



A Message from [ANZCham's](#) Board Member, [Natalie Davies](#)

September was a month of meaningful conversations and connections across the ANZCham community. From conversations on leadership and education to new opportunities emerging across Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines, the month highlighted the value of bringing businesses, educators and institutions together to share ideas and build stronger partnerships.

At the heart of this was our September Monthly Members' Meeting, where we asked a timely question: What does it really take to build a high performing team? It is a question that leaders are constantly navigating, particularly as the workplace continues to evolve. Our September Monthly Members' Meeting, **"Dear Leaders, We Need to Talk: Are You Building Ultra High Performers or Just Creating More Meetings?"**, explored this question and challenged us to think differently about how we develop our people.

We were pleased to welcome [Rollie dela Cruz](#) (Portfolio Manager, [Australia Awards](#)), [Wowie Wong](#) (CEO & President, [People Ignite](#)), and [Jonathan Arante](#) (Country Manager - Philippines, [Southern Cross University, Australia](#)), joined by moderator [Kimmi Siu Dewar](#) (ANZCham's Executive Director).

A key message from the discussion was that leadership development goes well beyond formal training. Wowie introduced the 70-20-10 model, highlighting the importance of real world experience, coaching, mentoring and learning from others. Jonathan shared the value of practical, industry focused learning, while Rollie highlighted how the [Australia Awards](#) invests in Filipino talent and encourages scholars to apply their learning within their organizations and communities. This presents an opportunity for businesses, education providers and government to work together to build the talent and capabilities needed for the future.

This broader spirit of partnership was also evident across the region throughout September. Australia and the Philippines formally launched the **PROGRESS economic development program**, a five-year initiative designed to strengthen economic cooperation and support areas including trade, investment and sustainable economic development. For businesses, initiatives such as PROGRESS can help create new opportunities for Australian expertise, Philippine capabilities and cross-border partnerships to come together around shared priorities.

New Zealand also strengthened its engagement with the Philippines through a series of business and cultural activities, including the **New Zealand Geothermal Delegation Cocktail Reception** and **Experience New Zealand**. These engagements provide valuable opportunities for businesses to exchange expertise, build relationships and explore connections across education, energy, trade and other sectors. Together, these developments reflect the growing depth of Australia–New Zealand–Philippines connections and the opportunities they create for our business community.

Looking ahead, I warmly invite our members to our **October Monthly Members' Meeting, "Sustainability Isn't a Side Project: It's How Businesses Create Long Term Value"**, on **13 October 2026** at **Makati Shangri-La**. The session will explore how businesses are rethinking sustainability, turning it into measurable business value and responding to a changing sustainability landscape.

We are also excited to announce our annual Christmas Party Celebration, **ANZCham's Got Talent: Back to the 90s**, on **1 December 2026** at **Makati Shangri La**. Bring your teams and join us for a fun night of 90s nostalgia, exciting performances, great prizes and plenty of surprises as we celebrate another successful year together!

As **ANZCham** continues to connect businesses and professionals across Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines, I look forward to seeing more of our members at these upcoming events and continuing to create opportunities for our community to learn, connect and grow.

Best Regards,

Natalie Davies

*Board Member, **ANZCham** and Chief People and Customer Officer, **Emapta Global***

September Monthly Members' Meeting



What does it take to turn learning into leadership and real workplace impact?

At [ANZCham's September MMM](#), over 100 industry leaders and business representatives came together at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel to explore how organizations can build high-performing leaders by connecting education, experience and intentional development.

The conversation explored what it really takes to develop leaders who can translate learning into action, with the help of intentional leadership training, Australian education, and programmes such as [Australia Awards](#) designed to help Filipino professionals bring new skills and knowledge back into their organizations and communities.

More than simply asking how we train our people, the session challenged leaders to think about how they create opportunities for that learning to be applied, shared and turned into **real impact**.

PROGRESS: Supporting a More Investment-Ready Philippines



Strengthening the Philippines' investment environment is at the heart of Australia's latest development partnership with the country.

[ANZCham](#) joined government and business stakeholders at the launch of the **Promoting Growth, Resilience, Economic Stability and Sustainability in the Philippines (PROGRESS)** program on 22 September at the Department of Finance in Manila. Led by Australian Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade [Matt Thistlethwaite MP](#), the five-year, AUD 45 million initiative reflects Australia's continued commitment to supporting the Philippines' economic development and investment priorities.

PROGRESS will support reforms aimed at reducing regulatory barriers, improving predictability for businesses and investors, and strengthening the Philippines' capacity to deliver sustainable and inclusive growth. Key areas include clean energy and critical minerals, the Luzon Economic Corridor, project preparation, public-private partnerships, and streamlined government processes. For the Australia–New Zealand–Philippines business community, these efforts could contribute to a more enabling environment for investment, stronger regional supply chains, and new opportunities for businesses looking to participate in the Philippines' growth.

Invest with Quezon City: Economic Leadership Briefing



Where will the next opportunities emerge? Quezon City (QC) shared its plans for growth, investment, and development at the Invest with Quezon City: Economic Leadership Briefing.

ANZCham was invited to join business leaders and the QC local government representatives on 17 September for a comprehensive discussion on economic opportunities in the city. With more than 80,000 businesses and an economy contributing approximately PHP 1.4 trillion, or 6% of the Philippines' GDP, QC is strengthening its position as an investment destination through digitalization, improved ease of doing business, and stronger public-private collaboration. [Mayor Joy Belmonte](#) has emphasized the city's ambition to be a "business-friendly city," with its Economic Development and Investment Plan (EDIP) setting priorities around growth hubs, job creation, sustainable infrastructure, innovation, and inclusive economic development.

The briefing also gave businesses greater visibility into Quezon City's emerging growth hubs and long-term land use plans, helping investors understand where new opportunities may develop across the city. For ANZCham, engagements like this connect our business network with Philippine local government priorities, giving members opportunities to explore potential investments, partnerships, and areas where their expertise and solutions can support Quezon City's growth.

[Explore Quezon City's Economic & Development Plan Here](#)

Orica Inaugurates New Office in Manila



A new Manila home signals continued confidence in Filipino talent and the Philippines' role in [Orica's](#) global operations.

[ANZCham](#) was invited by its Key Partner, [Orica Philippines](#), to the inauguration of its new Manila office on 23 September, marking a new chapter in the company's more than 50-year presence in the Philippines. The milestone reflects Orica's continued investment in the country, with its Global Business Services (GBS) team growing from more than 200 employees in 2015 to nearly 800 today, supporting operations across Southeast Asia and Orica's global network. The new workspace was designed to strengthen collaboration, support new ways of working, and provide a platform for continued investment in technology, digital automation, and future-ready talent.

The opening also highlighted the broader Australia–Philippines economic partnership, with Australian Ambassador to the Philippines [H.E. Marc Innes-Brown](#) recognizing Orica as an example of the opportunities created through long-term investment and collaboration. With Orica's capabilities spanning resources, energy, infrastructure, critical minerals, technology, and skills development, its growing presence in Manila reflects the Philippines' strategic role in the company's global operations and the potential for deeper business ties between the two countries.

Coface's Risk Ready Pilipinas Forum 2026



In a complex business environment, better decisions start with better information.

[ANZCham](#) served as an Event Partner for [Coface's](#) Risk Ready Pilipinas Forum 2026, bringing together leaders across finance, trade, and risk management to examine how businesses can navigate an increasingly uncertain landscape. Discussions covered emerging macroeconomic trends, global trade shifts, credit risk, and business resilience, highlighting the importance of staying informed and anticipating changes that can affect business decisions.

The forum also brought members of the ANZCham community, including [BDO](#), into the conversation, creating opportunities to exchange insights with industry leaders and risk professionals. As businesses across the Australia–New Zealand–Philippines network navigate evolving markets and global trade conditions, engagements like this give members access to timely perspectives that can support more informed and confident decision-making.

New Zealand Geothermal Delegation Cocktail Reception



As the Philippines looks to advance renewable energy, New Zealand expertise is helping open new avenues for geothermal collaboration.

ANZCham joined the [New Zealand Embassy in Manila](#) in welcoming a delegation of 20 business leaders from nine leading New Zealand companies as part of the Philippines–New Zealand Geothermal Week on 1 September. Hosted at the New Zealand Ambassador's residence, the gathering marked several milestones in the bilateral relationship, including the recent elevation to a Comprehensive Partnership, and the signing of the third amendment to the countries' geothermal energy cooperation arrangement.

The delegation brought together expertise across geothermal development, resource assessment, engineering, research, education, and sustainable energy innovation, creating opportunities to exchange knowledge and explore potential collaboration with Philippine stakeholders. With both countries advancing sustainable energy solutions, the engagement highlighted the value of connecting New Zealand expertise with Philippine opportunities and strengthening the business and technical partnerships that can support the sector's growth.

Experience New Zealand at One Ayala



Sixty years of diplomatic relations came to life through a celebration of the people, partnerships, and shared opportunities connecting New Zealand and the Philippines.

ANZCham supported the **Experience New Zealand**, organized by the [New Zealand Embassy in Manila](#) on 26–27 September. The two-day showcase of New Zealand featured culture, tourism, education, food, trade, and sport including a special musical collaboration between New Zealand artist [Bic Runga](#) and the [Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra](#), alongside a performance by kapa haka group [Ngā Hau E Whā](#). The showcase also brought together 12 New Zealand education providers and 20 trade booths featuring food, beverages, and other New Zealand products.

In her remarks, New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines [Dr. Catherine McIntosh](#) emphasized that “people are at the heart of our relationship,” highlighting the communities, families, students, and businesses that continue to bring the partnership to life. As New Zealand and the Philippines enter a new chapter through their Comprehensive Partnership, these connections provide a strong foundation for deeper collaboration. For ANZCham, this underscores the value of creating opportunities to learn from, engage with, and build partnerships across markets such as New Zealand.

Learning Fest 2026 by People Ignite



From prompting AI to managing stakeholders, Learning Fest 2026 turned everyday workplace challenges into practical learning opportunities.

ANZCham was invited to participate in [People Ignite's](#) Learning Fest 2026, bringing together business leaders for a day of practical learning and exchange. Sessions covered AI and precision prompting, stakeholder management, thinking on your feet, and talent decision-making, with a common focus on applying simple approaches to improve communication, decision-making, and workplace performance.

The event also builds on ANZCham's connection with [People Ignite](#) and its President and CEO, [Wowie Wong](#), who was a panel speaker at ANZCham's September MMM on leadership, education, and professional development. Together, these engagements give members opportunities to access practical insights from industry experts and bring new perspectives back to their teams and organizations, while strengthening connections across the wider business community.

Connecting the Philippines and Malaysia Through Tourism and Business



Tourism can be a gateway to wider commercial connections, bringing businesses, travelers, and markets closer together.

ANZCham was invited to the Malaysia–Philippines Tourism Trade & Wellness Connect 2026 on 22 September at the [Embassy of Malaysia in Manila](#), bringing together 75 stakeholders across tourism, travel, business, banking, marine, and other sectors. Hosted by [Malaysia Airlines](#) with [Tourism Malaysia](#) and industry partners, the gathering explored opportunities to strengthen tourism and commercial links between the Philippines and Malaysia, including new tour packages, wellness and lifestyle offerings, and onward travel connections.

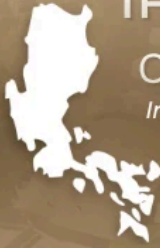
The event gave ANZCham an opportunity to engage with stakeholders and gain insights into emerging opportunities in tourism and travel across the ASEAN region, giving members greater visibility into regional opportunities and new avenues for partnerships beyond the Australia–New Zealand–Philippines business community.



Ready to Take the Stage? Submit your talent application here!



 NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING 2026

 **THE LUZON ECONOMIC CORRIDOR:**
CONNECTING AMBITION TO OPPORTUNITY
Infrastructure, Investment & New Possibilities for AU-NZ-PH Businesses

★ PRE-EVENT EXCLUSIVE: **NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT**

 **MAKATI SHANGRI-LA**
MANILA A & B

 **10 NOVEMBER 2026**
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

 [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

 THE AUSTRALIA ROADSHOW 2026

Business Connect

26 OCTOBER 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Enki at Babylon,
145 Eagle St., Brisbane

BRISBANE
with the Australia Awards & Alumni

Australia Awards & Alumni:
Complimentary
Individual Ticket:
AUD \$75

 [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

 THE AUSTRALIA ROADSHOW 2026

Business Connect

28 OCTOBER 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
The Island at Elizabeth Quay,
1 Valdura Pl, Perth

PERTH

Individual Ticket:
AUD \$75

 [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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			
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
28 Australia Day Reception with Australian Embassy	* Waitangi Day Reception 10 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: <i>co-presented by Info-Tech: AI That Delivers: From Use Cases to Business Impact (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</i>	03 ★ International Women's Day (IWD) Forum: Give to Gain. Principal Event Partner: Aristocrat Gaming 24 ★ 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) (4:30 PM-10 PM)	21 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: <i>co-presented by TP in the Philippines: Deep Dive into the Gen-Z Workshift (5:30 PM - 8PM)</i>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
28 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: <i>co-presented by ANZ: From Uncertainty to Action: Navigating the Global Economic shift (5:30 PM - 8PM)</i> 22 Philippines-Australia Friendship Day Celebration	18 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: <i>co-presented by Coface: How are you operating your business forward in a VUCA World? (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</i>	21 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: <i>One Click Away: How Close Most Businesses are to a Major Breakdown (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</i> + NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT (5:15 PM - 6PM)	18 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: <i>Ready, Set, Bid!: Qualifying Your Business for Asian Development Bank Projects (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</i>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
15 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: <i>Dear Leaders, We Need to Talk: Are You Building Ultra-High Performers or Just Creating More Meetings? (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</i>	26-30 ★ Outbound Mission to Australia 13 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: <i>★ Sustainability isn't a Side Project: It's How Businesses Create Long-term Value (5:30 PM - 8 PM)</i>	10 MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING: <i>The Luzon Economic Corridor: Connecting Ambition to Opportunity (5:30PM-8PM)</i> + NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT (5:15PM - 6PM)	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**.



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// **Double Line**



Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines

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AYALA AVENUE CORNER EDSA, BARANGAY SAN LORENZO, MAKATI CITY

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