

The Daily Dispatch

October 05, 2017
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

World Bank cuts PH GDP growth forecast

The World Bank lowered its projections for the Philippines' economic growth once again, due to a spending program that has been slow out of the gates. In its East Asia and Pacific Economic Update October 2017 released on Wednesday, October 4, the multilateral institution downgraded the Philippines' GDP forecast to 6.6%.

PH's lone Islamic bank seeks P2B in fresh capital

The Philippines' lone Islamic bank wants the government to inject an additional P2 billion worth of capital so it could finally be in the black beginning 2018, its highest official said. Al Alamanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines (Al Amanah) has been reporting net losses for the past few years.

World's top call center nation has a problem

Since the early 2000s, the Philippines added more than a million jobs as foreign companies outsourced customer support and sales tasks to the Southeast Asian nation. Now a looming wave of automation is threatening employment at call centers and forcing the industry to retrain workers to meet the demand for higher skilled jobs.

Remittances seen rising 23% to \$33 B this year

The flow of remittances to the Philippines is seen to further grow by 23 percent and eclipse last year's record, making it the third largest remittance volume worldwide this year, the World Bank said in a report.

Tourism receipts up 15% in H1

Tourism receipts grew 14.89 percent in the first six months of the year, driven by higher tourist arrivals, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said. Tourism activities generated P146.3 million in total earnings in the first half, higher than the P127.37 million recorded in the same period last year.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

8,018.05

1 Yr Return:

-0.34%

Open:

8,015.68

YTD Return:

15.58%

52-Week Range:

6,499.00 - 8,106.74

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of Oct 4, 2017

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	51.014

PDST-R2 Rates

As of Oct 4, 2017

Tenor	Rate
1Y	2.8580
3Y	3.7178
5Y	4.6350
7Y	4.3291
10Y	4.6606
20Y	5.4536

Daily Quote

"I knew that if I failed I wouldn't regret that, but I knew the one thing I might regret is not trying."

--Jeff Bezos

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

ECCP lauds further easing of foreign limits-retail

The entry of more foreign retailers will benefit the Philippine economy as it will create more jobs and boost the spending power of consumers. European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines president Guenter Taus said the Philippines needs to ease its foreign ownership restrictions to lure more global firms into the country.

Most urban poor in Phil., China, Indonesia - WB

The Philippines has one of the highest concentrations of urban poor in the East Asia Pacific region, a new report released by the World Bank showed. The region currently has the world's largest slum population of 250 million people, most of whom live in the Philippines, China and Indonesia.

DOE sets 3-pronged strategy on gas supply sourcing

With the highly anticipated business model shift and policy reset in the country's gas industry, the DOE has set off at least 3 core strategies on its planned gas supply sourcing. The first approach would be to discover the next Malampaya; second is importation of LNG; and third strategy would be an amalgamation of both.

NEDA wants economic restrictions eased by 2019

The Duterte administration wants to ease all economic restrictions under the Philippine Constitution, except land, by 2019 that once implemented could "easily double" foreign direct investments (FDIs) into the country.

Cavite-Batangas expressway to break ground in 2019

The construction of the P22.43-billion Cavite-Batangas Expressway is expected to start by the first quarter of 2019, according to the DPWH. "We are now evaluating the feasibility study before we can give our approval. We are ready to give the results of our evaluation within the year," Maria Catalina Cabral told reporters.

Ex-finance chiefs endorsing original tax reform

Former top officials of the DOF on Tuesday asked the Senate to preserve the original form of the Tax Reform to support the government's massive investment program. Roberto de Ocampo, a former Finance secretary, said during a recent hearing of the Senate ways and means committee that he was supporting the proposal in its original form.

CPG taps Megawide for housing project

Property developer Century Properties Group Inc. (CPG) has signed up construction and engineering firm Megawide Construction Corp. to build its affordable housing project in Tanza, Cavite.

SMC developing leisure estate near Boracay gateway

Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is building a 130-hectare leisure complex close to the main gateway to Boracay Island, Godofredo P. Ramos Airport in Caticlan, which the group is upgrading under a pioneering airport concession deal.

Swiss challenge for MPIC's project next year

The 49-kilometer Cavite-Tagaytay-Batangas Expressway proposed by infrastructure giant Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) is moving forward, with a possible competitive challenge seen by early 2018.

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Only 1 major Asian stock market has sunk this decade

Australia's economy has grown faster than its developed-world peers over the past decade, uniquely avoiding a recession. That means its stock market has grown handsomely too, right? Wrong. It's actually smaller today than it was on the eve of the global financial crisis, in 2007.

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MORE ASIAN NEWS

Singapore's MAS May Tighten Policy, Pimco Says

There's a chance the Monetary Authority of Singapore may surprise financial markets by tightening its policy stance this month, according to Pacific Investment Management Co., a move that could make it among the first central banks in Asia to do so.

Hong Kong's Property Market Gets a 'Reality Check'

The scrapped sale of The Excelsior hotel in Causeway Bay may have been a "reality check" in a heated Hong Kong property market, according to Irene Lee, chairman of Hysan Development Co. "We didn't get it -- or we didn't bid," Lee said in a Bloomberg Television interview Wednesday

South Korea and US to push forward on trade talks

South Korea indicated on Wednesday it was open to talks on revising a 2012 trade pact with the United States after initial differences that followed President Donald Trump's threat to terminate the accord unless it was renegotiated.

Thai shippers raise 2017 export growth forecast

Exports are expected to grow at least 6% this year, better than the 5% predicted earlier, the Thai National Shippers' Council said on Tuesday, thanks to improved global demand.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Ford to slash \$14B in costs under new CEO

Ford Motor Co. will cut \$14 billion in costs and drop some car models from its lineup under Chief Executive Officer Jim Hackett, who's focusing the company's future on sport utility vehicles, trucks and electrification.

Toronto housing prices fall for 4th straight mo.

Toronto housing prices fell for a fourth month in September as sales remained sluggish, particularly in the detached-home segment that has borne the brunt of the correction in Canada's biggest city.

Warburg Pincus to offload \$1.2B of Asian assets

Global private equity firm Warburg Pincus is selling about \$1.2 billion of its Asian investments in a secondary deal to investors including Lexington Partners and Goldman Sachs' asset management arm, according to report by the Wall Street Journal.

Ecuador gets Best Mining Country of the Year award

It was Ecuador's night at the Mining and Money America's Outstanding Achievement Awards' night in Toronto, Canada. The contingent, led by Minister of Mining Javier Felipe Córdova, couldn't control their glee when they received the award for Best Country of the Year.

WTO unable to curb many Chinese trade practices

U.S. business groups expressed frustration on Wednesday with what they said are China's efforts to tilt the economic playing field in favor of domestic companies, adding that World Trade Organization rules are insufficient to police all of Beijing's trade practices.

Economic Calendar

Date	Release
09.15.2017	PH: Overseas Remittances YoY
09.18.2017	PH: BoP Overall
09.21.2017	PH: BSP Overnight Borrowing Rate
09.28.2017	PH: Money Supply M3 SRF YoY
09.28.2017	PH: Bank lending YoY

Source: Bloomberg Economic Calendar