



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

**APEC Digital Opportunity Center (ADOC) Week**  
30 September 2008  
Chinese Taipei

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*Opening Remarks*

**SEC. RAY ANTHONY ROXAS-CHUA III**

*Chairman, Commission on Information and Communications Technology*

Foreign Affairs Vice Minister Hou Ching Shan, Economic Affairs Deputy Minister Deng Chen Chong, Ambassador Juan Carlos Capuñay, Dr. Stan Shih, co-founder of Acer, distinguished delegates, guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

First of all, allow me to congratulate the APEC Digital Opportunity Center (ADOC) for organizing this weeklong regional conference, which marks ADOC's third successful year as one of APEC's partner organizations working to bring digital opportunity to the Asia-Pacific region. Judging by the conference agenda, it also promises to be an exciting and informative forum to learn more about the technological innovations that could shape our ICT-for-development initiatives in the near future.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for the invitation to be part of this important event. May I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the delegates from the other ADOC partner economies, including our ASEAN neighbors Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and our Latin American friends from Chile, Mexico and Peru. I am certain that we are all looking forward to a fruitful discussion of each economy's diverse experiences on bridging the digital divide, and expect to learn from the success stories that each one has to share.

This ADOC conference marks two important milestones. It will honor outstanding ICT best practices in the region, including best performance of Chinese e-Learning among ADOC Partner Member Economies, as well as mark the success of 2008 as a transition year from ADOC Phase I to ADOC 2.0. I commend the key movers and players of ADOC Phase I, which saw the establishment of 27 ADOC centers in the Asia-Pacific region. These centers have benefited thousands of people over the last three years, by upgrading their ICT literacy skills and providing connectivity to the vast information resources on the Internet.

As an ADOC partner office, the Philippine Commission on Information and Communications Technology, or CICT, has taught ICT skills to our most disadvantaged groups, namely persons with disabilities, out-of-school youths, and senior citizens. To date, the ADOC-CICT partnership has been able to establish six ADOC computer laboratories, with three of them located in urban poor areas of Metro Manila, a fourth at the Lakandula Public High School in the heart of Tondo, an urban poor settlement, a fifth at the University of the Philippines' Center for Women Studies, and the sixth at the CICT building. The ADOC-CICT computer laboratory has been the venue of a number of capacity-building programs, with beneficiaries coming from disadvantaged groups and the urban poor of nearby local government units. The CICT laboratory has also developed manuals for Basic ICT Literacy, which are based on competency standards set by the CICT's Competency Standards Group.

With the establishment of the ADOC 2.0 framework, which will be built on a Public-Private Partnership Platform, the Asia-Pacific region looks forward to surmounting the remaining challenges of the digital divide. Through its prime mover, Dr. Stan Shih, ADOC 2.0 shall be based on a multi-stakeholder approach, bringing together the private sector, the academe, NGOs and civil society. The framework shall build on the successes of ADOC Phase I and shall continue to involve ADOC Partner offices to strengthen regional network and cooperation; enhance economy-specific digital education and content; undertake ICT elite camps, teachers training, and ICT skills training; develop innovative e-commerce strategies; and foster a culture of information exchange and knowledge-building among member economies.

In the Philippines, and I hope I speak for the other member economies, we hope to broaden our target clientele, reaching more disadvantaged groups such as women, out-of-school youths, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and the urban and rural poor, to promote digital inclusion. In partnership with ADOC, we hope to establish more digital e-learning centers, expand their catchment areas, and develop relevant local content that can hopefully expand the economic opportunities for these long-neglected segments of our population.

On that note, I would like to congratulate the APEC Digital Opportunity Center of Chinese Taipei for sharing its vision and resources for an ICT enabled society. For the last three years, our emerging economies have benefited from the coordination and support of the management and secretariat of the ADOC office. We commend you all for being such prime examples of dedication and commitment to bringing the benefits of ICT to the Asia-Pacific region.

I wish everyone a successful conference.

Thank you very much! Maraming salamat! Xie xie da jia!