



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

**MMX: DIGITAL FOR ALL FILIPINOS CONFERENCE
WORKSHOP**

17 May 2006, 10:00AM
Dusit Hotel Nikko

Keynote Address
SECRETARY RAMON P. SALES
Chairman, CICT

AMENITIES

THANK YOU, TATO FOR THAT GRACIOUS INTRODUCTION.

*(ACKNOWLEDGE OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT ----
- INCLUDING PRIVATE SECTOR CEOS.)*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD MORNING.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU THE **1ST**
WORLD INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY (WISD), A DAY
GLOBALLY CELEBRATED AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED
NATIONS (UN) AND THE INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU). TODAY WE SHOULD



TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHART NEW DIRECTIONS AND SUSTAIN WORTHWHILE INITIATIVES WHILE RECOGNIZING THE CHALLENGES OF RAPIDLY CHANGING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES. THE THEME, **“PROMOTING GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY,”** REMINDS US TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR INFRASTRUCTURES HAVE BUILT-IN SECURITY MEASURES TO PROPERLY PROTECT INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE ASSETS FROM ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL FORMS OF VIOLATIONS AND THREATS.

FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, CICT WILL CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ENACTMENT OF LAWS PERTAINING TO CYBERCRIME, DATA PRIVACY, E-MAIL, SPAM AND CYBERPORNOGRAPHY.

WE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN GOVERNMENT’S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT CYBERSECURITY. WE TOOK THE LEAD ROLE IN THE CYBERSECURITY WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE FOR THE 2005 PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY PLAN. WE PARTICIPATED AND HOSTED THE 2ND ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SEMINAR ON CYBER TERRORISM LAST JUNE 25-27, 2005 IN CEBU.

THIS *MMX: DIGITAL FOR ALL FILIPINOS CONFERENCE WORKSHOP* IS BEING HELD AS A PART OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRONICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK FROM 15TH TO 20TH OF THIS MONTH. I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) AND THE PHILIPPINE ELECTRONICS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FEDERATION, INC. (PETEF) WHOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMISSION ON ICT (CICT) MADE THIS 2-DAY CONFERENCE WORKSHOP POSSIBLE. ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS THIS, CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP AT ITS BEST. INDEED, THERE IS MORE TO ACHIEVE WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER ON COMMON GOALS, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS AN ICT-ENABLED SOCIETY.

IT WAS ONLY THIS YEAR THAT “THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS DAY” WAS CHANGED INTO “WORLD INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY” (WISD). THIS WAS DONE BY ITU AND ITS MEMBERSHIP TO PROMOTE ICT AWARENESS TOGETHER WITH THE RECOGNITION OF IMMENSE CHANGES THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY ICT TO SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES. WHILE THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES, THERE ARE LIKEWISE CHALLENGES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED, SUCH AS: THE PERVASIVENESS OF

CYBER THREATS TO PRIVACY AND SECURITY. THERE IS ALSO THE ISSUE OF THE DIGITAL DIVIDE THAT HAS BEEN CLEARLY IDENTIFIED DURING THE WORLD SUMMIT ON INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) AND UPHELD DURING OUR PHILIPPINE SUMMIT ON INFORMATION SOCIETY (PSIS). WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE NATIONS THAT ARE AS GEOGRAPHICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DIVERSE AS THEY ARE DIGITALLY DIVERSE. THESE ISSUES BRING HOME TO US THE MESSAGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT DO IT ALONE. GOVERNMENT NEEDS THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF INDUSTRY PLAYERS AND STAKEHOLDERS.

WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT FROM INDUSTRY IN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ICT. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE PARTICIPATION OF INDUSTRY PLAYERS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR GENEROUSLY HELPING GOVERNMENT BRING DIGITAL BENEFITS TO OUR NATION BY ALIGNING AND HARMONIZING THEIR PLANS AND PROGRAMS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL AND LOCAL ICT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

THIS EVENT, *MMX DIGITAL FOR ALL FILIPINOS CONFERENCE WORKSHOP*, IS AN EXCELLENT AVENUE TO REVISIT AND UPDATE THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS MASTER PLAN AND THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE, THROUGH THE HOLDING OF WORKSHOPS AND DIALOGUES AMONG ICT STAKEHOLDERS. THE OUTPUTS WILL SERVE AS GOOD INPUTS TO THE PHILIPPINE ICT ROADMAP.

WE ARE PRESENTLY DRAFTING THIS ICT ROADMAP. THIS WILL SERVE AS THE COUNTRY'S BLUEPRINT FOR ICT DEVELOPMENT. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS ARE SCHEDULED SO THAT PRIVATE SECTOR, ACADEME, NGOS AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS CAN IDENTIFY THE GAPS THAT STILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED SO THAT ICT CAN BE DEVELOPED FURTHER.

WHILE THIS ROADMAP IS BEING DRAFTED, CICT CONTINUES TO WORK ON SEVERAL PROGRAMS THAT WILL ENRICH OUR HUMAN CAPITAL AND BUILD THE CAPACITIES OF OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS. WE ENDEAVOR TO ENHANCE THE ICT COMPETENCIES OF OUR TEACHERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS AND LIKEWISE PROVIDE E-LEARNING TOOLS

TO OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. WE ARE IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH LGUS AND RELATED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AS WE IMPLEMENT THE PHILIPPINE CYBERSERVICES CORRIDOR THAT AIMS TO STRENGTHEN OUR REGIONS AND MAKE THEM VIABLE ICT INVESTMENT DESTINATIONS. WE ARE OPENING WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO OUR SMES AS WELL

UPON JOINING CICT, I TRIED VISUALIZING THE SCOPE, AS WELL AS, THE SCALE OF WORK TO BE DONE.

VERY HIGH IN PRIORITY IS THE MISSION TO TRANSFORM AND RATIONALIZE THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE (TELOF), A TRANSFERRED AGENCY TO CICT PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 269. IN TIME, TELOF SHOULD TRANSFORM ITSELF FROM OPERATING AS A COMMON CARRIER INTO OPERATING AS THE NETWORK MANAGER GOVERNMENT'S INTEGRATED TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. THIS CAN NOT BE DONE OVERNIGHT, AND WILL REQUIRE TRANSITION MANAGEMENT.

GOVERNMENT'S CONTACT POINTS WITH ITS CITIZENS ARE THE BARANGAYS (41,939), MUNICIPALITIES (1,501), CITY

HALLS (117), AND PROVINCIAL CAPITALS (79), A TOTAL OF (43,636) GOVERNMENT SITES. WE NEED TO AGGREGATE THESE SITES INTO GROUPS AND CONNECT THEM TO 117 CONCENTRATION HUBS. WE PICK THE NUMBER 117 BECAUSE TELOF PRESENTLY OWNS 117 EXCHANGE SITES WHICH ARE ALSO COMMUNITY E-CENTERS (CEC).

GOVERNMENT'S SERVICE PROVIDERS ARE THE DEPARTMENTS, COMMISSIONS, BUREAUS, AGENCIES, ETC. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 250 OF THEM. WE WILL INTEGRATE THESE SERVICE PROVIDERS ACROSS TWO OR THREE CONCENTRATION SERVICE HUBS.

THEN THE 117 CONCENTRATION HUBS AND THREE CONCENTRATION SERVICE HUBS WILL HAVE TO INTERCONNECT WITH EACH OTHER, WHILE THE SERVICE HUBS ARE CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER IN A TRIANGULAR CONFIGURATION. THE PORTAL, DEFENDED BY BEST OF BREED SECURITY APPLICATIONS WILL BE LOCATED AT THE CONCENTRATION SERVICE HUBS.

THIS WAY, WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK CAN

PROVIDE SECURE ACCESS, AND IS ABLE TO SHARE INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE WITHIN REASONABLE RESPONSE TIMES AND AVAILABILITY.

CICT WILL PUSH FOR VOIP (VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL) FOR VOICE COMMUNICATIONS, AS WELL AS, VPN (VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK) FOR DATA IN GOVERNMENT. THIS SHOULD LEAD TO GREATER EFFICIENCIES AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS. AT THE START, GOVERNMENT MAY REDUCE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPENSE, BUT THIS WILL ONLY ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT TO PUT MORE AND MORE OF ITS SITES INTO ONLINE REALTIME CONNECTION. THIS SHOULD ADHERE TO BOTH THE AUSTERITY POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT AND THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS GOVERNMENT.

CICT LIKEWISE SUPPORTS *ENTC*, A PROJECT THAT INVOLVES A COMPREHENSIVE COMPUTERIZATION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC). IT COVERS BUSINESS PROCESSES SUCH AS AUTHORIZATION, RADIO FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT, EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZATION, PERMITS, LICENSING, CERTIFICATION

AND ACCREDITATION. THE SCOPE OF THE ENTC PROJECT INCLUDES THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE USER INTERFACE (NTC PORTAL) AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FUNCTIONS, I.E. RADIO OPERATOR EXAMINATION AND TRAINING SCHOOL ACCREDITATION.

THERE ARE INDEED VARIOUS CONCERNS AND ISSUES THAT THE INDUSTRY FACES TODAY ---- LIKE CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION, INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT, CYBERSECURITY AND E-GOVERNANCE AMONG OTHERS. AS THIS EVENT INCLUDES BREAKOUT AND PLENARY SESSIONS THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO DISCUSS AND EXCHANGE IDEAS, I ENCOURAGE EVERY PARTICIPANT TO ENGAGE IN OPEN MINDED DIALOGUE AND GENEROUSLY SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH EACH OTHER. ALL YOUR INPUTS, WHEN SYNTHESIZED INTO AN UPDATED PHILIPPINE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN, WILL NOT ONLY SERVE AS COMPLIANCE TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS BUT WILL ALSO SERVE AS AN ARCHITECTURAL FRAMEWORK TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PROVIDING ICT SERVICES FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR PEOPLE.

MABUHAY!

