DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: March 2012

1. Official Mission from Panama Visits DPADM to Discuss Public Administration and e-Government Development

Mr. Temistocles Arjona, the Vice-Minister responsible for the coordination of the Panama's e-Government Master Plan, visited DPADM on 6 March. He stated the President Mr. Ricardo Martinelli always read the UN E-Government Survey and have read the newly published 2012 edition. The President also extended his congratulations to DESA for the survey which serves as a good reference to governments in their effort to improve the public service delivery to their citizens. He has reiterated his commitment to disseminate the survey findings in the Latin American region. The Government of Panama has agreed to translate the UN E-Government Survey 2012, the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-Government Readiness (METER) self-assessment tool and selected on-line training courses available in UNPAN into Spanish. Mr. Arjona confirmed that Panama will officially request DESA through DPADM to provide advisory support to improve public administration and e-government development in Latin America through a project to be funded by Panama and also confirmed the availability of funds to sponsor a series of joint activities with DPADM, including the Regional Launch of the UN E-Government Survey 2012 in Latin America and a Regional Meeting of Chief Information Officers on e-government development.

2. The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

Task Group on E-government, comprising twelve agencies, of which DESA through DPADM is a key member, presented its Report to the UN Statistical Commission at its forty-second session held from 28 February to 2 March in New York. The Commission endorsed the set of globally comparative e-government core indicators proposed in the Task Group's Report and asked for its wide circulation so that countries and other agencies can use this as a reference. The indicators are: (i) proportion of persons employed in central Government organizations routinely using computers; (ii) proportion of persons employed in central Government organizations routinely using the Internet; (iii) proportion of central Government organizations with a local area network (LAN); (iv) proportion of central Government organizations with an Internet; (v) proportion of central Government organizations with Internet access, by type of access; (vi) proportion of central Government organizations with a Web presence; (vii) selected Internet-based online services available to citizens, by level of sophistication of service.

3. Super Session on Public Administration and Poverty Eradication Beyond 2015

DESA through DPADM organized the "Super Session on Public Administration and Poverty Eradication beyond 2015" in cooperation with the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) Working Group on Public Administration and Poverty Eradication as part of the the Annual Conference of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) in Las Vegas, USA. Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Chief from DPADM made a presentation on, "Public Administration and Poverty Eradication: Preventing Corruption in Public Administration through Developing Professionalism in Public Sector Institutions". It was the first time in its history that ASPA annual conference addressed the issue of poverty eradication and was concluded that henceforth poverty eradication will have as a prominent topic in the ASPA Annual conferences in the future, especially in New Orleans, USA in 2013.

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4. Analytical Work on the United Nations Public Administration Studies (UNPACS) Begins with the Citizen Engagement in Managing Development

At the Divisional Meeting on 1 March, the Development Management Branch (DMB) of DPADM shared its progress on its UNPACS related assessment concerning the citizen engagement in the constitutions of all 193 Member States and the plan for the next steps of analysis. For the assessment, 193 constitutions and myriad of the latest amendments were screened via a group of keywords on the citizen engagement according to the conceptual foundation of (i) information-base; (ii) consultation-based; and (iii) participation-based elements of the citizen engagement. Then the qualitative data was compiled into abstracts and the additional 1,800 supporting documents were uploaded to the UNPACS knowledge database. Finally, 118 constitutional outputs were standardized and quantified to produce preliminary analysis on citizen engagement in constitutions, broken down into the different levels of analysis, including the local, national, regional and global. The UNPAN Management Unit (UMU) provided the (i) information-based data on the Member States' Freedom of Information Acts for the analysis.

Currently, the branch is finalizing the quantitative analysis of all 193 constitutions regarding their citizen engagement clauses. In the next step, the scope of research will be further expanded from constitutions to other legal documents in order to determine the enabling/hampering factors for the citizen engagement. In doing so, the possibility of inter-branch cooperation will be explored. The presentation was very well received by the whole Division. Other branches' colleagues found the presentation very useful and stimulating for their own respective research work.

5. In-House Seminar on "Rescuing Policy – the Case for Public Engagement"

DPADM organized an In-House seminar on "Rescuing Policy - The Case for Public Engagement**"** on 13 March. During the seminar Mr. Don Lenihan, Vice President of Engagement at the Public Policy Forum in Ottawa, Canada, discussed with the staff the findings of his new book *Rescuing Policy: the Case for Public Engagement* (2012). The findings of Mr. Lenihan's latest book offer important insights into citizen engagement in managing development, one of the key areas of the Division's work. The issues discussed included the new complex policy environment in which governments can no longer govern alone and growing public expectations on transparency and accountability, and the new societal goals, including the sustainable development and life-long learning. According to Mr. Lenihan these factors make the collaborative model of public engagement the new governance approach that enables governments to function and deliver well in today's complex world. In the public engagement model all stakeholders, including citizens, should be included in all stages of the policy process (views, deliberation and action). It was agreed during the seminar that Mr. Lenihan's new book will be made available online at the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN).

6. Mission to the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) in Republic of Korea

To assist UNPOG's transitional phase with the departure of its Head, as well as to discuss and finalize its 2012 work plan, DPADM met with the UNPOG staff to provide operational guidelines and reiterated the importance of strategically aligning the UNPOG's activities to the overarching goals and objectives of the DESA through DPADM.

DPADM also met with the delegation from the Ministry of Public Administration and Security (MOPAS) of Republic of Korea, headed by Mr. Seochong Hwang, Director-General, Informatization

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Planning Bureau to discuss the Ministry's proposal for a *Global Forum on e-Government*, to be held on 17 to 19 October 2012. The MOPAS requested DESA's cooperation in co-organizing the event through DPADM. The delegation also expressed its wish to expedite the collaboration on the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS) development and proposed to have a working group meeting at its earliest opportunity.

7. Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Meeting in Costa Rica

Representative from DPADM and the IGF Secretariat attended the ICANN 43 meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica from 12 to 15 March. The event was one of the major multistakeholder Internet Governance meeting with approximately 600 participants from governments, civil society organizations and private sector. DPADM participated in various substantive activities including the panel discussions on "Internet Governance Landscape", preparation of the 2012 IGF in Baku, Azerbaijan and meetings with IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) thematic working group coordinators and ICANN senior management to exchange ideas, strategies on remote participation and general logistical issues. DPADM also met with number of government officials, representatives of academia and private sector to discuss the development of the internet governance capacity building and knowledge sharing program for the developing countries. It is planned to organize a group of the United Nations, international and local experts from Costa Rica to develop a pilot capacity building training program with online and on site training options.

8. Official Mission from the Republic of Korea visits DPADM to strengthen cooperation on e-Government development

Mr. Yoonkee Chung, Director General for Information Security Policy and Mr. Ko Woong-Joe, Director of the International Administrative Development Center of the Ministry for Public Administration and Security (MOPAS) visited DPADM on 20 March 2010. They mentioned that H.E. Minister Maeng "*is very honoured and pleased to have been ranked in the first position of the UN E-Government Survey 2012*". He added that the Republic of Korea "*feels a sense of heightened responsibility and duty in terms of global improvement of e-government development*". He also mentioned that "*e-government is a very strong tool for national advancement and development*". The Republic of Korea expressed interest in strengthening cooperation and invited DPADM to co-organize the "First Global e-Government Forum" to be opened by the President or Prime-Minister of the Republic of Korea in October 2012, counting on 500 participants, including 50 Ministers. DPADM agreed that e-government "*helps promote transparency, public policy development and overall improvement in people's lives*". DPADM and MOPAS also discussed strengthened cooperation to enhance the operations of the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), based in Seoul.

9. Caribbean Heads of State adopts Caribbean Regional e-Government Strategy

Caribbean Regional e-Government Strategy developed by Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) in cooperation with DESA through DPADM has been approved by the Caribbean Heads of State at the CARICOM Summit last year. CARICAD proposed to meet with DPADM during the Committee of Experts of Public Administration meetings from 16th-20th April to discuss the ways to strengthen cooperation for e-Government development in the Caribbean Region.

10. Application of Information and Communication Technologies in Turkmenistan Assembly Reviewed

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Representatives from DPADM and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament visited Turkmenistan to provide technical support in revision of practices and standards of application of ICTs in the Assembly of Turkmenistan, jointly implemented by the Assembly and UNDP. The specific objectives of the visit were to conduct needs assessment of information technology resources of the Assembly and to support it in identifying strategic ICT objectives, including the development of the parliamentary website and introduction of an electronic document management system. Implementation of these activities is expected to: (i) strengthen the institutional capacity of the Assembly; (ii) improve legislative process; (iii) strengthen representative and control functions of the members of the parliaments; (iv) and improve the outreach of the parliament.

During the meetings with senior management of the Assembly and members of the parliament, the international standards on application of ICTs in the work of national parliaments were presented. In addition, modernizing technological infrastructure of the Assmbly through the introduction of ICT tools and enlargement and reinforcement of its human resources capacity in ICT were discussed. The round-table discussions with members and staffers of parliament, focusing on most important aspects related to the introduction of ICT in the work of parliaments also took place. As a next step, UNDP-Ashgabat requested DESA through DPADM's Global Centre for ICT Parliament to pay a visit to explore a possibility of adapting Bungeni and Acomontoso open source and data standard application which were introduced to African Parliaments by DESA to meet the needs of the Assembly of Turkmenistan.

12. DPADM Leads Advanced Level Training on Legal and Contractual Procedures

Requested by the Department of Management, within the framework of the Capacity Development Programme of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts, DPADM representative conducted the Advanced Level Training on Legal and Contractual Procedures to staff members of all DPKO missions in Africa. The Training took place in Entebbe's DPKO Regional Support Base and is part of the decentralization plan the UN is executing to increase the delegated authority of all UN Missions and offices away from headquarters around the world.