



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

TOUCH SOLUTIONS INC. MYSQL ENTERPRISE LAUNCH
7 March 2008, 1:30 PM
Kamia Function Room, Edsa Shangri-la

OPENING REMARKS
SECRETARY RAY ANTHONY ROXAS-CHUA III
Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology

Distinguished experts from MySQL Japan, officers and employees of Touch Solutions, guests, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant good afternoon to you all.

The Commission on Information and Communications Technology, or CICT, extends its warmest congratulations to Touch Solutions on the launching of MySQL Enterprise. The CICT is honored to have been invited to this notable event where we bear witness to yet another ICT milestone.

As the lead ICT agency of the Philippine government, the CICT actively pushes for the computerization and automation of frontline government services to promote efficiency, transparency and accountability in government. With this objective comes the need to tackle issues on the sustainability and effectiveness of our ICT investments. One of the most salient discussions in this area is open source software. Debates on the benefits of open source software for government applications typically revolve around cost and convenience. Unlike proprietary software, which entails significantly higher costs due to intellectual property rights and marketing expenses, open source software is free, can be downloaded from the Internet and can be customized by anyone.

The Philippine government adheres to Open Standards in the discussion on open source software. Through House Bill No. 5769, the government promotes the adoption and utilization of Open Standards and Free and Open Source Software, or FOSS, in the country. The CICT believes it is very beneficial for Filipino organizations and citizens to have freedom of choice between proprietary and open source software depending on their computing needs.

Within our organization, we have several efforts that explore the use of open source software. Our Human Capital Development Group, or HCDG, advocates the use of open source software in its projects, such as ICT for Basic Education, or ICT4BE, eQuality Program, Computer and Internet Literacy Course and other training programs. HCDG also promotes the use of open source graphic software, programming languages, web development software, and learning and content management software. To help ease the migration from proprietary solutions, HCDG distributes the FOSS CD Kit Series that includes basic open source applications along with user manuals.

Further, our component agency, the National Computer Center (NCC), steers the eGovernance in Local Government Units Project, or eLGU, which aims to assist local governments in the development of open source software, such as Real Property Tax System, Business Permit and Licensing System and Treasury Operations Management System. The NCC also houses the e-Governance Center of Excellence, or eGov-CoE, the pioneer in Southeast Asia which was inaugurated in December 2004. The eGov-CoE showcases the finest e-Government applications administered at the national and local government levels as well as in state universities and colleges, or SUCs. This project is jointly facilitated with Oracle, HP and Red Hat, represented by our gracious hosts for this afternoon. At this point, I would like to thank Touch Solutions for having been a keen partner of the CICT in many of our ICT endeavors.

As we mark another milestone in our partnership through this launching of MySQL Enterprise, I would like to commend Touch Solutions for its efforts to provide our country's ICT stakeholders with world class open source applications and services. The CICT assures you of its continued support.

Thank you very much and congratulations again!