**intervención**

**subsecretariA de relaciones Económicas internacionales**

**CLaUdIa SANHUEZA RIVEROS**

**saludo II RONDA DE NEGOCIACIÓN cHILE – FILIPINAS**

Good morning,

I would like to welcome

* Mr. Allan B. Gepty, Chief Negotiator and Undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines.
* Ms. Celeste Vinzón Balatbát, Ambassador of the Philippines in Chile.
* Mr. Pablo Urria, Chief Negotiator and Head of the Asia and Oceania Department,
* Negotiators and technical teams from both countries.
* Distinguished guests,

Thank you very much for joining us in Santiago, especially after such a long journey.

Our countries have enjoyed a fruitful and enduring relationship for many years — one that has brought mutual benefits. In fact, our diplomatic ties date back to 1946, making this one of Chile’s longest-standing relationships with an ASEAN country — a partnership built on mutual respect, shared values, and a strong commitment to cooperation.

Similarly, Chile has recently been working to improve and strengthen its economic relations and trade links with Asia, particularly Southeast Asia. This is why, in 2011, we started collaborating with ASEAN, with the aim of achieving Development Partner status within the organization. After much hard work, this was achieved in 2019.

In this context, we are proud to host the second round of negotiations for the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** between our two nations. This marks a significant step forward in deepening our bilateral ties and expanding our engagement with one of the most dynamic and promising regions in the world: Southeast Asia.

We recognize the strong potential of the Philippine economy, with a population of 113 million and a projected GDP growth of 5.5% this year. For this reason, we believe it is essential to work together and make meaningful progress toward our shared objectives.

There is ample room for growth. In 2024, trade between Chile and the Philippines reached **$266 million** — with Chilean exports totaling **$202 million** and imports from the Philippines valued at **$64 million**. Both nations have the potential to make the most of these negotiations and significantly increase these figures.

Our economies are highly complementary: the Philippines excels in electronic equipment and machinery, while Chile contributes copper, lithium, and food products. This synergy, along with our shared interests — including trade in goods and services, investment, the environment, gender and trade, the digital economy, and MSMEs — lies at the heart of our negotiations.

We have set an ambitious yet achievable goal: to conclude these negotiations by the end of this year. That is why I wish you a productive and successful week, with substantial progress in all areas under discussion.

Through our joint efforts, I am confident that we will reach an agreement that benefits both our economies and our societies. I wish you every success and hope you enjoy your time in Santiago.

**Thank you very much.**