



MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

2026



A Message from ANZCham's Executive Director, [Kimmi Siu Dewar](#)

One of the conversations I find myself returning to with many of you is just how much our Chamber has evolved in recent years. The reflections are fascinating. The candour, and the ideas you've shared have been both insightful and energising. Change, after all, has a way of showing up differently for each of us: sometimes suddenly, sometimes gradually. What we often overlook is that change is constant - in business or in life - the real question is, are we driving it or being driven by it?

When "[Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040](#)" was introduced two and a half years ago, I don't think I fully anticipated the extent of change it would catalyse within our Chamber. More importantly, it challenged us to step up and to be deliberate in how we align, how we communicate, and how we deliver value. It pushed us to sharpen our messaging and be more intentional in the outcomes we pursue for our members and partners.

That intention has come to life in very tangible ways over the past month. In early March, we welcomed more than 370 leaders and advocates to ANZCham's largest-ever **International Women's Day Luncheon**, where the conversation centred on 'bridging the representation gap'. This was milestone not just in scale, but in the depth of dialogue and engagement it created.

Later in the month, we marked another defining moment as nearly 200 members gathered to celebrate our **45th anniversary**. The inaugural ANZCham Awards Night was a proud reflection of how far our community has come and the standards we continue to set.

ANZCham's role as a convener of meaningful dialogue also continued to strengthen and served as a reminder of the importance of staying closely connected to policy, partnership, and progress. We engaged directly with the [Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite](#), Australian Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade on his first official visit to the Philippines. At the same time, we contributed to broader, forward-looking conversations, joining the launch of the [UNDP's](#) flagship AI report. And as we look to the future of talent and capability, we were proud to support the **Study Australia Education Fair and Digital Skills Roadshow**, connecting our community with 22 leading Australian institutions and opening pathways into high-growth digital fields.

Unprecedented partnerships, ground-breaking events, and meaningful milestones do not happen overnight. They are the result of great minds aligned on purpose, passion, and a shared commitment to move forward, together.

As you dive into this month's highlights and video reels, I trust you will feel the vibrancy and incredible buzz of our ANZCham community. **Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040** has been the catalyst for change and the momentum now has a life of its own. We've set a high bar, and we intend to keep it there.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in ANZCham Philippines. Ultimately change is far more powerful when it's not navigated alone, and the Chamber is stronger when our members are actively part of that journey.

Warm Regards,

Kimmi Siu Dewar

Executive Director, **ANZCham** and Senior Director of Marketing, **Aristocrat Gaming**

Shaping the Future of Trade: ANZCham Board Meets Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite



In Photo: (From L-R, Top Row) Catherine Gallagher, General Manager, Southeast Asia, Austrade; Natalie Davies, Global Experience Officer, Emapta; Albert Henry Rios, First Vice President, BDO; Cecile Cruzabra, Group Treasurer, ACEN; Rod Hoddinott, Senior VP - Client Services, IQOR; Honeybee Hubahib, Chief Representative - Philippines, Qantas; Atty. Roderick Salazar, Senior Partner, Fortun Narvasa and Salazar Law; Miguel Crisostomo, Chief Commercial Officer, Timezone Philippines (From L-R, Bottom Row) Boyet Santiago, Country Head - Philippines, ANZ; H.E. Ambassador Marc Innes-Brown, Australian Embassy; Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia; Kimmi Siu Dewar, Executive Director, ANZCham; Luisa Rust, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, Austrade Manila

On 17th March, the ANZCham Board and Key Partners held an exclusive high-level dialogue with **Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite**, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, during his official visit to the Philippines. This closed-door session served as a vital platform

for members to share on-the-ground insights on the evolving business landscape and advocate for enhanced trade facilitation.

Minister Thistlethwaite recently commended ANZCham for its strategic alignment with the Australian Government's **Invested: Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040**. By championing the Philippines as a premier business destination, the Chamber has successfully bolstered confidence for new Australian market entrants and unlocked fresh opportunities across our business community. This high-level endorsement reinforces the impact of our collective efforts in driving regional growth and strengthening the economic bridge between our two nations.

45 Years of Purpose, Partnership, and Progress



ANZCham celebrated its **45th anniversary** during the Annual General Membership Meeting & Awards Night on the 24th March. Nearly **200 members and partners** gathered to honor the Chamber's legacy of fostering bilateral economic development and impactful business relationships.



The program opened with reflections from former President **Daniel Alexander**, who highlighted ANZCham's enduring strength through leadership diversity and dedicated stewardship. The evening also featured **Charisse Gail Rhodes**, Founder of Gold Key Partner Studio **ID8**. As an Australian alumna, she championed the role of Australian-educated Filipino professionals in applying global perspectives to drive local excellence.

The event concluded with remarks from **Jeff Williams**, Co-Founder and CEO of **Genfinity**. Drawing on his long-standing journey with the Chamber, he emphasized how collaboration and innovation remain the primary drivers of growth for our community and member organizations. This milestone celebration reinforced ANZCham's commitment to building a resilient and connected business landscape for the decades to come.



The pinnacle of our **45th Anniversary** celebration was the historic debut of the **ANZCham Awards Night**. This inaugural event marks the beginning of a prestigious new tradition, dedicated to honoring the visionaries and partners who form the heartbeat of our Chamber.

We are proud to announce the first-ever recipients of these four distinguished honors:

- **Community Engagement Award**
- **Thought Leadership Award**
- **Bridges of Progress Award**
- **CSR Champion Award**

These awards recognize the organizations that do more than just lead - they exemplify the innovation and collaboration that define our mission. By honoring those who amplify our collective impact, we set a high standard for the next 45 years of progress and beyond.



We extend our appreciation to the Australian Government for its support, along with our key event partners: [Info-Tech Research Group](#) and [QBE](#), Advocacy Partners [BDO](#), [Philippine Retirement Authority](#), and [Qantas](#).

Stay tuned for the official announcement of our newly elected Board of Directors!

[Watch the AGM 2026 Highlights Here](#)

Empowering Impact: ANZCham's Largest-Ever IWD Luncheon



ANZCham made history on March 3rd, hosting our largest event to date with a **record-breaking 370 guests** for the Annual International Women's Day Luncheon, bringing together leaders and partners to recognise the undeniable link between women's leadership and business success.



We were privileged to hear from **H.E. Dr. Catherine McIntosh**, New Zealand Ambassador, and **H.E. Marc Innes-Brown PSM**, Australian Ambassador, who opened the event by addressing the topic of, "**Bridging the Representation Gap.**" From New Zealand's "Free to Lead" digital safety toolkit to Australia's International Gender Equality Strategy, their insights underscored a global commitment to advancing female leadership.



Under the theme "**Give to Gain,**" our IWD program this year focused on three transformative pillars:

- **Investing in Our Future:** **Angeline Tham** (CEO, **Angkas**) and **Cara Wilson** (President, **FTW Foundation**) explored the power of structured support and forward-thinking inclusion.
- **Mentorship & Leadership Development:** **Anna Manlapit** (VP HR-Talent COE, **Globe Telecom**) and **Michelle Alarcon** (President, **Analytics and AI Association of the Philippines**) shared vital strategies for succession planning and building executive confidence.
- **New Models of Learning:** **Adam Brimo** (Founder, **OpenLearning**) and **Dr. Fay Lauraya** (President, **University of Nueva Caceres**), highlighted how evolving education and technology are reshaping talent development.



The event concluded with a keynote address from [Hanna Carinna Sy](#) of [SM Supermalls](#). As an Australian alumna and a champion for young leaders, Hanna's story of resilience in uncertain times reminded us that confidence and collective mentorship are the keys to shaping the next generation.

This milestone event was made possible by our Principal Event Partner, [Aristocrat Gaming](#). Their partnership reflects a deep-seated alignment with ANZCham's values; Aristocrat's global commitment to fostering inclusive workplaces and elevating women into leadership roles serves as a powerful benchmark for the industry.

The message of IWD 2026 was clear: **When we give through mentorship, education, and opportunity, we all gain.**



ANZCham also extends our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to our following key event partners for IWD 2026: Trailblazer Partner, [QBE](#); Alumni Leadership Partner, [Australia Awards](#); Changemaker Partners, [Centre Médicale Internationale](#), [DysrupIT](#), and [Hann Casino](#); and Catalyst Partners, [Clinique de Paris](#), [Okada Manila](#), and [Solaire Resort](#); and Raffle Partner: [Qantas](#).

[Watch the IWD 2026 Highlights Here](#)

UNDP's flagship AI report: The Next Great Divergence



In Photo: ANZCham Secretariat with Mohamed Shahudh, Country Economist, UNDP Philippines and Christophe Bahuet, Resident Representative, UNDP Philippines

ANZCham was invited by **UNDP Philippines** to attend the launch of its flagship report, **The Next Great Divergence**, at the SEC Headquarters. The event explored the dual nature of Artificial Intelligence, focusing on its potential to either bridge or widen the inequality gap, particularly within the education, health, and energy sectors.

Key discussions centered on the necessity of inclusive AI strategies, emphasizing that equitable access, robust digital infrastructure, and expanded AI literacy are critical to ensuring the technology benefits all Filipinos.

As a vocal advocate for responsible AI adoption, ANZCham remains committed to helping businesses navigate this transformative landscape. This commitment was highlighted during our **February Monthly Members' Meeting, "AI that Delivers: From Use Cases to Business Impact,"** held in partnership with **Info-Tech Research Group**.

The UNDP report serves as a vital roadmap for policymakers and organizations. It reinforces the Chamber's view that when applied with strategic purpose and ethical oversight, AI can become a powerful tool for a more equitable and sustainable future.

[Access the Full Report Here](#)

Strengthening the Digital Talent Pipeline: Study Australia Roadshow



ANZCham supported the **Study Australia Education Fair and Digital Skills Roadshow** on 10th March, a regional mission that brought 22 leading Australian universities to Makati. The event focused on bridging the gap between education and the future of work, specifically in high-growth fields like AI, cybersecurity, and data science.

Beyond academic pathways, the roadshow featured live masterclasses that showcased Australia's industry-aligned approach to digital capability. For our member organizations, the fair served as a strategic platform to:

- Expand Networks: Strengthening linkages between academia and industry.
- Build Talent Pipelines: Identifying the next generation of globally competitive digital professionals.
- Insights into Innovation: Gaining a firsthand look at advanced ICT and machine learning trends.

By supporting these initiatives, ANZCham continues to foster the workforce development and cross-border partnerships essential for a thriving digital economy in Southeast Asia.



April Monthly Members' Meeting



ARE YOU LOSING
GEN-Z TALENTS
WITHOUT REALIZING IT?

DEEP DIVE INTO THE
GEN-Z WORKSHIFT

**SESSION
HIGHLIGHTS**

- ✓ Shaping the **New Generation of Talent**
- ✓ Aligning **Upskilling** with **Career Growth**
- ✓ **Driving Retention** Through Skills Assessment

Meet the **experts** in powering **Gen-Z Performance**.



Carlo "Inkee" Hidalgo
VP for Learning & Development
TP in the Philippines



Hazel Joyce Tupaz
VP for Talent Acquisition
TP in the Philippines



Angelo "Choi" Jayno
Sales Director
JobStreet Philippines

LEAD SMARTER. BE INSPIRED. DRIVE IMPACT.

21 APRIL 2026

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA

MANILA A & B

BOOTH PARTNER



REGISTER NOW:

COST PER SEAT:

Addtl. Member: Php 2,900
Non-Member: Php 3,500

ANZCham Corporate Member:

One Complimentary Seat

The workplace is evolving fast, and Gen Z is leading the change.

Are you equipped to attract, engage, and retain the next generation of talent?

Join ANZCham Philippines and **TP** for a powerful and future-focused conversation with industry leaders who are navigating this shift in real time. Discover strategies, insights, and practical approaches to building a workplace where Gen Z can thrive, and where your organization can stay competitive.

Be part of this conversation featuring dynamic voices from TP and Jobstreet who are at the forefront of redefining careers, championing young talent, and shaping the future of work across the region.

Hazel Joyce Tupaz, Vice President for Talent Acquisition, **TP**


Carlo Rey "Inkee" Hidalgo, Vice President for Learning & Development, **TP**


 **Angelo Jayno**, Sales Director, [Jobstreet Philippines](#)

This is your chance to learn, connect, and get ahead.

Special thanks as well to our Booth Partner [Jobstreet Philippines](#).

 21 April 2026

 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM


 Makati Shangri-La Manila

Register now and be part of the movement shaping the future of work.

[Register for April MMM](#)

 **TICKET**

- ANZCham Members – Free (one complimentary seat)
- Additional Members – ₱2,900
- Non-Members – ₱3,500

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

[Register for April MMM](#)

Australia Roadshow 2026: Expression of Interest



2026 OUTBOUND MISSION



AUSTRALIA ROADSHOW

BRISBANE | PERTH

SEPTEMBER 7 - 12

**tentative dates & cities*

Showcase Philippine excellence on Australia's business stage.



SCAN QR 

**TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST
IN PARTICIPATING**

For inquiries, contact **Katie Ynzon** at:
marketing@anzcham.com

Express Your Interest


Building on the incredible momentum from last year's Australia Roadshow in Melbourne and Brisbane, **ANZCham Philippines** is thrilled to bring this exclusive opportunity back—bigger and bolder!

We invite you to **express your interest for the Australia Roadshow 2026 in Brisbane & Perth**, and share what you are most looking forward to!

Last year, 16 organizations and over 30 delegates from the private and public sectors forged meaningful partnerships, promoted investments, and drove shared growth. This year, we aim to take an even larger delegation to amplify the bridges between our two countries.

Watch the Australia Roadshow 2025 Highlights Here

Don't miss the chance to put your organization on the map and be part of a transformative journey for Philippine-Australia business collaboration.

 Make sure to **fill out the form below** to be the first to receive updates, program details, and official registration information as soon as they're available.

 For inquiries, please contact: marketing@anzcham.com

Express Your Interest

ANZCham 2026 Calendar: Save the Dates!

🌟 2025 was unforgettable, with record-breaking attendance, new partnerships, and conversations that brought our community closer than ever!

🚀 In 2026 the journey continues and you won't want to miss it.

Save the dates for our upcoming events, all designed to connect and inspire the **Australia, New Zealand, and Philippine business communities.**

AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHILIPPINES			
2026 CALENDAR		ANZCHAM Philippines	
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<p>28 Australia Day Reception with Australian Embassy</p>	<p>* Waitangi Day Reception</p> <p>10 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: co-presented by Info Tech (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</p>	<p>03 ★ International Women's Day (IWD) Forum: Give to Gain. Principal Event Partner: Aristocrat Gaming</p> <p>24 ★ 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) (4:30PM-10PM)</p>	<p>21 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: co-presented by TP in the Philippines: Deep Dive into the Gen-Z Workshift (5:30 PM - 8PM)</p> <p>23* Roadshow 2026: Info Session</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<p>28 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: (5:30 PM - 8PM)</p> <p>22 Philippines-Australia Friendship Day Celebration</p>	<p>9* MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</p> <p>+ NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT (5:15PM - 6PM)</p>	<p>14 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: PH Government x Business Community (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</p>	<p>11 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: New Zealand Updates (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>* ★ Outbound Mission to Australia</p> <p>* MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</p>	<p>13 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: Education (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</p>	<p>10 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: Sales & Marketing / 2027 Business Trends (5:30PM-8PM)</p> <p>+ NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT (5:15PM - 6PM)</p>	<p>01 ★ ANZCHAM Christmas Party</p>

* 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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Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines

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