

## Welcome Remarks

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<sup>1</sup>Message delivered during the opening program of the APEC Seminar Workshop on the Assessment of Good Animal Husbandry Practices in APEC Member Economies on 25 October 2011 at Hotel Kimberly, Tagaytay City, Philippines.

Good morning to everybody.

Director Manuel Jarmin of the Livestock Development Council (LDC), Department of Agriculture, Philippines, Mr Kelan Evans, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Attache – US Department of Agriculture, Dr Mark Schipp, Chief Veterinary Officer of the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS), Mr Gilberto Layese, Project Consultant and former BAFPS Director, Dr Richard Anthony Laven, Massey University of New Zealand, organizers, and delegates from participating APEC Member Economies including Brunei, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Thailand, and the Philippines, guest and colleagues.

In behalf of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards, I would like to express our sincere and warm welcome to the all delegates in coming here to the Philippines. It is our honor for us to be the venue for this seminar-workshop on the assessment of Good Animal Husbandry Practices in APEC member economies. This seminar workshop is a 3-day activity of the APEC Technical Cooperation Working Group under the APEC-SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation.

The main objective of the activity is to create cooperation and competency in identifying specific inadequacies in relation to husbandry practices of the APEC member economies. Specifically, this seminar-workshop will assess the current situation of livestock and poultry industries and its relationship to the rising public health concerns among member economies, production capacity and product safety. Regional issues on animal production system will also be discussed and sharing the best practices on animal husbandry among APEC member economies. The components of the seminar include lectures from resource speakers, presentations from member economies and the workshop on assessing the Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) for the participating economies.

With our commitments from all of us, I believe we can have fruitful discussions regarding Good Animal Husbandry Practices. Enjoy your stay in Tagaytay City, Philippines and rest assure that we shall be looking and ensuring your safety and comfort. Do not forget to savour and partake our Filipino Food and do not hesitate to ask any information or assistance from our staff who are readily available to accommodate your needs.

Thank you.