

Activity Title:	Formulation of Policy for Philippine Labor Market Test
Component:	Rapid Response Facility
Activity Number:	3
Dates:	5 November 2010
Partner Agency:	Department of Labor and Employment–Bureau of Local Employment (DOLE-BLE)



DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz (right photo) opened the workshop on the Formulation of Policy for the Philippine Labor Market Test held on 5 November 2010. Director Criselda Sy (left photo) of the Bureau of Local Employment-DOLE gave an overview of the workshop that was participated by 35 DOLE officials and staff.



Officials from DOLE (from left to right): Mr. Jose S. Sandoval (Chief, Employment Service Policy and Regulations Division), Director Maria Criselda R. Sy, Assistant Secretary Rebecca J. Calzado, Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz and Undersecretary Danilo P. Cruz look on during the opening of the workshop with Dr. Charles Stahl (short-term expert on labor market test), seated rightmost, who completed the study report on RP Philippine Labor Market Test following the conduct of the workshop on Formulation of Philippine Labor Policy.

Labor and professional groups were consulted for their inputs and reactions on the draft report on RP labor market test for the DOLE to be able to develop an appropriate and sound Philippine Labor Policy.

Outcome:	A final study report on Philippine labor market test reflecting suggestion and comments from workshop participants/relevant stakeholders on the draft report presented.
Background:	DOLE actively participates in various negotiations of international agreements and is required to draft position papers on matters related to the movement of natural persons and other issues with implications on the local labor market. Under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), the Philippines committed to review its policy on the labor market test provided under Article 40 of the Labor Code, as amended. In the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, the Philippines likewise committed to remove all restrictions by 2015. To be able to address such concerns and to formulate positive recommendations, DOLE has to study the liberalization of the Philippine labor market to maximize the gains and minimize the losses therein.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avail of expert services on labor market test to guide the Government of the Philippines (GOP) in the crafting of sound policies to address international trade commitments. To learn from studies conducted in the past, including a study of USAID on Economic Needs Tests in Services Schedules of ASEAN Member States and/or to be conducted by the expert on RP labor market test vis-à-vis other countries.
Methodology:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture and presentation Open forum and discussion
Number of Participants and Profile:	45 (Officials and staff of DOLE and its attached agencies, representatives of employers, and representatives of labor and professional groups)
Short-term expert :	Dr. Charles Stahl (Short Term Expert (STE) on Labor Market Test) Atty. Anthony Abad (Key Expert 2 on Trade Policy)

