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bridging information and people



Expanding
Opportunities

Transforming
Communities



Committed to Development

Message from PEARL2

Greetings from Pearl2!

On behalf of the Pearl2 team, we would like to congratulate CVISNET for the initial implementation of the project "SME.NET: Enabling Enterprises to Access the Global Market".

The creation of a portal to showcase the Small and Medium Enterprises in the province of Cebu is a concrete example of how technology can work for business. At this age of E-commerce, mere presence in the web is a must or else, you are out of the competition.

Exposure in the web connects SMEs to prospective partners and buyers not just locally but internationally. One need not go anywhere to market their goods or services, since buyers will be the one to look for them in the net. Thus, bringing the transaction costs down and increasing income opportunities for SMEs.

True to our goals, we are happy to be part of a project that responds to the call for poverty reduction through creation of income opportunities in the Philippines. We hope that through this project, more Small and Medium Enterprises will maximize what technology has in store for them.

Restie Male
Program Officer
Partnership Development Facility, Pearl2



www.pearl2.net

Message from DOST-7

We, in the DOST7, cannot help but be proud with the growth and evolution of CVISNET — from a "garage" type operation manned by hobbyists, volunteers and DOST7 personnel to a formidable and innovative organization ran by full-time professionals.

The many projects that CVISNET has implemented over the years have been the source of inspiration and learnings worthy of emulation by many development advocates all over the country. Projects like the SME.Net, Barangay.Net, Open Source and Computer Security Laboratory and the like not only auger to the priorities of the DOST and the Philippine government, but also make technology relevant to the needs and aspirations of our people.

We fervently hope that CVISNET will continue to be a dynamo of creative projects, a champion of science and technology, and a potent supplier of rejuvenating optimism in these trying times.

Engr. Rene Burt N. Llanto
Regional Director
Department of Science & Technology VII



ro7.dost.gov.ph

Message from CVISNET

Dear Friends,

It's been such an exciting year at CVISNet! So much has happened, that even we sometimes forget! So that's really the purpose of this newsletter, to let us remember some of the accomplishments we've made together.

Let's see. We've started two exciting new projects. After months of secrecy we can finally reveal...

- SME.Net, bringing state-of-the-art Internet technology to small and medium enterprises in the region, and enabling them, for the first time ever, to sell products outside of the country over the Internet.
- CVISNet will handle NCC's Community e-Center initiative in Visayas and Mindanao. As a major component of the project, CVISNet will deliver computer packages to 45 LGUs and conduct trainings for 64 LGUs in the regions, once more enabling ICT to under-served rural users.

These projects have had us working long days (and nights), even with the help of five great new full-time staff members and two foreign volunteers. Our coffee intake went up 350% just in March alone!

We have also been working hard to make improvements in our core services: expanding our service to include DSL and doing more trainings, website and multimedia development projects.

Over 300 individuals have been trained in the OSCS lab on various technologies. Recognized experts and our own in-house staff have taught web design, server administration, and even Microsoft applications. Our OJT program has trained over 100 young future engineers and programmers.

Franco Belleza, President of CVISNet, recently migrated to Canada. Despite the sense of loss of the sound leadership and vision that Franco brought to CVISNet, it still seems like he is still with us. Except at the dinner table.

We thank the Lord so much for blessing CVISNET all these years. So from all of us here at the CVISNet family, let me just say, we could not have done all these without you. Thank you all our partners for your most valuable support. To God be the glory!

Jemela Anne E. Gomez
Manager, CVISNet Foundation Inc.

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Online Stores for SMEs

Close to 20 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from the garment, tourism and dried fruit sectors in Cebu will benefit from CVISNET's latest initiative, a project co-funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) PEARL2 Project or the Private Enterprise Accelerated Resource Linkage Project Phase II, with the cooperation of the Department of Science and Technology Region 7.

The P2.5 million project commenced in March 2005 and ends in February 2006. Tangible benefits of the project include market matching of local SMEs with potential buyers through online stores, and continuous improvement of ICT skills of workers at the walk-in and training facility – the SME.Net Center located at the DOST-7 Compound, Cebu City.



MOA Signing of CVISNET with Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland and CIDA-PEARL2 Manager Ed Sutherland last March 10, 2005 at Casino Español, Cebu City.

Members of the consultative committee include the Department of Trade and Industry -Cebu Provincial Office, PhilExport Foundation, and the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Needs assessment and expectations setting with SME during the 1st Planning Workshop in 06 April 2005. Target beneficiaries come from the garments, tourism and processed fruit sectors.

SME Quotes...

www.made-in-cebu.com



“**SME.Net** supports businesses like us, to improve our exposure in the global market. Considering the fiscal status in the country, we need all the help that we can get, such as getting global exposure, being trained and having a marketing platform. This is really great support and we are thankful to be part of this project. The project is really complete in the sense that the impact to businesses like us is enhancing economy, employment and upgrading business technology, modernizing communication and information technology. We are very grateful that we are part of **SME.Net**.”

Gibb Bridrijo, Sunshine Fresh Food

“We are looking forward to have a website as this will help us in marketing our products: athletic uniforms, especially for basketball, our number 1 saleable item. Before, we only relied on email for our orders abroad, like in the US and Australia. With **SME.Net**, we expect that more sports enthusiasts may be able to use the search engines and find our website.”



Roberto Barcos, Sportsmaster Int'l.



“The website will be a great help for the beach resort here in Argao. We have been in this business for 20 years now and I'm happy that we are chosen for the **SME.Net** project. We are currently promoting through brochures and getting in touch with tour agencies. But with the website as the marketing portal, we hope to get better exposure. We hope this will be a sustainable project.”

Alex Suarez Jr., Sunshine Beach Club

“I look forward to having a website for my boutique. This will be a great help for me and the Filipino communities abroad- the US, in Europe, especially in London, and the Middle East, such as Dubai. Most of my clients are Filipino communities and **SME.Net** will allow my business to have a website for them and other buyers to visit. Since I started out on my own in 1995, about 80% of my clients are based locally, and only 20% are from outside the country. You know, in the Western countries, formal clothes such as those used for weddings are very expensive. Through the **SME.Net** project, I hope for a greater turn out of clients from abroad. I also expect to join the trainings so I get familiar with how the website is going to be managed. Thank you for including us in the lucky 20.”

Jun Protacio, Protacio Boutique

Using Open Source Tools for Software Develop

www.secure.net.ph

Serious software development, as done by software companies or groups within large companies, is a complex task at best. Typically, there are a number of tools available that developers can use to accomplish their tasks. These fall into the following general areas:

- *Network Operating System* for file and printer sharing
- *Client Operating System* for developers' workstations
- *Integrated Development Environment (IDE)* – Editor, Compiler, Debugger, Profiler, etc, often combined into a single tool
- *Data Base Management System (DBMS)*
- *Source code management system*
- *Bug tracking system*
- *Project management system*
- *Web Server* (for testing systems with web content)
- *Web Scripting Language* (for developing dynamic content)

Companies developing for the Microsoft market typically have to use the commercial tools available from Microsoft. A typical collection would include:

- *Network Operating System:* Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- *Client Operating System:* Microsoft Windows XP
- *IDE:* Visual Studio for C, C++, Visual Basic, C#, etc
- *DBMS:* Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle or other SQL Server with ODBC
- *Source Code Management:* Visual Source Safe
- *Bug tracking:* no current MS product – various third party tools available, rumors are the MS will release a tool for Visual Studio (Ladybug) in 2006-2007
- *Project Management system:* Microsoft Project (and Project Server)
- *Web Server:* Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS)
- *Web Scripting Language:* Active Server Pages (ASP), JSP/Tomcat, etc

Such tools are fairly expensive (assuming the company actually licenses the real products, and isn't using pirated copies, which is a very bad choice these days). Many of them assume you have a complex Microsoft network environment in place, including SQL Server which may be used by some components.

If you are developing a product intended to run on Open Source Operating Systems, there are very powerful, but free, tools available. These include:

- *Network Operating System:* FreeBSD, OpenBSD or Linux
- *Client Operating System:* FreeBSD, OpenBSD or Linux
- *IDE:* gcc, gdb, lint, etc – also KDevel and other IDEs
- *DBMS:* MySQL, PostgreSQL, Firebird, others
- *Source Code Management System:* CVS (Concurrent Versioning System)
- *Bug Tracking:* Bugzilla
- *Project Management System:* dot Project
- *Web Server:* Apache, others
- *Web Scripting Language:* PHP

The commercial tools in the first group (depending on number of developers) could easily cost tens of thousands of US dollars, plus ongoing maintenance, support and upgrades. There are already many people trained in the use of these tools, and many certifications available (e.g. MCSE, MCSA, Oracle, etc). The cost for setting up a major development project or company using these tools is substantial. The software will actually be more expensive than the hardware, and in the Philippine context could be the largest single expense.

The open source tools in the second group are all *free* for anyone to use, even for developing commercial applications, and source code is available to all. There are many books available on each, in addition to extensive information online. There are getting to be more and more developers skilled in the use of these tools (anyone can obtain and practice with them for free). In particular the "LAMP" platform is becoming very popular (LAMP stands for Linux / Apache / MySQL / PHP). The cost for customers to deploy systems developed with these tools is also much lower than systems developed with the commercial tools, which is yet another plus.

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As for quality, the open source tools are (for the most part) as good or better than the commercial tools, and equally well supported by the open source community. In fact, the rate of innovation is actually faster in many cases than that of commercial tools.

I have had personal experience using both sets of tools in previous companies and at InfoWeapons. We are doing most of our development with open source tools, but are creating one Windows based component (an alternate administration tool which is a Microsoft Management Console snap-in). We had to obtain the Microsoft Visual Studio and a few other commercial tools (e.g. InstallShield) to do that work. Most of our developers actually prefer the open source tools and the flexibility and power of the open source platforms. The stability, performance and security of the open source platforms is actually dramatically better than for the commercial tools. We simply could not have achieved our goals for military grade hardening, performance, reliability or IPv6 functionality had we built the product using commercial platforms and tools. I believe we have actually been able to complete the development faster with the open source tools and platforms than with commercial tools, as well. The project management, bug tracking and source code management work smoothly and well. They have been used in countless open source projects for even larger projects than ours.

In summary, all companies doing product development should seriously consider moving to the open source tools wherever possible, except in cases where you must create components or products that run only on the commercial platforms (e.g. our MMC snap-in). This is especially true in countries with weaker economies, such as the Philippines.



Lawrence E. Hughes
CTO, InfoWeapons Corporation
Managing Director, Open Source & CS Lab.
President, Open Source Software Association - PH

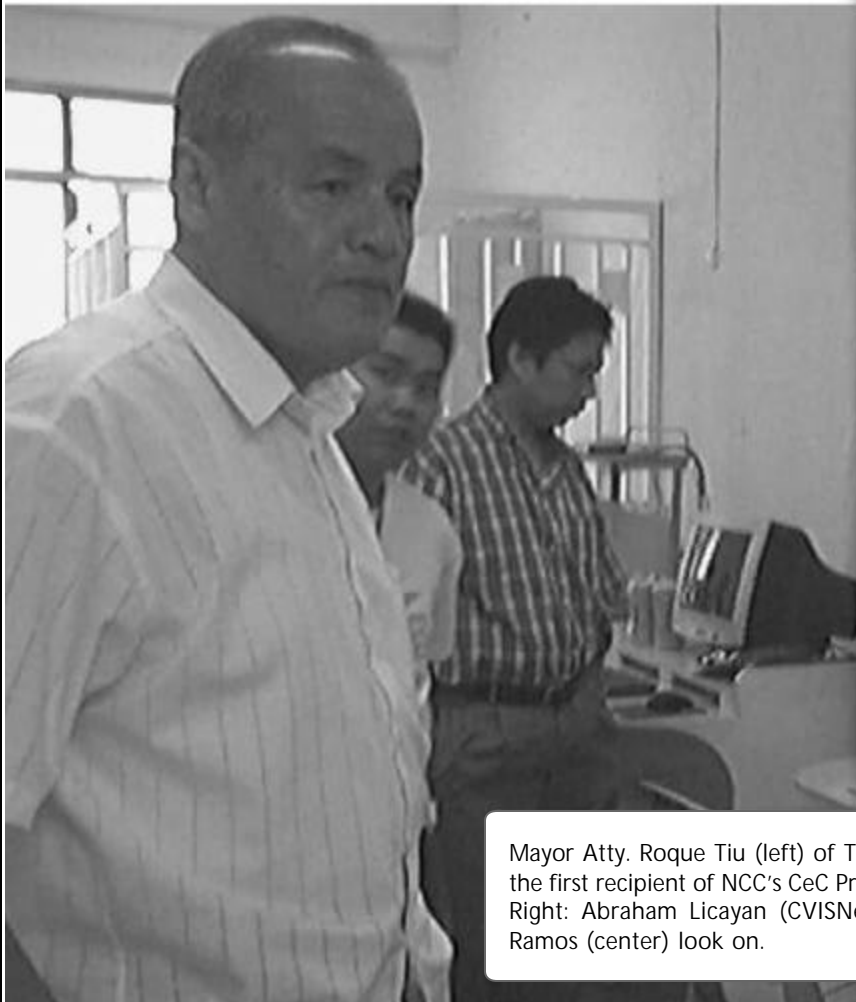


Comm. Dondi Mapa (right) with OSSA-Ph President & InfoWeapons CTO Lawrence Hughes (left) speak during the 1st Open Source Conference on March 2004 held at the USC-Technological Center, Cebu City.

eCenters for Rural Communities

elgu.ncc.gov.ph

Warehouse inspection of PCs for deployment in May 2005. Left sitting to right: Jeremy Rivas (CVISNet), Roscoe Painagan (NCC-Visayas) and Jeffrey Llanto (DOST-7)



Mayor Atty. Roque Tiu (left) of Tanauan, Leyte is the first recipient of NCC's CeC Project for Year 2. Right: Abraham Licayan (CVISNet) and Eugene Ramos (center) look on.

Modernizing the information communication technologies (ICTs) of local government units (LGUs) will enhance basic services for its constituents through the Community eCenter Project, a component of the eLGU, a flagship project of DOST's Technology Support Program for E-Governance (SUPRE-GOV), where the National Computer Center (NCC) is lead implementer.

The NCC plans to fast track the implementation of this project in partnership with CVISNet Foundation Inc. and the DOST Region 7. Fast tracking means establishing 45 Community e-Centers in the Visayas and Mindanao within one year, 64 LGUs and training at least 640 local government staff, officials and community workers for 64 LGUs.

Project CeC intends to decrease the issues on digital divide with universal access to the Internet and directly contribute to income generation, skills development and poverty alleviation in the unserved and underserved rural communities.

CVISNet assists the NCC specifically with project management, equipment delivery and deployment, conduct of on-site community development workshops, and Open Source computer trainings and portal development for CeC project.

Each LGU beneficiary will receive a computer package consisting of four (4) computers, one Lexmark 4-in-1 printer, one web camera, modem and networking equipment.

Model e-Barangay

www.barangay.net.ph



e-Kapitan Bob (right) shares best practices to NCC officers.
Left: Terry Torremonia, Rik Amores and Dir. Tess Camba of Field Operations

Home to more than 12,000 people, Barangay Basak Pardo is the site of an experiment that its barangay captain hopes will spread to other barangays.

Captain Roberto A. Cabarrubias works closely with a number of organizations in Cebu. He is presently the Chairman of the Barangay.Net Cebu Alliance Inc., a multi-sectoral organization implementing the first community-based ICT project, the e-Barangay Project. CVISNET serves as its technical arm.

A computer room is available for use of barangay residents with computers, and other ICT equipment. According to Capt. Bob, "the e-Barangay will be the connection between citizen and government. Ordinary people can be wary of their governments but their consider the barangay captain as a friend whom they can talk to."

"Through our website (www.barangay.net.ph/basak-pardo), anyone can see and know our barangay budget, expenses, income and all other financial and social projects that the barangay is involved in."

The program also has the potential to have a future role in controlling and preventing crime. Using an open source GIS software, maps can be

made of electricity grids, households, population, as well as the location of suspected criminals and illegal activities.

On February 2005, the e-Tax system was launched. This online system cuts down the time spent by residents to line up and pay their taxes at the City Hall. Collection of taxes has greatly improved. From February 27 to April 27, 2005 alone, total real property tax collections reached Php 262,000.

In Basak-Pardo, the unemployed and disabled residents are taught skills so that they can work and rely on themselves for an income. Short-term training is provided for those who wish to find work- they are taught in livelihood programs and learn things like how to cook, make candles and soaps, and handbags made out of recycled Fun Chum plastic juice packs.



Barangay women sell handbags made out of recycled FunChum bags.

"We also have a program called IT for Out of School Youth. With the help of DOST-7 and CVISNet, our youth can avail of trainings and seminars on basic IT-related lessons. The barangay hall staff will

also be trained," he said.

The opportunities provided by ICTs for future employment is large and are taking effect. In Basak-Pardo, a number of young people have already been trained and are now using the technology provided.

Building RP's R & E Network



PREGINET or the **Philippine Research, Education, and Government Information Network** is a nationwide broadband Research and Education (R&E) network. It has connectivity to international R&E networks through the Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN).

The exchange of R&E experience locally is enhanced with PREGINET. This collaborative project among institutions aims to develop our country's capability in the cutting-edge of ICT, in areas of network technologies, telemedicine, agriculture, and disaster mitigation.

Locally, the PREGINET and DOST IP network infrastructure extends videoconferencing and Voice over IP capability through CVISNET, its access point in the Visayas.

In Cebu City, the University of the Philippines-Open University holds post-graduate classes using CVISNET's video-con facilities. The PREGINET Team successfully installed the wireless link from CVISNET to the University of San Carlos – Talamban Campus in 2004.



UP-Open University holds classes using PREGINET at the CVISNET facility in Cebu City. Professors from UP Diliman, Quezon City conducts virtual classes for Cebu-based graduate students.

www.pregi.net

HortiNet for SMEs



HORTINET is a one-stop-site of information on the Horticulture Industry, from production to marketing of world-class flowers and fruits. Launched through the Department of Science and Technology - Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program (DOST-SETUP), it serves the needs of the Philippine Horticulture Industry and its stakeholders.

HORTINET sets the ground to get into the horticulture business in the Philippines. PCARRD or the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Development serves as the central processing node and collaborates with CVISNET to host, mirror the site, provide consultancy and technical support services to the project.



hortinet.cvis.net.ph

CVISNET Putting Citizens Online, Not in Line

The Central Visayas Information Sharing Network (CVISNET) is a collaborative e-governance project of the **Regional Development Council (RDC-Region 7)**, **Department of Science and Technology (DOST-7)**, **Government Organization for Information Technology (GO-IT 7)**, and the **Confederation of Scientific and Professional Organizations (COSPO)**.

Milestones

1998

- 5 network members; 1 fulltime staff; 3 volunteers
- RDC Resolution 48 s 1998 enjoining all government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to interconnect electronically through CVISNET
- Recipient of DOST's Grant-in-Aid Funds of Php 360,000 as initial seed capital

2000

- Registered CVISNET Foundation Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on May 9, 2000
- Recipient of DOST's Grant-in-Aid Funds of Php 82,500 for Internet connection

2002

- Recipient of DOST's Grant-in-Aid Funds of Php 300,000 for computer & Internet
- Soft Launch of partnership with PREGINET on January 28, 2002
- Collaborative Research & Development with the DOST Advanced Science & Technology Institute (ASTI) on the Internet Protocol Version 6 Research Network (Next generation internet)
- Formal Launch of e-Barangay for 8 pilot barangays, Lahug, Cebu City, Dec 2002
- Launch of Video Conferencing service for the University of the Philippines-Open University (UP-OU) on August 10, 2005
- Installation of a wireless broadband link to Sudlon, Lahug providing broadband Internet access to DOST-RSTC, DBM7 and NEDA7
- Interconnection of PADPAO members (80 security agencies)

2003 - 2004

- Formal Launch of e-Barangay Project for 21 barangays of Escalante City, Negros Occidental on February 28, 2003
- Formal Launch of DOST-ASTI's Bayanihan Linux and Voice Over IP in partnership with Media Hub in Feb 2003
- Approval of RDC Resolution 2003 enjoining all local government units in Central Visayas to adopt the e-Barangay project
- Launch of e-Barangay Project for 27 barangays of Mandaue City, Cebu on April 2, 2003
- Winner, Best Website – LGU Category for Escalante City Web on June 2003
- Launch of 1st NBI Regional Website for Region 7 on June 12, 2003
- Open Source Technology Forum and Voice over IP launch at the Marriott Hotel on 12 November 2003 in cooperation with Media Hub and Prodata Net
- Establishment of the Open Source and Computer Security Laboratory with funding support from DOST-7 and InfoWeapons in November 2003
- Recipient of DOST's Grant-in-Aid Funds of Php 485,000 for various office equipment in 2003
- Winner, Best Website – LGU Category for the Municipality of Trinidad, Bohol on June 2004

2005

- 120 network members from government, SMEs and academe; 11 fulltime staff; 3 volunteers
- Approval of SME.Net of CIDA-PEARL2 and Community e-Center Project of NCC
- Engr. Rene Burt Llanto, Regional Director of DOST-7, wins the Most Outstanding Chemical Engineer Award
- e-Tax System Launch in Barangay Basak-Pardo, Cebu City



President Arroyo with Mayor Barcelona and the CVISNET team during the Escalante City Negros Occidental Inauguration of its ICT Projects in May 30 2005.



Briefing of Canadian delegation led by Secretary of State Rey D. Pagtakhan with Ambassador Robert Collette and Hon. Consul Robert Lee on August 8, 2003



Briefing of U.S. Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone and U.S. Peace Corps Country Director Bill Benjamin (center) on September 2004.



Services

- Internet Services (Dial-up, DSL, wireless)
- Training & Consultancy
- Videoconferencing
- Web & Multimedia
- Development
- Web Hosting & Server Co-location

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IT21 VISION

“Within the first decade of the 21st century, every Filipino, every organization, and every foreign investor and visitor, shall have online access to government information and services in their homes, in community or municipal centers, in foreign posts, in public libraries and kiosks, and in government offices.”

Partnerships

Government:

Department of Science & Technology * CIDA-PEARL2 * DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute * National Computer Center * NEDA-7 * Regional Development Council-7 * Department of Trade & Industry - Cebu Province * DOST-Technology Applications and Promotions Institute * DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Development

Industry:

InfoWeapons * Lexmark * Innove Communications * Bayantel * ProdataNet * AsiaMobile * Microwarehouse * E-Sprint * A5TEK * GoldTelekom * Globe Telecom * Touch Mobile

NGOs:

Ayala Foundation, Inc. * Barangay.Net Cebu Alliance * Geoplan Cebu Foundation * Government Organization for IT * Confederation of Scientific and Professional Organizations * Rural.Net * CEDF-IT

Academe:

University of San Carlos * Cebu Technological School * Marie Ernestine Science High School * Cebu Institute of Technology



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