



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

### I. Presentation on APEC 2015 Book

### II. Post-ISOM Report by APEC Philippines

### III. Discussion on Next Steps for ABAC 2015 Initiatives

### IV. Updates from Government Agencies



## Post-ABAC IV Meeting with APEC Philippines

### I. Presentation on APEC 2015 Book

- APEC 2015 SOM Chair Undersecretary Laura Del Rosario presented to the group the initiative of APEC Philippines to document the preparations, events and achievements during the Philippine hosting of APEC in a report to the President in the form of a book.

#### Action Points

- ABAC was requested to provide additional photos to include in the report.
- ABAC requested to include a section focused on the APEC SME Summit.
- It was requested that PECC be included in another section of the report.

### II. Post-ISOM Report by APEC Philippines

- Undersecretary Del Rosario updated the group on the highlights and outcomes of the APEC Informal Senior Officials Meeting (ISOM) held in Lima, Peru last December 2015.
- She presented the APEC 2016 theme, "Quality Growth and Human Development," and the priorities of the year: Advancing Regional Economic Integration and Quality Growth; Enhancing the Regional Food Market; Towards the Modernization of MSMEs in the Asia-Pacific; and Developing Human Capital
- It was noted that Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo will be the acting Senior Official of the Philippines.
- She updated the group on the outcomes of the ISOM, noting that the APEC Services Cooperation Framework and the development of the APEC Services Competitiveness Roadmap in 2016 was advanced.

#### Attendees:

**Doris Magsaysay Ho**

**Peter Perfecto**

**Patrick Chua**

**Giannina Uy**

*(ABAC Philippines)*

**Ambassador Antonio Basilio**  
*(ABAC Secretariat)*

**Usec. Laura Del Rosario**

**Joyce Camacho**

**Kenneth Bolante**

*(Department of Foreign Affairs –  
Office of the Undersecretary of  
International Economic Relations)*

**Sec. Emmanuel Esguerra**

**Carla Hernandez**

*(National Economic and  
Development Authority)*

**Lyn Aquia**

**Raissa Faminial**

*(Department of Trade and Industry)*

**Usec. Asis Perez**

**Drusila Esther Bayate**

*(Department of Agriculture – Bureau  
of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources)*

**Ferdinand Ortila**

*(Department of Finance)*

**Krishna De Chavez**

*(Department of Transportation  
and Communications)*

**Marissa Legaspi**

*(Technical Education and Skills  
Development Authority)*

**Mary Grace Gasco**

*(Department of Science and Technology)*

- It was ensured that Peru will carry forward the Philippines' initiatives, particularly with regard to services, MSMEs, human capital development and structural reform.
- She highlighted the developments made in the APEC 2016 Tasking Statement, which will guide APEC's work in 2016 under the leadership of Peru and serves as reference in the development of annual work plans of APEC sub-fora. It was noted that all Philippine initiatives introduced in 2015 were included and highlighted in the Tasking Statement.
- Undersecretary Del Rosario also informed the group of the APEC 2016 Notional Schedule, including the eight sectoral Ministerial Meetings and High-Level Meetings to be held this year, as well as the schedules of the Senior Officials Meetings and the APEC Ministerial Meeting.

### **III. Discussion on Next Steps for ABAC 2015 Initiatives**

- ABAC Philippines member Doris Magsaysay Ho led a discussion on how to carry forward a number of ABAC 2015 initiatives at the domestic level. Some initiatives could be targeted for presentation to the presidential candidates, and that to ensure that reform measures would transcend the succeeding administrations.

#### **1. Enabling the FTAAP**

- A study on the Philippines' participation in the TPP, RCEP and FTAAP was proposed. The study will aim to examine constitutional and structural reforms needed for the Philippines to gain full membership to the TPP, to maximize benefits from RCEP, to eventually become a member of the FTAAP, and to become a global player in ASEAN.

#### **Action Points**

- It was suggested that Dr. Cielito Habito could be approached to be a possible consultant for the study.
- NEDA will talk with PIDS on possible involvement in the study.
- DTI requested ABAC Philippines to provide comments on the draft chapters of the Collective Strategic Study on the FTAAP.

#### **2. Advancing the New Services Agenda**

- To continue to leverage on the gains in forwarding the services agenda achieved last year, it was noted that the recently revitalized Philippine Services Coalition (PSC) needs to be strengthened, particularly in preparation for the second meeting of the Asia Pacific Services Coalition, which the PSC will be leading in May.
- It was suggested that ABAC Philippines and the PSC coordinate with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Deputy Director General for Policy and Planning Rosemarie Edillon towards this goal.

#### **Action Points**

- ABAC requested for copies of the sectoral roadmaps from DTI for safe keeping and that it will be presented back to the incoming Administration.
- ABAC Philippines and PSC to request for meeting with DDG Rose Edillon to discuss this matter further.

#### **3. MSME Development**

- A study on creating an institution, the envisioned Philippine SME Corporation, which would facilitate an all of government approach for MSME development, was discussed.

- The outcome of the study would be a specific draft bill that would provide for such governance structure.
- Catherine Maceda will be hired as the consultant for this study.

#### 4. Philippine Innovation Roadmap

- The development of a Philippine Innovation Ecosystem was discussed, as there is currently no existing organization that is focused on innovation, such as the Chilean organization Production Development Organization (CORFO), a government organization which is responsible for promoting entrepreneurship and advancing the country's innovation agenda.
- It was noted that USAID STRIDE is interested to be involved in the development of an innovation roadmap.
- It was noted that NEDA is in the process of completing the Filipino 2040 vision that will map out where we want the country to be in 2040.



#### Action Points

- ABAC Philippines will host a small group meeting with Dado Banatao on 1 March 2016 to discuss the development of a Philippine Innovation Strategy further.

#### 5. Enablers of Infrastructure Investment Checklist

- Bobby De Ocampo from MBC will be responsible for examining the Enablers of Infrastructure Investment Checklist circulated by ABAC and the reforms needed promote infrastructure investment.
- It was noted that DPWH and DTI are working on a peer review on quality infrastructure.

#### 6. Promoting the Cebu Action Plan

- It was noted that ABAC Philippines will reach out to the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) and the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) to include the CAP in their agenda.

#### Action Points

- ABAC Philippines requested the DOF to ensure appropriate measures are taken by concerned government agencies and the private sector in carrying out the Cebu Action Plan.

### IV. Updates from Government Agencies

- Undersecretary Asis Perez, Chair of the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group and Vice Chair of the Policy Partnership on Food Security updated the group on the upcoming OFWG and PPFs meetings in Peru. Undersecretary Perez highlighted the following priority areas: Resiliency of our oceans; Food loss reduction; and Continuity on MSME work.