

WELCOME REMARKS
BY
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APEC-HRD -CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM
FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT INSURANCE PRACTITIONERS WORKSHOP
January 15-17, 2002, Makati City

A pleasant morning to everyone!

In behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry, I would like to warmly welcome our guests, fellow workers in government and our distinguished Experts on trade and investment insurance from the APEC economies. Thank you for joining us in this Experts Workshop which is the first major component of the APEC-HRD Capability Building Network Capacity Building Program for Trade and Investment Insurance Practitioners.

Phases one and two of this APEC project were implemented in 1997 and 1998, respectively, with China, as the proponent. In these phases, the Department, as the Philippine Coordinator for the APEC Capability Building Network, played an important role, particularly in the hosting of the two training programs. Now that the project is on its third phase, the Department, as the current project overseer, seeks to strengthen its support for this undertaking.

On behalf of the Department and the Philippine government, I look forward substantial results from this 3-day activity. The results should be able to help us collectively address the demands of globalizing world economy that will see long term growth in the volume of investments which will flow under increasingly complex trade and investments regimes. This phenomenon will all the more be punctuated by the recently launched round of WTO MTN at Doha.

Broadly-speaking, I hope that the workshop will contribute to the development of HR in our region to support the continually process of the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment and also hope that this workshop will be an opportunity for going closer collaboration and cooperation in the other related activities in APEC.

I am optimistic that everyone will actively participate towards the attainment of the workshop's objectives. I am confident that we will ensure a mutuality of interests and advantages as we pursue through the workshop benefits for our constituents.

Once again, a warm welcome to all and a productive New Year to all of you!

Once again, our warm welcome to all the Experts. I am sure it is not too late to greet Happy New Year to all !