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EU Ambassadors visit high tech European investment at Lufthansa Tecknik Philippines

"This could be just the beginning"

Highlighting the type of employment opportunities that the European Union (EU) wants to continue to create in the Philippines, today the Ambassadors of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, France and Romania, the Head of the EU Delegation to the Philippines together with diplomats from Spain and the UK visited the state-of-the-art facilities of Lufthansa Technik Philippines at Pasay.

Since year 2000, Lufthansa Technik Philippines has been providing a broad range of maintenance, repair and overhaul services to some of the most reputable airlines in the world. LTP specializes in providing support to the Airbus aircraft type, and has already completed a total of more than 400 base maintenance checks for over 30 international and local airlines. The Manila-based facility has recently added the world's largest and most technologically advanced aircraft, the Airbus A380, into its roster of capabilities. This aircraft type is now being supported inside a dedicated hangar which was inaugurated in 2012.

While OFWs are making a much appreciated contribution in different sectors in Europe, the EU supports the Aquino administration's ambition to create high quality jobs for Filipinos in their own country. The continued expansion of Lufthansa Technik Philippines employing 2,500 highly qualified Filipinos is a practical expression of this support.

German Ambassador Joachim Heidorn mentioned that "Every single job for Filipinos created by European investment is very welcome. The well-paid jobs for highly-educated Filipinos offered by European companies like Lufthansa Technik are a particular source of pride."

European investments in high tech industries are the clearest recognition of the skills and talents of Filipino workers who have shown themselves able to meet the challenges posed by some of the most technically sophisticated industries.

The EU is already the largest investor in the Philippines in terms of stocks. Last year the EU was also the largest source of approved FDI accounting for a full 40% of the total.

The Head of the EU Delegation Ambassador Guy Ledoux said:

"Our visit here today is not an isolated event. It follows on from several visits to the Philippines from high profile Europeans including by the French Prime Minister, the German Foreign Minister,

other prominent Ministers from the Czech Republic, Italy, Ireland and the UK as well as a delegation from the European Parliament.

The red line through many of these visits was investment. Europe is already very present in this country but if the Philippines continues to open up its economy it will certainly attract much more job-creating European investment. Lufthansa Technik Philippines is a very good example of European investment creating quality jobs for Filipinos in their own country. But it need not be the end. This could be just the beginning."