



Legal Watch

DTI CITES STRONG PH-JAPAN PARTNERSHIPS ON SMARTER CITIES, EXPANDED DIGITAL SERVICES



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SUMMARY

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) announced that Philippine and Japanese firms signed three memoranda of understanding (MOUs) on 27 May 2026 to explore projects involving smart-city infrastructure, digital services, and financial technology in the Philippines.

The first MOU, involving Ayala Corporation, Globe Telecom, Mitsubishi Corporation, and KDDI Corporation, will study “Intelligent City” initiatives in Makati City, with possible expansion to other urban areas. The proposed initiatives may use artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, urban data platforms, and advanced telecommunications solutions to support transportation, energy management, retail, and digital city services.

Separate agreements involving Ayala, Mynt, Mitsubishi, and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) will explore “Smart Life” digital services and the further expansion of GCash products, including payment platforms, lending, investment services, and cybersecurity measures. The collaborations are expected to deepen the integration of digital financial services across retail, real estate, energy, mobility, and other sectors.

The MOUs reflect continuing foreign investor interest in Philippine digital infrastructure and fintech. They are, however, primarily exploratory arrangements and do not by themselves impose new regulatory requirements on businesses.

ACTIONABLE ADVICE

Businesses operating in or serving the digital economy should monitor developments arising from these initiatives, particularly opportunities involving smart-city procurement, data-driven services, payments, connectivity, and cybersecurity. Companies considering partnerships in these areas should review their readiness to comply with applicable data privacy, consumer protection, electronic commerce, cybersecurity, financial-services, and sector-specific regulatory requirements.

* Agency Name

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

* Issuance Title

DTI cites strong PH-Japan partnerships on smarter cities, expanded digital services

* Issuance Date

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<https://www.dti.gov.ph/tag/philippines-japan-collaboration-smarter-cities-digital-services>

