



# Philippines

Tuesday, 5 October

facility providing affordable access to ICT-enabled services and relevant content. We have also established the Philippine Community eCenter Network (PhilCeCNet), our multi-sectoral partner in the implementation of the Philippine CeC Program. PhilCeCNet now boasts of over 400 organizational members. It also established, in partnership with the global telecenter organization, called telecentre.org, a Philippine CeC Academy as its capability building arm. I am very pleased to share with you that the Philippines has been selected to chair and host the global telecentre.org program. We are also delighted to participate in a project jointly undertaken by the ITU and the Asian Development Bank to document rural ICT development case studies.

In addition, we the Commission on ICT, in collaboration with our Department of Education, universities and colleges as well as non-government and private sector organizations, continues to establish computer labs with Internet access in each of the Philippines' 6,000 public high schools, spread across our 7,100 islands. We have also established different digital opportunity centers to continuously cater to the different marginalized sector, such as persons with disability and out-of-school youth, teaching them the basic ICT literacy using Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). We even have a call center for the blind program! We thank the ITU for its assistance in the development and delivery of ICT training tools to promote livelihood of rural women, which was piloted in a province frequently visited by tropical storms or typhoons.

The Philippine government in consultation with stakeholders in both the public and private sectors is currently in the process of formulating a successor roadmap or the Philippine Digital Strategy for the years 2011 – 2016 to further harmonize our efforts in setting future directions and implementing projects in the years to come. We are pleased to partner with ITU in a project

that will develop and maintain ICT indicators to measure ICT development in the Philippines. These indicators guide us in setting our targets and objectives as well as the means to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of our strategies and programs.

We will pursue the adoption and use of ICT as one of the strategic solutions to improve governance and alleviate poverty, as our President Benigno S. Aquino III has pointed out as one of his priorities. We shall continue programs and projects that will provide access to easy, low-cost or even free, and reliable ICT in order to reach the goal of having ICT for All.

We believe that the installation and operation of interoperable eGovernment systems, which run across multi-agencies and different sectors is key for transparency and credibility as they would streamline workflows and enhance accountability, aside from bringing about higher productivity. We shall take advantage of new ICT technologies that will ensure a holistic solution to our socio-economic problems to attain peace and prosperity.

With our modest advances in ICT, the Philippines would like to share our thoughts and ideas and continue to serve the ITU as a member of the Council. We do hope you can vote for the Philippines again. We look forward to continue working with all of you with renewed passion and vigor in effecting changes that would bring out the best in the ITU.

Thank you very much and as we say in our national language, Mabuhay!

