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UNITED NATIONS PROJECT OFFICE ON GOVERNANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

IN COLLABORATION WITH
KOREAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY (MOPAS) AND UNITED
NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

AIDE MEMOIRE

Conference on e-Government in Asia and the Pacific

Millennium Seoul Hilton Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea

11-13 May 2011

I. INTRODUCTION

The "Conference on e-Government in Asia and the Pacific" will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 11 to 13 May 2011. It will be organized by the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), under the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA); and in collaboration with Korean Ministry of Public Administration and Security (MOPAS) as well as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The conference will be attended by Chief Information Officers (CIOs), e-Government officials and experts drawn from academia, private sector and other fields. It will provide a forum to discuss regional e-Government policy issues, institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks - mainly from a practitioner's point of view. It will facilitate experience- and knowledge-sharing among those who are in a position to improve the quality of e-Government and public service delivery, and help explore ways to enhance cooperation.

A series of presentations will be made during the conference on country specific e-Government experiences. These presentations will be grouped by size of country, developmental stage and conditions for easy comparison and reference. The possibility of producing *Country e-Government Briefs* (tentatively titled) as a way towards development of policymaking capacity in Asia-Pacific region will be explored. To this end, a sample Country e-Government Brief will be presented for discussion and to obtain feedback from participants.

II. E-GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

E-Government progress has been made in countries around the world, but these advancements are not evenly distributed geographically. The 2010 e-Government Index ranking for the Asia-Pacific region was below the world average. Within the region itself, there are substantial disparities in e-Government development; with East Asia ranking above the world average while South Asia fell far below, reflecting different income and technological levels.

In the area of m-Government, the Asia-Pacific region has made remarkable progress, yet mobile cellular penetration levels are still low compared to that of the rest of the world. A mobile technology divide persists among countries, making it difficult to capitalize on the leapfrogging potential of mobile technologies.

Against this backdrop, the conference will first review regional e-Government development trends, issues and challenges in realizing the potential of e- and m-Government to enhance public service delivery and attain development objectives in the region. The review will also be based on the latest United Nations E-Government Survey findings.

III. UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COUNTRY STUDIES (UNPACS)

During the meeting, UNPACS will be introduced, which is one of the latest initiatives of UNDESA. UNPACS for e-Government provides a repository of resources for UN Member States, at different levels of e-Government development. Its objective is to help upgrade policymaking capacity of e-Government officials. It is a knowledge portal that will house key e-Government documents and information on individual countries, including particularly, policy, institutional and legal frameworks.

It builds on and replaces the previous project of UNDESA, an electronic and mobile global knowledge repository (e/mGKR project), which was initiated with a brainstorming meeting in October 2007, in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. Regional e/m-government policy issues were then reviewed with deliberations on the e/mGKR framework in May 2008, Shanghai, China. On this basis, a meeting of e/mGRK Executive Committee was held in December 2008, in Macao, SAR China, with a focus on practical issues such as Committee membership. All of these meetings had a common objective of building regional e-Government capacities.

IV. CIOs, E-GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Effective interactions among e-Government officials and e-Government institutions are becoming increasingly important, as for example, the current trends are characterized by changes from ad hoc responses to institutionalization of initiatives.

Through an open discussion among CIOs and e-Government officials, the conference aims to help facilitate knowledge-sharing, while also exploring ways of effective collaboration.

The discussion will also focus on the institutional framework and its constituting elements; as well as the institutional conditions for successful implementation of e-Government policies and institutional options.

During the conference, there will be on-going validation of the information collected on CIOs and e-Government officials in the Asia-Pacific region as well as collection of new (especially, contact) information. The information is most likely to feed into the *Directory of National e-Government Institutions and Officials* (tentatively titled), which is currently under development by UNDESA. The Directory is expected to make a useful contribution towards capacity development of the region's e-Government policymakers. During the Forum on CIOs/e-Government Official and Institutional Framework, the draft Directory will be briefly introduced.

V. DETERMINING LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF e-GOVERNMENT

A variety of legal and regulatory frameworks exist in countries, with profound effects on e-Government development. There is however no clear concept and definition of the scope and constituting elements of the legal and regulatory framework.

A presentation will therefore be made, which will help identify and develop a better understanding of the framework, with a view to enhancing capacity development in this critical, legal and regulatory area. It will sensitize policymakers to the importance of getting the definitions, concepts and approaches right, so as to create a legal and regulatory framework conducive to e-Government development. It will also present a series of factors which need to be taken into account in an e-Government legislation project. This way, it will contribute towards capacity development in this critical area.

Threats to information security (also known as cyber security) are evolving rapidly and are apparent at a pervasive rate. The potential of these threats to cause catastrophic social and economic harm to countries is of critical importance. A concerted and collective regional approach as well as national policies and legislation to guard against these woes are imperative. Based on this need, there will be a moderated discussion with presentations on security of e-Government and critical information infrastructure protection, highlighting e-Government related legal and regulatory challenges.

VI. COUNTRY SPECIFIC E-GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCES

There will also be a series of brief presentations of country specific experiences in e-Government development, mapping out the current policy, institutional and legal frameworks, mainly from a practitioner's viewpoint. They will be grouped by country size, developmental stage and special conditions.

During the ensuing moderated discussions, these country experiences will be compared and assessed, resulting in some useful lessons and insights. Particular emphasis will be placed on national e-Government policies and strategies, legal and regulatory frameworks as important fundamentals for e-Government related progress and coordination for strategic development.

VII. COUNTRY E-GOVERNMENT BRIEF AS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

A draft *country e-Government brief* will be presented for visualization and discussion of country briefs as a way of contributing towards capacity development. It will be organized, above all, around core information on CIOs/e-Government officials, institutional frameworks, and legal and regulatory frameworks. If there is positive feedback, the potential of producing further subsequent country briefs will be explored. Conference deliberations, especially, during the session on country specific e-Government experiences, will then feed into future country briefs, inspiring and providing guidance for their preparation.

Country e-Government briefs aim to provide a quick comparative overview of the current state of e-Government development in a country specific context, and how countries are doing in e-Government development. Using a common format, the briefs will enable cross-country comparisons of e-Government development and policymaking, and help enhance knowledge of e-Government officials and their capacity for policy formulation.

VIII. EXPECTED OUTPUT

As concrete deliverables from the meeting, the following outputs are expected:

- Publication containing meeting proceedings with a set of recommendations on: (a) regional and country e-Government strategies, institutional, and legal and regulatory frameworks; and (b) ways of effectively building and promoting a CIOs and e-Government officials' network for knowledge- and experience-sharing.
- A *Final Country e-Government Brief* for capacity building, which can serve to guide further subsequent briefs, in the case of positive feedback. It will build on the deliberations on country specific e-Government experience, validation and feedback by conference participants (including particularly, CIOs and e-Government officials).
- A comprehensive and validated *list of CIOs and e-Government officials*.
- Improved draft *Directory on e-Government Officials and Institutions* in individual countries of the Asia-Pacific region for dissemination, networking and building of policymaking capacity.

VIII. Language of the meeting

English

X. Contact for further information

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