

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

**Geneva, Switzerland
17-19 November 2021**

CSTD 2021-2022 priority theme on “Industry 4.0 for inclusive development”

Statement submitted by

The Philippines

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**United Nations
Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
2021-2022 Inter-sessional Panel**

Theme 1: Industry 4.0 for Inclusive Development

17 November 2021 | 14:30-16:30 CET

Statement delivered by

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On behalf of the
Republic of the Philippines

The Philippine Statement

Delivered during the CSTD 2021-2022 Inter-sessional Panel
17-19 November 2021

The Philippines' Experience with Industry 4.0

Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara
Undersecretary for Research and Development
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Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

- With over 7,641 islands, the Philippines' topography alone poses a challenge in providing equitable access to major resources which can potentially spur innovation and socioeconomic growth. Like other developing countries, we have low telecommunications bandwidth and challenges on interconnectivity and sufficient public infrastructure.
- Our micro-, small-, and medium enterprises employ more than 90% of our workforce but contribute less than 40% to the economy since most lack state-of-the-art facilities and are not yet S&T-driven. There is also a disparity in R&D funding across the Philippine regions with only 3 out of 17 regions getting over 80% of the national R&D funds in 2016.
- Excellencies, to address these challenges, the Philippines through the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), established facilities and initiated programs such as the Computing and Archiving Research Environment (COARE) allowing data for public use; Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMCen) and Advanced Mechatronics, Robotics, and Industrial Automation Laboratory (AMERIAL) which automate the traditional manufacturing and industrial practices using modern smart technology; and Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) 4.0 which assists MSMEs in innovating their processes, products and services.
- We have also established Niche Centers in the Regions for R&D (NICER) to capacitate universities and hospitals across the country to strengthen regional research. To date, we have 38 NICERs in all 17 regions of the country wherein 60% of the funds were now distributed to the countryside.
- Another initiative is the Collaborative R&D to Leverage Philippine Economy or CRADLE which provides funding to joint research projects between a university and an industry partner. One of the 73 joint projects is a collaboration between a Southern-Philippine-based state university and a banana plantation corporation to map out diseases in a banana plantation for prevention and control. This caused significant savings in the company's operation.

- The Philippines is also ensuring that our workforce is equally equipped and capacitated. We started upskilling the workforce through Data Analytics R&D which provides mechanisms and infrastructure to enable the industry of data science and analytics and foster smart governance practices.
- We are glad to note that the Philippines is one of the overperforming countries in terms of frontier technologies readiness index according to UNCTAD's Technology and Innovation Report 2021.
- Excellencies, the CSTD continuously provides a platform for countries to discuss common challenges, benchmark on best practices, and open opportunities in the realm of STI. With this, the Philippines welcomes possible joint initiatives with other Member States and organizations to leverage Industry 4.0 for Inclusive Development. Our main goal is to bring science closer to society and enable the use of Filipino-made breakthroughs and innovations more efficiently to increase our productivity and drive prosperity. Thank you.