



COUNTRY REPORT

(As of 8 June 2005)

This report has been prepared for the 1st Global iCommons Summit on 24 to 26 June 2005 in Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, USA.

The Beginning

Creative Commons Philippines (cc-ph) began with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 2 March 2005 between iCommons Executive Director *Christiane Asschenfeldt* and *Jaime N. Soriano*, participant to the 2004 Internet Law Program of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society of the Harvard Law School. Following the signing of the agreement, the Legal Project Lead started the process of producing the first draft of the cc-ph license. The draft was officially submitted to iCommons on 27 April 2005.

On or about 27 May 2005, Creative Commons - Philippines officially appeared on-line at the Creative Commons website (www.creativecommons.org/worldwide/ph) as a project jurisdiction that also signaled the beginning of the public discussion of the cc-ph license draft. As an initial step to trigger public discussion, the Legal Project Lead announced this event to various persons and entities in the Philippines included in his mailing list as possible stakeholders.

The Legal Project Lead

The Legal Project Lead of cc-ph is Jaime N. Soriano, a lawyer, certified public accountant, media (broadcast and print) practitioner, and Executive Director of the e-Law Center of the Arellano University School of Law. He also holds a degree of Master in National Security Administration (MNSA) from the National Defense College of the Philippines.

As a lawyer, he specializes in information technology law and delivered various lectures as an accredited lecturer on the subject by the Philippine Supreme Court in its Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) program. He has written various articles on information technology law over the last two years. He is one of the prime mover of the LawPhil Project (www.lawphil.net), a free on-line resources of Philippine legal information, being maintained by the Arellano University School of Law, and now considered as one of the leading Philippine law website.

The Host Public Institution

The public institution behind the legal project lead in porting the cc-ph license is the Arellano University School of Law (AUSLaw), a non-stock non-profit institution established in 1938 and boasts of more than six decades of providing quality legal education (www.arellanolaw.edu). The school was named after the 1st Chief Justice of the Philippines.

In November 2002, AUSLaw officially established its e-Law Center (www.arellanolaw.net) following the launching of its LawPhil Project. The e-Law Center pursues research, publications, policy initiatives, advocacies, capability building, academic support and linkages in the field of information and communication technology as it affects the Philippine legal system. The center publishes a quarterly IT Law Journal and organized a law-student based IT Law Society.

At the moment, cc-ph, in itself, is not constituted as a legal entity in the Philippines. The activities of cc-ph are all coordinated with AUSLaw as a project.

The Project Status

As of this date, cc-ph is at the stage of public discussion of the first draft of the license. In the meantime, the Legal Project Lead is pursuing public collaboration with, and support from, different stakeholders in the license porting process, and the eventual launching, of the project.

Initially, Atty. JJ Disini, Head of the *Internet and Society Program of the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law* has expressed participation in, and support of, the project. Digital Filipino (www.digitalfilipino.com) has sent initial communication to include cc-ph in Volume 2 of the "*Philippine Internet Review: 11 Years of Internet History (1994-2005)*" to be published in September this year and expressed its congratulations for bringing creative commons to the Philippines, a story that "needs be marked in the Philippine Internet timeline".