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Manufacturing Summit 2022 focuses on innovation and resiliency



Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez (in barong) graced the hybrid Manufacturing Summit 2022 that was held on 21 June 2022. He is joined by DTI Competitiveness and Innovation Group (CIG) Undersecretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba (3rd from left) and (from left): Department of Energy-Energy Utilization Management Bureau (DOE-EUMB) Dir. Patrick T. Aquino; Board of Investments-Investment Policy and Planning Service (BOI-IPPS) Dir. Sandra Marie S. Recolizado; former DTI Sec. Adrian Cristobal Jr.; and DTI-CIG Assistant Secretary Napoleon Juanillo, Jr.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) successfully mounted the annual Manufacturing Summit on 21 June 2022 that focused on the adoption of digital transformation and innovation for the resilience of the country's manufacturing sector.

With the theme **“Shaping the Future of the Philippine Industries: The Road to Resiliency Through Innovation,”** this year's hybrid summit was attended onsite by over 100 participants consisting of key officials and representatives from various government agencies and development partners, leading industry associations, and members of the academe. Meanwhile, over 400 participants joined through the Zoom and Facebook platforms.

In his keynote message, **DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez** said, *“Our goal is to discuss how we can revitalize enterprise development and expand job creation in the sector, in the context of a post-pandemic future, while harnessing innovation to secure resiliency and agility for the sector.”*

From “*Trabaho at Negosyo*” (2016) to “*Securing the Recovery of Filipino Enterprises and the Resilience of Philippine Industries*” (2021), the Summit has delved into the compelling issues confronting the manufacturing sector - ranging from Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)-related matters to the adverse effects of the pandemic - as well as the government’s policies and programs to address them.

On the same note, **Competitiveness and Innovation Group (CIG) Undersecretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba** said the past six years witnessed internal and external changes and developments that have shaped the manufacturing industry’s performance and contribution to the country’s economic growth.

“*Starting from the Comprehensive National Industrial Strategy (CNIS) to the Inclusive Innovation Industrialization Strategy (i3S), we enhanced our focus from competitiveness-centered to an innovation-driven industrialization strategy. We also refined it this year - given our pandemic experience - to science, technology and innovation-driven industrial strategy, which is important as we enter the post-pandemic future,*” Usec. Aldaba said.



Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez (center) and US-ASEAN Business Council Regional Managing Director Michael Michalak (on screen via Zoom) signed the US-ABC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Strengthening Collaboration and Cooperation on Innovation. Witnessing the signing are DTI Competitiveness and Innovation Group (CIG) Undersecretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba (left) and ASEAN, Philippines - US-ASEAN Business Council Senior Representative Elizabeth Magsaysay-Cr ebassa who are the respective primary point person for each party.

The discussion at the Summit revolved around the status of the Philippine manufacturing sector and the key policy legacies that have been enacted over the course of six years. The talks included the recently-enacted liberalization laws including the Amendments to the Retail Trade Liberalization Act (RA 11595), Foreign Investments Act (RA 11647), and the Public Service Act (RA 11659); the newly-

enacted Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (RA 11697); and, the recently-approved Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP).

The Summit also tackled various initiatives, programs, and strategies of the government to support and bolster the country's manufacturing sector as it mainstreams 4IR technologies. Among these are the now-enhanced i3S being championed by the DTI; the diverse programs of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to promote research and development (R&D); and the initiatives of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to prepare the country's workforce as it transitions towards 4IR.

Undersecretary Aldaba emphasized the critical role of the government in addressing the major challenges faced by the industries including the intense competition from imports in the domestic market, the need to improve capacity of domestic industries to expand market reach, and the need to attract more investments.

Finally, the event witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Strengthening Collaboration and Cooperation on Innovation between the DTI and the US-ASEAN Business Council.

The MOU encompasses the following areas of commitment for public-private sector consultation, collaboration, and cooperation: accelerated modernization and digital transformation across all industries; development of new creative industries; building a robust startup ecosystem and capacitating the MSMEs; and expansion of e-commerce, among others.