



APRACA CENTRAB
cordially invites nomination
to the



**International Study Visit Program on
Inclusive Financing Options for Philippine
MSMEs**

**Manila and Subic, Zambales, Philippines
April 22 - 26, 2019
(excluding of travel time)**

INTRODUCTION

According to Philippine Business Bank President and Chief Executive Officer Rolando Avante, contrary to popular opinion, the economy of the Philippines does not rest on the shoulders of large corporations and business conglomerates. It sits on the lap of what are commonly known as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) – smaller entrepreneurs with relatively smaller capital and limited market reach.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have a very important role in developing the Philippine economy. They help reduce poverty by creating jobs for the country's growing labor force. They stimulate economic development in rural and far flung areas. They serve as valuable partners to large enterprises as suppliers and providers of support services. They serve as breeding ground for new entrepreneurs and large corporations. A vibrant MSME sector is thus an indication of a thriving and growing economy. (The MSME Sector at a Glance, Senate of the Philippines).

To prove that MSMEs are a formidable force in our economy, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2014, there are 942,925 MSMEs or 99.6 percent of business establishments in the country. The contribution of these MSMEs in Philippine economy is not just in their sheer number but also in their output. In 2011 alone, MSMEs accounted for 32 percent of the country's gross domestic product. It is indisputable that MSMEs are now the driving force of Philippine economic progress.

Because of the substantial contribution of MSMEs to the economy, these enterprises are no longer just shaping itself in order to expand their reach and sales. These enterprises are also shaping the way banking is being done in the country so that it can better cater to MSMEs needs. Indeed, as MSMEs continue to grow and expand in the coming years, it will also impact many other industries and sectors of our economy like the banking sector, leading them to evolve and change the way they are doing business in order to cater better to the needs of MSMEs. (Philippine Star, September 12, 2016).

FOCUS

This program will showcase the Philippine MSME development strategy in terms of the programs, services and initiatives to access finance, access to market as well as productivity and efficiency

towards successful MSME operations. The modality covers study visits and interactive discussions with various MSME players.

PARTICIPANTS

Male or female senior bank officers and finance executives whose organizations provide funding to MSMEs or those who provide indirect services and programs to MSMEs.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

April 21, Sunday

- ✚ Arrival of Participants in Manila, Philippines

April 22, Monday

- ✚ Administrative Briefing
- ✚ Visit and interaction with the executive department in-charge of assisting MSMEs in the country
- ✚ Visit and interaction with the regulatory arm of banks in the Philippines
- ✚ Visit and interaction with a government agri bank

April 23, Tuesday

- ✚ Visit and Interaction with a government SME bank
- ✚ Visit and Interaction with a cooperative bank
- ✚ Travel to Zambales

April 24, Wednesday

- ✚ Visit and Interaction with the biggest NGO/rural SME bank
- ✚ Visit and Interaction with its client

April 25, Thursday

- ✚ Visit and interaction with a successful cooperative
- ✚ Cultural Exposure

April 26, Friday

- ✚ Closing and Evaluation Session
- ✚ Travel back to Manila

April 27, Saturday

- ✚ Departure of Participants to Home Country

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Schedule and Venue

The program will be conducted in Manila and Subic, Zambales **from April 22 – 26, 2019**, exclusive of travel time.

Training Fee

The fee for the study visit is **US\$1,395.00** per participant. This covers meals (from dinner on April 21 up to dinner on April 26), speakers/facilitator's fees, training venue and materials, local transfers (airport reception, send-off, field visits and cultural exposure), and other administrative costs.

The fee does not include the international round trip air ticket, cost of hotel accommodation and other incidental expenses. These will be for the account of the nominating organization.

The training fee should be remitted by telegraphic transfer to **APRACA CENTRAB**. However, all bank charges including that of the intermediary bank shall be for the account of the remitter.

Accommodation

All confirmed delegates are advised NOT to book their hotel accommodation because APRACA CENTRAB will be the one to reserve the hotel accommodation of all the delegates.

The name of the hotel and its rate will be provided once booking has been confirmed. The participants will pay their respective hotel accommodation upon their hotel check in.

Dress Code

Coat and tie for gentlemen and sari for ladies are suitable for the first days of the program because the delegates will be visiting various financial institutions. For the other days of the study visit program, smart casual wear is alright.

Travel and Airport Reception

Participants will be met by APRACA CENTRAB staff provided flight schedules are sent in advance.

Travel Requirement

The participant must be in possession of a passport valid for at least six months from time of travel with proof of **confirmed** return tickets. The participant is requested to work out his/her visa with the nearest Philippine Embassy in his/her own country. Formal invitation shall be sent upon confirmation of the nomination of the participant by APRACA CENTRAB.

Travel and Medical Insurance

The nominating institution should cover for the participants' comprehensive health/accident insurance. APRACA CENTRAB and its officers will not be responsible for any costs related thereto.

Reservations and Nominations

Kindly accomplish the registration form and send to the contact person not later than **March 8, 2019**.

Contact Person

LECIRA V. JUAREZ

Managing Director

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Language

The official language is Filipino but English is widely spoken.

Climate

Philippines has a tropical wet maritime climate characterized by months of rainy, dry and cool seasons. The summer monsoon brings heavy rains and starts from May to October, whereas the winter monsoon brings cooler and drier air from December to February. Manila and most of the lowland areas are hot and dusty from February to May. Average temperatures range from 27 to 32°C and humidity is around 77%.

Electricity

The Philippines uses the U.S. two-pronged, U.S. three-pronged, and European two-pronged plugs (see examples), check if you need to buy an adapter for your electrical equipment. The voltage in the Philippines is 220V. Check your device to see what voltage range it handles.

Communications

The international access code for the Philippines is +63. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 001 for the United States). City/area codes are in use, e.g. (0)2 for Manila. The major towns, cities and popular tourist spots are covered by GSM 900 and 1800 mobile phone networks. CENTRAB will provide the participants a free local sim card for their mobile use. Loads are available in Php100, Php 300, Php500 and can be bought at any 711 convenient stores.

Internet

There are coffee shops, mall areas, hotels which provide wifi connection. There is also an internet hub in the hotel lobby for your perusal but charges Php 150.00 per hour.

Money and Currency

The Philippine currency is the Philippine Peso (PHP). Major credit cards are widely accepted in the cities and tourist destinations. However, few banks accept traveller cheques. ATMs are available in the malls and in major cities. US dollars are widely accepted in Manila and other tourist areas and are the easiest currency to exchange. Banks open from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, but their ATMs are open 24 hours. It is advised to carry pesos when travelling outside of major centres.

Airport Facilities

Passenger services at Manila airport include shops, restaurants and bars; ATMs, banks with currency exchange, left-luggage and postal services.

Travel Health

Comprehensive medical insurance is advised. No special vaccination certificates are required upon entry, except by travellers entering the Philippines from an area infected with yellow fever.

Tipping

Tipping is expected for most services in the Philippines. The standard practice is 10% of the total bill. Tipping is optional on bills that already include a 10% service charge.

It's more fun in the Philippines



ladydianebebo.wordpress.com

Subic is a coastal municipality in the Philippines, northwest of the capital Manila. Its sandy beaches face Subic Bay, a popular dive site due to its shipwrecks and coral species. The town's 19th-century Spanish Gate is a legacy of its past as a Spanish naval base. To the east, Subic Bay Freeport Zone features casinos and a golf course.

It used to be the Naval Base of the American Troops where major ship-repair, supply, and rest and recreation facility of the United States Navy. The base was 262 square miles, about the size of Singapore. However, in 1992, the Philippine government did not renew the stay of the US Navy troops in Subic. Thus, after 1992, the government developed the area into another summer destination for local and foreign tourists due to its beautiful beach shore and other attractions which were enjoyed only by the US Navy troops.