



2nd CIO Conference

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

*on the occasion of Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on
“e-Government, Smart Cities and Digital Societies for Sustainable Development”*

20 August 2015

Plaza Athénée Bangkok Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand

AIDE-MEMOIRE

Organised by

United Nations Project Office on Governance

Division for Public Administration and Development Management

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

1 SPONSORSHIP AND PURPOSE

The Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), through the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), is organising the 2nd CIO Conference entitled *Advancing E-Government for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*, which will take place in Bangkok, Thailand on 20 August 2015. The Conference is held as part of the *Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on “e-Government, Smart Cities and Digital Societies for Sustainable Development”*, which is organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with UNPOG and the World e-Governments Organization of Cities and Local Governments (WeGO) from 19 to 20 August 2015.

The Regional Forum is the first of a series of annual regional forums on e-government in the Asia-Pacific region under the framework of *ICT for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region (as known as ICTD-ASP)*. It provides a valuable opportunity for high-level dialogue among development partners, policy makers, decision makers, and executives of the industry. The Forum is also a platform for knowledge sharing and formulating/strengthening partnerships and collaboration between various stakeholders. More importantly, in view of the post-2015 development agenda, the Forum is aimed at facilitating the exchange of ideas and practices on how to implement the emerging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Forum is hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand with the support of the Department of Communications of the Government of Australia, and held in conjunction with the Bangkok International ICT Expo (20-23 August 2015) and the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum (21-22 August 2015).

The main purpose of the Conference is to provide a venue for Chief Information Officers (CIOs) and e-government officials to exchange views on emerging issues and trends of e-government development and innovative practices, and to have in-depth discussions on the critical leadership role of CIOs in promoting policy integration and institutional coordination for sustainable development.

2 BACKGROUND

A variety of efforts have been made by the United Nations to achieve the Millennium Development Goals since its declaration in 2000 and similar efforts will be made to achieve the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations has supported Member States in developing national policies and practices, which aim to promote the United Nations development agenda, and is committed to promoting the exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices regarding innovative public governance contributing to social, economic and environmental development in line with the post-2015 development agenda. The General

Assembly has highlighted the importance of knowledge-sharing activities in resolution 57/277 and stated that particular emphasis should be given to the exchange of experience related to the role of public administration in the implementation of internationally agreed goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In resolution 50/225, it also underscored that international cooperation should be strengthened in the field of public administration, including South-South and Inter-Regional cooperation.

UNDESA, through DPADM, has organized global events on issues related to good governance, including e-government, in order to provide government officials, as well as regional and international organizations with a platform to exchange ideas, practices and strategies to advance the United Nations development agenda. DPADM has actively assisted Member States to enhance their public governance capacities by organizing workshops, expert group meetings, and by issuing relevant publications, and sharing knowledge on public administration through an online repository, namely the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN).

3 CONTEXT

As we approach the deadline for the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and prepare for the post-2015 development agenda, it is clear that all governments are faced with a set of complex, multifaceted and inter-dependent challenges, which require a holistic government vision and transformation agenda through enhanced policy coordination, decision-making processes and public service integration. Given the multitude and complexity of challenges, effective collaborative governance at all levels is needed to transform how the public sector operates, including government's role, functions, institutional frameworks and processes. With the rapid expansion of the ICT sector in developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, which is characterized by the significant rise of mobile penetration rates and improved connectivity even in rural areas, an increasing number of developing countries, including landlocked, post-conflict countries and small island developing States in the region, are utilizing new technologies to provide public services and to involve people in decision-making processes. E-government can provide significant opportunities to transform public administration into a driving force for achieving sustainable development, including by enabling whole-of-government approaches for greater policy and institutional coordination; by supporting the promotion of a green inclusive economy through, for example, green procurement, online one-stop shops for business registration to facilitate the establishment particularly of small and medium enterprises; by inclusive societies through multi-channel service delivery allowing vulnerable groups to easily access essential services; and environmental sustainability through effective government mobile applications that can help to monitor and reduce the consumption of energy in households, and through better administration and monitoring of environmental licenses, permits that help protect air, water, mineral and biological resources, and registration.

E-government development in Asia and the Pacific is, however, uneven across countries. According to past editions of the United Nations E-Government Survey, there are varying levels of e-government development. While some Asian countries are leading globally, others are still trailing behind and are among the bottom 30 countries in the global ranking. CIOs play an important role in promoting a coherent e-government strategy and their leadership capacity should be strengthened, so that government innovation and transformation can be effectively aligned with the overall national development strategies. Member States that are still at the initial stages of e-government development are eager to learn from others on how to set up an effective e-government and ICT strategy in order to avoid any possible pitfalls. Regional cooperation and coordination can effectively help advance e-government development in the whole region, such as in the case of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, as well as in the European Union.

4 OBJECTIVES

DPADM/UN-DESA, through UNPOG, co-organised the first CIO Conference on 5-6 November 2014 in Shanghai, China, on the occasion of the 2014 Global City Informatization Forum, with the main purposes to share knowledge and good practices, exchange ideas and strengthen regional cooperation to advance e-government development in the region. In its continuing effort for more inclusive and participatory discussions on e-government development in the region, UNPOG will organise the 2nd CIO Conference to exchange views on emerging issues and trends of e-government development and innovative practices. It will also provide a timely opportunity for CIOs and e-government officials to discuss about the critical leadership role of CIOs in promoting policy integration and institutional coordination for sustainable development.

More specifically, the Conference will offer an opportunity:

- To highlight the critical role of CIOs in promoting policy integration and institutional coordination for sustainable development;
- To identify emerging issues, trends and common challenges in e-government development; and
- To provide a platform for Member States and relevant stakeholders to exchange experiences and best practices in e-government development in the region.

5 EXPECTED RESULTS

The 2nd CIO Conference is expected to achieve the following outputs:

- Increased understanding of sustainable development goals as articulated in the post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as e-government as an enabler for sustainable development;
- Recommendations on strengthening the leadership role of CIOs to ensure policy integration and institutional coordination for sustainable development; and
- Enhanced knowledge of e-government trends and issues, including innovative e-government policies, strategies and best practices to advance sustainable development.

6 CONTACT INFORMATION

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