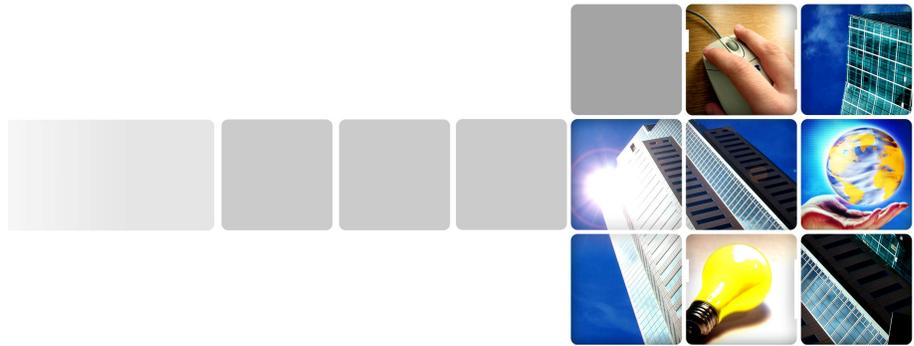




DBP DATA CENTER, INC.



## ISSP: The groundwork of successful IT projects

Construction projects are not a matter of randomly selected and arranged materials, neither are IT projects. Both require a certain amount of evaluation and strategy. Just as good architectures start off as good blueprints, successful IT undertakings begin with a thorough plan. Organizations that intend to have successful IT projects ought to lay down a comprehensive design on how they will go about it. Government agencies are not exempted from this, especially with the issues on budget and bureaucracy they deal with.

To guide public sector in their computerization projects, the National Computer Center (NCC), the primary agency that promotes the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT) in the government, has provided a template in creating an Information Systems Strategic Plan or ISSP.

### **The Information Systems Strategic Plan / The IS Blueprint**

The ISSP is a three-year computerization blueprint of an agency which describes how the organization intends to strategically use ICT in pursuit of its mission and fulfillment of its functions. As ISSPs of government agencies are the building blocks of the Government Information Systems Plan (GISP), or the framework and guide for automation of government operations and services, NCC ensures that the individual ISSPs are aligned with the priorities specified in the GISP.

More than being a to-do list, the ISSP allows the agency to see the areas where IT can be used to improve processes and address problems. It can also serve as a tool to communicate to the organization stakeholders the importance and concerns of the use of IT.

### **Drawing up an ISSP**

ISSP preparation is a five-step process: Pre-planning, Information Systems Strategic Planning, NCC Review, DBM Approval/Release of ICT Budget and ISSP Monitoring. Pre-planning begins with a workshop conducted to brief the organization about the ISSP. An ISSP project team is then organized an IS Planner is designated. The team will then prepare a work plan in drafting the ISSP.

In drafting the ISSP, the agency must first assess its organizational strategy and then formulate an IS development strategy. Subsequently, they are to evaluate their current ICT options and solutions and identify resource requirements. From there the project team can develop an investment program and compose the ISSP according to the template provided by NCC.

The ISSP is then submitted to NCC for review. NCC checks if the plan is complete, evaluates it and makes recommendations before it is approved. Once approved, the agency may opt to request for funding from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for ISSP implementation. Here, DBM requires the approval and endorsement of NCC before releasing the ICT budget. NCC then monitors the developments in the implementation of the ISSP.

### **Architectural assistance from DCI**

It takes a skilled architect to craft a good blueprint. In the same way, a good ISSP requires a competent project team. The team members shouldn't just be IT savvy, they should also understand the needs and processes of the public sector.

DCI, in its 25 years of handling IT projects for DBP and other agencies in the public sector, is equipped with a pool of skilled IT professionals who are also knowledgeable in government procedures and transaction. DCI's technical team studies the agency's corporate vision and mission to be able to lay-out the best plan to enhance the agency's core corporate strategies in an ISSP. DCI understands the approach that designing and implementing applications for any information system should be dependent on the agency's business goals.

In doing so, DCI provides activities such as interviews, workshops, studies and analyses, staff supplementation, IT trainings, and consultancy, to assist the organization in formulating an ISSP in accordance with NCC standards.

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## **DBP Data Center, Inc.**

DBP Data Center, Inc. (DCI) is a Government Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC) specializing in the field of Information Technology. Its primary thrust focuses on providing Philippine government entities with the technical, business process and change management expertise needed when embarking on IT-related projects.

### **Our core competencies**

DCI partners with the government sector in its efforts to serve the general public better with the use of IT. It provides a wide range of services that ensures that its customers' IT requirements are met efficiently and effectively. Throughout its 25 years in the IT industry, DCI has developed competence in IT Project Management, ISSP Formulation and IT Staff Supplementation.

#### ***Project Management***

DCI provides IT project management services to assist government agencies in organizing and managing resources to ensure that an IT project, whether basic or complex, is completed on time and within scope and budget. Over two decades of handling DBP's and other government agencies' IT projects has uniquely positioned DCI to understand the processes of the public sector and address its IT needs.

#### ***Information Systems Strategic Plan Formulation***

The ISSP blueprints how an agency shall utilize various IT components in streamlining and improving its business operations and processes. The Philippine Government, through Executive Order 265, requires all government agencies and instrumentalities to align their respective ISSPs with priorities identified in the Government Information System Plan (GISP). DCI facilitates in-depth interviews, workshops, IT trainings, consultancy, staff supplementation, studies/analyses and documentation to formulate a thorough ISSP that complies with standards set by the National Computer Center.

#### ***IT Staff Supplementation***

The growing usage of IT in government agencies help improve public service to the Filipino citizenry. However, due to limited budget government agencies operate with only a few IT experts to develop, maintain and enhance its information systems

DCI provide its clients with skilled professionals to supplement the agencies IT staffing requirements. Through this, DCI can help the agency realize improved business value with lower cost and increased performance of its business operation.