

Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social & Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW Project)

Highlights of Post-NRG Meeting, July 30, 2013 at the Philippines

- A project team meeting followed shortly after the first NRG meeting was adjourned and this was attended by study team members from both PIDS and CUTS-CREW. After a brief recap of the major issues raised during the NRG meet up, the discussion revolved around the methodology, the perception survey, and timeline of activities and schedule of project outputs.
- It was pointed out that the proposed methodology and storyline were too focused on the producer side. There is a need to look into the consumer welfare, which raised the issue of conducting a perception survey.
- The importance of perception survey was widely acknowledged, since it can provide information on the perceived impact of policy reforms on consumer welfare, which is not easily captured by regularly-generated government statistics. However, the conduct of perception survey in the Philippines may be a little difficult at this point, given the time constraint and lack of qualified survey enumerators.
- Dr. Aldaba also brought up the issue about the budget and the huge cost requirement in administering the survey. One suggestion to keep the cost down is to recruit students as interviewers. Dr. Aldaba replied this however may not be doable especially for this type of survey. In the Philippines, surveys are usually administered by professionals with long experience and training in survey operations to ensure high response rates. This matter, according to Mr. Udai, may be discussed in detail internally.
- Next steps: (i) refine the proposals to include suggestions by NRG Members; (ii) review government policies and programs, related literature, and inventory of data; (iii) finalize the methodology; and (iv) discuss the perception survey with the team.
- The project time table was also discussed and it was agreed that the deadlines for the major project outputs will be as follows:
 - First Draft of the DCR – November 2013
 - Final Draft- mid-January 2014