

Organizational Workshop for IFAP Philippines National Committee

UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines, Communication Committee

I. Overview

Information for All Programme (IFAP) is one of the two intergovernmental programmes of UNESCO created in 2000. Through IFAP, Governments of the world have pledged to harness the new opportunities of the information age to create equitable societies through better access to information. It is a platform for international policy discussions and programme development aiming at narrowing the gap between the information rich and the information poor.

Among the objectives of IFAP are the following:

- promote and widen access to information in the public domain through the organization, digitization and preservation of information;
- support training, continuing education and lifelong learning in the fields of communication, information and informatics;
- support the production of local content and foster the availability of indigenous knowledge through basic literacy and ICT literacy training;
- promote the use of international standards and best practices in communication, information and informatics in UNESCO's fields of competence; and
- promote information and knowledge networking at local, national, regional and international levels.

An Intergovernmental Council comprising 26 UNESCO Member States that are elected by UNESCO's General Conference guides the Programme in its planning and implementation. On the other hand, the IFAP Bureau consists of eight Member States nominated by the governing Council. It meets twice a year to appraise, select and approve projects as well as to hold thematic debates on issues of importance for the Programme. The Bureau is composed of a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons, three other members and a Rapporteur

At the national level, IFAP encourages UNESCO National Commissions to initiate the creation of an IFAP National Committee, which shall pursue the mandate of IFAP at the country level. While UNESCO recognizes that there are already several national committees dealing with communication and information, the value added of an IFAP National Committee include: (a) concentration on information society issues; (b) mandate and resources to contribute more substantively to IFAP, and (c) regular formal

and informal consultations with the UNESCO/IFAP Secretariat and with other IFAP National Committees.

UNESCO/IFAP recommends that IFAP National Committee should include representatives of all major national stakeholder groups in the information society including ministries; parliamentary committees; libraries and archives; informatics, telematics and telecommunication infrastructure and service providers; education and training institutions in the areas of information science and informatics; users of information and information and communication technology services in education, science, culture and communication; producers of digital content; local communities and civil society.

At the beginning of 2006, more than 50 IFAP National Committees exist, providing a focus at the country level as well as an opportunity to interpret and mobilize the IFAP vision for local communities.

The Philippines still has to organize its IFAP National Committee.

II. Goals and Objectives

The Communications Committee of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines shall organize a series of multisectoral workshops that shall define the features of the envisioned IFAP Philippine National Committee in terms of the following:

- Organizational structure
- Mandate, functions and responsibilities
- Membership
- Coordinative mechanism
- Funding
- Initial projects

The proceedings of the organizational forum shall be documented and made as basis for follow up actions and policy options.

The IFAP Philippines Secretariat shall prepare a One-Year Work Plan to institutionalise the IFAP Philippines through relevant projects and activities.

III. Workshop Series

A. Visioning Workshop

A one-day workshop to define a vision and mission statement for the proposed IFAP Philippines. The vision and mission statements shall be anchored on the history,

mandate, and objectives of IFAP as defined by the UNESCO General Assembly in 2000.

The visioning workshop shall consist of at least 10 participants from key government agencies, civil society organizations, business and industry and the academe representing the areas identified above. A limited number of participants are proposed to facilitate more in-depth discussion. The output of the visioning workshop shall be presented at a latter date to a larger group for validation and enhancement.

The one-day workshop will also propose names of individuals and institutions to be invited for the organizational meeting.

B. Organizational Meeting (Launching Congress)

A follow-up of the visioning workshop, the organizational meeting aims to formally create the proposed IFAP Philippines Committee. It shall consists of the following sessions:

Session One: Overview of IFAP

Brief orientation on the history, mandate and organizational structure of the IFAP. Also, a review of recent and ongoing projects and activities at IFAP Headquarters in UNESCO Paris and selected national committees.

Session Two: Presentation of Proposed IFAP Philippines Vision and Mission Statements

Enrichment and/or validation of the draft vision-mission statement of the proposed IFAP Philippines National Committee.

Session Three: Mandate and Organizational Structure

Discussions and consensus on (i) mandate, (ii) specific functions and responsibilities, and (iii) membership to IFAP Philippines National Committee.

The officers and secretariat of the National Committee shall be elected during the session.

Session Four: Work Agenda

Discussions and agreements on priority projects and activities of the IFAP Philippines National Committee.

IV. Participants

Participants shall come from the sectors mentioned earlier, *ie* government agencies; parliamentary committees; libraries and archives; informatics, telematics and telecommunication infrastructure and service providers; education and training institutions in the areas of information science and informatics; users of information and information and communication technology services in education, science, culture and communication; producers of digital content; local communities and civil society.

The tentative list of participating institutions is presented as ***Attachment A***.

V. Organization and Management

The Communications Committee of UNACOM shall be the lead convenor of the workshop series. The Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) shall serve as its technical secretariat.

The UNACOM shall:

- Define the parameters of the workshops;
- Identify participants to the workshop series
- Officially invite workshop participants
- Preside over the meetings

As technical secretariat, the AIJC shall:

- Prepare concept papers in consultation with UNACOM;
- Follow up invitation to workshop participants from list provided by UNACOM;
- Recommend names of relevant individuals and organizations to be invited;
- Finalize workshop program in consultation with UNACOM;
- Facilitate workshop;
- Document workshop proceedings; and
- Submit written report to UNACOM and UNESCO.

VI. Tentative Venue and Date

The visioning workshop and launching congress will be in August 2007 at the CICT Conference Room, Quezon City.

IFAP Philippines Launching Congress Initial List of Proposed Participants

Government Agencies

From the Executive Branch

Office of the President
Office of the Press Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communication
Department of Science and Technology
Commission on Information and Communications Technology
National Telecommunications Commission
National Computer Center
National Economic and Development Authority
Philippine Information Agency
Commission on Higher Education – Technical Committee for IT
Department of Education
National Library
National Archives
Intellectual Property Office
National Telehealth Center

From the Legislative Branch

Chairman, Committee on Public Information and Mass Media
Philippine Senate

Chairman, Committee on Public Information
House of Representatives

Civil Society Organizations

Idea Corps.
Information Technology Association of the Philippines
Information Technology for Business Society
Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines
Molave Development Foundation
Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians
Philippine Librarians Association Inc.
Philippine Internet Services Organization
Philippine Internet Commerce Society
Foundation for Information Technology Education and Development
Foundation for Media Alternatives

Philippine Association of Communication Educators
Philippine Society for Distance Learning
Philippine eLearning Society
Philippine State Universities and Colleges Computer Education and Systems Society

Academe/Research Agencies

Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication
Ateneo de Manila University
Development Academy of the Philippines
De La Salle University
Polytechnic University of the Philippines
University of the Philippines
University of the Philippines Open University
Open Academy for Philippine Agriculture

Business and Industry

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Network
GMA Broadcasting Network
IBM Philippines
Intel Philippines
Microsoft Philippines
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company
Globe Telecommunications

International Organizations

Asian Development Bank
United Nations Development Programme
SEAMEO-Innotech
World Bank

Others

Knowledge Channel
Philippine Open Source Initiative