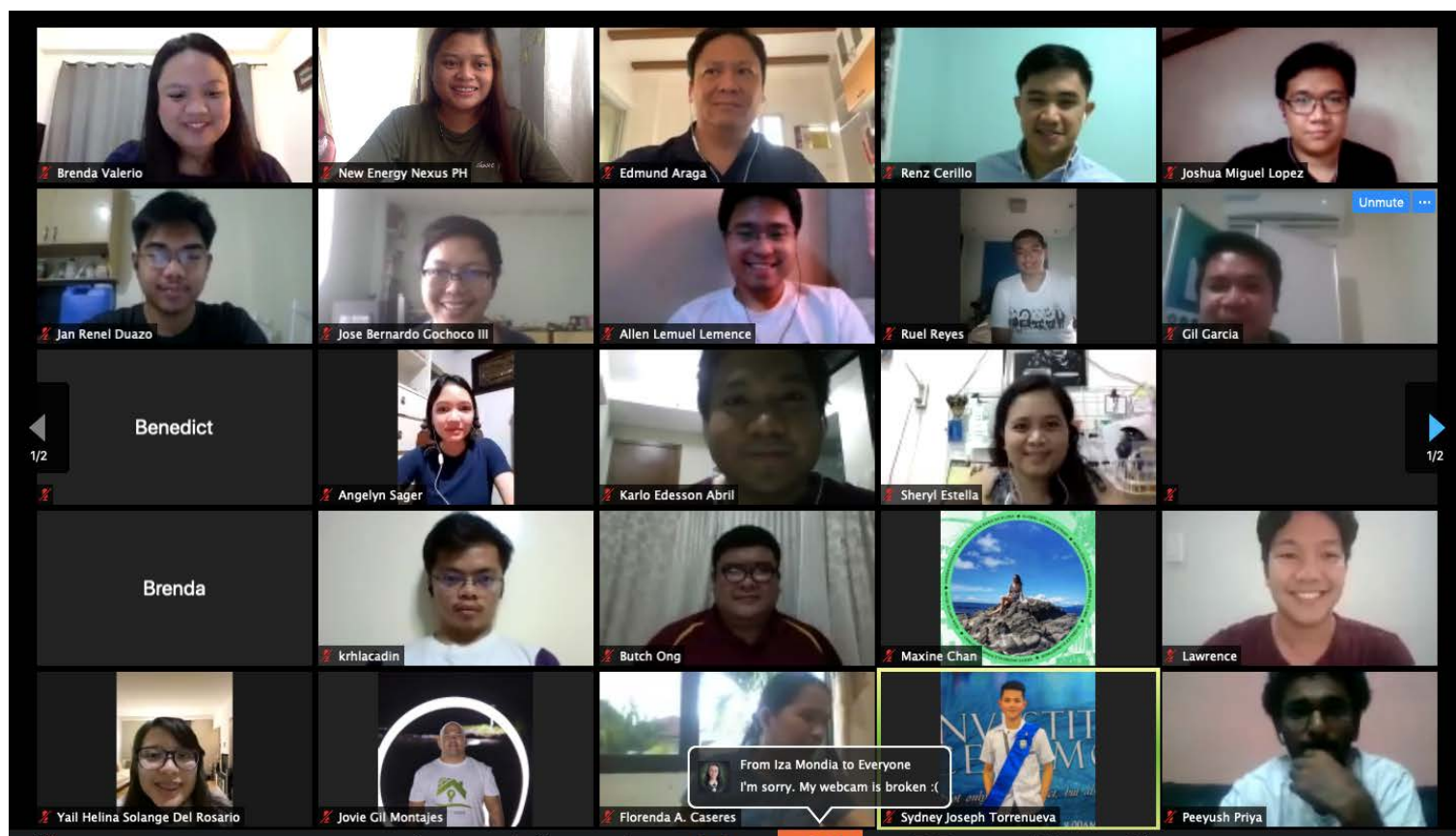


APRIL CONNEX MEETUP: emPOWERing the Frontliners Amidst a Global Pandemic



The extended lockdown in the country because of the COVID-19 crisis did not impede the conduct of the Energy Connex Meetup for the month of April 2020 with the theme **emPOWERing the Frontliners Amidst a Global Pandemic**. About 60+ participants joined the online event last April 22, 2020 and have heard how the energy sector powers the crucial industries that needs it the most especially at these times. The speakers talked in detail how this pandemic affect the economic activities and delay in the clean energy projects.

First speaker is **Joshua Lopez** of **Reboot Philippines** who talked about the energy transition in the "new normal" and gave emphasis that while we have a centralized energy generation, we have decentralized energy consumption. He also mentioned that we have a very low energy literacy and how this pandemic showed us the vulnerability of our current system and how should we rethink our energy consumption patterns and the way we manage our economic and logistical systems.

Second speaker is **Renz Cerillo** of **ICLEI** and **Our Energy 2030** whose topic is on the impacts on the clean energy industry and said that the world is facing two crisis: the COVID-19 virus and the climate change. Renz explained how the current situation resulted to the reduction of economic activities result to reduced power demand growth which could mean a damaged business case for deployment of clean energy projects.

There was also a breakout session where participants got a chance to directly interact with the speakers and to raise their questions on the role of the energy industry at these trying times and how as individuals can they contribute.