



## MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Director**  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Forest Management Bureau  
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
Climate Change Service  
Legal Affairs Service

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

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE  
PHILIPPINES-CANADA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT  
TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON 21 MARCH 2024**

DATE : **13 MAR 2024**

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This refers to the invitation from the Department of Trade and Industry for the upcoming Philippines-Canada FTA Technical Consultation to be held on 21 March 2024 at the Sheraton Manila Hotel, Pasay City.

In relation to the continuing engagement between the Philippines and Canada on a potential Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Please be informed that both sides have agreed to conduct a technical consultation on specific areas that will enable the Department to take stock of major interests, sensitivities, and areas of convergence and complementation to the elements of FTA.

To prepare for the said consultation, the DTI invited DENR and other relevant agencies for a virtual technical-level focus group discussion held on 12 March 2024, to identify and discuss potential interests and sensitivities in specific thematic areas such as trade in goods, barriers to trade, a fair economy, investments, services, **sustainable and inclusive trade** (*Environment, Labor, Responsible Business Conduct, Trade and Gender, Trade and Indigenous Peoples*) and trade-related cooperation based on existing free trade agreements of the Philippines, including the ongoing ASEAN-Canada FTA negotiations. Below are the key takeaways from the FGD:

- Possible application of Dispute Settlement Mechanism for the sustainable and inclusive trade chapter under the proposed PH- Canada FTA;
- Philippine position on the remanufactured goods; and

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- Discussion on the current issues between the Philippines and Canada (e.g Hazardous waste exports ban)

In this regard, due to the limited capacity of the meeting venue, please be informed that the DTI has only provided a maximum of **two (2) slots** per agency. Relatedly, in consideration of the outcome of the virtual FGD, we would like to request the in-person participation of **one technical representative** from the **Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)** and **Legal Affairs Service (LAS)**.

Relatedly, may we also request at least one (1) of the trade focal/s from MGB, BMB, FMB, ERDB, and CCS to join this Office in an online participation. We will provide additional information regarding the online participation in a subsequent communication.

We would also welcome comments and recommendations on sensitivities, possible cooperation, and defensive interest in the proposed FTA. Kindly submit your confirmation and advance copy of your inputs **on or before 18 March 2024** through our email addresses: [psddivision@gmail.com](mailto:psddivision@gmail.com) and/or [policy@denr.gov.ph](mailto:policy@denr.gov.ph)

For your information and consideration, please.

  
CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL



05 March 2024

*(Please refer to the Distribution List)*

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

The Bureau is pleased to inform you of the continuing engagement between the Philippines and Canada on a potential bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). With a view to identifying and maximizing opportunities to advance bilateral trade and investments, both sides have agreed to conduct technical consultations on specific focus areas that will enable us to take stock of major interests, sensitivities, and areas of convergence and complementation with respect to the elements of an FTA.

In this regard, we respectfully invite you or your designated representative to participate in the Technical Consultations on the Philippines-Canada FTA on Thursday, 21 March 2024, at the Sheraton Manila Hotel, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

The Technical Consultations will allow both sides to exchange views on their respective priorities and interests in a potential Philippines-Canada FTA. The thematic areas identified are trade in goods, barriers to trade, fair economy, investments, services, sustainable and inclusive trade, and trade-related cooperation.

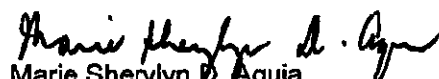
Due to limited capacity in the meeting venue, we will be able to accommodate only one (1) representative per agency. For agencies or offices with multiple thematic areas within their purview, additional participants may be considered upon request. Kindly see Annex A for the Provisional Program.

Further, we will be conducting a series of preparatory, technical-level virtual focus group discussions on 12-13 March 2024 for each of the above thematic areas. These sessions will seek to identify and discuss potential interests and sensitivities in each area based on existing free trade agreements of the Philippines, including the ongoing ASEAN-Canada FTA negotiations. Please refer to Annex B for the schedule and list of relevant agencies.

For confirmation of participation and other concerns, kindly reach out to the Bilateral Relations Division of the Bureau ([brd@dti.gov.ph](mailto:brd@dti.gov.ph)) or through Ms. Marianne Shimada ([MarionneJayShimada@dti.gov.ph](mailto:MarionneJayShimada@dti.gov.ph)).

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

  
Marie Sherylyn D. Aquia  
OIC-Director

DTS No. IN00321514  
mjs/rcs

**BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS**

**Philippines-Canada FTA Technical Consultations and Preparatory Meetings**

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**Attn: Ms. Nicole Paulen J. Miralles**  
Officer-In-Charge, International Trade Studies Division (ITSD)



**FGD Sessions for the Philippines-Canada FTA Technical Consultations**  
12-13 March 2024 | Zoom Videoconference

Schedule: 10:00 AM Manila Time / 2:00 PM Manila Time  
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95659581310>  
Meeting ID: 956 5958 1310

**Tuesday, 12 March 2024**

Time	Thematic Area/s	Agencies
10:00 – 12:00	<u>Services</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cross-Border Trade in Services</li> <li>▪ Domestic Regulations</li> <li>▪ Temporary Entry/Movement of Natural Persons (MNP)</li> <li>▪ Financial Services</li> <li>▪ Digital Trade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BSP</li> <li>▪ DICT</li> <li>▪ DMW</li> <li>▪ DOF-IFG</li> <li>▪ DOLE</li> <li>▪ NEDA-TSIS</li> <li>▪ PRC</li> </ul>
14:00 – 16:00	<u>Sustainable and Inclusive Trade</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment</li> <li>▪ Labor</li> <li>▪ Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)</li> <li>▪ Trade and Gender</li> <li>▪ Trade and Indigenous Peoples</li> </ul> <u>Trade-Related Cooperation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical Assistance and Capacity Building</li> <li>▪ Forward-Looking Trade Priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BOI-IPPS</li> <li>▪ BSMED</li> <li>▪ DENR</li> <li>▪ DOLE-ILATF</li> <li>▪ EMB</li> <li>▪ NCIP</li> <li>▪ NEDA-ANRES</li> <li>▪ PCW</li> <li>▪ RGMS</li> </ul>

**Wednesday, 13 March 2024**

Time	Thematic Area/s	Agencies
10:00 – 12:00	<u>Trade in Goods</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tariffs</li> <li>▪ Rules of Origin (ROO)</li> <li>▪ Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation</li> </ul> <u>Barriers to Trade</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs)</li> <li>▪ Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)</li> <li>▪ Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)</li> <li>▪ Trade Remedies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BIS</li> <li>▪ BOC</li> <li>▪ BOI-IPPS</li> <li>▪ DA</li> <li>▪ DOF-IFG</li> <li>▪ DOJ</li> <li>▪ EMB</li> <li>▪ NEDA-TSIS</li> <li>▪ TC</li> </ul>
14:00 – 16:00	<u>Fair Economy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dispute Settlement</li> <li>▪ Transparency and Anti-Corruption</li> <li>▪ State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)</li> <li>▪ Designated Monopolies</li> <li>▪ Institutional Provisions</li> </ul> <u>Investments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Investment and Foreign Investment Promotion/ Projection Agreement (FIPA) Modernization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ARTA</li> <li>▪ BOI-LCS</li> <li>▪ DFA</li> <li>▪ DOF-ROG</li> <li>▪ DOJ</li> <li>▪ PCC</li> </ul>