

20 24

ANNUAL REPORT

DICT REGIONAL OFFICE IX AND BASULTA



DICT



BAGONG PILIPINAS

FOREWORD

DICT of the people and for the people.

This mission is the impetus and the inspiration that drives the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA to advance ICT as a tool for empowerment and development. In a fast-paced digital society, access to technology and connectivity - more so the knowledge, skills, and ecosystem - is a must for communities to prosper and for the nation to transition as a world-class digital economy.

Through all these, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA remains resolute in exemplifying dedication to public service and serving, in their own way, as champions of ICT, bringing innovation, opportunity, and above all else, hope, to the communities we serve.

This Accomplishment Report provides a glimpse of the work that we do in the regions, and reflects the stories of our communities here in Zamboanga Peninsula, and the Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi regions.

It is our honor and pride to be able to share them with you as we move forward, ever mindful of the responsibility we hold to build a brighter future and make a lasting impact in the lives of all Filipinos through ICT.

EDITORIAL BOARD

PUBLICATION ADVISERS

Regional Director Cheryl C. Ortega
TOD Chief Engr. Jacob F. Mohammad
AFD Chief Aris B. Austria

EDITORS

Jasmine Mohammadsali
Joshua Clamohoy

WRITERS

Reginald Enriquez
Engr. Kristine Loraine Ariston
Engr. John Michael Brique
Juvy Lawan-Ferry
Engr. Kharnelle Eyraud Sade Lim
Jerico Tan
Uris Fonollera
Sarah Mae Camenforte
Nadzkipar Usman
Arashed Asula
Ryan Hammari
Engr. Mae Dedoro
Al-Vincent M. Recentes
Joshua C. Clamohoy

WRITERS

Keziah Joyce Andain
Midarca Mohammad
Al-Rajhi Otoalih
Noryn Jane Esguerra
Mohammad Parsaudi Jikiri
Engr. Levin Angelo Lobren
Engr. Remshar Maquiso

LAYOUT / ART AND GRAPHICS

Jasmine Mohammadsali
Joshua C. Clamohoy
Cheizer Yniego
Nadzkipar Usman

PHOTOS

Cheizer Yniego
Fhlori Ann Maye Luna



TABLE OF CONTENT

iii	Message from Assistant Secretary of Regional Development	21	Upskilling Filipino Professionals with PRC-accredited Training Programs
iv	Message from the Regional Director		Game On! Robotics, Coding with Micro:bit, Minecraft Education
1	DICT R9 BASULTA Receives Prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Certification	22	Igniting Digital Futures, one SPARK at a Time
2	DICT R9BASULTA Holds Benchmarking Activities for ISO Certification	23	R9BASULTA Rolls Out Digital Parenting, anti-OSAEC Training
3	CSC Officially Confers PRIME-HRM Bronze Award to DICT R9BASULTA	24	CyberRange, HackforGov Exercises Level Up Awareness, Showcase Cybersecurity Skills
4	Leadership Transfer: DICT R9BASULTA bids Asec Tess farewell, welcomes RD Cheng	25	Get Set, Go! The GECS-MOVE in Action
5	In Focus: International Girls in ICT Day	26	Enhancing RA Officer Competence: DICT R9BASULTA Holds RA Training Course
6	Building a Gender-Inclusive Workplace: DICT R9 & BASULTA Gender Sensitivity Training	27	Sustaining MAGIC in ZAMBASULTA: DICT Spearheads High-impact Industry Confabs
7	DICT at Your Service: Serving Communities At BPSF 2024	29	DICT R9 BASULTA Joins PH Creative Industries Month
8	R9BASULTA Awards and Recognition	30	ZC Schools Receive Training, ICT Equipment with DICT's Project CLICK
9	Broadband ng Masa Connects Turtle Islands, Tawi-Tawi	31	Zambo Sibugay holds Provincial Startup Tilt
10	174 Agencies Connected with Zambo City GovNet	32	Bridging Cultures, Technology: DICT, Tabak Infantry Launch Tech4Ed Center in Mosque
11	One Village At A Time: 8 New SVSI Sites Established	33	FAQs: The ICT Proficiency Certification Exam
13	SVSI Partnership Brings Mobile Infra, Connectivity in Sacol Island	34	Dapitan City's Digital Leap: A Success Story in Governance with PNPKI, eBOSS
14	Accessible Healthcare: SVSI Brings Telemedicine in Sitangkai, Hadji Panglima	35	DICT, Basilan PNP Partner for Cybersecurity, Digital Skills Training
15	eGovPH App hits 200K downloads in ZAMBASULTA	36	133 New Free WiFi Sites Activated in Sulu
16	eLGU BPLS Summit & Awards	37	Tawi-Tawi Activates ICT Council, Marks Historic Win in PSC9
18	9th Tech4ED Awards	39	2024 Gawad Pasasalamat
19	DICT holds stakeholder meet on nat'l ICT policies	41	In Figures: 2024 Accomplishment
20	From Lamitan to Liloy: 6 New DTCs-Tech4ED Centers Launched		

MESSAGE

My warmest congratulations to the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA on the publication of your 2024 Accomplishment Report. This document is a vital step in advancing our advocacy for an ICT-enabled and digitally transformed nation. It also fosters meaningful collaboration with all stakeholders, while serving as a platform for transparency and accountability.

I am proud to see the results of your efforts reflected in the stories shared in this report. It is through your dedication and hard work that we are able to bring the message of Bayang Digital—a message of hope and empowerment—to life.

I would like to commend the DICT R9BASULTA team under the leadership of Director Cheryl Ortega for an outstanding year in the field. The team successfully established eight new Smart Villages Smart Islands sites, and recorded the highest number of operational eLGU – iBPLS furthering our eGovernance initiatives in the region.

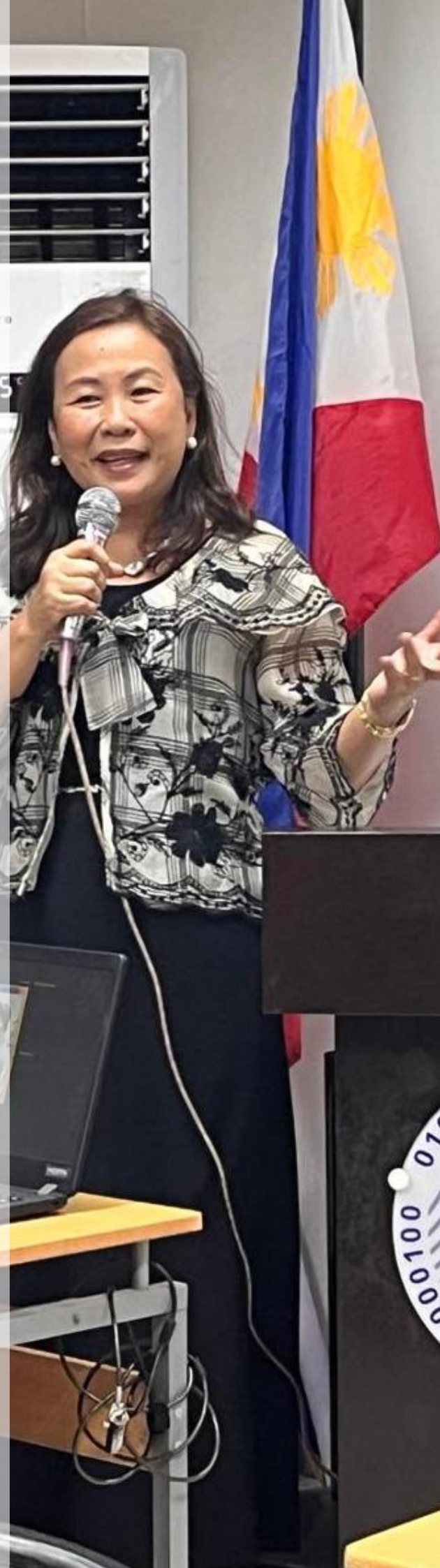
With 796 active Free Wifi sites, we bring reliable and accessible internet to all, especially geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas where connectivity is a lifeline. And we are committed to expanding this network so that more communities will have the ICT advantage.

It was also a great honor to have been part of DICT R9BASULTA's journey in becoming the first regional office to achieve ISO 9001:2015 certification. This milestone aligns us with internationally-recognized standards, raising the bar for service not only for R9BASULTA but for all DICT regional offices.

To the R9BASULTA team, keep up the great work. We look forward to a year of continued ICT growth, empowering even more communities with the tools and opportunities they need.

MARIA TERESA M. CAMBA

Assistant Secretary for Regional Development





MESSAGE

It is my sincerest pleasure to present the 2024 Accomplishment Report of the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA. This report highlights our achievements over the past year, documenting the region's milestones, the challenges it has faced along the way, and the stories of empowerment and transformation that mark our journey as we work towards a connected society and an empowered citizenry under Bayang Digital.

2024 was a year of transition for myself and the R9BASULTA team. I came in to take the reins from Assistant Secretary for Regional Development Maria Teresa Camba, whose leadership as regional director and later, as concurrent OIC, set the standard of excellence that R9BASULTA is known for.

With this strong foundation, we came together for a year of victory, capping 2024 as the first regional office to be ISO 9001:2015 Certified for Quality Management System. We were also formally conferred the PRIME HRM Bronze Award – another historic first for DICT – in recognition of its adherence and compliance to human resource management standards in core HRM systems.

We achieved these prestigious milestones while also sustaining our core programs for affordable, reliable, and equitable access to digital opportunities across the region, to great success. It has been a privilege to witness our initiatives become the lynchpin for digital transformation, leading the way to the convergence of education, health, and social services for inclusive development in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

This is ICT at work, and once again, it reaffirms the life-changing impact of our efforts to bring knowledge, information, and access to the countryside. This is a legacy worth fighting for.

Moving forward, we intend to sustain this momentum to continue the work of building a Bayang Digital, a nation where Filipinos are connected and empowered as Pilipinong Konektado, governance and public service are digitally transformed and made more efficient in Gobyernong Epektibo, and where every sector is committed to an ICT-enabled future for all towards a Hinaharap na Progresibo.

To the DICT R9BASULTA team, congratulations and my sincerest gratitude for your steadfast dedication and commitment to public service. A new chapter awaits – and we move forward with renewed confidence and purposeful resolve to do more, to do better, and to go the distance for the region, and the nation.

CHERYL C. ORTEGA
Regional Director



DICT R9 BASULTA Receives Prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Certification

We are ISO-certified! In 2024, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA made history as it became the first DICT Regional Office to achieve ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification, a feat made possible by the regional office's determination and dedication to quality performance and public service excellence.

The regional office, represented by Assistant Secretary for Regional Development Maria Teresa M. Camba, Regional Director Cheryl C. Ortega, and Administrative and Finance Division Chief and Quality Management Representative Aris B. Austria, received the certification award from certifying body TÜV NORD Philippines during simple ceremonies at the DICT Central Office on September 30, 2024.



“This distinction is a first in DICT history and reflects months of hard work and dedication,” said Asec. Camba, who led the certification efforts of R9BASULTA during her tenure as Regional Director and OIC. “It inspires us to continually improve our processes, ensuring our people receive the best possible service.”

The certification covers DICT R9BASULTA's provision of management services, technical operations, and administrative and finance services, for ICT connectivity, eGovernment initiatives, facilities, and capability development. The achievement sets a benchmark for on the importance of innovation and commitment to quality in public service.

The regional office's road to ISO certification began with the DICT R9BASULTA alongside the DICT Central Office undertaking initial capacity-building efforts to align their processes with ISO standards through a technical grant of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP). After this partnership concluded, the DICT R9BASULTA pressed on independently, with notable training sessions led by DICT in-house ISO QMS resource person Christian Roy Melad of the Regional Operations Coordination Services (ROCS).

All these culminated in a rigorous stage 2 audit, conducted on-site by ÜV NORD Philippines in June 2024, that reported zero non-conformities, underscoring the alignment of the regional office's processes and procedures with international standards.

Also noted were the numerous achievements of the regional office, which include the Prime HRM Level II certification and recognition at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2023.

The ISO 9001:2015 is a globally recognized standard for quality management systems,

sets stringent requirements for establishing and maintaining efficient processes.

By achieving this prestigious certification, DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA not only elevated their own standards but also set the stage for other regional offices and government agencies to prioritize continuous improvement and excellence in service to the Filipino people under the banner of Bayang Digital. (Kryztle Love N. Evangelista)

DICT R9BASULTA Holds Benchmarking Activities for ISO Certification



As part of its best practices, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA shares its learning experiences with national government agencies and offices seeking to undergo the ISO 9001:2015 certification process.

Since its certification, the regional office has hosted two benchmarking activities – first, with the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD) team headed by General Manager Reynaldo Cabilin on July 26, 2024, and the Computer Services Division of the City Government of Zamboanga led by Division Chief Alan Aizon on October 23, 2024.

The benchmarking activities, facilitated by R9BASULTA Administrative and Finance Division Chief and Quality Management Representative (QMR) Aris Austria, discussed the step-by-step process and requirements for quality management system compliance according to prescribed standards.

In both cases, Mr. Austria affirmed the regional office's willingness to extend a helping hand to fellow government agencies and partners seeking to undergo the certification process as these collective efforts will redound to better programs and public service. (Jasmine Mohammadsali)



CSC Officially Confers PRIME-HRM Bronze Award to DICT R9BASULTA

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA was formally conferred by the PRIME HRM Bronze Award on October 14, 2024 by the Civil Service Commission in recognition of its adherence and compliance to human resource management standards in core HRM systems.

DICT R9BASULTA is the first DICT regional office to receive PRIME-HRM Bronze Award Maturity Level II, and is one of the only 26 out of 136 government agencies in the Zamboanga Peninsula region to have attained this recognition.

The award was conferred by CSC Acting Chairperson Atty. Aileen Lourdes Lizada with CSC IX Director Alvin Araneta to the DICT R9BASULTA team led by Assistant Secretary for Regional Development Maria Teresa M. Camba, Regional Director Cheryl C. Ortega, Admin and Finance Division Chief Aris B. Austria, Supervising Administrative Officer Wellie Joseph Wee and Human Resource Officer Lelanie Maturan.

With this recognition, the DICT R9BASULTA was also formally given the authority to act on and approve appointments with Department Order No. 014, issued by Secretary Ivan John E. Uy.

The PRIME HRM Bronze Award is given to organizations that have substantially complied with the Maturity Level 2 System, Competency and Practice indicators and standards in the four (4) Human Resource Management (HRM) areas, namely: Recruitment Selection and Placement (RSP), Learning and Development (L&D), Performance Management (PM), and Rewards and Recognition (R&R) under the Enhanced Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM).

The attainment of PRIME-HRM Bronze Award Maturity Level II is a testament of the DICT R9BASULTA's commitment to excellence and to pave the way for more efficient public service. (Noryn Jane M. Esguerra)

Leadership Transfer: DICT R9BASULTA bids Asec Tess farewell, welcomes RD Cheng



The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA officially welcomed Director Cheryl C. Ortega as its new regional director Monday, July 1, 2024, vice concurrent OIC and Assistant Secretary for Regional Development Maria Teresa Camba.

“I’ve known her for over 3 decades and I know that this office will be in good hands. She is honest, hardworking, experienced, and a very dedicated public servant. I leave with a heart full of gratitude and memories that I will treasure. To all of you here, maraming maraming salamat. I couldn’t have asked for a better team. It has been a real pleasure and honor to have been given the opportunity to work with all of you,” Asec. Camba said.

For her part, Director Ortega vowed to continue the legacy of dedication and public service excellence started by Asec. Camba.

“Rest assured, the same values, the same work ethics and discipline will live on in Regional Office IX and BASULTA, and it is my commitment that the region will continue to soar high,” Director Ortega said.

Director Ortega is a certified public accountant and career executive service officer.

In 2015, she was appointed as Director II for the DICT Luzon Cluster 2 covering Regions III and IV, and in 2018, served as Director IV of Luzon Cluster 3 covering the MIMAROPA and Bicol Regions.

In 2022, she was designated Regional Director of DICT Region IV-A (CALABARZON) and DICT IV-B (MIMAROPA). (Jasmine Mohammadsali)

R9BASULTA Launches New Comms Channels

The regional office launched dedicated Facebook pages for each province under its jurisdiction, including Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. The newly launched Facebook pages aim to bring public service closer to the people by providing a localized hub for real-time updates, event announcements, and direct interaction with DICT representatives.

Meanwhile, the eGovPH Podcast serves to bolster public awareness and promotion of the eGovPH Super App. The series is broadcast via the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA Facebook page, with monthly episodes tackling the features and benefits of the eGovPH App, a centralized digital platform to streamline government service.

In an effort to maximize all media platforms, including traditional media, the regional office also launched its Ugnayang DICT radio program, in partnership with the 4th Civil Relations Group through its DXWC Peace Radio 88.3 FM.

An operational hotline, **0927 474 4420**, is also available for any ICT concerns in the Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. (Sarah Mae A. Camenforte)



In Focus: International Girls in ICT Day

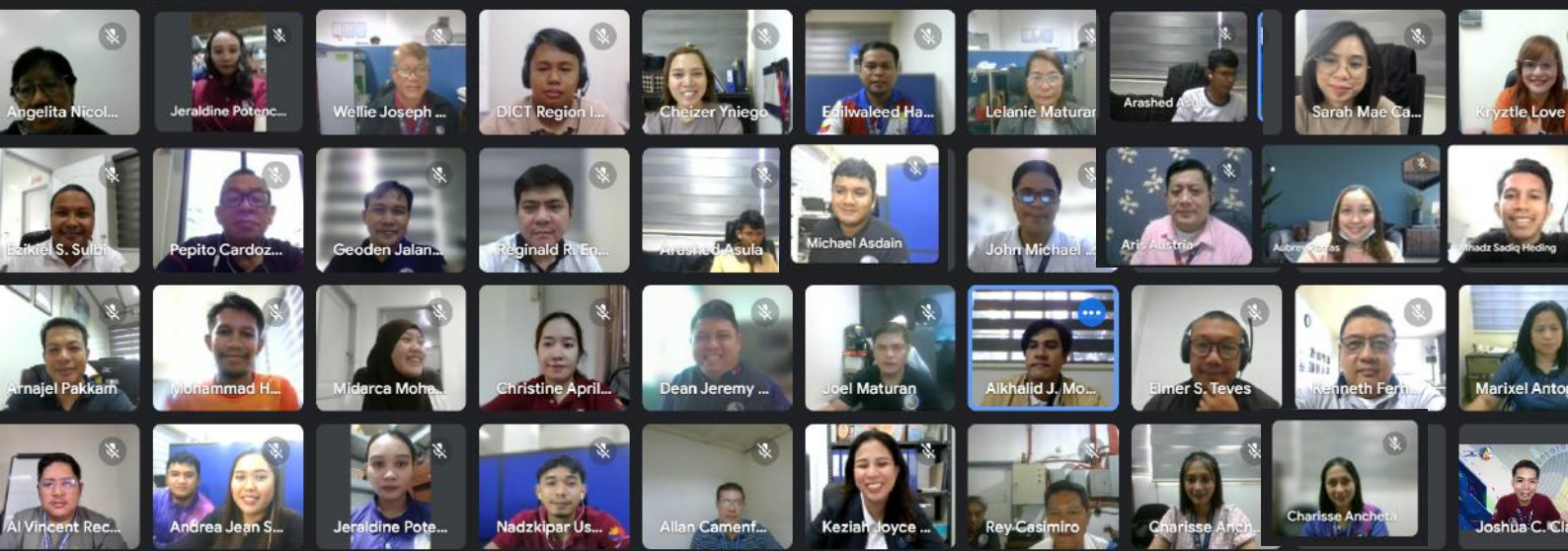
The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA joined the nation and millions of young girls across the world to celebrate the International Girls in ICT Day on April 25, 2024 with a series of back-to-back dialogues and mentorship sessions to amplify women's voices in ICT. Over a hundred young girls and women from both junior and senior high schools across Zamboanga Peninsula and BASULTA participated in the Digital Innovation for Women Advancement (DIWA) dialogues.

The dialogues were held simultaneously by the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA and its provincial offices together with a virtual program spearheaded by the DICT Central Office as the host of the global event

The Girls in ICT Day celebration is an annual observance marked on the fourth week of April and highlights the critical importance of young women in the ICT sector. The celebration puts into emphasis the need for a gender inclusive society wherein young women play a pivotal role in STEM and ICT.

The DICT through its various projects and programs, particularly the ICT Industry Development Bureau, has championed the pivotal role of young women in ICT - the Digital Innovation for Women Advancement (DIWA), which aims to harness the role of ICT to advance gender equality and empower women to actively participate in building an inclusive and sustainable digital future. Through these initiatives, DICT is highlighting the need to promote career opportunities for girls and women in the world's fastest-growing sector. (Joshua C. Clamohoy)





Building Gender Inclusive Spaces: GST

On November 14-15, 2024, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA team held a two-day online Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) via Google Meet.

Mr. Wellie Joseph Wee, the GAD Focal, in his message, stated the importance of understanding, sensitivity, and respect to individuals and groups. The Independent GAD Coordinator Mx. Angelita L. Nicolas, led the training wherein she discussed key topics included distinctions between sex and gender, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGIE), social institutions shaping gender roles, gender division of labor, manifestations of gender bias, and the role of power in gender dynamics.

Mental Wellness in the Workplace and Conflict Management

In a concluding event to a successful year, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA team attended a mental wellness session presented by Ms. Sheila L. Chiong, Director of the College Guidance and Counseling Office (CGCO) at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University.

The session, addressed the critical role of mental health and conflict resolution in achieving workplace harmony. Participants learned actionable strategies to manage stress, foster resilience, and build healthier work relationships, ultimately contributing to a more productive and balanced organizational culture.

As the event drew to a close, Mr. Aris B. Austria, Chief of Administration and Finance, delivered a powerful message, emphasizing the critical need to translate the newly acquired knowledge and skills into tangible improvements within the daily operations of the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA team. He also articulated that by actively integrating these learnings, personnel could significantly reduce operational friction, optimize workflow, and create a more harmonious and productive environment.

This comprehensive session served as a reaffirmation of the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA team's unwavering dedication to the continuous enhancement of its personnel's capabilities. It underscored the organization's commitment to investing in the holistic development of its employees, recognizing that a well-supported and mentally resilient workforce is the cornerstone of excellence in service delivery. (Joshua C. Clamohoy)





DICT at Your Service: Serving Communities At BPSF 2024

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA offered learning and connectivity services to the public as one of the participating agencies in the Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi stops of the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (BPSF) 2024.

The DICT team played a vital role in both legs, providing internet connectivity and free Wi-Fi for all participating agencies and attendees as well as spearheading learning sessions on cybersecurity, media literacy, AI applications, and PNPKI and eGov PH app orientation and support services.

In Zamboanga City, the team served 102 individuals through the learning sessions conducted over the 2-day BPSF from May 10 - 11 at the Zamboanga City High School Main, and promoted the eGov app to 190 participants. The Technical Team, on the other hand, served 26 participating agencies with their connectivity requirements.

A highlight of the BPSF Zamboanga City was the turnover of five laptops to the Landang Laum Elementary School in line with the

establishment of the DTC Tech4ED Center in Sacol Island.

In Tawi-Tawi, the team deployed seven Starlink units with access points to provide connectivity to participating government agencies including the Pag-IBIG Fund, PhilHealth, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the Department of Foreign Affairs for smooth service delivery.

In addition to the internet connectivity, the team also provided eGov PH App orientations and assistance for PNPKI application for 95 individuals from May 23-24 at the Tawi-Tawi School of Arts and Trade (TTSAT).

The Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (BPSF) is a flagship program of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. which embodies the government's commitment to enhancing Filipinos' lives by bringing essential services closer to their communities. This initiative aligns with the vision of a "Bagong Pilipinas" – a nation of renewed hope and progress for all Filipinos. (Engr. Kharnelle Eyrand Sade Lim)



Awards and Recognition for DICT R9BASULTA

2024 RDs Conference

- **Standardization Catalyst Award** for pioneering the PRIME HRM Level II (Bronze) and the ISO 9001:2015 Certification in the DICT Regional Offices
- **Digital Government Award** for furthering the DICT's eGovernance initiatives, leading to the most number of operational eLGU-iBPLS with a total of 77.78%
- **Making Academe, Government, Industry Collaborate (MAGIC) Award** for fostering partnerships and a collaborative ICT industry environment
- **Smart Village and Smart Island Award** for establishing the most number of Smart Villages and Smart islands
- **Connectivity Award** for exceeding the Free Wifi for All Program's Regional Implementation target for FY 2024

RISE 9.2 Awards

- Champion for Best Same-Day Edit (SDE) Video
- 2nd Place for Best in Symbolic Launching
- 3rd Place for Best in LGU Support: in partnership with the City Government of Dapitan
- 3rd Place for Best in RISE Insight Report
- 3rd Place for Best in Exhibitions

Provincial Awards and Recognition

- Plaque of Appreciation as stakeholder and active partner of KBP RMN DXPR and DXWD IFM MATIK PAGADIAN.
- Plaque of Appreciation for support to the 1st Signal "SEMPER PRIMUS" Battalion, Army Signal Regiment, Philippine Army.

- Certificate of Appreciation for support to the Regional Geographic Information System (RGIN) IX
- Certificate of Appreciation from DOLE for being a partner in the Government Internship Program.
- Plaque of Appreciation for support during the conduct of "Cybersecurity Training and Awareness Seminar" at Headquarters 102nd Infantry (IGSOON) Brigade, 1st Infantry (TABAK) Division.
- Certificate of Appreciation for services extended to Sibugay Technical Institute Incorporated.
- Certificate of Appreciation for contribution to the Digital Transformation (DTC) of LGU Diplahan.
- Certificate of Appreciation as one of the distinguished agencies at the "PESO Ipil Jobs Fair" as part of the 75th Araw ng Ipil Celebration
- Certificate of Appreciation for the support to the One-Stop-Shop Services during Araw ng Pangulo Celebration
- Plaque of Appreciation for commitment and passion attaining the goals and objectives of the DepEd Isabela
- Torch of Opportunities for participation in USAID Opportunity 2.0 program
- Certificate of Appreciation for service during the DIA DE ISABELEÑOS: Trabaho, Negosyo, Kabuhayan at Kasanayan
- 2024 Manggagawa Awards for steadfast commitment to peace and inclusive development in Tawi-Tawi through information and communications technology (Compiled by: Al Rajhi Otoalih/Provincial Communication Officers)



Broadband ng Masa Connects Turtle Islands, Tawi-Tawi

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA establishes internet connectivity in one of the country's most remote communities in the south with the launch of the Broadband ng Masa program in Turtle Islands in Tawi-Tawi, last January 2024.

The initiative formally connected three crucial sites in the islands – the Taganak Rural Health Unit, the NICTS Littoral Monitoring Station Taganak (Naval), and the Municipal Public Relation Office, with the assistance of USAID through Better Access and Connectivity (USAID-BEACON), Data Lake, and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA).

To bridge connectivity to digital literacy, the DICT also turned over two tablets and one laptop to Taganak Elementary School and two tablets to the Turtle Islands National High School.

The establishment of reliable connectivity was also instrumental in enabling another milestone service in Turtle Island – accessible healthcare to all with the telemedicine platform of DICT partners Huawei Philippines and mWell. With this technology, residents can hold remote medical consultations with doctors through the internet, exemplifying the transformative potential of ICT to go beyond borders and to bridge social, geographical, and digital divides. (Jasmine Mohammadsali)

Free Wifi Ushers Digital Transformation in Geographically Isolated ZAMBASULTA communities

As a stepping stone towards digital transformation, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA established connectivity in geographically isolated and remote villages with the activation of the Free Wi-Fi program in Smart Villages Smart Islands (SVSI) sites.

Free internet access was enabled in all 8 SVSI sites established in 2024 with the following sites:

- Lizon Valley Barangay Hall
- Lizon National High School
- Lizon Valley Tribal Village
- Sitangkai Municipal Hall
- Hadji Panglima Municipal Hall
- Olutanga Municipal Hall
- Olutanga Rural Health Unit
- WMSU Olutanga
- Liloy Digital Transformation Center
- Marang-Marang Barangay Hall
- Marang-Marang Covered Court

- Marang-Marang Covered Court
- Kapunungan sa Gagmay'ng Mangingisda sa Concepcion (KGMC) Tech4ED Center
- Diplahan Rural Health Unit
- WMSU Diplahan
- Wilfredo Palma Hospital

Sacol Island, the first SVSI site in the nation, was also connected with seven Free Wifi sites in 2023.

Broadband connectivity is the first pillar of the Smart Villages Smart Islands initiative in order to usher in access to ICT and digital technologies.

With the DICT's Free Wifi, all SVSI sites in the region has 100% overall coverage for connectivity, which will pave the way for inclusion, development, and digital transformation from the ground-up. (Jasmine Mohammadsali)

174 Agencies Connected with Zambo City GovNet

A total of 174 government agencies and offices are presently connected to the Zamboanga City Government Network (GovNet).

In 2024, 5 additional agencies were connected to the network, namely the Zamboanga City Medical Center – Bucas Center, the Philippine National Police – Regional Mobile Force Battalion 9, the National Authority for Child Care – Regional Alternative Child Care 9 (RACCO 9), the Camp Navarro General Hospital, and the LGU Zamboanga City Business One Stop Shop (BOSS).

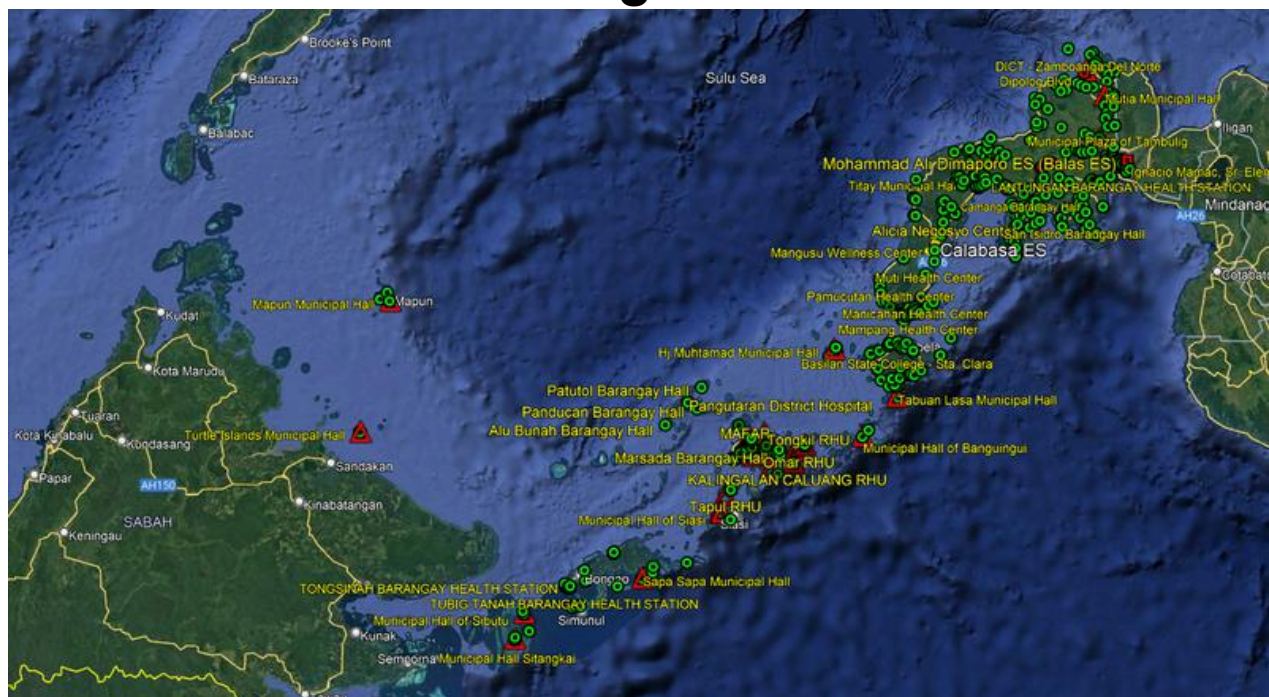
The Zamboanga City Government Network provides 3 Gbps of sustained and dedicated internet connectivity shared through six points of presence. In 2025, the bandwidth capacity of the network will be upgraded to 5Gbps to cater to the growing needs of stakeholders, and to accommodate plans for future expansion.

In addition to internet connectivity, the GovNet team also spearheaded technical training to beneficiaries on fiber optic technology and basic troubleshooting as part of its support and service.

Meanwhile, plans to expand and replicate the network to Pagadian City is presently underway. (Jasmine Mohammadsali and Engr. Remshar Maquiso)



Free Wifi Sites - Zamboanga Peninsula and BASULTA



One Village At A Time: 8 New SVSI Sites Established

Building on the momentum that started in Sacol Island, Zamboanga City, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA, established eight new sites Smart Villages Smart Islands across Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi in 2024.

The municipality of Diplahan and the barangay of Conception in Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay, and the barangay of Baybay in Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte were launched back-to-back in the first semester of 2024 with Asec. Camba in her capacity as R9BASULTA OIC.

In the second semester, under the leadership of Regional Director Cheryl Ortega, five sites were established in barangay Solar in Olutanga, Zamboanga Sibugay, barangay Marang-marang in Isabela, Basilan, the municipality of Sitangkai in Tawi-Tawi, barangay Lison Valley in Pagadian City, and the municipality of Hadji Panglima Tabil in Sulu.

“This is just the beginning of our transformation journey for digital transformation, and rest assured, the DICT will continue to support you. Babalik at babalik kame, and we will strengthen and pursue a stronger and better SVSI from what we have started here today,” Regional Director Cheryl Ortega said.

The launch of the eight SVSI sites saw the activation of Free Wi-Fi sites under the Free Wifi For All Program of the DICT, which also enabled the rollout of digital literacy initiatives and ICT-enabled services.

Tailored for the Community

A hallmark of the SVSI establishment in the region is its attention to the needs of the community, taking care and diligence to align programs and services with local government units and partner agencies.



Diplahan SVSI, Zamboanga Sibugay



Barangay Conception, Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay



Barangay Baybay, Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte



Barangay Solar, Olutanga, Zamboanga del Sur



Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi



Lison Valley, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur



Barangay Marang-marang, Isabela City, Basilan



Hadji Panglima Tahir, Sulu

In Lison Valley, the farthest barangay in Pagadian City that is home to an IP village, the DICT team established connectivity through the Free Wifi program which will be powered by the solar powered system and charging stations provided by the City Government of Pagadian.

Telemedicine services through the mWell application connected Hadji Panglima Tahir in Sulu to medical professionals for online consultation, a service lauded by health workers in the community, while the School-in-a-Bag service of PLDT Smart was deployed in Sitangkai, one of the southernmost municipalities in the country, to engage teachers and learners with digital content and learning materials.

In Solar, Olutanga, the activation of the Free Wifi service led to the relaunching of the ALS Olutanga Tech4ED Center. The DICT team also donated tablets to the Olutanga Rural Health Unit to improve local healthcare services by streamlining patient record management and enhancing access to digital health services.

Onwards and Forwards: One Village at a Time

With focus on service and convergence, the SVSI initiative is a living and breathing example of transformation from the ground-up, a testament to the impact of collaboration when partners come together for the good of the Filipino people, one village at a time. (Jasmine Mohammadsali and Mae Dedoro)

Did you know?

The implementation of the Smart Villages Smart Islands Initiative is fully supported by the Regional Development Council IX with RDC Resolution 084 (*Enjoining all LGUs and Collaborating Agencies to Support the Implementation of the SVSI in Zamboanga Peninsula*)



SVSI Partnership Brings Mobile Infra, Connectivity in Sacol Island

Following its initial groundbreaking in 2023, the telecom tower of SVSI partner DITO Telecommunity was formally unveiled in Sacol Island, establishing infrastructure for mobile connectivity that is expected to allow more digital tools, technologies, and opportunities to make its way to the island community in Zamboanga City.

“This is a promise fulfilled. We are very grateful on behalf of the people of Sacol Island as well as those from the nearby islands, where the connectivity is being provided by DITO. Maraming salamat. We are very glad that you are here and that you are a partner in transforming this island into a smart island,” Assistant Secretary for Regional Development and then concurrent DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA OIC Maria Teresa Camba said during the symbolic light-up ceremony in Landang Laum, Sacol Island on May 16, 2024.

“This is not DITO’s facility, this is not DICT’s facility, this is our facility and I am encouraging everyone to continue the partnership...pagtulong-tulungan po natin na ma-maintain natin ang facility na ito para sa kapakinabangan ng lahat,” DITO Chief Technology Officer Gen. Rodolfo Santiago said.

The DITO Telecommunity tower is the latest in the string of digital transformation development in Sacol Island since its establishment as the pilot SVSI site in the Philippines in 2023. (Jasmine Mohammadsali)

Did you know?



The Sacol Island Case Study was accepted at the 9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals Forum (STI Forum 2024). Scan the QR to read the Case Study.



Accessible Healthcare: SVSI Brings Telemedicine in Sitangkai, Hadji Panglima

Highlighting the whole-of-society convergence of connectivity and ICT-enabled services in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, the Smart Villages Smart Islands (SVSI) initiative led by the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA successfully enables telemedicine service in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi and in Hadji Panglima Tahil, Sulu.

The telemedicine service is made possible through the Free Wi-Fi connectivity of the DICT and the portable On The Go digital clinic provided by SVSI partner, mWell.

As SVSI sites, Sitangkai and Hadji Panglima received the telemedicine service for free, enabling residents - many of whom have had to travel hours to reach a clinic for their health needs before - to have instant online consultations with doctors with a click of a button.

Residents are aided by rural health unit (RHU) workers during consultations. The RHU workers themselves also formally oriented on the functions and features



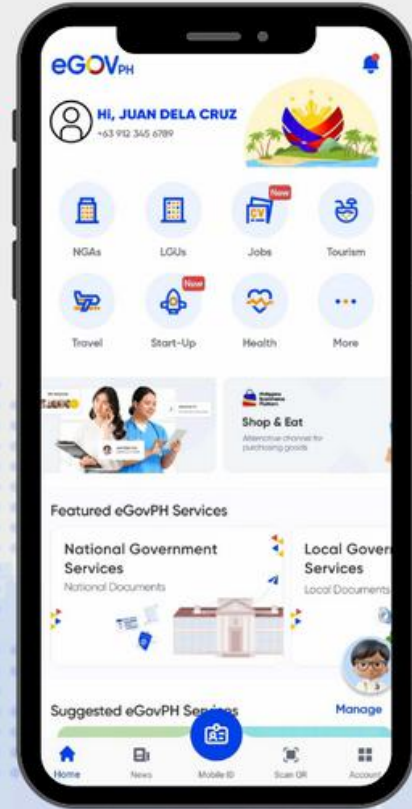
of mWell's telemedicine platform, to ensure seamless deployment.

"In health, we always want our work to be efficient and accurate. We have a lot of patient but we only have one doctor...so this telemedicine and online consultation will be a very big help, and it is provided for free," said Sitangkai Community Nurse Haifa Saul Yusoph-Tidal shared. (Jasmine Mohammadsali)

190,389
eGOVPH Super
App
DOWNLOADS



DOWNLOAD NOW!



eGovPH App hits 200K downloads in ZAMBASULTA

As of December 26, 2024, the eGOVPH Super App has reached 199,389 first-time downloads in Zamboanga Peninsula and the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, a milestone that reflects the growing adoption of the one-stop shop app in the region.

Aiding the rollout and adoption of the eGovPH app were the 99 roadshows and 50 eGov user's training/orientations conducted by the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA in 2024.

The eGovPH podcast was also introduced to further promote awareness and utilization of the app.

“Napakalaking tulong nito sa aming mga guro, lalo na't maraming IDs ang kinakailangan, hindi lang para sa amin kundi pati na rin sa ibang mga propesyonal. Hindi lang PRC ang kasama, nandyan din ang PAG-IBIG, PhilHealth, at SSS—lahat nasa isang lugar na.

Napakagandang application dahil mas madali na naming makita ang anumang impormasyon na kailangan, tulad ng contributions.

Ang PRC feature naman ay sobrang helpful para sa akin dahil mabilis mong makikita kung kailan mag-e-expire ang ID mo, kaya madali rin itong ma-update.

Talagang napaka-convenient,” Ms. Claire Antonette S. Sustiguer, a teacher, shared. (Nadzkipar Usman)



Celebrating Innovation, Excellence in Local eGovernance: eLGU BPLS Summit & Awards

Celebrating innovation and excellence in local governance through digitalization, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA bannered the business permit processing systems of the eLGU BPLS project with a showcase of best practices and success stories during the inaugural 2024 eLGU BPLS Summit and Awards for Zamboanga Peninsula and BASULTA on November 21, 2024 in Zamboanga City.

Sixty-two (62) LGUs were recognized for their commitment to enabling government efficiency and in setting the standard for ease of doing business in the region with the eLGU Systems. Special awards were also conferred to emerging and trailblazing LGUs in the field of digitalization and streamlined business processing.

The summit spotlighted the transformative impact of the eLGU-BPLS project, one of the DICT's core programs on eGovernance and digitalization. The project, composed of the Business Permit with Barangay Clearance (BPBC) and Building Permit and Certificate of Occupancy (BPCO) systems, has greatly impacted business transactions, slashing processing times and enhancing service delivery, which proves that digitalization is key to efficient governance. (Sarah Mae Camenforte)



"The DICT is guided by the slogan **'Bayang Digital, ang Bagong Pilipinas.'** At the heart of this vision is *Gobyernong Epektibo*, which calls on the government to not only be digitally-enabled but also responsive, agile, and attuned to the needs of the Filipino people—especially in a world that moves at an ever-accelerating digital pace."

CHERYL C. ORTEGA
Regional Director, Regional Office IX & BASULTA
DICT

iBPLS Impact Stories



“We started using the Business Permit and Licensing System since year 2022, our baby-step towards digitalization and transformation to providing online services in the municipality of Leon B. Postigo.

Maraming salamat DICT sa inyong malaking tulong sa aming pagsusumikap into really adopting to the e-governance ng aming local government unit.

Balang araw mula sa mga baby-steps ng aming collection of licenses and municipal permits, we really dream of one day na magiging electronic na po lahat.

HON. RUNIE O. JAMORA
Municipal Mayor
Leon B. Postigo, Zamboanga del Norte



“Malaki talaga ang naitulong nito mula noong nagkaroon ng licensing system ang LGU Godod. Dati nakakasakit ng ulo ang pagkuha ng permit, matagal ang proseso, we have to comeback now and then to follow up.

But having this BPLS we can have our permits in less than a day aside from that, hindi na kailangan interview-hin kapa nila because all your data is already saved in the system. We are so thankful and grateful to LGU Godod for adapting the system, and thank you also to DICT, Keep up the good work!”

CARISA MURILLO
Business Owner
Godod, Zamboanga del Norte



“2021 we started using the system, napadali talaga ang process ng applications namin, kahit ang mga clients and napansin din nila ang mas mabilis process throughout the application.

And I'm proud to say that nakakapag-process kami ng business application for only 7 minutes, lahat-lahat na iyon, issue a business permit, generate a barangay clearance. Kaya laking pasasalamat talaga namin sa DICT, sobrang laking tulog sa aming mga manggagawa. Hindi lang napadali ang trabaho namin, even our revenue is napataas din namin.”

JADE KEMMOND
BPLO
Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte



“M Lhuillier had been operation in Sibutad Municipality for some years already, way back 2018, it would take some time to process and get our business permit, it may take how many days even upto a month.

But starting 2021, things have gradually changed through the DICT and the iBPLS, we can easily get our permits and licenses faster. M Lhuillier Sibutad magpasalamat sa bag'o ug paspas na systema.

JOYCE ANN L. JALO-OT
Assistant Branch Manager
M Lhuillier, Sibutad, Zamboanga del Norte



BPLS INNOVATOR AWARD - BPBC

Aurora, ZDS
Bayog, ZDS
Dimataling, ZDS
Dinas, ZDS
Dumalinao, ZDS
Dumingag, ZDS
Guipos, ZDS
Josefina, ZDS
Kumalarang, ZDS
Labangan, ZDS
Lakewood, ZDS
Lapuyan, ZDS
Mahayag, ZDS
Margosatubig, ZDS
Midsalip, ZDS
Molave, ZDS
Pitogo, ZDS
Ramon Magsaysay, ZDS
San Miguel, ZDS
San Pablo, ZDS
Tabina, ZDS
Tambulig, ZDS
Tigbao, ZDS
Tukuran, ZDS

Vincenzo A. Sagun, ZDS
Diplahan, ZSP
Imelda, ZSP
Kabasalan, ZSP
Malangas, ZSP
Payao, ZSP
Roseller Lim, ZSP
Siay, ZSP
Talusán, ZSP
Titay, ZSP*
Tungawan, ZSP
Godod, ZDN
Gutalac, ZDN
Jose Dalman, ZDN
Kalawit, ZDN
Katipunan, ZDN
La Libertad, ZDN
Labason, ZDN
Leon B. Postigo, ZDN
Liloy, ZDN
Manukan, ZDN
Mutia, ZDN
Piñan, ZDN
Polanco, ZDN*

Pres. Manuel A. Roxas, ZDN
Rizal, ZDN
Salug, ZDN
Siayan, ZDN*
Sibutad, ZDN
Sindangan, ZDN
Tampilisan, ZDN
Isabela, BAS
Lamitan, BAS
Lantawan, BAS
Sumisip, BAS
Tipo-Tipo, BAS
Talipao, SULU
Bongao, TWT

**Also awarded as Innovators for BPCO*

eLGU TRAILBLAZERS

Sergio Osmeña, ZDN
Buug, ZSP
Maluso, BAS

EMERGENT BPCO INNOVATOR AWARD

Isabela, BAS

DIGITAL PAYMENT PIONEERS

Labason, ZDN
Guipos, ZDS
Ramon Magsaysay, ZDS
Molave, ZDS

BPBC REVENUE CHAMPION

Bongao, TWT

MORE ABOUT THE ELGU BPLS SUMMIT



Photos



SDE



Flipbook

Outstanding DTCs, Tech4EDs Recognized in 9th Tech4ED Awards

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA feted 10 Digital Transformation Centers and Tech4ED Centers in the region for their outstanding performance and dedicated efforts to bridge the digital divide and empower communities during the 9th Regional DTC-Tech4ED Awards on November 20, 2024 in Zamboanga City.

The SK Mercedes DTC was awarded the Most Outstanding Center with the Liloy DTC and Lamitan DTC as runners-up. Meanwhile, the Emerging Tech4ED Center award was conferred to the KGMC Tech4ED Center, together with the ALS Pilot Tech4ED Center and the Talipao NHS Tech4ED Center.

This year's Tech4ED Awards introduced the Sectoral Awards which recognized Centers with high-impact services to specific sectors. This inaugural award recognized the CSWDO Dipolog Tech4ED Center (Women Sector), the SK Mercedes DTC (Youth DTC), the Sebaca National High School Tech4ED Center (Education Sector), and Liloy DTC (Government/Public Sector).

Also recognized during the awards were the Lupah Sug Provincial Library as a Level 2 DTC, and the Sebaca National High School as a Level 2 DTC.

Aside from recognizing outstanding achievements, the 9th DTC-Tech4ED Awards also served as an avenue where stakeholders can share and showcase their best practices for innovation and excellence.

"I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to learn and exchange best practices and success stories as this will redound to a stronger grassroots network. I also call on our DTC –Tech4EDs to serve as big brothers and mentors to the centers that have just started their journey. Truly, we are in this together," Regional Director for R9 and BASULTA Cheryl Ortega said.

The centers were evaluated based on their impact to the community, innovativeness, continuous improvements in outputs, and networks and partnerships. (Uris Fonollera)



LEARN FROM OUR TECH4ED AWARDEES!



Tech4ED Stories



SDE



DICT holds stakeholder meet on nat'l ICT policies

Over 130 participants, stakeholders, and key officials from different sectors across the region gathered for the Regional Multi-Stakeholders Consultation Meeting from May 14-16 to provide valuable input for the formulation of two critical national frameworks - the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) and the National Broadband Plan (NBP) 2.0.

The 3-day event, spearheaded by the DICT R9BASULTA through the National ICT Planning, Policy, and Standards Bureau (NIPPSB), was graced by Assistant Secretary for Infostructure Management Philip Varilla, Assistant Secretary for Regional Development and then concurrent OIC for Region IX & BASULTA Maria Teresa Camba, Director Maria Victoria Castro of the National ICT Plans, Policy, & Standards Bureau (NIPPSB), and Director Dennis Morales from the Infostructure Management Bureau.

In his keynote message, Asec. Varilla highlighted the need for a whole-of-nation approach to improve the state of national broadband and address the gaps for unserved and underserved communities.

"We have multiple services carried out by our regional infrastructure and that is why we want to have this kind of consultation for DICT to understand inputs coming from the different stakeholders...with these plans we can now think of a whole-of-nation approach towards building digital infrastructure for our country," Asec. Varilla said.

Day 1 focused on learning sessions, discussions, and workshops on digital infrastructure policies, policies and standards, and challenges in building digital connectivity infrastructure.

The second day covered presentations on demand stimulation initiatives under NBP 1.0, assessment of digital infrastructure investment, updates on the National Broadband Program, and digital transformation initiatives in the public sector. ASec. Camba also discussed the DICT R9BASULTA's programs for meaningful broadband access.

The final day focused on policies, programs, and updates related to disaster risk reduction and emergency communications.

All inputs from the RMC will be utilized for the development of the NECP and NBP 2.0 plans.

The NBP 2.0 is designed to advance the nation's digital infrastructure through four key outcomes that aim to enhance connectivity across the Philippines.

In parallel, the NECP aims to strengthen the country's emergency communications framework through strategic outcomes that focus on governance, technology integration, implementation guidelines, capacity building, and evaluation metrics. (Engr. John Michael Brique)

From Lamitan to Liloy: 6 New DTCs-Tech4ED Centers Launched

Six new Tech4ED-DTC Centers were launched this 2024 by the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA, building on the momentum of digital transformation in the region through transformative spaces with equal access to ICT and opportunities to foster inclusive development and growth.

These newly launched centers are the Lamitan City DTC-Tech4ED, the Isabela City LYDO DTC-Tech4ED, the Sindangan DTC-Tech4ED, the Diplahan DTC-Tech4ED, the Liloy DTC-Tech4ED, and the Landang Laum DTC-Tech4ED.

Each center is equipped with computers, high-speed internet, and a range of digital literacy programs and tools designed to cater to diverse needs to serve as hubs of opportunity, empowerment, and community development, particularly in areas where access to these opportunities are limited.

From digital literacy programs to entrepreneurial training, these centers bridge the gaps in the digital divide.

Moreover, these centers serve as community anchors, fostering collaboration and innovation among their users. They are places where people come together to share ideas, collaborate on projects, and build networks. This sense of community is a crucial element for the success of the DTC-Tech4ED Centers.

With each new center, the vision of a digitally inclusive Philippines becomes clearer and more attainable. Truly, the future is here, and it is brighter than ever. (Jerico Tan)



Landang Laum DTC Tech4ED



Isabela City LYDO DTC Tech4ED



Liloy DTC Tech4ED



Lamitan City DTC Tech4ED

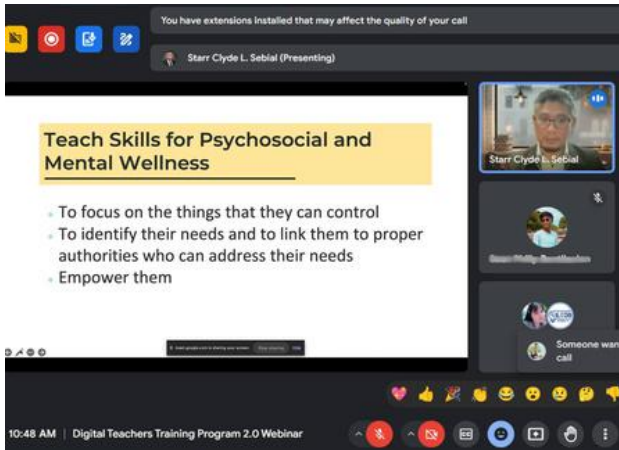


Sindangan DTC Tech4ED



Diplahan DTC Tech4ED

Upskilling Filipino Professionals with PRC-accredited Training Programs



Recognizing technology's vital role in modernizing professional skills, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA offered tailored development training programs for Filipino professionals under the Training Management component of the ICT Literacy and Competency Development.

Game On! Robotics, Coding with Micro:bit, Minecraft Education

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA is boosting tech innovation in the region, empowering both students and community leaders. One standout initiative?

The Robotics Training using Micro:bit and Minecraft Education, a hands-on learning experience cascaded to the regions by the DICT through its ICT Literacy and Competency Division (ILCD) that's changing how people think about automation, coding, and problem-solving through gamification.

The goal was simple: spark curiosity, build skills, and inspire the next generation of innovators. Through gamification, participants learned about the basics of robotics and coding, with workshops focused on project-based learning, encouraging collaboration, critical thinking, and applying new skills to real-world problems.

In 2024, the regional office conducted the Digital Teachers and the OpenRAN Open Mapping training programs for professional teachers and engineers, respectively, that were duly accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and with continuing professional development or CPD units.

Two batches of the Digital Teachers Program were held, reaching a total of 110 participants via online platform through Google Meet from October 21-25, 2024 and a face-to-face training from November 26-28, 2025 at DTC Diplahan.

Meanwhile, the OpenRAN Open Mapping was spearheaded in partnership with the Asia Open RAN Academy and spanned four online sessions from November to December, covering RAN, 5G, Open RAN, Linux Fundamentals, Open RAN Security, and Artificial Intelligence. A total of 1,890 participants completed the training. (Jerico Tan)



The inaugural rollout of the interactive courses was conducted in the Digital Transformation Centers in Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Norte, and Basilan with a total of 8 training sessions and 171 participants. And more is expected to be trained as plans to expand the programs to more sectors are underway. (Jerico Tan)

Igniting Digital Futures, one SPARK at a Time

SPARK or the Strengthening the Philippine workforce through Adaptive and Responsive Digital Knowledge Initiative (formerly DigitalJobsPH), is one of DICT's premier project that aims to foster the development of a skilled workforce in the field of ICT by promoting digital entrepreneurship and empowering individuals and communities to participate in the digital economy. The project initiated its journey in 2017 as the Rural Impact Sourcing. By 2019, the department made a strategic decision to undergo rebranding, leading to the transformation into digitaljobsPH. Looking ahead, DICT underwent the next phase of evolution as we introduced the forthcoming rebranding of digitaljobsPH, aptly named SPARK.

The target beneficiaries include individuals from marginalized sectors, career shifters, Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT-BPM) industry near-hires, and out-of-school youth and adult learners. Since its launching in 2017, SPARK has successfully trained 15,697 individuals across 611 training sessions, resulting in 11,854 graduates and a significant 29% online job placement rate (3,413 jobs).

Leveraging the SPARK program's proven impact, the DICT-ILCDB is actively expanding its focus to provide targeted technical training for women, persons with disabilities, and near-hires. This initiative aims to meet the rising demand for a diverse and inclusive online Filipino workforce. Recently, the DICT R9 & BASULTA conducted three (3) SPARK training programs across the region namely: Graphic Design for Women in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte; Social Media Management for PWDs in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur; and Contact Center Services NC II in Zamboanga City.

Moving forward, SPARK aims to "future-proof" the Filipino workforce by equipping them with in demand essential digital skills that will ignite the spark across Zamboanga Peninsula and the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. (Joshua Clamohoy)



Dipolog City, ZDN



Pagadian City, ZDS



Zamboanga City

Safe Online Spaces For All: R9BASULTA Rolls Out Digital Parenting, anti-OSAEC Training

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA spearheaded the conduct of digital parenting and anti-OSAEC learning sessions across the region to continuously strengthen digital literacy skills on cybersecurity and data protection for spaces online.

A total of 31 digital parenting and anti-OSAEC (online sexual child abuse and exploitation) conducted from August to November 2024, reaching 1,676 parent and youth participants from various sectors.

These sessions were held in partnership with local government units, the academe, and non-government organizations in response to the growing need for a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach to raise awareness and increase knowledge on protection mechanisms for children and young people.

The learning sessions were held through face-to-face and online platforms, alongside other cybersecurity initiatives and advocacies of the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA.

Notable conducts include the digital parenting session in island barangay of Landang Laum in Zamboanga City, the cybersecurity caravan for digital parenting and anti-OSAEC which the visited LGUs of Molave, Dumingag, and Aurora in Zamboanga del Sur, and the conduct of data privacy and parenting in the digital

age sessions for parents and student leaders at the Sebaca National High School and Sawang National High School.

In Zamboanga Sibugay, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA partnered with the Katilingban sa Kalambuan Org., Inc. to hold a digital literacy and cybersecurity for parents seminar. In Basilan, digital parenting sessions were cascaded to various stakeholders to include overseas Filipino workers, 4Ps beneficiaries, solo parents, and students, in partnership with national and local government agencies. Cybersecurity sessions covering digital parenting and data privacy orientation were also rolled out in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Hinged on the concept that cybersecurity begins with the family and the home, the digital parenting sessions focused on equipping parents, teachers, and guardians with knowledge on cybersecurity, digital literacy, and continuous education on safe online practices.

Meanwhile, the anti-OSAEC initiatives sought to educate stakeholders on recognizing signs and risks of exploitation and strategies for prevention.

These sessions form part of the DICT R9 BASULTA's efforts to strengthen the cybersecurity awareness through information and education. (Rezvani Ibra and Keziah Joyce Andain)





CyberRange, HackforGov Exercises Level Up Awareness, Showcase Cybersecurity Skills

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA with the DICT Cybersecurity – National Computer Emergency Response Team (NCERT) hosted two landmark events to bolster cybersecurity readiness in the region.

Through these exercises, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA seeks to strengthen resilience in cybersecurity while advancing national cybersecurity standards, preparing both government agencies and young innovators to address the growing challenges of the digital age.

The DICT's Cyber Range Exercise and the HackForGov3 Regional Competition, held from August 13-14, 2024, emphasized collaboration, skill development, and innovation in addressing cyber threats.

"We need to increase the number of people in the workforce who are interested in going to the cybersecurity path. We are in the era of technology, we need people to help us defend and even fix vulnerabilities... we need to encourage them [students] to choose cybersecurity careers," Mr. Alwell C. Mulsid, head of NCERT Cyber Incident Response, shared.

CYBER RANGE VANGUARD AWARD	HACK4GOV
Team SSS Team AFP Team DOH	Champ: Team Null / WMSU Runners Up: Team adzusplit / ADZU Team Select 2.0/ STII
TOP PERFORMER	TOP SCORER
Jason Paolo Aydalla - DOH	Billy Mamaril / STII

Regional Director Cheryl C. Ortega lauded the back-to-back activities as she emphasized the importance of cybersecurity in ensuring safe and digitally-enabled communities in Bayang Digital.

The Cyber Range Exercise brought together over 30 participants from various government agencies. Divided into mixed teams, participants tackled realistic cybersecurity scenarios designed to enhance skills in threat detection, response, and mitigation.

"We want to inculcate in every Filipino that cybersecurity is a discipline, a habit, and a responsibility that must be honed individually and collectively...we need to work together to ensure that the digital landscape of the Philippines is one where every Filipino feels safe, secure, and confident," Director Ortega said. (Rezvani Ibra)

Meanwhile, the Regional HackForGov3 Competition featured 13 teams participating in a cybersecurity-focused capture-the-flag (CTF) challenge. Teams demonstrated proficiency in network security, cryptography, and incident response, with the goal of inspiring future cybersecurity professionals.





Get Set, Go! The GECS-MOVE in Action

The Government Emergency Communications System - Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency (GECS-MOVE) has been deployed in the Zamboanga Peninsula with a back-to-back Information Caravan and Communications Exercise spearheaded by the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA from July 23 to 24, 2024.

The GECS-MOVE set, designed to ensure continuous communication during disasters, was unveiled at Paseo del Mar on July 23, followed by a simple blessing ceremony graced by Assistant Secretary for Regional Development Maria Teresa Camba with local government officials.

The next day, a communications exercise was conducted to test the capabilities of the GECS-MOVE, which aimed to establish and maintain communication between the mobile hub and dispatch vehicles in a simulation of a disaster response situation.

The GECS-MOVE set consists of a custom heavy-duty truck equipped with an integrated communication hub, an off-road dispatch vehicle, a motorcycle for remote areas, and drones to extend connectivity. It forms part of the DICT's nationwide initiative to strengthen emergency telecommunications, with units deployed in key regions including Zamboanga, Tuguegarao, Laoag, and Iloilo during its Phase II implementation.

Regional Director Cheryl Ortega emphasized that the GECS-MOVE is crucial for ensuring disaster resilience, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach areas, and reflects the DICT's commitment to leverage technology for efficient emergency response and communication.

The GECS-MOVE Set is now stationed at the DICT Talon-Talon Compound, ready to be deployed during emergencies and critical situations. (Engr. Levin Angelo O. Lobren)



ETC IX adopts Reg'l ECP

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) IX headed by the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA formally adopted the Regional Emergency Communication Plan (ECP) during its 3rd quarter meeting on September 24, 2024.

The ECP is a vital document that ensures interoperability and responsiveness among ETC IX members during calamities. (Engr. Levin Angelo O. Lobren)

Enhancing RA Officer Competence: DICT R9BASULTA Holds RA Training Course




In a bid to ensure the timely and efficient delivery of Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure (PNPKI) services across the region, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA spearheaded the PNPKI Registration Authority Training for 27 of its personnel from August 6-9, 2024 in Zamboanga City.

The technical training course, facilitated by Ms. Jennifer Canlas and Mr. John Robert Delinila of the Digital Certificate Division, came about from a need to have more RA officers to facilitate the registration for the PNPKI in anticipation of the expected surge in applications due to the upcoming national and local elections in 2025.

The course provided participants, composed of provincial officers, field staff, project leads, and planning officers and assistants, with a comprehensive orientation on PNPKI policies and the proper processing of applications, certificate requests, and revocations.


It also delved into legal frameworks, RA Officers' functions and responsibilities, the Online Registration System (ORS), the application process, hands-on practice, and first-level technical support. (Reginald R. Enriquez)



PNPKI IN NUMBERS


4,521

digital certificates issued



36

PNPKI User's Training




42

Orientations


6,504

PKI Tech Support

ABOUT PNPKI



What is PNPKI



PNPKI Online Registration System



Sustaining MAGIC in ZAMBASULTA: DICT Spearheads High-impact Industry Confabs

With the goal of laying a strong foundation to position the region as a prominent player in the IT-BPM industry, the DICT Regional Office IX led the conduct of high-impact events and initiatives throughout 2024, amplifying stakeholder engagement and collaboration to cultivate talent and foster a culture of innovation.

Unveiling Pathways to Digital Career: The IBPAP Roadshow

To inspire the next generation of tech professionals, over 700 students from high schools and colleges in Zamboanga City participated in the IT-BPM Career Awareness, a sidelight of the IBPAP Roadshow and the Zamboanga Industry Forum held from March 14-15, 2024.

The IBPAP Roadshow was a collaborative effort between the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP), the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA, and the City Government of Zamboanga.

Reaching New Heights: RISE 9.2 – A Summit of Innovation

The picturesque Dakak Park and Beach Resort in Dapitan City provided a stunning backdrop for RISE 9.2, the second Regional

ICT Summit and Exhibitions held in the region on July 30, 2024. This important gathering brought together ICT councils, national government agencies, local government units, the academe, and other key stakeholders from across the Zamboanga Peninsula and the BASULTA region.

Under the leadership of Undersecretary for ICT Industry Development Atty. Jocelle Batapa-Sigue, the summit focused on several critical areas, including:

- **Developing a skilled digital workforce:** Preparing people for jobs in the digital world.
- **Supporting local talent:** Helping people in our region develop their skills and start their businesses.
- **Creating a better environment for businesses:** Making it easier for businesses to grow and succeed in the region.

RISE 9.2 was a valuable platform for the different stakeholders playing a vital role in the regional ICT ecosystem to connect and collaborate. This collaboration will play a vital role in strengthening the ICT sector and driving progress within the region.





Unleashing Innovation: The PSC 9 Regional Pitching Competitions

The Philippine Startup Challenge 9 (PSC 9) showcased the remarkable ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit of aspiring young entrepreneurs in the region.

This year, notable milestones were achieved in both the Region IX and BARMM 1 regional finals: Region 9 recorded an all-time high of 55 submitted pitch entries, while Team Tawi-Tawi emerged triumphant to represent the BARMM region for the first time in the national pitching competition.

Region IX was formally represented by Byte Buddies from Saint Columban College with their "BE Secure" entry. On the other hand, Team Bytes and Bugs from Mindanao State University - Tawi-Tawi represented BARMM with their pitch for their startup, AraFlix.

Inspiring the Workforce of Tomorrow: Digital Careers Expo 2024

The Digital Careers Expo 2024 was held in Pagadian City on December 7, attracting over 600 participants eager to explore the exciting opportunities in the IT-BPM sector and discover emerging technologies and trends in creative industries.

In her keynote message, Usec. Jocelle Batapa-Sigue emphasized the critical need



to cultivate a globally competitive Filipino digital workforce, aligning seamlessly with the objectives of the Philippine Digital Workforce Act (RA 11927).

Panel discussions, featuring prominent voices in the IT-BPM sector and the burgeoning freelancing landscape, provided valuable insights and actionable advice for aspiring professionals. The event culminated with the launch of the Asenso Pagadian Free WiFi initiative.

Local ICT Councils at the Forefront of the ICT Agenda: Enhanced Institutional Development Workshops

Recognizing the important role of ICT councils in driving development and the ICT agenda in the regions, the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA spearheaded six Enhanced Institutional Development Workshops in Pagadian (May 3), Diplahan (May 4), Zamboanga Sibugay (May 6), Liloy (May 7), and Lamitan (May 9), and Tawi-Tawi (August 26).

Through these collaborative efforts, encapsulated in the clarion call of MAGIC (Making Academe, Government, Industry Collaborate), the region is on track towards building a vibrant ICT future and unlocking the full potential of its digital economy for a more prosperous future for all. (Al Rajhi Otoalih)



DISCOVER MORE



RISE SDE



DIGITAL CAREERS EXPO



PSC FAQs

Celebrating Filipino Creativity: DICT R9 BASULTA Joins PH Creative Industries Month

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA, through its ICT Industry Development (IID) program, joined the Philippine Creative Industries Month celebration with a series of region-wide webinar engagements between professional and aspiring creative talents last September 2024.

Dubbed the Creative Ventures: From Passion to Profession, the webinar series featured three sessions headlined by industry professionals to mentor and provide unique perspectives and insights for some 300 participants on how to turn creative passions into sustainable careers.

Sharing their expertise were ITMonsters General Partner Danna Joyce Bugante (Graphic Design and Branding, September 11), Game Developer Jouie Tamse (Indie Game Development, September 18), and Marketing and Creative Professional Diana Jean Cruz (Building Brands and Stories, September 25).

Complementing the webinar series was the Digital Poster Making Challenge with the theme “We Are Creative Nation”. Creativity by Ian Dave O. Beltran (Zamboanga del Sur) emerged as champion, with Edric L. Laurie’s (Basilan) Painting the Future of Creatives and Rennel C. Segarra’s (Zamboanga del Sur) Sining Ang Haligi coming in at second and third place, respectively.

A special award recognizing the entry with the most Facebook reactions was conferred to Al-Rashiem H. Juhurani (Sulu) for his work titled Pride and Legend.

The Philippine Creative Industries Month (PCIM) celebration is pursuant to Republic Act 11904, the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act (PCIDA), which aims to support the growth of Philippine creative industries. (Al Rajhi Otoalih)



EXPLORE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES WITH THE CREATIVE VENTURE SERIES



Session 1



Session 2



Session 3



ZC Schools Receive Training, ICT Equipment with DICT’s Project CLICK

Ten beneficiary schools in Zamboanga City received ICT equipment in line with the implementation of the DICT’s Project CLICK or the Courses for Literacy in Internet and Computer Knowledge for the advancement of learning and education in grassroots communities through ICT.

Five laptops with mouse, headsets, and bags, were turned over to each identified school beneficiaries in simple rites held December 6, 2024 at the Zamboanga City Hall, as a culmination of a 3-day digital literacy and cyber hygiene training spearheaded by the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA for teacher participants.

This forms part of the program’s directive, which goes beyond providing hardware support, as it implements a training-of-trainers approach to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the technology integration.

The 10 schools that received the Project CLICK training and laptops were the Limaong Elementary School, Tumitus Elementary School, Bincul Elementary School, Udjung Elementary School, Cacao Elementary School, Mina Elementary School, Lumbayao Elementary School, Lapakan Elementary School, Pangulayan

Elementary School, and Tigtabon Elementary School.

“This is the first Project CLICK instance in Zamboanga City, even in the region, whereupon laptops were distributed to the selected schools in aid of promoting functional digital literacy, knowledge, and skills amongst students, especially those in remote areas where opportunities to access computers, tablets, and other gadgets may be limited,” Director Ortega said, citing that ICT skills are a competitive edge and advantage that every Filipino must have.

“With this, we hope and anticipate that these laptops will be of use and assistance to our schools, particularly in helping our students learn how to use computers, access the internet, and above all, expand their horizons to a digital world of infinite possibilities and opportunities,” Director Ortega added.

The Project CLICK exemplifies the transformative power of technology when combined with education and training.

By fostering a culture of digital literacy and security, it paves the way for a digitally inclusive future. (Uris Fonollera)



Zambo Sibugay Kicks Off 3 Smart Villages

With three established Smart Villages in Diplahan, Kabasalan, and Olutanga, the Zamboanga Sibugay province reaffirms its commitment to digital transformation in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA).

The municipality of Diplahan was the first site established in Zamboanga Sibugay on February 9, 2024. It aims to bring improved communication, e-services, and access to online resources that will support the local economy.

The second SVSI site, also inaugurated on the same day, was established in barangay Concepcion in Kabasalan. A farmer and fishing community, it is a strategic hub which will offer residents increased access to technology and digital services.

The third, and most recent Smart Village in the province was in barangay Solar in Olutanga on November 9, 2024. The event was also marked by the launch of the Free Wi-Fi services and the relaunch of the ALS Olutanga Tech4ED. (Engr. Kristine Lorraine Ariston)

Zambo Sibugay holds Provincial Startup Tilt

The DICT Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Team, in collaboration with the Zamboanga Sibugay ICT Council, hosted the provincial Startup Pitching Competition on June 20, 2024 at the PDRRM Conference Hall in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.

This is the first Start-up Pitching Competition held at the provincial-level, which serves to showcase the potential and innovation landscape of Zamboanga Sibugay while reinforcing the DICT's commitment to developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the province.

Startup ideas of six participating teams from the Mindanao State University - Buug Campus, the Western Mindanao State University - Ipil, and the Sibugay Technical Institute Incorporated were evaluated by an esteemed panel led by DOST Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial S & T Director Jennifer Alcazar-Pidor with Engr. Amy Mabatid of



the Zamboanga Sibugay Polytechnic Institute, Marlon Alemda of LGU Titay, Emmanuel Calvo of LGU Diplahan, and Kurt Ian Balili of LGU Buug.

Emerging as the top five teams were: Team ExpertSync from Sibugay Technical Institute Incorporated, Team Agri-venturers from Western Mindanao State University - Ipil, Team Aesthetic from Sibugay Technical Institute Incorporated, Team Scripts from Western Mindanao State University - Ipil, and Team Pared from Sibugay Technical Institute Incorporated. (Engr. Kristine Lorraine Ariston)



Bridging Cultures, Technology: DICT, Tabak Infantry Launch Tech4Ed Center in Mosque

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA has launched the first Tech4Ed Center located in a mosque, situated at the 1st Infantry (TABAK) Division in Barangay Pulacan, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur.

Made possible with the support of the Philippine Army, the launch was graced by Assistant Secretary for Regional Development Maria Teresa Camba in her capacity as concurrent OIC of the regional office last July 2024, together with 1st Infantry Division Commander Major General Gabriel Viray III, and members of the community.

The Tabak Tech4Ed is equipped with connectivity and five laptops to support ICT training, online job applications, e-government services, and other programs that promote economic and social development.

In addition to digital literacy and education, the Tech4Ed is also expected to be of great assistance in providing residents access to e-Government services.

This, said Center manager and Tabak Division Imam Capt. Abdulhaq Mohammad, is a very welcome development as Labangan is 30 minutes away from Pagadian City where most government agencies and services are.

The Tech4Ed Center in a mosque sets a precedent for integrating technology into culturally significant spaces, fostering learning and growth. It represents progress in technology and a step toward inclusivity, demonstrating the government's commitment to making digital resources accessible to all Filipinos.

"This center, small as it is right now, can grow to become one of the biggest centers in the region...we have training materials and courses that you can access because of this partnership with us. I am excited about the possibilities and opportunities this can give to the community," Asec. Camba said.

"This project is undoubtedly a game changer, not only for the Tabak Division, but more importantly, for the community of Labangan and the surrounding municipalities. It will empower these communities with digital literacy and opportunities for growth, ensuring that no one is left behind in this rapidly evolving digital landscape," MGen. Viray expressed.

Tech4Ed, which stands for Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development, is a program designed to empower underserved communities through digital tools, learning resources, and livelihood opportunities. (Juvy Lawan-Ferry)

Digital Careers Expo 2024: Empowering Pagadian City's Youth for a Digital Future

Pagadian City became a hub of inspiration and opportunity as the Digital Careers Expo 2024 welcomed over 600 eager students from public and private high schools, state universities, local colleges, and private institutions on November 7, 2024.

The Digital Careers Expo or the DCE is an initiative of the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA through the ICT Industry Development Bureau and spearheaded in Pagadian City in collaboration with the LGU Pagadian and the Department of Education Pagadian City Division.

The one-day activity was designed to equip students with the knowledge and tools to thrive in the fast-evolving digital world, and featured resource speakers and leaders from the freelancing industry to share real-world insights and success stories.



The event was keynoted by Undersecretary for ICT Industry Development Atty. Jocelle Batapa-Sigue and was graced by Regional Director Cheryl C. Ortega. (Juvy Lawan-Ferry)

FAQs: The ICT Proficiency Certification Exam

1. What is the DICT ICT Proficiency Certification Examination?

The DICT ICT Proficiency Certification Examination is a standardized test designed by the DICT to assess an individual's fundamental knowledge and skills in using various ICT tools and concepts. Successful completion of the examination leads to a DICT-issued certification that can be converted to a civil service professional eligibility under Presidential Decree 1408.

2. Why should I take the DICT ICT Proficiency Certification Examination?

- **Proof of Competence:** It provides official documentation of your ICT skills, enhancing your employability.
- **Career Advancement:** Many employers recognize and value this certification, giving you an edge in the job market.
- **Skill Validation:** It validates your knowledge and skills against national standards.

- **Personal Development:** It helps identify areas for improvement in your ICT proficiency.
- **Government Employment:** It may be a requirement for certain government positions.

3. Who are qualified to take the exam?

The examination is open to any 3rd year to 4th year IT related students, and IT Professionals.

4. What areas are covered in the examination?

- **Program Simulation, Number System, Data Structures, System Development Life Cycle, Object-Oriented Programming Concepts, File Access Methods, Database Concepts, New and Current ICT Trends.**



Register



R9BASULTA
Testing Centers



Dapitan City's Digital Leap: A Success Story in Governance with PNPKI, eBOSS

The City of Dapitan has set a milestone as a trailblazer for the implementation and adoption of the electronic Business One-Stop Shop (eBOSS) when on May 30, 2024, it was recognized as the first LGU in the Zamboanga Peninsula region to receive the ARTA eBOSS Commendation.

This recognition is conferred to LGUs that are fully compliant with all functionalities of an eBOSS and it was made possible with the Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure Program or the PNPKI of the DICT.

DICT's Key Role in the Transformation

The integration of the PNPKI Program was instrumental in this accomplishment as it ensured that digital transactions are secure, enabling Dapitan City to adopt digital signatures as a crucial component for verifying and authenticating electronic documents.

"The first step was integrating digital signatures into all transactions of the city government of Dapitan. We worked closely with the DICT to apply for certification as the government certificate authority through its PKI framework, a robust system that ensures security and authentication for electronic information transfers. With the invaluable assistance of DICT and our Management Information Systems Office (MISO), we conducted comprehensive training sessions for our department heads on the use of these digital signatures. I am

pleased to report that these efforts have been more than successful," Dapitan Mayor Seth Frederic Jalosjos shared during the eBOSS awarding ceremony facilitated by the Anti-Red Tape Authority last year.

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA, through its DICT Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Office, organized comprehensive orientation and user training for all department heads of the Dapitan LGU, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to seamlessly incorporate digital signatures into key government services.



Technical assistance was also provided to help the personnel with the installation process and the utilization of digital signatures. This initiative not only ensured the city's compliance with the Ease of Doing Business Act but also bolstered public confidence in the security and efficiency of digital transactions. (Al Vincent Recentes)

DICT, Basilan PNP Partner for Cybersecurity, Digital Skills Training

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA through its DICT Basilan Provincial Office and the Basilan Police Provincial Office spearheaded a series of cybersecurity and digital literacy skills training with the goal of promoting digital empowerment and enabling digital skills amongst the province's police force.

Born out of a shared recognition of digital skills as crucial in the performance of both personal and professional duties, four training sessions were conducted by the DICT team for some 91 police personnel at the Digital Transformation Center - Basilan in Isabela from May to September 2024.

These training sessions were the Basic Adobe Photoshop Training from May 20-22, 2024, the Cybercrime: Effective Reputation Management and Techniques Training from June 24-26, 2024, the Upskilling PNP Personnel Through MS Productivity Tools from August 29-30, 2024, and the Optimizing Police Orientation: Google Workplace Tools Training from September 24-25, 2024.

These activities were targeted efforts to reinforce cybersecurity and digital literacy in line with the objective to enhance productivity and facilitate more efficient practices with technology and digital tools. Participants and leaders alike lauded the collaboration for its far-reaching impact.

"The partnership with DICT has been beneficial. We are looking forward to more training in relation to our work and DICT being one call away, we always learn a lot from them," a participating personnel said.

For the PNP, in particular, digital skills are not just an asset but a critical necessity. Law enforcement increasingly relies on technology to enhance public safety, streamline operations, and address cybercrime threats effectively. Equipping police personnel with these skills ensures they stay ahead in an ever-evolving digital landscape.



DICT Basilan Provincial Officer Michael Jolo and Basilan Police Provincial Office Director PCol. Cerrazid Umabong reaffirmed the partnership between the two agencies in a meeting, September 26, for future collaborations towards improving digital literacy and cybersecurity posture, and promoting digital empowerment to address social concerns for a safer and more connected community.

As Basilan continues to evolve, the synergy between DICT Basilan and the PNP serves as a reminder that progress is best achieved when institutions work hand in hand, bridging gaps and building a future rooted in safety, empowerment, and connection. (Keziah Joyce Andain and Midarca Mohammad)



133 New Free WiFi Sites Activated in Sulu

More public spaces in Sulu now have access to free and reliable internet connection as the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA activates 133 new Free Wi-Fi sites across the province in 2024.

The sites are located in schools, government offices, healthcare centers, and transport hubs—many in remote, geographically isolated, and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) communities to drive connectivity as a stepping stone for digital inclusion and bridge divides.

With close coordination with the provincial government of Sulu and the office of Representative Samier Tan, Sulu now boasts a total of 219 active Free WiFi sites and its impact is felt across all sectors, including streamlining service delivery and government efficiency.

"The program not only benefits individual users but also strengthens local governance by streamlining communication and service

delivery within the province. This free internet access is convenient and beneficial in terms of transactions with our clients and office work. We commend the government's initiative on the provision of free internet for all. Kudos to all the DICT Sulu Team, who are the key workers of this project," Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism Director Nagdar U. Sasapan said.

The DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA, through its DICT Sulu Provincial Office, remains steadfast in its mission to expand digital access, empower communities through technology, and foster an inclusive and connected society in Sulu.

The Free WiFi for All initiative is part of the DICT's efforts under Republic Act 10929, or the Free Internet Access in Public Places Act, to provide free internet access in public spaces, fostering education, communication, and socio-economic growth for Filipinos nationwide. (Ryan Hamhari)



Tawi-Tawi Activates ICT Council, Marks Historic Win in PSC9

It was a banner year for Tawi-Tawi as, together with the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA, it accomplished milestones and gains in ICT to set the stage for digital transformation, inclusion, and economic development in the province.



In August 2024, the province formally activated its Provincial Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Council, pursuant to Provincial Executive Order 15, in a bid to strengthen the ICT ecosystem of Tawi-Tawi.

The newly-created ICT Council was immediately provided training and support with the conduct of the Enhanced Institutional Development Workshop held on August 26. The workshop brought together key stakeholders from the academe, local government units, and national government agencies to collaborate on strategies for job creation, infrastructure development, and ICT growth.



Tawi-Tawi's digital journey also saw a major breakthrough as it claimed its first-ever win in the BARMM Philippine Startup Challenge - Regional Pitching Competition in October 2024. Team Bytes and Bugs of the Mindanao State University – Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography went on to represent the BARMM Region in the national stage, solidifying the province's place in the digital and entrepreneurial landscape and highlighting its growing innovation ecosystem.



This achievement was made possible in part by the series of Startup 101 Workshops spearheaded by the DICT Tawi-Tawi with support of the DICT R9BASULTA IID Team to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills necessary to turn their ideas into successful business ventures.

The province also made history when it hosted its first-ever Provincial Hack4Gov competition in BARMM and Region IX and BASULTA. A joint effort between DICT Tawi-Tawi, the Provincial Government, and the

Office of the Vice Governor Al-syed A. Sali, the competition saw students from various local colleges engage in a Capture the Flag (CTF) competition.

In line with Tawi-Tawi's push for digital transformation, a 5-day Website Development Training was conducted for local government units (LGUs) across the province in September 2024. The training equipped participants with the skills to create and manage their own websites using the WordPress platform and the Government Web Template (GWT).



The result of the training was boldly seen during the kickoff of the Smart Villages Smart Islands (SVSI) in Sitangkai, where the municipality unveiled its completed website as one of its platforms to connect with the rest of the nation and the world.

Sitangkai, one of the southernmost municipalities in the nation, is the first SVSI site in Tawi-Tawi. The formal launch of Sitangkai as an SVSI site took place on November 28, 2024, and was marked by the activation of Free Wifi connectivity and the telemedicine platform as well as the School-in-a-Bag of SVSI partners mWell and PLDT Smart, respectively.

As Tawi-Tawi embraces the digital future, the DICT's ongoing initiatives are laying the foundation for a thriving digital ecosystem in the province.

These efforts are helping Tawi-Tawi reach its goal of becoming more connected, innovative, and globally competitive - making true its rally slogan of Tawi-Tawi to the World! (Mohammad Parsaudi Jikiri)



Stay connected and get the latest updates on our efforts to achieve #BayangDigital in these the region. Follow our pages to stay informed and be part of our digital journey:

DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA:
<https://www.facebook.com/DICT.RO9BASULTA>

DICT Zamboanga del Norte:
<https://www.facebook.com/dictzdn/>

DICT Zamboanga del Sur:
<https://www.facebook.com/DICTZDS/>

DICT Zamboanga Sibugay:
<https://www.facebook.com/DICTZSP/>

DICT Basilan:
<https://www.facebook.com/DICTBasilan/>

DICT Sulu:
<https://www.facebook.com/DICTSulu>

DICT Tawi-Tawi:
<https://www.facebook.com/DICTTAWI>





DICT
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY



BAGONG PILIPINAS



PAGLULUNSD, PAGKILALA AT PASASALAMAT

A YEAR-END CELEBRATION OF
DICT REGIONAL OFFICE IX & BASULTA

The DICT Regional IX and BASULTA honored local partners, stakeholders, and champions in the 2024 Gawad Paglulunsad, Pagkilala, at Pasasalamat Thursday, December 12, in recognition of significant contributions that have advanced the ICT agenda in the Zamboanga Peninsula, and Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi regions in line with the DICT's mission of Bayang Digital.

A total of 43 partners from the Zamboanga Peninsula region and the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi were conferred plaques of recognition along with the heartfelt appreciation of the DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA in ceremonies graced by Assistant Secretary for Regional Development Maria Teresa Camba and R9 BASULTA Regional Director Cheryl C. Ortega.

AWARDEES

DMC College Foundation, Inc.
City Government of Dapitan
Municipal Government of Liloy
1st Infantry (Tabak) Division, Philippine Army
Department of Education - Pagadian
Division
Pagadian City International College
City Government of Pagadian
Philippine Information Agency IX
Municipal Government of Diplahan
Zamboanga Sibugay ICT Council
DOST AZUL Hub
BRP Sindangan (MRRV 4407)
City Health Office - Zamboanga City
Civil Service Commission IX
Department of Science and Technology IX
Philippine Coast Guard - Southwestern
Mindanao
Professional Regulation Commission IX
DXWC Peace 88.3 FM
Basilan State College
City Government of Isabela
City Government of Lamitan
Hardam Furigay College Foundation Inc.
Lamitan City ICT Council

11th Infantry (Alakdan) Division, Philippine
Army
Sulu State College
Mindanao State University - Tawi-Tawi
College of Technology and Oceanography
Bongao Municipal Police
Municipal Government of Bongao
Tawi-Tawi Maritime Police Station
Department of Public Works and Highways
(DPWH) Zamboanga Del Norte - 2nd
Engineering District
Asian Tech-Hub Academy, Inc.
DITO Telecommunity
Naval Forces for Western Mindanao
Department of Social Welfare and
Development (DSWD) 4Ps - Isabela City
Provincial Government of Tawi-Tawi
Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College
Asia Open RAN Academy
HUAWEI Philippines
mWell
People's Television Network (PTV) 4
PLDT & Smart
Philippine Space Agency
USAID-BEACON



Testimonials from Partners and Beneficiaries



We, the teachers of Cabaluran ES are very grateful for the DICT Free Wifi Initiative. We can now use our Smart TVs and present our lessons in more interactive and creative ways.

It allows us to open lines of communication and use the internet to explain curriculum material in a new way, making education more accessible, inclusive, and engaging.

Our school is very fortunate to be chosen as the access point of the DICT Free Wifi.



ALDANICA FLOR A. BORDALBA

Teacher I, Cabaluran Elem. School



Malaking tulong ang proyekto ng DICT sa Free WiFi Program, sapagkat ito ay nagbibigay ng mas maraming oportunidad para mapabuti ang kalidad ng trabaho at maisagawa ito nang mas mabilis at epektibo.



MR. WILHAMIN M. ABUBAKAR

MPDC, LGU- Panglima Estino, Sulu



The first step was integrating digital signatures into all transactions of the city government of Dapitan.

We worked closely with the DICT to apply for certification as the government certificate authority through its PKI framework, a robust system that ensures security and authentication for electronic information transfers.

With the invaluable assistance of DICT and our management information systems office (MISO), we conducted comprehensive training sessions for our department heads on the use of these digital signatures. I am pleased to report that these efforts have been more than successful.

MAYOR SETH FREDERICK JALOSJOS

on the role of DICT and its efforts program in Dapitan City's e-Governance was conferred the ARTA eBOSS Commendation, Thursday, May 30

@DICT309BASULTA | regionix@basulta@digt.gov.ph | (062) 991 2742



The launch of the Tabak Tech4Ed/ Digital Literacy Center will provide computer literacy and will cater to both Muslims and Christian communities.

We want to have the inclusivity between Muslims and Christians, to have an avenue of shared journey, and because of this shared journey, we will have peace building, camaraderie, and tolerance

CAPT. ABDULHAQ MOHAMMAD (CHS) PA

1st Infantry "Tabak" Division Imam and Center Manager



I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of the Electronic Local Government Unit (eLGU) system on our local government unit's operations. Since its implementation, I have observed a significant reduction in the processing time for various transactions, from business permits to tax payments.



- EnP. MAYER E. DELGADO

Regional Division Chief
Anti-Red Tape Authority, Regional Field Office
Western Mindanao



The eLGU system has streamlined workflows, eliminating unnecessary paperwork and manual data entry. This has not only increased efficiency but also reduced errors, allowing LGU personnel to focus on higher-value tasks.

The eLGU system has been a game-changer for our local government, enabling us to better serve our constituents and drive sustainable development. I highly recommend it to other local governments looking to modernize their operations and improve public service delivery.

- EnP. MAYER E. DELGADO

Regional Division Chief
Anti-Red Tape Authority, Regional Field Office - Western Mindanao



796 Free Wifi Sites
90% uptime operations of wifi sites

172 GovNet sites
in Zamboanga City interconnected and have connection thru GovNet



62 LGUs are using Business Permit with Barangay Clearance (BPBC)

3 LGUs are using Building Permit and Certificate of Occupancy (BPCO)



01 iBPLS Summit Conducted

99 eGOV Roadshows/ Orientation Conducted

50 eGOV Users Training Conducted



CYBERSECURITY & DATA PRIVACY

Cybersecurity Awareness Advocacy

14,735 individuals reached

17 webinars conducted

141 face to face training



Data Privacy Advocacy

9,139 individuals reached

11 webinar conducted

143 face to face training

1 Cyber Range conducted

1 Hack4Gov for Academe conducted

1 Provincial Hack4Gov conducted

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PKI

4,521 Digital Certificates Issued

6,504 PKI Tech Support Provided

01 Registration Authority (RA) Training conducted
20 participants

36 PNPKI User's Training Conducted
1,244 participants

42 orientations conducted
1,482 participants



iidb | ICT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

31 of Startup-related activities conducted

55 Entries Submitted to the Regional Pitching Competition

02 Startup Regional Pitching Competition Conducted

01 IBPAP Roadshow supported

01 MINDACON supported

05 Generation Connect conducted

06 Enhanced Institutional Development conducted

04 Activities Conducted to Support the Philippine Creatives Industry Month



18 DIWA conducted

01 DCE conducted

01 RISE conducted



ICT LITERACY & COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

373 Students successfully completed the Apprentice Program.

Conduct of Needs Assessment

127 Out of School Youth

535 Gov. Workforce



DWIA - Research and Evaluation - EPMD

04 Evaluation of Training conducted

36 Stakeholder Engagement conducted

DWIA - Competency Standards - C3D2

47 Diagnostic Exam conducted

02 Certification Exams conducted

18 ICT User Certification Exam conducted



200 Participants MOOCS Training (Courses)

11 Conducts CISCO NetAcad Training

12 Conducts SPARK Technical Training

DWIA - Training Administration - TMD

10 Conducts **249** Participants

Courses for Literacy in the Internet and Computer Knowledge (CLICK) Project

01 Digital Literacy Conducted

01 Cyber Hygiene Training Conducted

50 Laptops Donated

03 PRC Accredited Webinars conducted

23 Webinars conducted

1 Tech4ED conference conducted

1 Tech4ED award conducted

13,459 users served Center Activities

4 Tech4ED Centers/ DTC Established With Hardware Support



4 Tech4ed Centers/ DTC Established Without Hardware Support

7 DTC sustained operations for DICT-owned DTCs

42 DTC Interventions Provided

149 Capacity Development activities conducted



DITO Telecommunity formally unveils its telecommunications tower in Barangay Landang Laum, Sacol Island, as part of its commitment to the 1Smart Village Smart Island (SVSI) initiative.

8 SVSI kick-off events successfully held this year



DICT Regional Office IX and BASULTA has been officially awarded its ISO 9001:2015 certification



PRIME HRM Bronze Awardee



GECS MOVE Deployed Across Region IX and BASULTA

Adoption of the Emergency Communications Plan by the ETC IX



Sacol Island Case Study published in 9th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals Forum (STI Forum 2024)



Support and active participation in the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Caravan



Conducted Regional Consultation for the National Broadband Plan 2.0 and the National Emergency Communications Plan





What provinces do we serve?



What is DICT? The Department of Information and Communications Technology



What is PNPKI?



READ EVERYTHING?



**TIME TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!
SCAN THE CODE AND TAKE OUR QUIZ**



CHERYL C. ORTEGA

Regional Director

📍 DICT Building, Zone IV, Port Area, Zamboanga City
☎ (062) 991-2742
✉ cheryl.ortega@dict.gov.ph

VISION

“An innovative, safe and happy nation that thrives through and is enabled by Information and Communications Technology.”

DICT aspires for the Philippines to develop and flourish through innovation and constant development of ICT in the pursuit of a progressive, safe, secured, contented and happy Filipino nation.

MISSION

“DICT of the people and for the people.”

The Department of Information and Communications Technology commits to:

- Provide every Filipino access to vital ICT infostructure and services
- Ensure sustainable growth of Philippine ICT-enabled industries resulting to creation of more jobs
- Establish a One Digitized Government, One Nation
- Support the administration in fully achieving its goals
- Be the enabler, innovator, achiever and leader in pushing the country's development and transition towards a world-class digital economy



ENGR. JACOB F. MOHAMMAD

Chief of Technical Operations Division

📍 DICT Building, Zone IV, Port Area, Zamboanga City
☎ (062) 991-2742
✉ jacob.mohammad@dict.gov.ph



ARIS B. AUSTRIA

Chief of Administrative and Finance Division

📍 DICT Building, Zone IV, Port Area, Zamboanga City
☎ (062) 991-2742
✉ aris.austria@dict.gov.ph



JUANITO M. CALINGACION JR.

Zamboanga City Officer

📍 DICT Building, Zone IV, Port Area, Zamboanga City
☎ (062) 991-2742
✉ juanito.calingacion@dict.gov.ph



AILEEN G. PADO

Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Officer

📍 DICT Provincial Field Office, Corner Gonzales & Zamora Street, Barangay Blasong, Dipolog City Zamboanga del Norte
☎ (065) 212 4755 | (065) 908 2635
✉ aileen.padao@dict.gov.ph



ENGR. VERMOND S. APOSTOL

Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Officer

📍 DICT Provincial Field Office, Purok Riverside, Balangasan District, Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur
☎ 0917 419 8779
✉ vermond.apostol@dict.gov.ph



ENGR. MARK RUELSON B. GACUTAN

Zamboanga Sibugay Provincial Officer

📍 DICT Provincial Field Office, 2nd Floor, Sunrise Building, Ruby Street, Poblacion Ipil, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay
☎ (062) 957 7611
✉ mark.gacutan@dict.gov.ph



MICHAEL JOLO

Basilan Provincial Officer

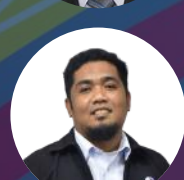
📍 DICT Provincial Field Office, Strong Boulevard, Port Area, Isabela City, Basilan
☎ 0917 652 9207
✉ michael.jolo@dict.gov.ph



LOWENFELD TAN

Sulu Provincial Officer

📍 DICT Provincial Field Office, Martinez Street, San Raymundo, Jolo, Sulu
☎ 0936 470 8680
✉ lowenfeld.tan@dict.gov.ph



ALJON S. MUTALIB

Tawi-Tawi Provincial Officer

📍 DICT Provincial Field Office, Datu Halun Street, Barangay Poblacion, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
☎ 0906 205 0074
✉ aljon.mutalib@dict.gov.ph