



DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: September 2012

1. Mission to Brunei Darussalam

The Government of Brunei Darussalam expressed a wish to expand its collaboration with DPADM/DESA, especially in the area of building capacity for senior members of government on e-government, open data, knowledge management and citizen engagement. This was established during a mission, undertaken by DPADM's IRA, Mr. Richard Kerby, from 25 August to 1 September, 2012, which included a two day workshop on the United Nations e-Government Survey, Open Data and the advisory services provided by DPADM/DESA. The workshop looked at the strengths and challenges of the government on organization, e-services, e-participation, citizen engagement, leadership, technology, CIOs, content, private sector, access to information and broadband. The participants embraced the concept of "Open Data" and identified over 70 data sets, which could be converted to open data within their respective ministries and institutions. Mr. Kerby met with representatives of five ministries during the week and advised them to develop more e-services and improve their web content, most of which is currently for internal use.

2. Simplification and Modernization of Public Administration in Costa Rica

An e-Government project to be implemented by DPADM/DESA at the request of the Government of Costa Rica, through the Ministries of Science and Technology and Economy, Industry and Commerce, was the outcome of a mission by DPADM's IRA, Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch, to Costa Rica from 27 August to 1 September, 2012. The project will focus on; a) capacity building for e-Government, considering specific needs of selected institutions, b) development of key performance indicators (KPIs), c) support in the integration of digital policy and elimination of institutional barriers, and d) innovations and references from other countries and their possible application to Costa Rica. Mr. Rabinovitch met high ranking government officials and attended a seminar with high-level directors from key strategic sectors working with information and communication technologies in Costa Rica.

3. Possible Advisory Services in Togo

A delegation from the Government of Togo consisting of Mr. Palouki Massina, Minister, Secretary General of Government, Mr. M. Tak Youssif Gnongbo, Secretary General of Public Service Ministry and President of Technical Committee of Public Administration Reform, accompanied by Mr. Siaka Coulibally, Country Advisor, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP and Mr. M. Souleymane Nasser Niane, Chief Technical Adviser of Public Administration Reform, DESA, met with Haiyan Qian on 11 September, 2012, to understand DPADM/DESA's work and explore the possibility of embarking on a second phase of the technical development project, ATLAS 00062542, which has a portfolio of USD 2,052,368.85.

Haiyan Qian gave them a snapshot of DESA's work on advocacy, research and analysis, partnership and networking and advisory services. She further appraised them on DPADM's work in the focus areas of institution building and human resources development, governance in seamless public service delivery and citizen engagement in managing development. Mr. Massina appreciated the comprehensive update and expressed his delegations' wish to finalise and make a proposal by the end of their mission to New York on 17 September, 2012. The delegation has met with DPADM Branch



Chiefs, representatives from DESA's CDO, DSD and DPAD, as well as UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa and Bureau for Policy Development. They will also be meeting with representatives from the University of Columbia.

4. 12th Annual Conference of the League of Arab States

Ms. Elia Armstrong, Acting Chief, DMB/DPADM/DESA consulted with colleagues from ESCWA and UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States about collaboration towards an upcoming expert group meeting and capacity development workshop on citizen engagement which will be organized by DPADM. This was done during the 12th Annual Conference of the League of Arab States from 8-10 September in Cairo, Egypt, where Ms. Armstrong chaired a UNDP organized panel on "Good Governance and the Establishment of the Institution-Based State". The objective of the conference was to discuss the concepts and experiences of building and strengthening public institutions in good governance, particularly for those countries in transition in the Arab region.

The final communiqué from UNDP's panel on anti-corruption resulted in highlighting the importance of ratifying and implementing the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, particularly in countering corruption in key public services for human development. The conference was organized by the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO), in collaboration with ESCWA, UNDP, the World Bank, the OECD and TI and hosted by the Ministry of State for Administrative Development of Egypt.

5. DPADM Meeting

DPADM held a division-wide meeting on Tuesday 18 September at which Branches and Units presented on their progress in the development of the Division's United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS) knowledge base. It was reported that Branches and Units have made significant progress on gathering data and information from all 193 Member States on policies and regulatory frameworks, organizational frameworks, and case studies in the area of public administration at the national level. It was noted that UNPACS will provide inputs to the next meeting of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and will aim to contribute inputs to the Post 2015 Development Agenda. It is anticipated that the first phase of UNPACS will become available 31 October 2012.

6. Strengthening Cooperation between DPADM and UNODC

At the request of Mr. Dmitri Vlassis, Chief, Economic and Crime Branch, UNODC, Haiyan Qian met and discussed further cooperation between the two agencies. The meeting was an opportunity to clarify current and future projects that both are working on, and how each can participate in the activities of the other. Currently, UNODC collaborates with DPADM to validate and evaluate the first category of the United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA), on preventing and combating corruption in the public service. They also discussed the possible involvement of UNODC in the UN/INTOSAI Symposium, titled "Audit & Counselling by SAIs: Risk & Opportunities, as well as Possibilities for Engaging Citizens" to be co sponsored by DPADM in March 2013.



7. Strengthen Legislative Capacities of the National Assembly in Chad

DESA, through DPADM, and UNDP will finalize a list presented to the Government of Chad and use the result as the basis for a Letter of Agreement to guide their work towards building capacities of members and management of the National Assembly. The initial list was presented by DPADM's IRA, Mr. Ulrich Graute, at a meeting to elaborate the 2012-13 working plan with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning, Economy and International Cooperation, along with two Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General of the National Assembly. At the meeting, discussions on the substantive cooperation between DPADM, UNDP and the Government of Chad to strengthen legislative capacities of the National Assembly were held.

8. Mission to United Arab Emirates

The Federal e-Government Team of the UAE requested DESA, through DPADM, to continue its support of the Government's e-government activities. A project document developed by both parties was submitted to the e-Government Teams' finance department for final approval. Additionally, DPADM's IRA, Mr. Richard Kerby delivered a keynote presentation at the Gulf Cooperation Council e-Participation and e-Governance Forum held on 10-11 September 2012 in Abu Dhabi. He shared the findings and lessons of the United Nations E-Government Survey which was well received.

9. World Urban Forum 2012

At a contact group meeting at the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat invited DESA, through DPADM, to join a group of United Nations Agencies and Member States working on the development of a "United Nations Guidelines for Urban and Territorial Planning". Additionally, and as a next step in the new cooperation with UN-Habitat, DPADM's IRA, Mr. Ulrich Graute, was invited to give a presentation at the National Planning Conference of Egypt in Cairo in December 2012. Mr. Graute moderated one of the Forum's networking events titled "Regional Planning and Institutions in the Arab Countries", which was organized by Egypt's Governmental Office of Physical Planning. The World Urban Forum was held in Naples, Italy on 2-6 September 2012.

10. World e-Parliament Conference 2012

The World e-Parliament Conference 2012 provided the opportunity to officially launch the World e-Parliament Report 2012, which draws attention to the newest technology trends and calls upon parliaments that have developed advanced use of technology to continue to share their know-how and tools with other parliaments. The conference analyzed good practices, latest trends and institutional developments during discussions by speakers, members of parliament, parliamentary staff and experts from more than 110 parliamentary delegations from 90 countries.

The conference was co-organized by the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) of the [Global Centre for ICT in Parliament](#), a project activity managed by DPADM/DESA.



11 DPADM Meeting with ASG, DESA

At a meeting requested by Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Assistant Secretary-General, DESA, on 27 September, 2012, she expressed her approval and support of DPADM's work towards enhancing the spread of whole-of-government approach towards public governance across all the Member States and promised to work closely with Haiyan Qian and the Division. Highlighting her experience in the field of governance and financial management, she expressed her willingness to project the Divisions' work, noting that it is an area close to her heart. She advised the Division to take stock of the governance gains in their respective areas of work and think of ways to achieve credible results in the spread of public administration, which she views as a subset of governance.

In response to Ms. Shamshad Akhtar's question about DPADM's work, Haiyan Qian explained the Divisions' holistic approach towards enhancing public governance, highlighting DPADM's strategic structure in focusing on the different facets of public administration and capacity building, electronic governance and citizen engagement for development management, as well as the latest trends in managing open government data.

She further touched on the Divisions' work and participation towards the post 2015 consultation process, pointing out that whereas MDGs focused on sector based challenges, there was need to highlight cross cutting issues such as governance. She indicated that the MDGs identified symptoms, but not the root causes and that focus needs to shift to the capacity of national and local governments and their environments, as they are the key players in implementation of the agenda. One case for emphasis, she said, was e-governance, which is very current and has the potential to advance development and promote good governance as cited by the President of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves during his address to the 2012 GA.

Commenting on the way forward for the post 2015 agenda, Haiyan Qian quoted from the communication message disseminated by the Special Advisor to the SG on the post 2015 process, that, "the delivery of the new framework of the post 2015 is the prerogative of the Member States through Ms Akhtar. She continued to say that the Division is in line with this message as it has been working on the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS) which is designed to provide the Member States with analytical and evidence based data and practices of the 193 Member States. She added that the Division will continue to assist the Departmental Task Force, the UN Task Team, as well as the UNDG led global consultation process at the country level, regarding the post 2015 process. She suggested that DESA should take the lead, through DPADM, in taking stock of governance related issues undertaken by various agencies within the UN system and clarify the role and focus areas under the term "governance", to enable "delivery as one".

Lastly, Haiyan Qian presented Ms. Shamshad Akhtar with DPADM's eLibrary USB card containing all products and services provided to the United Nations Public Administration Programme by DPADM.