

# **The Effects of the APEC Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) on the Fertilizer Sector\***

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## **Abstract**

This paper examines the effects of EVSL on the fertilizer sector, including the problems that prevent it from benefitting fully from the proposal. The export competitiveness of manufactured fertilizers as evident by the computed revealed comparative advantage, has been declining and will be vulnerable in the face of greater competition. Hence, existing tariffs should be maintained on these products, but the non-locally produced fertilizers (including urea) should be liberalized. The economic and technical cooperation measures to be advanced in APEC are also discussed.

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\* The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the official views of the Philippine government in general, and/or the WTO/AFTA Advisory Commission in particular. This industry paper was prepared to provide some basic or background information; hence, in no way it is exhaustive. The intent is to offer the initial set of information for discussion and in the process, elicit the ideas that could be helpful in formulating the appropriate strategies in the development of this industry sector.

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