FTA Negotiations: The Philippine Perspective

Submitted by: Philippines
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APEC Workshop on Building and Enhancing FTA Negotiation Skills on E-Commerce 27-28 June 2013

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Enabling Business, Empowering Consumers
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Integrated Trade and Industry Strategy

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One Country, One Voice

- Establish an **efficient and effective consultative mechanism**
- Reinforce **public awareness**
- **Balance** the interests of stakeholders with specific emphasis on **transparency** and **accountability**
- Arrive at **sound, rational, and balanced policies**
Institutional Mechanism

Committee on Tariff and Related Matters

Negotiating Team:
- Chief Negotiator
- Deputy Negotiator
- Working Groups

FTAs being implemented

In the context of Philippine participation in ASEAN
- ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)
- ASEAN-China
- ASEAN-Korea
- ASEAN-Japan
- ASEAN-India *trade in goods component only; services and investment agreement yet to be signed*
- ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA)

Bilateral
- Philippine-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (PJEEA)
FTA currently being negotiated

In the context of Philippine participation in ASEAN

• Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

Critical Points/Lessons Learned

• Extensive consultations with stakeholders and across sectors
• Efficient inter-agency coordination
• In-depth and careful study
• Massive advocacy and awareness raising
• Consensus sought from other member-economies (for regional FTAs)
Recommendations for Future Cooperation

More activities across the APEC region for negotiation skills training/capacity building, knowledge sharing, and awareness raising on FTAs, in general, and on e-commerce in FTAs, in particular.

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