

**6th Global Forum on Reinventing Government
Towards Participatory and Transparent Governance
24 – 27 May 2005, Seoul, Republic of Korea**

**MEDIA COVERAGE:
UN GOVERNANCE CENTRE**

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UN forum ends with accord to set up governance center in South Korea

Seoul, 27 May: Government and private sector representatives from 140 countries worldwide wrapped up a United Nations-sponsored forum on governance and innovation in Seoul Friday [27 May], agreeing to establish a UN governance centre in South Korea's capital and reaching a consensus on their roles in improving public administration. The Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, hosted by the South Korean government in cooperation with the UN, concluded with a joint statement to the global community, calling on governments to implement measures that will increase popular participation and the transparency of their operations.

Intended to stimulate innovations in public administration and governance, the four-day forum drew a total of 8,717 participants from the 140 nations, including nine heads of state and about 150 high-ranking government officials. There were 1,726 participants from outside Korea. The so-called Seoul Declaration, issued at the end of the forum, calls for policy measures that will increase transparent and participatory governance to ensure that the global community can achieve sustainable human development for the benefit of people in all societies.

The declaration also recommends that governments urgently address challenges of economic development and social inequity by working in cooperation with business firms and civil society. The innovation forum was held for the first time in the Asia-Pacific region. The final two days were dominated by nine capacity-building workshops, where exchanges of ideas, best practices and practical strategies to ensure effective governance were the core focus. Notably, one of the concrete outcomes from the forum was a consensus on establishing a so-called UN Governance Institute in Seoul. In this regard, the South Korean government and the UN agreed to launch a feasibility study for the establishment of the institute. Participants also accepted the offer of the UN secretariat to host the Seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Governments at the UN headquarters in New York in 2006. On Thursday, the South Korean government proposed creating an integrated ASEAN Plus Three e-government centre in Seoul next year, drawing positive responses from the concerned countries, according to officials at the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs.

The proposed pan-Asian e-government centre grouping South Korea, China, Japan and the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is expected to help foster regional cooperation in the field of electronic governance, in particular, said the officials. "It is our hope that forum participants are returning home with new perspectives and practical ideas that can be adapted to their own local needs," said Guido Bertucci, director of UN Public Administration and Development Management.

"Equally important is that they are going back with an enhanced understanding of the problems that all countries, no matter how big or small, share and what they can learn from each other," he said. Stressing the importance of reducing the growing inequality between rich and poor, urban and rural, connected and unconnected, the Seoul Declaration also recommends developing sound indicators to accurately evaluate government performance and outcomes. Kim Ho-young, Secretary General of the Secretariat for the Seoul forum, said the forum has paved the way for South Korea to secure its position as an Asian-Pacific innovation hub.

"Heads of state from developing countries all showed deep interest in South Korea's successful innovation reforms," said Kim.



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Global Forum calls for poverty eradication

Delegates to the U.N.-sponsored forum on government reinvention on Friday (May 27) adopted the Seoul Declaration to promote participatory and transparent governance.

The participants stressed the need for a network of close cooperation among various sectors of nations, including government agencies, businesses, trade unions, civic organizations and individual citizens.

Wrapping up the four-day Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government at COEX, southern Seoul, the participants also called for the eradication of poverty in underdeveloped as well as some of the developing countries.

The South Korean government, host of the event, will launch a feasibility study for the establishment of the U.N. Governance Center in Seoul in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the U.N. in the near future.

The center is expected to be a regional and international focal point advancing research, disseminating necessary information and providing training courses on reinventing government.

The participants also welcomed the proposal of the Korean government to work to establish a new government Web portal for sharing information on innovation projects.

Next forum will be hosted by the United Nations in 2006, which will be supported by Italy. The venue for the next forum has not yet been decided, but it is likely to be either New York or Geneva, an official of the Seoul forum organizing committee said.

Six plenary sessions and nine workshops as well as several side events, including the Ministerial Round Table on Innovation and the International Innovation Exhibition (InnoEx 2005), were held during the four-day forum. A total of 8,717 people, including 1,726 foreign delegates from 140 countries around the globe, took part in the event.



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ASEAN Plus 3 e-govt center likely to be set up in Seoul

South Korea Thursday proposed creating an integrated ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Plus Three (China, South Korea and Japan) e-government center in Seoul next year on the sidelines of an international meeting on better governance being held here, reported South Korean Yonhap News Agency.

The e-government center proposal was presented to the "ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials' Meeting on Creative Management for Government" held in Seoul on the sidelines of the UN-sponsored Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government, which kicked off four-day meeting on Tuesday.

In Thursday's meeting, ministers and senior officials from ASEAN Plus Three countries discussed ways of using technology to improve government operations and gave positive responses to South Korea's offer to initiate the integrated e-government center.

"The e-government center will act as a bridge among the ASEAN Plus Three countries, paving the way for smooth exchanges in such fields as human resources, technical support, education and training," South Korean Government Administration Minister Oh Young-kyo was quoted by Yonhap as saying.

According to a report of the United Nations, South Korea recently ranked fifth in an e-government readiness index.

The ASEAN Plus Three countries are scheduled to hold a workshop in Seoul in December to promote the creation of their integrated e-government center and work out its organizational details, according to Oh.

Quelle: Xinhuanet, 26.05.2005