



**Proposed Terms of Reference:
Project Launch and Inception Workshop on “Strengthening the
Impact of Trade on Employment in the Philippines”**

Background:

The Philippines is one of the six (6) countries where the project “Strengthening the Impact of Trade on Employment” (STRENGTHEN) will be implemented. This project is being conducted by the International Labour Office (ILO) with financial support from the European Union (EU) and in close collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the social partners, and other national project stakeholders. The project aims to strengthen the employment dimension in policies and programmes related to international trade with better analysis, more coherent policy-making, and enhanced programmes that are designed to encourage employment creation and upgrading. This project will support the Philippines in leveraging industries that are competitive in international trade towards providing more opportunities for decent work within the country and raising the number of workers who are productively employed.

The specific objectives of the project in the Philippines are as follows:

1. To generate and improve knowledge on both the positive and negative impacts of international trade on productive and decent employment in the Philippines.
2. To build the capacities of Filipino technical specialists, researchers and development partners from key government agencies, relevant social partners and other concerned stakeholders to not only identify, measure and assess the impact of international trade on employment but also to use the evidence to formulate sound and strategic trade, employment and industrial policies.
3. To establish an institutional and multi-sectoral platform for representatives of relevant Philippine ministries and social partners to engage in policy discussions on the effects of international trade on employment and to formulate and recommend more effective, coherent and inclusive policies for this in the Philippines.
4. To enhance employment opportunities within the Philippines arising from trade policies through technical support for the development of skills in export activities and the promotion of export-oriented value chains and industries that are job-rich.

These terms of reference are for an activity that will comprise the official launch of the project and an inception work in the Philippines.

Objectives of Project Launch and Inception Workshop:

1. To create connections between interested parties for policy dialogue
2. To provide a conceptual framework for assessing the effects of trade on employment
3. To disseminate up-to-date statistics on the Philippines's trade and labour markets
4. To discuss and exchange views and experiences on the impact of trade on employment in the Philippines
5. To validate the Country Work Plan.

Target Group:

This activity will cater for a total of 50 - 70 participants from the Philippines, comprising:

- middle-level officials from the Departments of Labour, Trade, and other government institutions, who contribute to the formulation of national trade and employment policies; and representatives from employers', workers', exporters', and SME organizations, among others whose professional activities are strongly tied to the foreign sector and therefore greatly impacted by national trade and employment policies.

Program

<i>Day 1: Trade, Employment, Decent Work and National Development: Challenges and Opportunities for the Philippine Labor Market and Exports Sector</i>	
08.00 — 09.00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
09.00 — 9.45	Official Opening and STRENGTHEN Project Launch Assistant Secretary Alex A. Avila, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Regional Coordination, Department of Labor and Employment Director Lydia R. Guevarra, Resource Generation and Management Service, Department of Trade and Industry Mr Walter van Hattum, Head of Economic and Trade Section, European Union Delegation to the Philippines Mr Khalid Hassan, Director, ILO Country Office for the Philippines Photo-Op
9.45-10.00	Presentation 1: Growth Prospects of the Philippine Economy and Strategies for National Development, Global Competitiveness and Employment Generation

	<p>Speaker: Director Brenda Joyce R. Mendoza, NEDA Trade, Services and Industry Staff</p>
10.00-10.30	<p>Presentation 2: Labour Market Trends, Decent Work and Employment Policy in the Philippines</p> <p>Speaker: Director Adeline T. De Castro, DOLE Planning Service</p>
10.30-11.00	<p>Presentation 3: Philippine Export Growth and Development Goals and Strategies for Filipino MSME Integration into the Global Export Value Chains</p> <p>Speaker: Director Senen M. Perlada, DTI Export Marketing Bureau</p>
11.00-12.00	<p>Panel Discussion and Open Forum on Philippine Trade, Employment, Exports Growth and MSME Integration into the Export Global Value Chains</p> <p>Proposed Panel Discussants:</p> <p>Discussant from the Labor Sector Discussant from the Export Sector NEDA DOLE DTI</p>
12.00-12.30	<p>Global Updates on the STRENGTHEN Project</p> <p><i>STRENGTHEN Project Presentation:</i> Mr. David Cheong, Trade and Employment Specialist, ILO</p>
12.30-1.30	Lunch Break
1.30-2.00	<p>Inception Workshop Tasks and Group Assignments:</p> <p>Dr. Rene E. Ofreneo, Inception Workshop Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissemination of the STRENGTHEN Country Work Plan and other related documents. - Discussion of the flow of the Inception Workshop for the next 2 days - Assignment of groupings and topics for Group Discussions <p>Mr. Bryan M. Balco, STRENGTHEN National Project Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of possible issues and sector-specific challenges

	- Discussion and highlights of issues and concerns raised during series of STRENGTHEN stakeholder meetings and consultations
2.00-4.00.	<p>Inception Workshop Proper</p> <p>Parallel Discussion Group A: <i>Knowledge Gaps Concerning Trade and Employment in the Philippines</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify relevant topics and policy issues related to Trade and Employment for country studies. - Identify export sectors/areas with potential for employment generation and upgrading in the Philippines. <p>Parallel Discussion Group B: <i>Trade and Value Chains in Employment-Rich Activities (TRAVERA)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify an export value chain for TRAVERA program. - Identify major bottlenecks for MSMSEs in integrating into the selected export value chain and expanding and upgrading employment. - Identify relevant activities for TRAVERA program.
4.00-4.30	<p>Group Reporting and Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion Group A - Discussion Group B
Day 2: Enhancing Skills and Competencies for Trade, Employment and Export Development	
08.00-08.30 a.m.	Registration and Recap of Day 1 Sessions
08.30-09.30 a.m.	<p>Presentation 4: Industry-based Human Resource (HR) Competencies and Skills for Competitiveness in the Export Sector</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Director Evariste “Eries” Cagatan, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Board of Investments (BOI)</p> <p>Executive Director Marissa Legaspi, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) – Planning Office</p>
9.30-10.00 a.m.	<p>Open Forum and Panel Discussions on Export Skills and Competencies</p> <p>Discussant from CHED</p> <p>Discussant from the Labor Sector</p>

	Discussant from the Employers' Group DTI-BOI TESDA
10.00-11.00 a.m.	Presentation 5: Philippine Services Exports and Mode-4 on the Movement of Natural Persons Speakers: Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) Mr Lord Louis P. Valera, Chief, International Affairs Division, Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)
11.00-11.30 a.m.	Open Forum and Panel Discussions on Philippine Service Exports Discussant from the Labor Sector Discussant from the Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. (PASEI) POEA BLE PRC
12.00-1.00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1.00-1.30 p.m.	Presentation 6: Decent Work in International Trade: Philippine Trade-Related Foreign Investment Policies and Industrial Plans, and Trade Agreements Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo, Department of Trade and Industry – Industry Development Group
1:30-2:00 p.m.	Open Forum
2.00-4:00 p.m.	Parallel Discussion Group C: Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED) - Identify an export sector (may include Mode-4 service exports) for STED program. - Identify priority training needs for workers in the selected export sector. - Identify relevant activities for STED program. Parallel Discussion Group D: Constituting a Policy Working Group on Trade and Employment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine composition, structure, and functions of Policy Working Group. - Identify best ways and alternatives that would help support Philippine objectives particularly on creating massive, quality, decent and productive employment - Ensure how the Policy Working Group could become an effective consultative mechanism that would involve all the social partners and concerned stakeholders towards making Philippine trade and employment policies and programmes more coherent
4:00-4:30 p.m.	<p>Discussion Group Reporting and Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion Group C - Discussion Group D
4:30-5:00 p.m.	<p>Final and Concluding Session: Making Trade and Employment Policies More Coherent with National Development Objectives and Highlights of Tripartite Consensus and Agreements on Trade and Employment</p> <p>Dr. Rene E. Ofreneo, Inception Workshop Facilitator</p> <p>Photo-Op</p>