

Statement of the Philippines on the Upcoming Election to the Governing Council of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communications Technology for Development (APCICT) for the term 2022-2025.

Introduction

The Philippines is currently represented in the Governing Council by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). It is the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of the government that will plan, develop, and promote the national ICT development agenda. Through one of its Bureaus, the ICT Literacy and Competency Development Bureau (ILCDB), it promotes and recognizes the vital role of information and communications technology (ICT) in nation-building, promote digital literacy, ICT expertise, and knowledge-building among citizens to enable them to participate and compete in an evolving ICT age, and empower, through the use of ICT, the disadvantaged segments of the population, including the elderly, out-of-school youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous and minority groups.

Moreover, the DICT formulates policies and initiatives that will develop and promote ICT education consistent with the national goals and objectives, and responsive to the human resource needs of the different sectors of the society. Specific to the government sector, the development of programs that would enhance the career advancement opportunities of its ICT workforce. And, to facilitate and be encompassing in its various capacity-building initiatives, the promotion and engagement of strategic partnerships and alliances between and among local and international ICT, research and development, educational and training institutions, and competency certifying bodies, to speed up human resource growth and enhance global competitiveness of the Filipino workforce.

Hence, it is the lead agency in the government for ICT human resource capacity development: upskilling and reskilling the government, industry, academe, youth, and marginalized special needs sectors, ensuring that no one is left behind.

APCICT and DICT Engagement

The DICT has been an APCICT Academy Partner since 2008, and a Governing Council member for three terms, from 2010 to present.

As an Academy Partner and a Governing Council member, the Philippine Government through DICT has continuously supported the Centre's objective to build and strengthen the capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP to leverage ICT focusing on training, knowledge sharing, and multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnership.

As an Academy Partner, it has promoted and implemented APCICT's three (3) flagship programs: "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders" (Academy), "Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders" (Primer Series), and "Women in ICT Frontier Initiative" (WIFI). Under the "Academy" almost all the Modules are being implemented by DICT. These Modules are incorporated in the gCIO Competency Development Track of the eCivil Servants Program. Moreover, the Philippines, through DICT, was one of the pilot implementers of the Monitoring and Evaluation

(M&E) system of the Academy, hosted the ASEAN Expert Group Meeting on the Module: “Data-Driven Smart Government”, and participated in various Centre-led webinars. For the “Primer Series program, the DICT has partnered with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in advocating its integration into the curriculum of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). The CHED has issued a Resolution advocating the SUCs to incorporate the Primer Series Modules in their curriculum. The DICT hosted the ASEAN Sub-Regional launch of the Primer Series. In addition, the DICT hosted the launch of the WIFI program for the ASEAN Sub-Region as well as the conduct of its Training of Trainers (ToT) for policymakers and women entrepreneurs. Following the launch and ToT, it created an Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (TWG) that will provide overall direction in the roll-out of WIFI training for women entrepreneurs and policymakers in the country.

And as a Governing Council member, the DICT actively participated in the Council sessions providing strategic advice on future programs and activities of the APCICT. It hosted the 12th Session of the Governing Council.

Commitment

The government of the Philippines, if successfully re-elected, assure its continued support to the APCICT programs and projects and contribute to the attainment of its goals and objectives. It will participate in the review of the administration and implementation of the Centre’s programs, as well as planning for the ICT capacity-building needs in the region in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post COVID-19. Moreover, the Philippines through DICT, will work, together with all the members of the Governing Council, towards the:

- Alignment of APCICT’s strategies and programs to the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Building Back Better strategies;
- Provision of responsive and forward-looking programs and services;
- Mainstreaming UN-wide initiatives in the areas of Gender, Disability, and Innovation into APCICT’s programs;
- Broaden the Centre’s reach by expanding existing partnerships and forging new ones;
- Enhancement of Monitoring and Evaluation of APCICT’s programs; and
- Nurturing APCICT as the Regional hub for digital capacity development and transformation.