



Documentation Report Kapihan ng mga Hepe

The Pearl Manila Hotel, Manila, 31 March 2016

The meeting was attended by seven chief information officers (CIOs) from different government agencies in Metro Manila. It was held on Thursday, 31 March 2016, 2:15 pm, at the Azure Room of the Pearl Manila Hotel in Ermita, Manila.

The Kapihan opened with short welcome remarks from Mr. Hernan Melencio, moderator of the event. He stated the purpose and topic of this month's Kapihan ng mga Hepe and introduced Mr. Karl See, a member of the iGovPhil Policy team, who presented the draft policy documents needed to implement the National Government Portal (NGP). The NGP is envisioned as a single internet site – a one-stop-shop – for relevant government services.

Mr. See presented an overview of the four draft policy requirements – Administrative Order (AO), Unified Web Content Policy (UWCP), Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, and Social Media Policy – that need to be passed for adoption of NGP.

After the presentation, an open forum commenced. Several questions concerning NGP's implementation timeline, its requirements for compliance, and its transition plan were raised.

Suggestions from the forum included the inclusion of a Domain Name System (DNS) policy into the AO to put some “teeth” in its implementation, and the conduct of extensive NGP training and workshops to government agencies.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the CIOs in attendance were invited to attend the succeeding Kapihan ng mga Hepe for the year and they were also encouraged to send additional questions, comments and suggestions via email.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Highlights of the open forum

The group discussed for about an hour after the presentation. Among the issues raised were the following:

Timeline

As elections near and the transition from the current administration to a new one by June this year is a certainty, the timeline for NGP's implementation becomes a major concern.

The suggestion is to have the draft Administrative Order of NGP signed before the incumbent President's term expires. One approach being proposed is to solicit the support of legislators to speed up the process. Along this line, Mr. See said Sen. Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino is said to be offering his office and staff for the development of the AO on NGP.

For government agencies that have e-services already available in their websites, the migration of content to NGP is an issue. A concrete transition plan was asked.

With the above-mentioned concern, a gradual transition, which might take six to seven years, is planned out. Agencies may continue to operate their own websites until the transition is completed and fully operational.

To aid the government agencies in their transition to NGP, a series of training and workshops tailor-fit to each agency will be held.

Open Data Policy Overlap

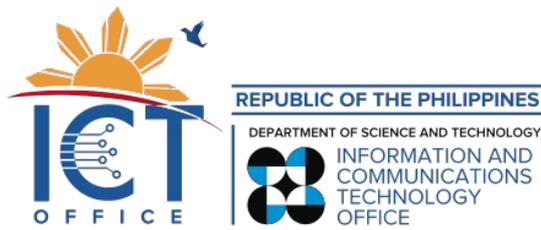
Another issue raised is the overlap of function and content of NGP with data.gov.ph (Open Data Policy) of the government.

It was pointed out, however, that data.gov will not compete with the NGP as the main function of data.gov is just to publish raw data, like public records and documents, leaving the interpretation to the users.

Data.gov aims to make the national government content searchable and accessible to the public. The NGP will not conflict with data.gov as it will focus on interacting with the government agencies and the citizens by putting importance in providing services.

NGP and data.gov will not be competing but complementing each other.

Inclusion of DNS Policy



Adoption and implementation of NGP are easier said than done. Getting the cooperation of the government agencies is important to the success of the project.

To ensure full cooperation to NGP, it was suggested that in addition to the four policies currently drafted and being worked on, a DNS policy should be included.

Having a DNS policy is seen as the key to compliance with NGP and achieving its goals within the determined timeline.