

PH STMO, JP METI REAFFIRMS COOPERATION ON STC IMPLEMENTATION

Strategic Trade Management Office



Over the course of the licensing and inspection exercises, the three-day dialogue focused on the following topics:

1. four criteria used in evaluating specific licensing applications;
2. specific interpretations considering the nuances of different licensing cases; and
3. outline Internal Compliance Program and Post-Audit inspection procedures.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan engaged in a three-day dialogue with the Philippine Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO) last 02-04 March 2022, following the Outreach Seminar held in September 2021. The two countries discussed specific licensing and inspection cases and harmonized evaluation practices for STMO officers.

Director Luis M. Catibayan opened the program by expressing gratitude to Japan METI for all the invaluable assistance provided to the Philippines through awareness seminars and annual consultations. Director Catibayan expressed in his remarks that “Indeed, the STMO’s collaboration with METI and Center for Information on Strategic Trades Control (CISTEC) has been critical to our effective implementation of strategic trade controls (STCs). This is demonstrated by the STMO continuously getting a 100% satisfaction rating from our industry stakeholders.”

The Japanese delegation was headed by Mr. Eisuke Araki, Director of the Office of International Affairs for Security Export Control. Mr. Takeshi Mizota, Director, Executive Judge of the Security Export Licensing Division of the Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, and Mr. Kimihiro Ishikawa, Security Export Inspector, Security Export Inspection Office of the Security Export Control Administration Division also joined the delegation.

Japan is the second most important destination for Philippine strategic products, accounting for 21% of all strategic goods exports. Thus, the harmonization of license assessments would ensure that the implementation of the Philippine STMA is similar to that of Japan. Through the STMO-METI dialogue, Japan METI continues to support STMO as it leverages the Philippines’ strategic trade regime to attract foreign investment in the manufacture and export of strategic goods.

In closing, Assistant Director Janice Dimayacyac recalled her work experience and learning from Japanese experts. She expressed her anticipation for the future of the Japan-Philippines collaboration. The two countries then reiterated their commitment to the partnership, with discussions on next steps and other potential areas of cooperation already underway. END