

The ONE MINUTE READ Series – Introducing Smart Cities

Week 6 - Lessons from Iloilo City, Philippines

“The INNOVATE ILOILO Movement”

19th August 2019 | Tay Kok-Chin, Chairman, Smart Cities Network

Last week, on Tuesday 13th August, Iloilo City launched INNOVATE ILOILO as a multi-stakeholder movement with the vision to make the city the Innovation Hub of the Philippines by 2030. It is an ambitious goal. I was appointed by USAID to support this movement as the ICMA Consultant as part of the SURGE Project.

<https://icma.org/programs-and-projects/usaidsurge>

We can learn a few things from this movement.

1) Definition of Innovation

“Innovation is the process of creating value by applying novel solutions to meaningful problems”.

2) A – Creating Awareness by organizing a Challenge or Hackathon

The movement started with a Hackathon by Global Shapers Iloilo for the youth, to come up with innovations to address disaster management about two years ago. The Challenge format was patterned after design thinking methods. Such “Challenge format” was also used by the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge (2011-2013) and in the 100 Smart Cities Mission by PM Modi from 2015.

3) B – Building Capabilities with support from the Business Community

*The business community was invited to support the movement to be more innovative. Hence, to promote innovation in the city, [INNOVATE ILOILO](#) was launched with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce Iloilo Chapter’s **Iloilo Business Week 2019** with support from the city government.*

4) C – Commitment towards a Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

The movement for innovations gathered momentum this year with 5 business groups expressing support for INNOVATE ILOILO, together with support from the local and provincial governments, national government agencies like Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of ICT (DICT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), several academic institutions and non-profit organizations.

Such multi-stakeholder engagement is quite an achievement. It would provide the necessary platform for a coordinated and integrated approach towards the development of Smarter and Sustainable Cities in the Philippines.