



## RP on right track in KPO drive

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Written by Rizal Raoul Reyes / Correspondent

A FORMER executive of a multinational company operating in the Philippines agrees the country is on the right track in developing knowledge process outsourcing (KPO).

Bill Pfluger, former general manager of Chevron Shared Services in the Philippines and Argentina, said, "The country has good stuff such as the skilled workers and proper investment environment such as the establishment of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza)

Pfluger attended the Asia CEO Forum at the Tower Club in Makati City Wednesday.

"The KPO industry in the country is booming right now. It has dramatically changed 12 years ago when we put offices in RCBC. At that time, you would see very few people at night. But now, it's a different situation. We also had [only] one place to eat back then," he added.

KPO is a form of outsourcing, in which knowledge-related and information-related work is carried out by workers in a different company or by a subsidiary of the same organization, which may be in the same country or in an offshore location to save cost.

Unlike the outsourcing of manufacturing or call centers, this typically involves high-value work carried out by highly skilled staff. KPO firms, in addition to providing expertise in the processes themselves, often make many low-level business decisions—typically those that are easily undone if they conflict with higher-level business plans.

Compared to the Argentine experience, Pfluger said the Philippine operations were easier because it has a more relaxed political climate. He recalled Argentina had to undergo a tough transition from unstable political regimes. "Argentina had tougher times in the '70s wherein there was turmoil and mistrust always prevailed."

In Photo: Bill Pfluger, former general manager of Chevron Shared Services in the Philippines and Argentina, addresses the Asia CEO forum at Tower Club in Makati City. (Nonie Reyes)

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