of **ANZCHAM'S 2025 AUSTRALIA ROADSHOW** for an opportunity to:

- **MEET AND CONNECT** with *Australian business leaders, Philippine and Australian government agencies, and global chambers.*
- **ACCESS EXCLUSIVE MARKET INSIGHTS**, *explore strategic growth opportunities.*
- **SHOWCASE YOUR ORGANIZATION** at the *Philippines Business Expo.*

 **READY TO JOIN?**

Fill out the Application Form to join the delegation or become a sponsor: <https://forms.gle/usZo53pqZJ4VXW8p8>

✉ **FOR INQUIRIES OR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST, CONTACT:**

Katherine Ynzon, Marketing Lead

✉ [marketing@anzcham.com](mailto:marketing@anzcham.com)

[View Mission Agenda & Delegate Packages](#)

## OCTOBER MMM



CO-PRESENTED BY



OCTOBER MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING

# How **Life-Changing** Are Your Employee Benefits?

**SAY MORE THAN THANK YOU TO YOUR EMPLOYEES**

Explore ways to create meaningful retirement benefits to the people who matter in building your business.



Panel Speaker

**Elvin Tharm**

Head of Retirement Proposition, Asia Retirement Manulife Investment Management (Hong Kong) Limited



Panel Speaker

**Zedric Matubis**

Head of Wealth Sales Manulife Investment Management and Trust Corporation (Philippines)



Panel Speaker

**Raymund Benedict Zalamea**

CEO Zalamea Business Solutions, Inc.



Moderator

**Bela Gupta D'Souza**

Director, ANZCHAM Founder & CEO, Edamama

**14 OCTOBER 2025**  
05:30 PM – 8:00 PM  
Makati Shangri-La

**TICKET:**  
ANZCHAM Members: Free  
Addtl. Members: P2,500  
Non-members & Guests: P2,900

## **How life-changing are your employee benefits?**

Join us on **14 October, 5:30-8:00PM at Makati Shangri-La** for ANZCHAM's October Monthly Members Meeting, co-presented by Manulife

This month's session takes a meaningful look at retirement

Hear from our expert panel as they walk us through: Why setting up a retirement plan matters, the basic steps to starting one, and how you can design a program that goes beyond compliance, one that truly honors the people who help build your business.

### Panel Speakers:

- **Elvin Tharm**, Head of Retirement Proposition, Asia Retirement – Manulife IM (Hong Kong)
- **Zedric Matubis**, Head of Wealth Sales – Manulife IM (Philippines)
- **Raymund Zalamea**, CEO – Zalamea Business Solutions

### Moderator:

- **Bela Gupta D'Souza**, Director, ANZCHAM & Founder & CEO, Edamama

### **REGISTER NOW**

#### **TICKET**

ANZCham Members: Free

Additional Members: ₱2,500

Non-Members: ₱2,900

*① Please note: Payment is required upon registration regardless of attendance. Tickets for no-shows are non-refundable*

[Register Here for OCTOBER MMM](#)

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**ANZCHAM'S GOT TALENT 2025**

# ANZCHAM'S GOT TALENT *Gala*

A NIGHT FULL OF RAFFLE PRIZES!

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2 DECEMBER 2025

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✦ Get ready to shine at ANZCHAM's biggest year-end gathering!

We're rolling out the red carpet once again for ANZCHAM's Got Talent: Gala 2025, a dazzling evening where our community takes center stage.

Expect jaw-dropping **performances**, exciting **raffle prizes**, and a chance to reconnect with friends and colleagues in a night to remember.

When: December 2, 2025

Where: Makati Shangri-La, Rizal Ballroom

Time: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Whether you're ready to perform, support a colleague, or simply enjoy the show — there's a place for you at the Gala!

For table reservations: [katie.ynzon@anzcham.com](mailto:katie.ynzon@anzcham.com)  
For sponsorship inquiries: [iya.quizan@anzcham.com](mailto:iya.quizan@anzcham.com)

Let's close out the year in style 🎆 see you on stage !

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Submit your talent here



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**GPM**



## Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines

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