



Philippine Chamber of
Commerce and Industry
The Voice of Business

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Digital Transformation Advocacy: Opening Salvo
Dennis Uy calls for drastic and urgent reforms on digital transformation

“The Philippines is so far behind in digital transformation compared to our Asian neighbors that urgent and drastic reforms have to be put in place,” Dennis Uy, CEO and Co-founder of Converge ICT Solutions, urged.

“I call on the government and the business sector to work out in the next 90 days all the urgent imperatives to make the country digitally ready and able to compete in the international arena,” Uy added. Among these include completing the nation’s internet connectivity, developing a digitally-skilled population, putting in place digital governance frameworks and deploying a wide array of applications especially using artificial intelligence that alters the way we live, work and do business as Filipinos.

“We can connect the entire country through a combination of fiber, fixed lines, low and high satellite systems and other modes of connectivity so that no Filipino is left behind – our students, doctors, small businessmen and every household of the country.

Opening access of all Filipinos to the internet is a step in the right direction. But opening access for its sake alone will not do the job. Government, with the agreement of private industry, has to put a credible governance framework to ensure that only reliable operators will be granted this access and ensure that mom-and-pop type operators will not dominate the industry landscape,” Uy stressed.

“There are other governance concerns that we in the private sector are willing to thresh out with the government such as cybersecurity and data sovereignty.” Also critical to the successful achievement of digital transformation of the country is the massive development of digital skills especially of our youth.

“A million students graduate from our universities and colleges every year, but with what skills?” Uy questioned. It is about time we drastically change our academic curricula to prepare our graduates for the required skills of the digital era,” he added.

Uy said that in some countries, coding, the language of computers, is already being taught in elementary levels.

“I invite the government and my colleagues in the private sectors to incorporate digital applications to the everyday life of our people.”



International highways do not use RFID any longer. Facial or car plate recognition - allows vehicles to enter or exit highway systems. In many airports facial recognition systems allow tourists and nationals to pass through immigration processes.

“These technologies are available, we just have to embrace it,” Uy said. In the future our businessmen should be able to simply use their cellphones to secure permits to do business,” he added.

“Artificial intelligence is here (AI) and we better prepare for this at all cost,” Uy said. He added we need to unite behind an AI roadmap and pursue this as a priority.

“There are hundreds- thousands- of such applications available that will alter the way we live. These are not for the future, we can use these now,” Uy explained.

Uy is chairing for the Philippine Chamber Business and Industry (PCCI) the 51st Philippine Business Conference and Expo (PBC&E) on October 20-21, which will feature a tech expo in SMX Convention and Exhibition Center. Expected to be featured are international pavilions, showcase of technology by major companies, a slew of solutions for companies big or small, and updates of efforts of government agencies such as Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

“At this year’s PBC&E, government is our partner. Until October 20 and 21, when the conference is held, we have 90 days to work out all the details to finally make digital transformation a reality for the country,” Uy promised. We can make the PBC&E a summit of sorts to launch a new era.

“Let’s unleash the power of digital transformation. The future is now,” Uy declared.