



Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs

credibility and honor
defined.

Beyond
NUMBERS

2024 ISSUE NO. 011

**#AOCWinStories:
October Wellness and
Growth with Extensive Team Training**



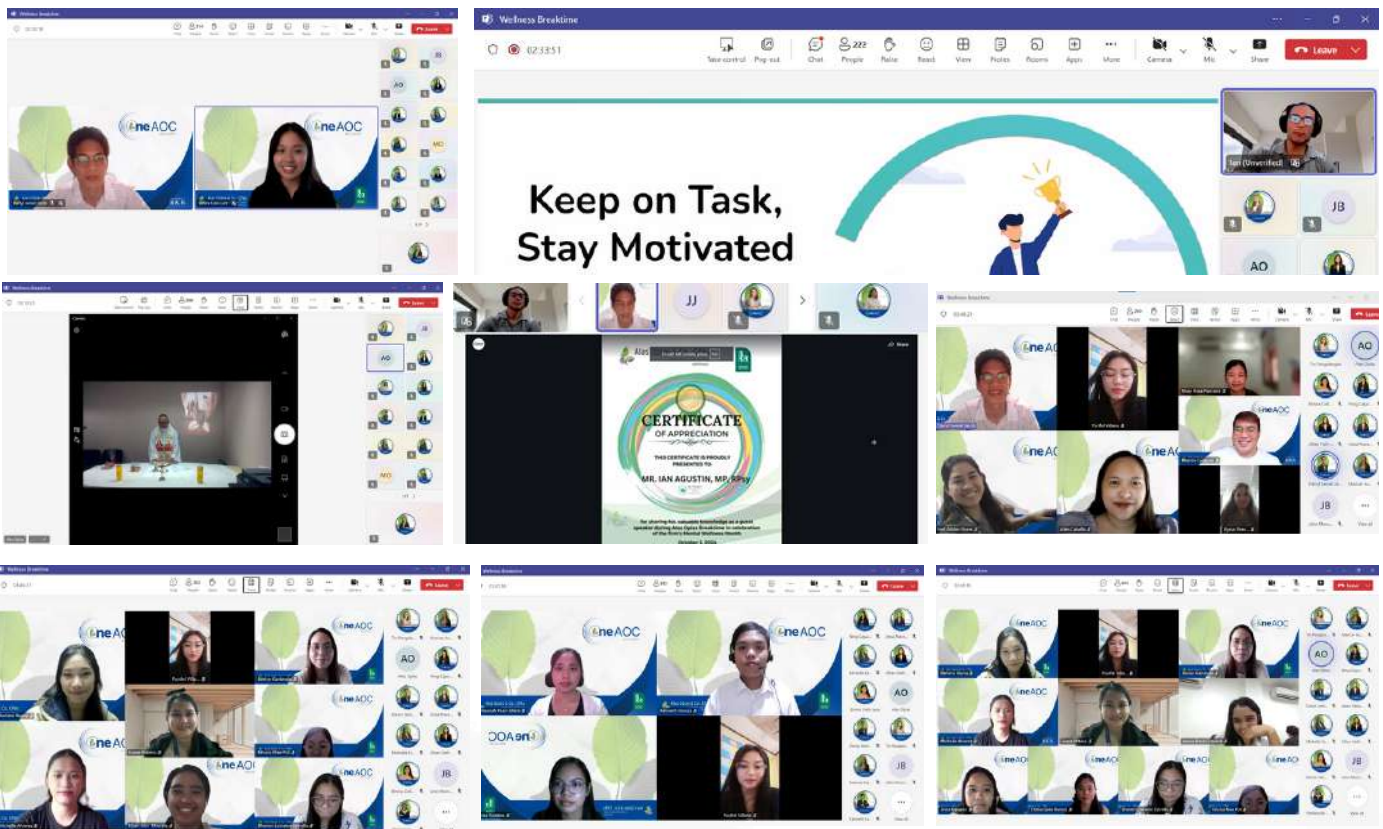
Breaktime: AOC October Wellness

On October 2, 2024, Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs held their virtual breaktime for the month of October with the theme “October: Wellness Breaktime.” This event, organized by the HR Team, aimed to unite all employees from all offices. It was set at the beginning of the month to boost morale and foster stronger camaraderie among team members.

The virtual gathering commenced with a soulful mass led by Father Ogie Orpiada, who delivered meaningful words from the gospel that brought enlightenment to all attendees. Following the mass, Darryl Jacob and Elmira Lara from the Ortigas branch enthusiastically moderated the event, welcoming everyone present.

In alignment with the theme, employees participated in an insightful discussion by guest speaker Mr. Ian Agustin, from InTouch Philippines, Inc. He shared his expertise, personal testimonies, and valuable advice on prioritizing goals and dreams. This discussion underscored Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs’ commitment to the holistic well-being of its employees, encouraging them to achieve further milestones in their personal and professional journeys.

The event also celebrated new hires, with everyone sending their heartfelt birthday wishes and congratulations to those celebrating birthdays and work anniversaries in October.

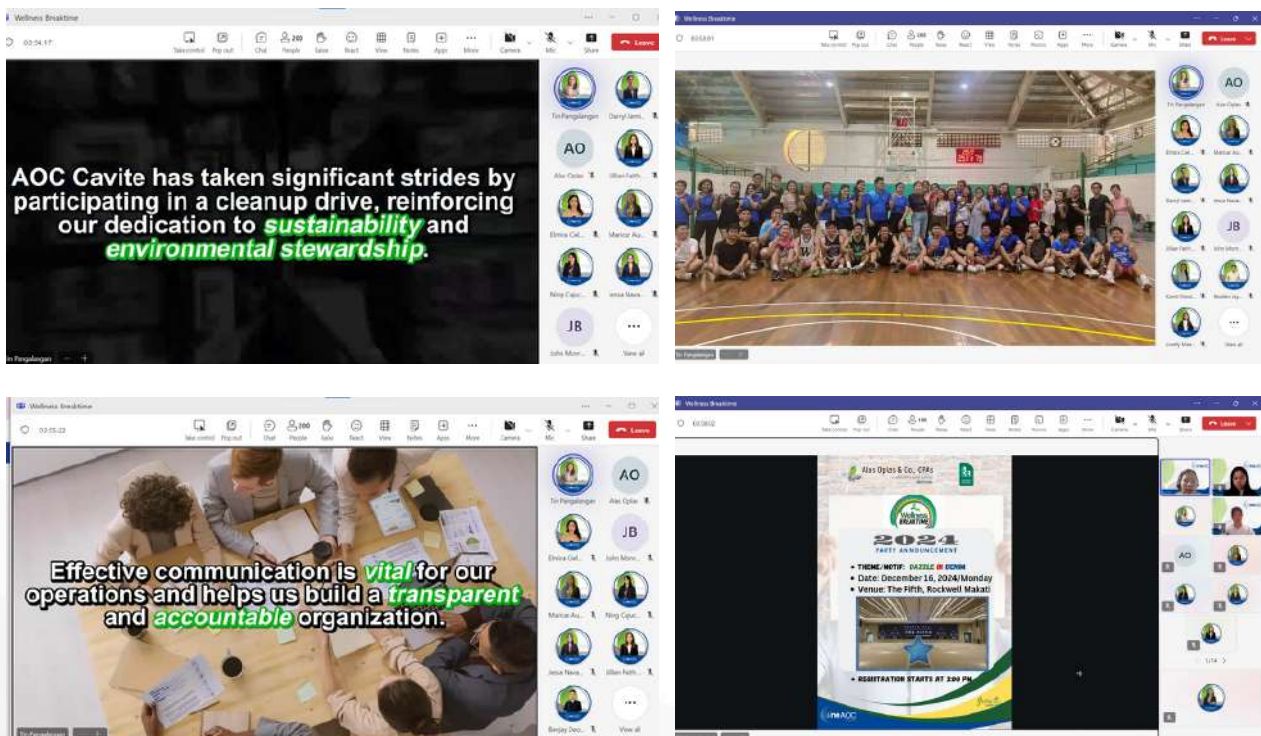


Breaktime: AOC October Wellness (continuation)

A compelling video presentation showcased the ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) initiatives spearheaded by the Cavite Branch's earth warriors. A key highlight was their recent clean-up drive, themed "All-In, Trash-Out," designed to raise awareness about environmental responsibility and foster community involvement. These ESG initiatives demonstrate the branch's dedication to environmental sustainability and community engagement, aligning with the firm's broader sustainability goals and striving to create a cleaner, safer environment for future generations.

The breaktime concluded with an important announcement from HR Managing Director, Ms. Jenny Catapang. She revealed details about the upcoming year-end party, including the date, events, and theme, building excitement among employees for the firm's festive celebration in December.

In summary, the "October: Wellness Breaktime" event at AOC exemplified the firm's commitment to employee well-being and community engagement. Through meaningful discussions, celebrations, and impactful ESG initiatives, the company not only strengthened its internal bonds but also reinforced its dedication to creating a positive impact on the environment. As employees look forward to the upcoming year-end party, they carry with them a renewed sense of unity and purpose, embodying the values that make Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs a great place to work.



Excitement Builds for the Opening of AOC's New Branch

On October 4, 2024, Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs held a milestone meeting in San Juan, La Union, as part of its exciting plans to open a new branch. The meeting brought together Chairman Donnies Alas, Partner Noel Geraldo, and Managing Director Mary Ann Duguran with newly appointed Partners Carl Martos and Rex Balacano. The team gathered for a welcoming lunch at Awesome Hotel, together with Carl's wife, Lalaine Martos, the La Union Branch Manager of PCSO, underscoring a warm start to their expansion journey.

Following the lunch, the team delved into detailed discussions at Carl's office on the establishment of the La Union branch, solidifying the leadership team. With Carl Martos and Rex Balacano, confirmed as branch partners, the new La Union office is poised to bring expert accounting, audit, and advisory services to the region. The unified vision for the branch encompasses a broad array of offerings designed to support both local businesses and individuals. Set to serve not only La Union but also neighboring areas, this branch underscores Alas Oplas' commitment to regional growth, client success, and expanding reach across the Philippines.

Set to officially open this November as the 13th branch, Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs builds excitement as it prepares to continue its tradition of excellence and trusted partnership within the La Union community and beyond.



◀◀ **Photo from left to right:**
Rex Balacano, Carl Martos, Donnies Alas and Noel Geraldo.



◀◀ **Photo from left to right:** Lalaine Martos, Mary Ann Duguran, Carl Martos, Donnies Alas, Rex Balacano and Noel Geraldo.



Makati Local Outsource Team Meeting with Chairman

On October 9, 2024, the AOC Makati Local Outsource team, led by Partner Noel Geraldo, convened with Chairman Donnies Alas at The City Club in Makati City for a team update meeting. The agenda centered on providing updates about employee statuses and enhancing client relationships.

The discussion highlighted the current organizational structure and the existing client base of Makati Local Outsource, allowing the team to assess their service delivery effectively. Emphasis was placed on the skills and expertise of team members, identifying areas for improvement and professional development.

Additionally, the team engaged in a vital conversation about best practices for client interactions, ensuring that each member is well-prepared to represent the firm with confidence and professionalism. Other pertinent concerns raised during the meeting will contribute to the ongoing growth and success of the team. Overall, the meeting fostered a collaborative environment aimed at strengthening the team's capabilities and client service initiatives.



Photo from left to right:

Rico Solatorio, Aileen Garbida, Charina Macanas, Russel Vallega, Jason Cahilo, Danica Garcia, Chairman Donnies Alas, Daisy Jeane Liban, Darlene Ibarra, Avan De Guzman and Partner Noel Geraldo.

AOC HR and Payroll Team Attends 61st PMAP Annual Conference

The AOC HR and Payroll Team, led by HR Managing Director Jenny Catapang, participated in the 61st PMAP Annual Conference at the Iloilo Convention Center from October 16 to 18, 2024, themed “REHUMANIZE.” Joining her were Manager Tin Pangalangan and HR Specialist Rogielyn Barroga, who engaged in enriching discussions and networking opportunities throughout the event.



Photo from left to right:
Rogielyn Barroga, Tin Pangalangan and Jenny Catapang.

In addition to attending the conference sessions, the team maximized their time in Iloilo by connecting with Iloilo based employees. On Day 2, they met with AOC Iloilo’s new Manager, Kimberly Rodorocio, and on the following day, they connected with team members Krisziah Palma and Shellamiah Allera from the SF Audit and SF Accounting teams, both of whom are on a work-from-home arrangement in Iloilo.



The HR and Payroll team, alongside Manager Kimberly Rodorocio (2nd from the right in the photo)



The HR and Payroll team, alongside Krisziah Palma and Shellamiah Allera from the SF Audit and SF Accounting teams.

AOC HR and Payroll Team Attends 61st PMAP Annual Conference (continuation)

This three-day conference not only offered valuable insights into industry trends and challenges but also strengthened relationships across the organization. As Ms. Jenny shares her key takeaways, *"Indeed, there should be a balance in today's workplace - High Tech, High Touch. While technology streamlines processes, enhances accuracy, and often drives innovation, it's still human insight, empathy, and adaptability that make workplaces truly dynamic. No matter how advanced systems become, they still rely on the critical thinking, creativity, and relational strengths of people. Technology can support decision-making, but it's ultimately the people behind the screens who interpret, decide, and direct outcomes. Maintaining a balance between "tech and touch" creates workplaces where technology empowers employees rather than replaces the essential human element. Companies that understand this blend are best positioned to thrive in an evolving, tech-driven world. Before we say, people is the most valued resource, now it should be tech driven employees will drive organization to success"*.

The Payroll and HR Manager, *Tin Pangalangan*, emphasized that *"success is no longer defined solely by profit; businesses now need a higher purpose. Purpose-driven companies are more likely to retain employees who feel motivated by a shared vision"*. This approach was exemplified by *Mr. Lucio Tan III, CEO of PAL*, during the CEO forum, one of the convention's key highlights.



Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs Firm-Wide Audit Methodology Training

Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs recently conducted its annual Firm-wide Audit Methodology Training, engaging over 130 auditors from branches nationwide. The program kicked off on October 17 with opening remarks from Senior Partner Glesie Martinez, who also shared plans for upcoming training initiatives. Spanning six intensive sessions through October 31, the training aimed to enhance audit practices and reinforce methodologies.

This collaborative platform allowed auditors to share insights and experiences at every stage of the audit process, from client acceptance to finalization. The sessions featured highly motivated speakers, including Partner Loraine San Pedro, Senior Managers Nathalie Iral and Maricar Austria, Managers Jonas Bravo, Lian Seth Santos, Denver Tabubuca, Erlyn Grace Adaoag, and Supervisor Allan Quibuyen, all of whom generously shared their expertise.

On the last day of the training, HR Managing Director Jenny Catapang delivered closing remarks and recognized a top performer among the participants, highlighting the exceptional contributions everyone made throughout the program. This recognition truly celebrated the dedication and talent that shone during the entire training. This initiative underscored the firm's dedication to continuous improvement and professional excellence across its audit teams.



Webinar Series on Audit for Banks

This October, Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs is conducting a comprehensive webinar series on auditing for banks, scheduled for every Friday and Saturday. Teams from Ortigas, Santiago, Legazpi, and Iloilo are actively participating, alongside members from other branches eager to expand their knowledge in this vital field.

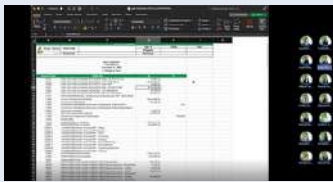
Led by a team of experienced speakers—including Managers Eryn Grace Adaoag and Denver Tabubuca, Supervisor Allan Quibuyen, and Senior Auditor Marc Darius Salvatero—the sessions provide valuable insights and practical experiences tailored to enhance the auditors' skill sets.

With a focus on collaboration and knowledge sharing, this initiative underscores the firm's commitment to continuous professional development. The series will extend into November, featuring additional sessions aimed at deepening understanding and expertise in Audit for Banks, ensuring that our auditors remain at the forefront of industry standards and practices.



AOC Cavite's Commitment to Professional Growth

The AOC Cavite team initiated a focused three-month in-house training program on August 1, 2024, thoughtfully scheduled ahead of the busy season to advance professional capabilities and foster employee growth. Beginning with a foundational session led by Technical Manager Lian Seth Santos, the program evolved over September and October, featuring dynamic webinars and eventually extending to include the Bulacan Outsource team. This training initiative reflects AOC Cavite's unwavering commitment to continuous development, empowering its employees to deliver exceptional client service and expand their expertise across key area.



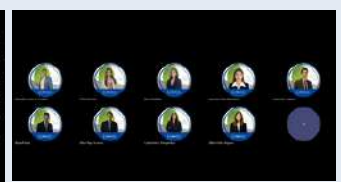
August 1, 2024
Lead Schedule Preparation
Speaker: Lian Seth Santos, Manager



August 2, 2024
Disclosures & Worksheet For Cash Flows
Speaker: Lian Seth Santos, Manager



August 6, 2024
Overview Of Reporting Framework
Speaker: Lian Seth Santos, Manager



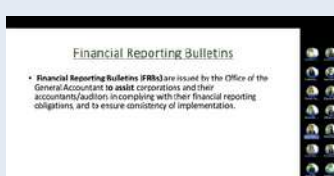
August 7, 2024
Drafting: Small Entity
Speaker: Lian Seth Santos, Manager



August 9, 2024
Drafting: SME and Full
Speaker: Lian Seth Santos, Manager



August 15, 2024
SRC Rule 68
Speaker: Lian Seth Santos, Manager



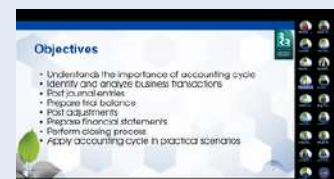
August 19, 2024
Financial Reporting Bulletin
Speaker: Lian Seth Santos, Manager



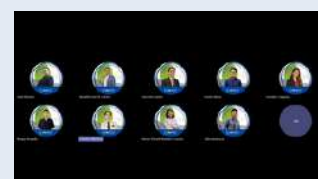
August 19, 2024
Proofreading
Speaker: Cheryll Grace Lucero, Asst. Manager



August 29, 2024
Tax Computation, JE & Notes
Disclosures, RR 15-2010 & RR 19-2011
Speaker: Eljohn Constante, Partner



September 9, 2024
Accounting & Bookkeeping –
Accounting Cycle
Speaker: Christian Martinez, Partner



September 11, 2024
Accounting & Bookkeeping –
Purchasing Continuation
Speaker: Christian Martinez, Partner



September 13, 2024
Accounting & Bookkeeping – Revenue &
Payroll
Speaker: Christian Martinez, Partner



September 18, 2024
Accounting & Bookkeeping – Bank
Recon & Reporting
Speaker: Christian Martinez, Partner



September 30, 2024
Revise Corp Code Provision Relevant To
Audit & Other Services [Part 1]
Speaker: Glesie Martinez, Senior Partner



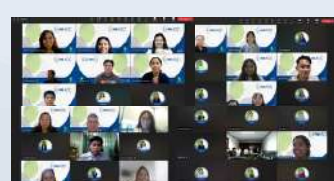
October 4, 2024
Topic: Retirement Plan (PAS19r, Section
28 for SME and Pure Accrual for SE)
Speaker: Lian Seth Santos, Manager



October 8, 2024
Revise Corp Code Provision Relevant to
Audit & Other Services [Part 2]
Speaker: Glesie Martinez, Senior Partner



October 21, 2024
Tax Return Preparation
Speaker: Christian Martinez, Partner



October 23, 2024
Tax Return Preparation: 2550Q VAT
Speaker: Christian Martinez – Partner



October 28, 2024
Tax Return Preparation: Bir Form
2307 and BIR Form 2316
Speakers: Kate Clarisse Delantar,
Associate and Cheryll Grace
Lucero, Asst. Manager

Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs Conducted Seminar on Basic Taxation for Banks

October 10, 2024 – Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs conducted an informative seminar on "Basic Taxation for Banks" for the Confederation of Rural Banks in Isabela, held at Mango Suites in Santiago, Isabela. Led by AOC Tax Partner Fernando Santos, the session attracted over 30 participants representing various rural banks across Northern Luzon.

The seminar provided attendees with essential insights into key tax regulations and compliance requirements tailored to the banking sector. Participants actively engaged in discussions, sharing experiences and gaining practical knowledge to enhance their understanding of tax processes specific to their industry.

This event underscored Alas Oplas & Co.'s commitment to equipping banks with the necessary tools and information to navigate the complexities of taxation effectively. By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing, the firm aims to empower rural banks to stay compliant and informed in an ever-evolving regulatory landscape.

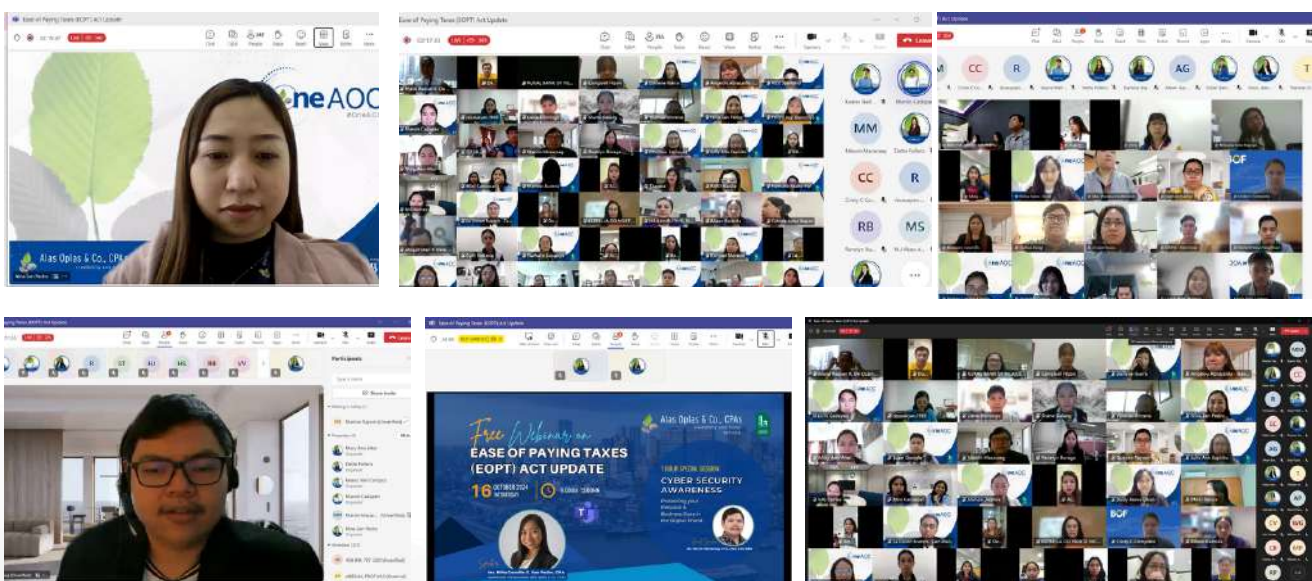


Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs Hosts Engaging Webinar on EOPT Act and Cybersecurity Awareness

On October 16, 2024, Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs held a highly informative Webinar on the Ease of Paying Taxes (EOPT) Act Update, presented by esteemed Tax Associate Ms. Nina San Pedro. This session offered participants an in-depth exploration of the recent changes introduced by the EOPT Act, equipping them with practical strategies to streamline tax compliance and optimize filing procedures. Nina's insights centered on key provisions aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, empowering businesses to navigate the evolving tax landscape effectively.

The webinar also included a pivotal one-hour special session on Cybersecurity Awareness: Protecting Your Personal & Business Data in the Digital World, skillfully delivered by Mr. Marvin Macaraeg, CPA, CISA, CEH, MBA. In recognition of October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month, this session underscored the critical importance of safeguarding both personal and business data in today's increasingly digital environment.

The event drew over 350 participants from a wide array of industries, including finance, retail, manufacturing, and technology, fostering lively discussions and collaboration among attendees. The active engagement of participants not only highlighted the relevance of the topics covered but also reinforced AOC's commitment to providing valuable resources and support to its clients and the broader business community.



AOC and LvHJ Collaborate for In-Depth Training

The Lindquist von Husen & Joyce LLP, a BKR member firm from California, USA, led by Partner Charlotte Tay, together with Manager Jennifer Cabania, Sherry Lu, Hannah Nenadich, and Sean Kozuszek, conducted an intensive three-day training with Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs' SF Accounting team, headed by Partner Meg Paloyo. Held from September 30 to October 2, 2024, at the Nexus Center in Makati, Philippines, this training provided essential knowledge in international services and opened valuable growth opportunities of the AOC Team.

This initiative exemplifies BKR's commitment to fostering collaboration and growth among its members, empowering them to excel both professionally and personally in today's competitive environment. Together, we are building a community dedicated to continuous learning and professional excellence internationally.



AOC Bacolod Team Building Retreat with Santiago and Iloilo Auditors

The Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs Bacolod team enjoyed two enriching days of team building, characterized by teamwork and camaraderie, alongside exceptional auditors from AOC Santiago and Iloilo. This collaborative initiative aimed to strengthen connections and elevate excellence within the firm. Held at the picturesque Don Salvador Benedicto Amari Resorts from October 19-20, 2024, the event provided a perfect backdrop for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the development of lasting professional relationships.

Participants engaged in a variety of interactive activities designed to enhance teamwork and communication skills, while open discussions facilitated the exchange of insights and best practices. This team-building experience not only fostered closer relationships among the Bacolod, Santiago, and Iloilo teams but also reinforced their collective commitment to excellence and collaboration moving forward.



Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs Attends the Manila Times Year-End Economic Forum 2024

On October 22, 2024, representatives from Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs participated in the Manila Times Year-End Economic Forum at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City. Partner Christian Martinez and Managing Director of Corporate Communication Mary Ann Duguran attended the event, which featured an impressive lineup of speakers. These included Dennis Lapid, Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Economic Research at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; Neil Adrian Cabiles, Assistant Secretary at the Department of Finance, Office of the Chief Economist; Ramon Monzon, President of the Philippine Stock Exchange; and James Villafuerte, Regional Lead Economist at the Asian Development Bank. The keynote address was delivered by Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, who provided insights on the country's economic outlook and fiscal strategies. The forum offered a valuable platform for discussing key economic trends and policies shaping the Philippines' growth trajectory.



Photo from left to right: Manila Times VP for Sales and Marketing Roda Zabat, Mary Ann Duguran, Christian Martinez and Ron Ryan Buguis, Manila Times Senior Account Manager



With President of Philippine Stock Exchange, Mr. Ramon Monzon.



With VP and Head for Corporate Communications of Meralco Mr. Joe Zaldarriaga.

AOC Attend BKR International 2024 Annual Worldwide Meeting in Tokyo

Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs attended the BKR International 2024 Annual Worldwide Meeting, held at the Hilton Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, from October 26 to 29. This gathering centered on BKR's core values of fostering business relationships, sharing insights, and promoting knowledge exchange among global partners. AOC's CEO Marycris Oplas played a key role in the event, participating in a roundtable discussion titled "Beyond Boundaries: Unleashing Growth Potential Through Strategic Outsourcing Partnerships." This session focused on how organizations can leverage strategic outsourcing to enhance growth and operational efficiency while overcoming geographic and logistical barriers. The other panel of global experts includes: including Micheal Burch, CEO of BKR International; Rita Dela Cruz, Audit Partner at Lindquist, von Husen & Joyce LLP; Mohamed Fouad El-Watan, Head of Deal Advisory Services at Fouad El-Watan BKR; and Pratapkaran Paul, Managing Partner at Pratapkaran Paul & Co. Attendees were eager to explore how outsourcing can transform challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth on a global scale.



As Marycris concludes her two-year term as Chair of BKR International, she will hand over her responsibilities to the newly appointed chair, reflecting on her substantial contributions to the organization. The Alas Oplas delegation, which included Chairman Donnies Alas, Senior Partner Glesie Martinez, Managing Partner Ryan Sabug, Partner Meg Paloyo, Tax Partner Fernando Santos, and Director Kim Adrian Cruz, collaborated with other BKR members to strengthen connections within the international accounting community. They also enjoyed an enriching tour of Tokyo, offering a refreshing break and a chance to strengthen team bonds, making for a rejuvenated return to work.



AOC Santiago Team Welcomed by Bacolod Branch



On October 13, 2024, the AOC Santiago Team, led by Manager Eryln Grace Adaoag and accompanied by Florence Gallato and Ma. Victoria Anne Basilio, received a warm welcome from the AOC Bacolod Branch during a delightful dinner on their first evening in the city. This gathering offered a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships and lay the groundwork for their upcoming engagement with a local client, working closely with the dedicated AOC Bacolod team. This reflects the firm's commitment to intra-branch collaboration and teamwork.

AOC HR and Payroll's Productive October Team Meeting

On October 15, 2024, the Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs' HR and Payroll Team gathered at Talent Hub in Parañaque office for their monthly meeting, an opportunity to assess progress, build camaraderie, and plan upcoming firm events. Compliance Officer Dominic Salvador led the session with updates on recent regulatory changes from SSS, Pag-IBIG, and PhilHealth, sharing valuable insights from a recent webinar. The team celebrated October birthdays, welcomed a new member, and kicked off plans for December's year-end party, with Rogielyn Barroga's lively game adding a festive touch. HR Managing Director Jenny Catapang wrapped up the meeting with a review of team deliverables, promoting open discussion, offering constructive feedback, and inspiring everyone to achieve their year-end targets.



AOC Cavite Team Building Weekend: “Let’s Get Fiscal (Physical)!”

The Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs – Cavite Team embarked on an exhilarating team-building weekend at Hacienda Gracita Tagaytay Leisure Farm & Resort from October 5-6, 2024, embracing the vibrant theme **LET’S GET FISCAL (PHYSICAL)!** Split into five dynamic groups—Red, Black, White, Blue, and Green—the teams engaged in a variety of fun and challenging activities designed to test their coordination, problem-solving skills, and teamwork. Laughter, camaraderie, and a spirit of friendly competition filled the air as each group worked collaboratively to conquer obstacles and achieve victory.

Day one featured a series of interactive exercises, including the Caterpillar Bulldozer, where participants advanced together in a creative formation, and the Duck and Jump Relay, requiring agility and cooperation. As the sun set, the teams enjoyed a night of relaxation with karaoke, a grill night, and a swimming party, punctuated by the "Getting to Know Chain" icebreaker that fostered deeper connections among participants.

On day two, guided by the expert coaches from Hacienda Gracita, the teams faced more exhilarating challenges such as All Aboard, which tested their unity and balance on a small platform, and Pipeline, where they constructed a runway of pipes to roll a ball through. The highlight was the Amazing Race, featuring a relay of obstacle courses that included rope climbing, monkey bars, and soldier crawls. The overall champions—Red, Black, and White teams—emerged after a fiercely competitive weekend, celebrating not only their victories but also the strengthened bonds and shared experiences that will resonate within the team long after the event.





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Beyond Numbers by:

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

We welcome your comments and feedback.

Please email us at aoheadoffice@alaso-plascpas.com

or you may visit our

Website: www.alaso-plascpas.com

Beyond Numbers is a periodic e-newsletter of Alas Oplas & Co., CPAs, which underscores its people, its services, and the events, occasions, and activities it conducts and participates in. The e-newsletter aims to reflect the Firm's culture, commitments, values, and practices and is solely directed for communication purposes.

