



Both countries utilized an online-based conference platform to conduct the said workshop.

STMO CONTINUES ITS COOPERATION WITH JAPAN'S METI

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI), in partnership with Japan's Center for Information on Security Trade Controls (CISTEC), conducted an online five-day workshop from 01-07 September entitled Explanation on Strategic Goods and Technologies for the licensing officers and internal compliance program (ICP) officers of the Philippine Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO).

The program provided an in-depth explanation of strategic goods and technologies – specifically on electronics (integrated circuit devices, electronic devices, semiconductor manufacturing equipment), metals, non-metallic materials, industrial machinery, material processing, missile systems, and valves. The workshop also covered skills in identifying controlled goods and applied this knowledge through case studies and tabletop exercises. Subject Matter Experts from Center for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC), Senior Officers, and Inspectors from METI shared their technical knowledge and experience in these fields. The goal of the workshop was to enhance STMO's capability in assessing strategic goods and end-use. It also aimed to ensure that officers in charge of ICP are well-equipped in performing their function.

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The outreach cooperation reflects the strong bilateral cooperation between the Philippines and Japan, particularly when it comes to the implementation of strategic trade controls (STCs). The STMO, as a relatively new bureau, is still on the process of refining its policies and the skillset of its personnel to implement the Strategic Trade Management Act (STMA) effectively. The continuous support from METI provides numerous opportunities to learn from one of the most established and robust STC systems in the world. The STMO will be applying such best practices as it works towards instituting a recognized control system similar to Japan's and consequently, attract investments from Japanese multinational companies seeking a safe and secure trading environment.

As STMO has already started accepting applications for authorization since 01 July 2020, it is imperative for companies first to classify their goods based on the National Strategic Goods List (NSGL) before applying with the STMO. Companies seeking to apply for STMO's export authorization are required to pass the ICP audit, especially if they are applying for a Global Authorization. Currently, the STMO has been in close contact with Japanese firms doing business in the country and has been assisting them in complying with the STMA through in-house consultations and other local outreach events.



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