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## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### USTDA GRANT SUPPORTS DESIGN OF UNIFIED MULTIPURPOSE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES



U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney (second from left) and NSO Administrator Carmelita N. Ericta (second from right) shake hands following the signing of a USTDA grant agreement that will fund technical experts to assist the NSO on the development of a national registry in the Philippines. Commercial Counselor Judy R. Reinke (far left) from the U.S. Embassy in Manila and NSO Information Resourced Department Director Valentino C. Abuan (far right) signed as witnesses to the agreement.

MANILA, PHILIPPINES – Decreasing identity fraud and improving government security functions is the goal of a USTDA technical assistance grant awarded to the Philippines National Statistics Office (NSO). The grant responds to an executive order issued last year in the Philippines that requires government agencies to work toward implementing a national registry.

The \$502,534 grant was conferred during a signing ceremony held at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. The grant agreement was signed by U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney and NSO Administrator Carmelita N. Ericta, on behalf of the U.S. and Philippine governments, respectively.

The NSO has the largest database of Philippine civilian and government employee information. Together with the National Economic Development Authority, the NSO requested USTDA funding for U.S. experts to provide technical recommendations as a registry is developed that will be accessible to government agencies and support government services for Filipino citizens.

The NSO has selected Unisys Philippines, a subsidiary of Unisys Corporation (Blue Bell, Pennsylvania), to carry out the pilot program. In addition to the USTDA grant awarded today, Unisys will participate in this pilot project, which will include an assessment of existing systems, an analysis of their use within each agency and recommendations on system requirements. Unisys will also install a pilot project using biometric data that will harmonize identification systems managed by a variety of Philippine government agencies.

(More)

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

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