

CATALYST

SPIK NEWSLETTER



SPIK Celebrates a Momentous Year-End Gathering: New Leaders and Members Usher in 2026

DEC 17

The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) enjoyed a wonderful year, culminating in elaborate end-of-year celebrations at Savoy Hotel Manila. Members and leaders from the chemical industry joined the occasion in 2025 and marked the year with friends and industry leaders.

A warm welcome by Director Aldrich Bentalan opened the festivities, which ended with a public act of thanks to all those present. The gathering was vital because it not only represented a party to honor accomplishments but also to renew the drive to develop the chemical industry in the Philippines, she emphasized. The message from Director Bentalan at the reception was optimistic in tone and encouraged the attendees to foster coexistence and innovation.



Then came SPIK President Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle shared the President's report with the members, which highlighted the association's many successes this year. She enthusiastically discussed SPIK's heightened advocacy of sustainable chemicals and practices, new partners, and the drive for new industry standards—additionally, Engr. Enarle presented the strategic objectives regarding professional development and regulatory requirements, and it struck a chord with the audience's deep desire to support the association's vision.

One of the highlights of the event was an astute presentation by the Honorable Engr. Maricris Vines, ASEAN Eng, Chairperson of PRB Chemical Engineering. She spoke of the new PNS 2186:2024 technical standard, introduced most recently, and how it is intended to raise all chemical engineering practices nationwide. "This benchmark is vital for increasing professional competence, quality, and public safety," Engr. Vines said. Her detailed analysis of the industry spurred other SPIK members to adopt the new standard and advocate excellence across the chemical industry.

Five new and official directors were elected and welcomed the event: Mr. Jahzon Lih, TNC Chemicals Phils., Inc., Engr. Aldrich Bentalanon, DKSH, Ms. Mary Grace San Jose, Henkel, Ms. Danrina Begonia, Avestronics Industrial Sales and Services, Inc., and Ms. Amy Chua, Coastal Bay Chemicals Inc. Each fresh perspective brought a significant breadth and depth of expertise to the organization's leadership. At our new board, SPIK's focus on flexible governance and diversity of representation was a clear commitment.

The joyous games combined with a fun raffle drew people together in a fun way. Members were all very enthusiastic participants, bringing in a spirit of cooperation amongst themselves and entertaining each other; raffle winners were delighted to receive a variety of prizes. Director Jose Raquel Santos and Ms. Tonette Fallarme won the Best Ugly Sweater Costume award. Above all else, SPIK member interactions bonded to create a festive, and memorable atmosphere.

SPIK Celebrates cont...



With the chemical industry now set for reorientation in 2026, SPIK's new leadership, growing membership, and drive to uphold new standards provide ample room for the group to ascend to new heights in achievement and impact, all highlighted during the event graciously hosted by Engr. Jai Rocamora of Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation.



In a moment of high hopes, SPIK also added two new members, Seanogy Environmental Solutions and Centaur Chemical Enterprise, signifying our never-ending commitment and industry relevance. They were keen to work together and contribute to SPIK's vision of being the world's best chemical professional. The induction ceremony was led by Director Romeo Dela Cruz, Membership Committee Chairman, who formally welcomed the new members into the SPIK family.

In closing the very successful event, Director Malou Formalejo delivered some very kind words about everyone's participation and contributions. She urged members to carry the excitement and learnings that the new year will bring, citing unity and continued collaboration as the secret to future success. Director Formalejo ended the celebration with motivational remarks, leaving guests on a hopeful note, looking forward to SPIK's forward-leaning trajectory.



DEC 02

Tatak Pinoy Program Launch Highlights Philippine Industrial Transformation



The Tatak Pinoy Program was officially launched on December 2, 2025, at the Manila Ballroom, Marriott Hotel Pasay, to showcase the Philippines' commitment to industrial transformation. Participated by stakeholders in government, industry, academe, and civil society, the event aimed to advance nine targeted sectors articulated in the Tatak Pinoy Strategy.



Leading the program was Hon. Ma. Cristina A. Roque, Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, and Hon. Nylah Rizza D. Bautista, Assistant Secretary of DTI's Competitiveness and Innovation Group.

Hon. Sonny Angara, Secretary of the Department of Education and principal sponsor of the Tatak Pinoy Act, was one of the keynote speakers, providing a powerful message that education and legislative support are the major factors that nurture local industries and empower Filipino innovations.



Among the other distinguished speakers were Hon. Arsenio M. Balisacan, Secretary of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development, and Hon. Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero, Undersecretary of

Agriculture. Their messages focused on cooperation of government and the private sector as the critical factor for strengthening of the local industries as well as the development of local industry to the global level. It marked important milestones in the implementation of the Tatak Pinoy Act and stressed that all sectors must work together in partnerships.



The plenary discussions featured a fireside chat titled "Unifying Efforts for a Competitive Philippines," with speakers Hon. Renato E. Reside Jr., Undersecretary of the Department of Finance; Mr. Bryan L. Ang, Vice President for Trade Facilitation of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Hon. Rosemarie G. Edillon, Undersecretary, Department of Economy, Planning and Development, and Dr. Edylinda "Annette" Balaoing-Pelkmans, a Professorial Fellow at the University of the Philippines School of Economics. Moderated by Michelle Krystle D. Ong (ABS-CBN's News Anchor), the session emphasized coordinated government and private sector efforts as key to boosting domestic industries and fostering a culture of domestic preference.



The chemical sector was showcased as one of the 9 priority sectors, with Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Inc. and Chemrez Technologies, Inc. as the industry representatives. Both are also active players in the Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) that facilitates the Tatak Pinoy Program's objectives. Their involvement reinforced the pivotal role of the chemical industry in developing solutions, advancing the industry, and strengthening national ownership of Filipino products.



FDA Launched the FDA Action Center to Improve Public Service

DEC 15



The FDA Action Center (FDAC), by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), was inaugurated on 15 December 2025, marking a step toward accountability and service excellence. This new frontline service center was developed to advance the implementation of regulatory services and to improve public assistance to stakeholders and the Filipino people. The event was held on the 8th Floor of the Kingston Building – Filinvest City, Muntinlupa.



Public officials, including FDA Director General Atty. Paolo S. Teston and Undersecretary Albert Domingo of the Department of Health (DOH) attended the launch, as did Engr. Gretchen F. Enarle, President of Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) and other stakeholders. These leaders were reminders of the FDA and DOH's joint efforts to promote public health.



Finally, the FDA Action Center's opening and the solemn mass that accompanied it were symbols of the agency's commitment to improving the regulation of goods and services and ensuring that the services rendered were efficient and readily available to the Filipino citizens. The event also reinforced business-government interactions, which it says will continue and improve service delivery.



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