

Open eGovernance Index (OeGI) *Philippine country report*



Workshop Session on “Evolving an Open
eGovernance Index (OeGI) in Network
Societies”

Asia Pacific regional Internet Governance
Forum

Bangkok, Thailand

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Overview

- Country context
- Methodology
- State of “Open eGovernance” in the Philippines
- Summary and challenge
- Uptake plans

Country context

- Macro context of ‘openness’ and ‘eGovernance’
 - (+) 1987 Philippine Constitution as guarantor of freedoms
 - (+) Presence of active citizenry
 - (+) Robust media outlets; rise of “alternative” media sources, including social networking platforms
 - (-) Presence of laws to limit political freedoms and freedoms of the press: libel, wiretapping thru 2007 HSA
 - (-) Continued killings of journalists
 - (-) “Creeping authoritarianism”: martial law in Mindanao; possible postponement of barangay elections

Country context

- Macro context of 'openness' and 'eGovernance'
 - (+) Growth of ICT use, especially in the urban areas
 - (-) Lack of meaningful ICT access, especially among marginalized sectors
 - (-) Conflicting signals from govt regarding social media use
 - (-) Gaps in ICT policy leadership in the past, capacity of state agencies
 - (-) Lack of meaningful civil society consultation in ICT policy
 - (-) Development of spectrum policy

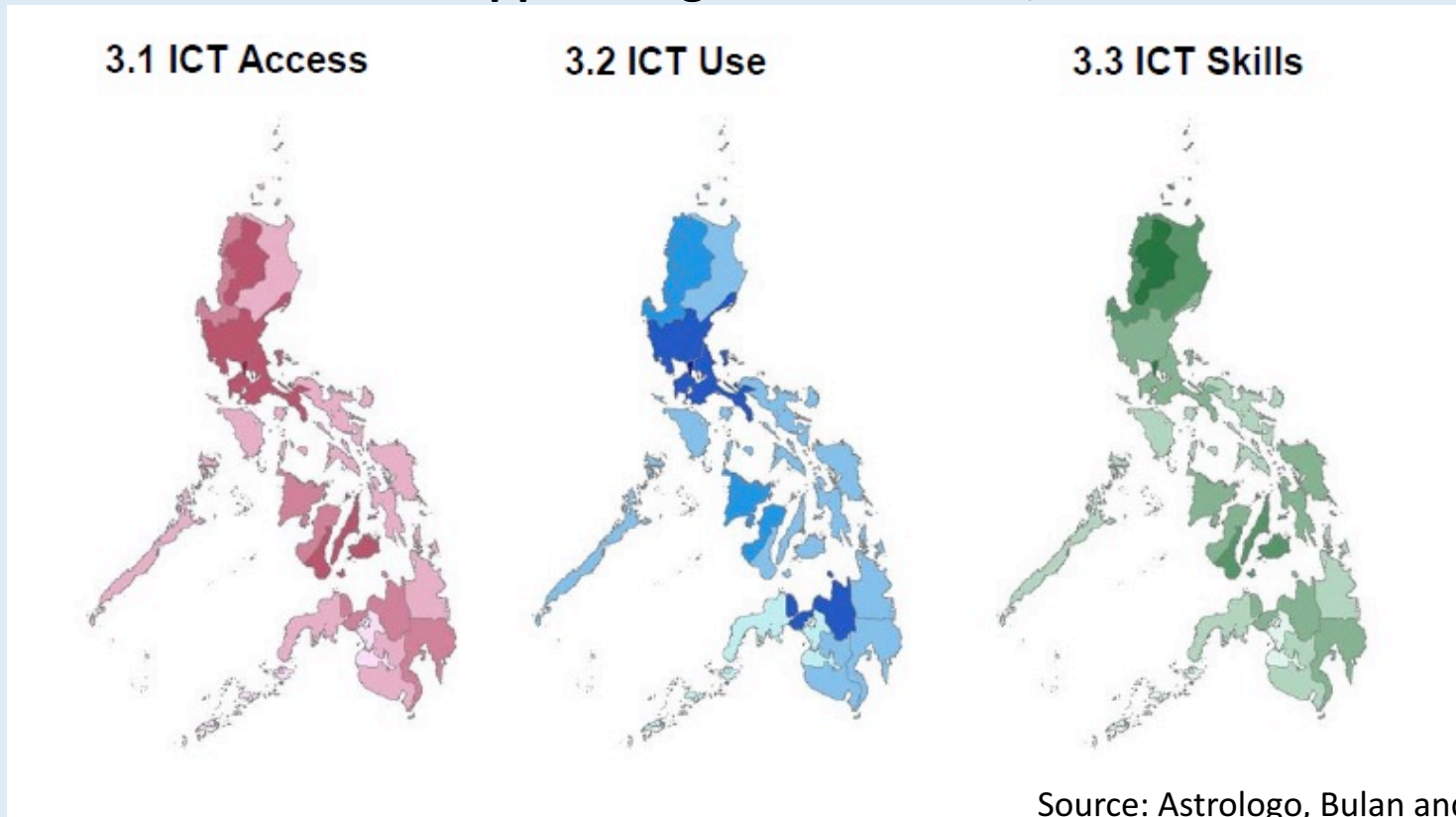
Country context

ICT indicators	Values
Internet Penetration (2016)	44.5 million or 44% of population
Growth of internet users (2009-2013)	43%
Active social media users	42 million or 42 % of population
Mobile Connections	114.6 million or 113% of population
Active mobile social media users (March 2015)	36 million or 36% of population
Mobile cellular phone subscriptions (2015)	120.3 million
Fixed broadband subscriptions (2014)	23.2 million
Wireless Broadband penetration (2014)	27%

Sources: We are Social March 2015; , Internet Society Global Internet Report 2014; World Bank Indicators 2014; ITU World Telecommunications ICT indicators database 2014.

Country context

PSA Philippine Regional ICT index, 2015



Source: Astrologo, Bulan and Catalan (2016).

But increase in growth in ICT access belies large regional differences; access to ICT infrastructure in leftmost chart shows that it is concentrated in two main regional centers in north and center of the country, while internet access is available in the northern part of the country

Country context

Philippines in comparison with other countries

Indicator/ index system	Value	Rank	Change	Notes
eGovernment Development Index (UN)	0.57655	71/192 (2016)	+ 21 (2014)	High in human capital, low in infra
eParticipation Index (UN)	0.59322	67		Low in eDecision-making
ICT Development Index (ITU)	4.28	107/175 (2016)	-1 (2015)	High in skills, low in use (internet)
Networked Readiness Index (WEF)	4	77/151 (2016)	- 1 (2015)	High in skills; low in 'individual use', use in economic activities
Open Government Index (WJP)	0.54	50/102 (2016)		High in right/ satisfaction (?) to right to info; low in availability of complaint mechanisms
International e-Government Rankings (Waseda)	56.7	38/77 (2016)	+ 3 (2015)	Low in ICT governance

Source: Various eGovernment indices

Philippines in ICT indices is generally high in skills, human capital devt; but low in general state/use of ICT infrastructure; while there are mechanisms for accessing information, there are very few mechanisms in terms of compliance

Methodology

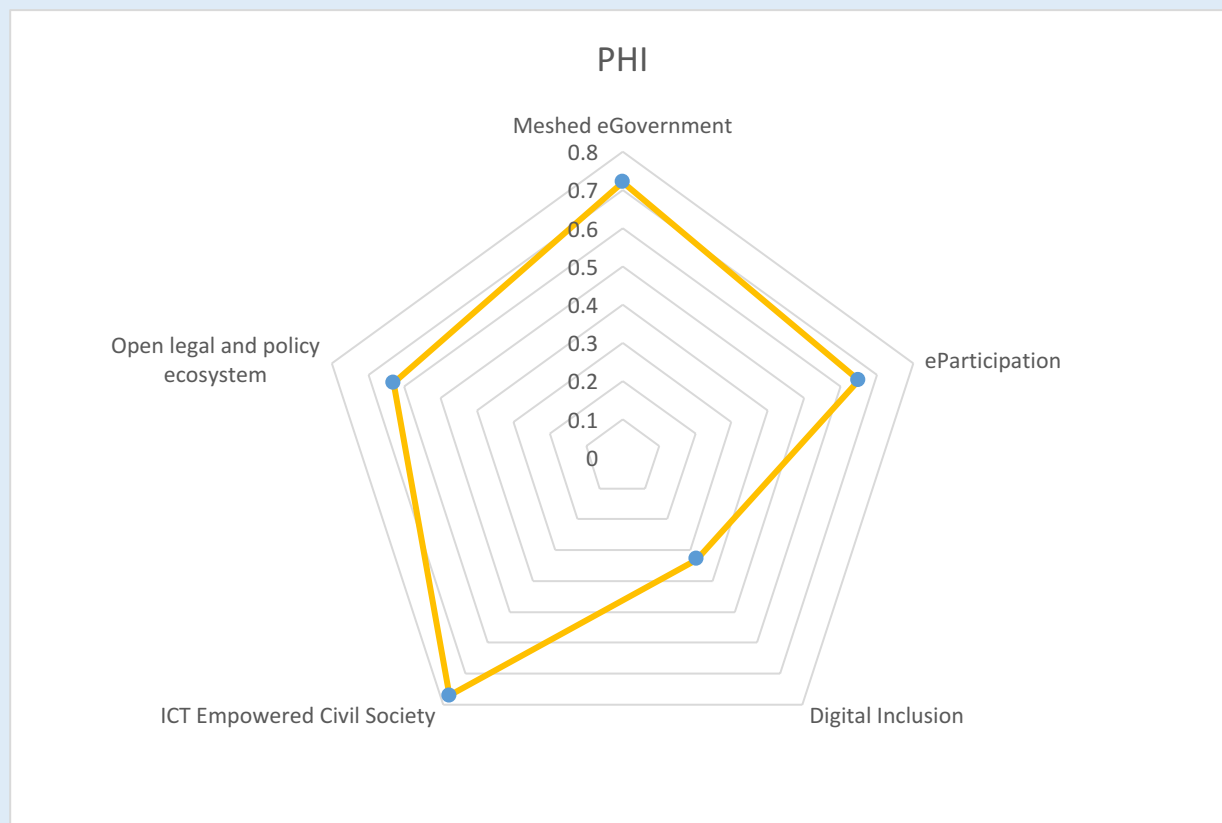
- Review of secondary data from November 2016 to March 2017
 - Also undertook a review of Cabinet-level agency websites (DOST, etc.)
- Undertook two country validation workshops on January 13, another in February 16
 - Respondents were civil society, national government, local government leagues
- To provide information on the civil society access to ICTs, a survey was undertaken on the perception of different types of CSOs on their use

Dimensional scores & OeGI Scores

Dimension	Score
Meshed eGovernment	0.720
eParticipation Channel	0.653
Digital Inclusion	0.333
ICT empowered Civil Society	0.766
Open legal and policy Environment	0.625
<i>Country Score</i>	<i>0.619</i>

Open eGovernance Index scores

- Country is highest in ICT empowered civil society but lowest in eParticipation channels, digital inclusion



“Open eGovernance” in the Philippines

<i>Dimension/ Indicator</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>Score</i>
ICT empowered civil society		
1. Use of ICTs for internal organizational use	84%	0.84
2. ICT use for coordination with allies	84%	0.84
3. Use of ICTs for public engagement and action	80%	0.80
4. Use of ICT for online resource-building	58%	0.58
<i>Mean score</i>		0.766

“Open eGovernance” in the Philippines

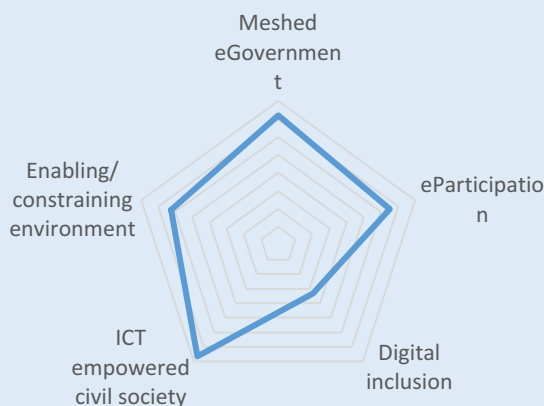
- ICT-empowered civil society
 - It had been difficult to measure this dimension because of the lack of census data from civil society groups
 - However, from focus group discussions and key informant interviews with a representative set of civil society groups, it was found out that, in general, there is high level of awareness and use of ICTs in:
 - Internal communication
 - Internal and external messaging and communication
 - Coordination with other groups
 - However, this may be due to the fact that the groups coordinated with are based on national capital and in politico-administrative regions around the capital

“Open eGovernance” in the Philippines

- ICT-empowered civil society
 - Its use in terms of fundraising and online resource, there is very little use of ICTs in this concern
 - Nevertheless, we can say that because of the relative abundance of civil society groups and political parties, and the increasing penchant of Filipinos in terms of the use of social media, a large proportion of CSOs use ICT in their operations

Open eGovernance Index scores

Philippine Open eGovernance Index, 2017



- Relative better Meshed eGovernment dimension score vis-à-vis 2011/ 12; eGovernment plan and interoperability framework adopted
- Dimensional scores are still lowest in eParticipation and digital inclusion dimensions; several channels for participation but how are these utilized by civil society groups is a question
- This also shows lack of supply of ICT services and capacity to meet demand for participation; mainly due to political leadership? Weak bureaucratic capacity?
- Nevertheless, ICT dimension is relatively high and this has created a significant demand in participation among groups
- Necessity to enhance participation, including enhancing universal access, especially by women and basic sectors

Summary and challenges

- Results show that while there has been growth of eGov policies and programs and channels of participation, PHI is still handicapped by weak digital inclusion policies (literacy, access for marginalized groups)
- This is despite the fact that civil society use of ICT components is high and should have been harnessed to allow for greater participation in eGovernance
- Necessity also to improve the open legal and policy environment in the country, specifically constraints related to freedom of expression, assembly, growing concentration of media

Uptake Plans

- Publication of synthesis report
- Publication of OeGI project methodology, survey instruments, glossary & country reports, including Philippine report (see www.fma.ph)
- Present findings to government agencies concerned