



Aide-Memoire
International Conference on Good Governance for National Development
Workshops on
ICT Access and e-Government for Achieving the MDGs
E-Cities Network in Asia and the Pacific

17-18 June 2010, Millennium Seoul Hilton, Republic of Korea
Co-organized by UNDESA/UNPOG, UNESCAP, and MOPAS

1. Introduction

The United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), a project under the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) will organize in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Ministry of Public Administration and Security (MOPAS) of the Republic of Korea, an **International Conference on Good Governance for National Development to be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 17th June**. On the following day, 18th June, all participants will be divided into two Workshops: (1) Workshop on e-Government for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and (2) Workshop on the e-Cities Network in Asia and the Pacific: local e-Government for achieving the MDGs and service delivery. The two days were therefore specifically designed to encapsulate the role of governance in promoting development, followed by two practical workshops on how recent trends in Information and Communication Technology can promote e-Government both at national and local levels to achieve internationally agreed development goals, particularly the MDGs.

2. Background

Good governance and effective public administration are increasingly receiving recognition from the international community as the foundation for the successful achievement of a wide range of international and domestic policy objectives, including most items on the United Nations development agenda. As the basis for effective policy selection and implementation, governance – including public administration and civil service, rule of law, regulatory frameworks, and transparent and participatory decision-making processes – is a necessary condition to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Governance is the process of interaction between three sets of actors – the State, civil society, and the private sector – in making political, administrative, economic, and social decisions that affect citizens. Institutional designs and structures of governance are necessary, but not sufficient to improve the quality of governance as a process, which should be characterized by participation, accountability, access, justice, equity, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

More recently, the ICT revolution is gradually generating another revolution in public administration with the advent of e-Government. E-Government goes beyond information sharing and is profoundly influencing the way Governments perform and deliver services by potentially accelerating delivery times and improving the quality and quantity of services provided, as well as allowing timely feedback from civil society on public policy initiatives both at national and local levels.

ICTs can be combined with knowledge management, innovation, institutional coordination as well as capacity building to advance the notion of electronic and mobile government (e-Government). These tools are critical inputs for meeting development goals in the areas of governance, economic development, protection of the environment, poverty alleviation, health, and for the improvement of service delivery and overall living conditions in society. These tools also have the potential to significantly improve participation, and access to information about public policies and programmes that are conducive to meeting the MDGs. Effective knowledge management is necessary for governments to reap the benefits of these tools, by ensuring that information is effectively stored, used, and shared at the intra-organizational level, as well as between organizations, and between governments, citizens and private sector. Adequate functional and technical skills are equally important, requiring greater investments in education, training and capacity development.

3. Audience

The International Conference on Good Governance for National Development will gather policy-makers, governance practitioners, and eminent scholars of public administration to exchange perspectives and share insights and experiences on forming effective and sustainable development strategies through good governance.

4. Objectives

- Discuss key issues and highlight the role of good governance and public administration for national development and the MDGs;
- Provide a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge networking among governance stakeholders, including the local level;
- Facilitate the sharing of lessons, experiences and best practices on governance and public administration in the region, including ICT applications and e-government for public service delivery;
- Foster linkages and cooperation among stakeholders on achieving the MDGs through good governance, ICTs and e-Government at the national and local levels.

5. Expected Accomplishments

- Increased awareness among policymakers, practitioners, scholars, and other actors on the role and contribution of good governance and effective and efficient public administration for national and local development;
- In support of UNPOG's research on public administration, identify innovative examples of country and city strategies or practices demonstrating good governance and responsive public administration;
- Demonstrate the strategic role and contribution of Information and Communication Technologies in public administration for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

6. Outputs

- Country cases and presentations which will be uploaded as contributions into the Public Administration Knowledge Space (PAKS) of DPADM / UNDESA. For more information, visit <http://www.unpan.org>
- Publication summarizing Conference proceedings and reporting on outcomes and next steps.

7. Venue and Organization

The Conference will be conducted in English and will be held at the Millennium Seoul Hilton, Republic of Korea, from 17 to 18 June 2010.

The Conference will consist of an opening ceremony with keynote speeches and four regular sessions in the first day, and two special workshops in the second day, as mentioned above. Proposed themes of sessions and workshops are as below.

Day 1

- Session 1: Good Governance and Public Administration for National Development
- Session 2: Cases and Innovations in Good Governance and Public Administration
- Session 3: International Cooperation for Official Development Assistance and Good Governance
- Session 4: Role of UN in Knowledge-Sharing on Public Administration

Day 2

- Special Workshop 1: Workshop on e-Government for Achieving MDGs
- Special Workshop 2: Workshop on e-Cities Network in Asia and the Pacific