



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

2008 IPv6 SUMMIT: PHILIPPINES MOVING FORWARD TO IPv6

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Keynote Address

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Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology

[to be read by Director Philip A. Varilla]

AMENITIES.

The Commission on Information and Communications Technology, or CICT, wishes to convey its appreciation to the Advanced Science and Technology Institute, or ASTI, for the invitation to this first ever IPv6 Summit. With the ongoing global discussions on the imminent exhaustion of assignable Internet Protocol, or IP, addresses in the not-so-distant future, this summit is indeed a timely endeavor. International and local ICT policymakers, industry players and other stakeholders present here can share information and craft an effective campaign on the migration to IPv6, or the so-called “Next Generation IP.”

The Internet age has given birth to a networked society in which practically everyone and everything are connected through digital infrastructures. Over the years, the exponential growth of the Internet has resulted in an explosion of digital traffic and possible IP address exhaustion that spurred the need to adopt Internet Protocol Version 6 or IPv6. IPv6 is seen as the solution to the shortcomings of IPv4, the dominant IP on the Internet today. The main improvement rendered by IPv6 is a much larger address size of 128 bits, which can support an exponentially larger number of IP addresses for an ever increasing number of Internet devices. Other benefits of IPv6 include more efficient routing, less management, better methods for changing ISPs, improved mobility support, multi-homing, and increased security.

IPv6 protocol has gained enormous global support. The International Telecommunication Union, or ITU, has developed a proposal entitled “ITU and Internet Governance,” which suggests ways on how to manage IPv6 resources. The proposal was disseminated as input to the 7th Meeting of the ITU Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society, or WSIS, held on December 12-14, 2004. The proposal, according to Mr. Houlin Zhao, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, claimed that *“both telephone country codes and Internet country code domain names are public resources covered by national sovereignty. In principle, a particular country code or a particular domain name associated with a particular nation are the national resources of that country. The ultimate authority for these resources should be a national authority, although the operational work related to their management could be carried out by the authority itself or by a designated agency to which it could choose to delegate authority. There should be no question about this responsibility.”*

Similarly, the 7th APEC Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry, or TELMIN7, held on April 23-25, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand, stated in its Declaration “Digital Prosperity: Turning Challenges into Achievement” that the priorities set at its last meeting in Lima, Peru, includes *“next generation networks and technologies,”* which we may all know to be IP-based and would promote the use of IPv6.

The Philippine government, through the CICT, fully recognizes the opportunities offered by IPv6. The 2004-2010 Medium Term Philippine Development Plan, or MTPDP, declares that *“one of the key strategies is the deployment and expansion of digital infrastructure, especially to unserved and underserved areas, as well as the convergence of telecommunications, IP technology, broadcast media, cable TV, and other technologies to realize the full potentials of ICT as a tool for knowledge creation and diffusion.”* In response, the CICT has been reviewing the Philippine digital infrastructure to ascertain the country’s strengths and areas of improvement related to IPv6 deployment.

As the Development Champion of the Cyber Corridor Superregion, I am committed to encouraging the adoption of next generation networks, or NGNs, and IPv6 by telecom operators and ISPs. The CICT, in coordination with other government agencies and other stakeholders, would like to see that appropriate policies, rules and regulations on NGN and IPv6 are put in place, including the possibility of providing incentives for early IPv6 adoption.

We believe the CICT is in a good position to lead or participate in a multi-agency preliminary assessment on the drafting of a Philippine IPv6 Policy with the assistance of the National Telecommunications Commission and other ICT stakeholders from the private sector to determine their preparedness, technical capabilities, the implications to their businesses and preferred phases of migration to IPv6.

I would also like to commend the organizer of this event, ASTI, for steering research efforts on IPv6 adoption in the country. ASTI has successfully encouraged PLDT to forge separate agreements with the organization and the University of the Philippines related to projects on rural telecommunications, mobile telecommunications, IPv6, broadband networking, toll online billing system, and wireless communications. In addition, ASTI’s “Building a Philippine IPv6 Research Network Project” initiated IPv6 usage by ASTI’s test bed network, the Philippine Research, Education, and Government Information Network, or PREGINET.

Further, our telecommunications providers have started to position themselves in the path to IPV6 migration. ISPs like PREGINET, Mozcom, Globetel, Globenet and PLDT have already registered with IPV6 address assignments to the Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre, the country's Regional Internet Registry.

While the abovementioned efforts reflect the country's recognition of the immense opportunities offered by IPV6, we also need to pay attention to the challenges associated with this next generation protocol. A lot of preparation needs to be done, including assessment of the Philippines' readiness to shift to this new protocol, identification of the most practical national strategy on the timing of the migration and an in-depth cost-benefit analysis.

In closing, I would like to urge everyone here—distinguished guests from around the world, fellow government workers, telecom operators and ISPs—to be one with the CICT in increasing awareness of IPV6 and the issues related to its adoption.

Thank you very much!