



## CHAPTER 25

# Information Society Statistics

### Introduction

The advent of information and communications technology (ICT) counts as one of the most transformative events in the 21st century. ICT has changed and transformed societies in unprecedented ways through technological innovations that impact greatly on social, economic and governance structures. In the Philippines, the momentum is equally obvious. ICT has been ingrained in the country's governance systems as well as in the people's daily lives. The growth of social media in the Philippines for instance, can likely be traced to the affordability of smart phones and lowering cost of internet access. The rapid growth of the Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT-BPM) sector can also be attributed to better ICT infrastructure not only in the urban areas but in the rural areas where the IT-BPM industry has gained ground.

These advances need an enabling environment with up-to-date ICT plans, policies and a robust statistical foundation that will continue to promote ICT growth and diffusion in the government and the society. As a new statistical domain, ICT statistics are critical to measure the gains and benefits introduced by ICT, as well as provide the evidence needed for development planning and solidify its role as a legitimate contributor to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This chapter aims to present plans and methods of action to accurately monitor, track, and measure the impact of information and communications

technology through timely and relevant information society statistics.

### ❖ **Scope and Coverage**

The information society is characterized as one that has adopted and embraced information and communications technology as integral to social, economic, cultural and governance systems. It also recognizes that the circulation and production of information is a key social and economic activity of the information society, and ICTs in particular, such as the internet, cell phones, and wireless networks, are key to the functioning of the information society.

The chapter covers statistical data and indicators that give evidence and clarity to the new relationships involving ICT and the social and economic development. The generation of ICT Indicators are relevant in monitoring and tracking the performance of the information society sector. These indicators include the following:

- Access and use of ICTs (including internet)
- ICT expenditure and investment
- ICT infrastructure
- Telecommunications networks
- Electronic communications
- E-government
- E-commerce
- E-learning
- Broadband penetration
- ICT services
- Communication tariffs
- Network infrastructure

## ❖ **Implementing Agencies**

The statistical development programs identified in this chapter will be implemented through close collaboration among the members of the Interagency Committee on Information and Communications Technology Statistics (IAC-ICTS), composed of the following:

Chair: Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)

Members: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)  
Commission on Higher Education (CHED)  
Department of Education (DepEd)  
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)  
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)  
Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines (ITBAP)  
National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)  
National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)

## **Milestones, Key Developments, Issues and Challenges**

### ❖ **Milestones and Key Developments of 2016-2017**

- Conduct of the following surveys that generate ICT-related statistics:
  - Survey on Information and Communications Technology (SICT) in 2016
  - Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS) in 2016 and 2017
  - Quarterly Labor Force Surveys (LFS)
- Reconstitution and expansion of the Interagency Committee on ICT Statistics through PSA Memorandum Order No. 07, series of 2017.
- Strengthening of institutional coordination within the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) and with other stakeholders, such as Department of Budget and Management (DBM), legislative bodies, and development partners to ensure continuous improvement and production of relevant and timely statistics in ICT and information society.
- Conduct of an assessment to identify the availability of ICT-related data from national

government agencies to address data gaps in development planning and data requests.

- Generation of ICT indicators on web presence of National Government Agencies (NGAs) through the monitoring of NGA websites.
- Improvement of web portals for the dissemination and consolidation of ICT-related statistics, e.g., OpenSTAT and Philippine ICT Statistics Portal.
- Participation in international conferences, expert group meetings, trainings, and workshops for the development and updating of standards and methodological frameworks/manuals on ICT-related statistics such as:
  - International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Expert Group Meetings in Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI)
  - ITU Expert Group Meetings in Household Indicators (EGH)
  - ITU Regional Workshop on ICT Statistics held in Xi'an China in August 2017
  - World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) held in Tunisia on 14-16 November 2017
- Conduct of the ITU Big Data Pilot Study aimed to produce and generate statistics for new indicators using call detail records (CDRs) to address gaps in measuring the information society. The project was undertaken by DICT, in partnership with PSA, Globe Telecom, and Smart Communications, Inc.

### ❖ **Issues and challenges**

- Need to strengthen coordination among statistics producing agencies, private sector, academe, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure more timely delivery of quality statistical information and services.
- Need for adequate statistical and technical human resources to mobilize all the initiatives necessary to provide a strong foundation for information society statistics.
- Need to develop a collaborative framework among government institutions to share ICT data as a means to reduce duplication and redundancy

- Lack of current and up-to-date ICT data for development planning and monitoring of ICT usage and access.
- Need to standardize ICT indicators among statistics producing agencies
- Need to develop/formulate a statistical framework for Information Society Statistics (ISS) including related concepts and definitions
- Lack of household indicators on ICT access and use
- Lack of e-commerce indicators
- Need to improve timeliness, disaggregation and availability of ICT administrative data (e.g., ICT infrastructure, subscription)

## **Key Statistical Development Programs and Activities**

### **❖ Thrusts and strategies**

For the period 2018-2023, the following thrusts and strategies shall be pursued for the information society: (a) Enhancement of the management and coordination of the Interagency Committee on ICT Statistics to ensure progressive and sustained improvement of statistics for development planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation, and for effective governance and legislation, (b) Improvement of data production in the PSS aimed at addressing current, new and emerging concerns such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, data revolution, and other data requirements including age and sex disaggregation of administrative data, and (c) Strengthening capacity building for improved production, dissemination and utilization of statistics.

### **❖ Major Statistical Development Programs and Activities for 2018-2023**

For the program period 2018-2023, the following major statistical programs will be implemented:

#### **a. New Developmental Programs and Activities**

- Inclusion of e-commerce indicators on establishment and household surveys;
- Inclusion of the ICT indicators and statistical activities in the system of designated statistics;
- Creation of technical working groups under the IAC-ICTS to discuss plans to improve

the generation of ICT statistics (e.g. household ICT use and access, business and e-commerce, education, ICT use and access of national government agencies, etc.);

- Harmonization of ICT indicators with standard classification systems, e.g., Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC), Philippine Standard Commodity Classification (PSCC), etc.;
- Formulation of an Information Society Statistics Framework and adoption of official concepts and definitions on ICT Statistics for statistical use;
- Development of guidelines for ICT data collection, production, and dissemination;
- Development of a methodology on the estimation of satellite accounts for the information economy;

#### **b. Building-up Current Efforts**

- Conduct of surveys that will generate ICT-related statistics to address the requirements of development plans such as the PDP 2017-2022, the SDGs, ITU Core ICT Indicators, eGov Master Plan;
  - SICT in 2018, 2020, and 2022 by the PSA
  - FIES in 2018 by the PSA
  - National ICT Household Survey (NICTHS) in 2018 by the DICT
  - FLEMMS in 2019 by the PSA
  - APIS in 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2023 by the PSA
  - LFS by the PSA
- Improvement of administrative data and information systems to gather ICT-related data from national government agencies to complement census and survey data in addressing data gaps in development plans and local and international data requests;
- Updating of the 2009 PSIC to include new/emerging ICT industries;
- Dissemination of ICT statistics through the conduct of user's for a and appreciation workshops and use of brochures, flyers, and infographics;

Enhancement and updating of web portals to consolidate and disseminate all available ICT data and information