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## DTI, UN DESA launch MSME resilience workshop for women and youth-led entrepres



*Department of Trade and Industry-Regional Operations Group (DTI-ROG) Blesila A. Lantayona (middle, front row); ROG Assistant Secretary Asteria C. Caberte (3rd from left, front row); DTI-7 Regional Director Ma. Elena C. Arbon (2nd from left, front row); and BSMED OIC-Director Emma C. Asusano (middle, second row) led the DTI in the “Workshop on Strengthening Resilience of Women and Youth-led Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Creative Industry in the Philippines for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” that was held on 26-27 May 2022 at Discovery Suites Manila and via the Zoom platform. They were joined by other external delegates including Pangasinan 4th District Congressman Christopher De Venecia (3rd from left, second row); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Team Leader Maria Luisa Isabel Jolongbayan (5th from left, second row); Cebu UNESCO City of Design Focal Point Gil "Butch" Z. C. Carungay (2nd from left, front row); NiñOFranco RTW Creative Director Wilson Limon; UNDP Country Representative Teddy Monroy; and HoliCOW Manager Kae Batiquin.*

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) through the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED), together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), organized a policy workshop to reinforce the resilience of women and youth-led micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Billed as the “Workshop on Strengthening Resilience of Women and Youth-led Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Creative Industry in the Philippines for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” the event was held on 26-27 May 2022 at Discovery Suites Manila and via the Zoom platform.

In view of the lingering effects of the COVID-19 crisis and climate-related hazards, the workshop gathered policymakers, MSME entrepreneurs, development partners, and stakeholder groups in the Philippines to identify, document, and exchange experiences on enhancing MSME resilience for building back better. The event also explored potential gaps constraining MSME resilience and their contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the country.

*“It is imperative that we continue to work together to enhance the resilience of MSMEs and leverage their potentials for building back better and stronger in this Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals,”* said **National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, UN DESA/Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) Chief Amson Sibanda.**

On the same note, **DTI-Regional Operations Group Undersecretary Blesila A. Lantayona** emphasized the alignment of the Philippines’ priorities on MSME development with the UN’s agenda for sustainable development.

*“Since starting our partnership between DTI and UN DESA back in 2019, we continue to work towards promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth with full and productive employment and decent work for all,”* said Usec. Lantayona.

Five topics were discussed among the participants: (1) Philippine MSME Situationer: Effects of the Pandemic and Disasters; (2) International Good Practices on Enhancing Resilience of Women and Youth-led MSMEs; (3) National Policy on Supporting MSME Resilience; (4) Initiatives on Strengthening MSME Resilience in the Philippines; and (5) Elevating MSME Resilience for Building Back Better to Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants also shared their responses to cope with the effects of the pandemic and disasters through the PechaKucha storytelling format.

In her closing remarks, **BSMED OIC-Director Emma C. Asusano** reiterated the importance of the UN DESA’s support to the country’s enterprises. *“Abrupt changes have disrupted plans, adjusted business priorities, disturbed existing networks, and consistently posed challenges to entrepreneurs and enterprises. These are just some of the shared realities our entrepreneurs have been dealing with when faced with mishaps,”* she said.