

Summary Report (based on progress report)

Overall Summary

Held from 28 to 30 January 2008, the Workshop on Promoting Trust in Government through Innovations in Governance in Asia and the Pacific Region was jointly organized by East-West Center and UNPOG, in partnership with UNDESA and the Presidential Committee on Innovation and Decentralization of the Republic of Korea. As one of the follow-up activities of the 7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government, the workshop discussed findings of the sub-regional reviews of building trust in government in Asia and the Pacific and selected country cases. Declining trust, its adverse impact on political and social development in the region, and the urgent necessity to overcome this problem through enhancing transparent and accountable governance constituted the overall thematic foci of the workshop. Specific dimensions of the individual country presentations and the ensuing interactive group discussion included the following:

- Discussion of the four regional reviews (in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Pacific Island) already undertaken through the UNPOG and UNDESA;
- Examination of the country papers on China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia ;
- Identification of critical dimensions of governance that affect trust in government;
- Identification of factors that promote or impede trust in government and
- Country case studies on innovations in governance.

Principal workshop participants included research directors who undertook sub-regional reviews in East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Island, as well as public innovation experts from China, Republic of Korea, Japan, and Indonesia. Apart from these members who have each contributed country presentations, the workshop received general audience from policymakers, development practitioners, and scholars interested in promoting trust in government.

Active input from these participants – whose total number amounted to 20 – provided a solid groundwork for the establishment of the network of innovators which UNPOG has set out on its agenda, and will further solidify and expand through its future capacity building activities of analogous kind.