
29.06.2016

BALAGTAS & BALMORI ROOM, PENINSULA HOTEL, MANILA

NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES

The round table on non-tariff measures (NTMs) follows on from the business survey of the International Trade Centre (ITC) conducted in 2015 to identify the main barriers to trade faced by the Filipino private sector. This meeting aims at presenting the findings of this survey and defining the solutions to overcome the identified obstacles. Particular attention will be paid to national barriers to regional and international exports.

08:30 Registration

09:00 Welcome and opening remarks

Ms. Nora K. Terrado, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

Mr. Mondher Mimouni, Chief, Market Analysis and Research, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Session 1 Background and overview of results

The ITC will outline the survey implementation and key findings. It will present the companies' perceptions of NTMs and the challenges they represent to trade.

Session chairman: Assistant Director Agnes Perpetua R. Legaspi, Export Marketing Bureau (EMB)

09:30 The ITC Programme on NTMs and the implementation of its survey in the Philippines

Speaker: Ms. Ursula Hermelink, NTM programme manager, ITC

10:00 General results of the survey: companies' perception of NTMs

Speaker: Mr. Mondher Mimouni, ITC

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Main trade barriers affecting Filipino's exports and imports

Speakers: Ms. Ursula Hermelink, ITC

Mr. Mondher Mimouni, ITC

Discussants:

Topic: Product Requirements and Conformity

Director Anne Claire C. Cabochan, Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS)

Topic: Customs Clearance and Control

Atty. Victor Pablo C. Trinidad, Assessment & Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG), Bureau of Customs (BOC)

Topic: Rules of Origin and Other Trade Rules

Ms. Denise Cheska C. Enriquez, ASEAN Desk, Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR)



Floor Discussions

Summary by Session Chair

12:00 Lunch

Session 2 Thematic round tables

Participants will be invited to share their views and experiences on NTM-related barriers and policy options to address them in the three selected themes. Each focus group will establish a roadmap with priority actions to overcome the identified obstacles.

13:00 Round tables

Round table 1: Product requirements and conformity

How to improve the conformity of exported products? How to overcome the lack of recognition of Filipino's certificates in international markets? How to make local conformity assessment procedures more efficient and less expensive? How to ensure businesses have better access to product standards and conformity assessment procedures?

Moderator: Engr. Ma. Cecilia De la Paz, Executive Director, Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers

Round table 2: Customs clearance and control

How to improve the transparency of border inspection procedures? How to streamline border clearance and control procedures?

Moderator: Ms. Flordeliza C. Leong, Assistant Vice President, PHILEXPORT

Round table 3: Rules of origin and other trade rules

What are the roles and responsibilities of each institution involved in issuing of trade documents (licenses, permits, certificates of origin)? How to simplify the procedures for granting these documents? How to improve transparency on regulations governing such procedures including the eligibility criteria for companies, costs and time?

Moderator: Ms. Denise Cheska C. Enriquez, Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR)

15:00 Coffee Break

Session 3 Recommendations and conclusion

The rapporteurs of the round tables will present the main findings and recommendations defined in each theme. The presentations will be complemented by ITC's view on overcoming non-tariff obstacles and followed by an open discussion with key institutions in order to validate a roadmap.

Session chairman: Dr. Mia Mikic, Chief, Trade Policy & Analysis, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

15:30 Summary of round table discussions

Moderators from the RTDs

16.00 Overcoming challenges related to NTMs

Speakers:

DED Emmarita Z. Mijares, Export Development Council (EDC)

Ms. Ursula Hermelink, ITC

Dr. Florian Alburo, Technical Assistance Team Leader, EU Trade-Related Technical Assistance Project

Floor Discussions

Summary by Session Chair

17:00

Concluding Remarks and Closing

Mr. Mondher Mimouni, ITC

Director Senen M. Perlada, Export Marketing Bureau (EMB)