



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

FIFTH MINDANAO ICT CONGRESS
22 September 2006, 11:00 AM
Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro City

Acceptance of Mindanao ICT Action Agenda
Sec. Ramon P. Sales
Chairman, CICT

Daghang Salamat.

THE COMMISSION ON ICT (CICT) HAS ALWAYS BEEN KEEN ON PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN DEVELOPING THE LOCAL ICT INDUSTRY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE ICT INDUSTRY IS DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND WE IN GOVERNMENT ARE HERE TO SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARD ITS GROWTH WHICH IS WHY THE INITIATIVES OUTLINED IN THE MINDANAO ICT ACTION AGENDA PRESENTED HERE AT THE **5TH MINDANAO ICT CONGRESS** (MICT) IS APPRECIATED.

THE MINDANAO ACTION AGENDA WILL AID THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CYBER CORRIDOR IN MINDANAO AND GIVE IT AN ADDITIONAL DIMENSION IN AIMING TO BE THE E-SERVICES HUB IN THE BRUNEI INDONESIA MALAYSIA PHILIPPINES – EAST ASIAN GROWTH AREA (BIMP-EAGA). THIS IS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT SINCE MINDANAO

GENERATES 20 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP). IN RECOGNIZING ICT AS AN IMPORTANT SECTOR IN ATTAINING SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE MINDANAO ICT CONGRESS POSES A CHALLENGE FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR GOVERNMENT TO LEVEL UP THEIR COMMITMENT IN ATTAINING FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH IN REGION.

IN HER LATEST STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS, PRESIDENT ARROYO ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF THE CYBER CORRIDOR SUPER REGION WHICH WILL TRANSFORM THE PHILIPPINES INTO AN ICT-SERVICES HUB WITH THE ENTIRE COUNTRY PREPARED TO ABSORB ICT-RELATED INDUSTRIES, FROM CALL CENTERS, BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING, MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND ANIMATION, WITH ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND ICT-CAPABLE WORKFORCE. IN FACT, THERE ARE A GROWING NUMBER OF CYBERSERVICES COMPANIES IN MINDANAO. WITH THE EXISTING CALL CENTERS IN DAVAO AND HERE IN CAGAYAN DE ORO AND MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION COMPANIES IN GENERAL SANTOS, WE HAVE PROVIDED JOBS A NUMBER OF OUR FELLOWMEN WITHOUT THEM LEAVING MINDANAO.

THE 2000 CENSUS RECORDS 18 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING HERE IN THE SECOND LARGEST ISLAND IN THE PHILIPPINES. THIS MEANS THAT DEVELOPING THE CYBER CORRIDOR IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WILL

GENERATE MORE JOBS TO FURTHER THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE AREA. WE SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S AGENDA TO ACHIEVE GOAL GOAL FOR MINDANAO TO BECOME THE KNOWLEDGE CENTER OF ASIA PACIFIC BY 2010.

THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE MINDANAO BUSINESS COUNCIL AFTER A SERIES OF ICT REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS, THE MICT ACTION AGENDA HAS BEEN PRODUCED. THIS AGENDA WILL HELP GOVERNMENT FOCUS ITS EFFORTS IN SUPPORTING THE NEEDS ALREADY IDENTIFIED IN THE AREAS OF ICT INFRASTRUCTRE, E-SERVICES AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY E-CENTERS IS BEING FASTTRACKED SINCE THESE CENTERS WILL SERVE AS THE PEOPLE'S WAY OF INTERACTING WITH GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS ENABLING THEM TO ACCESS GOVERNMENT SERVICES ONLINE. TO DATE, A TOTAL OF 36 CECS UNDER THE CICT'S E-LGU PROJECT HAVE BEEN SET-UP ACROSS MINDANAO. AN ADDITIONAL 22 CENTERS HAVE BEEN SET-UP TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO BUSINESS SERVICES AND THE INTERNET. AREAS LIKE TAWI-TAWI ARE NOW ABLE TO ACCESS THE WORLD AND VICE-VERSA.

IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING OUR WORK FORCE, GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OR TESDA, PROVIDES VOUCHERS THOSE WHO WISH TO THEIR ENGLISH AND ICT PROFICIENCY AND INCREASE THEIR CHANCES OF BEING EMPLOYED IN SECTORS SUCH AS ICT. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S PROGRAM OF INTEGRATING ICT IN THEIR BASIC EDUCATION AS WELL AS IN ENHANCING THE ICT LITERACY OF ITS TEACHERS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND CONGRATULATE THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS CONGRESS, WHICH HAS BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT THAT BRINGS TOGETHER STAKEHOLDERS OF THE ICT INDUSTRY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH THE MINDANAO BUSINESS COUNCIL, THE MINDANAO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE REGIONAL ITECCS, THE BIMP-EAGA BUSINESS COUNCIL, AND OTHER NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, IN FURTHERING THE 5TH MINDANAO ICT ACTION AGENDA IN LINE WITH THE CICTS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE CYBERSERVICES CORRIDOR SUPERREGION.

USAB, DAGHANG SALAMAT UG MAAYONG BUNTAG KANINYONG TANAN.