



**AMCHAM
PHILIPPINES**

AMERICAN



**PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**

February 3, 2015

Hon. Franklin M. Drilon
Senate President

Hon. Ralph G. Recto
Senate President Pro-tempore
Chairperson, Committee on Science and Technology
Philippine Senate
Pasay City



AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND

Dear Senate President Drilon and Senate President Pro-tempore Recto :

We write to express our support for the passage of the bill creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

Business groups have supported this legislation in the last three Congresses and remain strongly convinced that the time is overdue to create a DICT for the Philippines.

We note that the bill creating a DICT is a “low-hanging fruit” – legislation that has progressed in both chambers in the last Congress, but failed to pass. In the case of the DICT Act, it was passed by both chambers on third reading, but the bicameral conference committee was never constituted. Thus, we encourage the Senate to pass the version approved last Congress.

Senate President Franklin Drilon expressed support for the measure during a recent General Membership meeting of the Management Association of the Philippines where he said that “[S]ince both transportation and communication diverge in different aspects, it is important to have a single department for each. We are looking at creating a Department of Information and Communications Technology that will be tasked to develop ICT systems and further enhance communication services.”

The creation of the DICT will make the Philippines at par with the rest of the world where eighty percent of all countries have separate departments, ministries, or agencies for ICT. In ASEAN, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam each has a cabinet level agency for ICT.

Furthermore, DICT will raise the priority of ICT in the country to a higher level, improve e-governance, raise broadband quality, help strengthen our cyber-security, and improve national competitiveness.



CANADIAN



EUROPEAN



JAPANESE



KOREAN



PAMURI

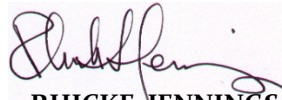
The Philippine ranking in the UN E-government Development Index has dropped sharply over the decade since the 2003 and is now rated 95 of 193.

A 2014 rating of broadband speed showed the Philippines at 3.6 mbps, Indonesia (4.1), Malaysia (5.5), Cambodia (5.7), Vietnam (13.1), Thailand (17.70), and US (22.3). As a country, the Philippines lacks adequate infrastructure and competition to support the newest smart phones, which are rapidly replacing feature mobile phones, and provide faster broadband at low prices.

A more extensive discussion of our position is given in the attached commentary.

Thank you and we look forward to continued partnership with you in the future.

Regards,



RHICKE JENNINGS
President

American Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines Inc.



IAN PORTER
President

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



JULIAN PAYNE
President

Canadian Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



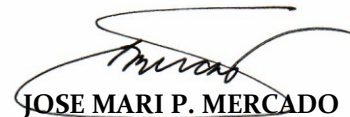
MICHAEL RAEUBER
President

European Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



YOSHIO AMANO
President

Japanese Chamber of Commerce
& Industry of the Philippines, Inc.



JOSE MARI P. MERCADO
President & CEO

IT and Business Process
Association of the Philippines



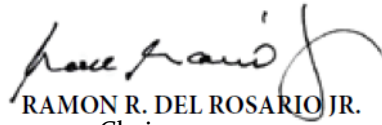
EUN GAP CHANG
President

Korean Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.

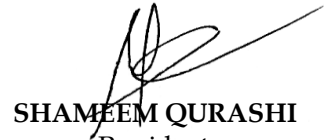


FRANCISCO F. DEL ROSARIO
President

Management Association
of the Philippines



RAMON R. DEL ROSARIO JR.
Chairman
Makati Business Club



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



ALFREDO M. YAO
President
Philippine Chamber of
Commerce & Industry