



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 4

COVID-19 and the Digital Economy

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Philippines



**Digital Economy Steering Group Special Virtual
Meeting on COVID-19
26 June 2020**

[THE PHILIPPINES]

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ISSUE	POLICY INTERVENTIONS, INITIATIVES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND SOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE ISSUE	ACTUAL/EXPECTED OUTCOME
<p>Business continuity and resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ (BSP) suspension of charging of filing, processing, and licensing or registration fees relative to application to provide electronic payment and financial services. Fees for services using PesoNet and InstaPay have been waived by authorized financial institutions during the extended community quarantine (ECQ) period. (See media release: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/publications/media.asp?id=5363) • National Privacy Commission (NPC): <i>Protecting Personal Data in a Work From Home Arrangement</i>. Advises organizations operating under a WFH setup and other modes of telecommuting, to consider the recommended measures to ensure that the data privacy of data subjects remain protected. These guidelines cover general security measures that organizations and individuals working on their own can take, not only during the pandemic but whenever a telecommuting arrangement is implemented. (https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/05/npc-phe-bulletin-no-12-protecting-personal-data-in-a-work-from-home-arrangement/) <p>Online trainings/learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC)’s ASEAN SME Academy (also known as Global MSME Academy). The Academy offers 50 FREE online courses specifically developed and tailored to meet the needs of startups, growing enterprises, and ready to export businesses operating in the ASEAN region. About 350 relevant links to business information and access to a directory of service providers to whom SMEs can reach out for financial advice, corporate programs and networking are also available through www.asean-sme-academy.org, with link at the PTTC’s website, www.pttc.gov.ph. 	<p>---</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTI “Bayanihan” Effort: CTRL + BIZ: Reboot Now!. Led by the Department of Trade and Industry which offers a series of FREE webinars that are targeted to MSMEs who need to transform their business digitally. Enablers across the entire E-Commerce ecosystem will provide their expertise and experiences on how to take advantage of the digital space. • Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). Scholarship Programs amounting to Php3 billion to support affected and temporarily displaced workers through upskilling and reskilling. 	
<p>Exchange and use of data in a secure manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Philippines chairs the Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) COVID-19 Task Force. Also see GPA Statement on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic: https://globalprivacyassembly.org/gpaexco-covid19/ • Department of Health (DOH) Statement on Concerns Re: Data Management and Reporting. Clarifies on the release of its bulletins on COVID-19 cases and the Department’s commitment on data integrity and transparency. (https://www.doh.gov.ph/press-release/STATEMENT-ON-CONCERNS-RE-DATA-MANAGEMENT-AND-REPORTING) <p>Bulletins issued: National Privacy Commission (NPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i><u>NPC: Collect what is necessary. Disclose only to the proper authority -</u></i> Clarifies some questions raised by government agencies, private companies, and the public in relation to the processing of personal data in relation to responding to this global health emergency. It provides guidance to support our health practitioners and government units to properly and effectively use personal data to ensure the safety and security of everyone. (https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/03/npc-phe-bulletin-no-3-collect-what-is-necessary-disclose-only-to-the-proper-authority/) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NPC: Protecting personal data in the time of COVID-19</i> – Provides guidance to the public to be cautious when visiting websites, enhance privacy settings, and practice responsible online habits to protect their personal data. (https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/03/npc-phe-bulletin-no-4-protecting-personal-data-in-the-time-of-covid-19/) • <i>NPC: On COVID-19 related apps, digital tools and solutions in this time of pandemic</i> –Reminds personal information controllers to ensure that the application is built on a legitimate purpose, transparent on how it uses personal data and collect only necessary information directly related to the main purpose. (https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/04/npc-phe-bulletin-no-8-on-covid-19-related-apps-digital-tools-and-solutions-in-this-time-of-pandemic/) • <i>NPC: Protecting Patient Data from Unauthorized Disclosure</i> - Calls on health institutions and their Data Protection Officers (DPOs) to strengthen the protection of patient data. Contains organizational, physical and technical security measures that health institutions and their staff may enforce to protect patient data against unauthorized disclosure. (https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/04/npc-phe-bulletin-no-10-protecting-patient-data-from-unauthorized-disclosure/) 	
<p>Use of digital technologies and solutions including for tracing purpose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Health’s (DOH) launching of the Public-Private Task Force T3 (TEST, TRACE AND TREAT). Support the Government’s efforts to swiftly expand RT-PCR (Reverse Transmission – Polymerase Chain Reaction) testing for COVID-19. Will identify the most urgent requirements for PCR machines, testing kits, and fixed and mobile labs, and install these in priority hotspots as soon as possible. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH DataCollect Mobile App. Collects human resource availability and needs, and monitors personnel in quarantine per hospital. https://www.doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker • Developed “COVID KAYA”. Electronic case investigation form used by local government units, laboratories, and hospitals to input COVID-19 patients details and information which can be seen by other facilities of DOH for faster and easier validation of cases. The COVID KAYA app was developed by DOH Epidemiology Bureau with support from WHO and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). • Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Project / Fabrication Laboratories (FabLabs). SSF FabLabs are producing personal protective equipment (PPEs), ethyl alcohol, face shields and aerosol boxes that can be made manually, or using digital fabrication machines such as 3D Printers, Laser Cutters, etc. Fabrication of items such as scrub suits, reusable masks and ventilators are being explored to address the gap. 	
<p>Secure and trusted online environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPC PHE Bulletin No. 4: Protecting personal data in the time of COVID-19 Please see response above. • NPC PHE Bulletin No. 8: On COVID-19- related apps, digital tools and solutions in this time of pandemic Please see response above. • NPC PHE Bulletin No. 12: Protecting Personal Data in a Work From Home Arrangement Please see response above. 	

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<p>Preparations for economic recovery post-COVID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Covid-19 Assistance to Restart Enterprises (CARES) Program https://www.sbgfc.org.ph/programs-and-services/sb-corporation-cares-program . Through the Department of Trade and Industry’s lending arm, the Small Business Corporation (SB Corp.), micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) based in general community quarantine (GCQ) areas may now apply for loan up to P500,000 from the government that they can use to restart their operations. The loan shall be utilized to help the borrower stabilize operations, or recover income losses. It must be used for the purposes of updating loan amortizations for vehicle loans and other fixed asset loans of the business; replenishing inventory of perishable stocks damaged; or replacing working capital to restart operations.</p> 	