



Opening Remarks

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**Head of the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)/DPADM/
UNDESA**

at the

2014 UNPOG Round Table on Promoting Good Governance

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Excellency, Mr. Hee Joon Song, Chairman of Prime Minister's
Government 3.0 Committee,

Excellency, Mr. Soo-gil Park, President of the World Federation of
United Nations Associations (WFUNA),

Excellency, Mr. Moon-suk Ahn, Chairman of Public-Private
Cooperative Forum for E-Government,

Excellency, Mr. Keun Namgoong, President, Seoul National
University of Science and Technology,

Distinguished Ambassadors of Oman, Nepal, Colombia, and
Philippine and Members of Diplomatic Corps,

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me, on behalf of United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), to welcome all of you to the 2014 annual Round Table Meeting. This is the second Round Table Meeting, following the first one, which was held in December last year, two months after I took office. UNPOG has taken active, fruitful and meaningful paths ever since. Today, taking this floor, I'd like to highlight some of the important achievements, implementation strategies and methods, and future prospective. The detailed and concrete cases of achievements will be presented by my colleague, Mr. Keping Yao.

The most exciting and encouraging event this year has been, in my opinion, the recognition of excellence by the UN Economic and Social Council. Last month, the UN Economic and Social Council has adopted a resolution on public administration, in which the UN Secretariat was requested to “further strengthen governance and

public administration capacity development through the provision of advisory services, training and technical projects such as UNPOG.” This is the first recognition of UNPOG’s work in any UN resolutions. I believe it was impossible without outstanding performance of UNPOG’s three former Heads. Therefore, it is a great honour and encouragement for all the staff and I am sure this will provide a powerful momentum for our future activities and upcoming renewal negotiation of this project office.

Secondly, I’d like to underline our activities to combine and integrate UNPOG’s activities for international and national e-government development with those at the local and municipal levels. We found out that World E-Governments Organisation of Cities and Local Governments (WeGO), which is an international cooperative body for cities and local governments, pursues sustainable local and urban development based on e-government and has its secretariat in Seoul. We started to knock on the door of WeGO Secretariat in order to institutionalize our partnership and collaboration, and finally last month at the third General Assembly of WeGO, the Executive Committee accepted our proposal and agreed to hold a joint workshop at Jeju Forum next May in an independent e-track session. I am very confident that through this workshop, we can expect greater synergy effects in this mutual endeavour to assist sustainable development for

developing countries. Next year we are also going to cooperate in the research field with Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) of China, which evaluates and ranks the e-government readiness of global smart cities. We will utilize the e-government assessment methodology of UNDESA for the Academy's e-government evaluation process of global smart cities. It is my firm belief that this innovative integration approach will provide unprecedented opportunities for collaborative governance between local and central governments.

Thirdly, I would also like to mention the proactive expansion of our activities, both horizontally and vertically. UNPOG has expanded its partnership with international organizations and national stakeholders such as International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Asia Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) in Songdo, Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Public Procurement Service of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea. While expanding the partnerships, UNPOG has accordingly diversified and deepened its themes, from simply dealing with overall e-government development to focusing on such specific topics as e-

government for women, e-government for disaster risk management, and e-government for civil registration and procurement, to name a few. Next year, we will continue to strengthen our existing partnerships and explore the new ones while deepening and consolidating the themes with international and national partners.

Let me point out an exemplary case of joint projects with UNESCAP. Last month in Bangkok, UNPOG jointly organized a special session titled “ICT, E-government and Women’s Empowerment” on the occasion of Asia-Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, a Beijing+20 Review Conference. I heard from an NGO participant that they had tried to include the topic of ICT in the agenda of women’s empowerment for the last 20 years, but failed. She expressed her gratitude that UNPOG for the first time has brought the ICT dimension in dealing with women’s issue at UNESCAP. Next year we will start the phase II of this project and expect to produce a toolkit measuring the equality and empowerment of women in the countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Fourthly, I must stress the innovative holistic approach that we have adopted for project implementation. I want to call it “one stop shop approach”. From the initial stage of research to the last stage of

capacity training programmes, we implement the project in a seamless and integrated manner in order to make it more cost-effective, consistent and sustainable. For example, this year we conducted a research on “E-Government for Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)” and had a capacity development workshop during the 2014 UNPSA Forum in June in Seoul to share research findings and reflect the participant’s feedbacks. Then, in cooperation with our Head Office in New York, we held a Special Event of the UN General Assembly Second Committee last month. As the final step, UNPOG will organize a customized training programme for SIDS next year in Seoul, possibly in cooperation with the National Information Society Agency of the Republic of Korea.

Fifthly, UNPOG has initiated the project to establish CIO networks in the Asia-Pacific region, both online and offline, which will serve as important e-government knowledge-sharing platform. Especially the online CIO network will be set up based on the proactive and firm commitment of CIOs from the Member States. Therefore, the contents of the online network will be frequently updated by CIOs and communications will also be exchanged promptly, eventually increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of the network.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before concluding my opening remarks, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Republic of Korea on its outstanding achievement in the global e-government ranking. Korea has won the first place three consecutive times in the 2010, 2012, and 2014 UN E-Government Surveys.

In conclusion, I extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for being here despite your busy schedule. I expect your valuable and insightful advices for our future activities.

Thank you.