Market Access Sectoral and Trade Barriers Database

-Philippines-

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GENERAL FEATURES OF TRADE POLICY

When compared to other ASEAN countries, the economy of the Republic of the Philippines remains comparatively rura agricultural, however, it has been speeding along the development path. Its economic growth rate accelerated through to 1996 and when the Asian financial crisis first hit in 1997, the Philippines were decidedly less affected than its neighb However, in the following year its GDP contracted by 0.5% but this decline was short-lived and by 1999 the growth rate rebounded to 3.2% and this trend continued the following year as GDP grew by 3.6% in 2000. Furthermore, since inflation has been in decline, from 9.8% in that year to 5% in 2000.

The EU is the second largest export market for the Philippines, absorbing 19% (or € 6.4 billion) of total Philippine expor 1999 (up from 17.6% in 1995) and the US remains as its largest export market with a 30% share (down from 35% in 19 Taken altogether, ASEAN countries (with a share of 14% in 1999) rival Japan (with a share of 13% in 1999) for third and data for the year 2000 indicates these same relative rankings.

In addition, the EU increasingly absorbs a larger share of Philippine exports as the EU's imports from the Philippines gre 46% between 1997 and 1999. Over that same timeframe, US and Japanese imports grew by only 18% and 11%, respect In 2000, EU's imports from the Philippines increased by another 36% reaching € 8.7 billion. On the other hand Philippines is a small but fast growing market for EU exports. Although, less than 1% (or € 5.1 billion) of EU exports bought by the Philippines in 1997, EU exports to the Philippines more than doubled between 1995 and 1997.

The following table is an overview of the tradeflow between the European Union and Philippines

Section	Year	Import(Euro)	Export(Euro)
Animals & animal products	1996	9,089,880	60,875,180
	1997	14,189,080	80,698,650
	1998	17,742,080	44,754,580
	1999	13,850,000	76,118,180
	2000	12,128,750	150,978,150
	2001	15,834,760	77,263,610
	2002	23,046,660	50,497,610
	2003	33,457,190	43,600,650
Vegetable products	1996	67,011,450	18,389,910
	1997	64,660,560	20,002,100
	1998	60,889,470	20,378,990
	1999	75,225,770	26,741,760
	2000	76,775,430	19,543,500
	2001	76,748,180	25,211,320
	2002	81,258,740	35,024,470

	2003	70,028,260	39,349,590
Animal or vegetable fats	1996	176,380,750	2,491,230
	1997	126,992,710	2,049,240
	1998	244,152,910	2,844,490
	1999	115,915,180	2,433,190
	2000	115,142,730	3,516,710
	2001	147,510,480	2,986,150
	2002	138,684,720	4,174,520
	2003	149,055,500	4,124,300
Prepared foodstuffs	1996	135,372,990	87,282,030
	1997	116,592,770	198,673,580
	1998	145,081,770	77,640,210
	1999	134,041,730	91,363,400
	2000	131,316,680	103,921,490
	2001	145,305,110	127,643,180
	2002	156,363,720	139,096,370
	2003	123,788,440	115,688,250
Mineral products	1996	1,105,270	7,817,640
	1997	2,746,040	10,225,480
	1998	2,308,490	6,613,670
	1999	710,090	20,991,480
	2000	4,425,720	8,794,700
	2001	8,973,730	10,478,000
	2002	709,030	27,128,670
	2003	944,330	6,813,390
Chemical products	1996	30,930,890	247,804,440
	1997	21,745,940	319,170,930
	1998	27,347,350	250,909,370
	1999	28,298,580	309,445,140
	2000	25,898,840	337,627,790
	2001	33,062,110	371,222,210
	2002	27,494,930	400,141,100
	2003	25,942,050	408,484,010
Plastics & rubber	1996	24,124,780	70,976,740
	1997	22,133,050	81,683,190
	1998	28,466,010	64,527,040
	1999	40,004,630	69,750,020
	2000	35,629,650	89,770,540
	2001	34,688,050	96,148,530
	2002	31,610,370	93,955,920
	2003	38,730,690	79,668,810
Hides & skins	1996	15,750,510	10,651,850
	1997	25,489,470	10,859,330
	1998	19,891,760	6,118,660
	1999	17,097,990	6,897,540
	2000	21,868,400	11,869,790
	2001	21,609,260	13,519,240
	2002	17,532,520	11,991,990
	2003	16,604,860	10,927,070
Wood & wood products	1996	47,899,590	4,799,690
	1997	48,893,010	4,599,140
	1998	41,066,710	4,965,500
	1999	40,149,690	6,691,130
	2000	41,056,370	7,479,060
	2001	35,890,640	6,101,240
	2002	31,969,420	8,826,660
	2003	33,368,110	9,286,510
Wood pulp products	1996	32,679,130	67,079,040
	1997	36,724,400	72,396,850
	1998	34,203,420	59,699,290
	1999	29,288,630	78,476,090

	2000	33,024,860	100,230,160
	2001	32,939,070	115,079,700
	2002	36,991,550	127,264,180
	2003	33,042,100	128,622,970
Textiles & textile articles	1996	311,861,030	59,271,780
	1997	345,006,340	71,834,670
	1998	291,408,450	66,197,300
	1999	293,541,470	60,921,470
	2000	373,233,030	87,325,730
	2001	324,543,490	92,101,100
	2002	325,286,780	91,085,630
	2003	306,161,040	75,281,680
Footwear, headgear	1996	82,215,640	3,837,290
	1997	90,662,840	4,868,440
	1998	81,887,890	4,928,860
	1999	67,793,680	5,373,330
	2000	62,861,610	6,256,600
	2001	64,814,290	7,011,690
	2002	74,871,280	4,977,970
	2003	61,985,880	3,580,510
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos	1996	27,862,150	39,995,170
	1997	32,232,280	51,148,410
	1998	33,039,680	26,368,250
	1999	27,055,470	33,176,960
	2000	48,070,550	40,587,710
	2001	33,709,750	37,198,050
	2002	15,221,560	29,803,070
	2003	17,086,980	29,518,460
Pearls, (semi-)precious stones, metals	1996	183,124,070	5,689,080
	1997	216,172,730	5,818,350
	1998	207,256,520	5,323,820
	1999	100,272,080	3,503,140
	2000	189,773,980	7,869,710
	2001	83,186,250	5,028,660
	2002	65,490,960	4,064,040
	2003	285,563,130	4,523,880
Base metals & articles thereof	1996	22,921,370	125,941,380
	1997	28,121,460	195,019,290
	1998	39,859,270	94,224,930
	1999	35,736,590	81,701,830
	2000	44,580,680	106,904,560
	2001	39,717,760	172,691,850
	2002	33,251,030	120,935,010
	2003	29,333,360	158,966,070
Machinery & mechanical applicances	1996	1,290,854,920	1,473,220,060
	1997	1,938,037,590	1,821,105,620
	1998	3,058,135,300	1,306,688,520
	1999	3,955,119,150	1,251,343,340
	2000	4,854,655,450	2,053,735,510
	2001	4,600,127,160	2,104,444,670
	2002	5,868,737,490	1,603,143,310
	2003	4,408,303,670	1,516,981,290
Transportation equipment	1996	4,665,340	60,208,280
	1997	11,265,330	79,681,780
	1998	14,903,450	84,605,160
	1999	69,834,150	52,627,330
	2000	55,284,960	60,312,220
	2001	51,317,830	90,170,560
	2002	79,236,460	67,590,060
	2003	73,422,550	73,177,360
	1996	121,686,630	77,086,050

Instruments - measuring, musical	1997	165,472,260	92,286,670
	1998	174,193,420	72,970,610
	1999	177,778,430	90,392,380
	2000	264,830,480	102,985,440
	2001	321,938,330	107,649,890
	2002	256,092,890	97,887,990
	2003	219,606,360	98,757,100
Arms & ammunition	1996	740,860	1,813,580
	1997	783,320	3,393,850
	1998	349,920	8,419,150
	1999	261,100	2,201,940
	2000	591,720	1,224,790
	2001	681,110	549,980
	2002	939,980	1,597,070
	2003	457,250	6,015,260
Miscellaneous	1996	121,615,960	36,193,260
	1997	138,802,290	49,905,100
	1998	123,507,490	24,765,620
	1999	122,443,840	30,330,480
	2000	137,452,090	31,310,450
	2001	124,074,850	47,567,140
	2002	112,972,900	36,219,610
	2003	120,128,200	31,332,170
Works of art	1996	569,710	1,297,080
	1997	514,930	3,148,510
	1998	548,670	3,805,900
	1999	5,279,040	534,930
	2000	1,763,110	4,226,000
	2001	433,810	848,790
	2002	474,930	483,010
	2003	335,580	1,694,710
Other	1996	10,908,760	18,003,070
	1997	6,078,960	10,149,240
	1998	12,536,210	15,335,360
	1999	8,646,320	15,190,190
	2000	11,142,940	14,119,990
	2001	11,296,530	11,931,500
	2002	14,620,790	13,641,650
	2003	10,403,150	13,108,470

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TARIFFS AND DUTIES

Starting in the 1980s, the Filipino tariff structure has become increasingly more transparent. Since 1981, import restric
have been removed from almost 2,800 tariff lines. Average nominal tariffs were reduced from over 41% in 1991 to some
in 1997. The Philippines established a four tier structure for tariffs in 1991, ranging from 3%, 10%, 20% and 30%.
In 1995, Executive Order 264 set out a two tiered tariff structure of 3% and 10% for raw materials and finished proc
to be fully implemented by 2003. It also targeted a uniform 5% tariff by 2004. The overall average nominal tariff has
reduced to 13.43% in 1997 from 14.30% as had been registered in 1996. The liberalisation is not yet all-encompassing as
185 strategic product lines (3% of all Filipino tariff lines) remain exempt from tariff restructuring, and will remain sul
to a 50% tariff.

Since 1 July 1996, the "export value" has been used to determine the customs value for products but this practice is sti
in conformity with Article VII of the GATT, which instead requires use of the “transaction value”. However, the Philip
have a five year transition period for the implementation of this rule and have notified a further extension of 3 years, v
will end in 2003.

In January 1998, the Philippines, in keeping with its Uruguay Round commitments to bind 37% of its tariffs lines, rec
several hundred tariff lines on goods such as fish products and foodstuffs, chemicals, leather and footwear, glass, jewe

steel products, tools and engines, electrical devices etc. There were several tariff splits which created new subcategori that some subheadings had increased tariff rates. Some of the largest Filipino business groups had urged the governme increase tariffs and to act against dumped imports. In January 1999, the Philippines raised some tariffs in order to pr local manufacturers hit hard by the crisis. The WTO criticised this as it was contrary to the Filipino liberalisation policy the government insisted that the tariff increases would only be temporary.

Within ASEAN, the Philippines signed the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme in January 1992 witl objective of establishing an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). Tariffs on all manufactured goods, within the region, we be gradually reduced to the target of 0-5% within fifteen years. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) agree September 1994 to further accelerate the implementation of the AFTA to ten years, to finish the process by 2003 a include agricultural products and services under the CEPT scheme. However, the Asian crisis led to a cessation and p reversal of this tariff liberalisation process.

Agriculture and Fisheries

Internal Taxation

970040- *Spirits - excise duties* [2005-02-17]

In 1997, the Philippines implemented a new excise tax regime on alcoholic beverages (Republic Act N° 824 22 November 1996 and Revenue Regulations No. 2-97 of 13 December 1996) with across the board increa of 12% in the applicable taxation levels.

They also introduced a provision whereby spirituous beverages produced from the sap of nipa, coconut, cassava, camote or buri palm or from the juice, sugar or syrup of sugar cane, provided such materials were produced commercially in the country where they were processed into distilled spirits (in practice locally produced spirits) were taxed at a flat specific rate of 8.96 (4.48 in the case of production output of less than litres per day) pesos per proof litre. All other distilled spirits (in practice those that were imported) were subj a system of price 'bands' at substantially higher tax rates.

Because the tax rate was determined by retail sales price-based bands, at prices approaching the threshold importers were inhibited from raising the sales price as this would trigger a considerable increase in the tax and would necessitate substantial increases in retail price to maintain the same margin.

The apparently discriminatory treatment against imported spirits from the EU raised concerns as to the compatibility of the tax structure with Article III of the GATT (1994).

On 20 December 2004 the Phillippines adopted Republic Act No. 9334, bearing the title “An Act increasing excise tax rates imposed on alcohol and tobacco products”, which increased the excise tax rates on the prir locally produced spirits by 30% and on the imported spirits by 50% thereby worsening the pre-existing discrimination against imports of spirits from the EU.

The excise tax bands applicable to distilled spirits since the introduction of Republic Act No. 9334 on 1 Janu 2005 are as follows:

Retail Price (per 750ml bottle) less Excise Tax and VAT	Excise Tax Rate (Pesos p US Proof Litre)
Spirits produced from nipa, coconut, cassava, camote, buri palm or locally produced sugar cane	11.65
All imported spirits, by retail price: Less than 250 pesos 250 - 675 pesos More than 675 pesos	 126.00 252.00 504.00

This Act also abolished the exemption from excise duties for all duty-free sales except those made directly l government-owned and operated duty free shop such as Duty-free Philippines. This modification is expecte result in a significant drop in duty-free sales.

It also scheduled increases of 8% in the excise tax rates to be implemented in 2007, 2009 and 2011.

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TRADE DEFENCE INSTRUMENTS

The Philippines notified the WTO that it was investigating the need for safeguard measures on Grey Portland cemen ceramic tiles as a result of claims that increased imports had caused serious injury local industries.

The Philippines is imposing anti-dumping duties against:

China with a dumping margin of 6.7 to 20.33% on clear figured glass;
Chinese Taipei with a dumping margin of 6.63 to 26.98% on cold rolled coils and sheets; and against Thailand with a dur margin of 64.71% on PVC floor covering.

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NON TARIFF BARRIERS

At present the Philippines do not recognise tests carried out under other countries' procedures although it has appr certain inspection bodies for testing in other countries for a number of products in accordance with procedures laid dov Filipino national standards. The official standards organisation is the Office of Product Standardisation.

Of the 1462 standards that have been developed or formulated, at present 304 (or 21%) are either identical or equivale international standards. The rest are related to standards in specific foreign countries. No distinction is made bet standards used for domestic and imported goods.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFD), under the Department of Health, is the Government agency responsible for is rules and regulations concerning the manufacture, importation, sale or distribution of all drugs, pharmaceuticals and cosı products. Local importers and distributors of medical equipment are required to obtain a license from the BFD to operat food and food products intended for import or export must also be registered with the BFD.

The Philippines impose phytosanitary regulations on the imports of certain fruits and vegetables to protect the dom industry from destructive pests, with specific concern for several species of fruit flies.

Imports into the Philippines are required to be marked clearly in English, enclosing details of the name of the product name and address of the manufacturer, the size of the product in metric units and the country of origin. Imperfectly mo articles cannot be released from customs unless a marking duty of 5% ad valorem is paid.

Under an agreement on preferential trade arrangements, the ASEAN countries are required to exercise preference am themselves with respect to contracts placed by their public bodies. However, there are also a number of sectors, incl rice, medicines, and infrastructural projects in which the Government favours granting Government contracts to Fi firms.

In light of this, it is important to note that the Government of the Philippines is a large direct importer, usually thr competitive bidding, of many essential products such as rice, road building and maintenance equipment, cement, machiner equipment for the various Government projects, and also military and defence equipment. These products seem to in many of the sectors for which Filipino firms are favoured over foreign firms for procurement contracts.

As an additional consideration in the tender process, Filipino regulations do not permit a foreign company to submit a te unless it has an office or an approved resident representative in the Philippines. The first step for a company to sec State contract is to apply to be placed on the list of addressees of invitations to tender ("call for bids") from the body which it wishes to work.

Rice is the only product for which the Government is the sole importer. Rice imports are made by the National Authority which is concerned with stabilising prices. The other major Government purchasers are the National Electrific Administration, National Power Corporation, National Irrigation Administration, National Housing Authority, Departme Transportation and Communications, and the Department of National Defence.

Explicit quotas operate only on two products in the Philippines:

- feeder cattle (4800 heads per month); and
- horses (150 head per year).

In July 1992, quantitative restrictions on 178 tariff lines were converted into tariffs and most of these rates were significantly reduced, in conformity with overall schedules of tariff reforms.

Further liberalisation of import licensing requirements were undertaken as follows:

- Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Circular no. 92 dated October 1995 lifted import restrictions on new motor vehicl well as used trucks above six tons and used buses above 12 tons;

- Republic Act (RA) No. 8178 enacted in March 1996 lifted the quantitative restrictions on the importation of sens agricultural products;

- BSP Circular no. 109 Series of 1996 dated 16 May 1996, deleted agricultural products listed in Annex A of CB Circular from the list of prohibited/regulated commodities.

- RA 8180 dated 28 March 1996 reduced the duties on crude oil and petroleum products and liberalised the import thereof subject to the rules and regulations of the Department of Energy (DOE);

- BSP Circular no. 112 dated 2 August 1996 lifted the prior clearance of, the DOE or the Energy Regulatory Board (ER the importation of refined petroleum products and exportation of oil and refined petroleum products, further amending Circular 1389; and

- Revised Guidelines on the Minimum Access Volumes (Department of Agriculture Administrative Order no. 8 series of 1 for certain agricultural products was issued on 2 September 1997.

Examples of products still subject to import licensing are: rice, motor vehicles, medicaments containing penicillin, pesticides, used tires, colour photocopying machines, fireworks, ammunitions and firearms, video games used with receiver, used clothing, toy guns.

Specific duties are levied only on two product groups, cinematograph films, and imported crude oil. While there are no n or alternate tariffs, a seasonal tariff is imposed on fish products.

Government Procurement

970045-*Government Procurement Reform Act* [2003-09-16]

On 10 January 2003, President Arroyo signed the "Government Procurement Reform Act" into law. The law calls for public monitoring of the procurement process to promote greater transparency and competition, enhance the flow of information, and lessen discretion among agencies. It also establishes an electronic procurement system to serve as the single portal for all government procurement and requires that all bidders use standard forms.

The law provides for goods to be obtained from domestic or foreign sources with two caveats, both of which appear to favour domestic suppliers. The law allows, in the interest of availability and timeliness, for the procuring entity to give preference to the purchase of domestically produced and manufactured goods, supplies and materials. Consulting services and infrastructure proj are exempt from this provision, putting foreign firms on equal footing with local firms in this respect.

In addition as regards infrastructure projects the law provides that, for the next five years, contractors whose head office is locat the province where the project will take place have the right to match the lowest offer made by a non-province based bidder.

The Philippine Government also provides preferential treatment to local suppliers of pharmaceuticals, rice, corn, and iron/steel materials for use in governmental projects. In addition, under an agreement on preferential trade arrangements the ASEAN cour are required to exercise preference among themselves in respect of contracts placed by their public bodies.

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RESTRICTIVE EXPORT MEASURES

Export Subsidies

010052-*Export Development Act: Republic Act 7844* [2002-12-04]

Despite WTO provisions prohibiting exports subsidies, the government of the Philippines proposes to grant incentives to Filipino exporters. These incentives include exemption from the advance payment of customs duties on the condition that the imports ar used towards goods and service destined for export; tax credits for imported inputs and raw materials used in export goods that not readily available locally; tax credits for increased levels of export revenue computed on the basis of annual export revenue growth; exports of non-traditional products that use or substitute locally produced raw materials, capital equipment and/or spare parts, tax credits equivalent to twenty five percent (25%) of the duties that would have been paid had those inputs been importe and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the Philippine National Bank (PNB), and the Land Bank of the Philippines (are developing long-term peso and dollar facilities to be used for plant and equipment expansion purposes. These facilities shall preferential and simplified credit schemes to exporters; and all tax credits provided shall be negotiable.

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INVESTMENT RELATED BARRIERS

The EU has been the largest source of FDI flows into the Philippines in the past decade. But the Philippines has histor received one of the smallest shares of EU FDI in the ASEAN region. However, EU investments have increased significan recent years providing boost to the Philippine economy during the Asian crisis. Moreover, the EU remains the la portfolio investor in the country and has surpassed pre-crisis levels, although this amount contracted sharply in respon the political crisis of 2000.

Due to WTO commitments by the Philippines the country was to abolish local content requirements by the end of 199 new decisions have extended this deadline by two years (from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001) with a pos additional two years (1 January 2002 to 31 December 2003).

The Philippines have established local content requirements for participants in the Government's Car Development Pro (CDP), the Commercial Vehicle Development Program (CVDP), and the Motorcycle Development Program (MDP), as well the chemical sector.

The Export Development Act (EDA) of 1994 (Republic Act N 7844) grants incentives for firms to export.

Importation of machinery and equipment and accompanying spare parts which are used in the manufacture of exp products are free from import duty for a period of three years. Additionally, tax credits for imported inputs anc materials primarily used for the production and packaging of export goods, which are not readily available locally, are for a five year period, provided that the tax credit shall be issued within 30 days from exportations.

Tax credits are given for increases in current year export revenue computed as follows:

i. the first 5% increase in annual export revenue over the previous year gives right to a credit of 2.5% to be applied o increase in export revenue converted to pesos at the current rate ;
ii. the next 5% increase gives right to a credit of 5%
iii. the next 5% increase gives right to a credit of 7.5%
iv. above the 15% increase gives right to a credit of 10%

These tax credits are only granted for the year in which the export performance is achieved.

For exporters of non-traditional products who use or substitute locally produced raw material, capital equipment ar spare parts, the tax credit is equal to 25% of the duties that would have been paid had these inputs been imported.

The latest revision of the Foreign Investment Act took place in 1996, and Republic Act (RA) 7042 was amended by RA of 23 April 1996. The law allows 100% foreign ownership for activities not found in the Foreign Investment Negative Lis the minimum paid in equity for domestic enterprises has been reduced from US$ 500,000 to US$ 200,000. This min paid in equity can be further reduced to US$100,000 if the activity of the domestic company involves advanced technolo if the company employs at least 50 direct employees. Negative List C or the list of adequately served areas has also deleted.

Another activity where foreign ownership is limited concerns land ownership. Only Filipino individuals or Filipino corpora in which the maximum foreign ownership is 40% are allowed to own land. When a foreign investor acquires a majority sto a domestic corporation which owns a parcel of land, ownership over the land has to be transferred to a landholding compa which the foreign investor can only have a 40% shareholding. Under R.A. 7652, a foreign investor may be allowed to lease for a period of 50 years, renewable for another twenty-five 25 years.

The third major area of reform was the liberalisation of regulations governing foreign exchange transactions and fo direct investment (FDI). Under a Presidential decree, exporters may retain 100% of their foreign exchange earn Regulations relating to FDI were revised under the Foreign Investment Act of 1991 which expanded the number of econ sectors open to 100% foreign ownership, streamlined the investment approval process, and provided clear definitio remaining limits and restrictions on foreign investments. Additional revisions of the Foreign Investment Act took pla April 1996 and in 1998, in the aftermath of the financial turmoil.

An amendment to the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987 extends tax and duty-free exemption on imported capital equip and spare parts and tax credits on domestic capital equipment for firms registered with the BOI as of 31 December 199 also imposes a uniform 3% duty on imported capital equipment and spare parts for firms registered as of January Furthermore, the amendment of article 7 of the Omnibus Investment Code suspends the nationality requirement of registered projects of ASEAN or multilateral financial institutions (ADB, IFC).

Manufacturing has started to play a significant role in the Philippine economy, as it currently ranks slightly above agricu in its contribution to GDP; both sectors were 21.5% and 17.7% respectively, in 1999. Other main contributors to the GD commerce, construction, transport and communications. Consumer goods account for over 50% of manufacturing value-ad with food processing's share boosted by export demand. A big component of the machinery sector is electronics asse also geared to foreign markets and almost totally reliant on imported inputs.

According to Central Bank Circular No 1353 of 24 August 1992 capital and dividends may be repatriated in their entiret immediately, without authorisation from the Central Bank, provided that the foreign (inward) investment has been previ notified. It also further liberalised foreign exchange transactions in the current account by lifting the inward remit requirement on export receipts and lifting all restrictions on all forms of gold exports, requiring the sale to the Central only of gold obtained from small-scale mining and panned gold. These initiatives allow exporters to retain all of their ex earnings

Chemicals

Trade Related Investment Measures

● 970046- *Soap - Local content requirements* [2003-09-16]

Soap and detergent manufacturers are required to use at least 60% locally produced cocochemical surfacta This requirement, contained in Executive Order 259 of July 1987, applies to all soap and detergent manufacturers, whether new or existing, and is designed to promote the utilisation of chemicals derived fror coconut oil of Philippine origin. The provision was notified to the WTO but has not been repealed.

The Philippine Department of Justice, in Opinion No. 88 (1999), stated that E.O. 259 conflicts with the coun obligations under the WTO TRIMS Agreement. Since then the E.O has not been enforced.

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World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO);

Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property; and
Patent Co-operation Treaty.

The Government engages in parallel importation of medicine from India. The DTI has announced imports from India least eight of the most locally prescribed medicines worth about PHP 20 million. News reports also indicate tha Philippine Intellectual Property Code allows the government to exploit or authorise a third party to exploit any invention without the agreement of the patent owner where public interest so requires. Health has been identified as an conce public interest. The TRIPS agreement as well as Article 5.A.2 of the Paris Convention look at the right for compu licenses to prevent abuses which might result from the exercise of the exclusive rights conferred by the patent example, failure to work the patent.

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LINKS

IMF
http://www.imf.org/external/country/PHL/index.htm

World Bank
http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/eap/eap.nsf/87d06ef07cb6cd69852567c90077a6de/d18a645fa0f6e39b852567cb000e5
OpenDocument

CIA Factbook
www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rp.html

Some Links on Philippines
www.fe.doe.gov/international/philippines.html

International Trade Administration
http://www.ita.doc.gov/EDFrameset.html