



TOWARDS A SHARED PROSPERITY

Building Synergies in Competitiveness and Development

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

The Philippines is experiencing an economic renaissance. Output growth has averaged 6.2 percent in the last five years, while prices and interest rates remain stable. The economy has demonstrated resilience to external shocks, as credit rating upgrades and stable-to-strong performance in global competitiveness rankings means observers are taking notice. However, the benefits of these economic successes are yet to be broadly felt, especially among the poor and disenfranchised sectors of Philippine society.

One in four Filipinos is still poor. Four in ten are trapped in a vicious cycle, slipping in and out of poverty as external shocks come their way. The unemployment rate had reached a record-low, but it remains one of the highest in ASEAN. Moreover, in-work poverty and vulnerable employment are prevalent. Conflicts and calamities present recurring setbacks to economic and social progress in affected areas. Generally, high operation and transaction costs for businesses and households and low investments in technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation threaten the sustainability of strong economic performance.

The notion of shared prosperity subsumes and expands on the concept of inclusive growth, which is primarily focused on the poor. Like inclusive growth, shared prosperity is an alternative to the singular obsession with economic growth, especially in relation to national competitiveness. Shared prosperity implies rising standards of living for all citizens through the equitable distribution of

economic opportunities and benefits among the population. In pursuit of shared prosperity, economic resources are allocated to shared assets and institutions that support active economic participation.

Investments in infrastructure, education, and rural communities have been promised by the new administration, which has also vowed to effect further reforms in governance, and to secure peace and order. The Philippine economy appears to be at the poised for takeoff, but much has to be done to reach underserved markets and align incentives with growth. The confluence of government, business, civil society, and academic efforts can help create structural change that is needed to build capacities, create more and better jobs, expand real income, and alleviate poverty in the long-term.

As part of its contribution to promote national competitiveness and shared prosperity, **the AIM Rizalino S. Navarro Policy Center for Competitiveness**, in partnership with **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Philippines**, held a conference titled **“Towards a Shared Prosperity: Building Synergies in Competitiveness and Development”** on **24 August 2016**, from **9:00AM to 4:00PM**, at **Mayuree I, Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City**.



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Conference Questions

- Has recent Philippines economic prosperity been shared? What are the prosperity and productivity gaps across sectors?
- How do we strengthen the role of business in pursuing growth and ensuring shared prosperity?
- How do we pursue a participatory broad-based economy with coordinated efforts from the different sectors?

Conference Objectives

- Raise public awareness regarding the importance of shared prosperity in the development of a dynamic and competitive Philippine economy.
- Engage stakeholders in the private sector towards the recognition and ownership of their role in the creation of shared prosperity.
- Provide a venue for discussion among representatives of business, government, civil society, and academia regarding strategies for the realization of shared prosperity.

Target Participants

- Around 150 to 200 participants from the academe, international organizations, government, business sector, civil society, and the media are expected to attend the conference.



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Programme

- 09:00am-09:30am** ■ REGISTRATION
- 09:30am-09:40am** ■ Welcome Remarks
Jamil Paolo Francisco
Executive Director
AIM RSN Policy Center for Competitiveness
- 09:40am-10:00am** ■ Keynote Address
Rosemarie Edillon
Deputy Director-General for Policy and Planning
National Economic and Development Authority

Session 1: Promoting Shared Prosperity for Competitiveness

- 10:00am-10:15am** ■ **Guillermo Luz**
Co-Chairman
National Competitiveness Council
- 10:15am-10:30am** ■ **Fabian Bigar**
Director
Performance Management and Delivery Unit
Prime Minister's Department
Federation of Malaysia
- 10:30am-10:45am** ■ **Emmanuel Garcia**
Economist
AIM RSN Policy Center for Competitiveness



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10:45am-11:30am ■ Open Forum
Moderator: **Anthony Abad**
Bloomberg TV Philippines

11:30am-01:00pm ■ LUNCH

Session 2: Recasting the Role of Business in Society

01:00pm-01:15pm ■ **Bart Édes**
Head
Knowledge Sharing and Services Center
Asian Development Bank

01:15pm-01:30pm ■ **Joji Felicitas Pantoja**
Chief Executive Officer
Coffee for Peace, Inc.

01:30pm-01:45pm ■ **Gisela Tiongson**
Executive Director
Jollibee Group Foundation

01:45pm-02:15pm ■ Open Forum
Moderator: **Francisco Roman, Jr.**
Asian Institute of Management

Session 3: Coordinating Shared Action for Shared Prosperity

02:15pm-03:15pm ■ **Pablo Acosta**
Senior Economist
World Bank



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- **Jaime Garchitorea**
President and Chief Executive Officer
Credit Information Corporation

- **Griselda Santos**
Senior Financial Sector Specialist
International Finance Corporation

- **John Bongat**
Mayor
Naga City (Most Competitive City 2016,
Independent Component Cities Category)

- 03:15pm-03:45pm** ■ Open Forum
Moderator: **Federico Macaranas**
Asian Institute of Management

- 03:45pm-04:00pm** ■ Closing Remarks
Benedikt Seemann
Country Representative
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung PH

- Master of Ceremonies: **Nicholas Andrew Price**
Asian Institute of Management