

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

2025



A Message from ANZCHAM Board Director and Co-founder of Edamama, Bela Gupta D'Souza

Happy 'ber months, members! I'm Bela, ANZCHAM Board Member and co-founder of edamama in the Philippines. I was honored to moderate one of the most exciting panel discussions of the year, **"How Life-Changing Are Your Employee Benefits?"** where we explored a topic of growing importance in our business and personal lives: setting up a strategic retirement plan as an employer.

I was joined by three accomplished professionals bringing their expertise in wealth management and business development, focusing on retirement solutions: Mr. **Elvin Tharm** Senior Managing Director and Head of Retirement Proposition for Asia Retirement at Manulife Investment Management, Mr. **Zedric Matubis**, Head of Wealth Sales at Manulife Investment Management Philippines (MIMTC) and, Mr. **Raymund Benedict Zalamea**, CEO of Zalamea Business Solutions, the largest retirement plan administrator in the Philippines,

What stood out from our discussion was how retirement planning, often seen as a back-office function, is becoming a **defining feature of companies that truly value their people**. It was noted that in today's competitive landscape, businesses are required to go beyond perks to building security, trust, and loyalty with employees. Many in our audience agreed this is essential to attracting and retaining top talent in the private sector, but expressed concerns related to budgeting and a lack of know-how in setting up effective retirement plans that went **'beyond the basics'**.

Our panelists shared how **Zalamea** and **Manulife** had worked with developed retirement plans that saved them much more in the long run, boosted employee morale, and endowed these companies with a significant competitive advantage. **Retirement plans have therefore become popular across all sizes and industries**, but with a lot of room for growth still in a market like the Philippines.

Later in the month, **ANZCHAM held its Mission Appreciation Evening**, a celebration of gratitude and recognition for the **delegates, sponsors, and government partners** who took part in the **Australia Roadshow 2025**. The evening, graciously hosted by **Australian Ambassador H.E. Marc Innes-Brown PSM** at his residence, was a wonderful opportunity to honor everyone's contributions and reaffirm our shared commitment to strengthening business ties between Australia and the Philippines.

As we approach the closing out this year, we'd like to thank our members, partners and colleagues for an engaging 2025, and we look forward to seeing you at the last few remaining events of the year, and beyond!

Warm Regards,
Bela Gupta D'Souza
Director, **ANZCham**
Co-Founder & CEO, **Edamama**

October Monthly Members' Meeting



Another full house at **ANZCHAM's October Monthly Members' Meeting**, held at the Makati Shangri-La on **14 October**, where **over a hundred attendees and business leaders** gathered for an important conversation on retirement readiness and employee retention.



This month's session, co-presented by **Manulife Investment**, brought to the forefront a topic that affects every organization and employee: how to build meaningful retirement and benefits programs that drive loyalty, stability, and long-term success.



ANZCHAM Director and Edamama Founder & CEO Bela Gupta D'Souza (left) moderates a panel discussion with CEO of Zalamea Business Solutions Raymund Zalamea, Head of Wealth Sales at Manulife IM (Philippines) Zedric Matubis, and Head of Retirement Proposition, Asia Retirement, Manulife IM (Hong Kong) Elvin Tharm.

The evening's panel discussion, moderated by **ANZCHAM Director and Edamama Founder & CEO Bela Gupta D'Souza**, brought together a distinguished group of speakers.

Raymund Zalamea, CEO of **Zalamea Business Solutions**, highlighted that today's workforce values flexible and engaging retirement plans that encourage longer tenure during an employee's prime years. **Zedric Matubis**, **Head of Wealth Sales at Manulife IM (Philippines)**, shared how global diversification can strengthen the performance and stability of local retirement funds.



Elvin Tharm, Head of Retirement Proposition, Asia Retirement, Manulife IM (Hong Kong), rounded out the discussion by sharing global best practices, noting that while each market's journey is unique, collaboration between employers, regulators, and financial partners can help drive sustainable, future-ready retirement ecosystems.

Together, the speakers unpacked the realities and opportunities of retirement planning in the Philippines, reminding attendees that **meaningful benefits go beyond compliance** — they are key tools for building a resilient, motivated workforce.



ANZCHAM Mission Appreciation Evening at the Australian Ambassador's Residence



On **21 October 2025**, **Australian Ambassador H.E. Marc Innes-Brown PSM**, together with ANZCHAM, hosted an **Appreciation Evening** dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the delegates, sponsors, and government partners who took part in the recent **ANZCHAM Australia Roadshow 2025**, and the growing business ties between Australia and the Philippines. ANZCHAM's key partners were also in attendance, further demonstrating the strong network of collaboration that continues to drive the Chamber's initiatives forward.



Held at the Australian Ambassador's Residence, the evening served as both a celebration of the mission's success and a reaffirmation of the shared commitment to strengthen bilateral trade and investment.

Ambassador Innes-Brown commended ANZCHAM's leadership and dynamism, emphasizing that such missions are not just about meetings, but about "building bridges that connect entrepreneurs, policymakers, and investors."



ANZCHAM President Benjamin Romualdez thanks the delegates and partners of the 2025 ANZCHAM Australia Roadshow.

ANZCHAM President **Benj Romualdez** also expressed gratitude to the delegation and partners, noting that the evening was an opportunity to recognize everyone's efforts in advancing bilateral trade and investment. Guided by the **Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040**, Romualdez shared that ANZCHAM's business missions have been instrumental in promoting the Philippines as a competitive investment destination for Australian companies.



The event also featured insights from mission sponsors and delegates, including **iQor**, **Cloudstaff**, **DysrupIT**, **Genfinity**, **Philippine Airlines**, **TIEZA-TEZ Management Sector**, and **Austrade**, and recognized the **Philippine Board of Investments (BOI)** and the **Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)**, whose support has been instrumental in opening new opportunities between the two nations.



Special thanks to **ConnectOS** and **Eastern Communications** for making the evening possible, and to the **Australian Embassy in Manila** for hosting a celebration that perfectly captured the spirit of partnership, appreciation, and shared growth.

ANZCHAM remains committed to deepening Australia-Philippines business collaboration by creating more avenues for partnership, knowledge exchange, and sustainable growth across key sectors.

ANZCHAM Joins in Welcoming HMNZS Aotearoa to Manila!



Photo courtesy of the [Philippine Navy](#)

ANZCHAM was honoured to attend the arrival ceremony of the **Royal New Zealand Navy's largest vessel, HMNZS Aotearoa**, which docked in **Manila on 31 October 2025** for a port visit, a proud symbol of the enduring maritime partnership between **New Zealand and the Philippines**.

Representing ANZCHAM at the ceremony were ANZCHAM **President Benj Romualdez** and **Executive Director Kimmi Siu Dewar**.

The ceremony was led by **New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines, Her Excellency Catherine McIntosh**, together with **Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Major General Robert Krushka**, and senior officers of both the **New Zealand Embassy in Manila** and the **Philippine Navy**.



Photos courtesy of the [New Zealand Embassy - Manila, Philippines](#) and [Philippine Navy](#)

This visit is a testament to the shared values and aspirations of New Zealand and the Philippines. As both nations navigate an evolving regional landscape, partnerships like these remind us of the **power of collaboration rooted in trust and respect**. ANZCHAM is honored to be part of a community that continues to bridge our nations through diplomacy, business, and cultural exchange, paving the way for even greater cooperation in the years ahead.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

ANZCHAM'S GOT TALENT

★ **Still thinking about how to celebrate your year-end with your team?**

Join us for **ANZCham's Got Talent 2025**, a night of music, laughter, and amazing prizes!
 ✨ Happening on **2 December** at the **Makati Shangri-La, Rizal Ballroom**

Secure your Table | Buy Raffle Tickets



ANZCHAM Philippines

ANZCHAM'S GOT TALENT Gala

A NIGHT FULL OF RAFFLE PRIZES!

2 DECEMBER 2025

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM | MAKATI SHANGRI-LA RIZAL BALLROOM

GET A CHANCE TO WIN 2 ROUND-TRIP QANTAS TICKETS TO AUSTRALIA!

TICKETS

TABLE OF 10: P70,000
MEMBERS: P7,500 | NON-MEMBERS: P7,900

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT
INA.AZARCON@ANZCHAM.COM | SAMMY.STAMARIA@ANZCHAM.COM

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EVENT PARTNER



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Secure your Table | Buy Raffle Tickets

Two Lucky Stars Will Win Roundtrip Tickets to Australia!

Ready to take your shot? Buy your raffle tickets, submit your act, and join the fun at ANZCHAM's Got Talent 2025!

Two ways to win big this December:

- Raffle Grand Prize:** Everyone's got a chance to win — grab your raffle tickets for a shot at incredible prizes, including staycations, dining experiences, lifestyle treats, and the ultimate getaway to Australia!
- Talent of the Year:** Think you've got the star power? Perform for the chance to be crowned *Talent of the Year* and win your own Qantas roundtrip ticket to Australia!

Links and Details:

- **Buy Raffle Tickets:** <https://tinyurl.com/ANZChamGotTalent2025>

₱300 – 1 entry | ₱1,000 – 4 entries

- **Secure Your Table:** <https://tinyurl.com/ANZChamGotTalent2025>

For table inquiries: marketing@anzcham.com

- **Submit Your Act:** <https://tinyurl.com/ANZChamTalentSubmission>

For talent coordination: communications@anzcham.com

Talent Entry Details:

- To submit a talent, organizations must secure at least one table.
- Entries close on **14 November 2025**.
- Open to individuals, duos, or groups (up to 10 members).
- Accepting performances in singing, dancing, comedy, or any form of entertainment.
- Awards include: *Talent of the Year* (Roundtrip to Australia), *Golden Buzzer*, *Crowd Favorite*, and *Best Costume*.

Don't just hear about it — be part of the celebration everyone will be talking about!

Secure your table | Buy Raffle Tickets

Submit your Talent & Get a chance to Fly to Australia!

TICKETS

- Table of 10 – ₱70,000
- Members – ₱7,500
- Non-Members – ₱7,900

For sponsorship opportunity, reach out to:

✉ sammy.stamaria@ANZCham.com | ✉ ina.azarcon@ANZCham.com



Sponsorship Opportunity

Inclusion & Benefits **LIMITED SLOTS**



- **Naming Rights** (ex. ANZCHAM Co-presented by Company ABC)
- **Company AVP** showing on-screen during opening and end of program
- **Complimentary tickets** to the event
- **Live acknowledgement as tier partner**
- **Booth space** to display/sell product
- **Mention** in pre-, post-event articles and social media posts
- **Pull-up Banners** Space
- **Logo inclusion** in partner's loop during event, event page, marketing materials, and Photobooth

**Inclusion in this list depends on the sponsorship package availed. Contact us for detailed information and to determine the best package for your needs.*

FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST, CONTACT:



After last year's **sold-out ANZCham Christmas Gala** that gathered **over 200 guests**, this year's **ANZCham's Got Talent 2025** is set to be bigger, bolder, and brighter — with a grander venue, more performances, and even greater opportunities to showcase your brand to the #ANZChamCommunity.

Join us as a sponsor and celebrate the season with your team!

- 📅 2 December 2025
- 🕒 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
- 📍 Makati Shangri-La, Rizal Ballroom

Sponsorship Opportunities

- 🎤 Naming Partner
- ★ Event Partner

Whether you want the spotlight or simply wish to celebrate with your partners in style, we'll help you find the perfect fit for your brand.

✉ Connect with us at ✉ ina.azarcon@anzcham.com or ✉ sammy.stamaria@anzcham.com to explore the best sponsorship option for you.

ANZCHAM 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS is HERE!

2025 was a milestone year — with record-breaking attendance, new partnerships, and impactful conversations that brought our community closer than ever.

In **2026**, we're raising the bar once again! 📅 Expect another dynamic lineup of **Monthly Members' Meetings (MMMs)**, **key forums on Innovation, Leadership, and Sustainability**, as well as **industry roundtables, networking socials, and international missions** that strengthen business connections across the ANZ and Philippine communities.

AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHILIPPINES

2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Day Reception with Australian Embassy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waitangi Day Reception 10 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: (5:30PM-8PM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 03 International Women's Day (IWD) Forum: 24 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) (4:30PM-8PM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: co-presented by TOA GLOBAL (5:30PM-8PM) 23 Roadshow 2025: Info Session
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: (5:30PM-8PM) Sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: (5:30PM-8PM) Philippines-Australia Friendship Day Celebration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: PH Government x Business Community (5:30PM-8PM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: (5:30PM-8PM)
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outbound Mission to Australia MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: (5:30PM-8PM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: (5:30PM-8PM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: (5:30PM-8PM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01 ANZCHAM Christmas Party

* Dates: to be confirmed ✦ Sustainability Initiatives ★ Signature/Special Events

Want to be part of the program?

If your organisation would like an opportunity to **showcase your capabilities, share your values, and bring industry insights to our community**, we'd love to hear from you!

Reach out to katie.ynzon@anzcham.com to express your interest in becoming a speaker at our 2026 events.

There's never been a better time to connect, collaborate, and create impact with **ANZCHAM Philippines**.

TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Click here to fill up the form!

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JOIN OUR COMMUNITY HERE.

WE'RE ON YOUTUBE!
www.youtube.com/anzchamPH
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Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines

6TH FLOOR, ONE AYALA AVENUE CORPORATE CENTER, EAST TOWER, AYALA AVENUE CORNER EDSA, BARANGAY SAN LORENZO, MAKATI CITY

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