



DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: January 2012

1. ESCWA and DESA Developing Enhanced Cooperation

UN-ESCWA's regional advisor for ICT, Mr. Sleem Zoughbi, met with Haiyan Qian and DPADM's IRA Mr. Richard Kerby, to discuss developing closer cooperation and collaboration between ESCWA and DESA through DPADM. At the meeting, ESCWA requested DESA's support in co-sponsoring a forum on e-government and e-governance for the Arab States region. In addition, both ESCWA and DESA, through DPADM agreed to enhance their mutual support in the following areas.

- a. At the request of ESCWA and to be funded by UNDP, DESA through DPADM will join ESCWA in assisting Palestine to assess its e-government readiness through METER, the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-Government Readiness developed by DESA through DPADM.
- b. ESCWA would look at the possibility of translating METER in Arabic.
- c. ESCWA and DESA through DPADM will co-sponsor a meeting in the Arab Region, which will focus on e-government issues and trends, including a joint partnership in building the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS) in the region.
- d. ESCWA will increase its substantive participation as a UNPAN partner.
- e. DESA through DPADM and ESCWA will review the possibility of jointly producing an EGovernment Survey for the Arab region as part of the UN E-Government Survey.

2. Presentation on Electronic Governance for Sustainable Development

After a presentation made to DPADM staff by Mr. Tomasz Janowski, Senior Research Fellow, United Nations University-International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST) on 10 January 2012, DPADM and UNU-IIST agreed to collaborate in: (i) strengthening the UN E-Government Survey platform by providing DPADM data as a benchmarking resource specifically for policy makers to carry out selection which will enable the creation of an instrument to reflect local conditions and priorities, and (ii) developing a Global Chief Information Officer (CIO) curriculum for the UN Member States based on the joint research of UNDESA/DPADM and UNU-IIST. The presentation introduced the concept of electronic governance for sustainable development (EGOV4SD) by systematically mapping the sustainable development (SD) and EGOV domains and presenting examples from around the world on how EGOV is being applied to advance the social, environmental, economic and transitional SD goals. It explained the fundamental challenges in realizing the transition from EGOV to EGOV4SD and proposed an international research, development, monitoring and education agenda to address such challenges. Haiyan Qian thanked Mr. Janowski for the presentation, noting that the research findings of UNU-IIST were in line with DPADM's work in the context of the UN E-Government Survey 2012: E-Government for Sustainable Development.

3. Proposed Mission from the Government of Panama

The Government of Panama, through the National Authority for Government Innovation (AIG), the entity responsible for the modernization of the State, contacted DESA, through DPADM to propose a mission from 5-8 March. The mission, which will possibly include the presence of the minister for government innovation is set to discuss: i. Panama's e-Gov Master Plan; ii. Lessons learned from the UN e-Government Survey, and iii. Proposed advisory services to be provided by DESA, through DPADM. The mission will underscore the commitment to the implementation of a robust



e-government platform to improve the supply and quality of services provided to the citizens of Panama under the leadership of President Ricardo Martinelli and Mr. Eduardo Jaen the General Administrator of the AIG.

5. The 2012 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA)

The 2012 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) has seen an unprecedented number of 471 nominations, marking a 58% increase in comparison to 2011 and over 100% growth since 2010. Member State participation has also increased from 57 in 2011 to 73, including 16 countries participating for the first time, almost doubling Member State participation which was at 39 in 2008. The 2012 UNPSA programme has been accepting nominations from 15 September to 31 December 2011 and are now going through the first amongst a series of evaluations which will culminate in the final evaluation to be done by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) in April 2012.

The increase in the number of nominations can largely be attributed to the intensive and innovative communication and outreach strategy employed by the UNPSA team which has engaged the Permanent Missions to the United Nations through three briefing sessions and continuous open communication, prepared material for the delegates, who attended the 66th Session of the General Assembly, and collaborated with multiple partners at regional and national levels to sensitize public institutions in their regions.

6. Public Service Capacity Building via UNPAN Online Training Centre

In its endeavour to strengthen the capacity of its public service, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, through its e-Government Centre (eGC), recently requested DPADM to partner with them in making DPADM's e-learning courses on United Nations Public Administration Network's (UNPAN) Online Training Centre available for their use on a larger scale and in a more systematic way. They propose to make the courses mandatory for all public servants as part of their ambitious Strategic Programme for Technological Modernization to bring services closer and more accessible to citizens and businesses and to improve quality through the intelligent use of ICT. In response to this request, DPADM is working with the government focal point to develop a concrete plan for implementation.

The UNPAN Online Training Centre delivers courses on various topics in public administration. Its main goal is to increase opportunities for government officials and citizens from all over the world to access training materials on e-government, human resources, knowledge management and the Millennium Development Goals. It can be accessed at: <http://www.unpan.org/ELearning/OnlineTrainingCentre/tabid/1456/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Upcoming Event

Achieving Greater Transparency in Legislatures through the Use of Open Document Standards.

DPADM, through its project Global Center for ICT in Parliament (GCIP), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the US House of Representatives are organizing an international meeting titled "Achieving Greater Transparency in Legislatures through the Use of Open Document Standards" to be held at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., 27 - 29 February 2012. At the meeting Secretaries General and staff of parliaments will aim to advance the policy dialogue and the technical exchange among parliaments that are currently using XML with a view to: a) determine how XML has



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been implemented by parliaments around the world and how it is being used by them and by civil society organizations to enhance citizens' participation in public life; b) exchange experiences about the policy and organizational challenges overcome by parliaments' senior management; c) identify current best practices and state of the art applications; d) outline projects anticipated by legislatures over the next five years and explore venues of possible collaborations and synergies to reduce costs; and e) elaborate policy and technical recommendations for the use of XML in parliaments.