



WELCOME REMARKS

BY

USEC. ROWEL BARBA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY

Acknowledgements...

Secretary Ramon Lopez

Usec. Nora Terrado, Asec. Fita Aldaba [*other DTI senior officials who may be present*]

Mr. Kunihiko Shinoda, METI Deputy Director-General

Mr. Susumu Ito, JICA Country Representative

Mr. Clay Epperson, USAID Deputy Mission Director

Distinguished speakers and panelists

Participants from industry associations and the academic community from here in Metro Manila and various regions

Fellow workers in government, guests, ladies, and gentlemen...

Good morning.



It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to this year's Manufacturing Summit. We are gathering once again to take stock of where we are in our journey to revive the Philippine manufacturing industry and reassess what needs to be done in order to create more and better quality jobs for our people and generate greater opportunities for entrepreneurship in our country. Today's Summit comes at an opportune time, following the remarkable sustained performance of the Philippine economy (at 6.9% in the third quarter of 2017) thanks to the 9.4% contribution of the manufacturing sector.

When we last gathered in 2016, we came up with a number of proposed priority recommendations covering (1) Competitive and Innovative Industries; (2) Labor, Human Resource Development, and Skills Training; (3) Physical Infrastructure; (4) Ease of Doing Business; (5) SME



Development and Inclusive Business; (6) Incentives and other Government Support Measures; and (7) International Trade Policy and Free Trade Agreements. Today, we are here to provide you with some updates on these and discuss how we can better move forward.

This year's Summit builds upon the industry development programs and projects which the DTI, the BOI, its regional offices, and other attached agencies have been implementing since we laid down our Manufacturing Industry Roadmap back in 2012. We are levelling up our efforts under the current administration, recognizing the challenges in the global market with the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

I wish to thank all our guest speakers and panelists who will share with us their expertise, experience, and insights on industry development and Industry 4.0. Thank



you too to JICA and USAID for their continuing support to DTI and BOI through their technical assistance projects.

Our gratitude goes as well to our partners from other government agencies, industry, and the academic community. Our close coordination remains essential in implementing our strategies for industrialization and achieving sustainable and inclusive growth in the country.

Good morning once again and may we have a productive Summit ahead.