

UNITED NATIONS PROJECT OFFICE ON GOVERNANCE

Cote d'Ivoire Workshop on "Strategies for establishing eGovernment in Cote d'Ivoire: Experiences from Korea" 20 - 21 July 2009, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

The "Cote d'Ivoire Workshop on "Strategies for Establishing e-Government in Cote d'Ivoire: Experiences of Korea" was held on 20 - 21 July 2009, at the Chamber of Commerce of Cote d'Ivoire in Abidjan. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of New Technologies and Communication of Cote d'Ivoire, with the support of UNPOG, and sponsored by the Korean Embassy and Korea's National Information Society Agency. It was attended by around 120 participants, mostly government officials from Ivorian ministries and agencies, as well as representatives from academia and civil society. The event was covered by the local media and reported in a local TV news program and featured in local newspapers.

Summary of Proceedings (20-21 July 2009)

The Opening Session featured welcome and congratulatory remarks from H.E. Minister Hamed Bakayoko, Minister for New Technologies and Communication of Cote d'Ivoire (NTIC), H.E. Amb. Yoon-june Park of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, UNOCI, and UNPOG (R. de Jesus), and was attended by ambassadors from Japan, Mongolia, and India.

On the first day of the workshop, following the opening session, presentations were made on the following topics: socio-economic situation in Cote d'Ivoire (Ministry of Planning); ICT situation in Cote d'Ivoire (NTIC); and Peace-building in Cote d'Ivoire (UNDP). In the afternoon, presentations were made by staff from UNPOG and Korea's National Information Society Agency, specifically on: Electronic and Mobile Government Knowledge Repository (Robert de Jesus, UNPOG); broadband infrastructure (Gregory Pokorny, NIA); broadband deployment in Korea (Young Min Ko, NIA); and history and development of eGovernment in Korea (G. Pokorny). In the morning of the second day, two presentations were made: private-sector perspective / business experiences on ICT in Cote d'Ivoire (KCC) and ICT application in the area of education (Ministry of National Education).

Interactive discussions provided the local participants the opportunity to clarify issues and share their experiences and insights on the presentations. The workshop succeeded not only in introducing to the Ivorians the benefits of ICT and eGovernment, but also to know more about the Korean eGovernment experience. During the interactive discussions, some of the challenges and difficulties frequently mentioned include: political stability as pre-requisite for development; issue of financing; where to get the resources to support eGovernment initiatives; issue of sustainability / how to sustain eGovernment initiatives; sharing of information among ministries; how to coordinate ministries and agencies in undertaking ICT initiatives.

Participants expressed strong interest in the emGKR initiative and would like to be informed of its progress and further development. Ministry officials also expressed interest in participating in future emGKR meetings, specifically those being organized for the African region.

Workshop Conclusion

UNPOG (R. de Jesus) gave the Concluding Remarks where it was emphasized that the workshop is just one step for the development of Cote d'Ivoire's eGovernment, and that it should be translated to more concrete activities/technical projects that can have more tangible impact. UNPOG expressed its appreciation and thanks to NTIC, Korean Embassy, and NIA for their collaboration and support.

Wrap-up Meeting with NTIC

A wrap-up meeting was held between the Ministry of New Technologies and Communication and UNPOG in the morning of 23 July 2009. Mr. Lemassou Fofana, Deputy Chief of Staff of NTIC, expressed the Ministry's gratitude and appreciation to UNPOG for its support in organizing the workshop. The Ministry requested that further assistance be provided to the Government particularly in formulating its national eGovernment plan and strategy. NTIC stated that it will also transmit an official letter to UNPOG on proposed follow-up activities. One follow-up activity would be organizing a Regional Workshop on Developing National eGovernment Plans for Member Countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).