Contribution Form

ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific (RDF-ASP)

Digital transformation and innovation for a sustainable and equitable digital future: Supporting the SDGs

organized by the International Telecommunication Union

13-15 September 2023

Bangkok, Thailand

Bangkok Time (GMT+7)

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-ASP P2C Roundtables and it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner 2 Connect Digital Coalition.

Once completed send to ITU-RO-AsiaPacific@itu.int

CONTRIBUTION FORM

ORGANIZATION: Department of Information and Communications Technology – Philippines

FOCAL POINT: Maria Victoria Castro, Director IV, National ICT Planning, Policy and Standards Bureau, mariavictoria.castro@dict.gov.ph

TITLE: Advancing Digital Inclusion and Innovation: Philippines' Commitment to ICT Empowerment

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

In alignment with the spirit of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) of the Philippines is proud to present its multifaceted approach to fostering digital inclusion and driving innovation across the nation. With an unwavering dedication to leveraging technology for societal progress, the Philippines brings forth a comprehensive action plan that synergizes ongoing projects and future initiatives.

The Philippines recognizes the fundamental role of connectivity in realizing digital empowerment. We're actively engaged in expanding broadband access to rural and underserved areas through

projects like the "Free Wi-Fi for All" program, which aims to bridge the digital divide and enable universal internet access. Additionally, our collaboration with industry stakeholders is driving the deployment of 5G infrastructure, promising enhanced connectivity that will pave the way for innovative applications and services.

The DICT is committed to nurturing a digitally literate society. Our ICT Literacy and Competency Development Bureau provides campaign educates citizens on essential digital skills, empowering them to confidently engage in the digital realm. We're also collaborating with educational institutions to integrate ICT education into curricula, ensuring that the youth are prepared to thrive in the digital age.

Innovation is at the heart of our strategy. The Philippines is home to thriving tech hubs and start-up ecosystems. Initiatives like the DICT Startup Grant Fund program support budding entrepreneurs, while the Digital Startup Development and Acceleration Program (DSDAP) fosters an environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship.

The DICT is actively modernizing government services through digital transformation. The "E-Government Master Plan" aims to streamline public services, making them more accessible and efficient for all citizens. Projects like the linked with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) are ensuring seamless service delivery through a unified national identification system.

Recognizing the importance of a secure digital environment, we're reinforcing our cybersecurity infrastructure. The National Cybersecurity Plan (NCSP) bolsters our defenses against cyber threats, safeguarding critical information and promoting a secure online ecosystem for businesses and individuals.

The Philippines is dedicated to fostering regional collaborations that enhance ICT development. We actively engage in partnerships such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, working collectively towards sustainable urbanization and leveraging technology for smarter, more resilient cities.

As we converge at the ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific, the Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Philippines proudly stands as a testament to the transformative power of ICT. Through our ongoing projects and future endeavors, we remain committed to creating an inclusive, innovative, and digitally advanced nation, enriching lives, and driving progress for all.

COUNTRIES IN FOCUS: Philippines

YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION: 2023 onwards

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE:

- ✓ ASP2: Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies.

- ✓ ASP4: Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation.
- ✓ ASP5: Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communications technology environment.

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

- ✓ Affordable connectivity
- ✓ Digital transformation
- ✓ Enabling policy and regulatory environment
- ✓ Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs sustainable development

RELEATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

- ✓ Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICT infrastructure and services
- ✓ Enabling environment