

Greening manufacturing in Philippines

Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines

<http://industry.gov.ph>

Greening the Philippine Manufacturing Industry Roadmap

The manufacturing sector of the Philippines is challenged to significantly strengthen its competitiveness in order to be prepared for the challenges lying ahead. Seeing the worldwide dynamics of industrial development and the integration process of the ASEAN Economic Community, it becomes obvious that the manufacturing industry needs to successfully position itself as a globally competitive industry on domestic, regional and global markets.

Asia's economies and their businesses are increasingly becoming main drivers for Green Economic Development (GED) worldwide. It is obvious that the manufacturing industry of the Philippines is challenged to be responsive and proactive to this worldwide trend. Already today, the business community sees in the over-use of natural resources and the impacts of climate change a key challenge to do business successfully and to ensure its long-term economic growth perspective.

In a common effort, industry and government in the Philippines have launched an initiative, in which sectoral road maps have been elaborated and submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry and the Board of Investments. The so-called Road Map Process is a unique opportunity to define a well-focused stimulation and promotion for an industry driven GED that is integral part of a modernization and innovation process of the economy of the Philippines. Within the industry sectors, each company have to elaborate and implement their own strategy to unleash the specific market potential for products and service delivery.

Public policies on regulation, subsidies, incentives and information have a central role to play for the green modernization of the industry. Green investment from both the public side and the private side is an investment for immediate returns and for the future.

Worldwide experiences show that without a forceful and coordinated set of actions that removes barriers and sets favorable framework conditions, it is unlikely that even the most economically beneficial options would overcome a short-term sighted "Buy-the-Cheapest" or "Business-as-Usual" attitude. In cooperation with other government entities, the BOI and DTI should contribute to setting framework conditions and to building up capacities that support a paradigm shift towards an innovation process that results in competitiveness, good

environmental performance, climate change resilience and job creation.

Promotion of Green Economic Development (ProGED) Project

ProGED is a project of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) with the Federal Republic of Germany through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It is primarily aimed at improving the competitiveness of MSMEs while coping with climate change adaptation and mitigation requirements through the adoption of environment-friendly, climate-smart, and inclusive strategies and measures.

Interventions are implemented at the operational level through the Regional and Provincial offices of DTI (to support the enterprises in greening their operations), as well as at the policy level through the Regional Operations Group (ROG), where the green perspective is integrated into the programs and projects of DTI. A Green Growth Core Group has likewise been established within ROG to steer their initiatives on greening MSMEs within the Department.

ProGED promotes a green economy strategy founded on the five pillars of mitigation, adaptation, competitiveness, green jobs, and preserving or even improving nature's capital. The project focuses initially on the tourism sector with its high potential for investment, employment, and poverty reduction due to its linkages with upstream and downstream industries in other economic sectors.

The project is implemented from 2013 to 2016, and piloted its approach in the Provinces of Cebu and Bohol. Since 2014, it has expanded to include fourteen replication provinces in seven regions, namely: Pampanga and Tarlac (Region 3) Laguna and Cavite (Region 4A), Palawan and Occidental Mindoro (Region 4B), Albay and Camarines Sur (Region 5), Negros Occidental and Capiz (Region 6), Negros Oriental and Siquijor (Region 7), and Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Norte (Region 13). Aside from tourism, additional priority sectors are taken up according to the location's competitive advantages.

In relation to its efforts to support the greening of enterprises and upon the request by DTI, ProGED also supported the Greening the Manufacturing Industry Roadmaps process, which aims at integrating green economic development elements in selected industry roadmaps and the overall manufacturing roadmap. This will create climate smart, environment friendly, and globally competitive manufacturing industries in the Philippines.

Green technology in Malaysia

Malaysian Investment Development Authority, Malaysia

<http://www.mida.gov.my>

In line with Malaysia's aim to become an inclusive and sustainable advanced nation by 2020, Green Technology (GT) has been identified as one of the drivers of the future economy for the nation that would contribute to the overall Green Growth and Sustainable Development. Under the National Green Technology Policy, the cross-sectoral GT focuses on four sectors namely energy, building, waste management and transportation.

Renewable energy

Malaysia is emphasizing greater importance for Renewable Energy (RE) generation through specifically formulated policies and initiatives to spur the growth of the sector as a major step towards green economy. Other than the Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) mechanism, the Net Energy Metering (NEM) and Large Scale Solar (LSS) Photovoltaic plant schemes were introduced in 2016 to boost RE generation. NEM benefits users in terms of savings in electricity bill through lower electricity usage and energy credit from solar power generation while LSS allows developers to produce renewable energy in larger capacities.

In 2016, a total of 111 projects in renewable energy with total investments of RM1.9 billion were approved incentives. Out of the total, RM1.7 billion (88%) were from domestic sources and RM233.8 million (12%) were from foreign sources. These projects are expected to create 615 employment opportunities in this sub-sector.

The approved investments include 81 projects (RM588.8 million) that will generate energy from solar power, 12 projects (RM145.7 million) from biogas, 10 projects (RM806.6 million) from mini-hydro and six (6) projects (RM343.6 million) from biomass as the sources of energy generation.

Energy efficiency

As price of energy steadily increases over the years, there is a need to adopt energy efficiency measures to ensure productive

use of energy and minimize waste. The use and adoption of energy efficiency systems and technology is encouraged through introduction of incentives and import duty exemptions on qualified machines and components. Consecutively, energy efficiency activities also open up opportunities for energy service companies (ESCOs) to provide energy efficiency services to potential clients.

In 2016, a total of 19 projects in energy efficiency with total investments of RM248.5 million were approved incentives. Investments were mainly from domestic sources i.e. RM235.6 million (95%) meanwhile RM12.9 million (5%) were from foreign sources. These investments are expected to provide 142 employment opportunities in the sub-sector.

Green technology incentive

Under the provision of Budget 2014, tax incentives for Green Technology in the form of Green Investment Tax Allowance (ITA) for the purchase of green technology assets and Income Tax Exemption (ITE) on the use of green technology services and system were introduced to further strengthen the development of green technology.

Application for incentive is to be submitted to MIDA for green technology projects and services, and to Malaysian Green Technology Corporation (MGTC) for purchase of green technology assets as listed in MyHijau Directory, by 31 December 2020. Projects which qualify for this incentive are renewable energy; energy efficiency; integrated waste management and green building / green data centre. In addition, eligible services activities include system integration of renewable energy; energy services; services related to green building / green data centre; green certification of products, equipment & building; and green township.

Artificial Intelligence-Based Image Search Tool for Brands

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has launched a new artificial intelligence (AI)-powered image search technology that makes it faster and easier to establish the distinctiveness of a trademark in a target market. The new search functionality covers the national collections of 45 trademark offices already participating in the project - even if they have not been using a classification system for figurative elements. This represents a total number of almost 38 million trademarks to date. WIPO periodically adds new collections from around the world to the database.

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