

Aide Memoire on

**Trade on Human Terms: Makatao Pa Ba?
(Towards Making Trade Work for the Poor)**
A Launch and Roundtable Discussion on the
Asia Pacific Human Development Report 2006

August 17, 2006, Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Assembly Hall, National College of Public Administration
University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Introduction

Trade, not aid, has been used by many “miracle” economies in the world, particularly those in the Asia-Pacific region, to spur economic growth, reduce income poverty and promote the well-being of the people. Many have used trade to multiply their exports and accelerate progress in combating the other aspects of deprivation, including education, health and gender equality.

Yet at the same time, trade has contributed to increased inequalities, not only between countries but also within national borders, among different areas, sectors and households. In addition, many of the region’s open economies – particularly the East Asian success stories – are creating far fewer jobs, especially for youth and women, and experiencing “jobless growth.” This has profound implications because employment represents the main channel for the effects of trade on human development.

These and many more are some of the major findings of the *Asia Pacific Human Development Report 2006* prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Entitled, “Trade on Human Terms: Transforming Trade for Human Development of Asia and the Pacific,” it is up for launching to elicit support from policy makers, trade- labor and business-groups (local and transnational), civil society organizations, the academe and all relevant stakeholders to ‘manage’ international trade to serve the people, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

Objectives

Co-organized by the University of the Philippines (UP) National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG), School of Economics (SE), Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Human Development Network (HDN), Social Watch (SW) and the UNDP under the Fostering Democratic Governance (FDG) Portfolio, the one-day launch and round table discussion (LRTD) generally aims to raise awareness on the issues and concerns related to international trade and generate recommendations and support to make trade more pro-human development.

Specifically, the LRTD aims to

- ❖ Present the major findings of the 2006 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report (HDR)
- ❖ Elicit discussions on and appreciation of the issues, lessons and implications of international trade on poverty reduction and sustainable human development, particularly as this relates to Philippine experiences
- ❖ Map future directions, advocacies and policy recommendations to ‘manage’ trade towards helping the Filipino poor and marginalized cope, adjust and catch up.

Intended Outputs

At the end of the day, the LRTD hopes to have helped raised the level of understanding of the relevant publics on the issues, lessons and complications of international trade on human development, region- and Philippine-wise, and have drawn from the participants a number of next steps-policy recommendations, advocacies and future directions to temper international trade and make it work for the Filipino people.

Programme

The programme of activities will be as follows:

Time	Activities	Remarks
8:00-8:30 am	Registration	
8:30-9:00 am	Opening Ceremonies Invocation National Anthem (Manila Concert Choir)	
	Welcome Remarks Mr. Kyo Naka Deputy Resident Representative United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Dr. Sergio Cao Chancellor University of the Philippines- Diliman	
	Overview of the Launch and Roundtable Discussion Dr. Raul Fabella Dean UP School of Economics	
9:00-9:45 am	Presentation of the 2006 Regional Human Development Report on Transforming International Trade for Human Development of Asia and the Pacific Dr. Manuel Montes Regional Programme Coordinator Asia Trade and Investment Initiative UNDP Regional Center Colombo	
9:45-11:00 am	Reactions (15mins @) Government Dir. Serafin Juliano Chief-of-Staff Department of Trade and Industry Business Mr. Crisanto Frianeza Secretary- general, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry	

	<p>Academe/Civil Society Prof. Leonor M. Briones Professor UP National College of Public Administration and Governance, And Convenor, Social Watch</p> <p>Prof. Josefa Francisco Professor, Miriam College and International Expert and Advocate on Trade and Gender</p> <p>Dr. Rene Ofreneo Professor, UP SOLAIR Executive Director, Fair Trade Alliance</p>	
11:00-12:00 nn	Open Forum	Dr. Maria Fe V. Mendoza
12:00-12:30 pm	Reaction of Dr. Montes and UNDP	
	Intermission (Manila Concert Choir)	
12:30-1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30-2:15 pm	<p>Roundtable Discussion in Breakout Sessions (With Lead Discussants/Experts per Group; at most 3 experts/group speaking 15mins @))</p> <p>Group 1 Manufacturing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mr. Meneleo Carlos Chairperson, Federation of Phil. Industries 2) Prof. Jorge Sibal Dean, UP SOLAIR 3) Mr. Dave Diwa National Confederation of Labor <p>Group 2 Agriculture</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Atty. Bong Inciong United Broilers Raisers Association 2) Atty. Gil Delos Reyes Former DAR Undersecretary and International Expert on Trade and Human Rights 3) Ms. Jessica Reyes-Cantos Executive Director, Rice Watch And Action Network 	

	<p>Group 3 Services</p> <p>1) Dir. Josefino I. Torres Institute for Labor Studies Department of Labor and Employment</p> <p>2) Mr. Jun Umali Secretary-General, Union Network International - Philippine Liaison Council</p> <p>3) Ms. Mercy Fabros Women's March Against Poverty and Globalization</p>	
2:15-3:15 pm	Discussions	
3:30-3:50 pm	Coffee Break	
3:50-5:00 pm	<p>Presentation of Recommendations Group Representatives</p> <p>Open Forum</p> <p>Synthesis Dr. Alex Brillantes, Jr. Dean National College of Public Administration and Governance University of the Philippines</p> <p>Closing Remarks Dir. Antonio C. Fernandez Jr. Director, Management Staff National Economic Development Authority NEDA</p>	
	Emcee/Moderator	Dr. Ebinezer Florano

Participants

Some 200-300 stakeholders from the business sector, civil society organizations, government, labor organizations, FDG partners, academe, donor community, media and other sectors will be invited to seriously commit themselves to a one-day development engagement for the economically-challenged and disadvantaged.

ABOUT THE SPONSORS



The **National College of Public Administration and Governance**, University of the Philippines (U.P.-NCPAG) is the country's leading academic institution providing instruction, research, and extension services in public management and policy. Established as the Institute of Public Administration in June 1952, it is the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. The College offers courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts major in Public Administration, Master of Public Administration, and Doctor of Public Administration. Its degree-granting function is administered by the Center for Public Administration and Governance Education (CPAGE). Its research and extension services are carried out by the Center for Policy and Executive Development (CPED), Center for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG), and the Center for Leadership, Citizenship, and Democracy (CLCD). Almost 60% of NCPAG's full-time faculty members have Ph.D. degrees.

The **University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE)**, located at the UP campus in Diliman, was established in 1965 and offers academic instruction leading to baccalaureate and master's degrees and the PhD in economics. The School is the only institution in the country with an active and internationally recognized Ph.D. program in economics; a high ratio of full-time faculty with Ph.D.s; and a nationally unparalleled record of international publications in the discipline. In 1999, the UPSE was designated the sole Center of Excellence in Economics in the Philippines by the Commission of Higher Education.



The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. The UNDP is now in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and its wide range of partners. World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals. Its focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of: Democratic Governance, Poverty Reduction, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Energy and Environment, and HIV/AIDS.

The **National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)**, as mandated by the Philippine Constitution, is the country's independent economic development and planning agency. The President heads it as chairman of the NEDA board, with the Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning, concurrently NEDA Director-General, as vice-chairman. All Cabinet members, as well as the Central Bank Governor, are members of the NEDA Board.





The **Fair Trade Alliance (FTA)** is a national multi-sectoral alliance espousing a comprehensive trade and development agenda reflecting the interests of the broad sectors of our society. It was launched in late 2001 to counter the deleterious effects of unfair trade and the unfair liberalization commitments made by the economic technocrats, which have devastating impact on industries, farms and jobs. Today, the fight for fairness and justice in the area of trade and development continued to widen – from the urgency of re-calibrating tariffs and engaging the economic technocrats on the wisdom of having one-sided unilateral tariff liberalization to the difficult task of exposing and countering the scourge of smuggling and in participating in the national and global debates to define the trade and development challenges facing the Philippines and nations of the world.

The **Human Development Network Foundation Inc. (HDN)** is a non-stock, non-profit organization whose mission is to propagate and mainstream the concept of sustainable human development through research and advocacy. The HDN is a group of development practitioners who first got together in 1992 through the initiative of Professor Solita Collas- Monsod, past HDN President, and the previous Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Kevin McGrath. The group met in a series of "brainstorming" sessions to discuss how best to apply the major findings and conclusions of the Human Development Report in the Philippine setting. From an informal group in 1992, the HDN became a registered organization in 1997.



Social Watch is an international network informed by national citizens' groups aiming at following up the fulfillment of internationally agreed commitments on poverty eradication and equality. These national groups report, through the national Social Watch report, on the progress - or regression - towards these commitments and goals. The Social Watch groups, organized on an ad hoc basis, have a focal point in each country that is responsible for promoting the initiative; submitting a national report for the yearly publication; undertaking lobbying initiatives before the national authorities to hold them accountable for the policies in place regarding the agreed commitments; promoting a dialogue about the national social development priorities and developing an active inclusive strategy to bring other groups into the national group.

ORGANIZING TEAMS

U.P. National College of Public Administration and Governance

Dr. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr.
Dr. Ma. Fe V. Mendoza
Dr. Ebinezzer R. Florano
Mr. Allan Grand A. Sobrepeña.
Ms. Julita Sanchez

United Nations Development Programme-Philippines

Dr. Emmanuel Buendia
Miss Katrina Agulan
Ms. Ruby T. Ramores

National Economic and Development Authority

Director Antonio C. Fernandez
Ms. Mutya delos Reyes
Ms. Mace Mateo

Fair Trade Alliance

Ms. Mars V. Mendoza
Ms. Paula Tanquieng