PHILIPPINE ICT SITUATION

BY

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The views presented here are the participants’ and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
Philippine ICT Situation

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Basic Information

- Population
  - 85 Million

- Per Capita GDP
  - US$ 1300 / month

- Government ICTAs
  - Commission on ICT
  - National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)

- ICT infrastructure largely private-sector-driven
Telephone Sub. per 100

- **2000**
  - Phils: 4.0
  - Asia: 9.40
  - World: 16.12

- **2003**
  - Phils: 4.12
  - Asia: 12.80
  - World: 18.10

- **2006**
  - Phils: 4.30
  - Asia: 15.81
  - World: 19.39

- Source: ITU
Mobile / Cel. per 100

- **2000**
  - Philips: 8.44
  - Asia: 6.66
  - World: 12.20

- **2003**
  - Philips: 27.77
  - Asia: 15.32
  - World: 22.65

- **2006**
  - Philips: 50.75
  - Asia: 29.28
  - World: 41.46

- Source: ITU
Internet Users per 100

- **2000**
  - Phils: 2.01
  - Asia: 3.12
  - World: 12.20

- **2003**
  - Phils: 4.93
  - Asia: 6.88
  - World: 22.65

- **2006**
  - Phils: 5.48
  - Asia: 11.57
  - World: 17.39

- Source: ITU
1. The Philippines is committed to realizing the goal of people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society that promotes sustainable development all.

2. Government's primary role in ICT development is to provide an enabling policy, legal and regulatory environment that levels the playing field and allows the private sector to lead.

3. ICT is a tool for human and sustainable development.

5. A Philippine Information Society requires the availability, accessibility and development of digital content that is relevant and meaningful to Filipinos.

6. A safe and trustworthy online environment for all is a critical component of the Philippine Information Society.

7. The undeniable role of ICT as a major driver of the economy requires the creation and/or strengthening of government's institutional arrangements for the facilitation of ICT development, and ICT for development in the country.
RP ICT Projects

- RP Cyber Corridor
- The Community e-Center Program
- Low Cost Computing
- National Broadband Plan
- Next Generation Networks
RP Cyber Corridor

- Pres. Gloria Macapagal – Arroyo’s Grand ICT Plan
- 600-mile fiber optic net
  - Government Broadband Project
  - ICT Education and Distance Learning
  - Public Access and Postal Program
  - Disaster Preparation and Preparedness
  - Govt Mass Media and Broadcast Services
  - Technical Assistance
The Philippine Call Center Industry is a world leader, the country being a favored international Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Partner.
RP Cyber Corridor

- Expand RP ICT Industry
  - Call Centers
  - Other Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)
  - Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO)
  - 1 Million Jobs by 2010
RP Cyber Corridor

- RP Niche Areas
  - Animation
  - Contact Centers
  - Software Development
  - Medical Transcription
e-Center Project

**Internet in Schools (iSchools)** projects aims to provide public high schools with computers with broadband internet connectivity, complemented by educators' training (ICT Literacy/Competency Training for Teachers, Lab Management, Sustainability), tech support, and monitoring and evaluation.

**eCare Centers** are specially designed to provide access and training programs for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The target is to establish one eCare in each region.

**eLGU CeCs** enable local government units to deliver services more efficiently, while providing their respective constituents with access to the Internet and other ICTs. The project also recognizes model websites and best practices in the local government to encourage replication of useful and innovative applications.

**Regional ICT Centers** will spur regional development through the use of ICT in education, commerce, and governance, and spearhead the building of local e-marketplaces or one-stop-shops for e-commerce, e-learning, and e-government services.
Problems

- Government Projects
  - Politics and Red Tape
  - Competing Budgetary Priorities
  - Financing & Revenue Collection
- Private Sector Primacy in ICT
- High Cost to Most Consumers
- Software Piracy
- Growing Cyberporn Industry
ICT in Philippine Politics

- People Power ’86
- Revolution by Radio
- People Power ’01
- Revolution by SMS
The “Love Bug” 2000 computer virus was invented and launched by a Filipino IT Student.

He was later offered a job by a high-profile IT firm in the US.
Filipinos: # 1 SMS’ers

Filipinos are acknowledged as the world’s number one users of mobile phone SMS or “texting” communications. Filipino cell users spend more on SMS than voice.
The northern city of Alaminos established the first ICT center in the N. Philippines.

A partnership between the Alaminos City Government and local ICT firms.
International Partnerships

- The Philippine Mission to the UN in Geneva has partnered with DiploFoundation (http://www.diplomacy.edu) to establish the “Philippine Virtual Embassy” in Second Life
Overseas Filipino Workers

- About every 1 in 9 Filipinos live / work abroad, numbering 8-9 million or 10% pop.
- OFWs contribute over $12-15 Billion remittances annually.
- Many ICT professionals become OFWs
- Active OFW Web Com.
Advantages

- Practically all Filipinos have or have ready access to Cellphones – SMS main medium.
- Practically all Filipinos access the web, tv or radio for news / entertainment daily
- Booming Call Center / BPO / KPO industry
- Proliferation of E-Initiatives in pub/pvt sectors
- Growing # of ICT schools, cyber-cafés
- Mass of English-speaking, ICT-trained graduates
- Dynamic web community (social, blog, etc)
- OFW Remittances potential rich investment source
Directions for the Future

- Use Call BPO / KPO Centers as Catalysts for ICT development
- Encourage Local Government Unit (LGU) & Private Sector ICT Partnerships
- Encourage OFW Migrant Communities / Other Investors (ie Micro-Caps) to invest in local ICT schemes
- Recognize Mobile / Cellphone as ICT platform of choice and capability
- Market “ultracheap” PCs to masses
- Introduce innovative ICT processes
Maraming Salamat Po!

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