

Overview of Discussions at the Recent National Stakeholders' Workshop on Definition, Criteria, Issues and Identification of Environmental Goods

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Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines



National Stakeholders' Workshop on Definition, Criteria, Issues and Identification of Environmental Goods

June 8-9, 2005
Traders Hotel, Pasay City, Philippines

Objective of the Meeting

- To have an informed discussion among all concerned stakeholders on the policy objectives, criteria and procedural considerations that bear on the definition and selection of environmental goods for a national list that can be submitted to the WTO



Participants

- Academe
- Government
- Non-government
- Private Sector
- International/Regional Centers



Opening Ceremony

- Welcome Remarks-Dr. Patricio Faylon
- Message-Dr. Ulrich Hoffman
- Message- Mr. Angelo Benedictos
- Vote of thanks and introduction of participants-Dr. Romulo Aggangan



Policy, conceptual and practical issues that play a vital role in WTO negotiations on environmental goods

Dr. Benjamin Simmons



Dr. Benjamin Simmons

- Discussed the negotiation mandate, scope of environmental goods, procedural and institutional challenges associated with the definition of environmental goods and services and types of proposal submitted to WTO



Dr. Benjamin Simmons

- Main challenge-no agreement on the definition
- Difficulty in defining EGs
- Various WTO negotiating agreements



Discussant:

Dr. Ben Malayang III



Dr. Ben Malayang III

- Started his discussion with the Christmas story of Charles Dickens
- National interests-reduction of lives and properties due to adverse environmental effects, reduction in the risk of the health of people and ecosystem, reduction in the losses in income and livelihood, reduction on dependence on non-renewable energy



Dr. Benjamin Malayang III

- Discussed the green market concept
- National capacities-capacity to do environmental restoration, environmental rehabilitation, environmental remediation, and environmental renovation



Discussant:
Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr.



Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr.

- Defined economics
- Extractive economics-extract, consume and produce waste
- CPR economics-conservation, protection and restoration
- Shift from torturing the earth to nurturing the earth



Liberalizing trade in environmental goods to generate development gains for developing countries

Dr. Ulrich Hoffman



Dr. Ulrich Hoffman

- Provided an update on the discussion and analysis contained in the 2003 UNCTAD publication
- Discussed criteria that may be used to define and classify environmental goods within the WTO



Dr. Ulrich Hoffman

- Presented trade flow dynamics and tariff protection data for each group of goods and their individual components
- Special focus was given to the developing countries
- Likely gains and costs of trade liberalization in environmental goods are estimated



Policies and patterns of trade of environmental goods and services-

Ms. Rachel Echague



Ms. Rachel Echague

- Outlined trade policies on environment and related trade policy issues
- Presented an indicative list of environmental goods and services which can be traded
- Discussed key market segments and trade patterns of environmental goods and services



Cleaner production technology and management systems *Engr. Reynaldo Esguerra*



Engr. Reynaldo Esguerra

- Defined cleaner production technology
- Benefits of CP
- Discussed the CP program of the DOST
- Discussed source reduction, input material change, technology changes and improved practices and recycling



Demystifying payment for environmental services: some concepts and lessons learned in the field *Dr. Agustin Arcenas*



Dr. Agustin Arcenas

- Looked back at the past and current payment for environmental services
- PES is a market-based mechanism to effect environmental changes



Policies on environmental goods and services within the environmental impact system *Engr. Elsie Cezar*



Engr. Elsie Cezar

- Discussed four categories of projects
- Presented some examples of projects based on these categories



Discussant:
Dr. Corazon PB. Claudio



Dr. Corazon PB. Claudio

- Broadened the definition given by Dr. Arcenas
- Philippine environment industry-young and should be strengthened
- Low level of environmental awareness-IEC
- Input raw materials-metals



Dr. Corazon PB. Claudio

- How do we negotiate-not at the level of tariff, may be environmental services
- Need for technology transfer
- Good policy framework



Discussant:
Hon. Edcel Custodio



Hon. Edcel Custodio

- In negotiating-look into issues on trades, export income and sustainable development
- Proposal-maintain if not increase rates for domestic and international market address tariff escalation



Hon. Edcel Custodio

- Interest of the people - given importance
- Liberalize so fast - overwhelmed by competitors
- Service trade - available supply



Workshop



Workshop Output Criteria

- Considerations - competitive advantage, increase revenues, need for import, political and strategic considerations



Workshop Output Criteria

- Goods that are certified as coming from a sustainably managed forest
- Import materials that recycle waste



Workshop Output Criteria

- Goods that are not hazardous to the health and environment
- Comply with the requirement of international agreements
- Goods that are unquestionably good to the environment



Workshop Output Criteria

- Goods manufactured or used that could provide environmental services
- Manufactures in an environment friendly-manner
- Things that are not being produced in the country



Recommendations



Recommendations

- DENR and DTI to co-chair a working group that will spearhead the conduct of follow-up activities
- DOST, academe, Federation of Phil industries - members of the working group
- Organizations involved in eco-labeling



Recommendations

- Initially, the list of EGs from DOT, DENR and DTI will be the working document taking also into consideration the list of APEC and OECD



Closing Ceremony

*Asst. Director Ding Concepcion,
representing DENR USec. Paje*



Thank you!

