

**Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government:  
Toward Participatory and Transparent Governance  
24-27 May 2005, Seoul, Republic of Korea**

**AIDE MEMOIRE**

**SPONSORSHIP**

The Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government will be organized by the Government of the Republic of Korea, with the support of the United Nations, and held in Seoul, from 24 to 27 May 2005.

The Sixth Global Forum will include five plenary sessions and nine parallel capacity development workshops on different aspects of participatory and transparent governance. The plenary sessions will be organized by the Korean Government in cooperation with the United Nations. The workshops will be organized by the entities of the UN system in cooperation with the Institutional Partners Group, composed of global and regional institutions, and with the financial support of the Government of Italy, to be held in Seoul.

The Institutional Partners Group includes UNDESA, UNDP, UN HABITAT, UNICEF, OECD, CIVICUS, World Bank, Harvard University, the Ministry of Public Administration of Italy, Board of Audit and Inspection of the Republic of Korea (BAI), Formez Study and Training Center, International IDEA, International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), Korean Association for Public Administration (KAPA), Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management (KDI), Korea Institute for Public Administration (KIPA), Korea Research Institute for Local Administration (KRILA), National Computerization Agency (NCA), Transparency International (TI), and the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs of Korea (MOGAHA).

## **BACKGROUND**

The First Global Forum was organized by the Government of the United States in 1999. Since then, it has emerged as one of the most significant global events dealing with the reinvention of government. Subsequent forums were organized by the Government of Brazil, Italy, Morocco, and Mexico. During the Fifth Global Forum held in Mexico City in November 2003, the Prime Minister of Korea invited participants to the Sixth Global Forum to be held in Seoul in 2005. The participants endorsed the recommendation of the Government of Mexico to accept the kind invitation of the Korean Government.

In his 2002 report to the General Assembly, the Secretary General of the United Nations endorsed continued support, if requested, to any Member State organizing the Global Forum, in view of its significance for ministers, senior government officials, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides support for organizing the Forum. Since 2001, the Government of Italy has provided financial support to organize capacity development workshops in the forum to provide opportunities for high level training and the sharing of good practices among senior officials from developing countries. During the Fifth Global Forum, the representative of Italy stated that the Italian Government would support workshops in the next Forum.

## **MAIN THEME**

Previous Forums have focused on different themes to reinvent government, such as democratic institutions in Brazil, e-government in Italy, partnerships for democracy and development in Morocco, and innovation and quality in Mexico. The Korean Government and the United Nations have selected “Toward Participatory and Transparent Governance” as the main theme of the Sixth Global Forum.

The four main tenets of governance that the Korean Government is committed to uphold are principles and trust, fairness and transparency, dialogue and compromise, and decentralization of power and autonomy. Korea's "Participatory Government" has pursued these values and principles when dealing with all sectors and processes of governance.

Against this backdrop, Korea has consistently sought to reinvent its government with the objective of establishing a transparent and accountable administration that is founded on the basis of partnership between the State (which includes central and local government), business, and civil society. In addition, the Korean Government has been laying the foundation for sustained development through the pursuit of market reform in order to ensure transparent and equitable competition.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Millennium Summit Declaration calls for the respect for human rights, the promotion of democracy, and good governance which includes efficient and effective public administration. Good governance is a necessary condition to achieve each of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) -- eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, universal primary education, promotion of gender equality, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and promoting a global partnership for development. Consequently, governments in developing countries and international development partners have significantly increased their financial support to strengthen and encourage governance systems and processes to be more participatory, transparent, and accountable.

The need to improve governance capacity and trust in government is widely recognized as essential to cope with the challenges and opportunities of globalization and e-government through interactions of the state, the market, and civil society. To achieve the goal of people-centered development through improved governability, two central issues of our time are popular participation and transparency of governance, which require innovations in the current operation of the governance system.

Participatory governance entails the close involvement of people in economic, political, cultural, and social processes that affect them, providing access to decision-making and power. It facilitates the access of people as individuals or groups to a wide range of opportunities which, in turn, promote the responsiveness of governance actors towards people-centred development. It includes three main forms of participation: (1) economic participation, which provides opportunities for people, including women and marginalized groups, to use their capabilities and gain income to increase their choices; (2) political participation, which includes the freedom of speech and association, guarantees of human rights, free and fair elections, multi-party system, and rule of law; and (3) social and cultural participation, which implies the rights of all people and their communities to shape their own social and cultural environments including through language, art and music. These forms of participation are complementary. Progress in one area can positively affect progress in another.

Many recent trends have improved the environment for participatory governance. These trends include the rapid pace of democratization in developing countries including regular elections, multi-party systems, and new human rights institutions; dismantling of state controls and the provision of new opportunities for participation in economic activities; the information revolution through radio, TV, internet, and newspapers which has dramatically increased the access of the people to the information about national and global events; and the local, national, and global expansion of non-governmental organizations, which work in sectors such as primary health care, education, and shelter. These achievements lead eventually to the enhancement of governance capacity. Despite the progress made in participatory governance, several segments of the society continue to be excluded from benefits of development including the rural and urban poor, ethnic and religious minorities, and women and children.

Transparent governance implies openness of the governance system through clear processes and procedures and easy access by citizens to public information. High levels of transparency stimulate ethical awareness in public service through information sharing, which ultimately ensures the accountability of individuals and organizations that handle resources and/or

hold public office for their performance. There are three dimensions of accountability: financial accountability through the use of power and authority to report on intended and actual use of resources; political accountability through a system of checks and balances among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; and administrative accountability through internal governmental controls, which include civil service standards, incentives, administrative reviews, and oversight. A lack of transparency increases corruption in governance. The three dimensions of accountability eventually contribute to trust building in governance.

Accountable governance requires the independence of the judiciary, effective systems of checks on the executive power, freedom of the media, and a vibrant civil society. It also requires institutional mechanisms at the national and local government levels for holding public officials accountable, effectively functioning parliaments that provide mechanisms for the representation of different segments of the society, anti-corruption bodies, and free and fair elections held at regular intervals.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Sixth Global Forum will provide an opportunity to the participants to:

- provide a platform for introducing various countries' experiences in government reinvention, seeking a framework and strategy for future innovations in governance;
- promote cooperation between government, the private sector, and civil society organizations to improve the quality of governance at national and local levels;
- discuss key issues regarding participatory and transparent governance to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- identify potential areas of South-South and North-South cooperation and action at the local, national, and international levels to enhance the capacity of countries for participatory and transparent governance and to cope with the challenges of globalization; and

- lay the foundation for a “Global Network for Reinvention” which will interconnect the key players in governance: government, business, and civil society.

## **FORMAT**

The Sixth Forum on Reinventing Government will proceed in the following order: opening ceremony, plenary sessions with a special session entitled “Korea Day,” workshops, and closing ceremony. In addition, the Ministerial Round Table on Innovation, the Governors’ and Mayors’ Round Table, and the International Innovation Exhibition will be organized as side events.

The opening ceremony, held during the first half of May 24, and the plenary sessions will feature incumbent and former heads of state and prime ministers, representatives of international organizations, academia and civil society to deliver welcoming remarks and keynote speeches.

The Korean Government will organize the plenary sessions, which will be held on the second half of May 24 and May 25. The plenaries will consist of five sessions, each devoted to a different sector of governance such as government, business, and civil society. Each session will be composed of two panels wherein top government officials and experts will deliver keynote speeches and case presentations. The sessions will deal with the following themes and issues:

### **<Session 1> Government Innovation and Governance: Changing Role of the State in the Governance Paradigm**

#### **- Government Innovation Strategies for Good Governance**

Redefinition of the role of Government; regulatory reform, privatization and outsourcing; the establishment of performance-based management systems in terms of quality of policies, HRM, financial management and policy evaluation; expanded public participation in policy-making process through information disclosure, advance administrative notices, and the incorporation of suggestions made by the general public; the strengthening of partnerships with civil society; and change management.

**- Trust in Government and Public Service Ethics**

Promotion of public service ethics; abolishment of state-business collusion; elimination of corruption through institutional reform, regulations, and improved inspection systems; enhanced transparency and accountability in public service through information disclosure, transparent HRM, accounting and procurement systems; identity verification of policy makers, improved national archive management, Online Procedures Enhancement for Civil Applications System, and control in administration; and the installation of an Ombudsman System.

**- Transparent and Participatory e-Government**

Improvements to the work process through IT applications in administrative affairs, information sharing, and integrated management of information resources; improvements to the public service delivery system through on-line disclosure of all service processes, increased e-services, public portal service, and one-stop e-service for the business sector; heightened popular participation online; online disclosure of administrative information; adoption of online forums and e-voting systems; and the establishment of privacy protection systems.

**<Session 2> Democratic Governance and Social Integration:  
Democratic Capacity Building for Societal Partnership**

**- Democratic Politics and Governance**

Limitations of representative democracy and governance as an alternative; political leadership, transparency of political institutions, and power structures with checks and balances; and the reform of election systems, political parties, and parliament.

**- Social Cohesion for Sustainable Development**

Reduced disparity between the rich and the poor; participatory welfare and promoting quality of life; growth and distribution; cooperative labor-management relations; and social cohesion through reducing discrimination and strengthening the social safety net.

**- Resolution of Social Conflicts**

Conflict prevention and the establishment of warning systems; construction of a favorable environment for conflict solving through participation and cooperation; conflict settlement based on law and principle; conflict mediation in government vs. private and private vs. private scenarios, and establishment of regulatory organizations to settle conflicts within the government, including those that occur between the executive branch vs. parliament.

**<Session 3> Market Economy and Corporate Governance: Fairness and Transparency for Sustainable Growth**

**- Free and Fair Market Order**

Structural reform, market reform, regulatory reform, and financial reform; the promotion of competitiveness and investment; protection of stakeholders; and the elimination of collusions between government and business.

**- Transparent and Accountable Corporate Governance**

Establishment of sound business cultures; ownership reform of private corporations and SOE; transparency and accountability in management; transparency in financial and accounting systems; and effective internal & external audit systems.

**- Corporate Ethics & Social Responsibility**

Entrepreneurship, societal contributions of the business sector; government-business partnerships; sustainable growth; corruption elimination; and multinational corporate ethics.

**<Session 4> Local Governance and Participatory Democracy: Making Local Governance Work**

**- Decentralization, Innovation and Regional Development**

Local autonomy system reform; strengthening local autonomy capacity; building foundations for local finance; informatization promotion; local government reinvention through readjustment and effective performance management; balanced growth and regional development; the promotion

of local industry, revitalization of local universities; and improvements to the quality of life of residents.

**- Cooperation and Partnership in Local Governance**

Revitalization of local politics through local election and assembly system improvements, strengthening the political rights of residents; and building a cooperative governance system (vertical & horizontal governance, constructing RIS, and activating civil society).

**- Holding Local Governance Accountable and Transparent**

Reinforcing the accountability of local governments; reinforcing democratic control over local governments through internal control, control by the central government, market, and citizens; enhancing an evaluation system on local governments; and public service ethics.

**<Session 5> Civil Society and Participatory Governance: Challenges and Prospects**

**- State, Market, and Civil Society: Productive Cooperation & Tension**

State and civil society: monitoring public administration through information disclosure and public participation; conflict management (cooperation and tension); representative democracy and public participation; democracy and civic movement; role of civil society in the process of democratization; and the political participation and limitations of NGOs.

Market and civil society: monitoring market & corporate action and controlling speculative capital; promoting social capital (cooperation and trust).

Capitalism and civic movement: obtaining economic justice through reform of the financial system, real estate policy, and the tax system.

**- Capacity and Responsibility of Civil Society**

NGOs and civic movement; civil society ethics and desirable civic culture; ethics and responsibilities of NGOs; responsibilities of the press, religious organizations, and other groups; and NGO governance.

**- Global Civil Society: Challenges and Prospects**

Globalization, informatization and civil society; monitoring multinational corporations & speculative capital; global solidarity of civil society; global issues such as peace, environment, human rights, labor, women, poverty, education, people with disabilities; informatization; and global governance (sovereignty vs. human rights).

A special session entitled “Korea Day” will be organized during the afternoon of May 24 to introduce Korean experiences in government reinvention and provide a platform for in-depth discussions of domestic and foreign experts.

In partnership with other institutions, the United Nations system will organize nine parallel capacity development workshops on May 26 and 27, as follows:

**- Public Service Ethics and Trust in Government  
(UNDESA, OECD and Transparency International)**

Ethics advances and core public service values and standards in public service; sensitivity towards and respect for citizens' needs including the right to information; tools to enhance integrity in governance, including codes of conduct and conflicts of interest policies; anti-corruption commissions/bodies and their effectiveness; cross-border corruption and the role of multinational organizations; role of the judiciary in trust and transparency systems and processes of checks and balances among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; innovations at sectoral and systemic levels; impact of public service ethics on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and good practices and lessons learned.

**- Governance-Oriented Innovations to Enhance State Capacity  
(UNDESA, UNDP, and Ash Institute of Harvard University)**

The paradigm shift in the role of the state; impact of globalization on the changing role of the state; public and private sector partnerships for service delivery; performance management systems; new skills requirements in the public sector; methodologies to identify innovations; novelty, effectiveness, and significance of innovations; innovations and risk taking; organizational culture, leadership, and innovations; top-down versus bottom up innovations; cross boundary innovations; replication and transferability of innovations, role of state capacity in MDGs; case studies, good practices, and lessons learned.

**- Access to Services for All Through Participation and Accountability  
(UN-HABITAT, Korea Institute of Public Administration, and the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs of Korea)**

Access to urban and rural services for all and achievement of the MDGs; cost and affordability; government and private sector roles in service delivery; community organization to enhance access; participatory urban governance and cities without slums; local projects of shared success; public-private sector partnerships for service delivery; innovations and good practices in rural and urban services; and lessons learned.

**- E-Government as a Tool for Participation and Transparency  
(UNDESA, the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, National Computerization Agency of Korea, and the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs of Korea)**

Policy framework for e-government including the creation of new policies and legislation and the inclusion of more actors; organizational arrangements and national and local e-government readiness; public information disclosure for transparency; e-government building for improving quality and efficiency of public service; the role of e-government in enhancing participatory democracy ; good practices and lessons learned.

**- Auditing for Social Change**

**(UNDESA, Board of Audit and Inspection of Korea, and the Korean Association for Public Administration)**

Institutional structure for fiscal policy and management; fiscal standards and codes; integrity of fiscal data; country ownership; involvement of legislative bodies and the civil society organizations; fiscal transparency at the sub-national level; culture of fiscal transparency embraced by all stakeholders; the role of an independent and strong national audit office; social audit; participatory budgeting; and good practices and lessons learned.

**- Representative Democracy, Participatory Methods and Capacity Development for Responsible Politics (International IDEA)**

Crisis of representative democracy and citizens' participation; methods and tools of political participation; democratization of party system; institutional arrangements at national, sub-national and local levels for citizen participation, political leadership for government innovation; establishment of checks and balance system; role of press and public opinion in responsible politics; good practices and lessons learned.

**- Corporate Governance, Market Economy and Accountability (Korea Development Institute and the World Bank)**

Innovations in the establishment of a free and fair market order, including the fostering of a healthy relationship between government and the corporate sector, financial and monetary reform, regulatory reform, and standards for corporate governance; transparency and accountability of corporate governance, including transparency and management accountability of multinational corporations; corporate ethics, including social responsibility of corporations, conflicts of interest, mechanisms for transparency, corporate corruption causes and solutions, and the role of media.

**- Decentralization and Local Autonomy for Participatory Democracy (Ministry of Public Administration of Italy, Foromez Study and Training Center of Italy, Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs of Korea, and the Korea Research Institute for Local Administration)**

Legal framework for decentralized governance; redistribution of functions and resources between central and local governments; relationships between local governments and NGOs; enhancement of local autonomy capacity; local autonomy and checks and balances between central and local governments; role of community-based organizations; decentralization and citizen participation; decentralization and service delivery; innovations in decentralized governance; and good practices and lessons learned.

**- The Role and Capacity of Civil Society Organizations  
(UNDP, UNICEF, and CIVICUS)**

The role of civil society and its limitations; role of civil society in local democratic process; role of civil society in social and cultural development; role of civil society in protection and promotion of the interests of the poor and other vulnerable groups; role of civil society in policy process and in promoting transparency and accountability; leadership and capacity building of civil society; role of civil society in localizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); good practices and lessons learned.

During the closing ceremony, the “Seoul Declaration” will be adopted. This declaration will include the main findings and outcomes of the plenary sessions and workshops. In addition, the host country for the next Global Forum will be endorsed.

**SIDE EVENTS**

The Ministerial Round Table on Innovation, the Governors’ and Mayors’ Round Table, and the International Innovation Exhibition will be organized as side events.

The Ministerial Round Table on Innovation will bring together the participating ministers to interchange their respective experiences and strengthen bilateral/multilateral cooperation on issues of mutual interest. The Governors’ and Mayors’ Round Table will enable the heads of local governments to exchange ideas and strategies on reinventing government at the local level and to forge stronger cooperation in this regard.

The International Innovation Exhibition will showcase benchmark examples of "innovative projects" initiated by governments, corporations, and civic groups of various countries. The Exhibitions will consist of four different sectors – Korean Government, Foreign Governments, Business and Public Institutions. Four pavilions will be set up to accommodate these exhibitions which will take place May 24~27, 2005 at COEX, Seoul.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The Sixth Forum will provide an opportunity for ministers, senior government officials, parliamentarians, mayors and other local government officials, representatives of the private sector, civil society and international organizations to establish a constructive partnership among the key actors of governance.

## **ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

The official languages of the Plenary Sessions will be English, Spanish, French, and Korean. Those of the Workshops will be English and Korean. Electronic communication will be utilized to encourage wide and representative participation in discussion. All documents of the Forum will be posted on the website of the Sixth Global Forum (<http://www.6thglobalforum.org>) and on the United Nations Public Administration Network UNPAN (<http://www.unpan.org>)