# Philippine Initiatives and Challenges in Enhancing ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

Presented by

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# Philippine Background…………..

➢ **Philippines is an archipelago country of 7,100 islands with a land area of <span style="color:yellow">30 million hectares</span>.**

➢ **Most of the population is concentrated in the twenty largest islands with about 54 per cent of the country's total population living on the island <span style="color:yellow">Luzon,</span> 32 per cent in the central part of the country <span style="color:yellow">Visayas</span>**

➢ **The island <span style="color:yellow">Mindanao</span> in Southern Philippines accommodates some 14 per cent**

➢ **55 per cent of the population is estimated to live in urban areas while 45 per cent lives rural areas.**

➢ **Final results of the latest Census of Population (POPCEN 2007) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) placed the Philippine population at 88,574,614 persons as of August 1, 2007. Said results down to barangay level were made official with the signing by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of <u>Proclamation No. 1489</u> on April 16, 2008.**

| Census Year | Census Reference Date | Philippine Population (in millions) |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| 2007 | August 1, 2007 | 88.57 |

# Philippine Initiatives:

➤ **Republic Act 3562 (1962)** - declare permanent government commitment to the training of SPED teachers for the blind and the establishment of the Philippine Printing House for the Blind (PPHB).

➤ **Presidential Decree No. 1509 (1978)** - established the National Commission Concerning Disabled Persons (NCCDP).

➤ **Presidential Proclamation No. 1780 (1979)** - observation of the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week (NDPR Week)

➤ **Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 (1983)** - Accessibility Law measures of making not only public buildings and transportation but also information and communication technology accessible to Persons With Disabilities.

# Philippine Initiatives:

➢ **Republic Act 7277 (Magna Carta for Disabled Persons) (1991)** - enumerated and consolidate comprehensive measures to ensure rehabilitation, self-development, and self-reliance of persons with disabilities

➢ **Biwako Millennium Framework (May 2002)** - priority areas of concern, that include Access to information and communication including ICT.

➢ **Interregional Seminar and Regional Demonstration Workshop on Accessible ICT and Persons with Disabilities (March 2003)** - workshop resulted to the adoption of the Manila Declaration on Accessible ICT and the Manila ICT Design Recommendations

# Philippine Initiatives:

- **The Philippines mounted 3 ICT Regional Workshops (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) and 1 National Workshop (2005-2006)** - specifically in and for web designers from government, non-government and academic institutions to advocate and promote web accessibility for persons with disabilities.

- **"Philippine Web Accessibility Group" (PWAG) (2006)** - mission is to teach and promote web accessibility in the Philippines as a method of making information accessible to all including persons with disabilities (PWD).

## Philippine Initiatives:

➢ **Creation of the Sub-Committee on Information Communication and Technology (ICT) (2002) - then National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) issued Board Resolution No. 22 and Board Resolution No. 7 in 2003 with specific function.**

➢ **Introduction of DAISY in the Philippines (2004) - the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability based in Bangkok, Thailand conducted the training '*Digital Accessible Information System* (DAISY) For All'. The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) sent a four-member delegation to represent the country: 1) the Philippine Printing House for the Blind (PPHB), 2) the Resources for the Blind Inc. (RBI) and 3) the Adaptive Technology for the Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired (ATRIEV) and 4) the NCDA.**

➢ **Philippine DAISY Network (PDN)** – **the delegation formulated a Philippine DAISY Action Plan and called it PDN with four member organizations: two governments and two non-governments and an expansion of its membership:**

1) **National Library of the Philippines (NLP)**

2) **National Computer Center (NCC)**

3) **Commission on Information Communication and Technology (CICT)**

4) **National Anti Poverty Commission (NAPC)-PWD Sectoral Council**

5) **Philippine National School for the Blind (PNSB)**

6) **Autism Society Philippines (ASP)**

**Purpose: Promoting and Advocating the importance of accessible information especially to persons with disabilities.**

➢ **National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) through its sub-committee on ICT and Executive Committee issued the following Board Resolutions:**

❖ **Board Resolutions No. 11**, *"Adopting Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) and its equivalent as a standard in producing accessible materials for persons with disabilities"*

❖ **Board Resolution No. 12** *"Enjoining All Members of NCDA to Employ Qualified PWD Encoders Using Available Recruitment Schemes"*

❖ **Board Resolution No. 13** *"Requesting the Commission on ICT/National Computer Center to Deputize the Philippine Web Accessibility Group (PWAG) to Undertake Web Accessibility Assessment of Websites of Participating Agencies and to Enjoin Member Agencies of NCDA to Comply with Web Accessibility Minimum Requirements."*

## The Challenges:

**Results of the 1ˢᵗ National Disability Summit held last September , 2009 which gathered a broad spectrum of society to discuss on pressing concerns of persons with disabilities:**

## ONLINE SERVICES

- *Some government agencies and most of the local government units still have no existing websites in order to disseminate their services and programs*
- *NCDA Sub-committee on ICT which is currently headed by DOTC, must be transferred to NCC-CICT or DICT*
- *Promotion and education of PWD friendly websites*
  - *Non-implementation of E-commerce law (RA 8754)*
    - *"Government shall utilize new electronic means to deliver core public services ... and to promote the use of such means."*
    - *"Government shall provide equal and transparent access to public domain information" – including* **online services**
  - *Strong monitoring of interactivity, uptime and compliance of existing online services of government agencies and*
    - *i.e. putting online complaint forms and fast access services*

# The Challenges:

## ONLINE SERVICES

- *Existing guidelines on web accessibility and international standards not implemented*

## INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED ICT ISSUES

- *Internet cafes and local government agencies don't have provisions for computer access to PWD*
- *Most ATM machines, telephone booths and other ICT terminals are inaccessible to wheelchair users - (the terminals are too high).*
- *There is no provision for talking ATMs for blind people.*

## OTHER ICT-RELATED ISSUES

- *Lack of access to financial facilities on the purchase of IT equipment, computers and other assistive devices for persons with disabilities*
- *No closed captioning or sign language insets to access vital information tools and services*

# Thank You!!!



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