



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

**Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2024-01 (s. 2024)**

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

SUBJECT : **REVIVAL OF THE MEDIUM-TERM INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY HARMONIZATION INITIATIVE (MITHI) AND RECONSTITUTION OF THE MITHI STEERING COMMITTEE AND OTHER FUNCTIONS THEREOF**

DATE : November 22, 2023

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**1. BACKGROUND**

On November 28, 2012, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of Science and Technology-ICT Office (DOST-ICTO), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) signed the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) to inform the National Government Agencies (NGAs) of the processes integral to the formulation of the MITHI for FY 2014 to 2016 and the roles and responsibilities of each participating agency in the same.

On January 23, 2014, another JMC was issued to guide the submission of the government agencies in relation to the formulation of their FY 2015 budget, specifically for the ICT programs and projects.

The MITHI was extended for the subsequent medium terms until 2022 through JMC No. 2017-001 and with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) replacing DOST-ICTO as co-convenor under Republic Act 10844.

It served as a "mechanism to ensure a systematic process for the planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of a harmonized government-wide ICT blueprint," with the goal of "better integration and greater

correspondence and correlation between the Information Strategic Systems Plan (ISSP) and the budget documents, so that plans have adequate budget support and that the budget is translated into actual implementation."

However, on September 27, 2021, pursuant to JMC No. 2021-01 the implementation of MITHI was terminated due to management's decision to further review the ISSP processes and streamline the budgeting requirements for the ICT programs and projects of the agencies.

With President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr.'s current thrust to streamline government processes and transform the government into an agile bureaucracy through digitalization, the revival of MITHI is critical in its actualization through a whole-of-government approach. It can contribute to strategic priorities of digitalization by having a more effective harmonization and interoperability of ICT resources in the government.

## **2. PURPOSE**

This JMC aims to provide guidance and information to all departments/agencies on the revival and reconstitution of MITHI and its inherited functions.

Moreover, the previously issued JMC No. 2021-01 is now deemed *functus officio* and is heretofore without force and effect.

## **3. COVERAGE**

This Circular covers all Departments and Agencies, State Universities and Colleges, all Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), and Constitutional Commissions.

## **4. RECONSTITUTION OF THE MITHI STEERING COMMITTEE**

The MITHI brought gains to the government in terms of harmonization of ICT programs and projects, the visibility of national ICT expenditures, the centralization of ICT procurement, and overhead in achieving economies of scale. It also eliminated duplicate ICT initiatives of the agencies during the budget preparation cycle through the deliberation process of the MITHI Steering Committee thereby redirecting financial resources to other government priority areas. As such, the MITHI Steering Committee will be reconstituted as well with the following members and responsibilities:

### **4.1 MITHI Steering Committee**

- Formulating an integrated framework in order to optimize and harmonize all government ICT resources;
- Approval of priority ICT programs projects based on the current Administration's agenda consistent with the current Digital Government Master Plan (DGMP) or its equivalent that is duly approved by DICT;



- Approval of standards on the evaluation, monitoring, and review of ICT-related programs and projects; *and*
- Providing recommendations on the proposed ICT programs and projects in the agency budget proposals as indicated in DICT-endorsed ISSPs.

The Steering Committee shall be composed of the following:

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|------------------|--|
| Chairperson      | : Undersecretary from the DICT   |
| Co-Chairperson   | : Undersecretary from the DBM  |
| Vice-Chairperson | : Undersecretary from NEDA   |
| Members          | : Assistant Secretary or Director from DBM<br>Assistant Secretary or Director from NEDA<br>Assistant Secretary or Director from DICT |

**4.2 The Technical Working Group (TWG)** shall be composed of personnel from the member agencies such as the DICT, DBM, and NEDA, and shall provide the necessary technical, budgetary, and information support to the Steering Committee in relation to MITHI activities.

The TWG shall prepare ICT recommendations to the Steering Committee for approval to be submitted to the DBM for budget preparation activities. Moreover, the TWG shall provide recommendations and proposals on the necessary ICT guidelines and policies pertaining to harmonization and digital transformation initiatives of the government.

**4.3 The MITHI Secretariat** shall be composed of personnel from the DICT, DBM, and NEDA who shall manage, and provide administrative support to the Steering Committee and the TWG including making practical arrangements for meetings, maintaining a forward plan of agenda items, and liaising with the Chair, Co-Chair and Vice-Chair in the preparation of agenda, and preparing, checking and issuing accurate minutes.

#### **4.3.1 Mandates**

The **DBM** shall lead public expenditure management to ensure the equitable, prudent, transparent, and accountable allocation and use of public funds to improve the quality of life of every Filipino;

The **NEDA** shall be primarily responsible for formulating continuing, coordinated, and fully integrated socio-economic policies, plans, and programs through its various inter-sectoral committees; *and*

The **DICT** shall harmonize and coordinate all national ICT plans and initiatives to ensure knowledge, information and resource-sharing, database-building, and agency networking linkages among government agencies, consistent with the eGovernment and the DGMP objectives, and national objectives in general.

**4.4 Advisory Members** shall provide guidance and advice on matters related to information technology, digital transformation, and strategic decision-making. Leveraging the expertise to assist the MITHI Steering Committee in navigating the complex landscape of technology and addressing challenges in the development of IT professional standards, policies, and guidelines in the government, the advisory members shall consist of the following:

One (1) Representative from Chief Information Officers Council (CIOC);

Two (2) Representatives from the Private Sector; *and*

One (1) Representative from the Academe.

- The Private Sector and Academe Representatives shall be voted upon by the Steering Committee, upon the recommendation of the TWG. The Private Sector and Academe Representatives shall have a term of one (1) year and shall be replaced annually.

## **5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

If any section or provision of this JMC is held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, all other provisions not affected shall continue to be valid and enforceable. If a court finds that any provision of this JMC is invalid and unenforceable, by limiting such provision it would become valid and enforceable, then such provision shall be deemed to be written, construed, and enforced as so limited.

## **6. REPEALING CLAUSE**

All provisions of existing circulars and other issuances inconsistent with this JMC are hereby rescinded/repealed and/or modified accordingly.

## **7. RESOLUTION OF ISSUES**

Issues and concerns that may arise in the implementation of this JMC, shall be submitted to the DBM, DICT, and NEDA for Joint Resolution.

## 8. EFFECTIVITY

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

  
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Secretary



Department of Information and Communications Technology

  
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