

XI FORO ESPAÑA-FILIPINAS

19, 20 de marzo de 2025 en Madrid

21 de marzo de 2025 en Cuenca

11th SPAIN- PHILIPPINES FORUM

19 and 20 March 2025 in Madrid

21 March 2025 in Cuenca

Organized by:



CASA
ASIA



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MUSEO DE ARTE
ABSTRACTO ESPAÑOL

FUNDACIÓN JUAN MARCH
CUENCA

XI FORO ESPAÑA-FILIPINAS

11th SPAIN-PHILIPPINES FORUM

Celebrating Spanish-Philippines Connection
through Commerce and Culture

INTRODUCTION

With the theme **“Celebrating Spanish-Philippines Connection through Commerce and Culture”** this year’s Forum will be held on 19th-21st March 2025 in Madrid and Cuenca.

The forum will comprise forth comprehensive sessions, covering the following topics:

- Language and culture as public goods
- The EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement
- Port-to-port cooperation in the field of decarbonization and sustainability
- Water resources management
- The legacy of Fernando Zobel

The first session, entitled: **“Cultural and linguistic exchanges between Spain and the Philippines”**, will explore the situation of the Spanish language in the Philippines, as well as the opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the field of culture.

This will be followed by the second session, themed: **“EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement: current status of negotiations and future prospects”**. In March 2024, the EU and the Philippines agreed to resume negotiations for an ambitious free trade agreement (FTA). Should the negotiations be concluded positively, the tariff reductions, the simplification of non-tariff barriers, the opening of the government procurement market and other aspects will enhance trade and investment relations between Spain and the Philippines.

The third session is entitled **“Port-to-port cooperation in the field of decarbonization and sustainability”**. The ports of Spain and the Philippines share the objective of focusing on environmental measures, such as reducing carbon emissions, controlling water pollution, and improving energy efficiency. This session will discuss some of the best practices in the management of Spanish and Philippine ports in the area of sustainability.

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The fourth and the last session will be devoted to **“Water resources management”**. Water management is the set of actions and processes that make it possible to plan, allocate, and optimize the use of water resources. The aim is to ensure that water needs are met without compromising sustainable development. Due to the scarcity of water resources, cooperation between Spain and the Philippines in this area could help to optimize water use and minimize environmental impact.

The fifth and the last session, which will take place in Cuenca, will focus on **“The legacy of Fernando Zobel: perspectives from Spain and the Philippines”**. Fernando Zobel, the Manila-born painter and founder of the Museo de Arte Abstracto de Cuenca was an innovator in the field of abstract art. He has been one of the artistic figures who have contributed most to relations between Spain and the Philippines, acting as a cultural bridge between the two countries.

Distinguished speakers and experts from the government, diplomatic, cultural and business communities will share their insights on possible collaborations. By understanding the multisectoral dimensions of their shared legacy, both nations can better navigate the current landscape and create a future characterized by strengthened partnerships.

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MARCH 19



Instituto Cervantes – Auditorium
Calle Barquillo, 9. Madrid



The sessions this day will be in Spanish and English with simultaneous translation.

16:00 - 16:30h

Accreditation of participants

16:30 -17:15h

Welcome Remarks

- **Luis García Montero**, Director, Instituto Cervantes
- **José Pintor Aguilar**, Director General, Casa Asia
- **Eunina Mangio**, President, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)

Opening Speeches

- **Luis Fonseca Sánchez**, Director General for North America, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation
- **Charles. C. Jose**, Undersecretary, Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations, Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs

17:15 – 18:45h

Session 1: “Cultural and linguistic exchanges between Spain and the Philippines”

- **Chairperson, Luis Marina Bravo**, Director of International Relations, Cervantes Institute
- **Francisco Moreno**, Director of the Global Observatory for the Spanish Language
- **Daisy Lopez**, Professor, University of the Philippines
- **Carlos G. Navarro**, Curator, El Prado Museum

Discussion

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MARCH 20



Instituto Cervantes – Auditorium
Calle Barquillo, 9. Madrid



All the sessions this day will be in English.

09:00 - 09:30h

Accreditation of participants

09:30 - 11:00h

Session 2. “EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement: Current status of negotiations and future prospects”

- **Chairperson, Jaime Montalvo**, International Director. Spanish Chamber of Commerce
- **Julian Conthe**, Director General for Trade Policy, Ministry of Economy, Commerce and Business
- **Charles C. Jose**, Undersecretary, Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs
- **Marta Blanco**, President, CEOE International
- **Rubén Camba**, President, Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30h

Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00h

Session 3. “Port-to-port cooperation in the field of decarbonization and sustainability”

- **Chairperson, Julio Carlos Fuentes Gómez**, Deputy Director General for Maritime Regulation and International Cooperation in the Ministry of Transport
- **Elmer Cadano**, Assistant General Manager for Finance and Administration, Philippine Ports Authority
- **Juan Pablo Pérez**, Head of Port Planning Dept. Port of Algeciras
- **Tico Wieske**, SVP, Head Global Commercial. International Container Terminal Services Inc
- **Margarita Pery**, Port Infrastructure Director, IDOM

Discussion

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15:30 - 17:00h

Session 4. "Water resources management"

- **Chairperson (Philippines)**
 - **Emmanuel "Jocot" de Dios**, President and CEO of Manila Water Company
 - **Javier Nieto**, Global Business Development and Strategy Director, Acciona
 - **Roderick M. Planta**, Assistant Secretary of the Infrastructure Development Office, National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)
 - **Cecilia García Gasalla**, Director for Africa and Asia Cooperation, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)
- Discussion

17:00 -17:10h

Speeches by:

- **Miguel Utray**, Ambassador of Spain to the Philippines
- **Philippe Lhuillier**, Ambassador of the Philippines to Spain

17:10 -17:20h

Closing Speech:

- **Inmaculada Riera**, CEO, Spanish Chamber of Commerce

MARCH 21



Museo de Arte Abstracto Español Cuenca - Museum's Library
Casas Colgadas, s/n, 16001 Cuenca



This session will be in Spanish

11:30 - 12:30h

Session 5. "The legacy of Fernando Zobel: perspectives from Spain and The Philippines"

- **Chairperson, Emilio De Miguel**, Director, Casa Asia Centre, Madrid
- **Manuel Fontán del Junco**, Director, Museums and Exhibitions, Fundación Juan March
- **Gonzalo Mac-Crohon**, Member of the Ayala Family

Closing Remarks: **Amaya Barretto**, Executive Director, Philippines-Spain Business Council of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

12:30 – 13:15h

Visit to the Spanish Abstract Art Museum in Cuenca

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