| **Individual Action Plan Update for the Philippines for 2014** |
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| ***Highlights of recent policy developments which indicate how the Philippines is progressing towards the Bogor Goals and key challenges it faces in its efforts to meet the Goals.*** |
| Launched the Philippine Tariff Finder to improve transparency and to facilitate trade.  Further simplified foreign exchange (FX) rules and enhanced the public’s access to FX resources. Allowed foreign capital infusion in rural banks. Continued participation in international forums and regional dialogues to prepare the domestic financial system for regional integration.  Continued to enhance air services agreements to provide more and better connectivity, particularly in the ASEAN region. Air consultation talks between the Philippines and a number of APEC economies (Australia, Japan, Korea, Thailand) and other countries resulted in increased capacity entitlements on passenger and cargo services for both parties.  Created the Investments Servicing Group (ISG) within the Board of Investments to provide investor aftercare services. Under the ISG are the Business One-Stop shop Action Center (BOSSAC) and the Investments Assistance and Services Department (IASD)  Established a Sector Regulators Council (SRC)in recognition of the crucial role of sector regulators in developing a comprehensive competition policy and law. Cooperated with other competition authorities and international organizations to improve the knowledge of competition authorities.  Approved the Guidelines on E-Bidding and implemented the E-Bidding functionality on a pilot basis in two (2) national government agencies. Implemented the Virtual Store and E-Payment functionalities.  Aligned 782 Philippines National Standards (PNS) with international standards.  Transmitted the Instrument of Accession of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) to the World Customs Organization during the Council Session in Brussels last 25 June 2010. Issued Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 14-2013 on 03 December 2013 establishing rules and regulations for the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program pursuant CAO 1-2012 issued on 26 June 2012 and amending CMO No 11-2012 dated 04 October 2012.  Implemented the Rules on Mediation which made the referral of pending cases to mediation mandatory. Implemented the Arbitration Rules consistent with the WIPO Arbitration Rules. Trained almost a hundred arbitrators ensued in partnership with the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center (PDRCI). |

| IAP Chapter (and Sub-Chapter and Section Heading, if any) | **Improvements made since 2012 IAP** | **Further Improvements Planned** |
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| Tariffs | Launched the Philippine Tariff Finder (PTF) to improve transparency and to facilitate trade. The PTF is a free online facility that allows access to all eight existing Philippine tariff schedules. (<http://www.tariffcommission.gov.ph/tariff_finder/>)  Progressively reduced/eliminated tariffs in accordance with commitments under various FTAs.  Philippine Tariff Profile Under Various FTAs   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | | Simple Average Tariff | | |  | | ASEAN/ATIGA | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | ASEAN-China | 0.35 | 1.16 | 1.16 | | ASEAN-Korea | 0.44 | 1.13 | 1.12 | | ASEAN-Australia/New Zealand | 1.55 | 0.99 | 0.63 | | ASEAN-Japan | 3.08 | 2.43 | 2.07 | | Philippines-Japan | 2.38 | 1.93 | 1.61 | | ASEAN-India | 4.90 | 4.84 | 4.55 | |  | | |  | | % Duty free Tariff Lines to All goods | | |  | | ASEAN | Approx 100.00 | Approx 100.00 | Approx 100.00 | | ASEAN-China | 92.24 | 89.88 | 89.88 | | ASEAN-Korea | 89.69 | 92.35 | 93.36 | | ASEAN-Australia/New Zealand | 60.76 | 80.32 | 90.98 | | ASEAN-Japan | 71.45 | 61.80 | 70.24 | | Philippines-Japan | 65.57 | 64.15 | 72.64 | | ASEAN-India | 4.28 | 4.10 | 4.10 |   Notes:   1. Figures do not include sensitive agricultural products under Eos 313 and 328 series 1996 2. 2011 figures were based on AHTN2007 while AHTN2012 was used for 2012 and 2013 3. Preferential rates of certain sensitive products under AKFTA and ACFTA as per Eos 71, 72, 73 and 74 were incorporated in 2012 and 2013. | Continuing regular review of MFN tariffs to make industries competitive and promote consumer welfare.  Under the various FTAs, will progressively reduce and/or eliminate preferential tariffs with the end goal of zero tariffs levied on substantially all goods by the agreed end dates.   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | End Dates | | ASEAN / ATIGA | 2015 | | ASEAN-China | 2018 | | ASEAN-Korea | 2016 | | ASEAN-Australia/New Zealand | 2020 | | ASEAN-Japan | 2018 | | ASEAN-India | 2022 | | Philippines-Japan | 2018 | |
| Website for further information: | [www.tariffcomission.gov.ph](http://www.tariffcomission.gov.ph) – website of the Philippine Tariff Commission |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Chairman  Tariff Commission  5th Flr. Philippine Heart Center Building  East Avenue, Diliman  Quezon City, Philippines  Tel: (632) 433-5899  Fax: (632) 921-7960  E-mail: info@tariffcommission.gov.ph  The Director  Bureau of International Trade Relations  Department of Trade and Industry  361 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue  Makati City 1200 Philippines  Tel: (632) 465-3300, 465-3356  Fax: (632) 890-5149 |  |
| ***Non-Tariff Measures*** | No changes in policy in the implementation of the Minimum Access Volume (MAV). Automated application for the MAV License and MAV Import Certificate has been in operation since 2012. |  |
| Website for further information: | [www.intercommerce.com.ph](http://www.intercommerce.com.ph) – MAV  [www.sra.gov.ph](http://www.sra.gov.ph) - SRA |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Executive Director  MAV Secretariat  2/F Yellow Room, ITCAF Bldg.  Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road,  Diliman, Quezon City  Tel: (632) 920-1786  [vero.librojo@yahoo.com](mailto:vero.librojo@yahoo.com)  Philippine National SPS Enquiry Point  Office of the Director  Policy Research Service  Department of Agriculture  3rd Floor, DA Building, Elliptical Road  Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines  Tel: (632) 9267439  Fax: (632) 9280590  E-mail: [epad.polreser@lycos.com](mailto:epad.polreser@lycos.com)  The Administrator  Sugar Regulatory Administration  Sugar Center Building  North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City  Tel: (632) 929-3633; 920-4357  Fax: (632) 455-3376  E-mail: [srahead@sra.gov.ph](mailto:srahead@sra.gov.ph) |  |
| ***Services***  ***Financial Services*** | The *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’* actively pursued its thrust to fine tune and liberalize, where appropriate, foreign exchange (FX) regulations through the issuance of the following circulars which amended the Manual of Regulations on Foreign Exchange Transactions issued under Circular No. 645 dated 13 February 2009:   1. Circular No. 742 dated 21 November 2011; 2. Circular No. 794dated 18 April 2013; 3. Circular No. 815 dated 18 October 2013; and 4. Circular No. 818 dated 06 November 2013.   These Circulars further simplified rules, enhanced and further facilated access by the general public to FX resources of the banking system to cover legitimate transactions. The measures also aim to induce a shift of FX transactions from the parallel to the formal FX market to further improve data capture on these transactions for statistics, analysis and policy review. Transactions of non-residents were also facilitated with: (a) more options for funding their onshore peso requirements; (b) ability to reconvert onshore peso funds to to FX without prior BSP approval under certain instances; and (c) inclusion of investment in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE)-listed equity securities issued by non-residents as registered investments.  Issued Republic Act (RA) No. 10574, “An Act Allowing the Infusion of Foreign Equity in the Capital of Rural Banks” , allowing foreigners to own, acquire or purchase up to 60 percent of the voting stock of a rural bank (RB). Non-Filipino citizens may become members of the Board of Directors of a rural bank to the extent of the foreign participation in the equity of said bank. | Continuous review and updating of FX regulatory framework to maintain an appropriate policy environment attuned with current economic conditions.    Review existing banking laws/ reforms with a view to further liberalize  the banking sector, as necessary. |
| *Website for further information:* | *Amendments to foreign exchange regulations:*  BSP Circular No. 742  www. bsp.gov.ph/downloads/regulations/attachments/2011/c742.pdf  BSP Circular No. 794  [www.bsp.gov.ph/regulations.asp?id=3112](http://www.bsp.gov.ph/regulations.asp?id=3112)  BSP Circular No. 815  www.bsp.gov.ph/regulations.asp?id=3197  BSP Circular No. 818  [www.bsp.gov.ph/regulations.asp?id=3205](http://www.bsp.gov.ph/regulations.asp?id=3205)  *Infusion of foreign equity in the capital of rural banks*  BSP Circular No. 809  [www.bsp.gov.ph/downloads/regulations/attachments/2013/c809.pdf](http://www.bsp.gov.ph/downloads/regulations/attachments/2013/c809.pdf)  Republic Act (RA) No. 10574  [www.bsp.gov.ph/downloads/laws/RA10574.pdf](http://www.bsp.gov.ph/downloads/laws/RA10574.pdf) |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | *For FX Regulatory Framework:*  The Director  International Operations Department  Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas  [pangeles@bsp.gov.ph](mailto:pangeles@bsp.gov.ph)  *For Banking Supervision and Regulations:*  The Assistant Governor  Office of the Assistant Governor  Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas  [jravalo@bsp.gov.ph](mailto:jravalo@bsp.gov.ph) |  |
| ***Services***  ***Energy Services*** | No updates on energy services |  |
| *Website for further information:* | [www.doe.gov.ph](http://www.doe.gov.ph) |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | The Director  Renewable Energy Management Bureau  Department of Energy  Energy Center, Merritt road  Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1632  Telefax: (632) 840-2268  E-mail: mcmarasigan@doe.gov.ph |  |
| ***Services***  ***Maritime Transportation Services*** | Issued Executive Order No. 75 designating the Department of Transportation and Communications, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), as the single administration in the Philippines, responsible for oversight in the implementation of the 1978 International Convention on Standards on Training and Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, as amended.  Issued MARINA circulars covering rules on trainings and proficiency-building:   * Issuance/Revalidation of Certificates of Proficiency (COPs) in accordance with Chapters V and VI of the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training and Certification and Watchkeeping, as amended (Circular No. 2013-09, 2013-10); * Revised Rules on the Accreditation of Instructors and/or Assesors (Circular No. 2013-12); * Adoption of the new competencies and knowledge, understanding and proficiency (KUP) for Ship Security Officer as required by the 2010 Manila amendments; Adoption of the course for Ship Security Awareness and Seafarers with designated Security Duties as required by the 2010 STCW Manila Amendments; and Adoption of refresher and updating of safety under the 2010 Manila amendments. (Circular No. 2013-11); * Rules on the Monitoring of Maritime Education Programs, Training Courses and Assessment of Competence of Seafarer and carried out by METIs and Assessment Centers (Circular No. 2013-06); * Rules on the Accreditation of Instructors and/or Assesors (Circular No. 2013-03); * Rules on the Enspection and Acceditation of Maritime Training Courses (Circular No. 2013-01).   Issued MARINA circulars covering rules on trade and operations:   * Omnibus Rules on the Issuance of Special Permit for the Temporary Utilization of Philippine-registered ships whether trading overseas or domestic (Circular No. 2013-04); * Revised Rules for the Registration, Documentation and Deletion of Ships operating in Philippine Waters (Circular No. 2013-02); * Revised Minimum Safe Manning for Ships operating in Philippine Domestic Waters (Circular No. 2012-06); * Amended Rules on the Issuance and Maintenance of Continuous Synopsis Record for Philippine-registered ships engaged in international voyages (Circular No. 2012-02); * Amending MC No. 182 on the Rules in the Aquisition of ships under Presidential Decree (PD) 760, as amended, specifically bond requirements (Circular No. 2012-01) |  |
| *Website for further information:* | [www.marina.gov.ph](http://www.marina.gov.ph) – website of the Maritime Industry Authority |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | The Administrator  Maritime Industry Authority  984 Parkview Plaza, Taft Avenue corner Kalaw Street, Manila  Tel: (632) 523-9078, 526-0971, 524-2895  Email: [oadm@marina.gov.ph](mailto:oadm@marina.gov.ph) |  |
| ***Services***  ***Air Services*** | Continued to enhance air services agreements to provide more and better connectivity, particularly in the ASEAN region.  Air consultation talks between the Philippines and a number of APEC economies (Australia, Japan, Korea, Thailand) and other countries resulted in increased capacity entitlements on passenger and cargo services for both parties.  Issued the Air Passenger Bill of Rights (a joint administrative order between the Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Transportation and Communications) to address passenger complaints on domestic and foreign airline practices such as overbooking, rebooking, ticket refunds, cancelled and delayed flights, lost luggage and misleading advertisements on fares. | Continue to enhance air services agreements to provide more and better connectivity. |
| *Website for further information:* | <http://cab.gov.ph> |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | The Executive Director  Civil Aeronautics Board  CAB Building, Old MIA Road, Pasay City  Tel: (632) 853-6761  Fax: (632) 833-6911  E-mail: [cab\_eprd@yahoo.com](mailto:cab_eprd@yahoo.com) ; info@cab.gov.ph |  |
| ***Investment*** | Implemented the 2011 and 2012 Investment Priorities Plans (IPPs). The IPP is the blueprint for investment promotions and a platform to attract strategic investments. The 2012 list includes agriculture, agri-business and fisheries; creative industries or knowledge-based services; shipbuilding; mass housing; iron and steel; energy; infrastructure; research and development; green projects; motor vehicles; strategic projects; hospital and medical services; and disaster prevention, mitigation and recovery projects.  Approved the 2013 Investment Priorities Plan.  Issued Administrative Order NO. 38 creating an inter-agency task force headed by the Department of Trade and Industry Secretary responsible for the implementation of the Philippines’ “Game Plan for Competitiveness”.  Created the Investments Servicing Group (ISG) within the Board of Investments to provide investor aftercare services. Under the ISG are the Business One-Stop shop Action Center (BOSSAC) and the Investments Assistance and Services Department (IASD) | The Foreign Investment Negative List (FINL) is currently undergoing review to possible allow more foreign equity participation |
| Website for further information: | [www.boi.gov.ph](http://www.boi.gov.ph) |  |
| Contact point for further details: | Office of the Executive Director  Industry Development Group  Board of Investments  Industry & Investments Building  385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue  Makati City  Tel: +632.896-9239  Fax: +632.895-3701  Email: mchdichosa@boi.gov.ph |  |
| ***Standards and Conformance*** | A total of 8,469 Philippine National Standards (PNS) were developed where 79.17% or 6, 705 are aligned with relevant international standards  From November 2011 to November 2013, aligned 782 Philippine National Standards (PNS) with international standards.  Participated in international standardization activities:   * A participating (P) member to 28 ISO Technical Committees (TCs) and 29 Sub-committees (SCs), and observer (O) to 45 ISO TCs and 17 SCs; * For IEC, a participating member (P) to 3 TCs/SCs and Observer to 5 TCs; * For Codex Alimentarius, the National Codex Organization (NCO) has 17 Sub-committees (SCs) and Task Forces (TFs) and a Regional Coordinating Committee) * Signatory member to APLAC/ILAC MRA   Implements a total of 8 accreditation schemes:   * Testing and calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025:2005); * Medical testing laboratories (PNS ISO 15189:2010) ; * Inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020:2004) * Quality management system (ISO 9001) – ISO/IEC 17021:2011; * Environmental management system (ISO 14001) –ISO/IEC 17021:2011; * Hazard Analysis and critical control points (HACCP); * Food safety management system – (ISO 22000) –ISO/IEC 17021:2011; ISO/TS 22003:2007; * Product Certification (ISO/IEC Guide 65)   The total number of accredited conformity assessment bodies are as follows:   * Testing and calibration laboratories – 203 * Medical testing laboratories -5 * IBs-2 * QMS-6 * EMS-3 * HACCP-2 * FSMS-1   The Food and Drug Administration Philippines continued to improve regulatory requirements to ensure market players adherence to safety standards and good manufacturing practices (GMP). It streamlined some requirements to facilitate entry of imported goods.  Continued to increase transparency of standards and conformance requirements by maintaining a Standards and Conformance Portal ([www.bps.dti.gov.ph](http://www.bps.dti.gov.ph)) and the airing of a weekly consumer advocacy radio programs. | Continue to develop standards using, where appropriate, international standards in the priority areas/sectors identified and agreed by APEC.  Continue to participate in international standardization activities.  Pursue linkages with standard writing organizations and industry associations in developing Philippine National Standards  Expand the recognition of conformity assessment activities at the regional and international levels.  Strengthen the national bodies through revision and improved standardization mandates |
| Website for further information: | <http://www.bps.dti.gov.ph> - Bureau of Product Standards, Department of Trade and Industry  <http://www.pao.dti.gov.ph> - *Philippine Accreditation Office, Department of Trade and Industry*  <http://www.fda.gov.ph> – *Food and Drug Administration*  <http://www.bafps.da.gov.ph> - *Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards* |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Director  Bureau of Product Standards  Department of Trade and Industry  3F Trade & Industry Building  361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City  Tel: +632.751.4729  Fax : +632.751.4706  E-mail: [bps@dti.gov.ph](mailto:bps@dti.gov.ph)  The Director  Philippine Accreditation Office  Department of Trade and Industry  3F Trade and Industry Bldg.,  #361 Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City  Tel. Nos. (632) 751-4707  Fax. No. (632) 751-3262  E-mail: pao@dti.gov.ph  *For Food and Drug:*  The Director  Food and Drug Administration Philippines  Department of Health  Tel Nos: (632) 857-1900/809-4390  Fax No: (632) 807-0751  Email: info@fda.gov.ph  *For Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards:*  The Executive Director  Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries and Product Standards  BPI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City  Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6131, 467-9039, 455-2856  Fax. No. (632) 455-2858  E-mail: [bafpsda@yahoo.com](mailto:bafpsda@yahoo.com) |  |
| ***Customs Procedures*** | Transmitted the Instrument of Accession of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) to the World Customs Organization during the Council Session in Brussels last 25 June 2010  Issued Customs Administrative Order No. 6-2011 on 05 April 2011 providing supplemental rules in the implementation of CAO No. 3-2010 dated 12 May 2010 and CMO No. 18- 2010 specifically on providing rules and regulations in the imposition of penalties to importers who failed to secure load port surveys for more than two (2) times of their bulk or break-bulk cargoes.  Issued Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 14-2013 on 03 December 2013 establishing rules and regulations for the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program pursuant CAO 1-2012 issued on 26 June 2012 and amending CMO No 11-2012 dated 04 October 2012.  Conducted gap analysis for the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program with the assistance from EU-Trade Related Technical Assistance program and National Economic Development Authority.  Accredited Cargo Surveyors to conduct Load Port Surveys. Load Port Survey Reports (LPSRs) are transmitted electronically to BOC 12hrs before the arrival of the shipments for the purpose of availing pre-clearance.  Issued corresponding rules and regulations of E-Transit System by monitoring the movement of containerized cargo through GPS.  Implemented the Enhanced Customs Trans-shipment System (ECTS). The ECTS is one of the most advanced and innovative risk-based solution to combat smuggling, prevent hijacking and allow real-time monitoring of the cargo and facilitate trade. A GPS tracker is integrated into a security lock specially designed for ISO shipping containers which will alarm as soon as the container door is opened.  Continued to conduct of pilot testing of the Automated Raw Materials Liquidation System.  Implemented the Import and Assessment System in all ports/sub-ports nationwide (total :48 sites) which allows the following functions, among others:   * Implementation of the enhanced Risk Management System for a more rationalized determination of the risk level of imports, toward ensuring that only medium-to-high risk shipments will be subjected to documentary and/or physical inspection; * Submission of Electronic Manifest from 5 days after arrival to 12 hours before arrival of vessel/shipment * Payment of duties/taxes & other fees through banks, from cash and checks to electronic debit only   Implemented the Philippine National Single Window (PNSW) in 30 government agencies including the Bureau of Customs. The electronic tagging of licenses/permits transmitted by Other Government Agencies (OGAs) was piloted at the Port of Manila & Manila International Container Port. The implementing guidelines are covered in CMO 12-2012 which provides among others the tagging by BOC of the e-documents as used/rejected even without presenting the hardcopy.  Launched the e-Payment module with the National Telecommunication Commission as the pilot agency. The module provides for the payment of fees for license/permit application through banks. | Passage of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) to address the requirements under the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)  Connect other relevant government agencies for the internet submission and electronic processing of import permits under the National Single Window System. |
| Website for further information: | http://www.customs.gov.ph |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Commissioner  Office of the Commissioner  Bureau of Customs  G/F OCOM Building  Port Area, Manila  Tel: +632.527.4573/37  Fax: +632.526.6355  E-mail: [BOCCommissioner@customs.gov.ph](mailto:BOCCommissioner@customs.gov.ph) |  |
| ***Intellectual Property Rights*** | Implemented the Rules on Mediation which made the referral of pending cases to mediation mandatory.  Implemented the Arbitration Rules consistent with the WIPO Arbitration Rules; Training of almost a hundred arbitrators ensued in partnership with the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center (PDRCI).  Promulgated the Amendments to the Rules and Regulations on Inter Partes Proceedings (Office Order No. 99. s. 2011); Supplemental guidelines were also issued by the Director of the Bureau of Legal Affairs (BLA), particularly, BLA Circular No. 1, s. 2011 on transitional guidelines, and BLA Circular No. 2, s. 2011, on the conduct of preliminary conference.  Amended the Implementing Rules and Regulation on Patents, Utility Model, and Industrial Design.  Approved the Examination Guidelines relating to Pharmaceutical Inventions involving Known Substances which provides the administrative interpretation of the provisions of Republic Act 9502 or the “Universally Accepted Cheaper Medicines Act of 2008.” The Guidelines, which form an integral part of IPOPHL’s Manual on Substantive Examination Process (MSEP), recognize the importance of safeguarding public health considerations vis-à-vis granting patents for drugs or medicines by specifying in great detail how an invention of such nature satisfies the eligibility standard of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability for patent protection and, conversely, when a subject matter falls in any of the contemplated non-patentable inventions under RA 9502.  Worked on the promulgation of A.M. No. 10-3-10-SC or the Rules of Procedure for Intellectual Property Rights Cases (Special IP Rules).  Issued an Office Order amending certain provisions of the IRR on administrative complaints for Intellectual Property Rights Violation. Under the order, the Director of the Bureau of Legal Affairs may issue ex-parte a 72-hour temporary restraining order (TRO) that may be granted on grounds of extreme urgency and that the applicant will suffer grave injustice and irreparable injury. If the evidence warrants, the TRO can be extended up to 20 days. During said period, the application for the issuance of the preliminary injunction may be heard. The preliminary injunction may last during the entire period of the proceedings or until the case is decided. Moreover, the amendments now explicitly allow the introduction of forensic evidence, which is also envisioned to modernize the adjudication process.  As part of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines’ (IPOPHL) compliance with Republic Act (RA) No. 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act, the “no noon break” policy was implemented requiring all frontline service personnel to maintain a skeletal workforce during lunch break and set a shifting/rotating schedule for employees who will render frontline service.  Enacted Republic Act No. 10372, amending RA No. 8293, providing, among others, enforcement mandate to IPOPHL, and the creation of the Bureau of Copyright  Enacted Republic Act No. 10365, amending the Anti Money Laundering Act (AMLA), providing, among others, the inclusion of violations of RA No. 8293 as a predicate crime for money laundering offenses.  Implementation of IPOPHL’s *Rules of Procedure on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Enforcement, Rules on Resolution of Public Performance Disputes, Rules on Copyright Registration and Deposit and* *Rules on Accreditation of Collective Management Organizations.*  Implemented IPOPHL’s Office Order No. 13-061, s. 2013 entitled "Trademark Applications with Priority Right Claim” to facilitate the registration of trademark applications claiming convention priority by dispensing with the requirement of submission of copies of foreign applications and registrations in countries with online trademark database.  *Inter-Agency Cooperation*  Enhanced border control measures through institutional partnership with the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).  Enhanced IPR enforcement investigation and prosecution through partnership with the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).  Enhanced IP promotion and protection through collaboration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)  Institutionalized partnership with the NCCA and the NCIP to coordinate their efforts and expertise to protect the intellectual property of indigenous peoples.  2012  Enhanced capacity building for special commercial court judges, selected prosecutors, clerks of court and IPOPHL hearing officers on the Rules of Procedures on Intellectual Property Cases through institutional partnership with Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA).  2013  Partnership with Cooperative Development Authority to formalize the agencies’ partnership in connection with the development, protection and promotion of Geographical Indications (GI).  Enhanced IPR enforcement through awareness campaign on the dangers of counterfeit, particularly road safety, by engaging the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), the Land Transportation Office (LT0) and the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association (MDPPA)  *Expansion and Automation of IP Services*  Extended accessibility of services by opening three (3) more IP Satellite Offices (IPSOs) in Cagayan de Oro, Tuguegarao, and Tacloban bringing the total number of IPSOs to ten (10); IPSOs have started accepting copyright works for deposit with the National Library provided in a memorandum entered into by the IPOPHL and the National Library.  IPOPHL’s establishment of sixty-four (64) Innovation and Technology Support Offices (ITSOs) in universities, research and development institutions, and other organizations all over the country; IPOPHL continuously provides technical assistance so that the ITSOs can become effective patent service providers that can provide reliable patent searches, draft patent claims, and provide advice and over-all IP management in their respective communities.  IPOPHL’s full deployment of the Industrial Property Automation System (IPAS) enabling automated processing of utility model, industrial design, patent, and trademark applications.  *Promoting IP Education*  IPOPHL and the Ateneo Law School signed a Memorandum of Agreement launching and implementing the Master of Laws in IP Program.  *International/Bilateral Cooperation & Treaties*  Signed the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) agreement and implemented the IPOPHL-JPO PPH which is part of a global effort to initiate work-sharing and reduce redundancy of work in IP offices. Also signed the IPOPHL-United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) PPH Agreement on 04 October 2012 and commenced in January 2013.  Acceded to the Madrid Protocol with the signing by President Benigno S. Aquino III of the instrument of accession on 27 March 2012. In line with this, the IPOPHL promulgated the “Philippine Regulation Implementing the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks” or the “Philippine Madrid Regulations” and promulgated the fee structure for the collection of Madrid Protocol-related transactions.  Signed the Treaty on the Protection of Audiovisual Performances referred to as the “Beijing Treaty” on 26 June 2012.  Signed the Marrakesh Treaty which allows the reproduction, distribution, and making available of published works in accessible formats through limitations and exceptions to the rights of copyright right holders. Copies of works in accessible formats will include Braille, audiobooks and large-print formats. Enacted R.A. 10372, which became effective in 2013, amended Section 184 of the IP Code and added to the limitations and exceptions to copyright thereby allowing the reproduction and distribution of the specialized formats for the blind, visually impaired, and reading impaired.  Initiatives on pre-accession information dissemination and post-accession promotion for the better use of the Madrid system in the ASEAN region were undertaken with the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area in partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).  Enhanced bilateral cooperation with Mexico to increase technical collaboration in industrial property. Under the agreement, IPOPHL and IMPI (*Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial)* will work together to promote innovation, creativity and technological advancement.  *Increasing IP Awareness and Capacity Building*  Enhanced capacity building of prosecutors, IPOPHL hearing officers and judges on IP related cases through workshops and seminars.  Institutional partnership with the Motorcycle Development Program of the Philippines Association (MDPPA) to generate awareness about the importance of IPR on the social and economic development of the manufacture of motorcycles and its parts.  Launched a project on Geographical Indications (GIs) - Eight (8) pilot products have been included in the project covering the following cities or provinces and products: Aklan for Piña Cloth; Batangas for Barako Coffee; Bicol for Pili Nut; Dagupan City for Bonuan Bangus (Milkfish); in Cebu for dried mangoes; Guimaras for fresh mangoes; Lake Sebu for T’nalak weaves; Lumban for Barong shirt and clothes.  As part of IPR Enforcement, particularly on advocacy and building respect for IP, IPOPHL launched an IP Youth Camp to generate support from youth groups in the promotion, protection and enforcement of IP. This is envisioned as an initial step to involve the schools in IP advocacy.  *IP Enforcement*  Heightened public education and awareness to build an IP friendly constituency. IPOPHL conducted Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Summits from 2011 to 2013.  Maximized efforts on enforcement resulting to the delisting of the Philippines from the Notorious Markets determined by the Office of the United States Trade Representatives (USTR) in the Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets dated 13 December 2012.  Enhanced the investigation and prosecution of IPR cases through the crafting of a manual for investigators and prosecutors.  Implemented the 2012-2016 Philippine Action Plan on Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Enforcement.  Continued to implement IPOPHL’s enforcement mandate. | Continue to hold the annual Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Summit. Starting 2014, the IP Enforcement Summit will include participants from ASEAN member states.  Enhance and institutionalize involvement of students in IP advocacy through the continuous holding of IP youth camps and organization of IP youth advocates.  Continue to work with the private sector on brand development and IP protection.  Come up with a master plan on IP promotion and building respect for IP.  Establish an IP Law and Policy Center to serve as a platform for discussions, studies, and policy recommendations for the development of PHL IP regime.  Work on the establishment of an IP valuation framework.  Further strengthen the capacity of the Innovation and Technology and Support Offices (ITSOs) not only in research and innovation but also in the commercialization of IP  Continue to promote the use of the Madrid System by SMEs  Enhance involvement of LGUs in developing the culture of innovation in the countryside.  Develop IP Advocates in the LGUs  Strengthen collaboration with the IP institutions within APEC in the promotion of IP and protection of IP rights. |
| Website for further information: | <http://www.ipophil.gov.ph> |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Director General  Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines Add.: Intellectual Property Center, 28 Upper McKinley Road, McKinley Hill Town Center, Fort Bonifacio, 1634 Taguig City  Tel.: +632 238 6300  Fax: +632 890 4862  Email: ricblancaflor@ipophil.gov.ph |  |
| ***Competition Policy*** | Issued Department Circular No. 011 entitled *Guidelines Governing the Implementation of E.O. No. 45, series of 2011, Designating the Department of Justice as the Competition Authority*, which took effect on 1 March 2013.  Established a Sector Regulators Council (SRC)in recognition of the crucial role of sector regulators in developing a comprehensive competition policy and law.  Created five (5) Working Groups (advocacy and partnerships, business and economics, enforcement and legal, consumer protection and welfare, policy and planning) and development of Terms of Reference (TOR) delineating the duties and responsibilities of each Working Group.  Cooperation with other Competition Authorities and other international organizations such as the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), European Union, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Organization for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD), ASEAN Secretariat, Economic Co-operation Work Programme under the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), APEC, U.S. Federal Trade Commission (US FTC), U.S. Department of Justice (US DOJ), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).  Chaired the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC) for 2013-2014. | Host the 4th ASEAN Competition Conference in July 2014.  Continue to actively participate in AEGC work program and activities.  Continue to participate in policy dialogues and information exchanges on competition policy within APEC and with other international organizations.  Carry out programs with development partners. |
| Website for further information: | <http://www.doj.gov.ph> |  |
| Contact point for further details: | Head  Office for Competition  Department of Justice Padre Faura,Ermita  Manila, Philippines  Tel: (632) 521- 8345  Fax: (632) 524-2230  E-mail: [competition@doj.gov.ph](mailto:competition@doj.gov.ph); [gls.doj@gmail.com](mailto:gls.doj@gmail.com) |  |
| ***Government Procurement*** | Approved the adoption and started the implementation of the Agency Procurement Performance Indicators (APCPI) as a self-assessment tool for procuring entities to identify the strengths and weaknesses and help develop an action to improve and address these aspects, respectively.  Conducted the Country Procurement Assessment Review for 2012 and adopted the 2012 Action Plan for the Philippine Public Procurement System.  Upgraded the Online Monitoring and Evaluation System (OMES) to include the APCPI tool and to provide procuring entities an efficient system in conducting the APCPI exercise.  Currently updating the Modules for the Professionalization of Public Procurment Practitioners to include the amendments to the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No 9184 and the guidelines issued by the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB).  Ongoing coordination with relevant government agencies on the creation of a career stream, based on identified competency standards, for public procurement practitioners, procurement units, and the amendment of the compensation structure.  Approved the Guidelines on E-Bidding and implemented the E-Bidding functionality on a pilot basis in two (2) national government agencies.  Implemented the Virtual Store and E-Payment functionalities. | Implement the Professionalization program.  Study the establishment of an independent complaints or protest review body.  Develop a framework to sustain and ensure the participation of civil society organizations in procurement monitoring.  Amend the Blacklisting Guidelines and study the possibility of implementing a Cross-Debarment policy with International Financing Institutions.  Amend the Guidelines on Price Escalation.  Study the possibility of adopting a policy on Sustainable Public Procurement/Green Public Procurement.  Study the possibility of adopting a wider policy on Framework Agreements (agreement or arrangement between buying authorities). |
| Website for further information: | [www.gppb.gov.ph](http://www.gppb.gov.ph) |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Executive Director  Government Procurement Policy Board  Department of Budget and Management  Unit 2506 Raffles Corporate Center  F. ortigas Jr road, Ortigas Center  Pasig City  Tel: (632) 900-6741 to 44  E-mail: [gppb@gppb.gov.ph](mailto:gppb@gppb.gov.ph)  The Assistant Director-General  Infrastructure, Regulation and Contract Review Services  National Economic and Development Authority  12 St. Josemaria Escriva Drive,  Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605  Tel: (632) 631-2192  Fax: (632) 631-2188  E-mail: [rsreinoso@neda.gov.ph](mailto:rsreinoso@neda.gov.ph)  The Executive Director  Procurement Service  Department of Budget and Management  DBM Compound  Cristobal St, Paco, Manila  Tel: (632) 563-9365  Fax: (632) 563-9368  E-mail: [contacts@procurementservice.org](mailto:contacts@procurementservice.org); [ecgir@procurementservice.org](mailto:ecgir@procurementservice.org) |  |
| ***Deregulation/Regulatory Review*** | * Water Resources Sector   Developed a *Philippine Water Resources Sector Development Plan (PWRSDP)* to foster coordination in the sector’s planning development and project implementation. The PWRSDP recommended the reconstitution, elevation and strengthening of the National Water Resources Board.   * Transportation Sector   Continued to pursue reforms with the commitment in the 2011-2016 Philippine Development Plan (PDP) to separate the regulatory and operation functions, and eliminate overlapping functions of transport and other concerned agencies.   * Energy Sector   Promulgated Resolution No 9, Series of 2013 “A Resolution Adopting the Rules Enabling the Net-metering Program for Renewable Energy” including the net metering interconnection standards, allowing end-users to generate and supply renewable energy through the distribution utilities. | * Water Resources Sector   Issue an executive order pending legislation of the National Water Resources Board.  Study the improvement of water supply and sanitation (WSS) and rationalization of financing for the WSS sector with assistance from the World Bank. The plan involves the development of an institutional framework and unified financing framework for the WSS sector.  Actively pursue the establishment of an independent economic regulator for the sector.   * Transportation Sector   Awaiting legislation of a law setting the direction of and parameters for the development of and regulation of the transportation system.  Consider a draft executive order adopting a policy framework to set the direction of and parameters for the integrated development and regulation of the transportation system.   * Energy Sector   Awaiting passage of bill to promote and implement the Accreditation Systems for Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) as well as Energy Efficiency Service Providers (EESPs). The bill will address cost competitiveness and energy security. |
| Website for further information: | <http://www.neda.gov.ph> |  |
| Contact point for further details: | Assistant Director General for Infrastructure and/or  Director for Infrastructure  National Economic and Development Authority  12 Saint Josemaria Escriva Drive  Pasig City, Philippines  Tel: (632) 631-3724 loc 310  Fax: (632) 631-9108  E-mail: [RSReinoso@neda.gov.ph](mailto:RSReinoso@neda.gov.ph) |  |
| ***Implementation of WTO Obligations/ROOs*** | Participated actively in the Ninth WTO Ministerial Conference where the Bali Package was adopted. | Continue to participate actively in the Doha Development Agenda negotiations . |
| Website for further information: | [www.dti.gov.ph](http://www.dti.gov.ph) |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Director  Bureau of International Trade Relations  Department of Trade and Industry  361 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue  Makati City 1200 Philippines  Tel: (632) 465-3300, 465-3356  Fax: (632) 890-5149 |  |
| ***Dispute Mediation*** |  |  |
| Website for further information: | <http://www.dti.gov.ph>  <http://www.osg.gov.ph> |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Chief State Counsel  Department of Justice  Padre Faura, Manila, Philippines  Tel: (632) 525-0764, 536 0446  Fax: (632) 525-2218  E-mail: [rvparas@doj.gov.ph](mailto:rvparas@doj.gov.ph)  The Solicitor General  Office of the Solicitor General  134 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City  Tel: (632) 818-6381  Fax: (632) 817-6037  E-mail: [docket@osg.gov.ph](mailto:docket@osg.gov.ph)  The President  Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc.  3/F Commerce Industry Plaza  1030 Campus Ave. cor. Park Avenue  Mckinley Town Center  Fort Bonifacio, Taguig Ciity  Tel: (632) 822-4102  Fax: (632) 822-4102  E-mail: [secretariat@pdrci.org](mailto:secretariat@pdrci.org)  The Executive Director  Construction Industry Arbitration Commission  2/F Executive Centre Building  369 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave.  Makati City  Tel: (632) 897-9313  Fax: (632) 897-0853  E-mail: [ciac\_ciac@yahoo.com](mailto:ciac_ciac@yahoo.com) |  |
| *Mobility of Business People* | Relaxed visa policies for tourists and business persons.    Implemented the on-line application system in securing Alien Employment Permit (AEP).    Extended visa-free entry privilege from 21 days to 30 days granted to 151 countries.    Implemented the long-stay visitor visa extension (LSVVE) of six months from the expiration of authorized stay decreasing the volume of applicants for visa extensions.    Institutionalized a trusted traveller program for frequent international travellers in the processing of clearance by providing dedicated immigration counters in all international airports.     Signed a memorandum of understanding with Australia to implement a Regional Movement Alert System (RMAS) as an integral component of border management in verifying in real time the status of travel documents directly with the issuing authority.    Implemented capacity building for immigration officers at par with immigration international standards.    Emergency response travel facilitation (ERTF) to provide immediate relief to victims in times of naturals disasters by facilitating the mobility of emergency responders without compromising the national security. | Sign an executive order for the Advanced Passenger Information (API). API and Passenger Name Record (PNR) seeks to identify and prevent the entry of suspected terrorists and to monitor and evaluate their travel frequency as well as their port of exit and entry.  Implement the online application system in securing AEP.  Implement a Philippine Skilled Occupational Shortage List. Foreign nationals will be exempted from the publication requirement and payment of publication fee. |
| *Website for further information:* | [www.dfa.gov.ph](http://www.dfa.gov.ph) |  |
| *Contact point for further details:* | The Director  Visa Division, Office of Consular Affairs  Aseana Business Park  Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard cor. Bradco Avenue  Brgy. Tambo, Parañaque City  Tel: (632) 836-7763  Fax: (632) 527-2130  The Commisioner  Bureau of Immigration  2/F Bureau of Immigration Bldg.  Magallanes Drive, Port Area  Tel.: (632) 527-3248  The Undersecretary  Office of the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations  Department of Foreign Affairs  DFA Building , 2330 Roxas Boulevard  Pasay City  Tel.: (632) 834-3045  Fax: (632) 834-1451  E-mail: [apecphil@yahoo.com](mailto:apecphil@yahoo.com)  The Director  Bureau of Local Employment  Department of Labor and Employment  Intramuros, Manila  Tel: (632) 528-0087; 528-0108  Fax: (632) 527-2421 |  |
| *Official websites that gather economies’ information* | Philippine Institute for Development Studies  [www.pids.gov.ph](http://www.pids.gov.ph) |  |
| Website for further information: | Philippine APEC Study Center Network  <http://pascn.pids.gov.ph/> |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Project Director  Philippine APEC Study Center Network  Room 306, NEDA sa Makati Building  106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village  Makati City  Tel: (632) 892-5817  Email: [emedalla@pids.gov.ph](mailto:emedalla@pids.gov.ph); [pascn@pidsnet.pids.gov.ph](mailto:pascn@pidsnet.pids.gov.ph) |  |
| ***Transparency*** | Continued to maintain transparency in all government actions as part of the democratic process. Public hearings or consultations are conducted in the formulation of policies. The private sector and civil society are represented in government councils/committees.  Signed the Anti-Cybercrime Act of 2012 (Republic Act No 10175,) September 2013. It is now being reviewed by the Supreme Court.  Launched FAiTH or Foreign Aid Transparency Hub which is an online portal of information on calamity aid and assistance received by the Philippines from nations and multilateral organizations. | As set out in the Philippine Development Plan of 2011-2016, effective and honest governance will be promoted and practised through the following:  1. Ensure high-quality, efficient, transparent, accountable, financially and physically accessible and nondiscriminatory delivery of public service;  2. Curb both bureaucratic and political corruption;  3. Strengthen the rule of law; and  4. Enhance citizens’ access to information and participation in governance. |
| Website for further information: | [www.gov.ph](http://www.gov.ph) – Official Gazette  [www.gov.ph/**2012**/09/12/republic-**act**-no-10175](http://www.gov.ph/2012/09/12/republic-act-no-10175) *- Anti-Cybercrime Act of 2012*  [www.gov.ph/faith](http://www.gov.ph/faith) *- FAiTH Project* |  |
| Contact point for further details: | The Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office  3/F New Executive Building,  Jose P. Laurel St., Malacañang, Manila  Tel. No.: (632) 736-0719  Fax No.: (632) 735-6167 |  |

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| **RTAs/FTAs** | | | | |
| ***-*** ***Description of current agreements*** | | | *Please use Part 1 of the RTA/FTA reporting template to provide a short description or hyperlinks to any new agreements and to report improvements to existing agreements.* |
|  | | ***Agreement #1*** | **Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement**  The Agreement was ratified by the Philippine Senate in October 2008 and entered into force in December 2008.  Copy of the agreement is available at [www.dti.gov.ph/dti/index.php?p=642](http://www.dti.gov.ph/dti/index.php?p=642) |
| ***Agreement #2*** | **ASEAN Free Trade Area**  The ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) is a trade bloc among the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In January 1992, ASEAN Member States signed the Singapore Declaration, an agreement that mandates the creation of AFTA within 15 years. AFTA became fully operational on 01 January 2003.  [www.aseansec.org/19585.htm](http://www.aseansec.org/19585.htm) |
| ***Agreement #3*** | **ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Partnership Agreement**  The ASEAN – Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (AJCEPA) provides for the establishment of a Free Trade Area (FTA) between ASEAN and Japan over a period of 10 years, taking into account the achievements of the bilateral Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between certain ASEAN Member States and Japan, and the further progress of the ASEAN integration process. Being a comprehensive economic partnership, the Agreement includes chapters on Trade in Goods, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade in Services, Investment and Cooperation and Trade Facilitation.  The Agreement was signed on an ad-referendum basis, with the Philippines signing the Agreement on 02 April 2008. The Philippines begun implementation of the Agreement on 01 July 2010.  [www.aseansec.org/22572.htm](http://www.aseansec.org/22572.htm) |
| ***Agreement #4*** | **ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement**  The Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries (AMCs) and Korea and the Annex on Cooperation was signed on 13 December 2005. Please see [www.aseansec.org/18063.htm](http://www.aseansec.org/18063.htm) and [www.aseansec.org/18067.htm](http://www.aseansec.org/18067.htm).  The Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among AMCs and Korea was signed on 13 December 2005. Please see [www.aseansec.org/18129.htm](http://www.aseansec.org/18129.htm).  The Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among AMCs and Korea was signed in August 2006. Please see [www.aseansec.org/akfta.htm](http://www.aseansec.org/akfta.htm). |
| ***Agreement #5*** | **ASEAN-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership**  The Agreement on Trade in Goods Under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of India was signed on 13 August 2009. Please see [www.aseansec.org/22677.pdf](http://www.aseansec.org/22677.pdf) for the full text of the agreement.  The Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of India was signed on 13 August 2009. Please refer to [www.aseansec.org/22679.pdf](http://www.aseansec.org/22679.pdf). |
| ***Agreement #6*** | **ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement**  The Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area was signed on 27 February 2009. Please see [www.aseansec.org/22260.pdf](http://www.aseansec.org/22260.pdf) for the main agreement.  For the Annexes to the agreement, please see [www.aseansec.org/22262.htm](http://www.aseansec.org/22262.htm).  For the Implementing Arrangement of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area Economic Cooperation Work Programme, please see [www.aseansec.org/22287.pdf](http://www.aseansec.org/22287.pdf).  For the Understanding on Article 1 (Reduction and/or Elimination of Customs Duties) of Chapter 2 (Trade In Goods) of the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area, please see [www.aseansec.org/22308.pdf](http://www.aseansec.org/22308.pdf). |
| ***-*** ***Future plans*** | | | The Philippines is firmly committed to fair and liberal trade and have uphaled this position consistently in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora. The Philippines also remains committed to the multilateral trading system of the WTO even as the country seeks to further expand trade particularly with possible dialogue partners |
| Website for further information: | | | <http://www.dti.gov.ph/dti/index.php?p=680> - Department of Trade and Industry: Philippine Tariffs and Rules of Origin |
| Contact point for further details: | | | The Director  Bureau of International Trade Relations  Department of Trade and Industry  361 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue  Makati City 1200 Philippines  Tel: (632) 465-3300, 465-3356  Fax: (632) 890-5149 |
| ***- Agreements under negotiation*** | | | *Please provide information on agreements that are currently under negotiation eg issues being covered in the negotiation and the status of the negotiation.* |
|  | ***Agreement #1*** | | **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**  Launched in November 2012, RCEP is an FTA agreement being negotiated by 10 ASEAN Member States and its FTA Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand) with a target conclusion by the end of 2015. At the launch of negotiations in 2012, the RCEP Leaders endorsed the "Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership." (<http://www.asean.org/news/item/twentyfirst-asean-summit-phnom-penh-cambodia-18-november-2012>)  To date, there have been two rounds of negotiations on RCEP (May and September 2013) led by a Trade Negotiating Committee (RCEP TNC). Three working groups were established in May 2013 in the areas of Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Investment. The  RCEP will also cover Economic and Technical Cooperation, Intellectual Property, Competition, Dispute Settlement, Other Issues to be mutually agreed among Parties.  The third round of negotiations will take place in January 2014. |