

**Opening Remarks - MITHI 2nd Plenary**

Friday, 26 January 2013 8:30 AM- 4:00 PM
4th Floor, Boncodin Hall, DBM Complex,
Gen. Solano St., San Miguel, Manila

Greetings to all ICT champions and Budget heads of all agencies, It is my great honor to welcome you to the Medium-term Information & Communications Technology Harmonization Initiative's (MITHI) second plenary.

Last January, we, the DBM together with ICTO and NEDA introduced the Medium-term Information & Communications Technology Harmonization Initiative to create an environment where agencies can come together and collaborate with a common goal of improving "the ICT competence of the country.

MITHI is the affirmation of the government's effort to end the existence of differing systems and culture of turf wars through institutionalizing sharing and teamwork resulting to a government that is responsive to the needs of its citizens. These were mere hopes and visions back then. Now we are one step closer to attaining these dreams. Now we are ending the superman story wherein the body does not respond to what the mind says.

We already took a great leap forward when we welcomed MITHI and participated in its various activities early this year. I personally would like to thank all the agencies who took time to respond to the call of MITHI. I would like to commend everyone for appreciating the importance of building harmonized ICT systems. Our initiative and efforts are now rendered in the national budget for FY 2014.

Starting MITHI is the hardest phase and we're done with it. It may not be perfect (not all agencies complied and considered for 2014) but we can always improve along the way. In fact, the latest developments of MITHI and detailed feedback on the initial phase of MITHI to the agencies will be discussed. Agencies will be given time to raise their concerns and give their comments. We're not saying that the rest of the MITHI process would be easier but with our joint efforts and your continuous support there's an assurance that we can rally all the way to the finish.

I would like to quote the President as stated in his recently delivered SONA, *"The road ahead of us is long; and we never said it would be easy—or that we could tread this path free of challenge. But I do not doubt our capacity to overcome any obstacle. We did not achieve our current success by chance. Let us not allow this transformation to be temporary; let us seize this opportunity to make the change permanent."* (President Benigno Aquino III)

Once again, thank you for committing your time and efforts to MITHI. Let us continue to synergize and work together towards an integrated, transparent and efficient e-government and for the delivery of quality services to the citizens.

-Undersecretary and CIO Richard E. Moya
Department of Budget and Management