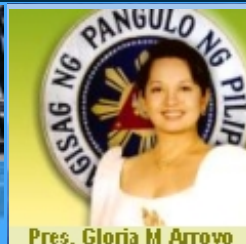




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Pres. Gloria M Arroyo

Manila, Thursday, 16 July 2009

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[|< prev](#) [next >|](#)**GTZ wins presidential award at MSME Week rites**

Cited for best practice in creating a business and investment enabling environment

Mandaluyong City (8 July) -- President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presented a presidential citation to the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in recognition of its Private Sector Promotion (SMEDSEP) Program's implementation of a best practice in creating a business and investment enabling environment.

The award was received today by the GTZ SMEDSEP Program Manager Dr Volker Steigerwald during the opening ceremony of the Go Negosyo Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise (MSME) Summit, the centerpiece event of this year's celebration of the MSME Week.

The plaque specifically cites GTZ SMEDSEP for "significantly contributing to the development of MSMEs through the creation of economic opportunities that helped achieve a better quality of life for Filipinos".

Since 2004, GTZ SMEDSEP has supported at least 40 local government units (LGUs) in the Visayas in streamlining their business permit and licensing systems (BPLS). The initiative has resulted to among others: 1) reduction in the business permit processing days to an average of 25 percent, 2) reduction in the amount of bureaucratic costs by 73 percent for new registrants and 74 percent for renewing registrants, 3) increase in the number of new registrants by 60 percent, 4) increase in the number of renewing registrants by 39 percent and 5) increase in the amount of business tax collected by 40 percent.

Other business and investment climate approaches promoted by the SMEDSEP are the local and regional economic development, value chain, financial services and business development services.

The SMEDSEP, a development cooperation project between the Republic of the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany, aims to improve the business and investment climate for MSME in the Philippines especially in the Visayas. SMEDSEP contributes to the efforts of the Philippine government to improve the framework conditions for private sector development in the country. SMEDSEP is implemented in partnership with the DTI at national, regional and provincial levels and the GTZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The GTZ is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations owned by the German Government. For 30 years, it has been providing forward looking contributions to political, economic, ecological and social development in partner countries. GTZ supports reform and change processes in an increasingly globalized world, often working under difficult conditions. GTZ's major approach to facilitate change is promoting capacity development of people and partner organizations as well as improving institutions and frame conditions in partner countries. The joint projects and programs are outcome and impact oriented. They contribute towards socioeconomic progress. (GTZ/PIA) [\[top\]](#)

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