

## **Summary Report (based on progress report)**

### **Overall Summary**

UNPOG teamed up with the Government of Turkmenistan as well as UNDESA and UNDP to hold a regional seminar focusing on ICT challenges that most Central Asian countries are facing in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, from 25 to 27 November 2008.

Under the theme of 'Intersectoral Governance and National Innovation Policies,' the seminar was divided into the following three panels, each of which included presentations and discussions: 'Elaboration and implementation of national innovation/ICT programme as a part of the national development strategy,' 'Intersectoral governance mechanisms for innovation/ICT programme formulation and implementation including regulatory framework and Public-Private Partnership' and 'Korean ICT experience in relation to the electronic/mobile-Government Knowledge Repository.' It was at the third session that the concept of emGKR was briefed and how to expand it into the Central Asia was discussed.

As an open forum to review and exchange experiences in preparation and implementation of national ICT programmes within the framework of national development strategies, the seminar also went so far as to identify the elements of capacity building needs in the region and come up with recommendations on capacity building activities to enhance intersectoral governance for ICT policies in Central Asian region. Recommendations included:

- For UNDESA to set up partnership with MOPAS
- For UNDESA and UNPOG to continue its activity for the establishment of the emGKR in Central Asian region
- To conduct a preparatory meeting in 2009 with regard to emGKR at one of the participating countries (Kyrgyzstan as proposed)

Constituting part of UNGC e-government programme designed to meet the needs of the developing Member States in the area of ICT and e-Government, this regional seminar invited 12 senior government officials from the five countries in the region including Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Observers also came from the Ministry of Public Administration and Security Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Korea, and the OCED Policy Centre in Korea. This seminar was paid attention to, and broadcast by some local media, indicating the region's high interest on the theme.