



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

**23<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) Meeting**

23 January 2007, 9:15 a.m.  
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Pasig City

**WELCOME SPEECH OF  
SECRETARY RAMON P. SALES  
Chairman, CICT**

DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ASIA PACIFIC ADVANCED NETWORK, LED BY ITS CHAIR SHIGEKI GOTO, EXPERTS, RESOURCE SPEAKERS, DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD MORNING.

ON BEHALF OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU, AND WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOUR MEETING HERE WILL PROVE TO BE VERY PRODUCTIVE. WE ARE PLEASED TO HOST THIS YEAR'S MEETING BECAUSE THIS WILL GIVE OUR LOCAL ICT COMMUNITY AN OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE THEMSELVES ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON ASIA PACIFIC'S ADVANCED NETWORKS.

"EMPOWERING THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH ICT" HAS BEEN THE KEY CONCEPT DRIVING THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT FOR THIS INDUSTRY SECTOR. I WOULD SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, AND ADVANCED ONES AT THAT, ARE THE KEY ENABLERS OF THIS PROGRAM.

WHILE SCANNING THROUGH YOUR AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING, I NOTED THAT IT COVERED NOT ONLY NETWORK RELATED SUBJECTS SUCH AS, 1) ROUTING; 2) IPV6; AND 3) NETWORK ENGINEERING; BUT ALSO APPLICATIONS RELATED SUBJECTS, SUCH AS 4) HDTV; 5) MEDICAL; 6) AG; 7) EARTH MONITORING; AND OTHERS.

TO SHARE WITH YOU THE IMPORTANCE THAT OUR PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO HAS PLACED ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, IN HER STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS LAST YEAR (2006), SHE DESIGNATED FIVE SUPER REGIONS. FOUR OF THESE WERE INFRASTRUCTURE ORIENTED AND WERE LOCATED IN FOUR GEOGRAPHIC SUPER REGIONS OF OUR COUNTRY. THE FIFTH SUPER REGION WAS THE CYBER CORRIDOR SUPER REGION, WHICH WAS DEFINED BY THE FIBER OPTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS BACK-BONE NETWORK, INSTALLED THROUGH SEVEN FIBER OPTIC LOOPS FROM NORTH TO SOUTH OF OUR COUNTRY.

THESE NETWORKS ENABLED OUTSOURCING AND OFF-SHORING LOCATORS IN OUR COUNTRY TO DISTRIBUTE THEIR CONTACT CENTERS, BPO SITES, SW DEVELOPMENT SITES ACROSS THE VARIOUS CITIES FROM NORTH TO SOUTH. THIS BROKE THE MONOPOLY FOR THESE SITES FROM THE GREATER METRO MANILA AREA.

“EMPOWERING THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH ICT” WOULD MAKE IT CAPABLE OF CONTRIBUTING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. IN THIS PROCESS, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT PLAYS THE ROLE OF “ENABLER” AND “CATALYZER,” WHILE PRIVATE SECTOR PLAYS THE ROLE OF “IMPLEMENTOR” AND AT TIMES “SELF-REGULATOR.”

AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS THE PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN TO REGAIN A SEAT AS A COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION IN THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE HELD IN TURKEY LAST NOVEMBER 2006. REGAINING THIS SEAT WAS ACHIEVED THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION. WITHOUT THE STRONG SUPPORT OF MAJOR PHILIPPINE PRIVATE SECTOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS AND PROVIDERS, THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

I WOULD LIKE TO END WITH THE IDEA THAT THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK “PLAYING FIELD” IS WHERE THE ACTION IS TODAY. FIRST, THERE IS THE TASK FOR INTER-NETWORK CARRIERS TO CONVERT TO NGN, THE “NEXT GENERATION NETWORK.” SECOND, THERE IS THE TASK FOR ALL NETWORKS, WHETHER INTER-NETWORK OR LOCAL, TO CONVERT TO IPV6. THIRD, THERE IS THE “WIRELESS” TECHNOLOGY, 3G & WIMAX (FIXED AND MOBILE) COMING UP AND WILL PROBABLY BECOME A LAST MILE SOLUTION. THEN THERE IS DIGITAL TV (HDTV). OF COURSE, THERE IS CONVERGENCE OF VOICE, DATA, AND VIDEO. THESE VERITABLE ONSLAUGHT OF TECHNOLOGY WILL CERTAINLY KEEP MOST OF US, IF NOT, ALL OF US, VERY BUSY FOR THE YEARS TO COME.

LET ME END BY CONGRATULATING THE APAN 2007 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, LED BY DENIS VILLORENTE, FOR BRINGING THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> MEETING TO PHILIPPINE SOIL.

THANK YOU AND GOOD DAY TO ALL OF YOU.