

## Deeper PH-U.S. trade & investment cooperation continues to be pushed in Washington

Written by Philippine Embassy DC  
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**Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo (right) meets with USTR Director Ron Baumgarten (left) at the Philippine Embassy on June 1, 2018. Joining the meeting is Embassy Economic Minister JV Chan Gonzaga (center).**

WASHINGTON — Dr. Ceferino S. Rodolfo, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary for Industry Development and Trade Policy, met on May 31 and June 1, 2018 with senior U.S. Government officials, executives of the U.S. business community, and congressional staffers to discuss trade and investment issues, and exchanged views on how to further deepen the important PH-U.S. economic and development partnership.

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The undersecretary's visit was a follow-up to the meetings under the Philippine-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) held on Nov. 29, 2017 in Washington, D.C.

It was also intended to further build on the results of the November 2017 meeting between President Duterte and President Donald Trump, where the United States welcomed Philippine interest in deepening the bilateral trade relationship through consideration of a potential free trade agreement.

"My meetings in Washington, D.C. this week were also aimed at pursuing crucial conversations with the U.S. Government and business community, as we find ways to enhance our trade and economic relations in order to achieve mutual prosperity," Rodolfo said in a statement.

"There were additional discussions of outstanding TIFA issues as a result of the candid and productive meetings that Deputy USTR Jeffrey Gerrish recently had in Manila with Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez and Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol," he added.

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Gen. Mayonaga, Philippine Ambassador, Chief U.S. ASEA-NIB Business Center, after the meeting