

**2016 NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY CONFERENCE**  
**Employers' Confederation of the Philippines**  
**Mr. Donald Dee**

Undersecretaries from the Department of Labor and Employment, Directors also from the Department of Labor and Employment, our dignitary from the government of Japan, all the RTWPBs who are here today, and all our social partners who are also in this particular occasion, a very pleasant good morning.

I come to you today to read a message of our President, Mr. Donald Dee, who is right now also just like the others, attending to very equally important things that he has to do not only for the employers' sector but for the country as well.

At the outset, productivity can never go out of style. At this day and age of rapidly changing conditions of the business sector and in the country, productivity should also be at the forefront of all our agenda.

The Employers' Confederation of the Philippines in recognition of this particular objective of a theme productivity, hence at the outset already started with helping the SMEs in the efforts to help and live the economic condition of the country.

The SMEs comprise 99% of the business sector in the Philippines and in this particular sector we know that they are the most vulnerable in the conditions that are happening in the country. In disasters that have been visiting Philippines, the SMEs are the most affected by these conditions. And way back in 2014, ECOP in collaboration with the ILO has already started doing their share by making sure that disasters are properly prepared, people who are in the or caught in the disaster are appropriately trained and prepared through this collaboration with the ILO.

The ECOP also has been doing their share by promoting the EIPC Program because in this particular program, there is a close collaboration between the SMEs and the big industries so that they are able to exchange not only technologies but resources and know-how as well.

This year also in recognition of the contribution of the SMEs, ECOP launched the first recognition of small businesses and awarded three (3) small and medium scaled businesses as excellent examples of how to do businesses legitimately and productively in our business scenario.

In 2017, ECOP will launch the HR/IR Helpdesk so that we will be able to help again the small and medium scaled industries in collaborating with big businesses in being able to get the help that they need not only technologically but also legally and anything that they would like to know about the way to conduct the business in the Philippines.

We are aware that the small and medium scaled businesses have always found themselves at the end of the line in terms of financial aid, in terms of technical aid. And we in ECOP have committed ourselves to do our share in helping the small and medium scaled industries.

At the end, and I'm in closing, we would like to repeat the commitment of the Employers' Confederation has always given its social partners, in particularly the government that we are committed to help in any way we can and most especially in this productivity movement of the

Department of Labor has launched not only through our membership but also through our representatives in the tripartite bodies that are being established or that has been established by the government.

For this, I would like to again congratulate the NWPC for this particular program that they have launched and we are sure that with this able men and women behind the movement, this particular program will never fail.

Thank you and have a productive day.