



BOOK LAUNCH INTRODUCTION

Arsenio M. Balisacan, PhD

Chairman

Philippine Competition Commission

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Friends, colleagues, advocates on various fronts for fair competition, good afternoon.

We are all witnesses to how rapid technological developments have profoundly changed the global landscape of trade and commerce. Comes with this is the deepening of globalization, with economies becoming increasingly integrated and interconnected.

To be sure, the benefits of globalization have been uneven across and within economies. Strong institutions and an effective competition policy regime are needed for globalization to achieve inclusive development.

Cross-border cartels reduce the benefits of globalization for developing economies. And with breakthroughs in technology, they have become a more pressing and pervasive issue. Technologies have become a double-edged sword, on one hand allowing consumers to enjoy the benefits of expanded trade, but on the other, enhancing the ability and incentive for cross-border collusive conduct.

For emerging economies, consumers bear the brunt of cartels in two direct ways. One, when goods or services comprise the majority of their incomes, like for food or medicine, and two, when inputs to production, like fuel or fertilizer, are important to their economic activities. Even if the conduct results in small price changes only, the cumulative effects could be detrimental to society, particularly the poor.

Aside from the direct effects on real income, cartels indirectly hurt the poor as foreign investors may be disincentivized to do business in the country due to high input costs. Consequently, the economy will be kept at low income levels as it misses the much-needed technological upgrading and job growth.

For us policymakers in developing economies, prohibiting practices that significantly reduce economic welfare and curtail social objectives such as poverty reduction should be the main agenda.

Dr. Pierre Horna's book entitled *Fighting Cross-Border Cartels: The Perspective of the Young and Small Competition Authorities* is both timely and relevant, especially for us competition authorities in developing economies as we continue to get our bearings and situate antitrust policy within our economies' development strategies. Drawing from his extensive experience in antitrust implementation and international cooperation, Pierre explores the characteristics and issues surrounding cases of cross-border cartels and proposes approaches to analyzing and tackling them. New competition agencies will find the frameworks

offered by Pierre to be path-breaking and useful, as international networks for coordination of enforcement activities become the norm for competition authorities. Making prudent use of the lessons of history, the volume draws on the experiences of other jurisdictions involving several of the most widely recognized cases of cross-border cartels.

Pierre's work has indeed placed cross-border cartel analysis some notches higher. It is a must-read not only for antitrust enforcers but also for private practitioners, policymakers, development agencies, academics, and students of competition law and policy, especially in developing economies.

I now give the stage to Dr. Pierre Horna to tell us more about his book.

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