SECRETARY MARIO G. MONTEJO'S REMARKS
FOR TURNOVER CEREMONY OF IBM BLUE GENE SUPERCOMPUTER
16 May 2013
Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City

IBM Senior Vice President Tom Rosamila

IBM India Fellow Dr. Gururaj Rao

IBM President and Country Manager Mariels Almeda Winhoffer

University of the Philippines President Alfredo Pascual

my colleagues from the Department of Science and Technology

IBM Officers

Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen

A wonderful day to all of you.

First of all, let me extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners in this endeavor.

It is a great pleasure for us at the Department of Science and Technology to receive the IBM Blue Gene from our partner, the tech giant IBM. This will be the first ever supercomputer to arrive in the Philippines and its mammoth capabilities will push even further our drive towards a "Smarter Philippines."

This turnover is the culmination of DOST's partnership with IBMthat aimed to set up a research and development laboratory that will facilitate the development of solutions to a number of the country's challenges.

DOST is mandated to provide central direction, leadership and coordination of all scientific and technological activities including crucial research and development for all areas in S&T. As such, we consider the acquisition of the IBM Blue Gene supercomputer a milestone in Philippine R&D.

The IBM Blue Gene which is due to arrive by yearend will greatly help elevate our country's R&D standing. It will likewise help propel our IT-enabled, locally-developed systems, particularly in disaster prevention.

This mighty tool will enable our local scientists perform complex calculations that are otherwise impossible without the aid of the Blue Gene. It will play a crucial role in solving one or several computing tasks, particularly in advanced scientific and

mathematical fields requiring the integration of many datasets; complex mathematical formulas; and modeling, and simulations, and data visualization.

Despite its enormous capabilities, it actually consumes less power, has smaller footprint area, and has user-designated computing allocation, which enables an efficient and quick processing of many applications that run at the same time.

As the IBM Blue Gene takes local research to the realm of high, complex scientific computing, we are now provided the capability to issue extended seven-day weather forecasts that are both accurate and reliable. We shall achieve this by integrating Blue Gene with Project NOAH, the country's integrated response against natural hazards and climate change.

The supercomputer's task is to assimilate data from satellite, Doppler RADARs, and other advanced weather tools, including DOST-ASTI's deployed automated weather stations, water level monitoring sensors, and rain gauges all over the country and use this to provide timely and accurate weather forecasts.

Aside from Project NOAH, the supercomputer will also facilitate Smart Agriculture, a new DOST flagship program that hinges on the need for research to aid in our ongoing campaign for food security, water resources management and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Our newest supercomputing capability will help in climate change scenarios modeling, building database for agricultural land utilization, and computing for monthly irrigation requirements per province.

Indeed, Blue Gene will be instrumental in preventing the loss of lives, destruction of property, and waste of resources brought about by natural hazards. It will also be a key enabler of sustainable and productive livelihood for our farmers.

The DOST salutes IBM, our trusted partner, for its clear earnestness to help uplift the country's status in terms of science, technology, and innovation.

As a leading IT company,IBM has always set the benchmark—and this stamp of excellence is no more evident than today as you entrust us with this remarkable brainchild product, the IBM Blue Gene.

Our campaign for a "Smarter Philippines" needs such advanced instruments to fully realize the vision of a progressive and innovative nation. It is also through meaningful collaboration between the government, academe and the private sector can we propel the country towards advancement.

To our R&D teams—DOST, IBM, and UP—let us work togetherand press on with the task ahead, embracing that rare privilege to serve the country through cutting-edge technology.

Maraming salamat po at mabuhay tayong lahat.