

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- I. Outcomes of SOM 1 and MRT Preparations
- II. Update on the APEC Services Cooperation Framework
- III. Updates from Government Agencies
- IV. Post ABAC 1 and Report on ABAC Philippines Initiatives



POST-ABAC I and SOM I Meeting with APEC Philippines

14 April 2016 | Bayanihan Room, SGV I Building, Makati City

I. Outcomes of SOM 1 and MRT Preparations

- Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo updated the group on the outcomes of the APEC Senior Officials Meeting 1 (SOM 1) held in Lima, Peru last 3-4 March 2016. Highlights include progress on the Collective Strategic Study on the FTAAP, the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs, the APEC Services Cooperation Framework, and the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth.
- Usec. Rodolfo also gave updates on the APEC 2016 Finance Ministers Process and presented the theme and priorities for 2016.
- Usec. Rodolfo then presented a report on the preparations for the Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting on 17-18 May 2016 to be held in Arequipa, Peru. It was noted that, following Ministers-CEO Dialogues instituted in APEC 2015, the APEC 2016 MRT Meeting will include a Ministers-CEOs Executive Dialogue on Trade (17 May) and a Special Meeting on "SMEs Internationalization through GVCs" (18 May).

II. Update on the APEC Services Cooperation Framework

- Undersecretary Laura Del Rosario gave a report on the progress on the implementation of the APEC Services Cooperation Framework and the development of the Services Competitiveness Roadmap in 2016. It was noted that the draft outline for the framework will be discussed in SOM 2 and will be finalized by SOM 3.
- Usec. Del Rosario also updated the group on the Public-Private Dialogue on Services to be held on 13 May 2016, at the sidelines of SOM 2.

Attendees:

Mr. Guillermo Luz
Mr. Peter Perfecto
Mr. Patrick Chua
Ms. Giannina Uy
(ABAC Philippines)

Usec. Laura Del Rosario
Ms. Elizabeth P. Ramos
(Department of Foreign Affairs)

Ms. Janet Garcia
Ms. Lilian Garcia
(Department of Agriculture)

Mr. Ferdinand Ortila
(Department of Finance)

Usec. Ceferino Rodolfo
Ms. Lyn Aquia
Atty. Kaye Sinson
Ms. Cynthia Dela Cruz
(Department of Trade and Industry)

Ms. Carol Mangalili
Ms. Krisha De Chavez
(Department of Transportation and Communications)

Asec. Urduja Tejada
Ms. Elenita Leus
Mary Grace Gasco
(Department of Science and Technology)

Dir. Carlos Abad Santos
Ms. Carla Hernandez
(National Economic and Development Authority)

Dir. Susan Dela Rama
(Technical Education and Skills Development Authority)

Action Points

- It was recommended that the Philippine Services Coalition be represented during the PPD on Services in Arequipa.

III. Updates from Government Agencies

- Director Carlos Abad Santos provided the group with updates on the Economic Committee Meeting held on the sidelines of SOM 1, including progress on Renewed APEC Strategy for Structural Reform (2016-2020), the Second Phase of the Ease of Doing Business (2016-2018), and the work of the Friends of the Chair on Competition Law and Policy.



- Ms. Janet Garcia shared the highlights and outcomes from the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group Meeting and the Policy Partnership on Food Security Meeting also held at the sidelines of SOM 1.
- Asec. Urduja Tejada shared the key initiatives of the Department of Science and Technology, including those to promote low carbon for MSMEs and the linking up of networks for herbal medicine, among others.

IV. Post ABAC 1 and Report on ABAC Philippines Initiatives

- Mr. Peter Perfecto, Executive Director and Lead Staffer of ABAC Philippines presented a report on the progress of ABAC initiatives and the 2016 work plan of ABAC Philippines.

o In relation to one of ABAC Philippines' initiatives to examine the constitutional and structural reforms needed for the economy to maximize benefits from regional trade agreements, the Makati Business Club will be holding an IDAR TPP Consultation with the Private Sector on 20 April.

o It was noted that ABAC Philippines held a successful roundtable discussion on the Philippine Innovation System with representatives from the private sector, government and the academe last March 31. The development of a strategy for the Philippines to participate in the innovation economy was discussed. The final output of the project will be a paper that outlines key recommendations for the development of a Philippine Innovation strategy to be submitted to the next administration for consideration.

o Mr. Perfecto updated the group on ABAC Philippines' initiative on Promoting Inclusive Business Models to Facilitate MSME Participation in the GVC, which is being undertaken in partnership with the Asian Institute of Management. It was suggested that ABAC Philippines link up with the Department of Trade and Industry to complement the DTI's own initiative on Inclusive Business being done in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank and the OECD.

o Mr. Perfecto also reported to the group that the Philippine Services Coalition will be attending the second meeting of the Asia Pacific Services Coalition on 29 May in Beijing, China. The meeting will be hosted by the China Association for Trade in Services, and co-convened by the PSC, Australian Services Roundtable, US Coalition of Service Industries and the Lima Chamber of Commerce.

o Mr. Perfecto also informed the group of the ABAC-USC Marshall School research project on Non-Tariff Barriers in Food Trade in the Asia-Pacific region. The DTI and the Department of Agriculture agreed to identify key areas and products in Philippine food trade that are particularly sensitive to NTBs and would be good for the study to look at, as well as to connect the researcher with key stakeholders from these sectors to interview during her visit.



Action Points

- DTI and DA are to identify a list of key areas and sectors in Philippine food trade that are greatly affected by NTBs, and link up ABAC Philippines with individuals that will be beneficial to interview when the USC Marshall School researcher is in Manila from May 30 to June 3.

Prepared by ABAC Philippines Secretariat