

Philippines: Rubber industry stakeholders to speak on issues, opportunities

MANILA, Sept 16 — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has invited major stakeholders in the rubber industry to discuss issues on access to investment and marketing opportunities and provide updates on the latest developments in the industry.

A senior economist from the International Rubber Study Group heads the list of invited speakers at the First Philippine Rubber Investment and Market Encounter (Prime 2012) set on September 18 and 19 at the Holiday Inn Clark in Pampanga, a statement from the DTI said.

Lekshmi Nair will talk about the global market for natural rubber which the Philippines can tap.

The DTI has also invited Tetsuya Kuze, president and chief executive officer of the Yokohama Tire Philippines Inc. (YTPI) to speak on expanding market opportunities in the rubber industry whose plans include increase of production to 50,000 units by 2017.

To speak on the Philippines' competitive edge in natural rubber, the DTI tapped Christopher L. Chan, president of the Philippine Rubber Industries Association, Inc. (PRIA).

The Prime 2012 will also address current challenges confronting the industry by zooming into key issues in production efficiency and sustainability including compliance to industry-wide standards. The DTI also invited the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to speak on the rubber industry under the National Greening Program.

It has also invited Jerry Gil S. Murao, chief executive officer of JDM888 Agro Ventures to speak on the rubber production in the non-traditional areas, and Governor Mujiv Hataman of Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) on the region and the rubber industry.

Local experiences will be tackled by invited local government unit heads Mayor Rudy S. Caoagdan of Makilala, North Cotabato to speak on the Makilala rubber development initiative and Zamboanga Sibugay Governor Rommel A. Jalosjos on the RAJ tree program as a rubber industry development model.

From government, Department of Agriculture Director Jennifer Remoquillo will talk on the Philippine rubber industry road map while and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Director Rowena Cristina L. Guevara discusses the latest on the rubber research and development agenda.

DTI Undersecretary for development and trade policy Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. will speak on investment policies and incentives offered to investors and Department of Agricultural Reforms (DAR) Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes will talk on DAR's support in the development of the rubber industry.

An important element in expanding the industry is financing through the agricultural credit support program. The DTI invited Land Bank of the Philippines president and chief executive officer Gilda E. Pico and Development Bank of the Philippines President and chief executive officer Francisco F. del Rosario.

The Prime 2012 aims to expand the domestic market for natural rubber, and provide opportunities for the natural rubber producers and jobs for rubber farmers and industry workers. A business matching will also be held during the event as well as the signing of joint statement of commitment. (DTI)