

PEZA, EITSC ink landmark agreement on data privacy

The Philippine Star · 1 May 2018 · B6 · By RICHMOND MERCURIO

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) has signed an agreement on data privacy with the European Innovation, Technology and Science Center (EITSC) that would allow PEZA locators nationwide to be data privacy compliant.

“We are mandating all companies to be compliant with the Data Privacy Act and with international protocols as it will be a source of competitiveness for them,” PEZA director general Charito Plaza said.

Both the EITSC and PEZA have agreed to start their partnership program next month in Cavite, host to the country’s largest economic zone with 350 locators and over 89,000 workers.

The economic zone has Japanese, Korean, American, and European companies that are mostly involved in the electronics, garments, and plastic industries.

Under their memorandum of agreement, PEZA and EITSC will come up with measures to ensure data privacy protection and cybersecurity among locators, making them fully compliant with data security regulations and implement the required compliance process.

The EITSC will also provide solutions that will enable locators to assess their risks and processes, introduce controls and policies, and give them the capacity to respond to incidents of data breaches.

Offenses under the Data Privacy Act are punishable by up to seven years imprisonment and up to P7 million in fines, depending on the nature and degree of violation.

The European Union (EU), meanwhile, can set a maximum penalty of 20 million euros for non-compliance of its General Data Protection Program (GDPR).

The European Commission has the power to determine whether a country outside of the EU is compliant with its GDPR.

Under the country’s law, a company should have an appointed data protection officer, conducts privacy impact assessment, create privacy knowledge management program, implement privacy and data protection policy, and exercise breach reporting procedure.

“PEZA locators can set the example for other companies in Philippines in terms of data protection, data security, cybersecurity, and cyber crime. We need to be internationally compliant, especially now with the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation set to be enforced on May 25,” EITSC president Henry Schumacher said.