
**6TH GLOBAL FORUM
ON REINVENTING GOVERNMENT
Toward Participatory and Transparent Governance**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea
24-27 May 2005**



**Evaluation Surveys
carried out from 12 June to 22 July 2005**

2005

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I. Background on the 6th Global Forum

The 6th Global Forum on Reinventing Government: Toward Participatory and Transparent Governance took place in Seoul, the Republic of Korea from 24 to 27 May, 2005. It included presentations and discussions in plenary sessions, nine parallel capacity development workshops, and a series of side events, which included the International Innovation Exhibition, the Ministerial Round Table on Innovation, a Gubernatorial and Mayoral Round Table, and the ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meeting on Creative Management for Government.

The objective of the 6th Global Forum was to provide a platform for ministers, senior government officials, parliamentarians, mayors, and representatives of civil society, international organizations, and the private sector to discuss key issues and experiences in government reinvention. The event further aimed to promote cooperative efforts at the local, national, and international levels to cope with the challenges of globalization, while facilitating the development of future innovations in governance. Organized by the Government of the Republic of Korea with the support of the United Nations, the event followed previous forums held by the Governments of the United States (1999), Brazil (2000), Italy (2001), Morocco (2002), and Mexico (2003).

Over the first two days, participants attended opening ceremonies and plenary sessions on the following topics: Government Innovation and Governance: Changing Role of the State in the Governance Paradigm; Democratic Governance and Social Integration: Democratic Capacity Building for Societal Partnership; Market Economy and Corporate Governance: Fairness and Transparency for Sustainable Growth; Local Governance and Participatory Democracy: Making Local Governance Work; and Civil Society and Participatory Governance: Challenges and Prospects. A special plenary “Korea Session” was also held by the Host Government during the afternoon of Tuesday, 24 May to introduce specific experiences in government reinvention.

The workshops, organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in partnership with several United Nations entities, international institutions, and the support of the Government of Italy, focused on the following themes: Public Sector Ethics and Trust in Government; Governance-Oriented Innovations to Enhance State Capacity; Access to Services for All through Participation and Accountability; E-Government as a Tool for Participation and Transparency; Auditing for Social Change; Representative Democracy, Participatory Methods, and Capacity Development for Responsible Politics; Corporate Governance, Market Economy, and Accountability; Decentralization and Local Autonomy for Participatory Democracy; and the Role of Civil Society in Localizing the Millennium Development Goals.

At the conclusion of the forum, delegates endorsed the Seoul Declaration on Participatory and Transparent Governance, which outlined specific policy measures to improve governance and public administration, while stressing the need for mutually beneficial partnerships between government, civil society, and the private sector.

II. Evaluation Description

Following the conclusion of each Global Forum on Reinventing Government, international participants and speakers are requested to share their perspectives, opinions, and advice on successful aspects of the forum and areas in which it could be improved. This input is viewed by organizers as a valuable resource that enables continual improvements in the overall quality of the event.

For the 6th Global Forum on Reinventing Government, an evaluation form was developed and sent to participants beginning in June of 2005. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine methods to improve the Global Forum in future years by receiving the perspectives of participants on different aspects of the conference, such as content and organization. Separate inquiries were included with respect to plenary sessions and workshops in addition to overall questions regarding quality, relevancy, and usefulness of the overall experience. The final results of the evaluation will be posted online and made available to interested parties.

The following preliminary report is based on comments received by participants in the period 12 June to 22 July 2005. People surveyed for the report include general participants, speakers, resource people, and members of the Institutional Partner Group. Participants evaluated the forum through a ranking system and written comments. Supplementary data on participation rates and other variables have been obtained from the Host Government. The charts, graphs, and analysis in the report are based on this evaluation data.

III. Attendance

Participation in the 6th Global Forum significantly surpassed the expectations of organizers. According to current data provided by the Host Government, a total of 8,717 participants attended the event, representing 148 countries. Most of the participants were senior government officials who represented different tiers of central and local government. Other participants included representatives from multilateral and bilateral agencies, academia, civil society organizations and NGOs, and the private sector. In attendance were also 1,726 foreign delegates.

The participation of high level officials in the 6th Global Forum was one of the most noteworthy aspects of the event. Heads of State and Government from throughout the world participated and made presentations to international colleagues in the opening and closing ceremonies and plenary sessions. In the opening ceremonies, high level speakers included [President Roh Moo-hyun](#) of the Republic of Korea, [President Lula Da Silva](#) of Brazil, [President Emomali Rahmonov](#) of the Republic of Tajikistan, Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan of the Republic of Korea, [Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra](#) of Thailand, [Vice President Hamid Reza Baradaran Shoraka](#) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Vice President Ali Mohamed Shein of Tanzania, [Under-Secretary-General José Antonio Ocampo](#) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and [Secretary-General Donald Johnston](#) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Speakers in the closing ceremonies included Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan of the Republic of Korea, [Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse](#) of Sri Lanka, Vice President Azarias Ruberwa Manywa of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Minister Oh Young-kyo of the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and [Director Guido Bertucci](#) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Public Administration and Development Management. Other senior officials, such as former Prime Minister of Australia Bob Hawke and former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Wim Kok, were among speakers who made presentations in the plenary sessions of the 6th Global Forum on Reinventing Government.

Attendance at side events was similarly impressive. The Ministerial Round Table brought together a total of 70 government ministers from across the world to engage in discussions on innovations in governance and the Seoul Declaration. The Gubernatorial and Mayoral Round Table included heads of 266 provincial and municipal governments from 27 countries. An estimated 40,000 to 50,000 visitors frequented the International Innovation Exhibition during the week of 23 May. These visitors included both Global Forum participants and local residents in Seoul.

IV. Profile of Participants

The following section of this report provides a profile of participants in the 6th Global Forum according to several criteria. First, general attendance figures are broken down and a brief comparative analysis is provided with data from previous forums. Second, the composition of participants is looked at according to regional representation. Separate data is provided for both speakers in the forum and general participants, while the former category represents resource people from opening and closing ceremonies, plenary sessions, and workshops. Third, participants are examined in terms of representation by sector. The purpose of this methodology is to determine positive trends in the selection and attraction of participants, while identifying areas that may need additional attention.

A. Comparative Profile

Both the number of individual participants and the diversity of countries represented have increased greatly since the start of the Global Forum initiative. At the first Global Forum held in Washington D.C. in 1999, approximately 45 countries took part. In subsequent years, the number of total participants and representation by country has gradually increased to current levels at 148 countries, up from under 90 countries represented at the 5th Global Forum. Numbers of participants have increased as well, from several hundred at the first Global Forum in Washington D.C. to 8,717 in 2005, making the 6th Global Forum the highest attended conference on governance to date. In addition, interest in attendance at Global Forums continues to increase. A large number of participants from the 6th Global Forum signaled their interest in attending subsequent events and increasing attendance, as well as presentations, from their respective countries.

Composition of the 6th Global Forum

Total Participants	8,717
Foreign Delegates	1,726
Domestic Delegates	6,991
Total Number of Countries Represented	148

The number of senior government officials who attended the 6th Global Forum was also the highest to date, with the majority of the international participants representing their federal government. Furthermore, the 6th Global Forum saw an expansion in the number of sectors invited to participate, broadening the participant perspective to include members of federal and local government, international institutions, academia, the private sector, and civil society.

These efforts to participate in the 6th Global Forum demonstrated a significant commitment on the part of Heads of State and Government to dedicate time and thought to methods of improving governance, in line with the forum theme, and achieve innovations in government. This involvement helped to convey the importance of the message on participatory and transparent governance to attending delegations. It also encouraged substantial [media coverage](#) of the four day programme, which was broadcast and covered in printed media around the globe. Two separate press conferences were held jointly by the Host Government and the United Nations, in addition to conferences that took place at side events.

The nine capacity development workshops represented another unique aspect of the 6th Global Forum through their emphasis on partnerships for governance. Coordinated by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the workshops were designed and organized through the Institutional Partners Group (IPG), which included an international and diverse range of organizations. This collaboration included the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and UNDESA, in promotion of a system wide partnership.

Members of the IPG included renowned international institutions and national organizations from the Republic of Korea. Participating international institutions included [Transparency International \(TI\)](#), [the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#), [the World Bank Group](#), [the Ash Institute of the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University](#), [the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance \(IDEA\)](#), [the International Institute of Administrative Sciences \(IIAS\)](#), and [the World Alliance for Citizen Participation \(CIVICUS\)](#). Organizations from the Republic of Korea included the [Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs](#), [the Board of Audit and Inspection \(BAI\)](#), [the Korea Institute of Public Administration \(KIPA\)](#), [the Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management \(KDI\)](#), [the Korea Research Institute for Local Administration \(KRILA\)](#), [the Korean Association for Public Administration \(KAPA\)](#), and [the National Computerization Agency \(NCA\)](#). The [Ministry of Public Administration of the Government of Italy](#) and [the Formez Study and Training Center](#) also formed an integral part of the Group.

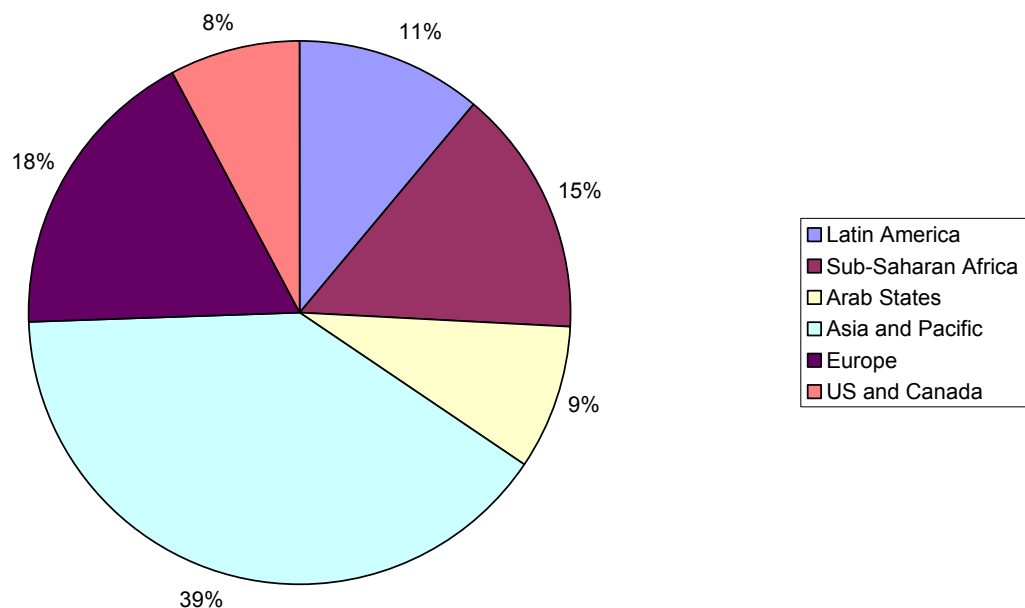
Side events also reflected a significant, positive change over previous years. The Gubernatorial and Mayoral Roundtable was the largest meeting of local government leaders ever held under the auspices of the Global Forum. International participants included 39 regional governments from China, 14 regional governments from Japan, six regional governments from Vietnam, four regional governments each from Brazil and Mongolia, three regional governments from India, two regional governments each from the US and Canada, and one local government each from 18 countries including England, Poland, Egypt, Peru, Oman, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, France, and Indonesia.

Also noteworthy were the Ministerial Roundtable on Innovation, which included participation from over 80 countries, the International Innovation Exhibition (IIE), and the ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meeting on Creative Management for Government, which was organized by the Host Country. For the exhibition, over 100 exhibitors from six different continents and 23 nations displayed innovative practices from sectors that included central and local governments, international institutions, non governmental organizations, and the private sector. Preceded by a Senior Officials Meeting, the ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meeting was attended by ministers from the ten ASEAN member countries, including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, in addition to representatives from the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, and H.E. Ong Keng Yong, the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

B. Forum Participants by Region

Participants in the 6th Global Forum represented 148 countries worldwide, the largest representation of countries at any Global Forum. For the purposes of this evaluation, participating countries were divided into regions. To account for the skewing of data, readers should note that the analysis is based on registered participants and that some regions were defined as including more countries than others. Six distinct geographic regions – Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the United States and Canada are outlined below to give a more accurate idea of the following chart which demonstrates the percentage of registered participants from each region:

6th Global Forum Participants by Region



As can be seen from the chart on the previous page, the Asia and Pacific Region had the greatest overall participation levels in the 6th Global Forum, with 39% of registered participants in attendance. This region was defined as including East Asia, South East Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands. Participating states at the forum that fell into this category included Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Cook Islands, East Timor, Fiji, Guam, India, Indonesia, Japan, People's Democratic Republic of Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Vietnam. The strong representation from within this region was due to several factors. Located for the first time in Asia, the 6th Global Forum on Reinventing Government provided a good focal point for senior officials and leaders to focus on governance issues of regional concern. Issues of travel time, cost, and convenience also helped to encourage regional participation levels.

From within the Asia and the Pacific Region, there was also strong representation from different countries in East Asia, South East Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The following table illustrates the broad coverage that each of these sub-regions received:

PARTICIPATION BY REGION	
<u>Participating Countries: Asia and the Pacific Region</u>	
South Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
East and South East Asia	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, East Timor, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, People's Democratic Republic of Laos, Philippines, Taiwan Province of China, Thailand, Singapore, and Vietnam
Pacific Islands	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu

Notably, participants from the Republic of Korea had the most representation overall among total attendees with 6,991 participants. However, other attendees consisted of a fairly equal spread among the sub-regions.

The Latin America Region represented 11% of registered participants in the 6th Global Forum. The region was defined as including Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Participating states and territories in the 6th Global Forum that fell into this category included the following: Angilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, British Virgin Islands (Tortola), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caico Islands, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

This region was exceptionally well represented at the 6th Global Forum in terms of the diversity of countries in attendance. The following table shows that most countries within South America sent delegates to the event. All countries from Central America were represented, and the Caribbean also showed strong representation by country. With some effort, the next Global Forum could achieve complete coverage in terms of representation within this region.

PARTICIPATION BY REGION	
Participating Countries and Territories: The Latin America Region	
South America	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela
Central America	Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama
Caribbean	Angilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands (Tortola), Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, and Turks & Caico Islands.
Mexico	Mexico

In terms of participation by volume, delegates from the Latin America Region represented 11% of total registered participants. This implies that while representation was extremely good by country, the size of delegations were relatively small when compared with those from other regions in part due to the cost of travel.

PARTICIPATION BY REGION

Participating Countries: The Sub-Saharan Africa Region

West Africa	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo
Central Africa	Angola, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo
East Africa	Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania
Southern Africa	Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe
Islands off Africa	Cabo Verde, Comoros, Madagascar, and Mauritius

The Sub-Saharan Africa Region showed high rates of participation in the 6th Global Forum, representing 15% of registered attendees, accounting for roughly 1/6 of participation by the six regions used for this report. This is remarkable in part due to the distance of travel required and associated cost. Participation from within the region included the states of Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

The Arab States Region was defined as North Africa and the Middle East which included the states of Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Representation from within this region is shown in the following table:

PARTICIPATION BY REGION

Participating Countries: The Arab States Region

North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia
Mid East	Afghanistan, Israel, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen

The Arab States region fared well in terms of country representation, although it represented a smaller portion of the overall forum-going population, in part due to the fewer number of states belonging to this category. With 9% of total participation, regional attendance could be additionally promoted in future forums.

Europe was defined as including Western, Eastern, and Central Europe, as well as Newly Independent States (NIS). Country representation within this region was as follows: the states of Austria, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Due to the large number of countries included in this subgrouping, which included NIS countries in Asia, this category provided the second largest turnout after Asia and the Pacific, with 18% of total participation – one and one third percentage points above the average. The table below demonstrated that, from within this region, there was substantially good coverage of each sub-region, as there was good showing by country.

PARTICIPATION BY REGION	
<u>Participating Countries: Europe</u>	
Western Europe	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom
Central and Eastern Europe	Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, and Turkey
Newly Independent States	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan

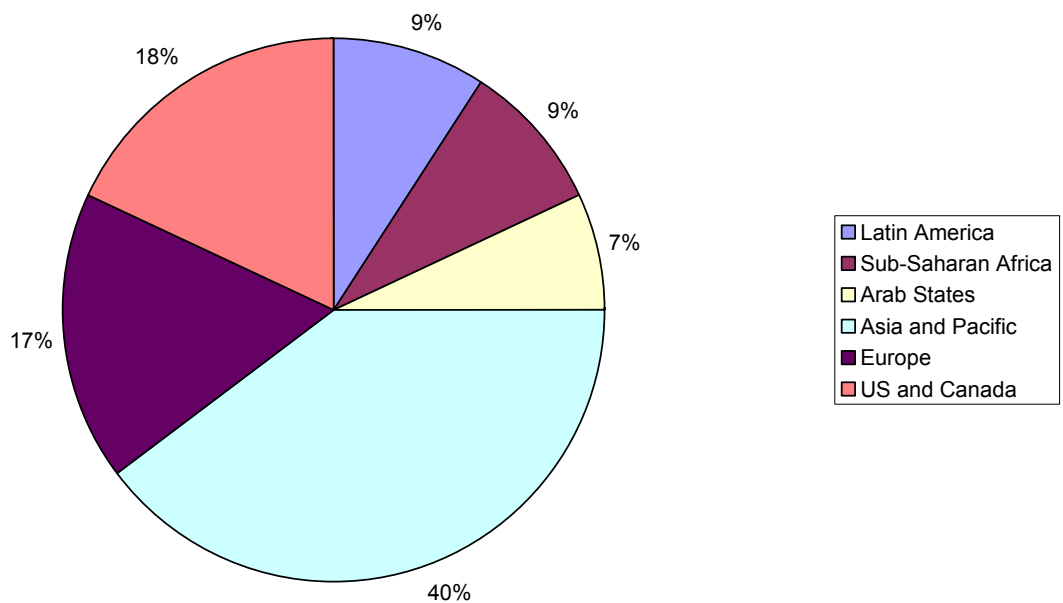
As the smallest category, the United States and Canada was defined as only including those two states. These two countries represented 8% of total registered attendees. Of these participants, roughly two thirds of the total came from the United States, while the remainder came from Canada.

C. Forum Speakers by Region

Speakers for each of the 6th Global Forum's plenary sessions and nine workshops were invited from each of the six regions defined above to represent a broad range of opinions and ideas on government. The following is a chart demonstrating the percentage of workshop and plenary speakers by region. Again, the majority of speakers came from the Asia and the Pacific Region due to the location of the forum, with a fairly equal spread of speakers among the other regions.

As can be seen from the chart below, approximately 40% of presenters and panelists at the 6th Global Forum came from Asia and the Pacific speakers, representing the largest percentage of workshop and plenary speakers. The United States, Canada, and Europe (which included Newly Independent States) accounted for 35% together when amassing these two large categories, which included both developed and developing nations. Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa had roughly equal representation in terms of speaking roles, with 9% each. Finally, Arab States speakers represented the smallest proportion of the total with 7%.

6th Global Forum Speakers by Region



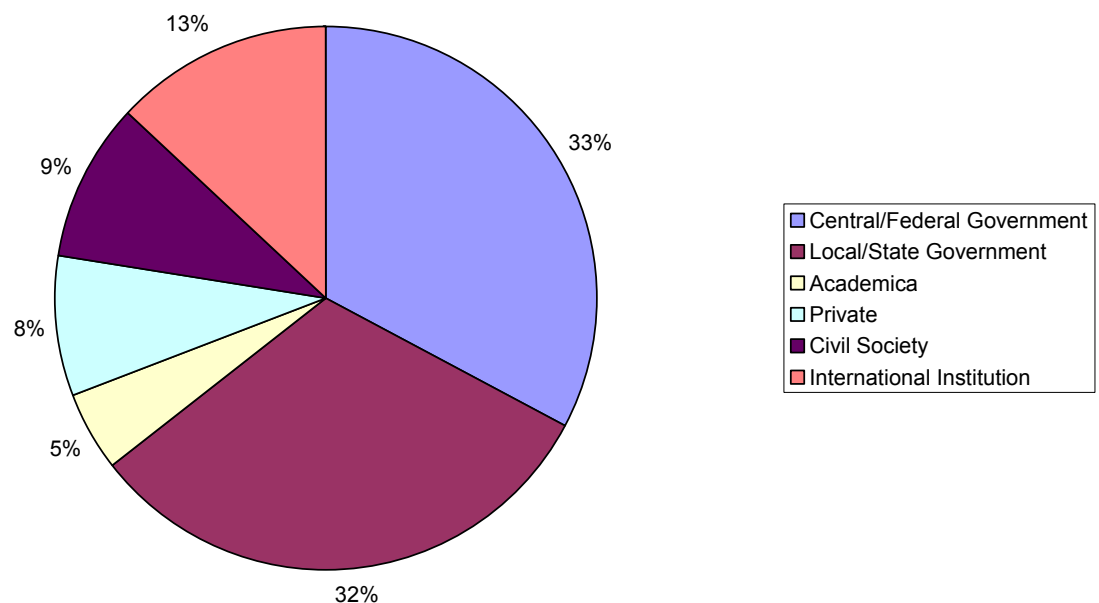
D. Forum Participants by Sector

6th Global Forum participants represented a wide spectrum of sectors including central and local governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, and international institutions. The following chart demonstrates the percentage of participants by the sector to which their organization belongs.

Participants stressed the importance of high level officials attending the 6th Global Forum. The high percentage of participants from local government came mostly from the Host Country, the Republic of Korea.

In addition, participants noted the significance of round tables, such as the Ministerial Round Table and the Gubernatorial and Mayoral Round Table, for the exchange of best practices. Civil society representatives welcomed the chance to converse and interact with high level officials from around the world. The Gubernatorial and Mayoral Round Table was the first platform of its kind to be held in the history of the conference and was the largest gathering of local governments to date at any Global Forum. This side event was an opportunity for 266 regional governments from 27 countries to discuss regional innovation and seek international cooperation in reinventing government on a local scale.

6th Global Forum Participants by Sector



V. Explanation of the Ratings System

In addition to the written component of the evaluation survey, participants were asked to rate their experience at the 6th Global Forum using a numerical system in each of ten categories. These categories were designed to encourage responses on the most critical aspects of the forum, while gauging the perspectives of attendees from different regions, professions, and who participated in different capacities. In conjunction, the rating system and the written responses received from participants are considered to form an important means of evaluating the success of the forum as a whole. However, more importantly, the feedback received from these responses helps to provide a framework for generating improvements in future Global Forums.

Categories covered by the rating system included the following: (1) Interest in Plenary Topics, (2) Interest in Workshop Topics, (3) Usefulness of Topics to Work or Organization, (4) Relevance of Presentations, (5) Quality of Information Received, (6) Quality of Case Studies, (7) Quality of Organization, (8) Quality of Speakers, (9) Extent to Which Expectations Were Met, and (10) Relevance of Overall Theme.

Participants were requested to grade each of these ten categories using the rating system shown below: 5 (excellent), 4 (very good), 3 (satisfactory), 2 (unsatisfactory), or 1 (poor). No participant scored any category under 3 (satisfactory), making the median score for all categories a 4 (very good).

VI. Results of the Ratings System

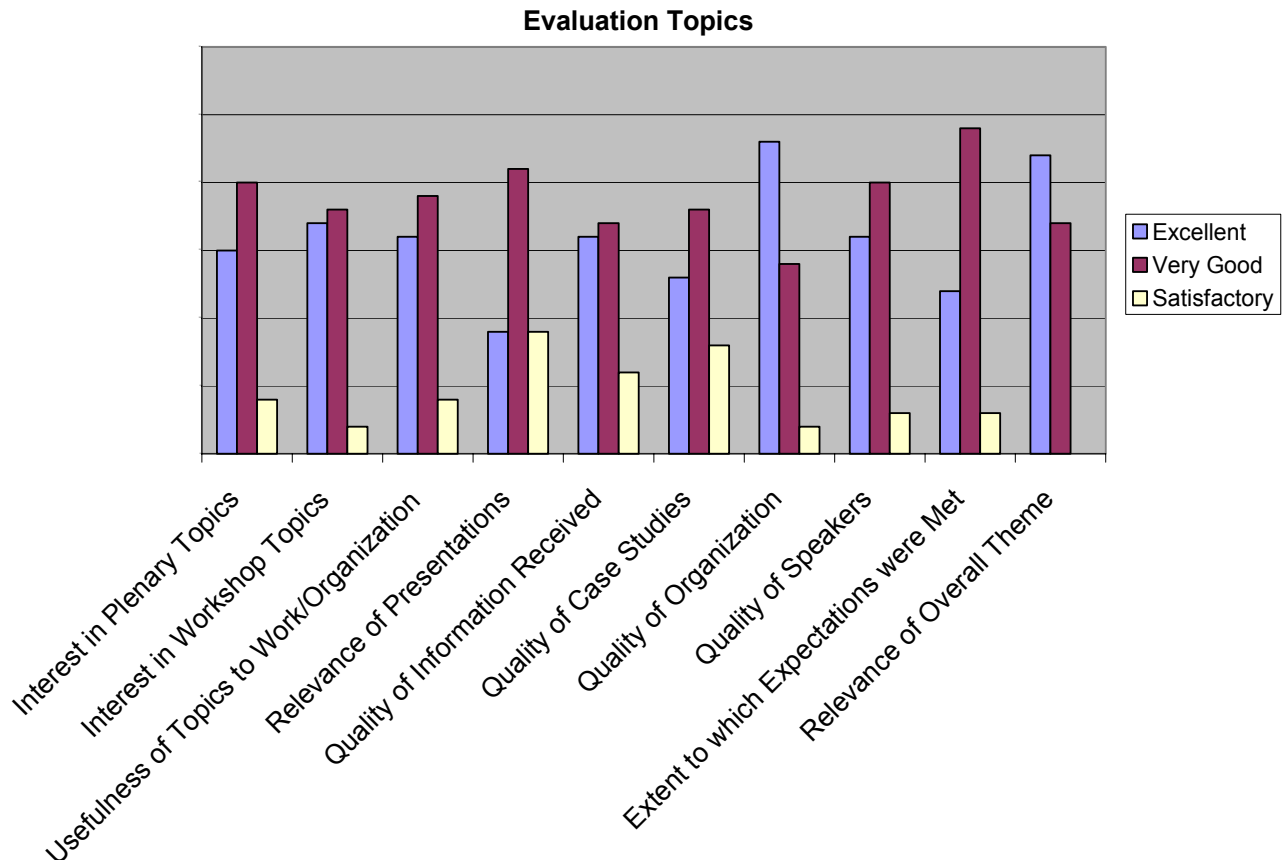
The overwhelming majority of participants, 90%, responded that the 6th Global Forum was of great interest to them in their careers or governments, as the topics discussed were of immediate concern to their profession.

The quality of organization of the 6th Global Forum received the highest score in any category and participants noted that this was one of the great strengths of the forum. Relevance of overall theme also ranked high and was the only category to be considered only as “very good” or “excellent.” The overall satisfaction in every category was very high as indicated by the results presented in the chart on the following page.

Ratings Scale for the Evaluation

Excellent	5
Very Good	4
Satisfactory	3
Unsatisfactory	2
Poor	1

As can be seen from the chart below, all categories were considered to be “satisfactory” or higher, with most responses falling into the “excellent” or “very good” categories. Following quality of organization and relevance of overall theme, the next highly ranked category was interest in workshop topics, which rated marginally higher than the interest in topics chosen for the plenary sessions.



Categories that fared well, but could be improved were relevance of presentations and quality of case studies, followed by quality of information received. Although the large majority of respondents considered these categories to be “excellent” or “very good,” roughly 15% to 20% of responses for the former two categories were “satisfactory.”

VII. Results of the Written Evaluation

In the written portion of the evaluation, participants were asked to write briefly on the strengths and shortcomings of the 6th Global Forum, as well as provide additional comments on the forum in general. Delegates wrote at length on the strengths of the 6th Global Forum; most positively of note were the hospitality of the host country and the overall organization of the conference.

In addition to this feedback, individual letters of support were received from well over 100 participants following the conclusion of the event. These unsolicited messages signaled appreciation of the choice of topics, gratitude to organizers, and unexpected follow-up measures that participants had decided to initiate in their home countries after having attended the sessions and workshops. For example, one minister wrote that he had decided to organize an anti-corruption seminar in Cambodia, based on content discussed at the forum.

Similarly, the director of a civil society organization in Cameroon wrote that she had distributed the Seoul Declaration on Participatory and Transparent Governance to leading members of the government and had printed the document in its entirety in the newspaper of her organization.

According to the written responses received as part of the evaluation, the most significant strengths of the 6th Global Forum included the high diversity of countries, regions, and topics represented. Respondents also expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to network and share opinions with a broad spectrum of participants. The 6th Global Forum further offered a chance for participants to gain knowledge from areas of the world that do usually not get much publicity. The use of diverse languages was also noted, and the ability of all participants to network with others was deemed essential.

Attendance at the forum by high state leaders was encouraging to participants and provided the chance to compare different aspects of government reinvention with representatives of different countries. In particular, respondents who represented civil society organizations at the forum welcomed the chance to engage with high level officials from around the world.

Other strengths of the 6th Global Forum included the timely discussion of relevant and pressing issues facing all countries today, such as increased accountability and transparency in governance and the friendly atmosphere and sharing of ideas which provided participants with vital contacts in numerous sectors. The high level of technology and exhibitions used in the 6th Global Forum were also viewed as a tremendous asset of the event, which supported one of its cross-cutting messages.

Few shortcomings were noted by participants. As plenary sessions did not overlap, the greatest variation of comments derived from differences in workshop attended, each of which had different themes, speakers, and audiences. Since the nine workshops took place simultaneously during the last two days of the forum, direct comparisons by participants were not possible. However, one recurring issue involved the time allotted for discussion and comments. On some evaluations, participants indicated that they did not have sufficient occasion to ask questions or interact with attendees. This response was largely determined by the workshop attended and quantity of participants present. Generally speaking, participants placed high value on the interactive nature of the workshops and their ability to provide and receive feedback from experts chosen as speakers, as well as other workshop participants.

Some participants also noted that incentives to attend sessions, perhaps a day allotted for cultural endeavors within the host country, would increase participation in all workshops. However, most participants noted that the shortcomings were “actually so irrelevant that they do not deserve to be mentioned.”

Additional comments from participants urged the convening of more Global Forums and stressed their importance. Participants would also benefit from more advice and feedback to be given on how to practically implement changes in government. While the plenary sessions and workshops were helpful, some participants requested that the interactive component of the forum be more oriented to expect questions on implementation, while keeping in mind the diversity of experiences and responses required.

In addition, other events on improving governance and public administration, particularly in regard to citizen participation were encouraged. Many countries wished to increase their participation in the forums both by sending more delegates and adding speakers to future forums. Participants hope to see the continuation of a broad range of workshop topics and participants at future forums.

VIII. Conclusion and Recommendations for Future Forums

The findings of this evaluation combined with the messages conveyed through numerous statements by speakers, workshop organizers, and participants conclude that Global Forums are of great value to the international community. For the 6th Global Forum in particular, this evaluation found that the issue of participatory and transparent governance permeates every aspect of public and private sector activity and that the Global Forum provided a unique venue for bringing this issue to the forefront of the agenda of world governments.

Overall, participant responses indicated a high degree of interest in the 6th Global Forum and its ability to attract a diverse international audience. Participants were particularly emphatic about having the opportunity to discuss, share, and learn about a number of critical governance issues that affect government and civil society at many levels. Based on both written and ratings feedback, participants considered the 6th Global Forum to be highly successful, in large part due to the theme chosen “Toward Participatory and Transparent Governance,” the usefulness of sub-topics to their work, and the extremely high level of organization with which the forum was planned and operated.

For future forums, several recommendations could ensure that the overall level of quality demonstrated by the 6th Global Forum is maintained and improved. First, it is recommended that there continue to be a diversity of countries and sectors represented. Taking into account the cost and distance factor, participant representation by region could receive additional emphasis in the next forum in the case of areas that received slightly under average participation and speaker rates, as was the case in the Arab States region. Likewise, a broad spectrum of participants from the Latin America region could also be encouraged, as the region approached near perfect participation rates in terms of country representatives who attended the forum.

In terms of content, several conclusions emerged from the rating component of the evaluation and could be considered as possible course of actions and means for improving upon the existing structure. Two categories that received above average ratings of “satisfactory” were relevance of presentations and quality of case studies. This suggests that improvements could be achieved in these areas, potentially by providing improved guidance and support to presenters in the months prior to the forum.

Some participants expressed their wish to have more time available in between substantive components of the Global Forum, such as plenaries and workshops. International delegates in particular suggested that more free time be allotted in order to enable cultural activities and visits within the Host Country. Although this suggestion is understandable, factors of time and cost do not lend themselves to ready implementation of this recommendation.

Finally, special side events, such as the Ministerial Round Table and the Gubernatorial and Mayoral Roundtable were also encouraged. Most respondents showed interest in these events, valuing the experiences gained from the side event and expressing interest in participating in these relatively smaller and directed platforms for discussions on governance. Similarly, delegates placed a high level of importance on their ability to actively participate in the capacity development workshops, so facilitating measures are encouraged.