



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

**CLOSING REMARKS**

By **Secretary Ray Anthony Roxas-Chua III**, CICT Chairman  
Legislators and Experts Workshop on Cybercrime  
Pasay A and B Function Rooms, Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City  
October 26, 2007

Congressman Joseph Santiago, distinguished speakers from the Council of Europe, Dr. Alexander Seger, Dr. Marco Gercke and Ms. Cristina Schulman, our friends from Microsoft, my fellow government workers, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant good morning to you all.

As Chairman of the Commission on ICT, one of the organizers of this event, I would like express my deepest gratitude for your active participation in this Legislators and Experts Workshop on Cybercrime. The CICT is grateful for your valuable inputs and your tireless efforts in revisiting the Draft Anti-Cybercrime Bill. I believe this one-and-a-half day workshop has been an enriching experience for all parties involved and I hope you feel the same way.

The CICT affirms that cybercrime is an enduring problem in our increasingly technological society. From the presentations yesterday, it is clear that our infrastructures and societal processes now depend heavily on information and communications technology. We have also identified numerous threats to these infrastructures and processes such as hacking, identity theft, spamming, phishing, denial-of-service attacks, malware, a well-known example of which is the not-so-proudly Filipino made Love Bug virus, and probably the most disturbing, child pornography and cyber prostitution. As a father myself, I believe that child pornography should be considered a heinous crime.

The CICT has shown its continued commitment to addressing cybercrime by forming a Joint Technical Working Group on Cyber Security last July. The

JTWG is responsible for rendering resources and assistance to all congressional committees managing cyber security legislation.

It is manned by representatives from the Office of the President, the CICT, Department of Justice, National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police, National Computer Center, Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines, Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation, National Telecommunications Commission and Information Systems Security Society of the Philippines.

Prior to this workshop, the JTWG has been conducting weekly meetings since August 2007 to update the Draft Anti-Cybercrime Bill before its re-filing at the Philippine Congress.

Moreover, the Commission on ICT recognizes the urgency for a specific law that enumerates the extent of risks and forms of punishment for cybercrimes on the national and international level.

The Anti-Cybercrime Bill is one of the most significant legislations proposed by the Commission on ICT in its ICT Roadmap. It is also the way for the national government to communicate the message that it upholds the importance of ICT in national development and will not tolerate disturbances that exploit its vulnerabilities.

Personally, I am pleased that the definitions of the forms of cybercrimes, provisions on the punishable offenses, preventive measures and penalties for cyber criminals specified in our Draft Anti-Cybercrime Bill mostly comply with the requirements of the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime, which is the only standing international framework for cybercrime legislations. Special thanks to Ms. Cristina Schulman and Dr. Marco Gercke for doing the analysis.

Also, Dr. Alexander Seger mentioned yesterday that the Convention on Cybercrime provides international standards, enables member-nations to participate in the harmonization of national legislations and allows the possibility of international cooperation wherein members have open access to ongoing and future developments on cybercrime. These things are very promising and I am grateful that we are given an opportunity to have this dialogue for us to exchange ideas, fine tune the Draft Anti-Cybercrime Bill

provisions, collaboratively work for its passage and hopefully determine if acceding to the Convention would work with our legal system.

The CICT also has a vested interest in the passage of the Anti-Cybercrime Bill, because we believe it is a major obstacle to a more rapid adoption of ICT in both government and the private sector. There are numerous reasons why parties are hesitant to adopt new technologies, including resistance to change, capital investment and training requirements. But I believe the most persistent roadblock is fear—the fear of being exposed to various forms of cybercrime. If we could alleviate some of these fears through the establishment of a legislative framework against cybercrime, I believe the integration of ICT in all aspects of society will begin to gain momentum.

Finally, while the CICT is firmly committed to the passage of the Anti-Cybercrime Bill, we will be even better equipped to pursue this objective if we had a more definitive mandate. That is why I ask for your support on the creation of a Department of ICT. The DICT is envisioned to be the primary government entity responsible for the coordination and implementation of the national ICT agenda, as well as working closely with legislators in pushing for ICT-related legislation, such as the Anti-Cybercrime Bill.

Before I close, I would like to congratulate the other organizers of this event, the Department of Justice and the Council of Europe, as well as Microsoft Philippines, for a fruitful Legislators and Experts Workshop on Cybercrime.

The CICT, through gatherings such as this workshop, is able to fully leverage its partnership with the private sector and other government entities, particularly with the ICT Committee of the House of Representatives, toward the passage of the Anti-Cybercrime Bill.

Given the apparent success of this workshop as a result of the close collaboration of all parties involved, we have added confidence that the Anti-Cybercrime Bill will finally be passed.

It was a pleasure working with you over the past one and a half days. Let us hope for a positive response on our proposed legislation.

Once again, thank you very much!