



PH STMO Touted Improvement in STC Implementation at **28th Asian Export Control Seminar**

DTI-STMO Directors Atty. Luis Manuel M. Catibayan and Atty. Janice S. Dimayacyac highlighted the notable improvement in the implementation of the Philippines' export control system during the 28th Asian Export Control Seminar (AECS) held on 15-17 February 2022.

Backed by 2021/2022 Peddling Peril Index (PPI) published by the Institute for Science and International Security, which ranks 200 countries according to their adoption and application of export controls and assesses the effectiveness of those systems at preventing illicit trade of strategic commodities, the Philippines increased its ranking to 49th place with 755 points from 86th in the previous year. The significant leap earned the Philippines the recognition of being the most improved country in implementing strategic trade regulations. In a year, the Department of Trade and Industry- Strategic Trade Management Office (DTI-STMO) was able to accomplish this feat through the efforts and collaboration of the government and industry, together with the support of partner countries.

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Director Catibayan also discussed the importance of having an effective export control industry cooperation, and was further emphasized by Atty. Dimayacyac as she provided updates on the Philippines' implementation of the Strategic Trade Management Act (STMA).

The 3-day seminar was spearheaded by Japan's Center for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC) and co-organized by the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

The DTI-STMO represented the Philippines in this event wherein thirty (30) countries around the globe and various international organizations participated. Nineteen (19) Asian countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam and eleven (11) countries outside Asia: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, and Russia, exchanged various views on international security efforts, emerging technologies, challenges, and other related issues.

Also present at the said event were the UN Security Council (UNSC) 1540 Committee, UNSC Committee on North Korea, the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (joint presentation with the European External Action Service), the European Union (EU), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), members of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOG), and the representatives from various multilateral export control regimes namely Australia Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Nuclear Suppliers Group, and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Japan's State Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Ishii Masahiro, said that it is becoming increasingly important for international security to introduce and strengthen the implementation of systems for export control in all Asian countries and regions as major constituents of the global supply chain. He also added that this would enhance relationships of trust with trading partners in the international community.

All participating countries reaffirmed their commitments to protect international peace and security by imposing stringent measures to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and discussed possible collaborations and capacity building in the future. The STMO, true to this commitment, will continue to fulfill its role in establishing domestic controls to ensure and secure trade safety in the Philippines. END