

# Development Policy Research Month / Annual Public Policy Conference 2023

## *Messaging*

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# TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE DPRM

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- Policymakers/Decisionmakers in Government
- Private sector
- Civil Society
- Academe/Research
- General public



# DPRM/APPC THEMES FROM 2018 TO 2022

16<sup>TH</sup> DEVELOPMENT POLICY RESEARCH MONTH



Harnessing the Fourth Industrial Revolution:  
**CREATING OUR FUTURE TODAY**


17th Development Policy Research Month  
September 2019

NAVIGATING THE **NEW**  
**GLOBALIZATION**



**Local Actions for Global Challenges**

18th Development Policy Research Month  
September 2020



**Bouncing Back Together:  
Innovating Governance for the New Normal**

19<sup>th</sup> Development Policy Research Month  
September 2021

**RESET AND REBUILD**

FOR A BETTER PHILIPPINES  
IN THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD



20<sup>th</sup> Development Policy Research Month  
September 2022

**#CloseTheGap:**  
ACCELERATE POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY  
THROUGH SOCIAL JUSTICE



# DPRM/APPC SLOGAN 2023

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**Going Green and Digital for a More Sustainable, Inclusive, and Prosperous Future for All**

***Maging Makakalikasan at Digital para sa Higit na Matatag, Inklusibo, at Masaganang Kinabukasan para sa Lahat***

Translation supplied by the *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino*



# DPRM 2023 Banner

21<sup>st</sup> Development Policy Research Month  
SEPTEMBER 2023

Going Green and Digital  
for a More Sustainable,  
Inclusive, and Prosperous  
Future for All



# DPRM 2023 Banner

21<sup>st</sup> Development Policy Research Month  
SEPTEMBER 2023

Maging Makakalikasan at Digital  
para sa Higit na Matatag,  
Inklusibo, at Masaganang  
Kinabukasan Para sa Lahat





# Background of the 2023 theme

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- Two phenomena are taking place simultaneously.



## Digital transformation

The process and adoption of digital technologies (devices, systems, resources) to improve processes and productivity; encompasses the way organizations operate, communicate, and engages with their clients/customers.



## Green transition

A shift toward economically sustainable growth and an economy that is not based on fossil fuels and overconsumption of natural resources. A sustainable economy relies on low-carbon solutions that promote the circular economy and biodiversity.

↑  
— **TWIN TRANSITION** —  
↑

# Digital transformation

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- Digital technologies can make the world fairer, peaceful, and just. Their adoption makes organizations more efficient and responsive to their clients/customers; creates jobs; provides opportunities for people to engage in trade and to access financing; improves health systems and health care; widens the public's access to programs and services; helps deliver education through online approaches, methods, and tools.
- **Critiques:**
  - May exacerbate inequalities given the digital divide.
  - Has implications for the future of work (e.g., workers' displacement and replacement, job loss)
  - **Has negative environmental impacts such as increased carbon footprint and power consumption.**



# Digital transformation

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- **Counterarguments:**

- The benefits of digital technologies outweigh their social and environmental costs.
- In the Philippines, efforts are underway to address issues in digital inclusion.
- **Digital technologies can be enablers of the greening of the planet.**

“While digital technologies can have a negative impact on the environment, they can also contribute to solutions for more sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as sound environmental management. The recent advances in technology offer ground-breaking opportunities to monitor and protect the environment, as well as overall planetary health. By harnessing them appropriately, the digital revolution can be steered to combat climate change and advance global sustainability, environmental stewardship, and human well-being.”  
(Source: Data, Digital Technology, and the Environment. Geneva Environment Network)

# Digital transformation

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“Advanced technologies such as **sensors and or satellite data** which enable the gathering and reporting of precise information on tree species and biodiversity counts have been utilized by FAO and World Bank to monitor the implementation of environmental standards in illegal logging and fishing (Gale et al. 2017). Mangina et al. (2020) illustrate the importance of **GPS tracking systems, IOT, and sensors** in analyzing global supply chain data and identifying areas for reducing emissions. Gigler (2020) explained how **blockchain** can be a powerful tool to improve the transparency, accountability, and traceability of greenhouse gas emissions. **Blockchain** can be catalyzed through smart contracts to better calculate, track and report the carbon footprint of processes across the value chain.

Another important technology that illustrates the dual transformation is the use of **artificial intelligence** in oil, gas, and electricity industries (Victor 2019). **Machine learning systems** can improve the ability to map and understand the size and value of underground deposits of oil and gas making it easier to tap these resources at lower cost. **AI-assisted training** for the design and operation of wind-solar farms can make these systems more efficient in how they absorb capital and generate electricity.” (Source: **APPC 2023 scientific committee’s concept note**)

# Green transition

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- Global and local efforts to transition to an environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient future have been around for quite some time but remain a work in progress.
- At PIDS, research and advocacy on environment-related issues began decades ago; of late, the emphasis is on the circular economy.
- The green transition can influence producers to adopt sustainable practices to doing business (ESG practices) and consumers to be environmentally conscious, shift to a sustainable lifestyle, and support green entrepreneurs and companies.



# Green transition

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- The digital revolution can facilitate the green transition while the latter can usher in a more sustainable and inclusive society.
- By embarking on a green transition, countries will have a better chance of protecting the vulnerable groups—poor and the marginalized—who are often affected by environmental hazards.
- Transitioning to an environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient future is a matter of justice in itself, as people in vulnerable situations, poor countries, and future generations stand to suffer the most from climate change and environmental degradation, **but anticipating the effects of this shift is also important.**

# Green transition

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## Implications:

- Shifting to low-carbon, environment-friendly technologies and the proliferation of green industries may create new occupations or require new skill profiles, thus, have implications on education and training systems.
- The scenario above may require adjustments to the current training and qualification frameworks of many existing occupations.
- MSMEs may lack the tools and capacity to implement the necessary changes. Environmental technologies generally have higher costs in the short term with the benefits realized in the longer term (OECD 2021).
- Studying the overall and specific implications of the dual transition on industrial and trade policy, including the needed policy measures, is essential.

# Digital transformation x Green transition

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- They are interconnected and interdependent.
- Both are indispensable for economic progress and sustainable and inclusive development
- Both are needed to attain national development objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- However, for the country to successfully embark on the dual transition, relevant policies and programs should be in place to capacitate workers, businesses, and communities; protect the most affected groups from its impacts; and encourage broad-based multisectoral support and action.



# GENERAL MESSAGE

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Pursuing the twin transition is essential for the Philippines to have a more sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future.

Going green and digital is the way to build back better and stronger after COVID-19 and achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

# SPECIFIC MESSAGES

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- **For the Government**

- Facilitate the twin transition by setting the right policies and programs that provide an enabling environment for digital transformation and green transition. For example:
  - Provide support to MSMEs to help them adapt more quickly and transition with less cost and disruption
  - Provide incentives for sustainable business practices (e.g., tax credit to businesses that invest in building or equipment to produce renewable energy; tax break for e-vehicle manufacture; grants for small business innovations)
  - Equip the country's education and training system (in terms of human resources, curriculum, and infrastructure) for the twin transition
- Implement related laws such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act and closely monitor companies' compliance with the law; Green Jobs Act (RA 10771), Innovation Act (RA 11293), Renewable Energy Act (RA 9513), and the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and avoidance.
- Strengthen social protection systems to cushion the twin transition's impact on affected groups/sectors.

# SPECIFIC MESSAGES

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- **For Firms/Businesses**

- Harness green and digital technologies to increase profitability and enhance sustainability and environmental responsibility at the same time.
  - Adopt the twin transition to pursue the triple bottom line, i.e., having economic, social, and environmental value.
- Use digital technologies to transition to circular and environment-friendly business models.
- Do one's part in fulfilling the objectives of the Expanded Producers Responsibility (EPR) Act by complying with its requirements (currently, only large companies are obliged to follow the law, but MSMEs may voluntarily comply by carrying out small-scale EPR programs).
- Adopt the Green Human Resource Management (GHRM), which refers to human resource policies and practices towards broader environmental agenda of protection of natural resources. Other relevant HR policies and practices would involve reducing carbon footprint via less printing of paper, car sharing, reducing unwanted travels, telecommuting, and video conferencing.



# SPECIFIC MESSAGES

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- **For Current and Future Workers**

- **Develop and harness green and digital skills.**

Green skills are the knowledge, abilities, values, and attitudes needed to live in, develop, and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society (<https://www.unido.org/stories/what-are-green-skills>)

According to UNIDO, the Green General Skills Index identified four groups of work tasks that are especially important for green occupations:

1. Engineering and technical skills
2. Science skills
3. Operational management skills
4. Monitoring skills

Digital skills refer to abilities to use digital devices, communication applications, and networks to access and manage information. They enable people to create and share digital content, communicate and collaborate, and solve problems for effective and creative self-fulfillment in life, learning, work, and social activities. (Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/digital-skills-critical-jobs-and-social-inclusion>)

# SPECIFIC MESSAGES

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- **For Academic and Training Institutions**
  - Explore how green and digital skills can be effectively integrated into training and educational programs, ensuring their practical application and relevance in the rapidly evolving digital and green sectors.
  - Develop a “green and digital culture” by making green and digital an integral part of the education and training curriculum.
  - Ensure that teachers have the right skills to teach sustainability—from the science of climate change and environmental degradation to applying solutions in the classroom and in their homes and communities.
  - Strengthen civic education about digital citizenship and environmental responsibility.

# SPECIFIC MESSAGES

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- **For the Government, Academe, Private Sector, and Civil Society**

- Study the risks and opportunities of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), their ethical and social implications, how to address these, and how to harness them for the twin transition and overall socioeconomic inclusive development.

Note: In 2018, the Department of Trade and Industry released the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy for the Philippines formulated “to guide government and private sector stakeholders in employing AI technologies and developing AI economies, while being mindful of the potential consequences and impacts of algorithms to processes and business models”. Central to this roadmap is the creation of a National Center for AI Research (NCAIR) that houses full-time scientists and research engineers.

- Encourage collaboration among stakeholders to jointly explore and address the challenges and harness the potentials of emerging technologies.
- Promote a circular economy through pertinent programs.





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