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## **The EU and the Philippines work together to identify best policies for sustainable and competitive energy**

The third bilateral meeting between the European Union and the Philippines on Energy is taking place as part of Energy Smart Philippines 2015 in SMX Convention Center, Pasay City on 14 July.

Keynote speakers include the Philippines' Department of Energy Officer-in-Charge Secretary Zenaida Monsada, European Union Ambassador Guy Ledoux and European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines' President Michael Raeuber.

Some sources indicate that the Philippines needs to double its energy generation capacity in the next 10 years, the European Union is engaged in a major energy transition from classical energy mix to a high level of renewable generation. The Philippines currently utilises 26% of renewable energy in its power generation mix. Equally inspired, the European Union set an objective of increasing the share of its renewable energy consumption to at least 27% by 2030. In addition, the EU plans to increase its energy efficiency by 27% also by 2030.

A high level of cooperation between the European Union and the Philippines can be illustrated with various initiatives like the EU sponsored SWITCH project which has developed action plans for each energy consuming sectors. Germany has provided technical assistance for the formulation of the Philippines Renewable Energy Act and European investors are very present whether for the up-grading of the Malampaya gas offshore platform or the establishment of the solar power plant in Negros Oriental.

Ambassador Ledoux said that energy is one of the priorities areas for the EU's development cooperation program with the Philippines in the next six years. The EU has committed Php 12 billion for cooperation in the field of Energy for the period 2014 to 2020. A first program of Php 3 billion to support the Department of Energy and energy agencies is currently being finalised. The programme will focus on supporting the Department of Energy's 90% electrification target through policy reforms, supporting existing electrification programmes and the deployment of renewable energy technologies and innovative energy solutions for the poor.

OIC Secretary Monsada said "the DOE welcomes the continuing interest and support of the European Union in the energy sector particularly in electrification, renewable energy and energy efficiency. The DOE looks forward to a more fruitful collaboration and cooperation with European Union in the coming years".