

# Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines

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

7 January 2010

Honorable Juan Ponce Enrile  
President  
Senate of the Philippines  
Room 606, 6th Floor

and

Honorable Edgardo J. Angara  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Science and Technology  
Room 504 5th Floor  
GSIS Building, Financial Center  
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Dear Senate President Enrile and Chairman Angara:

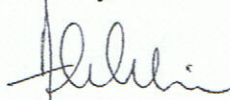
The Joint Foreign Chambers in the Philippines strongly support the final Senate passage of SB 2546 "An Act Creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology" which we understand is currently under interpellation in the Senate.

As the Joint Foreign Chambers emphasized in the attached May 2009 statement, the Philippines has the opportunity to become the premier global location in East Asia for IT-enabled services as well as to leverage the numerous advantages of information technology for the delivery of government services to Filipinos throughout the country.

The creation of a Department of Information and Communications Technology can greatly speed up the process of the Philippines becoming an information economy, thus improving overall Philippine competitiveness. Other economies are competing with the Philippines for its growing share of a huge global services sector. We must take full advantage of the Philippines' early-mover lead today

Thank you for considering the views of the Joint Foreign Chambers in the Philippines and other Philippine Business Groups.

Sincerely,



**Austen Chamberlain**  
*President*  
American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines



AMERICAN



AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND



CANADIAN



EUROPEAN



JAPANESE

**Richard Barclay**  
*President*  
Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

**Oscar Sanez**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Business Processing Association -Philippines



KOREAN

**Jojo Ulgan**  
*Executive Director*  
Contact Centers Association of the Philippines

**Julian Payne**  
*President*  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines



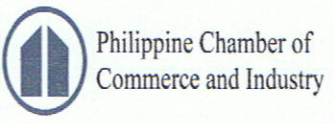
**Hubert D'Aboville**  
*President*  
European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines



PAMURI

**Yasuhiko Arimitsu**  
*President*  
Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines

**Eun Gap Chang**  
*President*  
Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines



**Eusebio V. Tan**  
*President*  
Management Association of the Philippines



**Shameem Quarashi**

*President*

Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters Inc.



**Francisco Chua**

*President*

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Attachment: as stated

cc: CICT Chairman Ray Anthony Chua  
PLLO Joaquin Lagonera  
Senate Liaison Lao Torres  
House ICT Committee Chairman Jose Santiago  
Amb. Cesar Bautista, co-chairman, National Competitiveness Council  
Sec. Peter Favila, Co-Chairman, National Competitiveness Council

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AMERICAN

May 19, 2009

## PASSAGE OF SB 2546: CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT)



AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND

The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines would like to express our support for the creation of a Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), based on the crucial role that ICT and communications play in the Philippine economy.



CANADIAN

The Philippines has the opportunity to become known as the premier location worldwide for IT-enabled services in East Asia, in the face of serious competition from a number of other countries.



EUROPEAN

In an era of globalization, ICT is an important vehicle enabling the private sector to be more competitive. ICT plays a key role by enabling the government to become more efficient and effective in the delivery of social and information services. Given current developments in the ICT sector, it is vital that the Philippine Government fully embrace ICT to support continuing rapid sectoral developments. ICT policies, regulations, and roadmaps should be in harmony to ensure the Philippines can continue to compete globally for new jobs, investment and business. This can be best achieved with the creation of a department organization with cabinet level leadership supported by capable staff and necessary funding.



JAPANESE

The country must address the challenges and opportunities to become a larger player in this dynamic and ever-changing industry. Major issues facing the sector are human resources, intellectual property rights, security, data protection, quality management and standards, all of which require high-level interfaces with other departments of the Philippine Government and other domestic and international organizations.



KOREAN

The Philippines does not need a DICT just to represent the outsourcing industry. There is a vast amount of work that can be done within the government to improve the level of the services government provides to its constituents. The crucial point is that future progress will depend on the country's ability to develop into an information economy that can compete against our neighbors and that offers meaningful employment to more and more people. Innovation and change require the highest priority for this sector.



PAMURI

The Senate bill also consolidates telecommunications offices of the government in the new DICT and renames the DOTC as the Department of Transportation. Communications and transportation are such vital infrastructure functions for the country that each should logically be the responsibility of separate departments. The ease and cost of doing business, the overall investment climate and, indeed, the daily life of every Filipino are vitally affected by the performance of each of these departments. In the future, each agency will be able to concentrate better on upgrading to world class

standards both physical infrastructure and policies and regulatory oversight, in order for the Philippines to advance in international competitiveness and for citizens to communicate, be informed and move about by air, land and sea more efficiently and safely.

We urge the Senate to ensure the timely passage of the bill creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The House passed its DICT bill HB 4300 on August 5, 2008. Delay could have a dampening effect on ICT's future growth in the Philippines during the ongoing global recession. Positive Senate action in passing SB 2546 (reported on August 19, 2009) will ensure the country's continued competitive edge in the global marketplace.

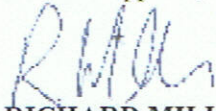
Sincerely,



**AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN**  
President  
American Chamber of Commerce  
of the Philippines, Inc.



**RICHARD BARCLAY**  
President  
Australian-New Zealand Chamber  
of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.



**RICHARD MILLS**  
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of the Philippines, Inc.



**HUBERT D'ABOVILLE**  
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European Chamber of Commerce  
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**YASUHIKO ARIMITSU**  
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Japanese Chamber of Commerce  
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**EUN GAP CHANG**  
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Korean Chamber of Commerce  
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**SHAMEEM QURASHI**  
President  
Philippine Association of Multinational Companies  
Regional Headquarters, Inc.