



Signatories and to the MOA on TF (from L to R): Administrator Emmanuel D. Pineda (AFAB), OIC and Senior Deputy Administrator Ramon O. Agregado, Usec. Ceferino S. Rodolfo (DTI), Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero (BOC), Director General Charito B. Plaza (PEZA), OIC President Mariza O. Mandocdoc

## **STMO PARTNERS WITH BOC AND IPAs FOR TRADE FACILITATION**

Member-agencies of the Technical Working Group on Trade Facilitation, including DTI Strategic Trade Management Office, gathered together last December 15, 2020 to sign the Memorandum of Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the Exports of Strategic Goods at the Makati Diamond Residences. Present during the signing ceremony are Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero (Bureau of Customs), Administrator Emmanuel D. Pineda (Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan), OIC President Mariza O. Mandocdoc (Clark Development Corporation), Director-General Charito B. Plaza (Philippine Economic Zone Authority) and OIC and Senior Deputy Administrator Ramon O. Agregado (Subic Bay Metropolitan Area). Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo represented DTI-STMO.

The Strategic Trade Management Act (STMA) created the National Security Council-Strategic Trade Management Committee (NSC-STMCom), as the central authority focused on the country's commitment towards the promotion of a secure environment for trade in strategic goods. In August 2018, the NSC-STMCom adopted the establishment of the technical working group through Resolution 01. The creation of the TWG ensures the security of the supply chain from attempts of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) while ensuring ease of doing business and trade, especially for legitimate and compliant companies and exporters.

In 2019, the member-agencies resolved to execute a MOA to institute and outline the TWG's collaborative agreement to identify the member-agency's respective roles and responsibilities in order to assist in the operationalization of the mandates of the STMA.

The signing ceremony marks a breakthrough in the implementation of the STMA, as the members have formalized their commitment and support to facilitate the trade of strategic goods. As stated by Commissioner Guerrero, "The MOA which will be signed today affirms our individual commitment as key agencies as well as cements our unwavering resolve to enable effective and efficient operations particularly in information sharing and inter-agency coordination. The BOC is optimistic that this partnership will be another major step forward in ensuring the security and integrity of trade and transport of strategic goods."