

FOI Philippines Newsletter
International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) 2025
Manila, Philippines — September 2025

FOI Philippines: Championing the People's Right to Information

From the beginning of its mandate, Freedom of Information (FOI) Philippines has positioned itself as a leading champion for citizens' right to access information maintained by the government. Driven by the tenets of transparency, accountability, and participatory governance, FOI Philippines remains committed to its mission of equipping Filipinos with the right information.

The campaign is based on Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016, which operationalized Freedom of Information in the Executive Branch. This key development laid the foundation for Filipinos to exercise their right to request and access government records, reinforcing the democratic ideals of transparency and representation.

Through the years, FOI Philippines has relentlessly augmented its scope through information dissemination activities, institutional strengthening efforts, and partnership development. At present, it functions not only as a mechanism for acquiring public records but also as an initiative that motivates Filipinos to be empowered with knowledge and engaged in formulating measures that impact their lives.

Participation in the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC)

FOI Philippines' adherence to universally accepted standards has been apparent in its meaningful involvement in the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC). By participating in these cross-cultural forums, FOI Philippines has disseminated the country's exemplary strategies while gaining insights from other nations' practices in expanding transparency structures.

This participation guarantees that the Philippines remains in line with global standards on the right to information, facilitating a system of openness that goes beyond frontiers.

The FOI Multi-Arts Festival: Fostering Creativity and Transparency

Extending past policies and institutional events, FOI Philippines highlights that the campaign for information access must also encompass the cultural and social dimensions of life in the Philippines. Annually, since 2019, the FOI Multi-Arts Festival has convened individuals from diverse sectors, including artists and students, to commemorate IDUAI through inventive spirit and artistic expression.



The festival comprises an array of contests—essay writing, digital poster making, TikTok video entries, photography, and jingle making—enabling participants to showcase their craftsmanship while promoting transparency and accountability. By leveraging the skills of Filipinos, the FOI Multi-Arts Festival connects governance with cultural practices, emphasizing that the fight for information rights constitutes both a societal obligation and an avenue for creativity.

Philippines Hosts the 2025 International Day for Universal Access to Information

This year marks a trailblazing milestone as the Philippines hosts the global celebration of IDUAI 2025 on 29-30 September 2025 in Manila. Delegates representing nations worldwide gathered to exchange insights and approaches on safeguarding information access in the modern digital landscape.

With the theme: “Ensuring Access to Environmental Information in the Digital Age”, the conference centered on the pivotal convergence of access to information, digital advancements, and environmental stewardship. The discussions underscored how government entities, organizations, and the non-governmental sector can collaborate to ensure that environmental data is available, fact-based, and proactive in addressing the needs of citizens.

Hosting this event accentuates the Philippines’ standing as a key figure in the region in transparency efforts. It also honors the country’s commitment to advancing citizens’ rights, especially in building community capacity to get involved in strategic planning processes that impact both citizens and ecosystems.

