



PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

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PH HAILED AS WINNERS DURING WSIS+20 2024; EMERGED AS GLOBAL LEADERS IN COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE



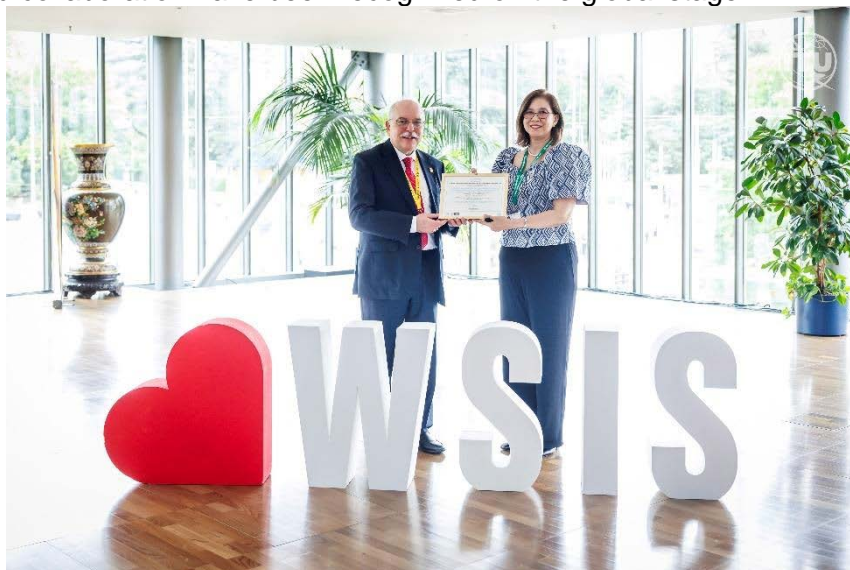
DICT Regional Director Sittie Rahma Alawi and Secretary Ivan John Uy accept PH's Prize from ITU Secretary General Doreen Bogdan Martin during the WSIS+20 Prizes Ceremony (source: ITU Flickr)

Geneva, 28 May 2024 – Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Ivan John Uy and DICT Regional Director Sittie Rahma Alawi accepted PH's WSIS Prizes 2024 Award for the project ***Empowering Disaster Response in Northern Mindanao through the use of Local Radio Networks*** in category ALC2. Information and communication infrastructure.

The WSIS Prizes Ceremony is a prestigious international recognition that applauds the excellence of WSIS (World Summit on Information Society) stakeholders in driving the implementation of WSIS outcomes, Action Lines, and the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals through innovative ICT (information communication technology) projects and initiatives. After an intensive online voting phase and meticulous deliberation by the Expert Group, DICT's project emerged with more than 2.2 million votes, one of the most voted in its category, emerging as the top prize winner among project submissions from Azerbaijan, Algeria, Malaysia, and Mexico.

The project highlighted DICT's efforts in disaster response in the Northern Mindanao region through leveraging VHF/HF radio technology and redundancy in communications infrastructure. It also seeks to strengthen coordination among disaster risk reduction management agencies with the aim to deliver rapid response efforts during disasters and crises.

In his acceptance speech, Secretary Uy shared that, being one of the most vulnerable nations to the effects of climate change, the PH is “deeply grateful that our efforts to enhance disaster resilience and collaboration have been recognized on the global stage”.



ITU Director for Radiocommunication Bureau Mr. Mario Maniewicz confers the prize to DICT Regional Director Ms. Cheryl Ortega during the WSIS Photo Contest Award Ceremony (source: ITU Flickr)

PH also emerged as one of the winners of the WSIS Photo Contest, with DICT’s entry entitled “*Indigenous Children’s Eagerness to Digital Literacy*”. Winning Member States are recognized during the awarding ceremony, highlighting their contributions to leveraging ICTs for societal challenges, and emphasizing excellence and innovation in utilizing ICTs for sustainable development.



DICT’s winning entry in the WSIS Photo Contest “Indigenous Children’s Eagerness to Digital Literacy”, Bansud, Oriental Mindoro

The photo captures the excited smiles of indigenous children from Bansud, Oriental Mindoro. With ever-growing technological advancements, connecting communities in different sectors through technology and leveraging their knowledge and skills seals the gap in education and limited access to information and technology, and provides equitable opportunities to transcend racial, ethnic, and gender gaps.

PH Permanent Representative Carlos D. Soretta congratulated DICT region 10 on its achievement, which spoke volumes of the country's high performance in WSIS and ITU. He noted that the international recognition bestowed on our regional office is indicative of a robust, sustainable, and people-centric innovation landscape focused on identifying ICT solutions in the country. He also underscored that the Philippines' performance is in recognition of the transformative power of science and technology and the promotion of innovation for long-term economic development, which is cited as an administration priority of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The Philippines hopes to advance cross-sector socio-economic development through intensive technical engagement with multilateral agencies such as the ITU in furtherance of the administration's flagship projects related to ICT, cybersecurity, online child protection, and digitalization of the economy and in fulfillment of the 2030 United Nations SDGs. **END**