



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
14th Session, 8 – 10 July 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Philippines¹

Wednesday, 9 July (15:00 - 18:00)

Room XVIII, *Palais des Nations*, Geneva

The Peer Review on Competition Law and Policy is an exercise in which a country voluntarily has its Competition legal framework and institutional set-up evaluated by other countries. It presents a unique opportunity to discover strengths and weaknesses of the country's competition system, to draw lessons from past experiences, to examine risks and opportunities and finally to propose improvements for the future. The fact that those conducting the evaluation are peer authorities is very convenient, because it allows the sharing of knowledge and experiences, while fostering international cooperation at the same time.

Department of Justice-Office for Competition (DOJ-OFC), the Philippines Competition Agency voluntarily requested to be Peer Reviewed during the Twelfth Session of the IGE in 2012. Thus, Ms. Deunden Nikomborirak, Competition expert and Research director of Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) and Mr. Bob Weymouth, Chairperson of South Australian Consumer Law Consultative Forum and ex-regional director of ACCC, were commissioned by UNCTAD to elaborate the report that will serve as a basis for the peer review examination under the Fourteenth Session of the IGE in 2014. The fact finding visit to Philippines took place in December 2012 with substantial support provided by DOJ-OFC and the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch of UNCTAD.

The examination panel will include representatives of other competition authorities. In addition, speakers from the floor will be invited to contribute to the discussion. The objective of the session is to examine Philippines' competition situation and to provide an opportunity to all participants to exchange mutually enriching views and experiences.

The findings and policy recommendations of the Peer Review will be used to design a tailor-made technical assistance program for Philippines with the objective to enhance its competition legal and institutional framework, as well as DOJ-OFC's capacity to effectively enforce the Competition Law and strengthen free competition in Philippines. Development agencies, technical assistance providers, bilateral donors and international organizations are cordially invited to support this program.

¹ UNCTAD/DITC/CLP/2014/2

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15:00 - 15:05	Introduction , by UNCTAD Secretariat
15:05 - 15:10	Introduction of the Philippines Delegation and the Review Panel, by the Chairperson of the Session <i>William Kovacic, Professor, George Washington University</i> Panel Members: <i>Nawir Messi Chairman of Indonesian Competition Commission(KPPU)</i> <i>Toshiko Igarashi, Senior Planning Officer, Japan Fair Trade Commission(JFTC)</i> <i>Barbara Schulze, Head of Unit International Competition Matters, Bundeskartellamt (Federal Cartel Office)</i>
Part I	
15:10 - 15:40	Presentation of the Peer Review Report of Philippines by Consultants: <i>Deunden Nikomborirak and Bob Weymouth</i>
15:40 - 16:00	General Statement by the Philippines Delegation
16:00 - 17:00	Questions and Answers: Successive rounds of questions from panelists and speakers from the floor
Part II	
17:00 - 17:30	Interactive Session: Questions from the Philippines Delegation to panelists and other delegations
Part III	
17:30 - 17:40	Presentation of UNCTAD's proposal for a Technical Assistance Project for Philippines <i>Dongryeul Shin, UNCTAD Secretariat</i>
17:40 - 18:00	Wrap-up <i>William Kovacic</i> Closing remarks <i>Philippines Delegation</i>
18:15 - 19:45	Cocktail Reception