

PIDS joins in the observance of World Competition Day

On the 5th of December 1980, the UN General Assembly ratified the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices (UN Set). Since then, the 5th of December of every year is remembered and commemorated as **World Competition Day (WCD)**.

In support of this awareness campaign, President Benigno S. Aquino III also issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring 5th of December in the Philippines as National Competition Day (<http://www.gov.ph/2012/05/18/proclamation-no-384-s-2012/>).

The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) fully supports the observance of World Competition Day since "Competition increases consumer welfare," said PIDS president Dr. Josef Yap. In addition, PIDS vice president Dr. Rafaelita Aldaba pointed out that in the absence of competition law, there is always the risk that trade reforms may not be enough to foster effective competition. "Thus, to ensure market contestability and regulate cartels, collusion and other anti-competitive practices, we need to pass the competition law," she noted.

Many countries still suffer from weak competition practices such as the prevalence of cartels. Most consumers of these countries have limited to no understanding of the harmful effects of weak market competition. Observing WCD allows for greater exchange among concerned stakeholders about the beneficial effects of competition, especially on the average consumer.

To effectively communicate the message '**Say No to Cartels**' to the public, various stakeholders such as competition agencies, CSOs, development organizations and individuals around the world are planning to organize seminars/roadshows, publish newspaper articles/press releases, and hold press conferences to celebrate WCD with the purpose of creating awareness about the importance and benefit of competition by curtailing cartels.

Various countries have also expressed their support to this endeavor through a letter to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), namely Namibia, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Gambia, Fiji, Russia, Zambia and the United Kingdom. Many more countries are in the process of sending a formal letter to UNCTAD.

To know more about the World Competition Day:

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