



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

Launching of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Philippine IT Security Conference  
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CICT-NCC Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City

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*Message*

SECRETARY RAY ANTHONY ROXAS-CHUA III  
*Commission on Information and Communications Technology*

On behalf of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, I would like to congratulate the new officers of the Information Systems Security Society of the Philippines. The ISSSP's mandate to assist the government and the private sector in ensuring the integrity, safety and security of our information systems is indeed a formidable task. As your partner in government, the CICT looks forward to working with the ISSSP on initiatives that would strengthen our IT security infrastructure and lessen the vulnerabilities of our existing networks.

As the head of the agency responsible for pushing the government's ICT initiatives, I am honored to share with you today some of the CICT's accomplishments in cyber security. With the increasing integration of ICT in all aspects of our society, the formulation of a cyber security framework has become a major focus of the country's national ICT agenda.

The Philippine government has developed and subsequently approved two major policy instruments to date. In 2005, our National Cyber Security Plan was approved by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. This document now serves as the cornerstone of the Philippine information security policy. It is the instrument that guides us in the creation of a more secure and stable environment for the country's continued growth. It also mandates the development of necessary capabilities in the government and private sector to meet the challenges and threats against ICT infrastructures that have become part of the Filipino way of life.

In 2006, the CICT issued the Strategic Roadmap for the ICT Sector. The strategies and programs that are outlined in the ICT Roadmap flow from a carefully developed vision for the Philippines' ICT sector—to create a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society that promotes sustainable development and improves the quality of life for Filipinos.

This ICT Roadmap is also a declaration of the Philippine government's belief in ICT as a critical tool for economic growth and development, and ultimately, for empowering the nation and citizens as individuals. By this document, the Philippine government reaffirms its commitment to provide equitable access to information and knowledge, and recognizes that ICT is the key to fulfilling this commitment to promote better governance, corporate performance, and individual achievement. Specifically, it states as one of its principles “a safe and trustworthy online environment for all.”

I am happy to note that we have made significant progress in our efforts to put in place a legislative framework to address cybercrime. Our proposed Anti-Cybercrime Bill defines various forms of cybercrime offenses and prescribes corresponding punishments. These offenses include hacking, identity theft, phishing, spamming, website defacement, denial-of-service (DoS) attacks, malware, child pornography and cyber prostitution. Who can forget the infamous ILOVEYOU virus that originated in the Philippines and spread throughout the world in 2000, causing billions of dollars in damage? The Bill also mandates the creation of a National Cyber Security Office, under the CICT, whose task is to formulate and implement the national cyber security plan.

In our efforts to conform the proposed Bill to international standards, we sought the assistance of the Council of Europe, which authored the Convention on Cybercrime. Last year, the CICT, the Department of Justice and the Council of Europe, with the cooperation of Microsoft, organized a Legislators and Experts Workshop on Cybercrime. We have since incorporated the feedback from the workshop into our proposed Bill and submitted the revised draft to the House of Representatives. I am also happy to note that we have been formally invited by the Council of Europe to accede to the Convention on Cybercrime. A prerequisite to acceding to the Convention is having cybercrime legislation in place, so having the Anti-Cybercrime Bill passed into law is of utmost importance.

At the same time, the CICT has formed, in partnership with the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, a Technical Working Group on Data Privacy that will revisit and improve pending data privacy bills in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The TWG, composed of government agencies and industry associations, is drafting its position on data privacy, taking into consideration the experiences of various countries and existing international framework. A survey was also conducted by Atty. Lalen Parlade that aims to provide a snapshot of the private sector's understanding of the concept of "data privacy" and its scope, the desirability and form of regulation, and the government's role in data privacy regulation.

In addition to the Anti-Cybercrime Bill and the Data Privacy Bill, we are also pushing for a bill creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology. This will further empower the CICT to ensure the protection of the country's digital infrastructure and the safety of its users. It will also bring together the communications expertise of the DOTC and the IT expertise of the CICT in response to increasing network convergence. The House of Representatives approved the bill on third reading last month and has already transmitted the bill to the Senate. In the Senate, the bill has been approved at the committee level and a committee report has been prepared. With the continued support of organizations such as the ISSSP, we believe that the DICT will soon become a reality.

I commend the ISSSP for taking the lead in the private sector in raising awareness on the need for maintaining a secure IT environment. The plethora of security issues relating to the automation of the 2010 national and local elections, which is the focus of today's roundtable discussions, are simply mind blowing and will have to be addressed within a relatively short period of time. Bringing together a panel of experts to discuss this topic will go a long way in helping the government and the country prepare for this major event in Philippine history.

Being an integral part of the electoral reform process as chair of the COMELEC Advisory Council, the CICT shares the responsibility of ensuring the integrity of the automated election system to be used in 2010. The recently conducted automated elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, while not entirely without problems, was a successful electoral exercise that produced complete results within 48 hours and was very well-received by the voters. This exercise demonstrated to the rest of

the nation that there is hope for fair and honest elections through the use of ICT and we look forward to working with COMELEC on the automation of the 2010 elections.

Once again, I wish to congratulate the new officers of the ISSSP, and I look forward to working with you on future ICT initiatives of the government. Thank you very much!