

SCALING UP

STARTUPS

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Friedrich Naumann  
FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM

## LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Tuesday, 17 May 2016, 9:00 a.m. | The Mind Museum, Taguig City

**PRESS RELEASE**

**16 May 2016**

### EU-PH FTA TO BOOST STARTUPS

“Let us create a level playing field for startups so they can innovate and compete - also internationally, by protecting their Intellectual Property Rights, enforcing competition rules, and by easing regulations and procedures. The EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement will do just that,” said Walter van Hattum, Head of the Trade Section of the European Delegation to the Philippines.

The EU Delegation lauded the passage of the Philippine Competition Act in July last year. The law penalizes anti-competitive agreements and abuses of dominant players. As the startup ecosystem in the Philippines becomes broader, policies that give leverage to small players become more relevant.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) unveiled its startup roadmap in August 2015. “The development of an innovation ecosystem will address the issue of inclusive growth through job creation,” said DTI Industry Promotion Group (IPG) Undersecretary Nora Terrado.

“The Philippine economy is growing fast, and so is the EU-Philippines relationship in trade, investment; and tourism. This growth brings jobs, innovation, and development. But to get the best out of this growth, we need to nurture our startups, the job-providers to our children,” added van Hattum.

### **Competition and its impact on promoting startups and innovation will be discussed in a forum on 17 May 2016 at The Mind Museum in BGC.**

Commissioner Stella Quimbo of the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) will present how the newly enacted Competition Act can level the playing field especially for entrepreneurs.

Usec. Terrado and Asec. Rafaelita Aldaba of the DTI will talk about attracting investments, and the prospects of realizing the startups roadmap. While Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Assistant Director Mary Anne Lagura, and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Deputy Director Mon Ibrahim will dialogue with startup founders about ease of doing business.

Representatives from European chambers of commerce and business groups are expected to attend the event. Startups will deliver their pitches before a group of reactors, and will also showcase their products and services in an exhibit.

The event is co-organized by the EU Delegation, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF), AAA Law, and FutureNow Ventures.

“Aside from the potential to provide more jobs, startups create inclusive innovation where they offer quality products and services that address significant needs, thereby promoting economic freedom as well,” said FNF Country Director Jules Maaten.

For more information about the activity, please contact FNF Project Assistant Danika Sarion at 8196086/ 87 or 0917 5423725, or EU Delegation Public Affairs Officer Thelma Gecolea at 8595124.