



**Event** : 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
**Date and Time** : April 24, 2024, 9:00 am – 12:00 nn.  
**Venue** : ESCAP Hall, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) Bangkok, Thailand  
**Speaker** : Undersecretary David L. Almirol, Jr.

### Country Intervention

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- Excellencies, distinguished guests, and fellow public servants.
- We are very fortunate that we have a lot of tech-savvies in the Philippines – government leaders, including our President, as he instructed all government agencies to digitalize both front-end services and back-end functions. Digitalization is one of his priorities in the Philippines.
- On June 2 last year, we launched the eGovernment platform that will liberalize a lot of technologies in the Philippines. The DICT, or the Department of Information and Communications Technology, is now capacitated with its own R&D team. In fact, it has a pillar of five. The first pillar is we develop e-government solutions that will actually simplify a lot of processes in the Philippines. These complexities, siloed systems, data services, cloud services, and other siloed systems actually make things very complicated and, hence, really hard to do e-governance. However, using this e-Governance platform, we are able to launch a so-called data exchange platform, or the e-Government data exchange platform that will make



all systems work together to make sure that we have a “Once-Only” Policy, that once you entered information into a certain government system, you don’t need to repeat it again.

- Another simplification model that we were able to launch in the Philippines is called the eGovernment Cloud Services. We are now simplifying the management and maintenance of cloud services because if we allow multiple-siloed government cloud services again, the issues in cybersecurity, data privacy, including sustainability will persist, which is actually a big problem.
- Part of the five pillars of the e-Government initiative is also to empower national government agencies. In fact, the DICT is now assisting around 677 national government agencies to simplify their processes. We also have an agency called the ARTA, or the Anti-Red Tape Authority, in collaboration with an ease-of-doing-business model to ensure that we are not only able to digitalize or innovate but also to simplify several processes.
- Another initiative is to amplify the local government units, digitalization starting down to the ground roots, not just in level of the national government. The data should be automated, down to the local government units, so that, once this is transmitted to the national level, it will simplify a lot of processes including business permits, real property tax systems, local government services, and other kinds of permits.



- We are also able to launch the Digital ID of our National ID. In fact, June 2 last year we are able to launch a so-called eGov Super App in the Philippines. The eGov Super App is actually a combination of multiple APIs that could link multiple government services. In fact, the National ID is embedded in it. You can already apply for your passport, driver's license, and all kinds of permits. In the same system, job creation and livelihood creation such as in the agriculture sector are also embedded in it. Services like people's feedback mechanism and crime-busting is also part of it, connected to the Philippine National Police and the Department of Social Welfare and Development or the DSWD. We also implemented the people's feedback mechanism for abuse-reporting such as violence against women and children, and other kinds of system to be simplified in terms of reporting directed to the agency responsible to respond to make sure that we have an e-government response system as well.
- Another part of the e-government initiative is the ISSP. The DICT implemented the so-called ISSP, or the Information Systems Strategic Plan so that all systems implemented in the government, including government-owned and controlled corporations and other instrumentalities of the government are to be reviewed by the DICT – all ICT should be reviewed first before implementation, so that we are able to simplify a lot of processes.



- The Philippines is very excited and open to explore regional international participation, including capacity-building, best practices adoption, and e-government policy and processes simplification, Madame Chair. Thank you so much.