2026

AFICS- PHL Strategic Planning Meeting



Update on the 2026 AFICS-PHL Strategic Planning Meeting

Signaling Our Continued Commitment



The Strategic Planning Meeting, held on April 23, 2026, was a meeting of the Trustees, Vice Presidents, and Chairs of AFICS-Philippines Committees to discuss the Association's two-year plans.

Numbers do lie. Who says a small group can't move mountains? (Or at least give them a decent push… hahaha!)

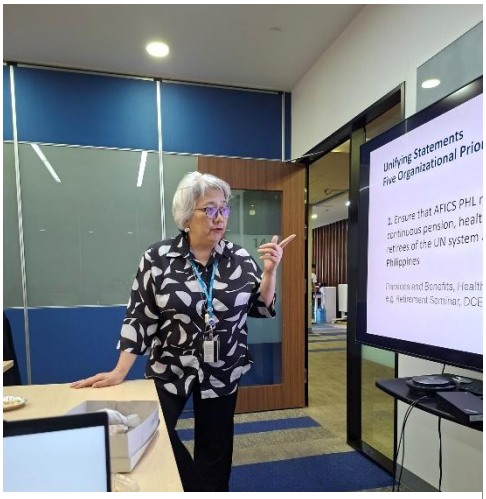
The AFICS-PHL Strategic Planning Meeting held at the UN's Meeting Room 14-B on April 23, 2026 had 15 participants on site, with four more joining online.

Not a large gathering—but the right people to get things moving.

Here are a few notes that might interest you:

- The meeting was well organized – those who presented the committee work plans did so efficiently and were respectful of the time allocated for them.
- The session Facilitators efficiently managed the open forum, i.e. drawing out views and summarizing the key points of agreements.
- The Note Takers took their tasks seriously, meticulously capturing the discussion with care and detail.
- The UN Meeting Room 14-B initially looked small but it turned out to be just right for the Strategic Planning Meeting.
- Food and Drinks:
  - The snacks and lunch ordered by Tony Fernandez from untested suppliers turned out to be quite good.
  - *Merienda* of empanada care of Marlene Arduo; *kakanin* from Cainta care of Thetis Mangahas; oranges and bananas plus soda drinks from Ruth Leano; and more were all there for participants to enjoy.
  - Some commented that there were a few too many calories on the table—but that didn't stop anyone from going for the sweet Davao *suha* brought by Ron Magnaye.
  - Several take homes: pineapple jam from Ruth, *empanada* from Marlene, and more munchies!

In this pleasant atmosphere, the Planning Meeting's objective of outlining the priority activities and outputs of our Association for 2026 and 2027 was met.



Thetis Mangahas recapping the planning meeting.



Marlene Arduo, one of the original AFICS incorporator, giving her opinion.



Ruth Leano reviewing her notes as she facilitated a session.



Rencee Tayzon explained the Outreach Committee proposal.



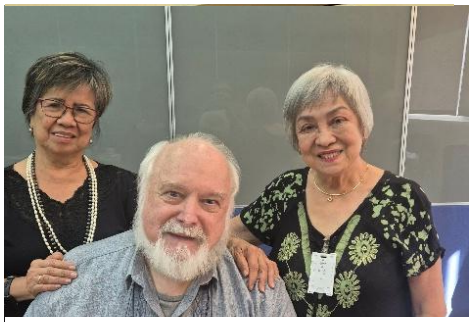
Lesty Santos went through the proposed AFICS-PHL website for feedback.



Ronald Magnaye sought some clarification on membership.



Mi Ann Maglipon facilitated the opening session.

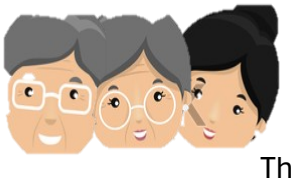


(Left to right) Ruth Batten, John Batten, and Maria Diaz posing for the camera.



The Meeting

When: **April 23, 2026/Thursday**
Where: **14-B Meeting Room, UN House, Sheridan, Mandaluyong**



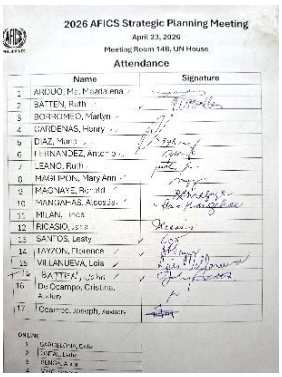
Organizing

The setup and overall coordination of the Strategic Planning Meeting were handled by Thetis Mangahas, Delia Barcelona, Jana Ricasio, Ron Magnaye, and Mi Ann Maglipon.

Participants

18 participants

(14 on-site and 4 online).


2026 AFICS Strategic Planning Meeting
April 23, 2026
Meeting Room 14B, UN House
Attendance

	Name	Signature
1	ARDUO, Ms. Maria Lena	
2	BATTEN, Ruth	
3	BORROMEO, Marlyn	
4	CARDENAS, Henry	
5	DIAZ, Maria	
6	HERNANDEZ, Amor	
7	LEANO, Ruth	
8	MAGLIPON, Mary Ann	
9	MAGNAYE, Ronald	
10	MANGAHAS, Alcesste	
11	MILAN, Inez	
12	RICASIO, Jana	
13	SANTOS, Lesly	
14	SAYZON, Florence	
15	VILLANUEVA, Lois	
16	BATTEN, John De Ocampo, Cristina Ashley	
17	Ocampo, Joseph, Jaden	

ONLINE
1 BARCELONA, Delia
2 DIAZ, Lulu
3 RENOS, Lara
4



The Objectives of the Meeting

At the end of the one-day strategic planning session, participants will be able to identify AFICS-PHL's organizational priorities for 2026 and 2027.

In particular, participants will discuss:

- 2026–2027 outlook: positives & challenges
- Committee outputs: roles & deliverables
- Coordination: linkages, leads & responsibilities
- Work plans: per committee (2026–2027)
- Planning tools: calendar & indicative budget

President Thetis' Opening Remarks: Reality Check

Not all are rosy. Here are some points she shared:

- Funding support for the UN from the US is being reduced or being threatened to be pulled out.

- The conflict between Iran and the US has escalated—and no one really knows where it's headed or how it will end, with effects already felt across countries.

- There are ongoing discussions about UN staff health insurance. New hires may no longer be offered the same coverage, while existing benefits—seen by some as quite generous—may face caps on certain procedures.

All these points to changes ahead.



President Thetis opened the Strategic Planning Meeting with key insights on current realities and AFICS-PHL's direction for 2026–2027.

Thetis noted that UN retirees count on appointed FAFICS members, who are well-versed in funding matters, to take part in reviewing UN pension and benefits.

She ended on a steady note: despite all these developments, AFICS-PHL will continue with its plans and projects, guided by its vision and mission.

Five Organizational Priorities for 2026-2027

1	**Ensure that AFICS-PHL members are able to have continuous pension, health, and other benefits due them as retirees of the UN system and as senior citizens of the Philippines**	**Committees:** Pension & Benefits, Health and Senior Affairs
2	**Represent and advocate the interests of UN pensioners, AFICS-PHL members, and Filipino senior citizens in relevant international and national bodies whose mandates support and advance their welfare**	**Committees:** Governance, Senior Citizens Affairs and Communications
3	**Develop opportunities and options for AFICS members to interact socially, engage in relevant socio-economic activities, and avail of social, cultural activities essential for their well-being**	**Committees:** Outreach, Finance & Fund Dev't, Membership, Communications, and Senior Affairs
4	**Future-proof AFICS Philippines with a strong financial base, growing membership, transparent and clear operational processes, and deep leadership resources**	**Committees:** Finance & Fund Dev't, Membership, Outreach, Communications and Governance
5	**Develop and enhance communication channels to effectively engage AFICS members and strategic partners on AFICS initiatives, programs, and activities**	**Committees:** Communications, Membership, Finance & Dev't, Rules of Procedure, and Governance

Proposed AFICS-PHL Plans for 2026-2027



Chair: **Marlene Arduo**
Co-Chair: **Ron Magnaye**

Members:

Teng Arandia
Gwen Fernandez

PENSION AND BENEFITS

Support staff members nearing retirement and encourage their participation in AFICS-PHL as members

Activities/Outputs:

Pre-retirement seminar conducted annually

Help ensure members have uninterrupted receipt of their pension

Activities/Outputs:

Pensioners identified by UNJSPF are contacted and supported in taking the necessary actions to prevent interruption of pension payments and to restore disrupted benefits

Promote inclusion of pension information, updates and requirements in the AFICS-PHL website

Activities/Outputs:

Support the upgrade of the website to include key pension information; emphasize the use of Digital Certificate of Entitlement (DCE)

HEALTH



Assist members in accessing and resolving concerns related to their current health insurance services.

Chair: **Henry Cardenas**
Co-Chair: **Bai Bagasao 2026**

Activities/Outputs**:**

- Explore the accreditation of health service providers in areas outside Metro Manila
- Share the results of the ASHI survey



SENIOR AFFAIRS

Chair: **Reggie Molera**
Co-Chair: **Ruth Batten**

Members:

Ruth Leano
Willy Nuqui
Tony Fernandez

Share information on national laws, policies, and programs on senior citizens' rights, benefits, and entitlements with AFICS members.

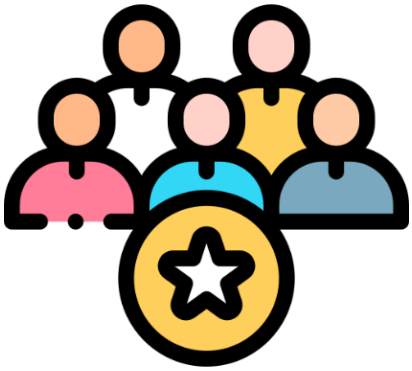
Activities/Outputs**:**

- Prepare a simple guidebook on senior citizen's programs, services, health benefits, discounts, and other entitlements.

- Hold forums and interactive sessions for updates and clarifications on pension and retirement-related matters, as well as on healthy aging topics.

- When possible, with other BOT-ExCom members, take part in consultations, forums, and hearings on senior-related policies and laws, including international discussions such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Elderly.

MEMBERSHIP



Chair: **Anna Senga**

Members:

Marlyn Fileo-Borromeo
Lou Rodriguez
Imee Manal
Malou Aranzanso
Dorin Bustos

Provide a more systematic and pro-active recruitment strategy

Activities/Outputs:

- Produce welcome strategy for new members
  - Link up with Staff Associations and HR of agencies
  - Request UNSPF to issue AFICS invitation again

Increase the number of members engaged in AFICS activities

Activities/Outputs:

- Members self-update their profile
- Produce book that features at least 50 AFICS members
- Follow-up annual payments

Have a reliable and up-to-date Membership database

Activities/Outputs:

- Set up on-line Membership database
- Set-up on-line registration form



OUTREACH

Extend services, advocacy, and training assistance to marginalized and disadvantaged groups and communities

Chair: **Rencee Tayzon**
Vice Chair: Ric Casco

Members:

Brenda Vigo
Dr. Mila Milan
Soc Reyes
Dr. Meys Poot
Dr. Nerisse Dominguez
Mila Leynes
Melindi Malang

<u>Activities/Outputs:</u>

- Provide emergency assistance to transport workers
    - Jeepney drivers
    - Tricycle drivers
- Continued support to the *E-Dalaw* Program
- Celebrate International Day of Older Persons
- Provide assistance to malnourished, stunted, and wasted children
- Support Effective Parenting Program and Family Values Education



RULES OF PROCEDURE

Chair: **Ruth Batten**

Members:

Delia Barcelona
Tony Fernandez
Mi-Ann Maglipon
Thetis Mangahas
Reggie Molera

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To ensure that the Association's governance documents remain coherent, clear, up-to-date and aligned with best practices.

Activities/Outputs:

- Review the Association's ROP, By-Laws and internal policies periodically
- Propose revisions, amendments, or new rules as necessary
- Ensure alignment with relevant legal frameworks and recognized governance standards
- Provide formal or informal interpretations of rules and procedures

FINANCE



Ensure the soundness of AFICS-PHL financial system in terms of accountability, transparency, and serviceability

Generate financial resources to support AFICS-PHL operations

Activities/Outputs:

- Internal Audit Report: 2024-2025
- Travel and Tours program: completed 2-3 tours

New fundraising proposals

Chair: Jana Ricasio
Co-Chair: Maritess Sese

Members:

Ruth Batten
Lois Villanueva
Ron Magnaye
Brenda Monforte



Chair: **Delia Barcelona**
Co-Chair: Lois Villanueva

Members:

Mi-Ann Maglipon
Tony Fernandez
Tess Stuart-Guida
Ruth Leano
Marlyn Fileo-Borromeo
Lesty Santos
Ces Adorna
Cecille Yasay
Soc Reyes
Ed Valenzuela
Zen Willison
Tito Rodriguez

COMMUNICATION

Establish a unified communications approach with clearly differentiated roles for each platform.

Activities/Outputs:

- Produce Sep 2026 newsletter
- Keep Facebook page current
- Set up the website

Implement the Telekwentuhan (TK) series

Activities/Outputs:

- Plan TK1 on ageing
- Do TK2 on practical self-help skills
- Implement TK3 on voter-education

Provide communications support to priority initiatives and inter-committee activities

Activities/Outputs:

- **With MemCom**: Membership Form and members' profile
- **With the Pensions Com**: Review/ packaging of *Before the Time Comes* brochure
- **With Fund Devt Com**: Promote the 2-3 travels and tours
- **With Senior Affairs Com**: Edit and layout of publication on policy documents about retirees;
- Plan TK1 on ageing and TK2 on practical self-help skills
- **For the UN Anniversary events:** Provide the communication materials required developed/initiated and implemented



GOVERNANCE

Ensure compliance, effective implementation of AFICS activities, and strong administrative and financial governance.

Officers:

Thetis Mangahas
Mi-Ann Maglipon
Tony Fernandez

Activities/Outputs:

- Compliance to laws and requirements imposed by SEC, BIR, and local government units
- Plans and implementation of AFICS events, as provided in the ROP and other BOT/ExCom Workplans
- Installed and managed administrative/financial processes for integrity



The committees welcome more AFICS members to participate in these activities.

Contact: philippinesafics@gmail.com
aficsphilmembership@gmail.com



Thank you to the Chairs and Members of the different Committees for their 2026-2027 plans!









