

## Digital Nation Summit Manila 2025

### Synopsis

#### Building a Secure Digital Nation: Pathways to Prosperity for the Philippines

The Philippines stands at a pivotal moment in its digital transformation journey, with a dynamic population, a thriving startup ecosystem, and a growing commitment to digital inclusion. Building secure, trusted, and future-ready digital systems is essential to unlocking the nation’s full potential — fostering innovation, protecting citizens, and driving sustainable economic growth.

The **Digital Nation Summit Manila 2025** brings together government leaders, regulators, industry pioneers, and ecosystem partners to accelerate the Philippines’ transition into a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous digital nation.

Anchored by the launch of the **GSMA Digital Nations APAC Report**, the summit will explore how the Philippines can strengthen digital trust and security, scale innovation, and modernise governance frameworks to support a safe, sustainable, and future-ready digital economy. It will also spotlight how strategic investments, collaborative policymaking, and people-centric approaches can position the Philippines as a leader in Asia’s digital future — creating new pathways for security, prosperity, and global competitiveness.

### Event Agenda

#### Main Stage

08:30 – 12:30	<b>From Vision to Prosperity: Building the Philippines Digital Nation</b>
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA</b></li> </ul>
09:10 – 09:20	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Secretary Henry Rhoel Aguda, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Philippines</b></li> </ul>
09:20 – 09:40	<b>Digital Leaders Unplugged – Conversation on the Philippines’ Digital Journey</b>  Moderator: <b>Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA</b> Guest:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Undersecretary Julius Gorospe, Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary for Cybersecurity, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Philippines</b></li> </ul>
09:40 – 09:50	<b>Report Presentation:</b> Highlights from the Digital Nations APAC Report 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA</b></li> </ul>
09:50 – 09:55	<b>Official Launch – GSMA Digital Nations APAC Report 2025</b>
09:55 – 10:05	<b>Special Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carl Cruz, President and CEO, Globe Telecom</b></li> </ul>
10:05 – 10:45	<p><b>Keynote Panel:</b> Building the Foundations: Digital Infrastructure for a Prosperous Philippines</p> <p><i>This panel will explore how robust and future-ready digital infrastructure must serve as the backbone of the Philippines’ digital transformation. Leaders from government, industry, and development partners will discuss strategies for expanding connectivity, ensuring resilience, and fostering innovation—making sure to promote and facilitate the development and deployment of emerging technologies such as AI. The discussion will also examine how policies and regulations can shape inclusive and future-proof frameworks that support both digital and AI readiness. By strengthening these foundations, the Philippines can unlock new opportunities for inclusive growth, competitiveness, and long-term prosperity.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy and External Affairs, APAC, GSMA</b></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gemma P. Baysic, Chief, Plans and Policies Development Division, DICT</b></li> <li>• <b>Daniel Ode, Head of Singapore, Philippines and Brunei, Ericsson</b></li> <li>• <b>Dr. William Emmanuel Yu, Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, Novare Technologies</b></li> <li>• <b>Derick Ohmar Adil, Senior Director, Head of AI and Privacy Governance, Globe Telecom</b></li> </ul>
10:45 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:00 – 11:30	<p><b>Panel:</b> Connecting Possibilities: How Open APIs Are Powering the Next Phase of Digital Growth</p> <p><i>This panel will explore how open APIs are transforming the digital ecosystem by enabling seamless collaboration between telcos, developers, and enterprises. Leaders from the Philippines’ major operators will discuss how</i></p>

	<p><i>API and GSMA OpenGateway accelerates service innovation, interoperability, and new business models across sectors.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Kevin Henry, Head of Strategic Engagement, APAC, GSMA</b></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mary Iralyn Cainglet, Assistant Vice President, B2B - Development and Engineering, Globe Telecom</b></li> <li>• <b>Benedict Patrick Alcoceba, First Vice President, Enterprise Group, PLDT</b></li> <li>• <b>Atty. Darwin Troy Padlan, Data Management Officer, DITO Telecommunity</b></li> <li>• <b>Jon Morrow, Chief Product Officer, Shush Inc.</b></li> </ul>
<p>11:30 – 12:10</p>	<p><b>Panel:</b> Strengthening Scam Resilience through Cross-Sector Collaboration</p> <p><i>This session will discuss the importance of cross-sector strategies, policy alignment, and coordinated action in building a stronger, more resilient digital ecosystem for the Philippines—and how national stakeholders are leveraging technology and <b>AI-driven tools</b> to combat scams more effectively. It will also feature updates from the <b>GSMA APAC Cross-Sector Anti-Scam Taskforce</b> initiative and its relevance to the Philippine context.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Syed Khairulazrin, Director, Policy, APAC, GSMA</b></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Undersecretary Renato “Aboy” A. Paraiso, Acting Executive Director, Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Centre (CICC)</b></li> <li>• <b>Irish Salandanan-Almeida, Chief Privacy Officer and Vice President for Governance, Risk, and Compliance, Globe Telecom</b></li> <li>• <b>Pushpendra Singh, Global Director of Messaging &amp; API Partnerships, Meta</b></li> <li>• <b>Arthur Tanseco, Vice President, Business Development, Mastercard</b></li> </ul>
<p>12:10 – 12:40</p>	<p><b>Panel:</b> Defending the Digital Frontier</p> <p><i>As the Philippines accelerates its digital transformation, strengthening cybersecurity has become a national priority. This panel will explore strategies to protect critical infrastructure, digital services, and citizens from evolving threats, while ensuring trust in the digital economy. Leaders from government, industry, and security experts will discuss collaboration, regulatory frameworks, and the role of AI and emerging technologies in detecting,</i></p>

	<p><i>preventing, and responding to cyber threats as the nation defends its digital frontier.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Bensen Koh, Senior Policy Manager, Southeast Asia, GSMA</b></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Julian Louie Singson, Co-founder and Executive Director, Cybersecurity Council of the Philippines</b></li> <li>• <b>Col. Roleen Del Prado (Ret.), Head, Cyber &amp; Information Security, DITO Telecommunity Corporation</b></li> <li>• <b>Keng Leng Koh, Customer Security Director, Market Area South East Asia, Oceania &amp; India, Ericsson</b></li> <li>• <b>Hisyam Halim, Sales Director, APAC, Netsweeper Inc</b></li> </ul>
12:40 – 13:10	<p><b>Panel : Empowering MSMEs: Advancing Digital Skills for Inclusive Growth in the Philippines</b></p> <p><i>This panel will discuss how strengthening digital skills and literacy is essential for mobile internet adoption and building inclusive digital economies. The session will highlight the UN’s Digital PINAS initiative, focusing on its impact on small businesses in the Philippines after its first year. Panellists will share how their partnership is helping micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) overcome barriers—especially around digital skills—so they can safely and effectively participate in the digital economy.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Rahul Shah, Mobile for Development (M4D) Director, APAC, GSMA</b></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marlon Cruz, AVP, Business Solutions Consulting, Globe Business</b></li> <li>• <b>Lorna Salud Bondoc, Lead Digital Expert for Digital-PINAS program, International Trade Centre</b></li> <li>• <b>Stephanie Orlino, Head for Stakeholder Management, Smart Communications</b></li> <li>• <b>Arda Cetiner, General Manager, Ericsson Philippines</b></li> </ul>
13:10 – 14:10	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
14:10 – 15:40	<p><b>Accelerating Growth through Innovation across Sectors</b></p>
14:10 - 14:15	<p><b>Session opening: How 5G and AI impact sector transformation in APAC</b></p> <p><i>5G and AI technology deployment, a strategic move expected to revolutionise connectivity and spearhead economic resilience and growth. It is a crucial enabler of the next digital era in the recent published APAC 5G case studies</i></p>

	<p><i>showcasing the versatility and impact of 5G and AI technologies in manufacturing, logistics, transportation and smart city, etc.</i></p> <p>Speaker: <b>Terence Wong, Head of APAC 5G Industry &amp; IoT, GSMA</b></p>
14:15 – 14:30	<p><b>Presentation:</b> Strategic Pathways for AI in the Philippines</p> <p><i>This presentation will outline strategic pathways for AI development in the Philippines, focusing on how AI can drive inclusive growth, innovation, and competitiveness. It will highlight priorities such as enabling infrastructure, talent development, and strong governance. The discussion will also explore how distributed inference and 5G-enabled intelligent networks can accelerate AI adoption through real-time analytics, edge computing, and more resilient digital systems.</i></p> <p>Speaker: <b>Roderick Santiago, CTO &amp; Chief Architect, Head of Network Strategy, PLDT</b></p>
14:30 – 14:50	<p><b>Joint Presentation:</b> Transforming Logistics and Resource Extraction: Smart Ports and Mining in the 5G Era</p> <p>Discover how 5G is revolutionizing container port operations and mining logistics through real-time data, automation, and IoT integration. Learn from how ultra-low latency and high-speed connectivity are driving efficiency, safety, and sustainability across industrial ecosystems, unlocking new value chains in the digital economy</p> <p>Speakers: <b>Gio Abaquin, Head Strategic Business Development, Mobile Private Networks, IoT and Emerging Technologies, PLDT and Donovan Yu, CEO, Journeytech Inc.</b></p>
14:50– 15:05	<p><b>Presentation:</b> Empowering Filipino MSMEs through Digital Commerce and Innovation</p> <p>Explore how digital platforms are transforming the landscape for Filipino MSMEs. By leveraging innovation, mobile commerce, and creative engagement, MSMEs can unlock new growth opportunities, reach broader markets, and build resilient digital-first businesses in today’s rapidly evolving economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Erin Tagudin, Head of Ecosystem Development, TikTok Shop Philippines</b></li> </ul>
15:05– 15:40	<p><b>Panel Discussion:</b> Accelerating growth through Innovation across Sectors</p> <p>How 5G and AI enables advanced digital transformation for global competition. The integration of 5G, AI, XR, IoT, and big data enhances new</p>

	<p>use cases and potential for focused economic growth with sectors competing across the region. Our expert panel delves into cutting-edge insights, real-world applications, and the convergence of technology and enterprise needs. What are the challenges and opportunities?</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Arpad Kiraly, Partner – TMT Practice, Altman Solon</b></p> <p>Guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marlon Cruz, AVP, Business Solutions Consulting, Globe Business</b></li> <li>• <b>Rajeshwari Kanessin, Regional Head, APAC (Business and 5G), apoQlar Medical</b></li> <li>• <b>Minette Navarrete, President of Kickstart Ventures</b></li> <li>• <b>Dr. Dan C. Lachica, President, Semiconductor &amp; Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI)</b></li> </ul>
<p>15:40 – 16:10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p>16:10 – 16:20</p>	<p><b>Presentation:</b> Bridging the Digital Archipelago: Connectivity as the Catalyst for Intelligent Philippine ICT Growth</p> <p><i>The Philippines' ambition for intelligent economic growth hinges entirely upon the strength of its digital foundation. Connectivity is now an economic imperative that dictates the speed and sophistication of ICT development. Successfully bridging the digital divide across the Archipelago is the core challenge that unlocks the nation's potential. By rigorously expanding and stabilizing core networks, the Philippines enables next-generation technologies—such as AI, cloud computing, and IoT—to permeate key sectors. This transformation drives vital value chain innovation, significantly enhances national competitiveness, and ultimately ensures the digital future is both resilient and truly inclusive.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Affandy Johan, Industry Analyst, Ookla</b></li> </ul>

<p>16:20 – 17:00</p>	<p><b>Panel:</b> Unlocking Intelligent Growth for the Philippines Digital Economy</p> <p><i>This panel will convene leaders from across the digital ecosystem to explore how the Philippines can unlock the next phase of intelligent growth in its digital economy. Panellists will examine how connectivity, innovation, and investment can be harnessed to drive inclusivity, competitiveness, and resilience. The discussion will also highlight strategic opportunities for collaboration that can deliver long-term value for businesses, consumers, and society as a whole.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>John Kim, Head of DXAF Innovation &amp; Strategy, GSMA</b></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wynand Strydom, Director/Industry Advisor – T&amp;M, Microsoft</b></li> <li>• <b>Jecky Palaez, Partner - Legal &amp; Compliance, Kickstart Ventures</b></li> <li>• <b>Leandro (Andy) Santos, Director of Innovation, DITO Business</b></li> <li>• <b>Affandy Johan, Industry Analyst, Ookla</b></li> <li>• <b>Ronald Pasamba, Senior Partner – Perfecto, Neri, Quililan and Partners</b></li> </ul>
<p>17:00 – 18:00</p>	<p><b>Closing and Networking Cocktail</b></p>