

Closing Remarks

Completing Event: Capacity Building Programme of Accelerating Growth of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Creative Industry Sector for Expediting Progress towards SDGs in the Philippines

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Manila, the Philippines

OIC Director Emma Asusano, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines

Ms. Blesila Lantayona, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines

Dr. Rafaelita Ladaba, Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines

Ms. Leonila Baluyut, Assistant Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines

Former Assistant Secretary Aster

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you today at the culminating event of the capacity building programme “Accelerating Growth of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Creative Industry Sectors for Expediting Progress towards SDGs in the Philippines”.

First, I would like to start by thanking the presence of the Undersecretaries, the Assistant Secretary and senior officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines. Your presence demonstrates the high-level commitment to promoting the contributions of MSMEs to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Philippines.

Second, I also like to congratulate participating MSME entrepreneurs and policymakers in this workshop for your active engagement and insightful discussions throughout the Creative AGE programme, and congratulations for completing this exciting programme! As a result of the commitment you have demonstrated to enhance your skills and knowledge, I believe you are now better equipped with the latest knowledge and skills that will support the resilience of your businesses in the creative industry sector, especially when the Philippines and the rest of the world is grappling with the cost-of-living crisis that was triggered by the impact of the COVID-19

pandemic, conflicts, the energy crunch, and rising inflation. All these factors have impacted your abilities to run your businesses efficiently as they have reduced the number of customers and disrupted your supply chains.

In the meantime, you are all witnesses to the power of MSMEs as job creators and incubators for entrepreneurship and innovations in the various communities you live and run your businesses. It is therefore important that the Government of the Philippines and its development partners that include the United Nations system have joined hands and are actively supporting MSMEs. This support will not only strengthen your businesses but will ensure that MSMEs contribute to inclusive growth and expand shared prosperity in the beautiful country of the Philippines and the rest of the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, the journey for building forward better from the Covid-19 pandemic requires not only sustained policy support. It also calls for concrete measures that strengthen business management capacities and entrepreneurial skills among MSMEs. I am therefore glad you all took time from your families, businesses, and office to spend the critical time with Mr. Jaime Joel Santos, our national consultant. I am sure he has done a fantastic job to impart cutting-edge knowledge and skills that will help you run your enterprises better and, in the process, increase your productivity, sales and the quality of goods and services that you offer.

Although the capacity building is drawing to an end, I believe the learning journey will not stop here. Both the DTI and Mr. Santos will be checking on you to see how you are doing and to offer continuous support.

We also expect each one of you to share the knowledge and skills you have gained from this programme with policymakers and entrepreneurs in your communities. You all constitute the building blocks for enhancing MSME resilience and enhancing their contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Philippines.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We at DESA look forward to continuing the successful cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippines. We appreciate the generosity of the DTI to support this workshop both substantively and financially. Without the dedication and hard work of the DTI colleagues, both the workshop itself and the capacity building programme will not be possible. We

therefore look forward to continuing our successful collaboration with the DTI and partners in the Philippines in the forthcoming years of the project lifecycle.

Together with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and UN Country Team in the Philippines, we look forward to continuing supporting the Government of the Philippines and MSMEs through the United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development in the Philippines.

I thank you for your attention.
