

DILG-NCR ops up in the cloud

Cloud or nothing.

For DILG-NCR, there's no turning back—the only option is to look forward and innovate how regional operations are managed. The office has decided to go virtual. There is no other way but to efficiently manage information systems and working relations up there in the cloud.

Assistant Regional Director (ARD) Maria Lourdes L. Agustin described the situation facing DILG-NCR then: The old ways of doing things no longer worked. The office was increasingly getting cramped with cabinets and shelves, and files often got lost. We had created mountains and valleys of folders and papers, and drowned in the depths of aging files and documents.

The office was also increasingly becoming a fire hazard and a health risk, especially in the form of respiratory ailments.

Old systems were costly and unreliable. Almost always, we receive different styles and forms when the regional office asks for reports from the field offices and recalls the ARD, while use of fax and emails to send data sometimes lead to erroneous encoding or integration by the assigned staff.





The situation called for new ways of doing things and cloud computing technology offered efficiency gains. The time was ripe for us to level up, ARD Agustin said, and this was made possible under the leadership of Regional Director Renato L. Brion and the expertise of Lennie Yap and Michael Patricio in partnership with Engr. Martin Dedeles, an eGovernance advocate.

The transformation began in-house.

DILG-NCR shifted to google cloud computing and online databases were developed. Field personnel were trained to submit reports online and to integrate reports efficiently. Some initial wins included linkage of anti-red tape progress reports through cloud computing; chart monitoring reports on the progress of the Manila Bay cleanup program; and internal protocols for document protection and control.



The mental model of some City Directors that cloud computing entailed more work was challenged, when they experienced quick and reliable e-submissions anywhere, anytime. Time and space were bridged, as NCR personnel could access and contribute information to the cloud-enabled databases 24/7 wherever they were.

As a result, DILG-NCR was able to cut down operating costs, particularly storage, and have widened virtual operations as local government operating officers can access files, communications and knowledge products by the touch of the finger on personal mobile phones or tablets.

And the demonstration effect is now beyond DILG-NCR. Introducing cloud-based technologies and innovation to hundreds of barangays in NCR is next. DILG-NCR has made the rounds in different cities in the region to launch this project.

In one of the cloud computing training sessions in NCR, RD Brion addressed barangay chairpersons and department heads: Cloud computing will benefit both users and clientele. This helps in improving service delivery. *Mapapabilis ang trabaho natin. Magagawa ng lalong mas maginhawa ang ating pamumuhay.*

The plan is to cover 1,706 barangays in NCR when the new set of barangay officials assumes office in 2014. By then, all LGUs in NCR shall have gone cloud computing, too.

DILG-NCR is leading the way; LGUs are catching up; and the roadmap to the cloud is being taken one step at a time. Indeed, the mother of innovation is need, and its offspring is efficiency and better ways of doing things.

That's why there's no turning back for DILG-NCR. We go cloud this time, until a better one comes along, RD Brion assured.