



TAMBULI Weekly Newsletter

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1. THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE FPI FORUM 2.0 – “GEOPOLITICS, PEACE AND PROSPERITY: ENSURING BUSINESS RESILIENCE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES”

FEDERATION OF PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIES, INC.
FPI Forum 2.0

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**Geopolitics, Peace and Prosperity:
Ensuring Business Resilience in Uncertain Times**

THURSDAY
19 MARCH, 2026
9AM-1PM

BONIFACIO A – ROOM
SHANGRILA THE FORT
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2. The Middle East crisis and Philippine agriculture – By: Ernesto M. Ordoñez

MANILA, Philippines — During the 2008 global financial crisis, Rahm Emanuel said: “Never let a good crisis go to waste.”

This concept appears very early in the writings of Roman philosopher Seneca (first century AD). He wrote that misfortune is a test that allows good people to grow stronger.

The Middle East crisis poses serious problems for Philippine agriculture. Our global supply chains are jeopardized, with less access to the agriculture imports we need. We must grow stronger by taking this opportunity to implement

critical agriculture reforms.

Last March 11, we interviewed Director Glenn Panganiban of the Bureau of Plant Industry. He talked to us from Rome, where he is currently getting valuable ideas on this topic at a Food and Agriculture Organization conference.

I relate here some of his insights. I combine this with discussions I had during the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) budget review by the Philippine Council of Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) held last March 2 to March 6 in Lubao, Pampanga.

Considering this crisis, there are four areas where we can start implementing meaningful reforms: solar energy, fertilizers, vegetable production and consolidation.

Solar energy

With our dependence on fuel now endangered by the current war, we must turn to solar energy, where we can count on the sunshine that we

get. Last March 11, during First Gen's groundbreaking ceremony for the P2-billion Inara Solar Power Project in Tanauan, Batangas, Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto said: "Reusable energy is important amid global fuel shocks and this project will boost the local economy." (To read/view the full article follow this link:

<https://business.inquirer.net/579274/the-middle-east-crisis-and-Philippine-agriculture>)

3. FPI Board in action





4. FPI in the news

To build PH industry, strengthen bank boards | <https://opinion.inquirer.net/190534/to-build-ph-industry-strengthen-bank-boards>

SteelAsia executives weigh in on state of PH steel industry | ANC | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2h48V1ZTiRE>

Manufacturers, retailers brace for rising costs, spending cuts | <https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/03/20/2515469/manufacturers-retailers-brace-rising-costs-spending-cuts/amp/>

Industry leader calls for belt tightening | <https://malaya.com.ph/business/business-news/industry-leader-calls-for-belt-tightening/>

Manufacturers, Retailers Brace For Rising Costs, Spending Cuts |
https://www.onenews.ph/articles/manufacturers-retailers-brace-for-rising-costs-spending-cuts#google_vignette

Biz groups: No layoffs for now despite crisis |
<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2198413/biz-groups-no-layoffs-for-now-despite-crisis/amp>

Fuel, forex pressures force firms into tightening belts |
<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/03/19/fuel-forex-pressures-force-firms-into-tightening-belts/>

Manufacturers: Yearlong war in Iran spells 'trouble' |
https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2026/03/19/737623/manufacturers-yearlong-war-in-iran-spells-trouble/#google_vignette

PH industries urged to tighten belts amid rising oil prices, weaker peso |
<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/980653/ph-industries-urged-to-tighten-belts-amid-rising-oil-prices-weaker-peso/story/>

Manufacturers 'tighten belts' to save jobs; urge gov't to accelerate infrastructure spending |
<https://logisticsnews.ph/2026/03/19/manufacturers-tighten-belts-to-save-jobs-urge-govt-to-accelerate-infrastructure-spending/>

PH top diplomat tells industry makers: The gov't is working for you |
<https://mb.com.ph/2026/03/19/ph-top-diplomat-tells-industry-makers-the-govt-is-working-for-you>

Peso at P60: Manufacturers tighten belts amid global uncertainty |
<https://www.facebook.com/100064992870078/posts/1345815837594833/?mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=ZjTyn77id9ePJdkh#> | <https://tribune.net.ph/amp/story/2026/03/19/peso-at-p60-manufacturers-tighten-belts-amid-global-uncertainty>

FPI: Amid high oil prices, no signs of workforce cuts for now |
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1271425>

Philippine manufacturers cut costs as peso breaches 60 per dollar |
<https://mb.com.ph/2026/03/19/philippine-manufacturers-cut-costs-as-peso-breaches-60-per-dollar>

SteelAsia executives weigh in on state of PH steel industry | ANC |
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2h48V1ZTiRE>

Jesus Lim Arranza on fuel costs and what it means for Philippine businesses | Business 360 |
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwS6XnEAwsq>

Farmers, business associations back intensified campaign vs illicit tobacco |
<https://journalnews.com.ph/farmers-business-associations-back-intensified-campaign-vs-illicit-tobacco/#gsc.tab=0>

Business groups, farmers hail gov't crackdown on illicit tobacco trade |
<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2196066/business-groups-farmers-hail-govt-crackdown-on-illicit-tobacco-trade/amp>

Business, agriculture sectors laud decisive gov't action against illicit tobacco trade |
https://manilastandard.net/business/314715906/business-agriculture-sectors-laud-decisive-govt-action-against-illicit-tobacco-trade.html#google_vignette

The Middle East crisis and Philippine agriculture |

<https://business.inquirer.net/579274/the-middle-east-crisis-and-Philippine-agriculture>

A welcome approach in Congress | <https://business.inquirer.net/577882/a-welcome-approach-in-Congress>

Glass products subject to mandatory certification |

https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2026/03/05/734532/glass-products-subject-to-mandatory-certification/?fbclid=IwDGRjcAQXN2NleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2NjI4NTY4Mzc5AAEeuEyz58xVnO0OTB_NkK4pDg1VcCwTrKVkpjUW7AvKLKPSexJfCjIEFBZR9g_aem_lDj8vGmvHE6COWJZT15Waw#google_vignette

WATCH | 4-DAY WORKWEEK? | <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1479286247042652>

Local steel makers call for strict implementation of PH standards for Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge project |

https://logisticsnews.ph/2026/03/05/local-steel-makers-call-for-strict-implementation-of-ph-standards-for-bataan-cavite-interlink-bridge-project/?fbclid=IwDGRjcAQXMEJleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2NjI4NTY4Mzc5AAEeWkkBUmxPhfpPg3pJ9ven5VUKVsVmM1uRlzTGWfMLYNBCzrTO2DFhOVCJcOo_aem_r6aQdpQP4JGrFD0rGaeJQ

A welcome approach in Congress | https://logisticsnews.ph/2026/03/05/local-steel-makers-call-for-strict-implementation-of-ph-standards-for-bataan-cavite-interlink-bridge-project/?fbclid=IwDGRjcAQXMEJleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2NjI4NTY4Mzc5AAEeWkkBUmxPhfpPg3pJ9ven5VUKVsVmM1uRlzTGWfMLYNBCzrTO2DFhOVCJcOo_aem_r6aQdpQP4JGrFD0rGaeJQ

https://logisticsnews.ph/2026/03/05/local-steel-makers-call-for-strict-implementation-of-ph-standards-for-bataan-cavite-interlink-bridge-project/?fbclid=IwDGRjcAQXMEJleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2NjI4NTY4Mzc5AAEeWkkBUmxPhfpPg3pJ9ven5VUKVsVmM1uRlzTGWfMLYNBCzrTO2DFhOVCJcOo_aem_r6aQdpQP4JGrFD0rGaeJQ

5. Other news & announcements

Contractors may halt projects amid soaring oil and material costs | Business Brief | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2KZLs7ShDQ>

Long-term fundamentals of biodiesel intact – D&L |

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/03/19/2515237/long-term-fundamentals-biodiesel-intact-dl>

[REGISTER] Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) - “She Creates, She Connects: Reimagining Women’s Empowerment in the Tourism and Creative Industries” | March 26 | 9:00AM-12:00PM | via Zoom |

<https://pids.gov.ph/details/event/she-creates-she-connects-reimagining-women-s-empowerment-in-the-tourism-and-creative-industries>

Cash remittances hit \$3.02B in January |

<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2026/03/17/736554/cash-remittances-hit-3-02b-in-january/>

Philippines rises in Index of Economic Freedom |

<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2026/03/17/736668/philippines-rises-in-index-of-economic-freedom/>

Industry Policy for Development from no less than the World Bank! See full

report: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/9169a635-5f81-45ef-8341-3ced8b387cf8/content>

How minimum wages compared across regions in February |
<https://www.bworldonline.com/infographics/2026/03/13/735870/how-minimum-wages-compared-across-regions-in-february-4/>

ASEAN must strengthen resilience against shocks from Middle East crisis, Philippine trade secretary says |
<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2026/03/13/736138/asean-must-strengthen-resilience-against-shocks-from-middle-east-crisis-philippine-trade-secretary-says/>

MPIC core profit climbs 15% to P27B on power, water, toll contributions |
https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2026/03/12/735770/mpic-core-profit-climbs-15-to-p27b-on-power-water-toll-contributions/#google_vignette

RLC, GenSan sign P2.33-billion PPP for public market redevelopment |
<https://www.bworldonline.com/editors-picks/2026/03/12/735744/rlc-gensan-sign-p2-33-billion-ppp-for-public-market-redevelopment/>

ICTSI poised for another double-digit profit growth |
<https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/03/14/2514086/ictsi-poised-another-double-digit-profit-growth>

The Mushroom Japan Approved for Cancer in 1977. FDA Tested It. Big Pharma Buried It. |
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMdFA8MDmVo>

THE PHILIPPINES TOURISM CRISIS 2026: Why Travelers Aren't Coming Back |
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z76IT0xSeBc>

Prime Infra to acquire Colombia oil producer SierraCol from Carlyle | Business 360 |
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YdIARDO8RE>

Energy crisis |
<https://www.philstar.com/business/2026/03/09/2512909/energy-crisis>

Qatar energy minister warns war will force Gulf to halt energy exports within weeks, FT says |
<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/qatar-energy-minister-warns-war-will-force-gulf-stop-energy-exports-within-weeks-2026-03-06/>

BIR RR No. 2-2026 - Guidelines in the Availment of the Fiscal Incentives Under Section 38 of Republic Act No. 12120, Otherwise Known as the "Philippine Natural Gas Industry Development Act" |
<https://bir-cdn.bir.gov.ph/BIR/pdf/RR%20No.%202-2026.pdf>

BIR RMO No. 8-2026 - Amending Revenue Memorandum Order No. 37-2023 on the Guidelines and Procedures in the Processing of Customer Satisfaction Survey for Frontline Services under Client Support Service |
[Full Text](#) | [Annex A](#) | [Annexes B-E](#)

BIR RMO No. 7-2026 - Adoption of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Measures Pursuant to Memorandum Circular No. 114 Dated March 6, 2026 of the Office of the President (OP), Malacañang Palace |
<https://bir-cdn.bir.gov.ph/BIR/pdf/RMO%20No.%207-2026.pdf>

BIR RMC No. 20-2026 - Guidelines in the Filing of Annual Income Tax Returns and Payment of Corresponding Taxes Due Thereon for Calendar Year 2025 |
[Full Text](#) | [Annex A](#) | [Annex B](#) | [Annex C](#) | [Annex D](#)

BIR RMC No. 19-2026 - Circularizing the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11650, otherwise known as the "Instituting a Policy of Inclusion and Services for Learners with Disabilities in Support of Inclusive Education Act" | [Full Text](#) | [IRR of R.A. No. 11650](#)

CONDUCT OF SEC CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION IN CEBU ON 16 APRIL 2026 | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/cmp-notice-2026/conduct-of-sec-certification-examination-in-cebu-on-16-april-2026/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC CERTIFICATION WEBINARS SCHEDULES AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURE | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/cmp-notice/sec-certification-webinars-schedules-and-registration-procedure-2/#gsc.tab=0>

INCLUSION OF INCREASE OF CAPITAL STOCK – CASH PAYMENT FOR ONE PERSON CORPORATIONS (FILIPINO NATIONAL) IN SIMPLE PROCESSING UNDER THE eAMEND SYSTEM | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices-2026/inclusion-of-increase-of-capital-stock-cash-payment-for-one-person-corporations-filipino-national-in-simple-processing-under-the-eamend-system/#gsc.tab=0>

PHILIPPINES' THIRD NATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT ON MONEY LAUNDERING, TERRORISM FINANCING, AND PROLIFERATION FINANCING | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices/philippines-third-national-risk-assessment-on-money-laundering-terrorism-financing-and-proliferation-financing/#gsc.tab=0>

NOTICE ON THE ALTERNATIVE MODE OF DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICE AND ASM MATERIALS FOR 2026 | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices-2026/notice-on-the-alternative-mode-of-distribution-of-notice-and-asm-materials-for-2026/#gsc.tab=0>

IMPLEMENTATION OF FOUR-DAY ONSITE WORKWEEK AT THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices-2026/implementation-of-four-day-onsite-workweek-at-the-securities-and-exchange-commission/#gsc.tab=0>

SUBMISSION OF SECONDARY REPORTS VIA eFAST | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices-2026/submission-of-secondary-reports-via-efast/#gsc.tab=0>

TEMPORARY USE OF 2020 FORM FOR URGENT FILING OF GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET ON EFAST | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices-2026/temporary-use-of-2020-form-for-urgent-filing-of-general-information-sheet-on-efast/#gsc.tab=0>

SUCCESSFUL SELECTION OF PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES 2026-2029 | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notice-mnrc/successful-selection-of-private-sector-representatives-2026-2029/#gsc.tab=0>

NOTICE ON THE EARLY CONDUCT OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETINGS | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notices-2026/notice-on-the-early-conduct-of-annual-stockholders-meetings/#gsc.tab=0>

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS RE: GUIDELINES LIFTING THE MORATORIUM ON ONLINE LENDING PLATFORMS AND PRESCRIBING PRUDENTIAL, DISCLOSURE, AND MARKET CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCING AND LENDING COMPANIES | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/notice-lcfc/request-for-comments-re-guidelines-lifting-the-moratorium-on-online-lending-platforms-and-prescribing-prudential-disclosure-and-market-conduct-requirements-for-financing-and-lending-companies/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC approves bond offer by San Miguel Global Power | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-approves-bond-offer-by-san-miguel-global-power/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC clears PNB Holdings' listing by way of introduction | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-clears-pnb-holdings-listing-by-way-of-introduction/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC to lift online lending moratorium under enhanced regulatory framework | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-to-lift-online-lending-moratorium-under-enhanced-regulatory-framework/#gsc.tab=0>

SEC eases requirements for early stockholders' meetings for companies with registered securities | <https://www.sec.gov.ph/pr-2026/sec-eases-requirements-for-early-stockholders-meetings-for-companies-with-registered-securities/#gsc.tab=0>

BOC OCOM memo 29-2026 - Establishment of Monitoring and Aging Tracker for Pending Cases | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-29-OCOM-MEMO.pdf>

BOC OCOM memo 28-2026 - Monitoring and Action on Priority Communications | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-28-OCOM-MEMO-1.pdf>

BOC IAG memo 10-2026 - Guidelines in the Conduct of Disposal of Records as Authorized by the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP) | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-10-IAG-MEMO-1.pdf>

BOC CMO 03-2026 - Implementation of the New Electronic Certificate of Payment System (e-CP System) | <https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026CMO-03-2026.pdf>

Customs Chief Leads Inspection of Seized ₱235M Illicit Cigarette Shipment in Batangas | <https://customs.gov.ph/customs-chief-leads-inspection-of-seized-%e2%82%b1235m-illicit-cigarette-shipment-in-batangas/>

BOC PCAG Awards Stakeholders Supporting Stronger Customs Audit and Compliance | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-pcag-awards-stakeholders-supporting-stronger-customs-audit-and-compliance/>

₱382 Million in Illicit Cigarette Materials Confiscated as BOC Intensifies Anti-Smuggling Drive | <https://customs.gov.ph/%e2%82%b1382-million-in-illicit-cigarette-materials-confiscated-as-boc-intensifies-anti-smuggling-drive/>

BOC Turns Over ₱102.4 Million in Auction Proceeds from Seized Discaya Luxury Vehicles to the Bureau of the Treasury | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-turns-over-%e2%82%b1102-4-million-in-auction-proceeds-from-seized-discaya-luxury-vehicles-to-the-bureau-of-the-treasury/>

BOC Rolls Out New e-CP System to End Manual Delays and Fully Digitize Vehicle Import Payments | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-rolls-out-new-e-cp-system-to-end-manual-delays-and-fully-digitize-vehicle-import-payments-2/>

BOC Halted Illegal Entry of Cigarettes at Batangas Port | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-halted-illegal-entry-of-cigarettes-at-batangas-port/>

BOC Orders All Ports to Monitor Oil Importations and Inventory Levels Amid Global Supply Concerns | <https://customs.gov.ph/boc-orders-all-ports-to-monitor-oil-importations-and-inventory-levels-amid-global-supply-concerns/>

20TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE HEARINGS/MEETINGS

- [Senate of the Philippines Committee Hearings/Meetings](#)
- [House of Representatives Committee Meetings](#)

“That in all things God may be glorified”