



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

**LOW-COST COMPUTING PROGRAM – NETTOP NG BAYAN  
PRESS LAUNCH**

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Felix Resto, Greenbelt 5, Makati City

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*Message*

**SECRETARY RAY ANTHONY ROXAS-CHUA III**

*Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology*

Statistics reveals that less than 20% of the Filipino population have PC access or have benefited from the Internet. In response to this issue, the *Low Cost Computing Program* was specified as a major strategic initiative in the Philippine ICT Roadmap in 2004. In 2005, the Commission on ICT formally launched the program in order to provide low cost computers to the Filipinos. Low cost computing program is also designed to support the MTPDP's goal of establishing more public access points that would link communities in the country, support broadband services and provide universal access to ICT.

The *Nettop ng Bayan Project* which we are inaugurating today is part of Intel's and CICT's continuing initiatives to address affordability issues of Filipinos wishing to own PCs and ultimately increase PC penetration in the country. Retailed for as low as PhP10,000.00, *Nettop ng Bayan* will provide connected PC and the Internet to many users who could not previously afford to have one. The country's first Internet-centric desktop PC is designed for quiet operation and low power consumption. Users can also opt for an Internet subscription from PLDT myDSL or SmartBro upon purchase.

The launch of this noteworthy project is very timely. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently signed Proclamation No. 1521 on May 28, 2008 declaring June 2008 and every year thereafter as National ICT Month. In connection with this, the CICT has been tasked to work closely with other government agencies, private entities and non-government organizations in implementing the plans for the ICT month as well as for full ICT development in the country.

Moreover, the CICT commemorated the Philippine's 110<sup>th</sup> Independence Day in Baguio City yesterday. To respond to this year's theme which is "*Republic Service, Tungo sa Ganap na Kalayaan at Kaunlaran*", the President directed all government agencies to showcase various government services in Luneta Park and replicate these in the different regions. As the CICT Chairman, I was tasked to bring CICT services to the Cordillera Administrative Region during the *Sentro: K3 Kagalingan, Kaisahan at Kalayaan ng Bayan* held at the Baguio Convention Center.

The CICT set up 10 PCs with broadband Internet connections and rendered free Internet access to the people of the Cordilleras. We have also inaugurated 3 computer labs in Baguio City National High School, Benguet State University and Benguet National High School as part of our iSchools Program. The Program provides computer workstations, broadband Internet access, digitized content and relevant training to public high school recipients with the goal of enriching the classroom learning environment. Also, in line with our commitment to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Ten Point Agenda of creating six to ten million jobs, we have awarded 232 Training for Work Scholarship Program vouchers in CAR. The recipients will partake in an opportunity to hone their ICT skills and qualify for employment in the offshoring and outsourcing, or O&O, industry.

At this point, I would like to note that Intel, a world leader in semiconductor and technology innovation has long been a keen partner of CICT. Prominent projects like the Philippine Community eCenter (CeC) Program and now Nettop ng Bayan have been possible through the partnership of CICT and Intel. Learning from this successful collaboration, the CICT strongly encourages similar public-private partnerships with other organizations. It is only thru solid public-private partnerships that the national ICT agenda can be realized.

Thank you and congratulations to all!