

EVENT PROGRAM



CANADA-PHILIPPINES TRACK 1.5 DIALOGUE:

# Building Economic Security through Strengthened Canada-Philippines Partnership



ASIA PACIFIC  
FOUNDATION  
OF CANADA

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INSTITUTE



AN INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



## CANADA-PHILIPPINES TRACK 1.5 DIALOGUE:

March 11-13, 2026 | Manila, Philippines

# Building Economic Security through Strengthened Canada-Philippines Partnership

Canada-Philippines relations are evolving in a region that is increasingly defined by strategic competition, rapid digital transformation, and growing security risks. In this environment, economic security has become a central pillar to ensure that growth, innovation, and job creation are not undermined by disruptions, coercion, or systemic vulnerabilities.

Economic security, however, cannot be achieved by any country acting alone. It depends on close cooperation among trusted partners. In this regard, the Philippines and Canada are well positioned to work more closely together.

While Canada and the Philippines operate in distinct strategic contexts, their economic security interests are increasingly aligned. Canada brings strengths in responsible resource development and clean-technology supply chains, and globally recognized leadership in advanced technology ecosystems. The Philippines, meanwhile, offers growing maritime capabilities, an expanding role in regional logistics, renewed mining ambitions, and extensive experience navigating complex information and digital environments.

As discussions toward a Canada-Philippines Free Trade

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Agreement advance, there is a timely opportunity to embed economic security considerations into bilateral cooperation. Doing so can help ensure that deeper economic ties are supported by trusted digital systems, resilient supply chains, and stronger defence-related industrial linkages.

In line with this, the Stratbase Institute and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, in collaboration with the Embassy of Canada to the Philippines, are organizing a two-day event on March 12-13, 2026 (Thursday and Friday) at Makati Shangri-La, Makati City. The initiative aims to provide a platform for advancing practical cooperation on digital resilience, critical minerals and clean technology, and defence industrial collaboration—key areas where Canada–Philippines engagement can deliver tangible economic security outcomes.

The first day will feature a closed-door Track 1.5 strategic dialogue, bringing together a high-level Canadian delegation—comprising senior government officials, private sector leaders, and experts from academe and civil society—with Filipino counterparts for candid and forward-looking discussions.

The second day will feature a public event, convening senior policymakers, industry leaders, and strategic experts to explore how Canada and the Philippines can strengthen collaboration on economic security — with particular focus on advanced technology partnerships, critical mineral and clean technology development, and defence industrial cooperation. This event will bring together stakeholders from government, the private sector, academe, civil society, media, youth, and the international community.



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## DAY 1: MARCH 11, 2026 – WELCOME RECEPTION

6:30 PM

**Welcome Reception, Hosted by H.E. David Hartman, Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines**

## DAY 2: MARCH 12, 2026 – CANADA-PHILIPPINES TRACK 1.5 DIALOGUE

8:45 AM

**Assemble**

9:00 AM-9:30 AM

**Opening Remarks**



**Professor Victor Andres “Dindo” Manhit**, President, Stratbase Institute



**Vina Nadjibulla**, Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



**H.E. David Hartman**, Ambassador, Embassy of Canada to the Philippines

**Session 1**

9:30 AM-10:45 AM

**Digital Resilience for a Modern Canada-Philippines Partnership**

**Session Focus:** This session will identify where Canada and the Philippines align on AI and digital governance and translate that convergence into practical co-operation to strengthen trusted adoption, institutional capacity, and bilateral digital resilience.

**Discussants**



**The Honourable Mary Ng, P.C.**, Canada’s Former Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business, and Economic Development



**Tony Gaffney**, Founder and CEO, Lambay Group & Former CEO, Vector AI Institute



**Undersecretary Sarah Maria Sison**, Undersecretary for Policy and Legal, Department of Information and Communications Technology (Government of the Philippines)

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**Francisco Ashley Acedillo**, Non-Resident Fellow, Stratbase Institute, Former Deputy Director General for Cyber and Emerging Threats, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, (Government of the Philippines)



**MODERATOR:**

**Bart Édés**, Policy Analyst & Author, Distinguished Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



**RAPPORTEUR:**

**Dr. Aaron Jed Rabena**, Assistant Professor, Asian Center, University of the Philippines

10:45 AM-11:00 AM **Coffee Break**

**Session 2**

11:00 AM-12:15 PM

### **From Resources to Resilience: Critical Minerals and Clean-Tech Co-operation**

**Session Focus:** As supply-chain security and energy transition rise on both countries' agendas, critical minerals and clean-technology co-operation offer a pragmatic pathway for Canada-Philippines economic engagement. Discussions will focus on practical, near-term opportunities—including policy co-ordination, technology transfer, and pilot collaboration—that can inform Canada-Philippines economic partnership discussions and contribute to broader regional supply-chain resilience.

**Discussants**



**Dr. Vlado Vivoda**, Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland



Representative from the Department of Energy (TBC)  
Government of the Philippines



**Undersecretary Carlos Primo David**, Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Government of the Philippines)



**MODERATOR:**

**Atty. Karen Jimeno**, Director and Chief Legal Counsel, SofCap Partners PE



**RAPPORTEUR:**

**Bart Édés**, Policy Analyst & Author, Distinguished Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

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12:15-1:15 PM

Lunch

Session 3

1:15 PM-2:30 PM

## Securing the Future through Defence Industrial Co-operation

**Session Focus:** As Canada and the Philippines deepen strategic ties following recent defence agreements, defence industrial co-operation is emerging as a practical avenue linking security, technology, and economic resilience. This session will focus on realistic, near-term co-operation pathways—including industrial participation, technology collaboration, and capacity-building—that enhance security, support investor confidence, and complement broader Canada-Philippines collaboration.

### Discussants



**Dr. Stephanie Carvin**, Associate Professor of International Relations, Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs



**Dr. Sara Schlemm**, Defence Policy Officer, Defence Industrial Strategy, Department of National Defence (Government of Canada)



**Assistant Secretary Augusto Gaité (TBC)**, Assistant Secretary for Defense Technology Research and Industry Development, Department of National Defense (Government of the Philippines)



**Major-General Fabian Pedregosa**, Commander, Strategic Command, Armed Forces of the Philippines



**MODERATOR:**  
**Vina Nadjibulla**, Vice-President Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



**RAPPORTEUR:**  
**Don McLain Gill**, Non-Resident Fellow, Stratbase Institute, Indo-Pacific Research Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, Lecturer, Department of International Studies, De La Salle University

2:30 PM-2:45 PM

Break

2:45 PM-3:45 PM

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DAY 3: MARCH 13, 2026 –  
BUILDING ECONOMIC SECURITY THROUGH STRENGTHENED CANADA-PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP

8:30 AM-9:30 AM **Registration**

9:00 AM-9:05 AM **Introduction**

9:05 AM-9:25 AM **Opening Remarks**



**Professor Victor Andres “Dindo” Manhit**, President, Stratbase Institute



**Vina Nadjibulla**, Vice-President Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

9:25 AM-9:40 AM **Keynote Message**



**H.E. David Hartman**, Ambassador, Embassy of Canada to the Philippines

9:40 AM-10:20 AM **Fireside Chat: Advancing Canada-Philippines Economic Security Co-operation**

This high-level fireside chat will bring together two senior leaders from Canada and the Philippines to explore ways to strengthen co-operation on economic security in an Indo-Pacific region increasingly shaped by strategic competition, rapid digital transformation, and evolving security risks. The discussion will highlight key areas of collaboration, including where advancing a Canada–Philippines Free Trade Agreement presents a timely opportunity to embed economic security considerations into a deeper, forward-looking bilateral partnership.



**Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo (TBC)**, Undersecretary for Industry Development and Investment Promotions Group, Vice Chairman and Managing Head of the Board of Investments, Department of Trade and Industry



**The Honourable Mary Ng, P.C.**, Canada’s Former Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business, and Economic Development



**MODERATOR:**  
**Vina Nadjibulla**, Vice-President Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

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10:20-10:30 AM

**Audience Q&A**

10:30-10:45 AM

**Break**

### **Panel Discussion: Deepening Canada-Philippines Collaboration in Strategic Sectors**

This session will examine priority areas for Canada–Philippines co-operation in defence industries, digital partnerships, and critical minerals and clean technology. As both countries expand security engagement and advance free trade agreement negotiations, the discussion will focus on translating strategic alignment into practical collaboration — from strengthening defence-industrial linkages and maritime capabilities to advancing trusted digital infrastructure, cybersecurity and AI co-operation, and resilient clean-technology and critical mineral supply chains. The session will focus on practical ways the two countries can strengthen their shared economic security in strategic sectors.



**Undersecretary Sarah Maria Sison**, Undersecretary for Policy and Legal, Department of Information and Communications Technology (Government of the Philippines)



**Undersecretary Carlos Primo David**, Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Government of the Philippines)



**Dr. Sara Schlemm**, Defence Policy Officer, Defence Industrial Strategy, Department of National Defence (Government of Canada)



**Tony Gaffney**, Founder and CEO, Lambay Group & Former CEO, Vector AI Institute



**MODERATOR:**

**Regina Lay**, Business & Economic News Editor, News Anchor, Cignal TV (One News), Fellow, Jefferson Fellowship, East West Center

11:30 AM-11:45 AM

**Audience Q&A**

11:45 AM-12:00 PM

**Closing Remarks**



**HOST:**

**Regina Lay**, Business & Economic News Editor, News Anchor, Cignal TV (One News), Fellow, Jefferson Fellowship, East West Center

# SPEAKERS



**Dr. Stephanie Carvin**

Associate Professor of International Relations, Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs



**Bart Édes**

Policy Analyst & Author, Distinguished Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



**Tony Gaffney**

Founder and CEO, Lambay Group & Former CEO, Vector AI Institute



**H.E. David Hartman**

Ambassador, Embassy of Canada



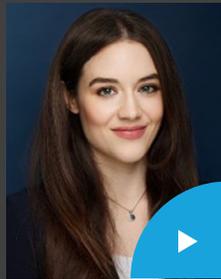
**Vina Nadjibulla**

Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



**The Honourable Mary Ng, P.C.**

Canada's Former Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business, and Economic Development



**Dr. Sara Schlemm**

Defence Policy Officer, Defence Industrial Strategy, Department of National Defence (Government of Canada)



**Dr. Vlado Vivoda**

Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland

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# SPEAKERS



**Francisco Ashley Acedillo**

Non-Resident Fellow, Stratbase Institute, Former Deputy Director General for Cyber and Emerging Threats, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Government of the Philippines)



**Undersecretary Carlos Primo David**

Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Government of the Philippines)



**Assistant Secretary Augusto Gaité**

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**Karen Jimeno**

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Business & Economic News Editor, News Anchor, Cignal TV (One News), Fellow, Jefferson Fellowship, East West Center in the Philippines



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**Undersecretary Sarah Maria Sison**

Undersecretary for Policy and Legal, Department of Information and Communications Technology (Government of the Philippines)

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