



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



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Internet Stakeholders Celebrate 20 years of Internet in the Philippines

The DOST Advanced Science and Technology Institute and the DOST Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Office along with partners from the private sector and several local and international Internet stakeholder organizations held a day long convention called **Internet20PH** discussing the past, present and future of Internet in the Philippines as a celebration of the landmark event in Philippine Internet History.

March 29, 2014 marked the 20th anniversary of Internet in the Philippines. According to PHNET's history, PHNET – formerly Philnet a collaborative project of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and several academic institutions – connected officially to the Internet on the same date in 1994. The Philnet project began in July 1993 with a limited electronic facility linking DOST, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, and U.P. Diliman. A year later through a connection with Victoria University of Technology (VUT) in Australia, through the institutional ties with ADMU, became the gateway to the Internet while ADMU acted as the local relay hub for the Philippines.

'Internet20PH: Connecting Filipinos to the World' is a week-long event commencing on the 27th of March to 4th of April 2014 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Quezon City. A series of workshops, conferences, technical trainings and other relevant activities will be conducted to highlight the successful establishment and continuous evolution of the Internet technology in the Philippines.

Under Secretary Louis Casambre of the DOST ICT Office said "The Internet's role in inclusive development for Filipinos cannot be denied, allowing Filipinos to remain connected to family and friends as well as provide a livelihood for many through outsourced services." "We intend to drive inclusive growth in the country in the near future by providing rural connectivity in areas where Internet access is limited through TV white



space technologies (TVWS). TVWS will help deliver eGovernment services, educational content as well as ehealth services to all areas of the country.” Usec. Casambre added.

The Government, through the efforts of the DOST ICT Office and DOST-ASTI, have played a key role in the development of Internet technology in the Philippines, particularly in the Government’s use of the Internet in service and information delivery. An example of one such initiative is the Integrated Government Philippines or iGovPhil project of developed by both aforementioned agencies.

Likewise, the government has also passed laws to protect local netizens against cybercrime, among the legislation that have been passed are the e-commerce law and the controversial cybercrime prevention act, which is currently under review.

Among the co-organizers of the event and Internet stakeholders present were the Philippine Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC-PH), the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN) and the, U.P. Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology (IESM).

“With a view towards the next 20 years of the Internet in the Philippines, the Internet Society encourages everyone, particularly its members, to come together to examine and consider the myriad issues related to the Internet. Each of us can do our bit and contribute to the global effort to keep our Internet open, accessible and of enduring value for all,” said Winthrop Yap Yu of Internet Society – Philippines Chapter.

“APNIC has proudly supported the development of the Internet in the Philippines since 1996 with Internet addresses, technology infrastructure deployment and training to help build the local skills required for the Internet to flourish. We encourage Filipino organizations to continue making the shift to the next generation of Internet addresses, IPv6, to ensure the Philippines enjoys another 20 years of Internet growth and benefits,” APNIC’s Deputy Director-General, Sanjaya, said.





Photo with Caption



Panelists at the Internet20PH press briefing, organized by the DOST Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) talk about the history and future of Internet in the Philippines. From left to right are Dr. Rodolfo Villarica one of the founders of PHNET, Peter Banzon of ASTI, Monchito Ibrahim of the DOST – ICT Office, Yu Chuang Kuek of ICANN and Mr. Sanjaya of the Asia Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC).