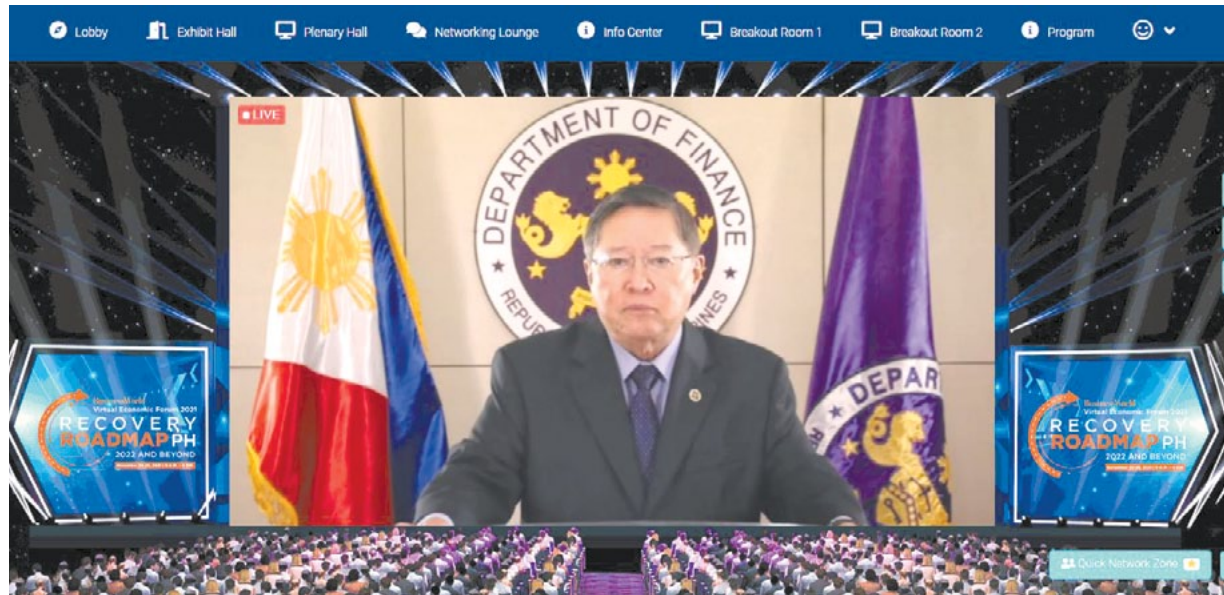


**Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III delivers his keynote on “Digital Economy Transformation and Inclusion in the Post-COVID Era.”** ▶



Secretary emphasized.

Furthermore, Mr. Domiguez noted four key issues that are expected to impact the country’s economic stability and that the next Presidency should look into.

Foremost in these issues is managing accumulated debt along with growing the GDP at a rate of higher than 6% per annum, followed by inflation brought about by shortages across the globe. Adding to these issues are exacerbated inequalities as well as climate change, which the Secretary hopes is addressed without stretching the country’s fiscal space.

“We have laid down firm foundations to ensure a strong recovery towards a more inclusive economy. We have what it takes to do this,” Mr. Dominguez concluded.

The rest of the first day of the forum largely delved further into recovery outlooks and preparation, with panel discussions on shifts caused by the pandemic, and resilience and sustainability culture in business; one-on-one chats on the circular economy and rebound tactics for pandemic-hit sectors; and breakout sessions on building smart cities and addressing climate change.

**INNOVATIVE REBOUND**

The forum’s second day, on the other hand, focused further on the significance of digitalization, science, technology, and innovation in the recovery path.

Sharing about tech and Industry 4.0 trends shaping the future, Francisco Betti, head of shaping the future of advanced manufacturing and production at World Economic Forum (WEF) noted that digitalization is vital in developing capabilities among organizations and workforces, as crises are assumed to be happening more often.

“We’re already getting ready for a world in which continuous adaptation is going to be the main competitive advantage... and for that, we need to develop new capabilities and digital technologies will play a major role in that landscape,” he said.

Mr. Betti later noted that digital can play a big role in sustainability. “It is interesting to see how through digital transformation, companies are starting to be able to deliver solid results in reducing energy consumption, water consumption, material consumption, and optimizing waste management,” he said.

Mr. Betti stressed, however, that while automation is now considered by companies as

