



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

TOWARDS STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS FOR ICT

Response of Secretary RAY ANTHONY ROXAS-CHUA III
Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology
NCCC Mall, Mati, Davao
October 24, 2007

AMENITIES:

Thank you very much Mr. Vicente Lao for presenting to us the MICT 2007 resolutions as well as the action agenda that have been crafted as a result of this Congress. We, at the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, accept these resolutions on behalf of the Philippine government, and are determined to address the issues raised and incorporate inputs from the action agenda into the CICT's program of action.

One recurring theme that is apparent during the Congress is the need for stronger cooperation and partnerships. Taking off from this theme, I would like to convey my strong commitment to continue to champion ICT in the Philippines and pursue stronger collaboration with our

partners in the industry and in government. This we will do with the end view of realizing our potential to be a major power player in the global ICT space.

Our motivation for this vision is simply not of gaining success as the preferred destination for offshoring and outsourcing services, but more importantly, to empower the Filipino and help our people attain a better life.

Here in Mindanao, ICT has notably changed its economic landscape, providing skilled ICT workers with jobs that have improved their lives and that of their families. We even heard some of the success stories earlier this morning. Mindanao as the land of opportunity is finally fulfilling what long has been its moniker in Philippine history books. The opportunities for advancement and progress as we find them today here in Mindanao are very inspiring. Here in Davao, we see progress steadily making in roads in the very lives of its people. However, more must be done to protect and sustain these gains.

It is therefore imperative that the resolutions that have been passed today form part of our developmental agenda for ICT in the Philippines.

As I have emphasized, the Commission on ICT stands firm in its resolve to champion and further the cause of ICT in the Philippines, more so here in Mindanao.

Collaborative partnerships between the private and public sector is indeed an essential element to sustainable growth. It is only when both government and industry have the same understanding of the goals and aspirations of its people that collective initiatives become truly effective.

We in the CICT recognize that there are certain areas in our developmental plans where we must take the lead, including the development of policies that protect and strengthen the ICT industry, particularly in Mindanao, and especially with regard to ICT infrastructure.

In the area of accelerating the establishment of a reliable and sufficient ICT infrastructure for Mindanao, government will continue to pursue collaborative efforts in addressing issues such as bridging the digital divide, ensuring reliable power supply, and addressing cable theft. On the part of the public sector, we will involve agencies such as the Department of Energy, National Telecommunications Commission, Telecommunications Office, and the Mindanao Economic Development Council, and, equally important, the local government units, to work with the private sector in developing solutions to ensure a robust ICT infrastructure in Mindanao.

The goal to strategically position Mindanao as a hub for offshoring and outsourcing services in the BIMP-EAGA region, and as an integral part of the Philippine Cyber Corridor, is a welcome action agenda. As you know, the Philippine Cyber Corridor runs from Baguio in the north to Davao in the south. The priming of areas within Mindanao as potential areas for O&O locators continues to be a priority of the CICT, in close collaboration with the DTI Regional Operations Group, local government units, and the private sector. Investment promotions, trade exhibitions and regional cooperation

shall also be strengthened, in direct collaboration with the DTI, the BIMP-EAGA Business Council and other Mindanao-based trade councils and associations.

We recognize that human capital is a critical and fundamental component that will propel the ICT competitiveness of Mindanao. This complements the Arroyo Administration's agenda to create jobs in this industry. Thus, government has spearheaded activities to upgrade the ICT competencies of its students, from basic education up to tertiary level. Government agencies such as the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, along with the CICT and other agencies, will continue to pursue the development of relevant curriculum and implement programs that will boost the suitability and increase the size of our qualified human resource pool. And we will pursue these, among others, in close coordination with various local government units, as well as the established ICT regional councils such as ICT Davao, Cagayan de Oro ICT Council, Technology of Information and Communications in Koronadal, and ICT Solutions Association of Region 12, Inc. General Santos City.

Lastly, in the area of enabling government to become ICT-equipped to provide better services and enhance public transactions, government is committed to improving e-governance as a measure that will ensure accountability and transparency in government thus boosting and improving the way of doing business in the Philippines. We see these measures as an impetus for more investments in ICT to come into our country.

All these initiatives must be implemented and sustained in order to claim our vision of making the Philippine Cyber Corridor the preferred destination for offshoring and outsourcing services globally.

As Chairman of the Commission on ICT and Development Champion of the Cyber Corridor Super Region, it is my mission and my responsibility to see to it that the structures, policies and mechanisms for the industry's growth are viable and accessible.

However, we will be better equipped if we have a strong mandate from our people alongside a comprehensive and rational jurisdiction over ICT in the Philippines. I therefore ask you, in an act of

partnership, to support the long overdue creation of a Department of ICT.

The resolutions and action items that you have outlined are doable.

Let me assure you that as your Champion, the CICT will continue to pursue our common agenda of continued growth in the ICT industry with commitment and resolve.

I urge you now to share our vision of a better Mindanao, and a better Philippines. Together, I am confident we can forge ahead and make ICT a powerful engine of progress. On behalf of the Commission on ICT and the Philippine government, I thank you for your valuable input through these resolutions and I look forward to your continued confidence and support.

Thank you very much!