

UNITED NATIONS PROJECT OFFICE ON GOVERNANCE

ACTIVITY BRIEF

UNPOG Participation to the 31st Roundtable Conference of the African Association for Public Administration and Management

Plenary Session on the Korean Development Experience and Measures on Coping with the Crisis

21-25 September 2009
Nairobi, Kenya

The African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) will hold its 31st Roundtable Conference under the theme “*The World Economic Crisis: Challenges to African Public Administration System*” at the Kenya Institute of Administration, in Nairobi, Kenya, from 21 to 25 September 2009.

The world is now witnessing the worst recession since the Great Depression. Originating from the developed world, the on-going economic crisis brings consequences that are being felt in many developing countries, including African developing countries. One lesson that this crisis has left is the strategic role and necessity for strong public administration and management systems to lessen its social impact. The reality, however, is the African public administration systems are weak and fragile as noted during the previous 30th Roundtable Conference held in 2008.

The conference in Nairobi is designed to serve as a forum for sharing lessons and ideas on how to devise effective strategies to develop enhanced levels of administrative capability and capacity of the African governments. The conference will be attended by ministers from African governments, senior civil servants or senior managers in public and private organizations, representatives from NGOs and civil society organizations, and scholars of public policy, development and public administration.

UNPOG Participation at the AAPAM Conference

The participation of the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) to the 31st AAPAM Conference was first discussed during the visit of the Head of UNPOG, Mr. Jong-moo Choi, to the United Nations Headquarters in June 2009 in a meeting with colleagues from DPADM, specifically with the Governance and Public Administration Branch, to explore opportunities for collaboration between the two offices. As mentioned by

GPAB staff, the Division will contribute to the organization of the 31st AAPAM Conference, and UNPOG may decide to participate as well.

Preliminary discussions with the AAPAM Secretariat in July 2009 highlighted the value of presenting to the Conference the Korean development experience, the lessons learned from its progress and development, and its current strategies to cope with the on-going financial crisis. These presentations will be both informative and valuable to African public administrators keen on learning about the Korean experience.

Against this backdrop, UNPOG will participate to the 31st AAPAM Conference by taking the lead in organizing a Session on the “**Korean Development Experience and its Measures on Coping with the Crisis**”.

Around 300 participants are expected to AAPAM Conference.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the Activity are the following:

- To share with African public administrators lessons and insights on the Korean national development model and experience, and the role of its public administration;
- To impart with participants the strategies devised by the Korean government to minimize the social risks associated with the on-going world economic crisis.

This Activity is in line with UNPOG’s mission of strengthening the governance capacities of UN Member States, as stated in its Project Document.

Methodology

The Session will be organized as a one-and-a-half hour Plenary Session scheduled on 22 September 2009, the 2nd day of the Conference.

The Session will be opened by a Chair, followed by the two expert presentations from UNPOG (30 minutes each). A 30-minute interactive discussion will follow. Two rapporteurs, to be assigned by Conference Organizers, will cover the proceedings of the Session.

UNPOG will recruit two public administration experts/consultants who will make presentations at the Session (see attached Terms of Reference).

/as of 8 September 2009