

## Philippines Investment Roundtable 2025

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

### SPEAKERS



**JOSE MANUEL G. ROMUALDEZ**

**Philippine Ambassador to the United States of America**

Jose Manuel “Babe” del Gallego Romualdez was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the United States of America in July 2017 by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, and was reappointed in July 2022 by President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr. On 29 November 2017, he presented his credentials to US President Donald J. Trump and formally assumed office as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Additionally, as the head of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., Ambassador Romualdez is concurrently the Philippines’ emissary to the Commonwealth of Jamaica, Republic of Haiti; Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Antigua and Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Dominica; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Saint Lucia.

Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Romualdez was designated as a special envoy of the Philippine President to the United States. He also served as a member of several Philippine business delegations visiting the United States, China, Japan and New Zealand from 1989 to 2012.

Ambassador Romualdez has extensive experience as a media practitioner and business executive. He used to be the Chief Executive Officer of Stargate Media Corporation and Publisher of People Asia Magazine (The Philippine Star affiliate). He was president of the Manila Overseas Press Club and vice-president of Rotary Club of Manila.

Ambassador Romualdez writes columns for The Philippine Star. All his columns have a wide following of readers both in the Philippines and abroad.

On 29 November 2021, President Rodrigo Duterte conferred the Order of Sikatuna, with the rank of Datu (Grand Cross), Gold Distinction on Ambassador Romualdez. The Order of Sikatuna is one of the three highest honors of the Republic and is conferred upon individuals who have rendered exceptional and meritorious service to the Republic of the Philippines. He received the Order of Sikatuna in recognition of his meritorious contributions to the strengthening of the longstanding comprehensive ties between the Philippines and the US, for his steadfast efforts to further deepen Philippines-US alliance, for promoting trade and investment, and for his laudable initiative in the procurement of 20 million doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

Born and raised in Manila, Ambassador Romualdez received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from De La Salle College in 1970. He plays golf as a pastime and is affiliated with Manila Golf and Country Club and the Manila Polo Club.



**AMBASSADOR THOMAS C. HUBBARD**  
**Founding Director**  
**US-Philippines Society**

Thomas C. Hubbard is senior director for Asia at McLarty Associates and specializes in Asian affairs. Ambassador Hubbard manages the firm's business advisory work throughout Asia, including its employees and advisors stationed in Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, and China.

A seasoned diplomat, Ambassador Hubbard frequently travels throughout the region and maintains an extensive network with government officials, business people, and academics to ensure our clients the broadest range of regional expertise and competing perspectives.

A career foreign service officer for nearly forty years, he served as US Ambassador to the Republic of Korea from 2001 to 2004, and before that as Ambassador to the Philippines from 1996 to 2000. Earlier in his career, he served seven years in Japan and was Deputy Chief of Mission and acting Ambassador in Malaysia. He held key Washington postings, including Philippines Desk Officer, Country Director for Japan, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs. A fluent Japanese speaker, he devoted half his career to Japan-US relations.

Increasingly involved in Korean Peninsular affairs in the 1990s, Ambassador Hubbard was a principal negotiator of the 1994 Agreed Framework aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program and headed the first senior level US government delegation to North Korea. He was also President Clinton's envoy to promote human rights and democracy in Burma.

Ambassador Hubbard currently serves as the Chairman of The Korea Society in New York City and helped found the U.S.-Philippines Society. He received his B.A. in political science in 1965 from the University of Alabama and has been awarded honorary doctorates by the University of Maryland and the University of Alabama.



**HANK HENDRICKSON**  
**Executive Director**  
**US-Philippines Society**

Hank Hendrickson helped launch the US-Philippines Society in Washington D.C. in May 2012 and continues to serve as the Society's Executive Director. He is a former U.S. Foreign Service Officer, with postings in East Asia (Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, and Korea), Europe, and the Middle East.



During his postings to Asia, Hendrickson spent two tours in the Philippines, as a political officer (1979-83) and Counselor for Political Affairs (1995-97). Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he was a commissioned officer in the Navy.

Hank graduated from Bucknell (BA) and holds a master's degree from Georgetown University (MSFS).



**HANS MOHAIMIN L. SIRIBIN**  
**Minister and Consul**  
**Philippine Embassy**

Minister and Head of the Economic Section of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C, since 17 January 2025. Previously Acting Deputy Undersecretary at the Office of the Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Served as Philippine Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). Assigned as Consul General and at the Philippine Embassy in Paris and Economic Officer at the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo. Obtained a Masters of Social Science in Economics at the National University of Singapore and a Bachelor of Arts in Management Economics from the Ateneo de Manila University



**BRIAN HARDING**  
**Senior Adviser**  
**US-Philippines Society**

Brian Harding is a leading expert on Southeast Asia with nearly twenty years of experience shaping U.S. policy and engagement with the region at top institutions in Washington, DC.

From 2020 to 2025, Brian led a major expansion of U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) programming in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. At the heart of this effort was building USIP's country program in the Philippines, which concentrated on practical, community-level initiatives in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to reduce violence and sustain peace.

Prior to USIP, Brian served as deputy director of the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and as director for Asia policy at the Center for American Progress, where his work included analysis and high-level dialogues on U.S.–Philippines relations. Earlier, from 2009 to 2013, he served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as country director for Asian and Pacific security affairs. In that role, he managed defense relations with key U.S. partners in Southeast Asia and Oceania and contributed to efforts to revitalize the U.S.–Philippines alliance, participating in early negotiations that led to the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.



Brian holds degrees from Middlebury College and The George Washington University, studied at universities in Indonesia and Japan, and was a Fulbright research fellow in Indonesia. He concurrently serves as a senior fellow (non-resident) at Sasakawa USA and a research fellow at the Southeast Asia Peace Institute.



**DAVID GURO**  
**VP - Product Management**  
**Koloma**

At Koloma, David Guro serves as the VP of Product Management. Prior to Koloma, Dave served as the COO and CPO for an electrolyzer startup company, where he was responsible for setting the product strategy, defining the go-to-market approach, owning the company's continuous improvement roadmap, ensuring engineering excellence, and running the day-to-day operations of the company.

Prior to that, Dave worked at Air Products for 38 years, most recently as the Global Director for Product Management. In that role, Dave was responsible for the strategic direction and profitability of Air Products' generated gases, hydrogen, and cryogenic air separation product lines. Additionally, Dave worked in various positions within engineering, operations, and R&D, and additionally led strategic M&A efforts in support of the products.

Dave has participated in industry standards committees and has served on the Board of Directors of the National Hydrogen Association. He is an active Board member, including the BOD of an industrial gases separations company and the Villanova University Engineering Advisory Board.



**PAUL BROWNELL**  
**Public Policy Director**  
**Equinix**

Based in Washington, DC, Brownell is currently a Public Policy Director at Equinix. Paul Brownell brings experience from previous roles at Equinix, Red Hat and Independent Consultant. Paul Brownell holds a 1991 - 1993 MA in International Relations and Economics @ Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). With a robust skill set that includes Government Relations, Public Policy, Government Affairs, International Relations, Economics and more.





**RAYMOND ABREA**

**CEO**

**Asian Consulting Group**

Raymond Abrea CPA, MBA, MPA is the Founding Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Asian Consulting Group, a tax advisory firm based in the Philippines. He is also a prolific author and columnist, maintaining the *#AskTheTaxWhiz* column on Rappler. His notable works include *Reimagining the World Without Corruption*, launched after his studies in Harvard and the University of Sydney, and *Why Invest in the Philippines?*, promoted globally. His Oxford studies inspired his upcoming book, *Reimagining the World Without Carbon Emission*, developed from his various engagements with international organizations like the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).



**KRISTIN DELANO**

**Public Affairs and Government Relations**

**Koloma**

Kristen Delano is a seasoned executive in government relations, public affairs, and strategic communications, with over 15 years of experience spanning Capitol Hill, bipartisan policy initiatives, and national advocacy campaigns. As Head of Government Relations and Public Affairs at Koloma, she leads strategic legislative engagement and coalition-building efforts to advance natural hydrogen exploration and energy innovation. Her expertise includes global communications, corporate responsibility, executive engagement, media relations, and internal communications, all focused on driving meaningful global impact. Known for her bipartisan approach and ability to bridge industry, government, and public advocacy, Kristen is a trusted advisor at the intersection of policy and innovation.

