

Opening Remarks

The Second CIO Conference

“Advancing E-Government for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”

20 August 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Your Excellency, Mr. Hee Joon Song, Chairman of Prime Minister’s Government 3.0 Committee of Republic of Korea,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I’d like to welcome all of you to the Second CIO Conference.

Taking this opportunity, I’d like to convey my appreciation to ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Government of Kingdom of Thailand for their excellent collaboration with us and hospitality given to this conference.

I am also grateful to the e-government representatives who have joined us here today to show their strong commitment to e-government advancement for sustainable development.

I am sure that 2015 must be a year for global action.

In September, in New York, the international community will adopt a

new set of sustainable development goals for the coming 15 years.

At this critical moment, I am pleased that UNPOG can organise the Second CIO Conference under the title of “Advancing E-Government for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, followed by the first one in Shanghai last November.

While the First CIO Conference focused on general topics of e-government for sustainable development, this year we will go deeper into such specific topics as leadership role of CIOs for policy integration and institutional coordination, e-government framework and interoperability, and innovative e-government country cases.

Leadership role of CIOs cannot be emphasized enough, particularly in such a time when many government institutions still work in silos and they do not necessarily talk to each other. With the adoption of the SDGs, which emphasize the three interlinked dimensions of economic growth, social justice and integration, and environmental protection and sustainability, this traditional mind-set will no longer work. We must therefore get rid of silos, think out of the box, and try to bring the holistic approach into the mainstream of public institutions. In this respect, CIOs, not to mention having technical expertise in ICT, should play crucial roles in integrating different policies and coordinating diverse interests between various government agencies.

Moreover, it is clear that achieving interoperability in the e-government context will improve public service in a variety of ways. E-government interoperability is the ability of disparate and diverse organizations to interact towards mutually beneficial and agreed common goals. This involves the sharing of information and knowledge between the organizations, by means of the exchange of data between their respective information and communication technology (ICT) systems. From the standpoint of public services, e-government interoperability will improve efficiency of service delivery and access to the services, avoiding high price of new development by leveraging existing systems in new ways. From the standpoint of policy makers, e-government interoperability will

improve data gathering and parsing techniques, which will result in more efficient decision-making based on more accurate information.

In particular, for successful e-government development, international cooperation is essential. Government leaders are needed not only to be well-versed in other countries' success stories, but also devise unique ways to create their own success stories building on others' examples. In this regard, innovative e-government cases to be presented by you today, will enhance peer-to-peer learning, ultimately promoting cooperation between countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My office, UNPOG, together with our colleagues in the United Nations System, is committed to supporting ICT and e-government development in your country.

I believe that today's conference is an important opportunity to discuss e-government development and achieve capacity-building for countries in Asia and the Pacific to address the multiple challenges they face in pursuit of sustainable development.

I look forward to a fruitful and insightful discussion today.

Thank you.