

1st 2016 CIOF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE-MEETING POST EVENT REPORT

Security threats in the Internet have become more technically sophisticated, better organized and more difficult to detect. Because of these, remote access to government databases and services by the citizens is vulnerable to unauthorized access and misuse. Failing to block these threats will have grave consequences on the reliability of government resources. There is, therefore, a dire need to secure and protect government ICT resources. It is in this context that the theme of the 1st 2016 CIOF General Membership Conference-Meeting (GMM) was formulated - "*Network and Systems Security: Indispensable Pillars for eGovernment Services*". It was held on 30 March 2016 at the Sulo Riviera Hotel in Quezon City. This event was organized together by the CIOF and the CIOF Foundation with support from the following industry partners: MEC Networks Corporations; GEODATA Systems Technologies Inc.; and FireChat. Around 119 officials and technical personnel from the CIOF, CIOF Foundation, NGAs, LGUs and ICT industry attended this event.

The event intended to: a) increase awareness on network and systems security challenges and solutions; b) provide solid understanding of the issues related to network and system security; c) appreciate the importance of protecting ICT infrastructure and information assets; d) update the members on the programs, projects and activities of the CIOF; and e) provide participants with opportunities for networking, cooperation, and expand strategic alliances with their peers in the government and industry partners.

The program had two main sessions: conference and meeting. The conference session started with welcome remarks from CIOFF President Clarito L. Magsino. He also introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Juan Philip S. Evangelista, Senior Vice President and CIO of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). In his message, SVP Evangelista said that there are three factors in securing ICT resources, such as: a) know the assets to be protected; b) identify security processes to put in place; and c) determine the attitude of the personnel running the security operation. Network and systems security are not so much on technology advancement and understanding how to use the tools but more on the applicability of the tools to the situation. The event was a venue for sharing experiences and best practices on network and systems security solutions. SSS SVP Joel A. Layson, GSIS VP Jonathan C. Pineda, ICTO Dep. Exe. Dir. Denis F. Villorente, DTI Dir. Laudemer G. Solidum, and DepEd Dir Aida C. Yuvienco shared their experiences, strategies and approaches of securing their ICT infrastructure and information assets from unauthorized access and improper use. Latest technologies related to the theme of the event were presented by the industry partners. Engr. Frederick Lance Ong of Dell Security Solutions talked about achieving a security and protected data network while Mr. Tee Chong (TC) Lee, Regional Solution Architect of the Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), Aruba presented how to enable digital workplace productivity. Ms. Marina Azcarate, Head Global Marketing, Open Garden spoke on FireChat, a free mobile messaging application for Ions and android phones. Lastly, Engr. Romi B. Baido, Head - Solutions Management, MEC Networks Corporation talked about their mobile apps which provide a gateway to the mobile world. At the end of each talk, the participants were given the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarifications, and raise issues and concerns on the above-mentioned topics.

On the CIOF meeting session, President Denis Villorente reported the Forum's accomplishments for 2015 in the areas of: capability building; ICT programs and special projects; and policy and research/advocacy. Majority of the advocacy activities were in support of the policy initiatives of the government. Five new members were inducted by the CIOF President and assisted by Ms. Sarah Palisoc, Director for CIOF Committee on Membership, namely: Teresita V. Bavarro of LGU Muntinlupa, Aida C. Yuvienco of DepEd, Elizar S. Cantuba of DENR, Belma G. Martinez of DOST and Edwin M. Paala of ICT Office. Updates on the internal concerns of the organization on address governance initiatives and Project Management (PM) methodology for government ICT projects were presented by GEODATA EVP Frances A. Dayrit and YSCOLA PM Consultant Dittas A. Formoso, respectively. Opportunities for networking and interaction with industry partners, and visit to exhibit booth were also provided during the event.

The objectives of the event were fully realized except for the provision of report on the CIOF accomplishments in 2015. The presentation of such report was deferred but will be emailed to the CIOF members for their information. Moreover, the event was well received by the participants as indicated in the results of the survey. A significant proportion (about 88%) of the respondents rated the event excellent and

very good'. Likewise, their expectations were more than adequately met and they were willing to attend future CIOF events. Lastly, the success of the event can be attributed to the support of the three major industry partners, namely: Microsoft, Globe Business and Amazon Web Services; and the efficient administration of the event by the Project Management Team.