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DTI joins World Accreditation Day celebration



DTI-PAB Director James E. Empeño (inset) gives an overview of this year's World Accreditation Day celebration during the forum held last 9 June 2017 at the Industry and Investments Building, Makati City.

With the theme “Accreditation: Delivering confidence in construction and the built environment,” the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) celebrated the World Accreditation Day (WAD) 2017 through a forum held last 9 June 2017 at the Penthouse, Industry and Investments Building, Makati City.

This year's celebration aims to raise citizen awareness on accreditation in the construction industry and its benefits to the government, private sector, and consumers. As the Philippines gears towards the “Golden Age of Infrastructure,” it was deemed relevant and necessary to ensure the public of the safety and stability of the country's buildings, bridges, and other structures.

“This forum serves as a venue of communicating the value of accreditation and be one with the world in strengthening the roots of accreditation in all the economies,” **Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) Director James E. Empeño** said.

The forum covered several topics on construction sector accreditation. **Ms. Amor F. Lahoz** and **Mr. Jenebert P. Opinion** from PAB, the lead bureau for this activity, presented information on accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) and

facilitating trade through arrangement with international accreditation entities. They also gave an overview of their bureau and the services they offer.

Ms. Olivia P. del Rosario of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) of the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP) discussed licensing and registration processes for contractors.

For her part, **Engr. Nikki C. Najarro** of the Philippine Domestic Construction Board (PDCB), also under CIAP, explained the features of the Contractors Performance Evaluation System (CPES) – a measure to rate a contractor’s capability for a specific project with a defined set of criteria.

On the same note, **Engr. Nestor B. Caoile** of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) underscored quality control and quality assurance in public infrastructure projects. He shared their agency’s initiatives to ensure that high quality and safe products are being used for these government initiatives.

DTI-Industry Development and Trade Policy Group Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo, through a message, expressed his appreciation of the essential role of accreditation in having a safe and secure country.

“Let us all unite in this global initiative of celebrating the invaluable role of accreditation in the construction and the built environment, benefiting not only the businesses and regulators but likewise as a means in ensuring quality and safety in the built environment in pursuit of nation building,” he said.



Stakeholders from the construction industry, together with staff from PAB and CIAP, posed for a photo op during the forum.

WAD is a global initiative that intends to raise awareness on the importance of accreditation. It was established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Also part of this year’s WAD celebration is the international launch of the Public Sector Assurance website, accessible through <http://www.publicsectorassurance.org>, which aims to showcase how conformity assessment is used by government and non-government entities worldwide.