



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

PETEF General Assembly and Induction of Officers
23 November 2006, 1:00 p.m.
Sapphire Room, The Tiara Oriental Hotel, Makati City

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

(Salutations)

In a number of official functions, mostly ICT fora and congresses I have attended since my incumbency in May 2006 as CICT Chairman, PETEF has always been present --- either as the organizer or as an active participant. PETEF officials led by Tato Garcia and the Board of Directors have been very conspicuous and cooperative in almost all CICT activities. For this, we are assured that PETEF is one of CICT's partners in ICT.

The pursuits of providing ICT services to Filipinos have been consistently anchored on Government's strong commitment as an enabler of ICT development in the country. Likewise, it is our responsibility to provide a facilitating environment that would allow the private sector to drive ICT growth and development in the country.

We have seen that a market-led, private sector driven approach is evident in our vibrant telecommunications market, and the seamless expansion of multi-media services and applications brought forth emerging markets.

Keeping in stride with this development, President Arroyo, in her 2006 State of the Nation Address (SONA), created the Super Regions, one of which is the Philippine Cyber Corridor. This Corridor maximizes and shall further enhance the presence of telecommunications from North to South of the Philippines, develop and incubate newer and better technologies and improve education and learning in the areas covered by it. All our efforts are in collaboration with key players from Industry such as TELCOs, ICT vendors, content and Internet service providers and associations.

Each has contributions to the Industry that complement well with our aspirations to further improve our digital economy and to strengthen our share in the global market IT and IT-enabled services in BPO, contact center, medical transcription services and other applications.

All ICT stakeholders have been very excited about the promising future of our digital economy. PETEF with its strong mixture of constituencies from the ICT sector, whether as an individual member or an institutional member from the academe, business and information technology or telecommunications industry, has been in collaboration with Government. Your organization, like the rest of the Industry, recognize how mutually beneficial it is for both the public and private sectors to partner towards socio-economic development efforts that fully optimize ICT.

For more than three decades, this solid partnership draws its strength from a cooperative relationship in numerous undertakings that require both PETEF and Government to join hands not only for the benefits for your sector but in the interest of a country as a whole, a country that has been increasingly dependent on telecommunications and ICT to sustain its national progress.

I would like to witness this partnership grow stronger especially during the critical implementation of the Government's initiatives on IPv6 migration and transition to the Next Generation Network. I want to champion these initiatives, and I hope that you continue to work with me. With the convergence of voice, data and video services, adopting standards-based technologies is the appropriate response that any Government can give to facilitate its delivery of efficient and secured services to its citizens.

With the enormous technological possibilities and opportunities offered by IPv6 and NGN environment, we would bring to the stakeholders the comfort and convenience of multi-media and/or convergent services towards the goal of having a citizen-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

The challenging task of adopting IPv6 and migrating to NGN is a shared responsibility amongst the Government and the private sector under a market-driven environment regime that we have now. As we are in the process of consulting with our other stakeholders on what strategies should be developed for IPv6 and NGN initiatives, I sincerely encourage PETEF (and all its members) to take part in these.

PETEF, on its own, may conduct consultation process with its members to lend multi-stakeholder views and experiences in the proposed initiatives. Your contributions to the CICT's study on these new standards would be very significant to ensure that a policy environment that would be created is advantageous and would bring concrete benefits to all.

As I encourage your support for these initiatives, let us use this occasion to ponder on the lessons and insights from our years of partnership so we can all enjoy the benefits and opportunities of the digital economy. I urge the new set of officers and the members to work harder and in closer collaboration with us, in CICT, and the rest of Government.

Let me end by congratulating PETEF, your new officers, and all of your members.