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The multistakeholder approach at work

A case in Asia-Pacific



Adrian Wan
Outreach Manger, Asia-Pacific

Public consultation = multistakeholder participation?



Public consultation

- Common practice in many states and regions
- Seeks to involve those potentially affected by or interested in a decision: individuals, governments, institutions, companies or any other entities
- Seeks to enhance accountability
- The right to public participation is enshrined by law to protect human rights in many places (e.g. the Philippines, the US)



A case from the Philippines

The National ICT Ecosystem Framework (NICTEF)



Introductory video (Please stop at 1:40)



<https://youtu.be/dqs3dIRm3pk>

National ICT Ecosystem Framework (NICTEF) of the Philippines

- A five-year ICT masterplan (successor to the Philippine Digital Strategy 2011-2016)
- A multi-stakeholder approach was adopted
- An inclusive, bottom-up policymaking model by letting people set the agenda and goals of the country's digital strategy
- "Going beyond open public consultations"
- Developed with stakeholders from diverse sectors in dialogues and discussions
- A living document: plans and projects are updated periodically as the government continually considers comments from society
- Updates are available on the website



“...while it may not be possible to include all stakeholders in the process, the more inclusive and transparent the process is, then the more likely it is to produce workable outcomes and to engender the requisite trust and support of those outside the process.”

Page 21, NICTEF



Four stages of development

1. Preliminary activities (Dec, 2017)

- Including an introductory event, two awareness-raising workshops, and a training course for civil servants to broaden understanding of the principles that underpin the architecture and evolution of the Internet
- Brought together a small group of stakeholders from the public and private sectors to brainstorm the scope and direction of NICTEF, and the process for developing it



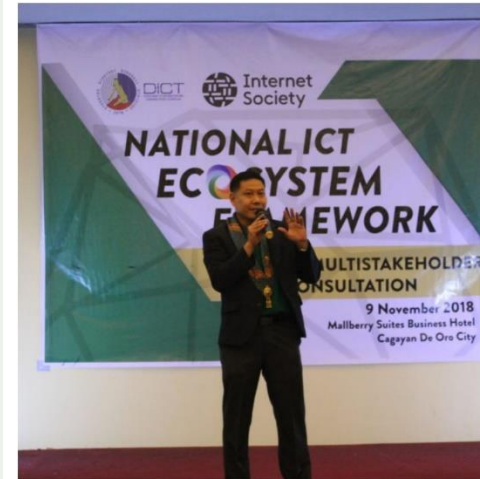
Four stages of development (cont.)

- Focus group discussions (May – July, 2018)
 - Six thematic focus group discussions involving government agencies, the private sector & academia
 - A short online survey (on SurveyMonkey) to solicit views from citizens on what the priorities should be. Responses were used to inspire and facilitate detailed discussions in focus groups
 - A three-day “writeshop” to bring together ICT govt officials & consultants to develop first draft



Four stages of development (cont.)

- Regional consultations (Oct – Nov 2018)
 - Done in the three major island groups of the Philippines – in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao – and in Metro Manila to understand the needs and concerns of constituencies
 - Participants were from key sectors in national and local government, the private sector, academia, civil society, and the technical community.



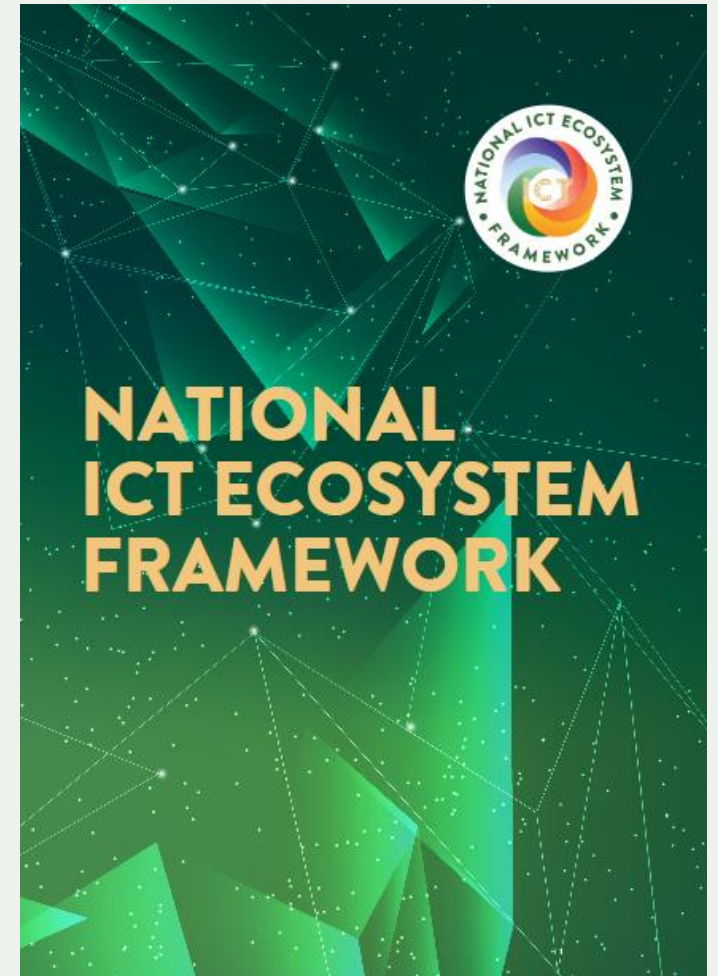
Four stages of development (cont.)

- Public online survey (Oct – Nov, 2018)
 - Done in both the national language, Filipino and in English to include citizens' views on ICT issues that affect their day-to-day lives
- Throughout the entire programme, the government opened its doors to input from stakeholders who could not make it to the consultations



Some good practices

1. The team responsible for the multi-stakeholder approach has a common understanding of what it is, and commitment to stand by it
2. They try to be inclusive
3. Conduct face-to-face public consultations to hear from stakeholders in rural and remote areas
4. Tailor the multi-stakeholder process to the culture of the country



Get involved.

There are many ways to support the Internet. Find out today how you can make an impact.

Quai de l'île 13
CH-1204 Geneva
Switzerland

11710 Plaza America Drive
Suite 400
Reston, VA 20190, USA

Rambla Republica de Mexico 6125
11000 Montevideo,
Uruguay

66 Centrepoint Drive
Nepean, Ontario, K2G 6J5
Canada

Sin El Fil, Dekwaneh Highway
Aramex Building, 2nd Floor
Beirut, Lebanon

Science Park 400
1098 XH Amsterdam
Netherlands

internetsociety.org
[@internetsociety](https://twitter.com/internetsociety)

9 Temasek Boulevard
#09-01 Suntec Tower Two
Singapore 038989

