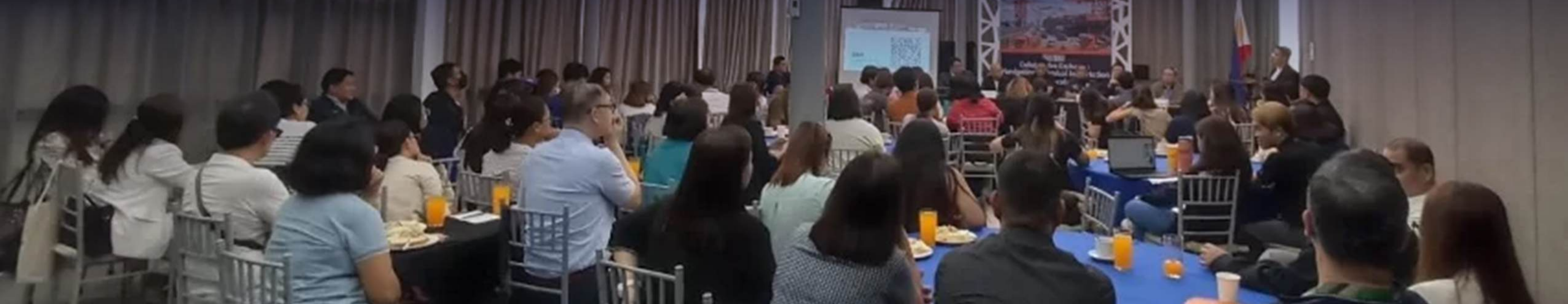


# CATALYST

## SPIK NEWSLETTER



### COLLABORATIVE EXCHANGE ON CHEMICAL IMPORTATION PROTOCOLS: FOSTERING DIALOGUE AND INDUSTRY GROWTH

The “Collaborative Exchange: Navigating Chemical Importation Protocols” event, hosted by the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), convened approximately eighty participants from various sectors at Selah Pods Manila on September 27, 2024. The forum aimed to address the complexities of chemical importation in the Philippines.



Engr. Albert A. Samuela, SPIK’s Vice President for External Affairs and Chairman of the National Issues on Trade and Industry Committee (NITIC), opened the event by highlighting the significance of collaboration.



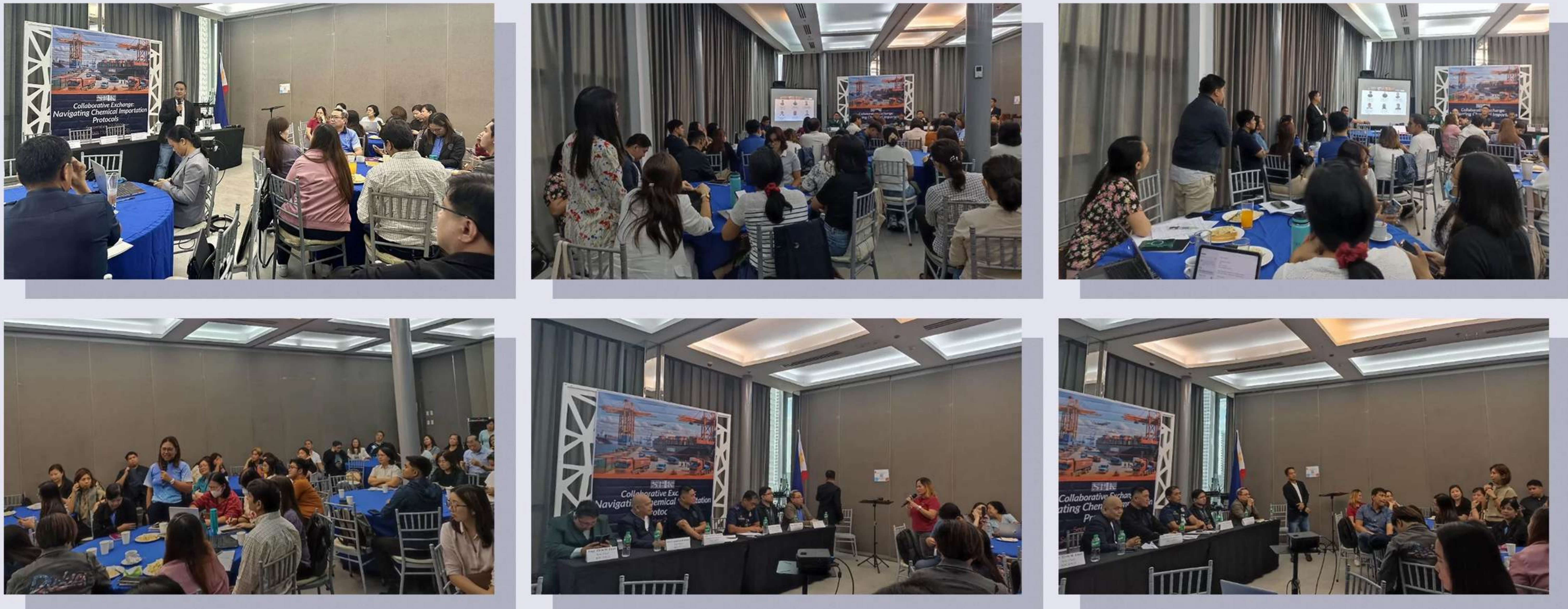
Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, SPIK President, presented the Philippine Chemical Industry Roadmap to

Panelists from the Bureau of Customs-Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (BOC-EPCD), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Customs Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force (CAIDTF), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Bureau of Customs- Firearms and Explosives Unit (BOC- FEU), and the Police National Police-Firearms and Explosives Office (PNP-FEO) shared their insights on challenges such as processing delays and stringent declaration requirements. The forum also touched on the impact of the COMELEC gun ban on the chemical industry.



Through a constructive discourse, participants collaborated in identifying strategies to address these challenges, underscoring the necessity of equitable regulation to foster industry expansion. The discussion was facilitated by Engr. Albert Samuela.

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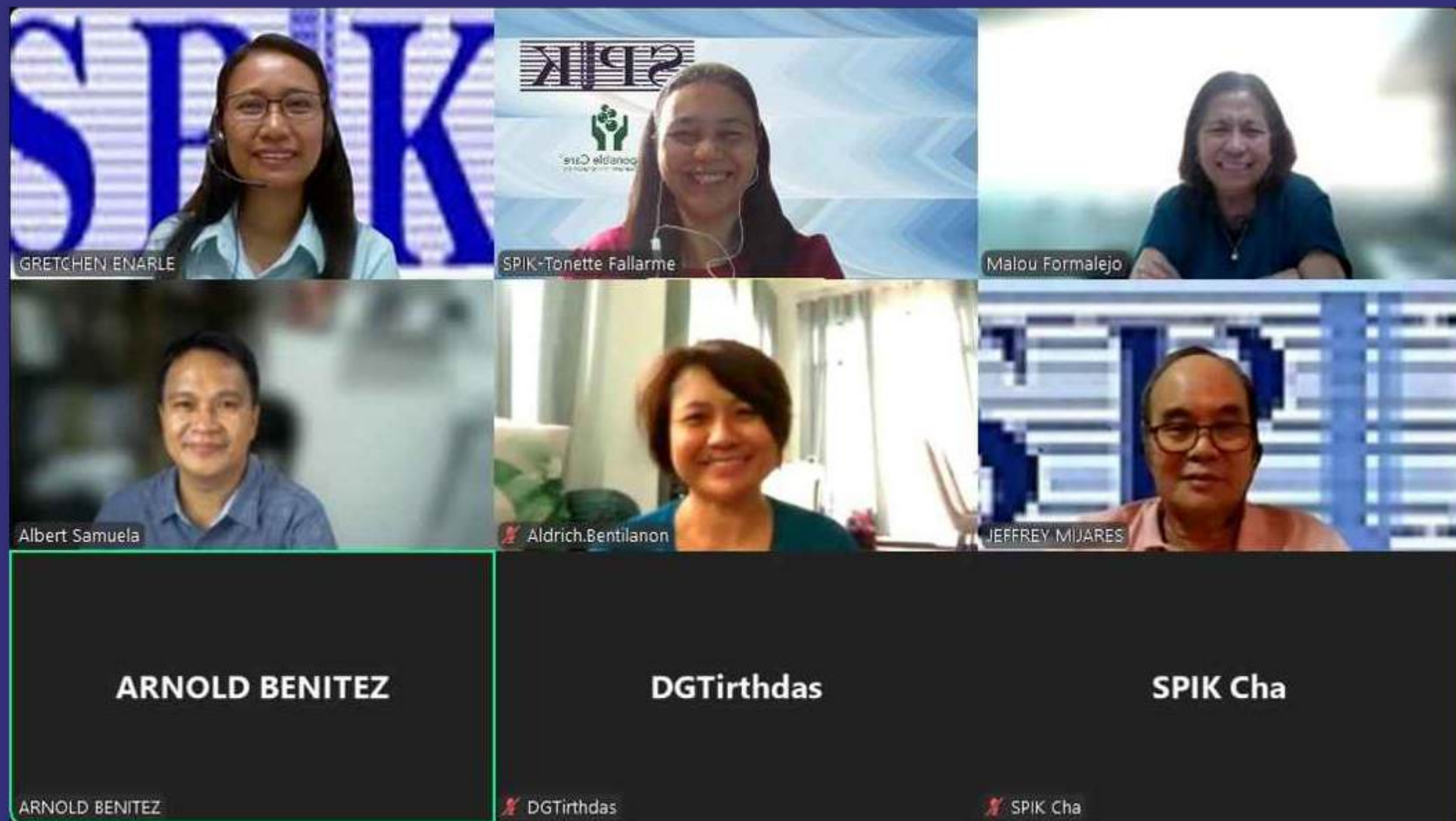
Engr. Enarle closed the event by reinforcing the importance of constructive discussions to shape a robust and sustainable future for chemical importation in the country.

## SPIK's 8th Board Meeting Highlights Upcoming Events and Responsible Care initiatives

In a virtual assembly on September 3, 2024, the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) held its 8th Board Meeting to plan the Chemical Industry Night and Golf Tournament, set to unfold on October 10-11, 2024. The event will take place at the Citadines Manila Bay providing the backdrop for the night of celebration and the historic Manila Golf Course hosting the tournament.

Under the leadership of Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, the association's president, the board members discussed the details of the much-anticipated gathering. In addition to the main event, the meeting touched on the vital work of the Responsible Care committee, presenting their upcoming coastal clean-up project, and unveiling a fresh new logo.

Furthermore, the board discussed the impending Chemical Importation Forum happening on September 27, 2024, and a series of webinars funded by HSP in September, aimed at strengthening chemical security awareness. This collaborative session exemplified SPIK's commitment to fostering growth within the chemical industry while upholding environmental stewardship and community engagement.



# SPIK ATTENDS EMB'S ONLINE CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FEES AMENDMENT



The Environmental Management Bureau's (EMB) virtual Public Consultation on the Draft DENR Administrative Order concerning the modification of fees and charges for its environmental services on September 4, 2024, saw active participation from the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK). The session aimed to gather insights and comments from stakeholders regarding the proposed amendments to DAO 2016-28. SPIK, represented by **Engr. Jeffrey G. Mijares** and Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, took part in the discussion to ensure the chemical industry's voice was heard.

The EMB presented legal frameworks such as PD 1586, RA 8749, RA 6969, RA 9275, and EO 192, emphasizing the importance of updating laboratory fees for environmental management services in accordance with the Enhanced DENR Policy Development System and ARTA Memorandum Circular No. 2022-06. The event concluded with a closing remark by OIC Assistant Director, **Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul**, affirming the bureau's commitment to an inclusive and transparent regulatory process.



## SPIK UNVEILS OFFICIAL T-SHIRT EMBODYING CHEMICAL INDUSTRY PRIDE

The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) debuted their official t-shirt on September 4, 2024. The striking visuals and dynamic colors reflect the innovative spirit of the chemical industry. Spearheaded by Engr. Albert A. Samuela, the t-shirt stands as a symbol of unity and progress encapsulating SPIK's vision for a thriving future in Philippine chemistry.

This is not merely an article of clothing; it is a powerful emblem that members of SPIK don as a badge of pride, representing their commitment to propel the Philippine chemical industry.



# BATANGAS CITY GEARS UP FOR MASSIVE COASTAL CLEAN-UP EVENT IN SEPTEMBER 2024



The second preparatory meeting for the much-awaited Batangas City Coastal Clean-up on September 21, 2024, recently concluded with high spirits and a sense of urgency. Spearheaded by Engr. Reinier Jay C. Bagabay, the SPIK Responsible Care Chairman, this significant environmental endeavor is set to bring together approximately one hundred dedicated volunteers from SPIK's collaborative efforts with JG Summit Olefins Corporation and PIChE Batangas Chapter.

This event harmonizes with the global observation of International Coastal Cleanup Month, aiming to restore the natural splendor of the city's coastal areas and raise awareness about the pressing issue of marine pollution. As the community eagerly anticipates this occasion, the collaborative forces are tirelessly preparing to ensure a successful and impactful clean-up initiative.

## SPIK-Mapua Malayan Colleges Laguna Seal Academic Alliance

The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) and Mapua Malayan Colleges Laguna (MMCL) forged a significant partnership on September 9, 2024, through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at the MMCL campus in Cabuyao, Laguna. This collaboration is aimed at fostering growth and innovation in the field of chemical engineering. Engr. Anthony Hilmer S. Medrano, MMCL's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Engr. Maribel G. Songsong, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, signed the MOA alongside Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, SPIK President, and Engr. Albert A. Samuela, SPIK's Vice President for External Affairs.



The event also featured messages from Engr. Jesunino Aquino, the Dean of the Mapua Institute of Technology at Laguna and Chemical Engineering Program Chair citing the importance of the MOA to both institutions, and Engr. Enarle herself, highlighted the importance of the partnership for providing students with real-world experience and enhancing their academic journey. This strategic alliance promises to bring forth a wealth of



The signing was also witnessed by Ms. Pearl Stephanie D. Ulep, Director Office for Strategic Partnerships and Global Engagement, Engr. Arnold C. Benitez, SPIK Vice President Internal Affairs, Director Mary Grace San Jose, Director Maria Lourdes Formalejo and Ms. Antonette Fallarme.

# SPIK PRESIDENT UNVEILS CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ROADMAP AT PICHE CONVENTION

At the 85th PIChE National Convention, SPIK President Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle presented the comprehensive Philippine Chemical Industry Roadmap, emphasizing collaborative efforts for its successful implementation. With over 1,500 attendees, the event saw her also being honored as a Senior Specialist Chemical Engineer.

The stage was set for innovation and unity at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City as Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, the president of the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), captivated the audience with her presentation of the Philippine Chemical Industry Roadmap: Collaborative Partnerships and Expertise Building in Chemical Engineering. This gathering, held from September 11 to 14, 2024, brought together more than 1,500 bright minds from various sectors including chemical engineering, academia, public and private institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Engr. Enarle underscored the pivotal role collaboration would play in achieving the roadmap's ambitious goals.

Her presentation underscored the pivotal role of sharing expertise and resources across the chemical industry to elevate it to unprecedented levels. She urged attendees to establish resilient alliances, catalyzing innovation and championing sustainable expansion. This roadmap stands as a vivid reflection of SPIK's collective foresight and its stakeholders' commitment, designed to navigate the dynamic challenges and embrace opportunities within the local and international chemical arena.

The four-day convention served as a melting pot for knowledge exchange, networking, and recognition of excellence in the field. In a moment of well-deserved accolade, Engr. Enarle was conferred the title of Senior Specialist Chemical Engineer. This prestigious honor not only acknowledges her significant contributions to the industry but also secures her place in the PIChE Registry alongside other distinguished recipients from the junior, middle, senior, and internationally recognized chemical engineering levels.

The event was a powerful reminder of the untapped potential within the Philippine chemical engineering community and the critical need for collaboration to overcome industry hurdles and seize the future. With the roadmap as their compass, these dedicated professionals are poised to lead the nation's chemical industry towards a brighter and more prosperous era.



# PIChE and SPIK Unite for Chemical Engineering Sustainability Initiatives

Scheduled for November, this high-impact training session aims to equip a new verifier with the latest knowledge and skills to effectively assess and improve the program's efficiency. By tapping into Mr. Roczniak's vast expertise, SPIK seeks to reinforce its commitment to environmental stewardship, health, safety, and security within the chemical industry. The session's program will cover a spectrum of essential topics, ensuring that participants are well-equipped to navigate the several aspects of verification.

This strategic partnership underscores SPIK's dedication to fostering a culture of continuous improvement, aligning with global best practices, and setting new benchmarks in corporate social responsibility. The training promises to be a catalyst for growth, empowering verifiers to make a significant difference in the industry's sustainable development efforts.

The MOU, a testament to their shared commitment to environmental stewardship and safety, outlines a series of collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing the chemical engineering industry's



contribution to national sustainability goals. One of the key topics was the upcoming seminar on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), slated for the following year. This initiative aims to standardize chemical information and ensure the safety of handlers and users across the globe.



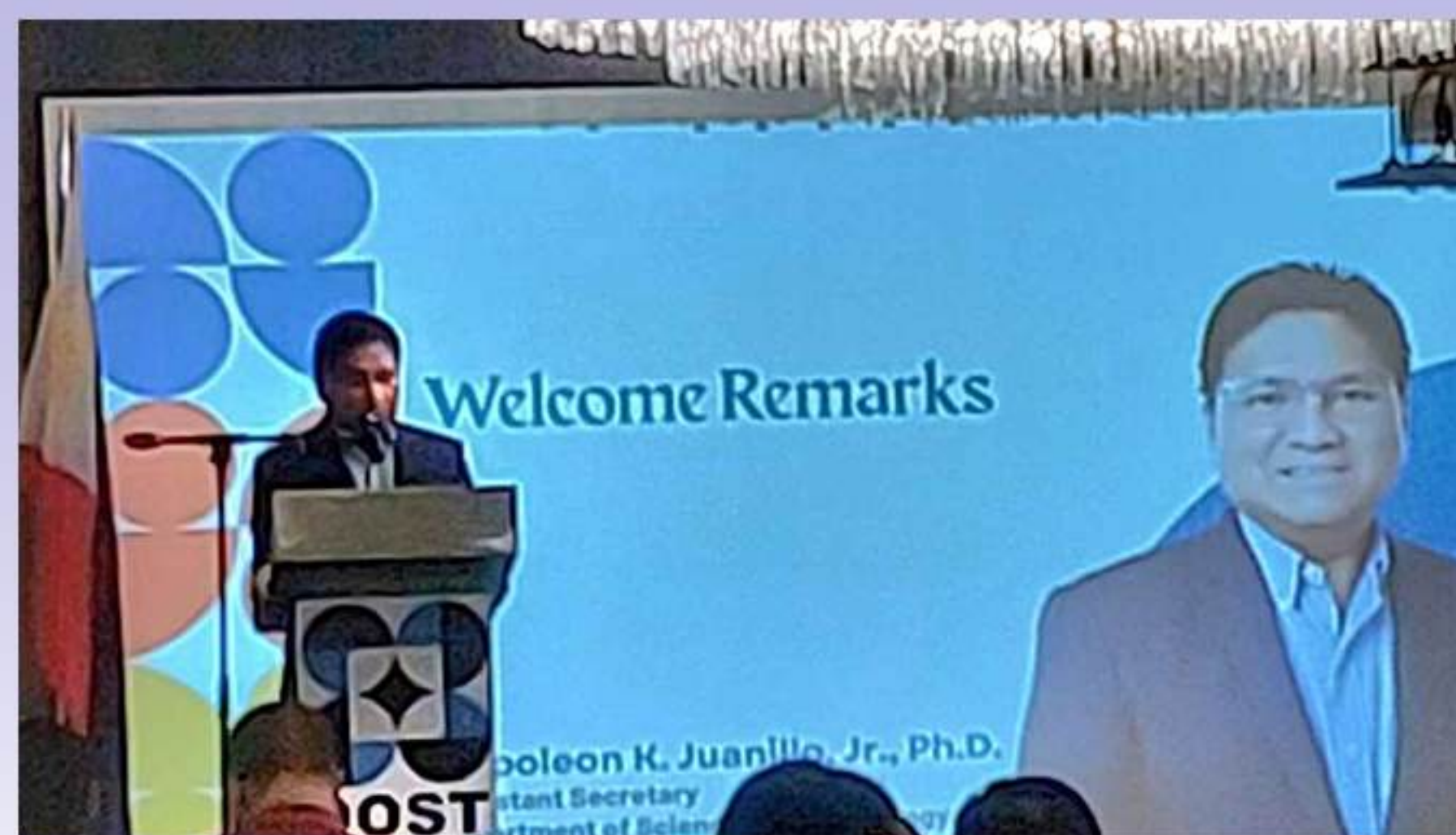
Moreover, the meeting discussed the harmonization of environmental initiatives congruent with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The seamless incorporation of these benchmarks into the chemical engineering methodologies underscores the sector's vital function in providing a more eco-friendly environment for the Philippines.

Another notable development is the planned inclusion of a specialization in Responsible Care, a global initiative fostering the ethical and environmental management of chemicals. This specialization will be incorporated into the curriculum to prepare future engineers to lead the charge in sustainable practices.

The synergy between PIChE and SPIK is poised to invigorate the local chemical engineering community, fostering a culture of innovation and responsibility. The meeting served as a catalyst for collaborative action, setting the stage for a greener and safer chemical industry in the years ahead. The participants left the conference room with a renewed sense of purpose and a clear roadmap for advancing sustainable chemical engineering practices in the Philippines.

# PCCI-DOST Joint Conference Catalyzes Innovative Island Enterprise Growth through S&T Initiatives

The PCCI Roundtable Discussion/Planning Workshop for S&T Innovation, held alongside DOST on September 13, 2024, culminated in an insightful and collaborative Joint Conference titled **"Islands of Venture: Science, Technology, and Innovation as Catalysts for Enterprise Development."** This event unfolded at the Makati Diamond Residences, uniting a diverse assembly of leaders and industry pioneers. The day commenced with a warm welcome from **DOST Assistant Secretary Napoleon K. Juanillo, Jr.** The stage was then set for the keynote speeches, with **Mr. Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr.**, the Honorary Chair, Treasurer, and Senior Adviser of PCCI, sharing his visionary insights. The conference reached new heights with the virtual presence of **DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum**, whose keynote address resonated with the attendees, emphasizing the critical role of science and technology in propelling the nation's entrepreneurial spirit.



The conference showcased a series of captivating sessions, with the most anticipated being the **"Views from Business and Industry: Challenges and Opportunities in Government- Industry Collaborations for STI in Industrial Development."** This segment enlightened attendees through a PowerPoint presentations and compelling narratives, offering a panoramic view of the diverse industry landscapes, including Food Manufacturing, Semiconductor and Electronics, Pharmaceuticals, Health and Wellness, Plastics Industry, Creative Industries, Transportation and Logistics, Energy and Power, and Education.

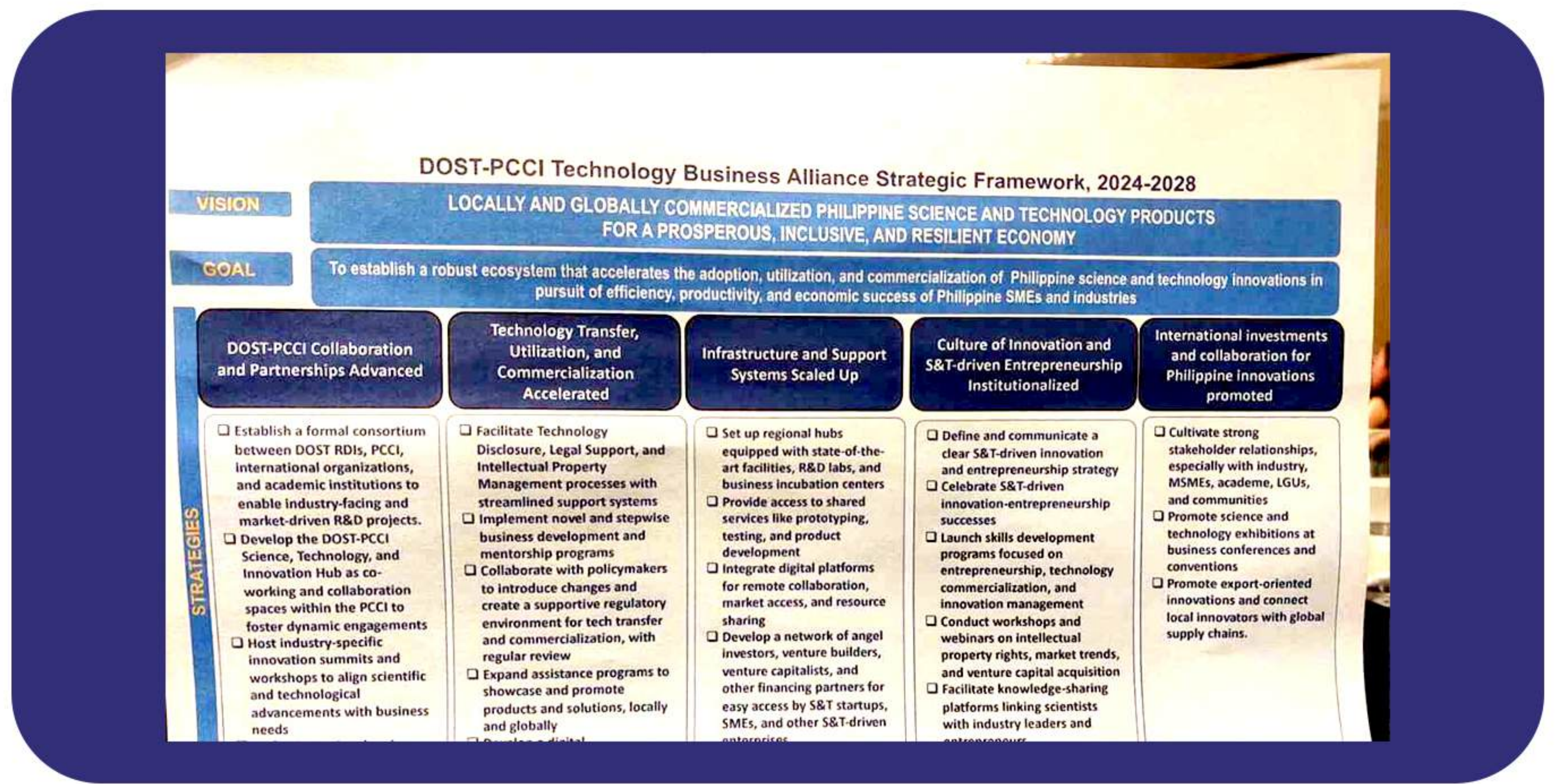
The Education sector's presentation, delivered by Mr. Augusto Fabella, President of PCCI Mandaluyong, was enlightening. It featured the current state of the Philippine educational system, revealing that there is significant ground to be covered for students to ascend from their 2nd to the last position in PISA rankings to the height of academic excellence. Meanwhile, Mr. Benjamin Chua, President of PPIA, unveiled the activities of the Philippine Plastics Industry, showcasing how they are innovating to overcome the pressing environmental challenges posed by plastic waste. His presentation demonstrated the sector's commitment to sustainability and its potential to revolutionize the industry through groundbreaking solutions.



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## PCCI-DOST Joint Conference... cont.

Another riveting feature was the Transportation and Logistics segment, where Mr. Dennis Ng, the founder of Mober, shared his company's strategies. His firm is disrupting the norm by deploying an all-electric vehicle fleet, setting an example for eco-friendly logistics. The highlight was the unveiling of Mober's pioneering approach to establishing a robust charging infrastructure, a testament to their foresight and dedication to customer service.



The Workshop's culmination showcased the DOST-PCCI Technology Business Alliance Strategic Blueprint for 2024-2028. Industry leaders and SMEs actively engaged in this discourse, bringing forth their concerns and insights to enrich the strategic narrative. SPIK, represented by Engr. Jeffrey G. Mijares, Executive Director, underscored the imperative of forging synergies with policymakers. Their aim is to co-create a regulatory milieu that is conducive to the flourishing of research and development, as well as the birth of new technologies that are poised to revolutionize the market.

# SPIK Initiates Comprehensive Chemical Security Webinar Series for the Philippine Chemical Industry



The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) successfully concluded the first of a four-part webinar series, titled "Strengthening Chemical Security Sustainment within Southeast Asia's Small and Medium Chemical Enterprises: Establishing a Chemical Security Plan," on September 17, 2024. This initiative, funded by the Health Security Partners (HSP), brought together a diverse assembly of thirty industry professionals from various sectors including manufacturing, trading, warehousing, and logistics. The event kicked off with warm welcomes from Ms. Ashley Avella, the Program Manager of HSP, and Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, the President of SPIK.



The webinar, a testament to SPIK's commitment to fostering a secure and sustainable chemical environment, featured enlightening presentations by two distinguished experts. **Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia**, a PhD- professor from the Department of Chemical Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, shared her profound knowledge on chemical security. Her insights were complemented by **Mr. Tahir Jamal Qadir**, an Associate Director of Health and Safety Advisory at WSP Middle East, who brought a wealth of practical experience to the digital table. His expertise in safety protocols and strategic planning within the chemical industry resonated with the attendees.



The participants eagerly engaged with the speakers, contributing to an interactive and informative session. The collaborative atmosphere encouraged the sharing of challenges and best practices, fostering a sense of community and collective growth among the Southeast Asian SMEs. **Engr. Reinier Jay Bagabay**, SPIK Director and Responsible Care Chairman, emphasized the importance of the webinar which served as a crucial stepping stone in SPIK's ongoing effort to enhance chemical security awareness and implementation across the region, thereby protecting public health and environmental well-being.



# SPIK CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL 9TH BOARD MEETING



The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) convened its ninth board meeting on September 18, 2024. The gathering unfolded at the Rezcoat Office in Quezon City, under the leadership of President Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle. The meeting saw the presence of Engr. Arnold C. Benitez, Vice President of Internal Affairs, and Engr. Albert A. Samuela, Vice President of External Affairs, alongside Engr. Dennis G. Tirthdas and host Director Malou Formalejo.

The meeting was not only a testament to the collaborative spirit of the chemical sector but also a testament of camaraderie and shared visions. The board expressed profound gratitude to Rezcoat, Inc. for their warm hospitality and the provision of an inspiring venue that catalyzed the exchange of ideas and the collective pursuit of innovation and excellence.



## SPIK, JG Summit, PIChE Batangas Unite in 2024 Coastal Clean-Up

In a collaborative effort to combat marine pollution, the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK), JG Summit Olefins Corporation (JGSOC), and the PIChE Batangas Chapter joined forces together for a coastal clean-up at Sitio Pook, Barangay Simlong, Batangas City. Held on September 21, 2024, this event aligned with the global initiative of the International Coastal Clean Up. The shoreline saw an outpouring of approximately two hundred enthusiastic volunteers, all driven by a shared commitment to environmental stewardship.

The successful endeavor was spearheaded by Engr. Reinier Jay C. Bagabay, the SPIK Responsible Care Chairman, Engr. Albert Samuela, who holds the titles of SPIK Vice President for External Affairs

as well as President of the PIChE Batangas Chapter and Engr. Bob Chaervin Castrence of JGSOC and a member of SPIK's Responsible Care Council. Their leadership and dedication were instrumental in orchestrating this event, which was a testament to their organizations' commitment to environmental sustainability.

This collaborative event exemplified the potential of synergistic efforts and underscored the critical role that organizations and communities play in preserving the health of our planet. The dedication and enthusiasm of the SPIK, JGSOC, and PIChE Batangas Chapter volunteers are truly commendable, and their actions resonated with a sense of unity and purpose.



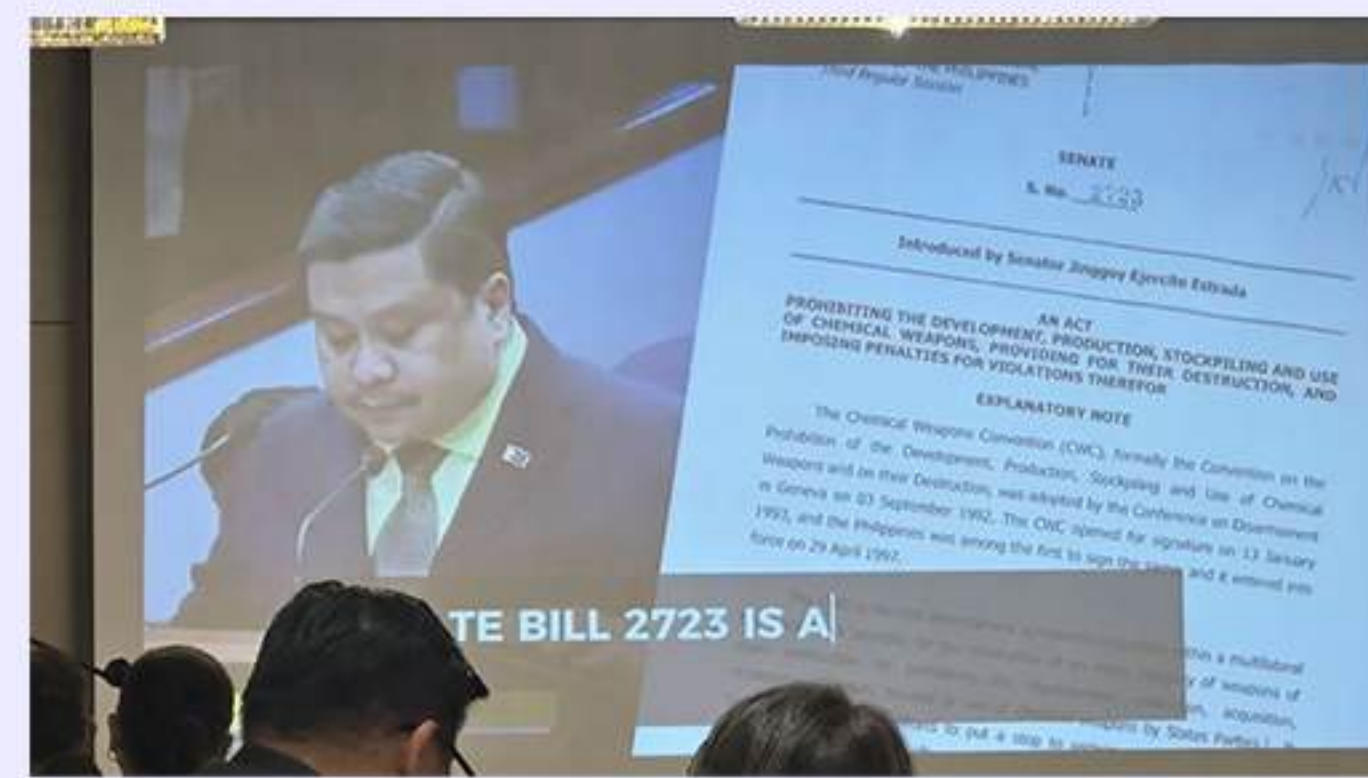


# First Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Stakeholders' Workshop Convenes in Manila



The First Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Stakeholders' Workshop was held on September 23, 2024, at the Admiral Hotel, Manila. This event gathers representatives from various government agencies, the academe, laboratories, and the chemical industry, notably the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) to strengthen the Philippines' commitment to the global ban on chemical weapons.

the significance of the Chemical Weapons Prohibition Bill. His vision is crucial in shaping the nation's stance against the use of chemical weapons.



Meanwhile, **H.E. Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya**, the Philippine Ambassador to the Hague, Netherlands, and Permanent Representative to the OPCW, expressed a message of support, highlighting the country's international obligations in the OPCW CWC.



**Mr. Louie Intalan** and **Ms. Gayle Gloria-Raagas**, both from the ATC-PMC, presented comprehensive talks on understanding the CWC and the importance of national compliance with its regulations. They shed light on the salient provisions of the proposed Senate Bill 2723, which aims to fortify the Philippines' legal framework in line with CWC mandates.



The workshop also featured an interactive breakout session titled "Review of Senate Bill 2723 and Recommendations." Here, participants were divided into groups, each assigned to scrutinize a specific section of the bill. Their mission is to evaluate its alignment with CWC requirements and propose constructive amendments to strengthen the legislation.

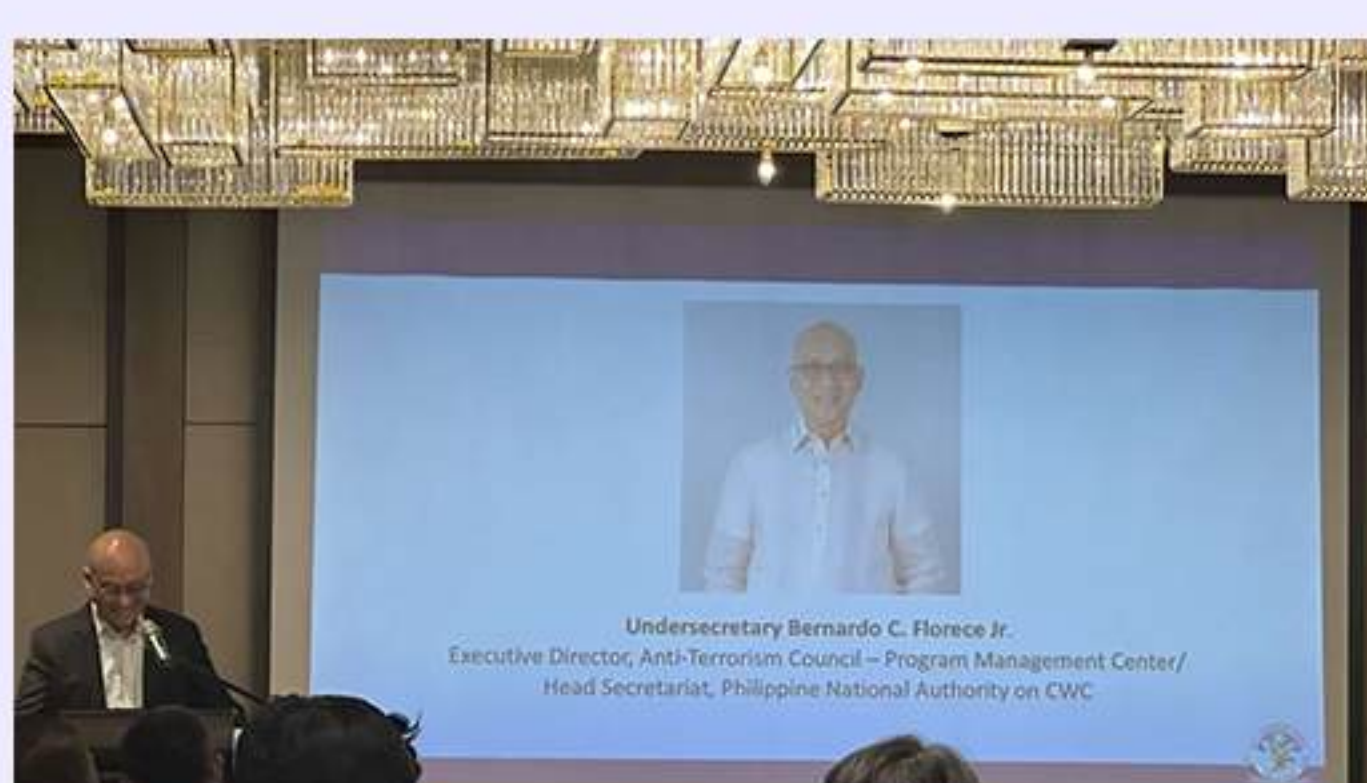
The anticipated outcomes of this gathering are a thorough review of Senate Bill No. 2723 and a set of actionable recommendations that will refine the bill and enhance its efficacy in line with international standards. This event is not merely an exchange of ideas; it is a collective stride towards a safer and more secure future, where the threat of chemical weapons is but a relic of the past.



In his concluding statements, **FCSUPT Gilbert D Dolot**, the Director for Intelligence and Investigation and the National Focal Point for CBRN, underscored the critical significance of fostering a collective effort to a world free from the threat of chemical weapons.

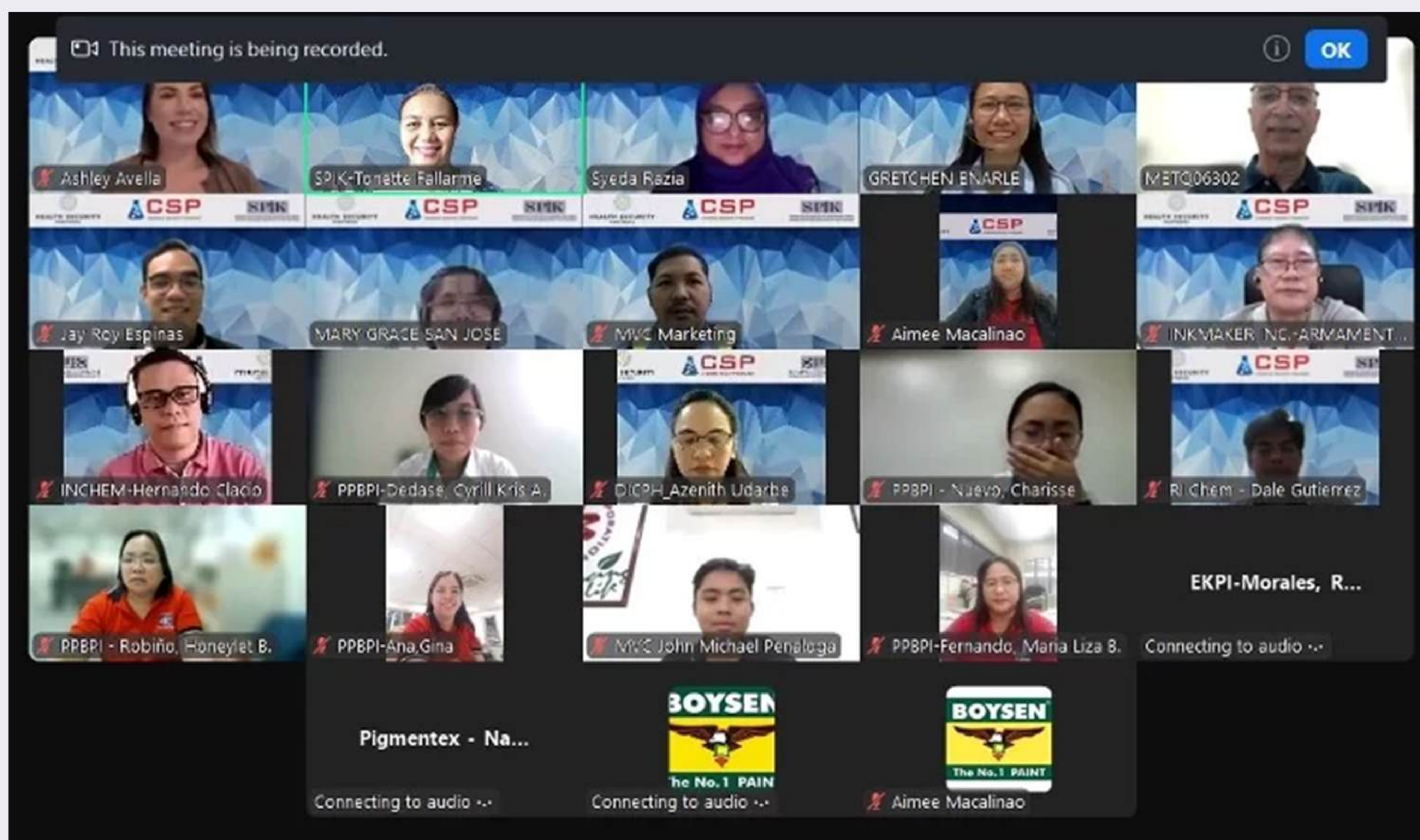


**Undersecretary Bernardo C. Florece Jr.**, Executive Director of the Anti-Terrorism Council-Program Management Center and Head Secretariat of the Philippine National Authority on CWC, delivered the welcome remarks, setting the tone for an insightful and collaborative discussion.



**Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada**, the Principal Sponsor of SB 2723, shared a keynote video message emphasizing

# ENHANCING CHEMICAL SECURITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

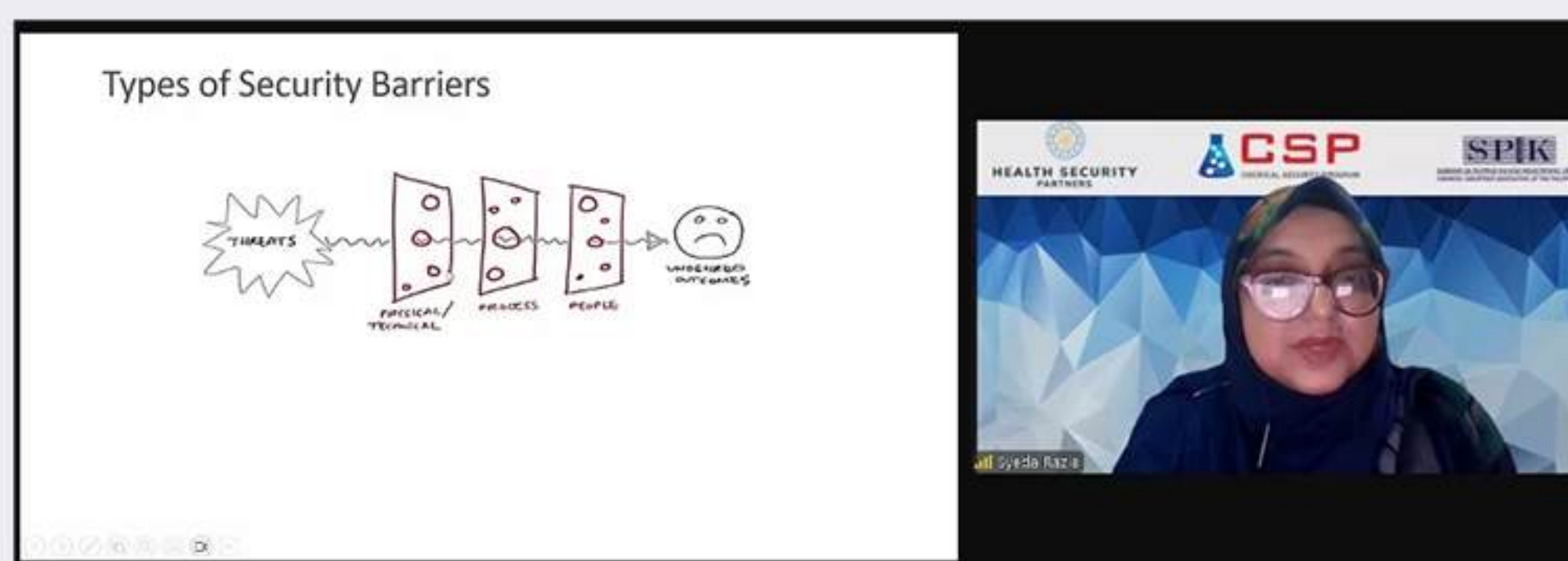


The Strengthening Chemical Security Sustainment within Southeast Asia's Small and Medium Chemical Enterprises Project recently concluded the second offering of the 4-part webinar series on September 26, 2024. This collaborative effort between Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) and Health Security Partners (HSP) aimed to bolster the chemical security practices of the region's SMEs.

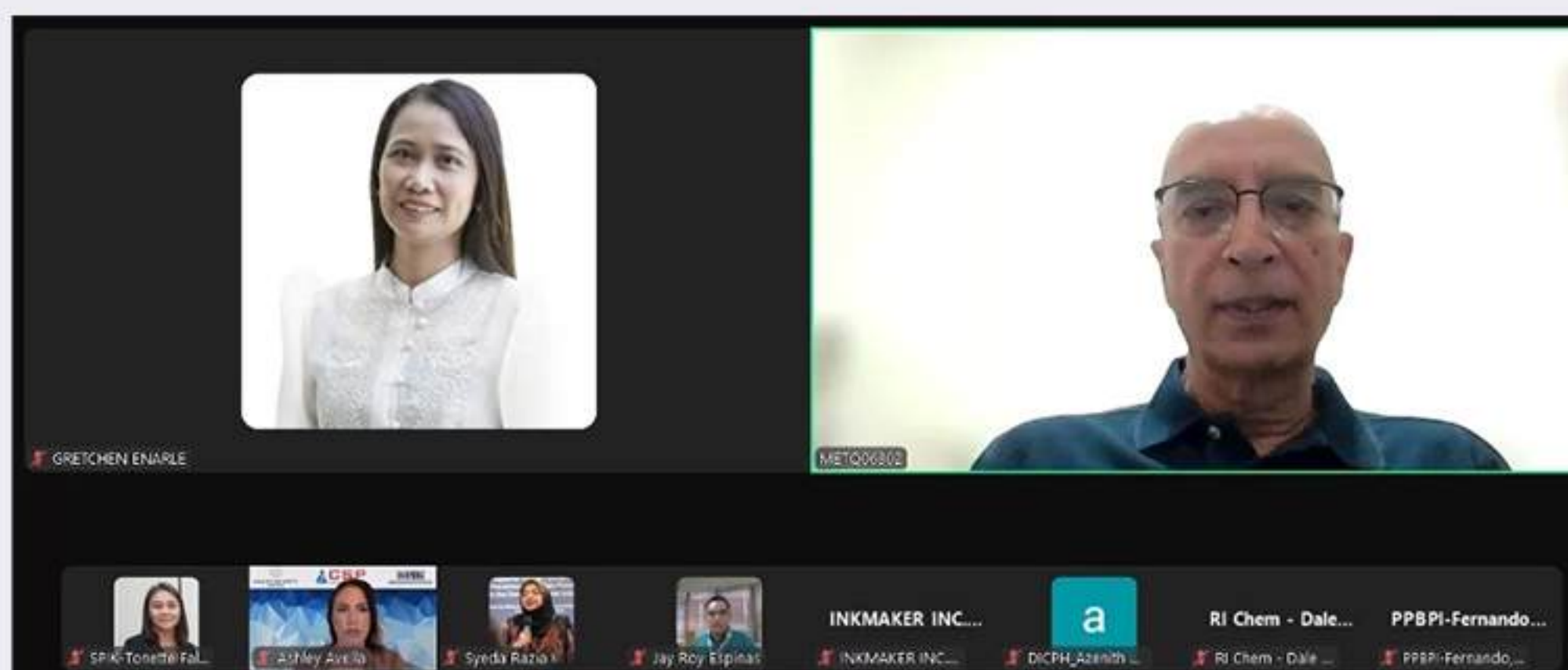
Kicking off the session were welcoming speeches from **Ms. Ashley Avella**, HSP Program Manager, and **Engr. Albert A. Samuel**, SPIK's Vice President for External Affairs.



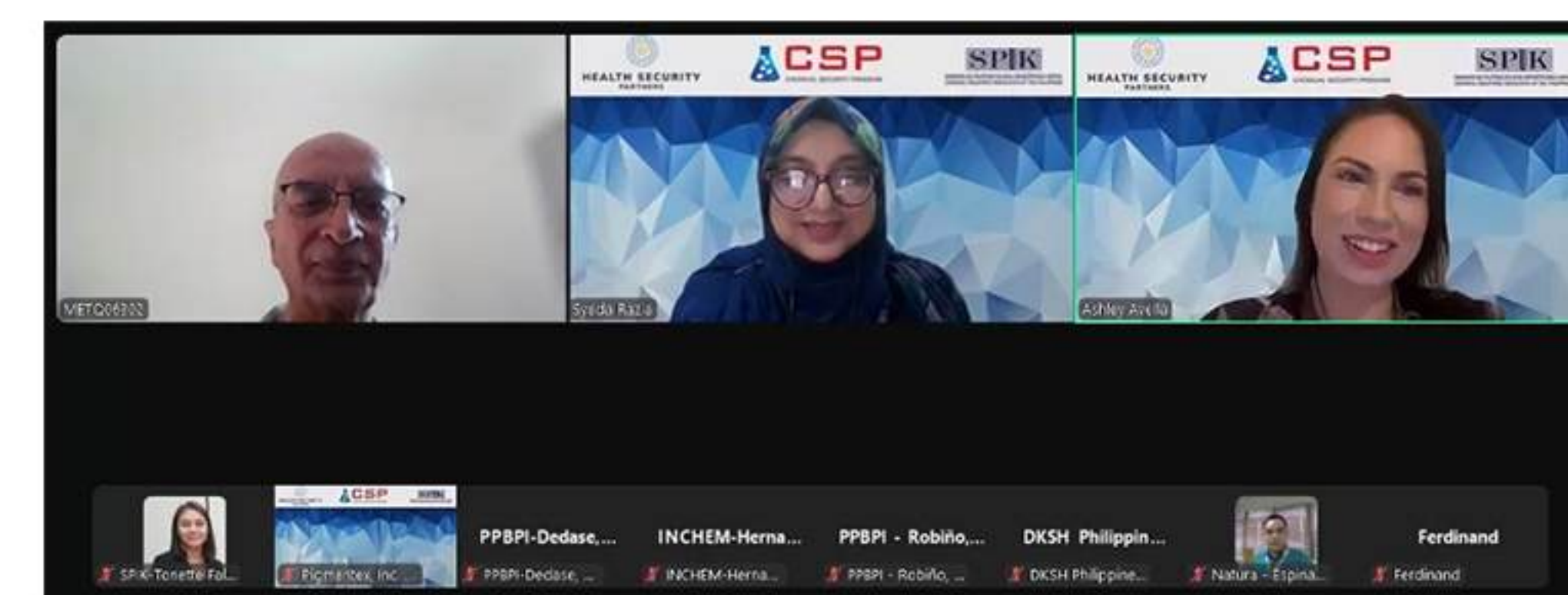
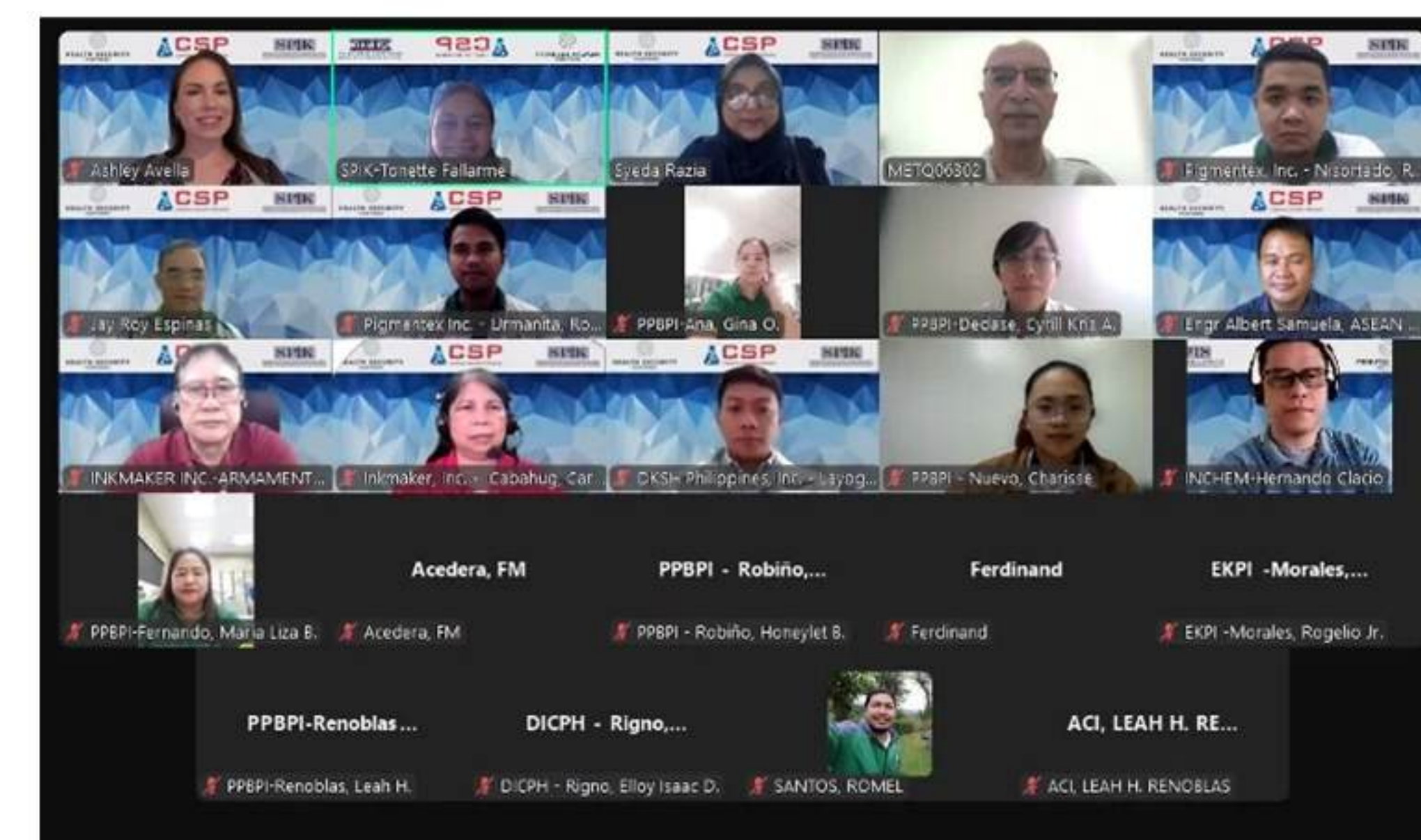
The event saw **Dr. Syeda Sultana Razia**, a PhD Professor from the Department of Chemical Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, delve into managing insider and outsider threats, emphasizing the link between human reliability and chemical security.



**Mr. Tahir Qadir**, Associate Director of Health and Safety Advisory at WSP Middle East, followed with a comprehensive presentation on Facility Security Vulnerability Assessment and International Chemical Security Controls and Threat Mitigation Strategies.



Participants actively engaged in a case study breakout session, focusing on the development of robust chemical security plans.



The session concluded with closing remarks from **Ms. Mary Grace B. San Jose**, SPIK's Director for Education, Research, and Innovation and the project's chairperson, highlighting the significance of collective action in safeguarding the industry against potential risks. This webinar marked a substantial step in enhancing the region's chemical security landscape.

