UN Public Administration Programme

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: August 2012

1. Workshop on "Leadership Capacity-Development for Improved Delivery of Public Services in Africa using Information and Communication Technologies"

At the African Ministerial Workshop on 24 July, 2012, Namibia's Deputy Prime Minister expressed interest in collaborating with DPADM/ DESA, through UNPOG on e-government related issues. Additionally, Seychelles, who ranked first in e-government development in the African region, requested UNPOG's technical advice and support from the Korean Government in exploring relevant public and private institutions as well as applicable technologies. These were the results of presentations made on "Enhanced Public Service Delivery Using ICT" and "Leadership in E-Government Development" by DPADM's affiliate, UNPOG, as part of the workshop on "Leadership Capacity-Development for Improved Delivery of Public Services in Africa using Information and Communication Technologies" in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, on 23-25 July 2012. The workshop was organized by DPADM's eGB and PACB.

2. Mission to Azerbaijan

Mr. Ali Abbasov, Minister of Communication and Information Technologies (ICT) of Azerbaijan, reiterated the government's commitment to provide full support and assistance towards making the 6-9 November 2012 IGF meeting successful. This was arrived at after a DPADM led UN mission to Baku, met senior government officials from the Department of Public and Political Issues of the Administration of the President, the Ministries of Internal Affairs and ICT, the Special State Protection Service and the Baku Expo. Centre to discuss various substantive, legal, administrative and logistic issues related to the Forum.

3. In-House Seminar on Open Government Data (OGD)

On 26 July 2012, DPADM hosted an in-house seminar on Open Government Data (OGD) with Messrs. Andrew Nicklin and Girish Chhugani from the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications in charge of the NYC Open Data portal. They made a presentation on how open datasets are used in the City of New York and the benefits of open data competitions for residents and gave an indication of some future projects about open data in the city.

NYC Open Data Portal collects public data generated by New York City agencies and makes it available for public use. Most recently, at the 2012 UN Public Service Awards, Open data was cited as having contributed to NYC311, City of New York's customer service, which was awarded the first place in Category 2: "Improving the Delivery of Public Services".

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4. Report on the Eleventh Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

The Report and Resolution on the Eleventh session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), which was held from 16-20 April, 2012 and the Provisional Agenda for the next CEPA meeting in April of 2013 were recently adopted at ECOSOC's annual substantive session which ended on 27 July, 2012. The main issues of the resolution for consideration by the Council were:

To take note with appreciation of the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in its eleventh session on local public governance and administration for results, particularly the special emphasis on the role of citizens' engagement, human capital development, including training and education of public servants, and fair allocation of resources in strengthening governance at all levels, particularly the local level.

To invite the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, in the framework of the preparations for its twelfth session, to study the effect of specific practices in responsive and inclusive public governance on development, bearing in mind the need to promote high standards of public sector integrity, transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, at national and local levels, to promote equal access to public services, and provide opportunities for all people to participate in the conduct of public affairs; and requests the Committee to convey the outcome of the study to the Council through its twelfth report in April 2013 with a view to assisting the process of preparing for deliberations on a post-2015 development agenda

To invite Member States and other institutional donors to consider contributing to the relevant trust funds of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management, for extending its capacity building programmes and outreach activities, as appropriate.

Additionally, the resolution requests the Secretariat to: a) increase the scope and depth of its online and offline capacity development training and to further develop its Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS), b) give due recognition to innovative public sector initiatives by Member States through the promotion and strengthening of the United Nations Public Service Day and Public Service Awards, c) support the development of the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) for partnership-building, knowledge dissemination and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in the area of public administration, and d) assist the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society on issues related to electronic and mobile government.

For further information, please visit:
http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/CEPA/11thSession/tabid/1505/language/en-US/Default.aspx

5. Annual Conference of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA)

As part of an agreed program and outputs of its work, the DESA/ International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) joint International Task Force on "Strengthening public administration at local level for the achievement of the development agendas" agreed to carry out regional research on the status of public administration in local governments. The report on the research will initially be presented and discussed during the Commonwealth Local Governments

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Forum in Kampala, Uganda, in 2013 and, thereafter in June 2013, at the IASIA conference, in Bahrain, where the task force will further discuss and consolidate it, including input from the Kampala meeting. This was agreed after the task force met during the annual conference of the IASIA in Bangkok, Thailand, from 16 to 21 July, 2012.

6. Launch of Handbook Titled "Information and Communication Technologies in Parliamentary Library"

The handbook titled "Information and Communication Technologies in Parliamentary Library" which is prepared by the DPADM project office, the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament was successfully launched and distributed to participants on 8 August, 2012, at a training session on strategic management of ICT in parliamentary libraries. Participants also took part in the 28th Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Pre Conference of Library and Research Services for Parliaments on the theme of "Parliamentary libraries – empowering parliaments and citizens" on 9 and 10 August, 2012. The training and pre conference were organized by DPADM through DESA, , the Library of the Parliament of Finland and the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

The Handbook is available in pdf and ePub formats on the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament website at http://www.ictparliament.org/handbook-libraries

7. Meeting with the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD)

The African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), pledged to provide substantive input to DPADM/DESA, as a focal point for the African region, for the development of the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS). This pledge was made during a meeting between Dr. Simon Mamosi Lelo, Director-General, CAFRAD and Haiyan Qian, at which Dr. Lelo expressed his organization's willingness to do more towards the development of UNPACS, which he believes would be very useful to Member States. CAFRAD has been a partner of the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN), which is coordinated by DPADM and has provided committed support towards the advancement of public administration in the region over the last 12 years.

8. Meeting with Director, Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)

In response to a DSPD request, DPADM agreed to provide substantive contribution towards a framework for promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all. At a meeting on 28 August, 2012, the two Directors shared the need to work together towards this major undertaking on analysis of the priority theme for the Commission for Social Development in 2013 and 2014.