



**Welcome Remarks**  
**by**  
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**Deputy Director-General**  
**Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry**

H.E. Secretary Ramon Lopez, Undersecretary Rowel Barba, Assistant Secretary Rafaelita Aldaba, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Magandang Umaga, Good Morning.

It is a great honor and pleasures for me to participate in the 2017 Manufacturing Summit in Manila this time.

At the bilateral ministerial meeting in the margin of East Asian Summit, H.E. Secretary Lopez asked for Minister Seko's cooperation to dispatch METI's official to the Manufacturing Summit 2017.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to my friends in DTI for giving me such a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the Manufacturing Summit.



I feel very much honored to give opening remarks to all of you from relevant ministries of the Philippine government and industrial sectors.

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If I may, speaking about myself, I have been familiar with the Philippines since I was a commercial attaché of the Japanese Embassy in the Philippines in the middle of 1990s.

Since that time, I have made best friends with many colleagues in DTI Philippines.

Coming back to Manila, I feel like I have become an balikbayan this time.

I have been impressed by the rapid economic growth of the Philippines for the past twenty years.

The Philippine economy has enjoyed stable growth thanks to the solid economic management of the Philippine government.

The Philippines achieve economic growth of 6-7 percent last few years and have been ranked at the top group of emerging economy in East Asia.

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During this time economic relations have further deepened between Japan and the Philippines.

More than 1,500 Japanese companies run a business in such various areas as electric and electronics, automobile, food, retail, chemical, shipbuilding, cartoon, and information technology in the Philippines.

Japan has been the largest export counterpart of the Philippines for many years.

Japanese direct investment stocks in the Philippines is ranked at the top and is twice as much as that of the US which is ranked at the second.

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Recently Japanese companies pay more attention to the Philippines which make significant growth.

Japanese companies have expanded their business to the Philippines as a production base in ASEAN, especially centering on good export processing zone such as BOI and PEZA.



in the past, it is said that some Japanese companies had hesitated to invest in the Philippines due to insufficient infrastructure, safety issues, complicated administrative procedures and strict regulations while they found out growth potential of the Philippines.

However, under the administration of the President Duterte, the Philippine government make much efforts to develop infrastructure, address safety issues, streamline administrative procedures, and promote deregulation.

Many Japanese companies have a high expectation for various policy measures under his administration.

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The Philippine government, mainly DTI started dynamic industrial policies such as formulation of the CNIS, implementation of the CARS Program the past few years.

I think the Philippine government will accelerate moves to strengthen industrial policy under H.E. President Duterte ad H.E. Secretary Lopez.



I understand the Manufacturing Summit and Innovation Summit this year are very important events to demonstrate the trend of strengthening industrial policies in the Philippines.

It is very timely that the Philippine government promotes such events when every country needs to formulate industrial policies to strengthen a competitive edge in an increasingly globalized world economy.

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Recently, not only globalization but the fourth industrial revolution has been drawing a lot of attention around the world.

Government and industrial sectors around the world started responding to the fourth industrial revolution such as IoT, AI and Big Data.

I think the Philippines can make significant advance in such a global trend by taking advantage of its competitive edge such as abundant workforce, English proficiency, IT-BPO industry and electric & electronics industry.

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Japan also made a variety of trials and errors in its industrial policies during the periods of economic growth.

Through giving of its knowledge, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will make utmost efforts to support the Philippine government in the formulation of industrial policies amid globalization and the fourth industrial revolution.

Furthermore, METI will dedicate its best effort to strengthen economic relations between Japan and the Philippines and develop the economy of both countries.

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Finally, I would like to close my opening remarks by wishing for a successful Manufacturing Summit 2017 and drastic economic development in the Philippines.

Thank you very much. Maraming Salamat po.