



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

**2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
“ICT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE, AND
INNOVATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY”**
24-25 April 2008
New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City

Welcome Remarks

SEC. RAY ANTHONY ROXAS-CHUA III

Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology

Conference chairpersons Dr. Francisco Magno, Director, La Salle Institute of Governance, De La Salle University, and Prof. Toshio Obi, Director, Institute of e-Government, Waseda University, Tokyo; members of the International Advisory Council, Conference Partners International Academy of Chief Information Officers and the Asian Center for Information Technology and Telecommunications, friends, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant good morning to you all. The Commission on Information and Communications Technology, or CICT, welcomes all delegates and participants to this “2nd International Conference on ICT and Sustainable Development: Leadership, Governance and Innovation in the Knowledge Society”. We are honored to have been invited to participate in this auspicious event, and would like to commend the conference organizers for sharing the CICT’s resolve of effective governance and national development through the responsible use of ICT.

Since its inception in 2004, the CICT has led the Philippine government’s ICT planning and coordinating initiatives, and has crafted programs that respond to the evolving lifestyles, social interactions, and economic transactions in our increasingly knowledge-based society. E-Government is our flagship program that pushes for the integration of ICT in government to facilitate innovation, efficiency, transparency and accountability.

The e-Government Program equips national government agencies, or NGAs, and local government units, or LGUs, with technical and financial resources to enable them to innovate the way they deliver their services. Our e-Governance in Local Government Units, or eLGU, Project assists LGUs in automation of systems and development of websites. As of 2006, 93.9% or 352 NGAs and 99.8% or around 1,692 LGUs have their own websites; 142 agencies have online services; 10 have online payment services and 49 agencies have some form of SMS-enabled services.

I am also pleased to announce that another innovative project of our e-Government Program, the eServices Portal or eSerbisyo, has already been launched and is now open for business. eSerbisyo employs a user-friendly interface that organizes the most commonly used government services such as health, employment, education, and social services into practical categories for the convenience of all types of users. eSerbisyo is designed to enable improved citizen access to government-specific information and government services. The eServices Portal also includes the e-Payment Gateway or eBayad, which is a flexible payment mechanism that allows direct interaction between citizens, businesses, major bank consortia, telecommunications operators and credit card companies for convenient financial transactions.

Further, as a signatory to the World Summit on the Information Society, the CICT's Philippine Community e-Center, or CeC, Program helps connect the country's municipalities to the global community. We have 745 CeCs providing affordable and relevant ICT-related services such as Internet access, email, telephone, government online services and basic computer training to municipalities nationwide. Our goal is to connect all 1,600 municipalities by 2010.

We also wish to note the related projects that our Conference partners are currently undertaking within the APEC Telecommunications and Information Industry Working Group, or APECTEL. The APEC e-Government Research Center of Waseda University in Japan continues to gain ground in providing assistance in determining solutions to the various challenges of e-Government. Likewise, it offers recommendations on effective e-Government implementation.

The Deployment of GCIO Training Model and Networking for e-Government Development Project, proposed by Thailand, has successfully conducted four major workshops in the US, Philippines, Indonesia and China, organized and partly funded by APEC. Three other CIO workshops were held on a self-funding basis in Japan, Thailand and Viet Nam. We wish to commend the work that had already been done on these two projects, and rest assured that the Philippines, particularly the CICT, looks forward to participating in other collaborative initiatives in the area of e-Government, as this is an area that the CICT continues to pursue.

As the CICT Chairman, I am also an active member of the CIO Forum, a body that oversees the use of ICT among government agencies and coordinates data sharing to support macro-level ICT priorities.

Through our e-Government efforts, the CICT conveys its commitment to the use of ICT for national development.

Welcome everyone and I wish you all a fruitful conference.

Thank you!