

AUSTRALIA-PHILIPPINES: COLLABORATING ON QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Partnerships for
INFRASTRUCTURE
AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Leveraging the Power of Partnership

Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) is an Australian Government initiative partnering with Southeast Asia to foster inclusive growth through sustainable infrastructure.

Since 2021, P4I has worked with the Philippines' Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center, and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Our partnership with Philippines' agencies on transport connectivity, public-private partnerships and telecommunications aims to support the diversification of financing strategies and the mobilisation of private sector investment.

Delivering Results

4

Australian organisations and 4 Philippines counterpart organisations supported to engage in direct technical and policy exchanges to advance priority infrastructure issues in the region.

260+

infrastructure professionals per year from Philippines have built deeper technical and policy understanding in collaboration with Australian infrastructure professionals.



Philippines' infrastructure priorities

Australian and Philippine government priorities guide P4I's engagement in the Philippines to December 2025, including:

Strengthening public investment management systems to improve government public procurement and financing options for quality infrastructure development. P4I supports GPH to increase engagement with the private sector and strengthen economic governance.

Enhancing transport investment decision-making by ensuring investment decisions and practices are grounded in robust analysis of inclusive, sustainable, and resilient outcomes. P4I works with DOTr to implement tools for delivering effective, commercially viable transport investments, aligned with GPH goals.

Improving telecommunications policy and regulation to reduce barriers to efficient investments. P4I supports DICT to reduce barriers to investment and enhance long-term prosperity, stability and security.

Snapshot of partnership outcomes

- **DICT** and P4I are working together to develop the technical architecture and commercial model for their **national broadband network (NBN)**. This will guide investment decisions for a cost-effective and resilient deployment of fixed infrastructure, boosting access, reliability and affordability. The Philippines has the lowest internet access rates in the region: only 70 million of 115 million citizens have any form of access. P4I is also engaging with regulatory authorities to support the development of broader planning and legislation to improve the accessibility of connectivity.
- P4I supports the Philippines on policy reform for undersea cable security and resilience in close collaboration with **Australia's new Cable Connectivity and Resilience Centre**. The Philippines is well positioned to be a digital hub for trans-Pacific and intra-Asia **submarine cable networks**, but the absence of effective regulation constrains investment. P4I is working with DICT to develop a policy instrument to establish cable protection zones and streamline permitting requirements to boost investor confidence.
- Since 2021, P4I has supported DOTr – which manages a **PHP6 trillion transport infrastructure pipeline**¹ – to strengthen the quality of project appraisals. P4I has co-developed project preparation and appraisal **systems** to improve the success rate of proposals submitted to central agencies for funding approval.
- This is in parallel to cooperation with the **Philippines' Private Public Partnerships (PPP) Center** on **PPP deployment** and financing approaches. This work is directly shaping value-for-money analyses and PPP financing models underpinning the government's broader strategy to mobilise private investment in infrastructure and address an estimated infrastructure investment gap of USD69 billion.

Partnership highlight: Driving economic growth through Accessible Infrastructure

The Philippines–Australia Partnership for Advancing Accessible Transport Reforms (2023) fosters collaboration between the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and the Philippines DOTr. This initiative connects DOTr to TMR's world class policy platforms and expertise to enhance understanding of resilient and accessible public transport, serving as a foundation for future reforms.

The collaboration expands the participation of people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups throughout infrastructure planning and construction and seeks to improve transport accessibility. This approach also aims to enhance access to employment and essential services, thereby boosting the quality of life and economic opportunities for millions in the Philippines.

P4I has also worked closely with the Philippines PPP Center to strengthen PPP investment decision-making processes that enhance quality infrastructure development, and provided guidance on incorporating gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) principles into the PPP Code's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The regulatory reform through the value for money (VfM) assessment framework and GEDSI provisions in the IRR are essential to remove blockages to private sector investment through PPPs. The GEDSI provisions are pivotal in enhancing the governance of infrastructure investment in the Philippines and support the government's ambitious infrastructure agenda.

¹ Of this total, PHP2.8 trillion worth of projects are under project preparation and investment approval. – [Department of Economy, Planning, and Development](#) accessed 01 March 2025.

Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I)

Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) is one of Australia's flagship infrastructure development initiatives in Southeast Asia. P4I partners with Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to attract quality investment, address infrastructure gaps and drive inclusion and climate-resilient development.

P4I does this by providing infrastructure advisory services, facilitating technical knowledge exchanges, building partners' technical capacity and supporting government-to-government and other partnerships between Australian and Southeast Asian organisations.

Delivered through a single team, P4I is led by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in collaboration with Ernst and Young, Adam Smith International, The Asia Foundation and Ninti One.

