



DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: November 2012

1. International Conference on E-Governance (ICEGOV 2012)

At the International Conference on the theory and practice of e-Governance (ICEGOV), co-organized by DPADM/DESA, United Nations University and University of Albany held in Albany, NY, from 22 to 25, Haiyan Qian highlighted that a Post 2015 global sustainable agenda would require governments, civil society and the private sector to become effective partners, leveraging on the transformative power of e-governance frameworks. In a statement read on her behalf by DPADM's IRA, Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch, she outlined key global trends such as open government, collaborative government, use of social media for enhanced civic participation and the overall actual and potential impact of e-government policies in addressing the MDGs and SDGs under discussion. Her observations echoed similar trends to those made by conference participants on the various dimensions of e-government development across the world and marked the conclusion of the conference.

2. Global e-Government Forum: Smart e-Government for a Better Future

The Global e-Government Forum: Smart e-Government for a Better Future, jointly organized by DPADM/DESA, Korea's Ministry of Public Administration and Security (MOPAS) and Ministry of Knowledge Economy in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 18 to 19 October resolved to: i) increase knowledge of recent trends and challenges, and sharing of best practices and tools in e-government, the results of which will be shared further through United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS), DPADM's new online knowledge platform; ii) promote the United Nations e-Government Survey and increase visibility of UNPOG's role in promoting e-government in the Asia Pacific region; iii) increase awareness of the United Nations regional commissions' aid strategies for e-government assistance in their respective regions; iv) raise awareness and promote the global CIO Network as a vehicle for sharing country experiences and developing inter-governmental and cross-sectoral cooperation mechanisms in designing and implementing ICT-enabled public services; and v) adopt the Seoul Communiqué as a guide for requisite follow-up measures to enhance global e-government cooperation among United Nations Member States.

3. Meeting with the President of Azerbaijan

On 5 November 2012, DESA's USG, Mr. Wu and DPADM Director, Ms. Haiyan Qian met with the President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, at the margins of the 7th Internet Governance Forum (IGF), organised by DPADM/DESA through the IGF Secretariat at Baku, Azerbaijan, from 6-9 November 2012.

While Mr. Wu thanked the Azerbaijani President for the excellent hosting of the 7th Internet Governance Forum, the Head of State expressed his appreciation and stressed on the significance of the presence of Mr. Wu at the 7th IGF.

Mr. Wu, noted that the Azerbaijani Government attaches special attention to the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development and hailed cooperation between the United Nations and Azerbaijan. The President underscored that he strongly promotes the use of ICTs for public service delivery and the government has identified development of ICTs including e-government as one of the key priorities in Azerbaijan.



President Ilham Aliyev expressed confidence that cooperation between the United Nations and Azerbaijan would continue to develop, including the potential collaboration in the area of e-government development.

4. DPADM and the Prime Minister's Office of the Government of Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) Strengthen Collaboration by Organising Summit

DPADM's Senior Public Governance and Administration Officer, Ms. Adriana Alberti, held telephone discussions with the Prime Minister's Office of the Government of Dubai (UAE) to strengthen collaboration in the organisation of the Government Summit to be held on 11 and 12 February 2013 in Dubai. The two parties reiterated an agreement made between Ms. Haiyan Qian and senior officials of the Government of Dubai that the Division will take a leading role in the organisation of a Ministerial Round-Table on Innovation and Technology in Public Governance and organize three parallel workshops on related themes. The overall purpose of the Summit will be to strengthen the capacity of the public sector in the Arab countries by providing a platform for knowledge sharing of emerging issues and trends in public governance, as well as on innovative practices that have won the United Nations Public Service Awards. Additionally, the Government of Dubai undertook to translate DPADM's flagship publications, namely the 2012 e-Government Report, the "Good Practices and Innovations in Public Governance: United Nations Public Service Awards Winners" and the World Public Sector Report on "Unlocking the Human Potential".

5. E-Government Capacity-Building Workshop in Brunei Darussalam

DPADM's IRA, Mr. Richard Kerby participated in a capacity-building workshop on e-government for senior government officials of Brunei Darussalam from 30 to 31 October 2012 and made a presentation about the United Nations E-Government Survey, which was very well received by officials. The project document resulting from this is being finalized to assist Brunei in the support of its e-government development.

6. Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held in Baku, Azerbaijan, whose theme was "Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development", held a record number of workshops, best practice forums, dynamic coalition meetings and open forums. More than 1630 onsite participants from over 128 countries convened at the 7th IGF, while 3800 unique visitors connected remotely. The Forum hosted 429 government representatives, 161 representatives from the technical and academia community, 268 representatives from the private sector, 541 from the civil society, 96 representatives from international organisations, and 123 accredited journalists.

The sessions allowed participants to delve into both complicated and oftentimes controversial issues in an open and intimate manner. Topics at the workshops and other meetings ranged from issues related to cyber-security and child protection online, the rise of social networks, the use of 'big data', and various aspects of human rights as they related to the Internet, among many others. DPI has so far gathered over 1000 articles published in 30 countries in English, German, Azerbaijani, Turkish and Russian. The bulk of the coverage was in the United States, Germany, India and in the host country, Azerbaijan.



7. World e-Governments Organization of Cities and Local Governments (WeGO) 2nd General Assembly

The 2nd General Assembly of WeGO was hosted by the City of Barcelona on 12-13 November, bringing together mayors, chief information officers and public officials as well as thought leaders and business partners. The main theme of the conference was “Smart Government with All”. DESA through DPADM participated as an observer and briefed participants on progress towards a post-2015 development agenda and presented ideas about investing in the future we want, taking into account some of the perennial challenges that cities and local governments face. DPADM representative also met with officials of the InfoComm Development Authority (IDA) of Singapore at their request, including the national CIO, to discuss items of mutual interest.

According to the organizers:

- Right now, more than half of the global population lives in cities. By 2025, it is expected that over 75 per cent of people worldwide will live in an urban area. These major shifts in population put new demands and expectations on municipal governments. The importance of providing efficient and cost-effective public services has never been more important. Compounded by global economic struggles and a lack of citizen trust, the need for a smart government is now.
- A smart government commits to the innovation of public services and encourages citizens to become active participants in decisions that affect their lives by creating a culture of transparency and using technology to the best of our abilities.
- The conference explored what cities all around the world are doing to create and implement a smart government. From the implementation of open data tools to better understanding how to leverage e-government, the General Assembly provided the opportunity to hear from thought leaders and industry experts, share knowledge and best practices, and exchange ideas with cities on future challenges.

8. DESA, the Government of Finland and European Commission to Collaborate Towards Co-organizing a Pan-European e-Government Conference

The European Commission (EC) expressed commitment to partner with DPADM/DESA and the Government of Finland to co-organize a Pan-European e-government conference. This was the outcome of a meeting held from 6 to 9 November 2012 in Finland, between representatives of the three parties to present and exchange information on e-government work and flagship projects. They agreed to hold the conference from 28 to 30 May 2013 under the theme of “Integrated, no-silo approach to e-government development” as well as finalise the Host Country Agreement (HCA) and develop a clear understanding of views of the EC and the Government of Finland on e-government in the collaboration with DESA through the conference and beyond, possibly through a CIO-network

9. Final Evaluation of DPADM/DESA Project “Support to the Africa i-Parliament Action Plan”

DPADM/DESA was represented by Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Chief, PACB at a workshop for the final evaluation of DESA Project, titled “Support to the Africa i-Parliament Action Plan”, held on 20 November 2012 in Kenya. Participants concluded that the project achieved much especially in the development of Bungeni and Akomantoso Parliamentary Information Systems to promote open



democratic and responsive parliaments. The establishment of the Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN), which will sustain the work of developing the capacities of parliaments in Africa, even when the project closes, was also noted. Participants emphasized that the work of developing the capacities of parliaments in Africa is an on-going process and that African parliaments should further mobilize internal and external funds to sustain this work which is critical to good governance and democratization, especially since the project is scheduled to close by March 2013.

10. Capacity Building Workshop on Enhancing Performance Management to Improve Public Service Delivery in Africa

Participants called upon countries to consider implementation of performance management as a key driver for reform in the public sector as part of their efforts towards realizing development goals, including the MDG's. The remarks were made in recognition of human resource development as a vital component in the successful implementation of performance management systems at a capacity building workshop jointly organized by DPADM/DESA and the Africa Public Sector Human Resource Managers' Network (APS-HRMnet). The workshop, which was held on the occasion of the 34th Annual Round Table Conference of the Association for Public Policy and Management (AAPAM) in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 12 to 16 November 2012 also saw the election of a new bureau to serve the APS-HRMnet for the next three years.

11. Update on United Nations Call for Nominations for Public Service Awards for 2013

The United Nations has concluded the briefing sessions to the United Nations Permanent Missions in New York on the United Nations Public Service Awards 2013. The awards which are held annually on 23 June as part of the United Nations Public Service Awards Day, Ceremony and Forum will mark the eleventh anniversary of the programme. They are designed to promote and support innovations in public service delivery worldwide in the following areas: Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Public Service; Improving the Delivery of Services; Fostering Participation in Policymaking Decisions through Innovative Mechanisms; Promoting Whole-of-Government Approaches in the Information Age and Promoting Gender-responsive Delivery of Public Services.

DPADM/DESA conducts three information sessions to sensitize Member States about the awards through their Permanent Missions in New York. This year, the sessions were held on 6, 15 and 27 November 2012 at Two UN Plaza, Conference Room DC2 – 1725, New York. The Permanent Missions that attended the briefings are Austria, Australia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Germany, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United Kingdom. Detailed information on the programme can be accessed at <http://www.unpan.org/unpsa> and nominations can be made online at <http://www.unpan.org/applyunpsa2013>.