



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Minerals and Geoscience Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Climate Change Service

FROM : The OIC Director
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR TRADE-RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
(TRTA) TO THE WTO**

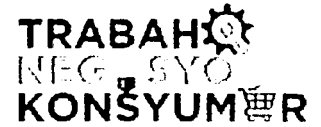
DATE : 24 OCT 2022

This pertains to the letter dated 12 October 2022 from the Department of Trade and Industry – Bureau of International Trade Relations (DTI-BITR) regarding the Trade-Related Technical Assistance (TrTA) to the WTO.

In line with this, DTI is requesting the Technical Committee on WTO matters (TCWM) suggestions/comments on 1) 2nd National Workshop for 2023; and 2) Recommend Trade related topics/issue/projects for 2023-2024. For reference, attached is the Philippine' two-year TrTA request for 2020-2022 (Annex A) based on prior recommendation from agencies (Annex B).

We would appreciate receiving an advance copy of your inputs/recommendation on the same on or before **28 October 2022** through our email addresses: psddivision@gmail.com and policy@denr.gov.ph. Attached are the relevant documents from DTI.


MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO



12 October 2022

(Please see Distribution List)

Dear Sir/Madame:

Following the Joint Meeting of the TRM-Technical Committee on WTO Matters (TRM-TCWM) and the Sub-Committee on Other WTO Rules and Disciplines held on 03 October 2022, it may be noted that the Philippines can request up to two Trade-related Technical Assistance (TrTA) annually with the WTO. For 2023, TCWM members agreed to request for an E-commerce national workshop. The topic for a second national workshop is open to suggestions from agencies.

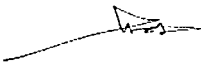
It may be recalled that DTI-Bureau of International Trade Relations (DTI-BITR) has prepared the Philippines' two-year TrTA request for 2020-2022 (see **Annex A**), based on prior recommendation from agencies (see **Annex B**).

In line with this, may we request your office to recommend topics/issues/projects to be considered as TrTA requests for the (1) 2nd national workshop for 2023; and (2) period of 2023-2024. We would appreciate receiving your recommendation through a formal letter on or before 31 October 2022.

For any queries/clarifications, you may contact DTI-BITR through Ms. Kareen Eltagon (KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph) and Mr. John Tirado (JohnJocelTirado@dti.gov.ph), copy Ms. Norma Arpafo (NormaArpafo@dti.gov.ph) and bitrwodesk@dti.gov.ph.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Digitally signed by Gepty
Allan Batarra
Date: 2022.10.14 09:10:45
+08'00'
Atty. Allan B. Gepty
Assistant Secretary

Copy : TCWM Chairperson and Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo, DTI-IDTPG

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE POLICY GROUP

Philippine Request List of Trade-Related Technical Assistance

Trade Negotiations Skills Simulation Course

1. Manila-based TNSS; allot at least two days of lecture especially for trade in services and fisheries subsidies negotiations

General Agreement on Trade in Services

1. Services statistics/ Measuring trade in services

Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

1. Basics of Intellectual Property
2. Latest WTO law and jurisprudence involving the TRIPS Agreement
3. Geographic Indicators (GIs)
4. IP and public health, traditional knowledge

Agreement on Agriculture

1. Agriculture Information Management System (Ag IMS); online notifications
2. Food security
3. Trade in Biological Control Agents (BCAs)

Trade-Related Investment Measures Agreement

1. TRIMS Agreement

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

1. Developing, Equivalence and Harmonization of Trade Rules and Procedures Between Trade Partners
2. Identifying and Complying with Conformity Assessment Procedures
3. Management of Disagreement and Notification to the WTO Secretariat regarding proposed TBT (Case Studies)
4. Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) as a Tool for Market Access
5. TBT notifications
6. Sectoral and National workshop on TBT
7. Advance and Specialized program in relation to the TBT
8. Institutionalization of National Workshops on TBT through a multiyear approach
9. Good Regulatory Practice and developing technical regulations that will not be considered as a barrier to trade

Agreement on Rules of Origin

1. ROO as tools of trade and development
2. Rules of Origin (ROO) negotiations (e.g. full cumulation, chemical process rules, and self-declaration)
3. Non-preferential rules of origin

Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

1. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Agricultural Products

Trade Facilitation Agreement

1. Best Practices in Trade Facilitation

Agreement on Import Licensing

1. Best Practices in Import Licensing
2. Trade, Environment, Health and Safety Policies

Agreement on Government Procurement

1. Scheduling of GPA commitments

Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)

1. RTAs and the WTO
2. Application of trade remedies in the context of FTAs

Market access, remanufactured goods

1. WTO Market Access Online Tools
2. Remanufactured goods
3. Trade-related issues on second-hand or used equipment

Health

1. Strengthening Border Control
2. Multilateral Environmental Agreement and Its Effects on Trade Facilitation
3. Effective Management of Trade Facilitation and Environmental Protection
4. Environment, Health and Safety Impact of Trade Policies
5. Best Practices in Trade and Health Services

General Topics

1. Trade Policy Analysis
2. Effective Import-Export Regulations on Dual-Used Goods
3. Fourth Industrial Revolution
4. Digital Economy
5. MSMEs
6. Trade in chemicals
7. GVCs and global business models
8. Investment Facilitation
9. Non-tariff measures
10. The role of tariffs; understanding the Harmonized System Code

Non-WTO: International Organization for Standardization

1. Facilitation of visit to an ISO certified Plant Pests and Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
2. Marketing Trends in Woody Biomass (particularly in the Forestry Sector)

Request List for Trade-Related Technical Assistance

Requesting Agency	Topics/Issues
Board of Investments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include courses that will cover the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging issues on Trade in Goods negotiations (e.g. remanufactured goods and tariff deviation) • Emerging issues on Rules of Origin (ROO) negotiations (e.g. full cumulation, chemical process rules, and self declaration) • Application of trade remedies in the context of FTAs • Other relevant topics in relation to emerging global business models 2. Strengthen the ROO module in the WTO e-campus to include application of non-preferential ROO and practical examples. 3. On the actual conduct of training, allot at least 2 days of lecture for the Regional Advanced Trade Negotiations Skills Simulation (TNSS) Course since based on the latest training conducted, there were topics (e.g. trade in services and fisheries subsidies negotiations) that needs to have longer lecture period.
Bureau of International Trade Relations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fourth Industrial Revolution 2. Digital economy 3. Electronic Commerce 4. MSMEs 5. Investment Facilitation 6. Food security 7. TRIPS 8. TRIMS

	<p>9. Scheduling of GPA commitments</p> <p>10. TRIPS (Geographical Indication)</p> <p>11. Manila-based TNSS</p>
Bureau of Philippine Standards	<p>1. Advance and Specialized program in relation to the TBT</p> <p>2. Institutionalization of National Workshops on TBT through a multiyear approach</p> <p>3. Specialized courses on Good Regulatory Practice more specifically in developing Technical Regulations that will not be considered as a TBT</p>
Department of Agriculture	<p>1. Agriculture Information Management System (Ag IMS)</p>
DA-Bureau of Plant Industry	<p>1. Discussion or Lecture on TRADING of Biological Control Agents (BCAs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the use of BCAs in the country is not popular. We know that in other countries BCAs are commercially available while in our country it is not. So more farmers are relying on pesticides for pest control. They have no alternative so that there will be less residue in their produce. <p>2. Facilitation of visit to an ISO Certified Plant Pests and Disease Diagnostic Laboratory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Agriculture is on the process of rationalizing and strengthening Food Safety Laboratories. The Animal laboratories is being assisted by US group, the chemical laboratory was also assisted by EU and Japan before while no one is assisting the Plant Biological Lab. We do not know where we can base our concept of a good biological Lab. So we want to visit one ISO certified Plant Diagnostic Lab.
Department of Environment and Natural Resources	<p>1. Basics on Tariff and Trade</p> <p>2. Trade Policy Analysis</p> <p>3. Marketing Trends in Woody Biomass (particularly in the Forestry Sector)</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Trade and Incentive Mechanism 5. Sectoral and National workshop on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) 6. Identification of Goods using the Harmonized System (HS) Code 7. Management of Disagreement and Notification to WTO Secretariat regarding proposed TBT (Case Studies) 8. Trade-related issues on second-hand or used equipment 9. Multilateral Environmental Agreement and Its Effects On Trade Facilitation 10. Effective Management of Trade Facilitation and Environmental Protection 11. Strengthening Border Control 12. Effective Import-Export Regulations on Dual-Used Goods 13. Trade-related Policy vs. Environmental, Health and Safety Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and reconciliation of these policies should be done/presented in relation to the Import Licensing (i.e., the Department of Health–Food and Drug Administration (DOH-FDA) policy and the DENR- Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) policy for new chemicals [pre-manufacture and pre-importation notification; polymers]). 14. Review of the trade-related policy, regional trade agreements, needs assessment and the specific clear benefits of the country regarding the WTO initiatives. This is through the years of its implementation in the country. 15. The training should include workshop where discussions and reconciliation on the permitting requirements among the DTI, DENR- EMB, Philippine Drug and
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	<p>Enforcement Agency (PDEA) at the various port of entry through the Bureau of Customs (BOC).</p> <p>16. How the WTO handles issues on confidentiality of data information of chemicals imported in the Philippines</p> <p>17. Consideration of the WTO-TBT notifications provided by DENR-EMB</p> <p>18. Tariff headings and related processes were also part of misunderstanding when trade related matters are discussed. There are industries whose importation are categorized under "Others" but may belong to specific category under chemicals.</p>
Department of Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. give more or equal attention to Trade and Health Services and give more examples, more good practices or experiences to address issues and challenges
Export Development Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Best Practices on Trade Facilitation 2. Best Practices on Import Licensing 3. Developing, Equivalence and Harmonization of Trade Rules and Procedures Between Trade Partners 4. Identifying and Complying with Conformity Assessment Procedures
Export Management Bureau	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Short Course on WTO Market Access Online Tools 2. Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) as a Tool for Market Access 3. Understanding the Basics of Rules of Origin (ROO) 4. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for Agricultural Products
Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National workshop/s on current trends in intellectual property under the TRIPS Agreement with discussions on topical issues (e.g. geographical indication, public health, traditional knowledge, etc.)

	2. Latest WTO law and jurisprudence involving the TRIPS Agreement
Tariff Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) 2. Trade Remedies 3. Trade Facilitation 4. Trade Policy Formulation and Implementation 5. Trade Negotiation Skills 6. Trade Intelligence (Optimization of tariff treatment/concessions and formulation of Rules of Origin in trade negotiations)



Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs <ouppia@denr.gov.ph> ⁴⁰⁸⁸

[For Action – Deadline by 31 October 2022] Request for Trade-related Technical Assistance (TrTA) to the WTO

John Jocel F. Tirado <JohnJocelTirado@dti.gov.ph>

Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 10:15 AM

To: "tbmarcelo@bsp.gov.ph" <tbmarcelo@bsp.gov.ph>, mtduenas <mtduenas@bsp.gov.ph>, "wsamaniego@bsp.gov.ph" <wsamaniego@bsp.gov.ph>, "cadagmm@bsp.gov.ph" <cadagmm@bsp.gov.ph>, "banaresal@bsp.gov.ph" <banaresal@bsp.gov.ph>, "CGZosa@bsp.gov.ph" <CGZosa@bsp.gov.ph>, "ongjd@bsp.gov.ph" <ongjd@bsp.gov.ph>, "ong.john.patrick@gmail.com" <ong.john.patrick@gmail.com>, "balboald@bsp.gov.ph" <balboald@bsp.gov.ph>, "cervantesrm@bsp.gov.ph" <cervantesrm@bsp.gov.ph>, "berbitoniojr@dole.gov.ph" <berbitoniojr@dole.gov.ph>, "usec.laborrelations@dole.gov.ph" <usec.laborrelations@dole.gov.ph>, "osec@dole.gov.ph" <osec@dole.gov.ph>, "dole.ilab@ymail.com" <dole.ilab@ymail.com>, "ircd.ilab@yahoo.com" <ircd.ilab@yahoo.com>, "boc.ocom@customs.gov.ph" <boc.ocom@customs.gov.ph>, "ocom@customs.gov.ph" <ocom@customs.gov.ph>, "edwardjames.dybuco@customs.gov.ph" <edwardjames.dybuco@customs.gov.ph>, "antonio_pascual17@yahoo.com" <antonio_pascual17@yahoo.com>, "evezdexter.carcedo@customs.gov.ph" <evezdexter.carcedo@customs.gov.ph>, "gialaine@gmail.com" <gialaine@gmail.com>, "external.affairs@customs.gov.ph" <external.affairs@customs.gov.ph>, "usec.faspo@dar.gov.ph" <usec.faspo@dar.gov.ph>, "asec.sso" <asec.sso@dar.gov.ph>, "director.prs@dar.gov.ph" <director.prs@dar.gov.ph>, "bebeth_014@yahoo.com" <bebeth_014@yahoo.com>, "lucienne87@gmail.com" <lucienne87@gmail.com>, "susanperez64@gmail.com" <susanperez64@gmail.com>, "noel.padre@da.gov.ph" <noel.padre@da.gov.ph>, "tisha.delarosa@da.gov.ph" <tisha.delarosa@da.gov.ph>, "sherlene.detorres@da.gov.ph" <sherlene.detorres@da.gov.ph>, "mepd@da.gov.ph" <mepd@da.gov.ph>, "sidvelayo@gmail.com" <sidvelayo@gmail.com>, "sidvelayo@yahoo.com" <sidvelayo@yahoo.com>, "demosthenesescoto@gmail.com" <demosthenesescoto@gmail.com>, "sonia.bfar@gmail.com" <sonia.bfar@gmail.com>, "ouppia@denr.gov.ph" <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>, "odpps@yahoo.com" <odpps@yahoo.com>, "ppd@denr.gov.ph" <ppd@denr.gov.ph>, "mojicallarina@gmail.com" <mojicallarina@gmail.com>, "llarinamojica@gmail.com" <llarinamojica@gmail.com>, "DENR - Venerando U. 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Cc: "Usec. Ceferino S. Rodolfo" <CeferinoRodolfo@dti.gov.ph>, "Atty. Allan B. Gepty" <AllanGepty@dti.gov.ph>, "Angelo Salvador M. Benedictos" <AngeloSalvadorBenedictos@dti.gov.ph>, "Marie Sherylyn D. Aquia" <SherylynAquia@dti.gov.ph>,

14/10/2022, 10:42

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Mail - [For Action – Deadline by 31 October 2022] Request for Trade-related ...

Norma Serra Arpafo <NormaArpafo@dti.gov.ph>, "Kareen Hope A. Eltagon" <KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph>, OAssecIDTPG <oasecidtpg@dti.gov.ph>, BITR WTO Desk <bitrwtodesk@dti.gov.ph>

Sent on behalf of Assistant Secretary Allan B. Gepty, DTI-IDTPG

Dear Sir/Madame:

Kindly find the attached communication dated 12 October 2022 from Assistant Secretary Allan B. Gepty pertaining to the Philippines' request for Trade-relate Technical Assistance (TrTA) to the WTO.

In this regard, the TCWM Secretariat would like to request agencies to recommend topics/issues/projects to be considered for the (1) 2nd national workshop for 2023 and (2) period of 2023-2024. For your further reference, attached is the Philippines' two-year TrTA request for 2020-2022 (see **Annex A**), based on prior recommendation from agencies (see **Annex B**). We would appreciate receiving your inputs **on or before 31 October 2022**.

For queries/clarifications, please contact the DTI-BITR through KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph and JohnJoelTirado@dti.gov.ph, copy NormaArpafo@dti.gov.ph and bitrwtodesk@dti.gov.ph.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

John Jocel F. TIRADO (Mr.)

Multilateral Relations Division

Bureau of International Trade Relations

Department of Trade and Industry

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4 attachments

 **IN00230992_MRD_COM_Letter to TCWM_TrTA Request to WTO.pdf**
354K

 **Distribution List-TCWM Members.pdf**
19K

 **Annex A - PH TrTA Request List (2020-2022).pdf**
188K

 **Annex B - Requests per Agency_TrTA.docx**
19K

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