

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA)

Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2021-01

TO : All Heads of Departments, Bureaus, Offices, and Other Agencies of the National Government, including State Universities and Colleges, and Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations, the Congress, the Judiciary, Constitutional Commissions, and the Office of the Ombudsman

SUBJECT : WINDING UP THE CONDUCT OF MITHI

DATE : MAY 28 2021

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. As early as 1989, through the Office of the President's Memorandum Order No. 237¹ all government agencies were required to submit their Information Systems Development Plans to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for approval, upon recommendation of the then National Computer Center (NCC).²
- 1.2. Under Executive Order No. (EO) 265, s. 2000, the Government Information Systems Plan (GISP) was adopted as framework and guide for all computerization efforts in government agencies, where NCC's task of undertaking a review and making recommendations to DBM regarding agency information systems strategic plans continued.³
- 1.3. In 2012, Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2012-01 by the DBM, Department of Science and Technology-ICT Office (ICTO), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) convened the Medium-Term, Information and Communications Technology, Harmonization Initiative (MITHI) for 2014-16 underpinned by the "intent of harmonizing policies and efforts on planning, coordinating, programming, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ICT programs and projects."

¹ Further Liberalizing the Existing Procedural Guidelines for the Acquisition and Use of Information Technology Resources in Government.

² Created under Executive Order No. 322, s. 1971; and restructured under PD 1480 (1978).

³ Take note that in 2004, under EO 269, the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) was created as the executive arm in promoting, developing and regulating national ICT systems and communication facilities and services. CICT had direct supervision and control over NCC. Under EO 47, s. 2011, the CICT was reorganized, renamed to Information and Communications Technology Office (ICTO) and transferred to DOST for policy, technical and administrative supervision. Further, it may be noted that the GISP 2000 was updated in 2012 by the E-Government Master Plan (E-GMP 2013-16), the singular authoritative strategic blueprint for Philippine E-Governance (See JMC 2012-01), then Phil. Digital Strategy 2022, then by E-GMP 2022. The E-GMP, together with the Philippine Development Plan, is the basis of the integrated framework that DICT provides to optimize all government ICT resources and networks (§6 (c), RA 10844).



- 1.4. The MITHI, extended for the subsequent medium terms until 2022 and with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) replacing ICTO as co-convenor under RA 10844,⁴ is a “mechanism to ensure a systematic process for the planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a harmonized government-wide ICT blueprint”⁵ and aims for “better integration and greater correspondence and correlation between the [ISSP] and the budget documents, so as to ensure that plans have adequate budget support and to that, the budget is translated into actual implementation.”⁶
- 1.5. The NEDA-DICT-DBM joint review team evaluates ISSPs based on the following considerations: *priority programs* and projects as identified by the Administration, *consistent with the E-GMP* and where applicable, the Cluster ISSP, *redundancy* with the different modules and facilities already in their respective stages of development and deployment, *feasibility of being incorporated* into programs and projects already previously approved, *magnitude and degree of impact* on government back-end and frontline services, *level of maturity/readiness* of programs and projects based on track record, and *other analogous circumstances*.⁷
- 1.6. Under the MITHI Framework, the DBM Executive Review Board still has the final authority to make decisions on programs and projects in relation to budgetary allocation.⁸
- 1.7. The DBM can ably undertake the executive review of the ISSPs for budgetary purposes.
- 1.8. While the MITHI has undeniably brought gains to the government in terms of harmonized acquisition, visibility of national ICT expenditures, centralization of ICT procurement and overhead achieving economies of scale, it has been observed that, increasingly, there have been unintended duplication of and unproductive processes in the operation of the MITHI Framework that lead to delays in approval of ISSP and acquisition/procurement of crucial ICT resources by agencies and offices, among others.
- 1.9. RA 11032, or the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.” mandates reengineering of government systems to reduce bureaucratic red tape and processing time,⁹ and to promote efficiency and simplicity of processes.¹⁰
- 1.10. Under RA 11032 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, the streamlining and processes of the government services shall cover Government-to-Government (G2G) transactions,¹¹ among others, and government agencies must initiate a review of each of their government services/processes through reduction in the processing time and reduction in costs.¹²
- 1.11. Winding up the conduct of MITHI, coupled with rationalized and streamlined ISSP review and management framework, will result in less bureaucratic red tape, shorter processing time, efficiency in procurement or ICT resource acquisition and cost reduction in government manhours.

⁴ Under § (a) (1), RA 10844, the DICT Act of 2015, ICTO was abolished and its powers, functions and assets are transferred to DICT.

⁵ Cf. p. 1, JMC 2012-01, s. 2012.

⁶ §4.1, JMC 2014-01, s. 2014.

⁷ §4.6 et. seq., id.

⁸ §4.8, id.

⁹ §5, RA 11032.

¹⁰ §1, Rule III, CSC-ARTA-DTI JMC 2019-01, Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 11032.

¹¹ 1st par. §2, id.

¹² 2nd par. (d) and (c), §2, id.



1.12. On May 18, 2021, the MITHI Steering Committee, upon due study and deliberation, resolved to recommend the winding up of the conduct of MITHI.

2. WINDING UP OF THE CONDUCT OF MITHI

2.1. The conduct of MITHI is hereby immediately wound up/brought to a close. MITHI JMCs Nos. 2012-01, 2014-01, and 2017-01, are deemed *functus officio* and are heretofore without force and effect.

2.2. The DICT shall streamline the management, review, and monitoring of the ISSPs, submitted by the government agencies, instrumentalities, offices, government-owned and controlled corporations, state universities and colleges, and, in applicable cases, constitutional offices and independent bodies, should they opt to submit their ISSP. The DICT shall endeavor to have the ISSPs through the use of appropriate analytics inform and guide overall national ICT planning and decision making.

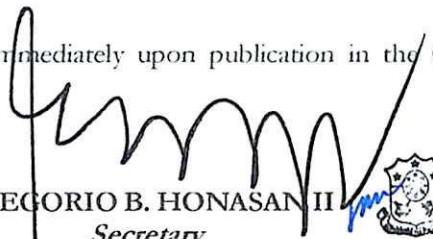
2.3. It is made clear that the DBM shall have the authority to evaluate/recommend/approve agency budgetary requests, subject to provisions of latest applicable budgetary issuances and such frameworks that DICT may promulgate under paragraph 2.2 hereof.

3. REPEALING CLAUSE

All orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Circular are revised, modified, and/or repealed accordingly.

4. EFFECTIVITY

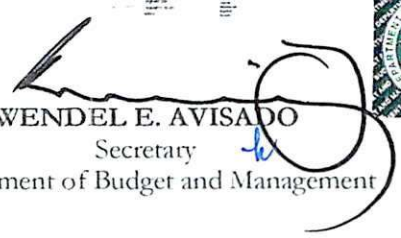
This Circular shall take effect immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.


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