

Big US firms to scout for trade, investment opportunities in PH

By: InterAksyon.com (the online news portal of TV5)

January 21, 2013 1:04 PM

MANILA, Philippines - A powerhouse delegation that includes some of the big corporate names in the United States (US) will be in the country this week to scout for trade and investment opportunities in the country, the Philippine embassy in Washington DC said in a news release. The embassy said the delegation, which will be in Manila from January 23 to 25, is led by the US-Philippines Society, a non-profit and independent organization that seeks to raise the profile of the Philippines in the United States.

“The delegation will participate in a dynamic program aimed at strengthening ties with political and business leaders, fostering discussion of strategic issues, and promoting business and investment opportunities,” said Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia Jr. who will be leading the delegation along with Ambassador Negroponte.

He said the delegation will call on President Aquino and Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and participate in a policy forum with Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, and Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo.

According to Ambassador Cuisia, the Policy Forum will also feature Ambassador Negroponte and two other former ambassadors to Manila -- Thomas Hubbard and Richard Murphy -- who will discuss the strategic environment in the region and the outlook for policy directions as the second term of President Barack Obama begins in Washington.

He said the program also includes a meeting with US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr.; a dialogue with business leaders organized by the Makati Business Club; and visits to the Global Gateway Logistics City at the Clark Freeport in Pampanga; the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions of the Department of Trade and Industry; and the Asian Institute of Management.

Ambassador Cuisia said the delegation will also attend the second regular meeting of the Board of Directors which is made up of civic and business leaders from the US and the Philippines. Following its launch, the Society has collaborated with the Philippine embassy in sponsoring conferences on governance, development and security, and judicial reform featuring senior Philippine political and academic leaders. It also organized a successful tour by the Bayanihan Dance Company to New York and Washington to showcase Filipino culture. Ambassador Cuisia said the 2013 programs of the Society reflects its underlying goal of drawing more attention to US-Philippine relations in Washington through a comprehensive approach, bringing together policy-makers, congressional leaders, think-tank analysts, academics, cultural and artistic figures, and the media.

US-Philippines Society co-chairman John Negroponte flies into town

By: Eric B. Apolonio, InterAksyon.com (the online news portal of TV5)

January 21, 2013 11:49 PM

MANILA, Philippines - Former US Ambassador to the Philippines and US-Philippines Society co-chairman John Negroponte arrived at NAIA Terminal 3 Monday night to join key American businessmen on the hunt for investment opportunities in the country.

The group is in Manila to explore investment and trade opportunities in the country. “[It’s] always a pleasure to be back in the Philippines where the last visit I had was in 2008 after I left government service,” he told newsmen at the airport. He said they were “hoping to see the President on Wednesday with our business delegation group, the US- Philippine Society, where we are trying to promote a good US-Philippine relationship.”

URL :<http://www.interaksyon.com/business/53255/us-philippines-society-co-chairman-john-negroponte-flies-into-town>

Powerhouse US team arriving to scout for opportunities in Phl

By [Louella D. Desiderio](#) (The Philippine Star) | Updated January 22, 2013 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines - Business corporations from the United States (US) are visiting the country this week to seek trade and investment opportunities. The delegation would be led by the US-Philippines Society, a non-profit organization which seeks to raise the profile of the country in the US.

Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose L. Cuisia Jr. said the delegation would include executives of top companies such as Citigroup, Chevron, Coca Cola, General Electric, JP Morgan Chase, Procter & Gamble, Peregrine Development International, CV Starr & Co., the US Education Finance Group, McLarty & Associates, Federal Express and Spence & Co.

<http://www.philstar.com/business/2013/01/22/899560/powerhouse-us-team-arriving-scout-opportunities-phl>

US-Phl Society sets 2nd board meet

(The Philippine Star) | Updated January 22, 2013 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines - The US-Philippines Society, launched during President Aquino's official visit to Washington last June, will hold its second board of directors meeting in Manila on Jan. 24. Directors from both the Philippines and the United States will participate in a dynamic program surrounding the board meeting, with events aimed at forging bonds with political and business leaders, fostering an informed discussion of strategic issues, and promoting business and investment opportunities.

The society's mission is to raise the profile of the Philippines in America through a wide variety of program initiatives, including economic and business development, politics and governance, security, culture, education, and via outreach to the Filipino-American Community.

The Jan. 23-25 program, developed in cooperation with Amb. Jose L. Cuisia Jr. and the Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, and hosted in Manila by Philippine co-chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, includes a business and strategic component and opportunities for in-depth discussion of governance, economic, and reform issues. Society directors will meet with President Aquino, key Cabinet secretaries, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Lourdes Sereno. Those meetings are designed to bring the society's directors and officers up to date on the government's latest initiatives in the areas of economic policy, governance and judicial reforms.

A business dialogue, organized by the Makati Business Club through its chairman Ramon Del Rosario Jr., will include briefings on key sectors of the Philippine economy and promote interaction and exploration of investment and trade opportunities between representatives of US and Philippine businesses.

The society intends to build on its promising start by reaching an even greater audience with a comprehensive program agenda planned for the year ahead.

High time for stronger Philippine-US economic ties, says former American envoy

By: Ben Arnold O. De Vera, [InterAksyon.com](#) (the online news portal of TV5)

January 22, 2013 4:51 PM

MANILA - It is high time for the US and the Philippines to strengthen bilateral economic ties, a former American envoy to Manila said on Tuesday. "We would like to see as many business opportunities between the two countries," US-Philippines Society (USPS) co-chair John Negroponte told reporters on the sidelines of a joint meeting of the Asia Society, the Carlos P. Romulo Foundation, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

In his speech, Negroponte noted that US President Barack Obama, who is on his second term, has reaffirmed alliances with Asian countries such as the Philippines at a time when the region is enjoying an economic boom. Despite an economic slowdown in the US, it remains the world's largest economy, Negroponte said. "The US economy is picking up. It comprises 20 percent of the global GDP [gross domestic product]. It is very much in the position to continue

to play the leadership role," he said. Negroponte said US manufacturing companies are looking to put up business in the Philippines, even as Filipino businessmen are interested in investing in the US.

The former ambassador said the Philippines' business process outsourcing (BPO) industry need not fear Obama's anti-outsourcing rhetoric, as it has not prospered in stemming the industry's growth. "There's a lot of outsourcing going on. I have not seen any indication that [BPO] activity has diminished," Negroponte said.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/business/53320/high-time-for-stronger-philippine-us-economic-ties-says-former-american-envoy>

Top U.S. business leaders arrive; meeting with Aquino set today

Category: Top News

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Written by Recto Mercene / Reporter

Former US Ambassador to the Philippines John Negroponte, leading a group of investors and businessmen, arrived in Manila on Monday night to look for investment opportunities in the country. A prominent member of the US-Philippines Society who is expected to join the Negroponte group during the courtesy call to Malacañang is the society's Philippine chairman, Manuel V. Pangilinan. Honorary chairmen of the US-Philippines Society include Washington Z. Sycip and Maurice "Hank" Greenberg.

<http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/index.php/news/top-news/811-top-u-s-business-leaders-arrive-meeting-with-aquino-set-today?tmpl=component&print=1&layout=default&page=>

Biz Buzz: Lobbying for the Philippines

By [the staff](#), [Philippine Daily Inquirer](#)

11:33 pm | Tuesday, January 22nd, 2013

Former US ambassador to the Philippines John Negroponte, who co-chairs the US-Philippine Society think tank with businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, is coming to town to discuss with key policymakers and the business community recent local developments affecting economic, political and security ties between the two countries.—**Doris C. Dumlao**

Speaking of which...

After meeting with the President, the delegation will also meet with Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno for the American businessmen to get a feel of how legal issues will play out in the Philippines over the next few years (something foreign businessmen have always complained about in the past).

The kickoff dinner will be hosted by US-Philippine Society board member Washington Sycip, while dinner for the following evening will be hosted by MVP. On the final day, Friday, the business delegation will be given a tour of the Clark special economic zone in Pampanga to highlight its prospects as an investment site and as an attractive alternative to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.—**Daxim L. Lucas**

<http://business.inquirer.net/103935/biz-buzz-lobbying-for-the-philippines>

US-Philippine Society to draft roadmap for greater trade, economic partnership

By: Ben Arnold O. De Vera, [InterAksyon.com](#) (the online news portal of TV5)

January 24, 2013 5:52 PM

MANILA - American businessmen are closely looking at the Philippines again as a viable trade and investment partner following inroads made by the Philippine government in combatting corruption, the US-Philippines Society (USPS) said on Thursday. "Members of the US delegation who met with President Aquino yesterday say they were impressed" with reforms and economic inroads made so far, Manuel V. Pangilinan, USPS co-chair, told a press conference on Thursday.

USPS president John F. Maisto said the interest in the Philippines has grown since Aquino visited the US last year and showed American businessmen that his government has instituted reforms and intensified the fight against corruption. Maisto said corruption had tempered the level of US investment flows into the Philippines in the past, but the growing Philippine economy has improved prospects for increased trade between the two countries. Maisto noted that the Philippines and the US have shared a long history, adding that it was high time this relationship is brought to a higher level. "This is a good time to be refocusing on the Philippines," he said.

Energy and mining companies are setting their sights on the Philippines, according to the country's Ambassador to the US Jose L. Cuisia Jr. Firms providing financial services as well as manufacturers are likewise interested in investing in the Philippines, he said.

US businessmen to PNoy: Charter change key to joining Trans-Pacific free-trade deal

By: Ben Arnold O. De Vera, InterAksyon.com (the online news portal of TV5)

January 25, 2013 9:51 AM



Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Cuisia (2nd from left) make a point during US-Philippines Society forum on January 24. Photo by Bernard Testa

MANILA - American businessmen have counseled the Philippine government to pursue charter change so the country can become part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement.

On the sidelines of a US-Philippines Society forum, Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose L. Cuisia Jr. on Thursday said a visiting US delegation and President Benigno Aquino III met last Wednesday to talk about concerns over foreign ownership limits prescribed by the Philippine Constitution. "If we are to qualify for the TPP, we have to seriously consider amending the Constitution," Cuisia told reporters. The ambassador said the President told the visiting US businessmen that such a proposal would be studied carefully.

The 15th round of TPP talks took place in New Zealand last December, while the next round of negotiations scheduled in March will be held in Singapore. The Aquino administration has been very vocal about wanting to participate in the TPP, but the Philippines has yet to be invited to the negotiations.