



Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

**COMPTIA FORUM ON “STANDARDIZATION AND VALIDATION: THE WAY
FORWARD FOR THE GLOBAL IT INDUSTRY”
9 November 2007
Dasmariñas Function Room, Hotel Intercontinental Manila**

Opening Remarks
SECRETARY RAY ANTHONY ROXAS-CHUA III
Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology

To the organizers and participants of the CompTIA forum, good morning!

I would like to express my appreciation to the officers and members of the Computing Technology Industry Association for inviting the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, or CICT, to this forum on “*Standardization and Validation: The Way Forward for the Global ICT Industry.*”

The forum’s theme is central to CICT’s role as ICT champion. One of its major goals is improving the competitiveness of the country’s ICT workforce. As the lead policy agency working on the national ICT agenda, we are tasked with the development of various certification programs and quality standards that govern the ICT industry. Our commitment is to participate effectively in conceptualizing and implementing learning solutions and validation strategies that help ICT professionals raise their level of skills for greater competitiveness in the global workforce.

It has become our credo in CICT to recognize global best practices and adopt universal IT standards in our efforts to empower the Filipino ICT worker. We believe that the importance of adhering to international standards will sustain and advance the competencies of our Filipino ICT workforce and secure our niche in the global ICT market. CICT sees the need to harmonize our policies and strategies with global developments so as to demonstrate our commitment and partnership with the rest of the world in advancing ICT development. Some of these collaborative efforts are worth mentioning here.

We are pursuing collaborative efforts with the National Competitiveness Council, a Public-Private Sector Task Force on Philippine Competitiveness mandated by Executive Order No. 571, to improve the country's global competitiveness; this is to follow through on the continuous improvement of public-private partnerships as a development engine. CICT's e-governance and human capital development programs are consistent with the tasks handled by the National Competitiveness Council's Working Groups on 1) Efficient Public and Private Sector Management and 2) Competitive Human Resources.

CICT also undertakes intensive collaboration with other government agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in initiating reforms in the academic curricula, training methods of educators and quality standards of academic institutions, training centers and IT companies.

Further, CICT has come up with tangible measures to provide the Filipino ICT workforce with opportunities to upgrade their skills and competently find their way around the highly competitive local and global ICT markets. Its various certification programs administered by its component agency, the National Computer Center, comply with international certification and standardization requirements. For example, the International Computer Driving License enables individuals to assess their competency level in the use of personal computers. The IT Proficiency Exam consists of the Annual ICT (EDP) Proficiency Tests for Computer Programming and Systems Analysis and Design which gauges an individual's ability to perform critical tasks such as programming, systems analysis and design functions in order to prepare them to become more qualified ICT professionals. Finally, the National ICT Competency Standards test assesses an individual's ICT-related knowledge and skills in relation to given levels of proficiency.

These efforts by CICT enhance our competitiveness by strengthening our ICT human capital resources, which in turn, should hopefully contribute towards achieving national socio-economic development targets.

I would like to congratulate CompTIA's efforts in the IT standardization and certification fields and for promoting a global advocacy to advance the industry's growth. Thank you for organizing this enriching and informative gathering.

Thank you and good day!