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Acknowledgements

Mr. Ramon Lopez, Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry

Officials of DTI, and other Philippine government officials

Leaders of industry and academia

Colleagues from the international development community

Guests

Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat!

It is an honor to be here representing the United States Agency for International Development, commonly known as USAID. USAID is the lead U.S. government agency that works to end global poverty and enable democratic,



resilient societies to realize their potential. I bring you the greetings of the U.S. Ambassador, the Honorable Sung Kim.

I would like to congratulate the Department of Trade and Industry for successfully organizing the second Manufacturing Summit. As many of you may already know, USAID supported the first summit last year, and we are happy to now stand beside the Department of Trade and Industry, or DTI, as you celebrate this important milestone.

USAID commends your commitment to help spur economic development through the many initiatives you have championed, such as the Manufacturing Resurgence program. We know that the manufacturing sector can provide solid jobs in great numbers. In the past five years, the sector has contributed to the creation



of at least 100,000 jobs annually. With sustained growth, we can see this number increase and create 120,000 to 150,000 jobs in a year. As such, we applaud you for your commitment to expanding this sector, so that more Filipinos will have the opportunity to better their lives.

Last May, USAID and DTI co-sponsored the Inclusive Innovation Conference, where the Philippine government made a commitment to invest more resources in human capital, research and development, public-private partnerships, industry-academia linkages and innovation. I understand that Secretary Lopez is devising a way for this to happen through the Inclusive Innovation Industrialization, or i3, strategy. I am eager to hear more about this initiative.

These early investments are already beginning to pay off. In the first half of 2017, the manufacturing sector grew



by an average of 10 percent. I am fairly confident that the performance of the sector for the entire year will be as good, if not better, despite global uncertainties.

USAID is proud to partner with DTI along the country's journey to achieve more inclusive growth. The United States and the Philippines have been working together through the Partnership for Growth with Equity to put the nation on an accelerated growth trajectory that benefits all Filipinos. DTI has been one of USAID's key Philippine government counterparts in this regard, contributing to greater trade and investments, fostering a more enabling environment for businesses, boosting the competitiveness of key sectors and empowering smaller enterprises with greater access to credit.

I thank the Department of Trade and Industry and everyone we work with in the Philippine government,



industry, academia and civil society for your committed partnership. USAID has been honored to walk alongside you as we pursue our mutual goal of a more prosperous and stable nation for all Filipinos.

Again, congratulations to DTI for the successful organization of the Second Philippine Manufacturing Summit.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay!