

Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines



AMERICAN



AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND



CANADIAN



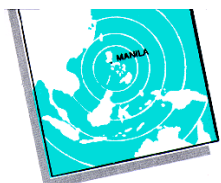
EUROPEAN



JAPANESE



KOREAN



PAMURI

American Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Phils.), Inc.
Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. ♦ European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc.
Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Phils., Inc. ♦ Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc.
Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.

May 25, 2011

Mr. Ivan Uy
Chairman
Commission on Information
and Communications Technology
CICT-NCC Building
C.P Garcia Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City

Dear Chairman Uy:

On March 30 the Joint Foreign Chambers hosted the Seven Big Winner Sectors Workshop at the Asian Institute Management Conference Center in Makati to revalidate 283 Seven Big Winner Sectors recommendations in the *Arangkada Philippines 2010* report. Sponsored by the Joint Foreign Chambers, *Arangkada Philippines 2010* presents a path for the Philippines to become a middle-income economy with robust investment levels, high levels of job creation, modern infrastructure, and rising government revenues to pay for enhanced social services.

At the Workshop expert moderators from the private and public sectors led Breakout Sessions with industry and government participants that prioritized near and medium term recommendations for Investment Climate reforms. We would like to share the status of the recommendations identified in the Breakout Session on **Infrastructure (Telecommunications)**, in which Commissioner Francisco Perez II generously participated.

Highest Priority Recommendations. The Breakout Session affirmed the following *Arangkada Philippines* reform recommendations to be of the highest priority:

- 1) Establish targets to upgrade the speed of broadband and expand coverage.
- 2) Make e-governance a reality for most Filipinos.
- 3) Create a Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

Ongoing Recommendations. The Breakout Session identified the following *Arangkada Philippines* reform recommendations as ongoing:

- 1) Overhaul R.A. 7925 (Public Telecommunications Policy Act), updating it to authorize full convergence (telecommunications and broadcast) and make amendments strengthening the pricing methodologies and competition-related provisions.
- 2) Create a DICT.
- 3) Create a National Broadband Roadmap.

- 4) Establish targets to upgrade the speed of broadband and expand coverage (partial).
- 5) Create a national government data center and website.
- 6) Make e-governance a reality for most Filipinos.
- 7) Use digital transfer technology for various government payments to citizen as well as payments to the government.
- 8) Install a national GPS mapping and information system.

Recommendations Not Under Way. The Breakout Session categorized the following *Arangkada Philippines* reform recommendations as not yet under way:

- 1) Develop a plan to double computer penetration in Philippine households and triple Internet penetration.
- 2) Create a plan for free wireless Internet services in public high schools and in densely populated areas.
- 3) Expand mobile phone service in remote areas with more cellular sites to benefit economic development and tourism.

The Workshop affirmed that a good start has been made on the reforms needed to accelerate investment and job creation. A considerable number of recommended reforms are under way. Results of the improved Investment Climate should begin manifesting themselves in 2011, and even more in 2012.

But major challenges remain - including unanticipated ones - and the implementation of other important reform recommendations is not yet under way. Be assured that we remain committed to a partnership with the Aquino Administration to achieve the goal of an accelerating economy for the benefit of the Filipino people.

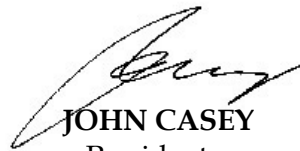
We look forward to another opportunity to discuss these issues with you in the months ahead.

Best Regards,



AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN
President

American Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



JOHN CASEY
President

Australian-New Zealand Chamber
of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.



JULIAN PAYNE
President
Canadian Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



HUBERT D'ABOVILLE
President
European Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



N OBUYA ICHIKI
President
Japanese Chamber of Commerce
& Industry of the Philippines, Inc.



EUN GAP CHANG
President
Korean Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



SHAMEEM QURASHI
President
Philippine Association of Multinational Companies
Regional Headquarters, Inc.

Cc:
Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa, Jr., Office of the President
Secretary Gregory L. Domingo, DTI
Director General Cayetano W. Paderanga, Jr., NEDA
Commissioner Gamaliel A. Cordoba, NTC