

# What's up @ dti

DEPARTMENT OF  
TRADE & INDUSTRY  
PHILIPPINES

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## DTI pushes for a balanced FOI and Data Privacy governance



*FOI Decision Makers, FOI Receiving Officers, and Privacy Focal Persons from DTI-OSEC participated in the Seminar on Data Privacy and FOI on 3 October 2018 at the AV Room, DTI International Building, Makati City. Gracing the event were resource speakers NPC Deputy Privacy Commissioner Ivy T. Patdu and FOI Engagement Lead Michelle R. Manza of the PCOO, and DTI Officials including MSG Undersecretary Ireneo V. Vizmonte, KMIS Director and Data Protection Officer (DPO) Patricia May M. Abejo, and IAS Director Edgar C. Herrera.*

To further strengthen data and information handling in the Department, the Knowledge Management and Information Service (KMIS) spearheaded the conduct of the Seminar on Data Privacy and Freedom of Information (FOI) held on 3 October 2018 at the AV Room, DTI International Building, Makati City.

Data Privacy Focal Persons, FOI Receiving Officers (FROs), and FOI Decision Makers (FDMs) from 21 Bureaus and Offices and two Regional Offices attended the event. On the other hand, 46 Regional and Provincial Offices participated through live video conferencing, made possible through the assistance of the Information Systems Management Service (ISMS).

*"It is our aim to devise more concrete and practical steps as we balance to safeguard and serve the interests of concerned stakeholders – that is, respecting the privacy of our clients, including ourselves, as data subjects and processors, while at the same time upholding the Freedom of Information,"* **Management Services Group (MSG) Undersecretary Ireneo V. Vizmonte** said in his opening remarks.

**National Privacy Commission (NPC) Deputy Commissioner Ivy D. Patdu**, meanwhile, stressed that true accountability to the Data Privacy Act (DPA) entails upholding the right of the data subject, establishing security measures, and embracing the principles of data privacy. She likewise emphasized the importance of compliance and discussed the salient features of the anticipated issuance of the NPC's guidelines for the conduct of compliance checks.

On the part of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), **FOI National Engagement Lead Michelle R. Manza** provided updates on the implementation of the FOI

Program and made a brief assessment of the Department's compliance to FOI requirements. To date, DTI has already complied with all the requirements of the program, as per FOI Memorandum Circular No. 2, s. 2018. This includes the quarterly registry and summary reports and the agency information inventory, among others, which are now posted on the Transparency Seal page of the DTI Website.



*National Privacy Commission (NPC) Deputy Commissioner Ivy D. Patdu (upper left) and Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) FOI National Engagement Lead Michelle Manza (lower left) discuss updates on the implementation of DPA and FOI, respectively. DTI DPO and KMIS Director Patricia May M. Abejo (upper right) shares updates and next steps on the implementation of the two issuances in DTI. Lastly, ISMS staff Mr. Ronald Joy Tengco (lower right) presents the main features of the FOI Tracking System 2.0.*

**KMIS Director Patricia May M. Abejo**, also the DTI Data Protection Officer (DPO) and FOI Appellate, presented the Department's initiatives to strengthen the implementation of DPA and FOI. She also presented the next steps DTI will carry out in the coming months, among others, the issuance of corresponding Guidelines, enhancement of the FOI Tracking System (FTS), and continued advocacy.

Both physical and remote participants had the chance to raise questions and concerns pertaining to their roles both as data subjects and data and information handlers during the event.

For the afternoon session, Dir. Abejo cited the salient features of the draft implementing guidelines for Data Privacy and the proposed amendments on FOI. She likewise encouraged Bureau and Office representatives to gear up as early as now for its implementation.

**Mr. Ronald Joy Tengco** of ISMS presented the main features of the FTS 2.0, which now has a report generation feature. KMIS and ISMS is also working to align the system's data fields to Data Privacy guidelines. The FTS, developed by ISMS, aims to make processing of FOI requests across DTI Bureaus and Offices more efficient.

Dir. Abejo wrapped up the event by enjoining DTI Bureaus and Offices to actively take part in enabling an environment for data privacy and FOI implementation, reiterating the call to be not only informed data subjects, but more importantly responsible data and information handlers.

Since the release of implementing rules and regulations of DPA and the signing of Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016, on FOI, DTI has taken steps to be an active partner in upholding the people's right to privacy and right to information. Department Order (DO) No. 17-01 promulgated the DTI implementing guidelines on FOI. DO No. 17-22 meanwhile designated Dir. Abejo as the Data Protection Officer for the Department.