



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

**Next Wave Cities Forum, O&O Centers of Excellence Across the Country**  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008  
SMX Convention Center, Pasay City

**Remarks**

**SEC. RAY ANTHONY ROXAS-CHUA III**  
**Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology**

On behalf of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for coming to our New Wave Cities Forum. It has been a very exciting session that gave you a preview of our new offshoring and outsourcing destinations. To the investors in the audience, as you may have observed, these cities are very diverse in their geographic locations, historical backgrounds, local cultures, and tourist attractions, but they do have something in common—they all have the passion, desire and commitment to participate in the O&O industry and they all want your business. I hope you will venture out to these cities and discover what they have to offer, and then keep them in mind as you make your investment decisions. I would like to congratulate our Next Wave Cities, who, through hard work, perseverance and innovativeness, are now in position to attract more investors into their communities.

There are a lot of people responsible for the success of this forum. First, I would like to acknowledge our ICT Councils, our local government officials and other stakeholders who have put in a lot of energy, effort and dedication to make their cities among the best O&O locations in the Philippines and in the world. You still have a lot of work to do to attract investors, but what you have accomplished so far is beyond our imagination.

Let me also acknowledge the Regional Operations Group of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, who have been our steadfast partners in the development of these Next Wave Cities. I firmly believe that it is the strong sense of collaboration and partnership that has made this initiative a rousing success. We hope that this successful public and private sector partnership will serve as an example for future collaborations.

Our next step is to work with other potential cities and bring them into the Philippine Cyber Corridor as viable destinations for O&O investments. We have already started our work on these up-and-coming locations. We are using the same process that we undertook with the first batch—we are assessing their capabilities and potentials along a broad range of criteria that we have identified. We are currently helping them map out a program of action and giving them the technical support and exposure they need to become a preferred O&O destination. In the coming months, we will be assessing more and more of these cities and hopefully discover more hidden gems all across the country.

I am confident that with the influx of new business coming to your cities' doorsteps, you will now be afforded the opportunity to be the catalysts of growth and prosperity in your own communities. At the end of the day, I believe what will ultimately drive you to succeed is not merely the financial reward from the new businesses coming in—but also giving more people the hope of a brighter future through better jobs and better livelihood.

I thank all our contributors and participants for your cooperation in making our New Wave Cities Forum a huge success. I strongly urge our potential investors to visit the booths, talk to the O&O specialists from these cities and see for yourselves what business opportunities are available in other parts of the country. I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised.

Again, congratulations to everyone!

Thank you!