



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

**NATIONAL INNOVATION SUMMIT PRE-SUMMIT WORKSHOP**  
**October 10, 2007, 1:30PM**  
**AIM Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

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***WELCOME REMARKS***  
**SECRETARY RAY ANTHONY ROXAS-CHUA III**  
***Chairman, CICT***

Representatives from CICT partners in the private sector and academe, fellow government workers, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

In behalf of the Commission on ICT, a warm welcome to all of you to this Pre-Summit Workshop of the National Innovation Summit. As you may all know, the CICT is mandated to be the primary agency to promote and develop integrated and strategic ICT systems and reliable and cost-efficient communication facilities and services in order to create an ICT-enabled Philippines. Hence, as the new chairman, I am committed to pursuing the ongoing programs/projects that support the CICT's mandate. I am specifically focusing on the development of the Cyber Corridor, integration of ICT in education, utilization of ICT in government, and pushing for the creation of a Department of ICT. With all these priorities in mind I highly encourage the generation of novel ideas and innovative efforts from colleagues and partners.

The word innovation is a popular topic in the technology age. Innovation can be simply defined as a new idea, product or process added to an existing system through technology or productivity. It is a substantial ingredient in addressing problems and bringing about changes to processes in the economy, government, education, health, business and even policy making. However, the use of innovation is more embedded in ICT. The unprecedented advances in ICT coupled with accelerated growth of cutting-edge systems and software continuously beget new challenges for creative minds to introduce newer applications that answer the diverse needs of the society. The Philippines is already confronted with these challenges. We have the creative talents and innovative skills but we lack the regulatory environment that supports incubation of innovative products as well as research and development. Thus, we need more policies and initiatives to ensure that innovations are nurtured and commercialized in the end.

I am speaking as a representative of government when I say that CICT greatly appreciates efforts like the National Innovation Summit which puts the need for innovation in the country into the center of discussion and yields outputs that would become valuable basis in policy formulation. CICT will continue to support every single undertaking that the facilitators of this summit would embark on. Together, we would all build and cultivate a responsive government-industry-academe partnership on ICT-related efforts not only through this summit but all other innovative activities that lay ahead. I wished to thank our colleagues from the Department of Science and Technology for spearheading this initiative and for having CICT as the lead convenor for the ICT and ICT-enabled services sector. We are also grateful to the AIM Policy

Center, Ayala Foundation and IBM Philippines for their help in making this initiative possible.

Again, welcome everyone and I wish you all a fruitful discussion. Thank you.