



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

Press Briefing Statement
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Since its creation in 2004, the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) continues to plan, coordinate and harmonize government's ICT initiatives, and to develop programs to keep abreast of increasing globalization and proliferation of ICT in our society. Through the Philippine ICT Roadmap, developed in 2006 in cooperation with various ICT public and private stakeholders, the CICT hopes to transform the country into an ICT-enabled community by emphasizing the development of three areas—the Cyber Corridor, e-governance and human capital.

As the Development Champion of the Cyber Corridor Super Region, I am committed to sustaining the growth and competitiveness of our offshoring and outsourcing industry. CICT is working closely with the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPA/P) and other industry associations, as well as ICT councils from the various regions and other stakeholders of the ICT industry, in pursuing this objective. CICT is committed to Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to create 1 million jobs and 12 billion US dollars of revenue by 2010.

Under the Philippine Cyber Corridor program, we hope to increase the participation of regions outside Metro Manila as ICT hubs. We are targeting to have 30-35 regional ICT hubs by 2010, providing our investors alternative locations to Metro Manila. By spreading the opportunities for growth and investments, these regions will be able to enjoy the benefits of a more vibrant economy. Not only will this have a trickle down effect on other businesses in these regions, but it will also create an environment where Filipinos can work closer to home. We have already identified next wave cities such as Baguio, Cabanatuan, Dagupan, Tarlac, Clark, Subic, Cainta, Cavite, Sta. Rosa, Lipa, Naga, Legaspi, Tacloban, Cebu, Iloilo, Dumaguete, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

The second priority area of CICT, through its e-Government Development Group, is the coordination and implementation of ICT in governance. It aims to enable the implementation of strategic ICT plans and measures of national government agencies (NGAs) and local government units (LGUs) that would facilitate better, more efficient and more transparent government service. As a member of the COMELEC Advisory Council, CICT is pursuing the automation of the electoral process.

Third, CICT believes that a well-educated and ICT-certified workforce is a valuable asset to national progress. Hence, our Human Capital Development Group conceptualizes, coordinates and facilitates programs and projects that would address the current ICT skills gap and develop Filipino ICT expertise, thereby elevating the global competitiveness of the Philippine ICT workforce. Along this area, CICT pursues three primary projects—iSchools, eSkwela and certification programs.

The Internet in Schools (iSchools) project is a CICT initiative that aims to provide public high schools with computer labs with broadband internet connectivity to enable access to relevant digital content and applications. The end goal of the iSchools project is to improve the ability of public high school students throughout the country to compete for employment, future education and other growth opportunities.

The eSkwela, on the other hand, is an initiative that brings digitized alternative learning content of the Department of Education and other agencies to out-of-school youths and adults. This initiative hopes to minimize the number of high school drop-outs by providing alternative channels to secure a high school diploma.

Another initiative integrated with CICT's human capital development is its certification programs. The National ICT Competency Standards (NICS) test assesses an individual's ICT-related knowledge and skills in relation to given levels of proficiency. The NICS provides baseline measure for the ICT literacy of high school students, civil servants and the entire ICT manpower in the country. The International Computer Driving License (ICDL) is a certification that allows individuals to evaluate their competency level in the use of personal computers. It a world-renowned certification program that enables an individual to

gain world-class competencies and basic skills for further education. Finally, the IT Proficiency Exam is composed of the Annual ICT (EDP) Proficiency Tests for Computer Programming and Systems Analysis and Design (SAD). This examination assesses 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.

In the area of legislation, CICT has been working closely with Congressman Joseph A. Santiago, Chairman of the House ICT Committee, other government agencies such as DOJ, NBI, PNP, and NTC, as well as the Council of Europe, towards the passage of a Philippine anti-cybercrime bill. We have involved industry players in the crafting of this legislation as they will be a major beneficiary of its passage.

Another bill that we are supporting is the Department of ICT Bill. The creation of a DICT will ensure effective coordination and implementation of the national ICT agenda. The DICT is envisioned to be the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing and administrative entity responsible for the development of the country's ICT industry.

CICT undertakes all these programs and projects with the end view of empowering the Filipino through ICT.

Thank you.