



United Nations Project Office on Governance

Summary Report

National e-Government Workshop in Bangladesh 8-9 July 2011, Dhaka, Bangladesh

1. Executive Summary

The “National e-Government Workshop in Bangladesh” was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 8 to 9 July 2011.¹ The Conference was organized by the Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology (MOSICT) of the Government of Bangladesh, and the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) was invited by the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), an autonomous body under the MOSICT, with substantial contribution of facilitating training sessions by e-Government experts and practitioners. The Workshop was attended by more than 65 senior level government officials from various Ministries of Government of Bangladesh and a few experts and practitioners. The UNPOG team also attended a meeting at the Directorate of National Library and National Archives (6 July) and delivered a presentation on Digitization and Information Management for E-Government.

2. Summary of Proceedings (8-9 July 2011)

The opening of the Workshop featured opening remarks, inaugural speech and address from Mr. Jong-moo Choi, Head of UNPOG, Architect Yeafesh Osman, Honourable State Minister of Ministry of Science & ICT, and Mr. Rafiqul Islam PhD, Secretary in Charge of ICT Division, respectively. Following the opening session, presentations were made on the following topics by respective speakers as follows:

- United Nations: e-Government Tools and Resources
Mr. S.K. Belal Hassan, Programme Operations Expert, UNPOG
- Vision 2021: Digital Bangladesh & State of e-Government in Bangladesh: Strategies, Issues and Challenges
Mr. Nazrul Islam Khan, PS to Honorable Prime Minister and National Project Director, A2I Project
- Korean e-Government Experience: Path to Good Governance, Case Studies for ICT Master Plan (Paraguay and Colombia)
Prof. Yong Beom Cho, Konkuk University
- Advances in e-Procurement in Korea, (Good Practices for Bangladesh), Bangladesh PKI and Digital Signature: Issues and Challenges
Mr. Munir Hassan, Consultant (MOSICT)

¹ Initially the National e-Government Workshop was scheduled to take place from 7-8 July. It was rescheduled to 8-9 July by the Bangladesh Computer Council at the last moment.

- National Disaster Management System
Mr. Isaac, Consultant
- PKI and Digital Signature in e-Government
Prof. Kyoung Y. Bae, SangMyung University
- Bangladesh Security Model: Issues and Challenges; Mobile Governance
Md. Aminul Hakim, Progoti
- Mobile Security Framework ; Advances in Mobile Governance in Korea
Prof. Tae Kyung Kim, Seoul Theological University
- Bangladesh's Internet Incident Response: Issues and Challenges
T.M. Barkatullah, Sr. Systems Analyst, BCC
- Internet Incident Responses in Korea
Prof. Tae Kyung Kim, Seoul Theological University
- Introduction of UNPOG & United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS)
Mr. Jeongtae Kim, Associate Communications and Outreach Expert, UNPOG

Experts and practitioners who were part of the UNPOG team were able to acquaint participating senior officials of various ministries of Bangladesh with a theoretical and conceptual understanding of innovative policy-making approaches so as to better support decision-making mechanisms of the national Government for formulating and implementing national policies and programmes on e-Governance. Members of UNPOG were also able to establish networks and partnerships among participating officials for initiating activities to follow up after the workshop. The UNPOG team also attended a meeting at the Directorate of National Library and National Archives and delivered a presentation on Digitization and Information Management for E-Government.

3. Venue and Language of the Programme and Participants

The Workshop was conducted in English at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 8-9 July 2011. The two-day conference was attended mainly by government officials from various Ministries of Government of Bangladesh and a few experts and practitioners with expertise to share knowledge and experiences on Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), Digital Signature, Mobile Security Framework for Mobile Government, e-Procurement Security and innovative policy-making approaches in order to set out a Road Map for implementing Bangladesh's National e-Government Master Plan.

4. Current Status of e-Government Development of Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh has established a priority to modernize Bangladesh and achieve a shared vision for a Digital Bangladesh by 2021. As part of its Digital Bangladesh initiative, Bangladesh considers e-Governance to be a vital ingredient in achieving its goal. According to the United Nations e-Government Survey, Bangladesh still needs to improve its e-Government performance in both the regional and global levels. To improve e-Government performance, Bangladesh will need to focus on key aspects of Information Security i.e. Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), Digital Signature, Mobile Security Framework for Mobile Government and e-Procurement Security to improve government services and promote greater transparency.

5. Conference Conclusion

The Workshop provided a platform for senior level Bangladeshi government officials to discuss challenges they have faced in creating a National e-Government Master Plan with participating experts and practitioners during a session titled “Bangladesh e-Government Brief” which included a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats) Analysis of Bangladesh’s e-Government strategy. Also during the Workshop, government officials learned of success factors required to establish a well-knit national e-Governance master plan. Mr. Yeafesh Osman, State Minister, Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology of the Government of Bangladesh, has stressed the need for a well-defined master plan with specific activities and a timeframe as a road map towards the realization of the Digital Bangladesh initiative. Following each presentations, interactive discussions provided the Bangladesh government officials and participants the opportunity to clarify issues and share their experiences and insights on the presentations.

6. Future Prospective

Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman, Additional Secretary and Executive Director of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC/MoSICT), appreciated the assistance provided by UNPOG during the National e-Government Workshop in Dhaka and proposed Dhaka as a venue for future regional and international events on e-Government that were organized by UNPOG. He also affirmed BCC’s contribution to UNPACS. Mr. Safiqul Islam (Deputy Secretary, BCC/MoSICT) followed up and submitted two discussion papers to upload into UNPAN/UNPACS: (1) The Innovative Approach to Establishing Multipurpose Bio-metric Citizen Database of Bangladesh: A Sustainable Model for LDCs. (2) E-Government Websites in Bangladesh: A study on Citizens’ Benefits.