Digital Nation Summit Manila 2026

4th November 2026, The Westin, Manila

Synopsis

Building the Philippines' Digital Future: Anchoring Trust to Accelerate Value

The Philippines is entering a new phase of digital development, with connectivity, trust, resilience and emerging technologies increasingly shaping how value is created across the economy. As the country looks to accelerate digitalisation and prepare for an AI-driven future, the next stage will depend not only on building advanced infrastructure, but also on creating the confidence, capabilities and partnerships needed to make the most of it.

The GSMA Digital Nation Summit Philippines will bring together policymakers, industry leaders and the wider digital ecosystem to explore how the country can build a more connected, trusted and future-ready digital economy. Discussions will examine the foundations for digital growth—from strengthening digital trust and tackling scams and fraud, to building resilient networks and fostering collaboration across different sectors of industry and government. The focus throughout will be practical: how policy, infrastructure and industry collaboration can come together to translate the Philippines' digital ambitions into tangible opportunities for businesses, communities and consumers.

Discussions will focus on:

- **Building a trusted and resilient digital economy**
  Strengthening digital trust, scam prevention and network resilience, while bringing government and industry together to build a safer digital environment.
- **Unlocking the value of 5G and advanced connectivity**
  Exploring how 5G is enabling new applications and business models across industries, and what is needed to accelerate deployment and adoption in the Philippines.
- **Preparing for an AI-driven future**
  Examining how connectivity, cloud, networks and AI can work together to support innovation and inclusive growth.

Join us for an important dialogue on the opportunities and challenges shaping the Philippines' digital future, and hear from leaders across government and industry on how we can build the connectivity, trust and innovation needed to unlock the next wave of digital growth.

GSMA

Event Agenda - Main Stage

08:45 – 10:50	**Building the Philippines' Digital Future: Anchoring Trust to Accelerate Value**
08:45 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 09:35	Welcome • **Julian Gorman, *Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA***
09:35 – 09:45	Opening Address • **Carl R. Cruz, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Globe Telecom***
09:45 – 10:20	Digital Leaders' Fireside Chat: **Future-ready Philippines – Building What Comes Next** *Drawing on insights from the GSMA Digital Nations ASEAN report and the GSMA Digital Nation Index, this fireside chat will explore the Philippines' digital progress, opportunities to accelerate digital development, and the role of connectivity, cloud, networks and AI in enabling more intelligent and inclusive growth. The discussion will also examine how digital trust—underpinned by trusted identities, communications, networks and intelligence—can provide the foundation for innovation at scale, and how industry can work together to translate the Philippines' AI ambitions into practical opportunities for businesses, communities and the wider economy.* Moderator: **Julian Gorman, *Head of Asia-Pacific, GSMA*** Panellists: • **Devid H. Gubiani, *President and CEO, PhilTower, Group CEO and Executive Director of Global Network Inc. (GNI)*** • **Dr William Emmanuel Yu, *Senior Vice President for Technology, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Novare Technologies*** • **Daniel Ode, *Head of Singapore, Brunei and Philippines, Ericsson***
10:20 – 11:00	Keynote Panel: **From Connectivity to Trust: Working Together for a Safer Digital Economy** *As digital connectivity becomes increasingly embedded in our economies and daily lives, building confidence in the digital environment is more important than ever. This keynote panel will explore the leadership and shared accountability needs across industry, government and the wider ecosystem to strengthen digital trust, build confidence in digital services, and create a safer and more resilient digital economy.*

	Audience Poll: **What is the biggest obstacle to building trust in the digital economy?** **A.** Consumers don't feel sufficiently protected **B.** Technology is evolving faster than safeguards **C.** People don't understand how to protect themselves and their data **D.** Industry and government are not working together closely enough **E.** We are struggling to keep pace with the scam syndicates Moderator: **Jeanette Whyte, *Head of Public Policy and External Affairs, APAC, GSMA*** Panellists: • **Atty. Johann Carlos S. Barcena, *Commissioner, National Privacy Commission*** • **Renato Paraiso*, Undersecretary, Executive Director, CICC*** • **Norman Ng, *Head, External Consultation, Testing & Research (APAC), Google*** • ***Arthur Tanseco, Vice President, Real-time Payments and Market Development, Mastercard***
COFFEE BREAK	
11:25 – 12:30	**Strengthening Digital Trust: From Principles to Practice**
11:25 – 11:55	Panel: **Securing Digital Government: Operators as Trust Guardians using Open API's** *As governments modernise public services, a Digital Trust Layer is becoming critical national infrastructure. Secure, standardised Open APIs from mobile network operators can deliver privacy-preserving, real-time trust signals—such as number verification, SIM-swap detection, device location, identity attributes and fraud indicators—to strengthen identity assurance, reduce fraud and enable frictionless access to essential services. This senior-level discussion will explore how government leaders, mobile operators and ecosystem partners can build an interoperable Digital Trust Layer that operates securely at Population Scale. Panellists will consider the policy and regulatory foundations, federated governance, common technical standards, sustainable investment models and shared accountability required to move from isolated use cases to trusted national infrastructure.* Moderator: **Kevin Henry, *Head of Strategic Engagement, APAC, GSMA*** Panellists: • **Benedict "Nico" Patrick V. Alcoseba, *First Vice President, PLDT/Smart*** • **Leandro "Andy" Santos, *AVP for Product & Innovation, DITO***

	• **Marc Kerveillant, *Globe Business Product Development and Engineering Advisor, Globe Telecom***
11:55 – 12:05	Presentation: **GSMA Consumer Scam Survey ASEAN 2026** *The GSMA Consumer Scam Survey ASEAN 2026 provides insights into how consumers across ASEAN are experiencing, responding to and protecting themselves against scams, highlighting both shared challenges and differences across markets. The presentation will explore emerging trends in consumer behaviour and sentiment across the region, and consider the implications for industry and policymakers in strengthening cross-sector collaboration, scam prevention and digital resilience across ASEAN.* • **Leslie Falvey, *Founder, Armidale***
12:05 – 12:10	Presentation: **Resilience by Design: Building the Networks of the Future** *This presentation will explore the key principles for building resilience by design — from network architecture and redundancy to preparedness, recovery and collaboration across the ecosystem — to ensure connectivity remains reliable when it matters most.* • **Gulistan Ladha, *Director, Consumer Policy, GSMA***
12:10 – 12:50	Panel: **Connected When It Matters – Building Resilience Together** *Mobile networks are critical to keeping people, businesses and essential services connected, particularly during disasters and other disruptions. This session will explore how government and different segments of the industry can work together to strengthen resilience across preparedness, response and recovery, helping ensure reliable connectivity when it matters most.* Moderator: **Michaela Angonius, *Head of Policy and Regulation, GSMA*** Panellists: • **Maria Yolanda C. Crisanto, *Chief Sustainability and Corporate Communications Officer, Globe Telecom*** • **Irene Maranan, *Senior Vice President & Head, Communications and Sustainability, ACEN Renewables*** • **Arda Cetiner, *General Manager, Ericsson Philippines***
LUNCH BREAK	
13:50 – 15:15	**Beyond the Smartphone: Connecting Industries, Enabling Innovation**
13:50- 14:00	Presentation: **Advance connectivity and Edge AI: Turning Connectivity into Productivity** *Public and private 5G, edge computing and AI are turning connectivity into a new productivity layer for enterprises. This presentation will highlight practical deployment models and use cases across sectors in smart factories, connected*

	ports, predictive maintenance, asset tracking, worker safety, video analytics and real-time operations. • **Gio Abaquin, *Head of Strategic Business Development, PLDT Enterprise***
14:00- 14:30	Panel: **Connected by Land, Sea and Sky: Building an Industry-Ready Digital Philippines** *For an archipelagic country, industry-ready connectivity must link cities, islands and remote communities. This panel will explore how 5G, FWA, NTN, cloud, edge and resilient infrastructure can connect ports, logistics hubs, tourism destinations and industrial zones, attract investment, create anchor use cases and unlock economic value through productivity, trade, mobility, resilience and inclusive growth.* Moderator: **Dr. Timothy Senathirajah*, Senior Manager, Detecon Asia-Pacific*** Panellists: • **Joachim (Jorn) Horn, *Advisor, Markant Advisors Pte Ltd and Operating Director, Unity Digital Infrastructure*** • **Joe Jasin*, Managing Director, DNA Partners LLC*** • **Yoonee Jeong, *Principal Digital Transformation Specialist, Digital Sector Office, Asian Development Bank*** • **David Montillet. *Senior Solutions Architect, Airbus Public Safety and Security***
14:30- 14:50	Joint Presentation: **From Medical Images to Connected Care: Mixed Reality and 5G in Healthcare** *Bringing together clinical and technology perspectives, this joint presentation will explore how immersive 3D visualisation, mixed reality and advanced connectivity can support medical imaging, multidisciplinary collaboration and medical education. The speakers will discuss clinical priorities, the potential role of 5G and cloud infrastructure, and the practical requirements for adoption—from workflow integration and clinician training to patient data protection—with a focus on opportunities for Philippine healthcare.* Speaker: **Dr. Maricar Reyes, *Head of the Department of Radiology at St. Luke's Medical Center* & Rajeshwari Kanesin*, Regional Head, APAC (Business and 5G), apoQlar Medical***
14:50- 15:15	Panel: **Accelerating Industries, Empowering the Philippines: How 5G Can Keep the Nation Ahead** *Many 5G, IoT, cloud and AI initiatives have demonstrated promise, but the next challenge is moving from pilots to scalable adoption across Philippine industries. This panel will examine what is needed to accelerate deployment,*

	strengthen enterprise demand, build ecosystem partnerships into next phase of industry transformation. Moderator: **Terence Wong, *Head of 5G & Intelligence Industry, APAC, GSMA*** Panellists: • **Frank N. Vibar*, Chief Information Officer, Asian Hospital and Medical Center*** • **Marlon Cruz, *AVP, Solutions Consulting and Technical Architecture, Globe Business*** • **Ashish Kohli, *Business Development Director (SEA), Nokia Mission Critical Enterprises***
COFFEE BREAK	
15:45 – 17:00	**AI-Powered Digital Infrastructure: Building the Philippines' AI-Ready Digital Economy**
15:45 – 15:55	Presentation 1: **AI-Ready Networks: Making Connectivity More Intelligent** As AI workloads and digital services grow, mobile networks are evolving from connectivity platforms into intelligent, automated infrastructure. This presentation will explore how AI is being applied to network operations, optimisation, customer experience, cybersecurity and network resilience, and how Philippine operators can use AI to improve efficiency while creating new AI-enabled services. • **Roderick Santiago, *First Vice President and Head of Network Strategy and Architecture of PLDT/Smart***
15:55 – 16:05	Presentation 2: **Building the AI Infrastructure Layer: Is the Network Ready?** **Cloud, compute and connectivity, measured layer by layer** Southeast Asia is investing heavily in the infrastructure layer of AI: data centres, cloud regions and the compute inside them. Yet for the people using AI every day, the experience depends just as much on the network that connects them to that compute. Drawing on Ookla's regional and global benchmark data, this session looks at what AI demands of mobile networks, how ready they are today, and what it will take for cloud, compute, and connectivity to deliver together. • **Affandy Johan, *Industry Analyst, Ookla***
16:05 – 16:15	Presentation 3: **From Generative AI to Agentic AI: The Next Phase of Digital Transformation**

	AI is moving from generating content and assisting users towards autonomous agents capable of reasoning, interacting with applications and executing tasks. This presentation will explore the transition from GenAI to Agentic AI, including AI agents, APIs and MCP, and the implications for Philippine enterprises, government services and the wider digital ecosystem. • **John Eric Pineda, *Head of AI Group, Globe Telecom***
16:15 – 16:25	Presentation 4: **Monetising AI: From Productivity Gains to New Digital Services** As organisations move from AI experimentation to deployment, the focus is shifting from productivity gains to sustainable business value. This presentation will explore emerging AI business models for MNOs, ICT providers and enterprises, including AI-enabled connectivity, cloud and compute services, network APIs, cybersecurity and industry-specific solutions, and examine where new revenue opportunities may emerge. • **Vince Yamat, *President and CEO, 917 Ventures***
16:25 – 16:55	Panel Discussion Session: **From AI Adoption to AI at Scale – Technology, Business Models and the Future of Digital Services** AI is moving rapidly from experimentation into the core of networks, cloud infrastructure, enterprise platforms and digital services. This panel will bring together MNOs, AI and cloud technology providers, ICT companies and enterprises to explore how the Philippines can translate AI capabilities into scalable technology platforms and sustainable commercial opportunities. Moderator: **John David Kim, *Head of 6G Partnership Forum, GSMA*** Panellists: • **Roderick Santiago, *First Vice President and Head of Network Strategy and Architecture of PLDT/Smart*** • **Vince Yamat, *President and CEO, 917 Ventures*** • **Affandy Johan, *Industry Analyst, Ookla***
16:55 – 17:00	Summit Closing • **Julian Gorman, *Head of Asia Pacific, GSMA***
17:00 – 18:00	**Networking Cocktail**