



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Climate Change Service

Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The OIC Director**
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **PUBLIC WEBINAR TITLED “BOOSTING PHILIPPINE SERVICES TRADE AND TOURISM UNDER THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)”**

DATE : **25 APR 2023**

This has reference to the letter from Mr. Aniceto C. Orbeta Jr. President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) dated 18 April 2023, inviting the Department to the public webinar titled “Boosting Philippine Services Trade and Tourism Under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)” on 27 April 2023, 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM via Zoom.

The webinar will feature two PIDS studies on RCEP namely, 1) Opportunities for the Philippines under RCEP: Trade in Services and 2) Analysis of Readiness of the Philippine Tourism Enterprises for Trade Liberalization in Asia-Pacific. These studies can be downloaded using this link: <https://bit.ly/41O1Mb2> and <https://bit.ly/3V3LtEx>.

Participants are requested to register **on or before 26 April 2023**, using this link: <https://bit.ly/pidswebinarapr27>. The meeting link will be automatically sent to your registered email address. This event will be streamed live on the PIDS facebook page (facebook.com/PIDS.PH) and SERP-P Community Page (facebook.com/SERPPH/)

For your information.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL



April 18, 2023

ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES, CESO I

Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Dear **Undersecretary Leones**:

Greetings from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)!

We are pleased to invite you or your representative/s to our **public webinar** titled **“Boosting Philippine Services Trade and Tourism under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership”** to be held on **April 27, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm, via Zoom.**

This virtual event will feature two PIDS studies on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The first study titled **“Opportunities for the Philippines under RCEP: Trade in Services”** investigated how the RCEP can deepen the contributions of trade in services in the Philippine economy through the commitments made and limitations imposed. Authored by PIDS consultants Dr. John Paolo R. Rivera and Dr. Tereso S. Tullao Jr., it reviewed and assessed the specific commitments of the free trade partners joining the RCEP, particularly on market access and national treatment. The study compared these commitments, evaluated their relevance to the needs of the Philippines, and determined the benefits that the Philippines can reap from RCEP.

The second study titled **“Analysis of the Readiness of the Philippine Tourism Enterprises for Trade Liberalization in Asia-Pacific”** examined the readiness of tourism enterprises for liberalization arising from the RCEP and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), given their opportunities and threats to the tourism industry. Authored by PIDS consultants Ms. Eylla Laire M. Gutierrez, Ms. Marie Jel D. Bautista, and Dr. John Paolo R. Rivera, it answered the research problem: how can tourism enterprises prepare themselves for the impacts of trade liberalization brought about by RCEP and CPTPP? The findings revealed a unanimous hesitation among tourism stakeholders to participate in RCEP and CPTPP, given questions on the global readiness of the tourism industry. Tourism stakeholders are also challenged by issues on mutual recognition and standardization of skills and capacity development.

You may download the full text of these studies from the following links:

- <https://www.pids.gov.ph/publication/discussion-papers/opportunities-for-the-philippines-under-rcep-trade-in-services>
- <https://www.pids.gov.ph/publication/discussion-papers/analysis-of-the-readiness-of-philippine-tourism-enterprises-for-trade-liberalization-in-asia-pacific>

To join the event, kindly register at <https://bit.ly/pidswebinarapr27> **on or before April 26**. The meeting link will be automatically sent to your registered email address.

Feel free to share this invitation with your colleagues. For inquiries, please get in touch with Rosario Lagman, Mary Joy Gerona, Reynalyn Garcia, and Hazel Cenizal at RLagman@pids.gov.ph, MGerona@pids.gov.ph, RGarcia@pids.gov.ph, and HCenizal@pids.gov.ph, respectively.

This event will be streamed live on the PIDS Facebook page (facebook.com/PIDS.PH) and the SERP-P Community page (facebook.com/SERPPH/).

Thank you very much. We look forward to having you or your representative/s at this event.

Sincerely,

ANICETO C. ORBETA JR.
President