

## **Inclusive Innovation Conference 2017 Closing Remarks**

Undersecretary Denis Villorente  
Department of Information and Communications Technology

Distinguished guests, delegates, media friends, ladies and gentlemen,  
good afternoon!

On behalf of Secretary Salalima, let me first thank and congratulate all the participants for presenting a range of innovative perspectives, systems and tools that shape future thinking and promote digital transformation in industries.

Day 1 has shown us the degree of innovation that is happening in this era of sensors, big data, cloud computing, and Internet of Things, among other exponential technologies that continue to expand at a staggering rate. The Fourth Industry Revolution was once an imagined future, but it's here—our present reality.

The emergence of new ICTs is disrupting many industries around the globe, and the state of industry innovation in the Philippines is, indeed, ripe for assessment. Pursuing multi-stakeholder dialogues like this is

crucial to scale up the integration of technologies into businesses and drive industrial capacities.

The digital economy in the Philippines is gaining traction and requires a resilient ICT infostructure for industries to fully benefit from the available technological products, services and solutions.

Rich ICT applications and digitized enterprises are all about production, transmission and analysis of data. This combination of cloud and industry requires greater data usage, bandwidth and computation power, yet the necessary infostructure support remains to be a critical issue our country faces with the current lack of high-speed connectivity.

To address this infostructure bottleneck, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) developed a National Broadband Plan (NBP)—approved in principle by President Duterte—which will serve as a blueprint to accelerate broadband infostructure deployment, improving the speed of Internet services in the country. Its implementation will cover the provision of a nationwide integrated infostructure that will provide connectivity to government sites, health

and education institutions, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The plan was presented in public during the first ever PH Telecommunications Summit last March, and was posted on the DICT website for inputs and comments from the public. Now on its finalization stage, a feasibility study will be conducted prior to implementation. During the summit, the draft Executive Order mandating all LGUs and agencies to expedite processing of permits and licenses was also presented.

The common ground for the government, industry and other key stakeholders will be data alignment and data integration through cloud and big data tools, enabling greater efficiency and transparency in public service delivery.

One key initiative of the DICT is the National Government Portal (NGP), which is a one-stop gateway for all web-based government content, containing all public services of the government. Following a whole-of-government approach, NGP will help tear down silos and

open up government processes, fostering better collaboration between the government and the citizens and businesses.

Besides reducing paper-based transactions, the NGP also serves as an access point for government data, bringing important government information to citizens' fingertips.

For the benefit of business users, NGP will serve as a single source for information, online forms and other government requirements needed for their day to day operations. With NGP hosting the integrated government service center, businesses can easily get government assistance on issues. Through this service, the government will be able to better monitor service delivery performance.

In similar fashion, increasing access to fast Internet would also increase the size of digital markets, opening up more digital opportunities. Through the Free Public Wi-Fi in Public Places Project of the DICT, a total of 1,634 localities, spanning 1,489 Class 1-6 municipalities and 145 cities nationwide will be provided free Internet access, reaching to the unserved and underserved communities in the countryside. As of May 2017, there are 293 live sites.

Through these three priority projects of the DICT, the country can complement technological breakthroughs in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and create a climate for innovation.

A win-win ICT ecosystem is an interdependent system of relationships and functions that reinforce one another. While sustained investment in ICT infostructure is critical for industry development, localizing global content and application is necessary. This is where consensus, collaboration and further consultation are crucial in designing policies and plans that will maximize consumer welfare and innovation.

It is on this premise that this conference underscores the nature of our collaboration. As the DICT continues to develop ICT-initiatives to usher technological progress for the country, we appreciate feedback and welcome additional inputs, most especially in developing the ICT infostructure that is required to facilitate industry innovation.

The Philippines needs to grow a culture of innovation to address the growing needs of a digital society, with ICT as our springboard for transformation. We must continue pursuing conversations, ideas and provocations. It is through these that we close the distance towards a



One Digitized Nation. So, let me extend once again my congratulations to all the participants and the men and women behind this Inclusive Innovation Conference 2017. Thank you and good afternoon!