



Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs

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defined.

*Beyond*  
**NUMBERS**

2024 ISSUE NO. 007

**#AOCWinStories:  
Celebrating Self Care  
and Future Leaders**



## Breaktime: Embracing 'Self-Care' with Inspiring Milestones and Future Plans

On July 3, 2024, Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs marked their seventh monthly breaktime of the year with a **"Self-Care Breaktime"** theme. This virtual event, organized by the Human Resources Team, celebrated the firm's dedication and achievements, aiming to boost morale and inspire further excellence.



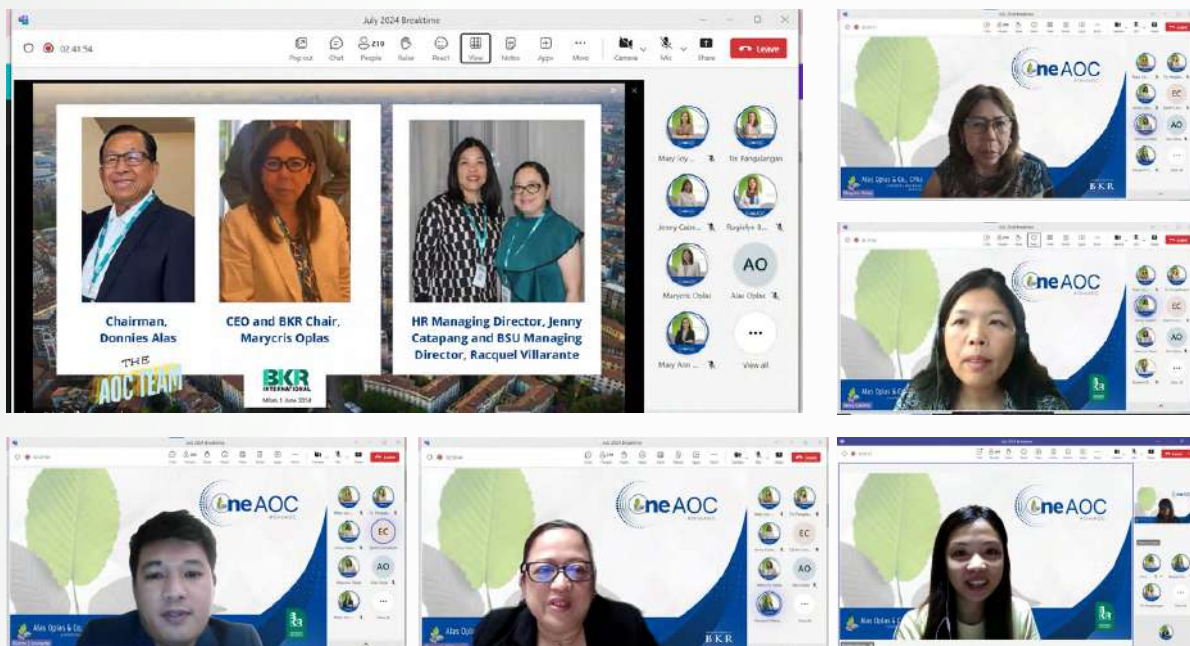
The event kicked off with a mass led by Father Ogie Orpiada, who shared God's word and enlightened the virtual gathering. Following the mass, event host Tin Pangalangan welcomed attendees. The main program featured a video presentation titled "Self-Care is Self-Love," prepared by HR Managing Director Jenny Catapang, which highlighted the importance of nurturing oneself. Employees also contributed by sharing their personal self-care tips and routines.



Additionally, a video presentation introduced the new hires for the month and celebrated employees with birthdays and work anniversaries, adding an energetic and festive atmosphere to the virtual event.

The recent international conferences were highlighted in a video presentation featuring attendees from various offices of Alas Oplas. The 2024 EMEA Annual Regional Conference, held in Milan, Italy, from June 1-3, showcased significant firm milestones which were attended by CEO Marycris Oplas, Chairman Donnies Alas, HR Managing Director, Jenny Catapang, and BSU Managing Director, Racquel Villarante. While the BKR Annual Asia Pacific Regional Conference took place from June 15-17, 2024, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with attendees including CEO Marycris Oplas, Chairman Donnies Alas, Managing Partner Ryan Sabug, Senior Partner Glesie Martinez, Tax Partner Fernando Santos, and Tax Manager Eljohn Constante.

## BREAKTIME (continuation)



The video clearly demonstrated the firm's commitment to fostering strong international relationships and exploring future opportunities. Following the video, conference attendees shared their compelling stories and valuable insights, which left a lasting impact. Contributions from Eljohn, Jenny, and Racquel resonated deeply with the breaktime attendees. Adding to the vibrant atmosphere, CEO Marycris discussed her experiences and outlined future plans for the firm, delivering an inspiring message that motivated employees to pursue their goals with renewed enthusiasm and underscoring her exceptional leadership.

The event concluded on a high note with an engaging icebreaker activity prepared by Ms. Rogielyn, ensuring that everyone left the virtual gathering feeling refreshed and motivated.

In summary, the "Self-care Breaktime" event not only celebrated the dedication and achievements of Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs but also reinforced the importance of self-care and professional growth. Through inspiring stories, future plans, and engaging activities, the event left attendees feeling motivated and appreciated, setting a positive tone for the months ahead.

## BKR Asia Pacific 2024 Future Leaders Program



The Future Leaders Program (FLP) organized by BKR International Asia Pacific recently concluded at the Novotel Nusa Dua in Bali, Indonesia, marking its fifth successful year. The event was facilitated by Coach Mennen Aracid and gathered 23 promising young leaders from across the Asia Pacific region, including India, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and the Philippines. Among the delegates were 12 representatives from Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs.

Held on July 26 and 27, the two-day event provided a valuable platform for these emerging leaders to network, exchange experiences, and develop critical skills to foster regional collaboration and growth. The program aimed to empower the next generation of professionals to navigate challenges and lead with innovative ideas in a dynamic business environment. Throughout the program, delegates took part in dynamic workshops, insightful panel discussions, and collaborative team-building activities designed to refine their leadership skills.

AOC proudly supports this initiative, originally launched by Marycris Oplas, the firm's CEO and current Chair of BKR Worldwide. The firm is committed to providing its young leaders with opportunities to engage on an international scale and collaborate with peers from various countries.



### **Photo during the awarding of certificates. AOC Delegates:**

*Left to right (above photo):* Salvio Valenzuela, Executive Director for BKR Asia Pacific, Director Krizza Oplas, Grace Pateno, Noel Geraldo, Director Aji Acosta, Lanie Catapang, and Mary Ann Cruz.

*Left to right (below photo):* Michelle Mendoza, Cheryl Lucero, Jara Masing, Renelyn Negrido, Laezelie Soriano, Partner Meg Paloyo, and Coach Mennen Aracid.

## AOC Team Embarks on International Secondments with Walker Wayland

July 19, 2024 – Jenalyn Baptista, Manager at AOC Ortigas branch, has commenced a four-month secondment in Sydney, Australia. Last May, Audit Director Beth Yasay from Ortigas and Manager Hazel Liban from the Isabela branch also began their six-month secondment. This program, in collaboration with Walker Wayland (WW), a BKR member firm in Sydney, provides AOC employees with international experience and valuable audit skills. It also supports WW's audit clients during Australia's busy financial reporting season.

The firm deeply appreciates WW and BKR International for facilitating these secondment opportunities. These programs enhance our employees' international experience and strengthen our firm's capacity and scalability, underscoring the significant benefits of our BKR membership.



*Manager, Jenalyn Baptista.*



*Manager, Hazel Liban and  
Director, Beth Yasay.*



## AOC Cavite Branch's 3-day Team Outing in the Island of Boracay



From June 29 to July 1, 2024, the AOC Cavite Branch enjoyed a vibrant three-day team outing on Boracay Island with the theme "Pantropiko Paraiso." This getaway provided a much-needed break from their workloads, allowing the team to unwind, foster camaraderie, and enjoy the island's famous powdery white sands, crystal-clear azure waters, and stunning sunsets.

On the first day, the team embraced the island's adventurous spirit, participating in activities such as ATV rides, ziplining, and diving. They also took part in the popular Crystal Kayak photo opportunity, capturing breathtaking moments that will be cherished long after their summer adventure.



The second day featured a day tour and island hopping, offering the team a perfect opportunity to explore the island's picturesque views and hidden gems. They visited several tourist attractions, including Puka Beach, Boracay Newcoast, Bulabog Beach, Boracay Mangroves, and Diniwid Beach. That evening, they hosted a lively talent showcase, featuring a group presentation contest titled "Panalong Pangkat-Ropiko" and a singing competition named "Boses sa Baybay ng Boracay."

## AOC Cavite Branch's 3-day Team Outing in the Island of Boracay (continuation)

Pangkat-Uno claimed victory in the group presentation, while Divina May Lagrosa's captivating voice earned her the title of "Boses sa Baybay ng Boracay 2024." Melissa Cotoner and Marian Lustria secured the first and second runner-up positions, respectively. The evening also featured the crowning of Benjay Deopido and Erika Daculla as "Ginoo at Binibining Perlas ng Pantropiko," creating a festive atmosphere that highlighted the team's talents.

The AOC Cavite Team's three-day excursion to Boracay was a delightful mix of fun, exploration, and relaxation, offering the team a refreshing and memorable experience. The variety of activities and bonding events not only provided a much-needed break but also strengthened the team's camaraderie, leaving everyone rejuvenated and filled with fond memories.



## The BSU Team's Unforgettable Summer Escape to Isla Gigantes



From July 5-7, 2024, after a hectic period of government regulatory filings and compliance, the Business Setup and Compliance team set off on a well-deserved 3-day summer vacation to Isla Gigantes, a renowned tourist destination in Iloilo province.

Their first day was filled with exploration as they enjoyed a land and cave tour. They explored the historical Asluman Lighthouse and hiked through the spectacular rock formations of Bakwitan Cave. Despite the tiring day, the captivating stories and mesmerizing landscapes made it all worthwhile.

The second day was dedicated to island hopping. They visited Pulupandan Islet and Cabugao Gamay Island, diving and swimming in the refreshing waters of Tangke Lagoon. They also rode a banana boat at Villa Antonia Island, relaxed on the white sands of Tinagong Dagat (the island's mini-Boracay), and marveled at the stunning Bantigue Sandbar, which warmed their spirits.

On the last day of their vacation, the team enjoyed a city tour. Traveling by van, they visited several landmarks and captured memorable photos along the way.

Overall, the team's 3-day vacation in Iloilo was extraordinary. It provided a much-needed break from their daily routine and strengthened their bonds through shared experiences. Amid the lush landscapes, historical wonders, and vibrant waters of Iloilo province, they found rejuvenation and inspiration. This journey from the rigors of regulatory work to the tranquility of island life highlighted the importance of balance and renewal. With gratitude and refreshed minds, they returned to their duties, ready to tackle challenges and savor the meaningful moments that make life truly fulfilling.





## AOC Bulacan Branch's Successful Team-Building in Zambales



The Bulacan Branch recently held a highly successful three-day team-building event, led by Branch Partner Meg Paloyo. The event took place from June 23 to June 25, 2024, at the picturesque Brisa De Jardin Resort in Candelaria, Zambales. The primary goal was to improve team dynamics, enhance communication and leadership skills, and strengthen the camaraderie among employees.

Throughout the three days, participants engaged in a variety of fun and developmental activities designed to leave a lasting impact. One of the key highlights was the daily reflection and feedback sessions, where team members shared their insights and experiences from the day's activities.

The team-building event was a resounding success, providing participants with valuable lessons, boosting their morale, and fostering personal growth. The bonds formed and memories created during this event will undoubtedly contribute to a more cohesive and motivated team at the Bulacan Branch.



## AOC's Human Resource Team Attends Fujifilm's Leadership Summit



*In the photo, left – Jenny Catapang, right – Rogielyn Barroga with Inspirational Speaker Francis Kong.*

On July 17, 2024, HR Managing Director Jenny Catapang and HR Specialist Rogielyn Barroga attended the leadership summit held at Makati Diamond Hotel. The event was organized by Fujifilm Business Innovation Philippines Corp. in partnership with the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

The summit provided AOC's Human Resource Team with a valuable opportunity to explore and learn about cutting-edge leadership and business development strategies with focus on digital transformation and innovation. Francis Kong, a renowned motivational speaker and entrepreneur, ended the session with remarkable insights on the role of technology in shaping the future of leadership.

## AOC Bulacan Treats Local Team Leads to Boracay

From June 16-18, 2024, AOC Bulacan celebrated the end of the audit season by treating its Local Team Leads to a rejuvenating getaway in Boracay. Partner Meg Paloyo, Director Judy Eala, and Managers Vhan Belocora, Mary Joy Miranda, Mary Ann Cruz, and Laezelie Soriano enjoyed a well-deserved break. This retreat provided the team with an opportunity to bond and unwind in the picturesque setting of Boracay, marking a refreshing conclusion to a busy season.



## Human Resource and Payroll Team's Insightful 'Personality Development' Session



On July 18, 2024, the Human Resource and Payroll Team gathered at the Paranaque Office for their monthly meeting, combining productivity with personal development. This meeting provided a valuable opportunity to review progress on deliverables and enhance team camaraderie.

A major highlight was the continuation of the enlightening "Did You Know?" session, led by Rogielyn Barroga, HR Specialist. This session focused on "Personality Development," with the goal of inspiring personal growth and a deeper sense of purpose. Ms. Barroga's engaging and insightful presentation provided practical guidance and tools for individual advancement. At the end of the session, team members eagerly shared their key takeaways, demonstrating how profoundly the topic resonated with them. Their reflections underscored a commitment to continuous improvement and mutual support, significantly strengthening their professional bonds and collective progress.

## AOC Bulacan Local Team Monthly Catch-Up

On July 18, 2024, the Local team of Bulacan branch, led by Partner Meg Paloyo, gathered at the AOC Bulacan office for their monthly meeting focused on strengthening team cohesion and collaboration. The session featured interactive mini-games centered around the Ease of Paying Taxes (EOPT), aimed at enhancing team spirit and deepening the team's understanding of tax processes. This dynamic approach underscores the branch's commitment to fostering a collaborative work environment while keeping everyone informed and engaged with the team's services.



## Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs Introduces Opportunities to Virgen Milagrosa University Students



July 22, 2024 – Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs had the honor of being invited to the General Orientation at Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation Inc.'s College of Business Administration & Accountancy in Pangasinan. This event provided a valuable opportunity for AOC to introduce the firm to the university's students.

Dean Moises Espelita warmly welcomed AOC. HR Managing Director Jenny Catapang presented the firm and inspired future accountants and CPAs, highlighting the professional growth opportunities within AOC. She emphasized that AOC is open to both CPA and non-CPA graduates, offering them a chance to excel in their careers. Chairman Donnies Alas, also present at the event, inspired students with his talk, sharing examples of how joining the firm can lead to advancement, even to the level of Partner. He extended an invitation for students to undertake their On-the-Job Training (OJT) and new graduates with AOC and reassured them of the firm's commitment to nurturing young professionals.

Following the orientation, Chairman Donnies Alas and the team had a brief yet meaningful meeting with VMUF's Vice-President for Administration, Dr. Angelo Juan, and President, Dra. Ma. Lilia Posada-Juan, daughter of the late Founder Dr. Martin Posadas and Dra. Rosalina Q. Posadas. They engaged in light and constructive conversations.



*From left to right:  
Mary Ann Duguran, Jenny Catapang, Dr. Angelo Juan, Dra. Lilia Juan, Donnies Alas, Moises Espelita and Noel Geraldo.*

## AOC Legazpi Expands Services in the Region

The Alas Oplas Legazpi Branch, the newest branch of the firm, is expanding its reach with exciting opportunities. A significant development is our engagement with PANDR Outsourcing, a leading Australian BPO company based in Legazpi. This partnership is eagerly anticipated, with both organizations dedicated to building a strong and successful business relationship. Under the leadership of Branch Partner in Charge Nathalie Lupango, the branch will continue to introduce and provide the firm's services in the region, reinforcing our commitment to exceptional service and creating career opportunities for young professionals.



During their initial meeting, the PANDR team extended a warm welcome to the AOC team. As the Legazpi Branch continues to explore and introduce its services, this partnership with PANDR Outsourcing marks a significant step forward in expanding its impact and fostering growth in the region.



*From left to right: Sandy E. Chavez, PANDR Site Accountant; Nathalie R. Lupango, Partner in Charge AOC Legazpi; Ma. Christina M. Atrasado, Audit Associate; Marinel Dela Cruz, Audit Associate; Bryan Lomot, Senior Auditor; Ariel Borrás, PANDR Bookkeeper; Ma. Eda Gladys Gojit, PANDR Internal Accountant*



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*Beyond Numbers by:*

## CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

*We welcome your comments and feedback.*

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