



Event Program

08:30 | Introduction



08:40 | **Martin Romualdez**

Speaker of the House
Philippine House of Representatives

PRESENTER: Martin Romualdez was overwhelmingly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives earlier this year. He is also president of the Lakas–Christian Muslims Democrats (CMD) party, one of the oldest political parties in the country.

During the 18th Congress, during the Covid-19 pandemic, Martin was majority leader of the House. His role was critical for the speedy passage of two important Bayanihan laws — the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act or Bayanihan 1, and the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or Bayanihan 2. He was also heavily involved in the approval of the Covid-19 Vaccination Act of 2021 and the Malasakit Centers Act.

Speaker of the House Martin was behind the passage of the Alternative Learning System Act, the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act or CREATE Law, and Republic Act (RA) No. 11517.

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09:00 | **Benjamin Diokno**

Secretary
Department of Finance

PRESENTER: Benjamin previously was Budget Secretary from 2016 to 2019 and pursued an expansionary fiscal policy to finance investments in human capital development and public infrastructure. He is Professor Emeritus of the University of the Philippines-Diliman where he taught for 40 years. Benjamin was also Chairman and CEO of the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and Chairman of the Local Water Utilities Administration. He was previously adviser to World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Commission, USAID and others for work in the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Mongolia.



09:20 | **Dr. Bernie Villegas**

Economist
University of Asia and the Pacific

PRESENTER: Bernie is widely known as the nation's most prominent Economist. He has PhD in Economics from Harvard University where he was one of its youngest ever teaching fellows. He is a past Professor at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), Research Director of the Center for Research and Communications and Visiting Professor of IESE Business School in Barcelona. Dr. Villegas is author of widely used economics textbooks in the Philippines as well as management best-sellers like The Philippine Advantage, Book of Values, Productivity: Path to Global Competitiveness. He has received prestigious awards such as the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM), 1972, Fulbright, Johnson Foundation, Asia Foundation and the Instituto de Cultura Hispanica. He has sat on numerous boards of leading companies, such as Insular Life, Alaska Milk, PHINMA, Rolls Royce, Dupont, BPI, Benguet, Globe Telecom, McDonalds, IBM, etc.

10:00 | Panel Session

10:30 | Closing

