



FPI to hold Anti-Smuggling Summit next month

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) will hold its **ANTI-SMUGGLING SUMMIT** on October 8, 2010 to boost the anti-smuggling drive in the country. The FPI Anti-Smuggling Committee is now finalizing the details of this event.

FPI pushes for strict compliance with ICC procedures

The FPI Construction Materials Group held meetings last August 9 & 18, 2010 to discuss and finalize the Federation's position on the "Proposed Importers Options for Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) Applications." The position was signed by VP for Manufacturing Renato R. Ermita and then submitted to Assistant Director Cirila S. Botor of the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) during the public hearing on the ICC options last August 18, 2010.

Mr. Jed Caburian of Philsteel Holdings explained FPI's position during the public hearing. He noted that FPI is pushing for measures that will ensure compliance with the ICC procedures prescribed in Department Administrative Order no. 5 of 2008, including the enforcement of security measures in Section 5 to effectively prevent the sale of goods under conditional release pending the final issuance of the ICC.

FPI's position is underpinned by the need to protect Filipino consumers from substandard goods that may be dangerous to their health and safety, as well as the need to maintain an even playing field between imported and locally manufactured products.

FPI meets with BOC Commissioner Alvarez

The meeting between FPI and Commissioner Angelito Alvarez of the Bureau of customs (BOC) was held last August 26, 2010. The FPI representatives were headed by Chairman Jesus Lim Arranza in this meeting wherein various anti-smuggling issues and concerns were discussed. It was agreed that regular meetings between FPI and the BOC will be held on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 P.M.

UPEcon Foundation to meet with FPI on import cargo clearance

The UPEcon Foundation and the Center for the Advancement of Trade Integration & Facilitation (CATIF) is requesting a meeting with FPI members **any day next week** to discuss their experience with import cargo clearance procedures. This request is part of a time release study that these two organizations are conducting under a contract with the Bureau of Customs.

Funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the study aims to measure the time it takes for import cargoes to move from their point of arrival until their point of release to the importer. The study team will analyze time-point data from the BOC and all other entities involved in cargo processing at the three major ports, and examine how recent changes to the internet-based e2m-Customs have affected transaction cycles and the enforcement of trade regulations.

To set the meeting requested by UPEcon Foundation and CATIF, interested FPI members may coordinate with the FPI Secretariat at (02) 722-3409, (02) 584-9642 & (02) 727-4359.

Open access in power industry set in September 2011

The target date of the open access in the local power industry is set on September 2011, this according to the speakers during the forum “*Powering up for Open Access*” organized by the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines Inc. and other stakeholders which was held this morning at Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City.

However, given the insufficient power generation and that the pricing would depend on supply and demand, the open access slated next year will not necessarily result in a lower power rate.

Schedule of pre-arranged power interruptions for September 6-12, 2010

The Manila Electric Corporation (Meralco) furnished FPI with a schedule of pre-arranged power interruptions for September 6-12, 2010. The FPI Secretariat has already forwarded this schedule by e-mail to all FPI members.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

A. House of Representatives

Committees	Date & Venue	Agenda/Resource Person
East Asean Growth Area	September 7, Tuesday, 9:30 A.M., RVM Bldg. Conf. Rm. 12	Organizational Meeting Insights on the status of BIMP-EAGA by the Mindanao Development Authority
Ways & Means	September 7, Tuesday, 9:30 A.M., RVM Bldg. Conf. Rms. 3 & 4	HB 1970 – Imposing a value simplified tax in lieu of the value-added tax (VAT), amending Title IV of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended (Rep. Hermilando Mandanas)
Ways & Means	September 7, 9:30 A.M., RVM Bldg. Conf. Rms. 3 & 4	HB 158 – Promoting agricultural and marine production and post-harvest mechanization by exempting from payment of the expanded VAT the importation of agricultural and fisheries

Committees	Date & Venue	Agenda/Resource Person
		<p>machineries, amending Sec. 109 of the NIRC, as amended, and Sec. 109 of the Agricultural & Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (Rep. Arthur Yap)</p> <p>HB 840 – Exempting from VAT the importation of donated articles or goods which are for charitable, humanitarian, relief and similar purposes amending Sec. 109 of the NIRC of 1997, as amended (Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong)</p> <p>HB 1625 – Removing the sale of electricity power from the coverage of expanded VAT law by amending certain provisions of the NIRC of 1997, as amended by RA 9337 (Rep. Arnulfo Fuentesbella)</p> <p>HB 1630 – Exempting from VAT the sale of electricity by generation, transmission and distribution companies and electric cooperatives; the services of franchise grantees of electric utilities; and the sale or importation of machinery and equipment directly used in generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, amending Secs. 108 (A) (ii) and 109 (1) of the NIRC, as amended (Rep. Teodoro Casiño)</p>

B. Senate

Committees	Date & Venue	Agenda/Resource Person
Finance	September 6, Monday, 9:30 A.M., Sen. C.M. Recto Room & Sen. J.P. Laurel Room, 2/F Right Wing, Senate	<p>Initial hearing on the Proposed 2011 National Budget</p> <p>Briefing by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC) on the macro-economic assumptions and dimensions of the proposed budget for FY 2011</p>
Finance	September 7, Tuesday, 9:30 A.M., Sen. C.M. Recto Room & Sen. J.P. Laurel Room, 2/F Right Wing, Senate	<p>Initial hearing on the Proposed 2011 National Budget</p> <p>Briefing by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC) on the macro-economic assumptions and dimensions of the proposed budget for FY 2011</p>

The FPI Secretariat