UN Public Administration Programme
Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: October 2013

1. 2014 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) Call for Nominations and Briefing Sessions

From 18 September 2013, DPADM began accepting nominations for the 2014 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA). The nomination period will remain open until 18 December 2013. DPADM has conducted two briefing sessions to Member States through their Permanent Representatives to the United Nations on 9 and 29 October 2013, to explain the UNPSA programme's processes, focusing on the nomination and evaluation methodologies. These sessions were attended by Permanent Missions of Austria, Ecuador, Germany, Kenya, Estonia, Mexico, Philippines, Sri Lanka, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Singapore. A final briefing session will be held on 14 November at Two United Nations Plaza, Conference Room DC2 – 1725, 17th Floor East 44th Street, New York.

The Awards will be bestowed on public institutions that have undertaken innovative solutions in the areas of: (i). improving the delivery of services; (ii). fostering participation in policymaking decisions through innovative mechanisms; (iii). promoting whole-of-government approaches in the information age; and (iv). promoting gender-responsive delivery of public services. Detailed information is also available at: http://www.unpan.org/unpsa and nominations will only be accepted online at: http://www.unpan.org/applyunpsa2014

2. Meeting with Representatives of the Republic of Korea on Hosting the 2014 United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony

On 8 October 2013, DPADM held a meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Security and Public Administration (MOSPA) of the Republic of Korea to discuss the hosting of the 2014 United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony in Seoul. Key issues discussed were the Host Country Agreement, with particular emphasis on the venue, security, accommodation, visa requirements, financial arrangements, transport, and division of labour between the host country and the United Nations as well as other matters relevant to the successful hosting of the event. The Republic of Korea reiterated its commitment to ensuring that the event is a resounding success.

3. World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders

At the request of the Government of Morocco, DPADM was represented by IRA, Mr. Alphonse Mekolo at the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders under the theme was 'Imagine Society, Build Democracy', from 1 to 4 October 2013. Mr. Mekolo made two presentations at the side events "Transparency and Integrity in Local Governance" and "Local Government Human Capital for Local Development", focusing on DPADM's contribution to transparency and integrity for service delivery at local governments and territorial entities and local government human capital for a responsive public service to local populations respectively. The participants at the Summit sought to explore new avenues of linking institutions dealing with human resource capacity development with public institutions so as to improve performance of public institutions in service delivery. In addition, the IRA motivated future civil servants taking an induction course at a conference Chaired by Dr. Najat Zarrouk, Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), at the International University of Rabat.

UN Public Administration Programme

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

4. In- House Seminar: A New Synthesis of Public Administration

On 4 October 2013, DPADM hosted an in-house seminar delivered by the Honourable Jocelyne Bourgon, President Emeritus of Canada School of Public Service and former Clerk of the Privy Council and Cabinet-Secretary of Canada, Canadian Ambassador to OECD and Chair of CEPA (2006-2009). Ambassador Guillermo E. Rishchynski, Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, also attended the seminar. Ms. Bourgon introduced to the audience the main concepts and methodologies of her new book "A New Synthesis of Public Administration" and discussed with DPADM staff members about the pressing issues in the current field of public administration. For more information about the presentation, please click here

5. Meeting with Delegation from Togo on Capacity Development

On 10 October 2013, Mr. Palouki Massina, Secretary General of Government (Minister) from Togo, led a delegation to meet with a joint DESA and UNDP team led by Ms Marie Oveissi, Chief, CDO. The purpose of the meeting was to examine the progress made by the joint DESA and UNDP Team that was set up to provide support to the Government of Togo in its endeavour to formulate a new programme for capacity development and modernisation of the State. It was also about finding a common ground on a road map related to developing this programme in accordance with Rio+20 principles. The meeting saw the adoption of a road map of Togo's programme formulation that will include the deployment experts to Lomé from 4 to 8 November 2013.

The delegation from Togo expressed satisfaction to DESA for bringing together and deploying their expertise at short notice while Ms Oveissi re-affirmed the United Nations' commitment to deliver as one in support of the Government of Togo.

6. Strengthening of Democratic Governance in Chad

At the invitation of Mr. Thomas Gurtner, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Chad, and Mr. Tetsuo Kundo, Director of the UNDP Country Programme, DPADM's IRA Mr. Ulrich Graute, undertook an advisory mission from 7 to 15 October 2013. After the signing of a project document between the Government and UNDP in 2012, an agreement was made on the advisory services to be provided by DESA, through DPADM as stipulated in the document, in 2014. In this respect a new draft letter of agreement including a programme of work was developed and discussed during the mission.

In addition, Mr. Graute appraised representatives from the Government and UN Country Teams on the governance aspects of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda at an Information Session which was held on 14 October 2013 and was attended by about more than 70 participants. Participants engaged in discussion on main objectives of the agenda with specific questions raised on freedom of expression under the new agenda and on how to assure access to information by the high share of analphabetic citizens, considering the many spoken languages in Chad. Participants were also keen to understand what the Government and the UN field offices will do to provide more information and training in preparation for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

UN Public Administration Programme
Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

7. Migration of the Africa i-Parliaments Website

After the completion of DPADM's Africa i-Parliaments project in June 2013, the website has now been migrated by DPADM's UNPAN Management Unit (UMU) and is fully operational on UNHQ servers and running on the DotNet Nuke 7.0 platform, in line with the other divisional web portals. This will make it easier for DPADM to maintain the website for knowledge sharing. The project's objective was to empower African Parliaments to better fulfill their democratic functions by supporting their efforts to become open, participatory, knowledge-based and learning   rganization. The website was one of the project outputs and can now be accessed: http://www.parliaments.info

8. New Publication Entitled "Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development"

DPADM released a new publication entitled "Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development" on 11 October 2013. The publication documents the proceedings of the Seventh Annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Meeting which was convened in Baku, Azerbaijan from 6 to 9 November 2012 under the overall theme of "Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development". The book follows the chronological order of the four-day meeting with workshop reports and other events grouped thematically and following the edited transcripts from their corresponding sessions. The book is available at: unpan.org and http://goo.gl/xjw1Hi

9. 21st International Congress of Supreme Audit Institutions (XXI INCOSAI) and Release of the "Compendium of Innovative Practices of Citizen Engagement by SAIs for Public Accountability"

USG Mr. Wu, attended the 21st International Congress of Supreme Audit Institutions (XXI INCOSAI) in Beijing, China on 21 - 26 October 2013. He delivered three statements: the first at INTOSAI's 64th Governing Board Meeting on 21 October; the second, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the opening ceremony on 22 October 2013 and presided over by Mr Li Keqiang Premier of the People's Republic of China; and the third, on the theme of National Audit and National Governance, at a plenary session on 23 October.

The event saw the release of the "Compendium of Innovative Practices of Citizen Engagement by Supreme Audit Institutions for Public Accountability" on 23 October 2013 during the 21st International Congress of Supreme Audit Institutions. The compendium is the result of collaboration between the International Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and DPADM /DESA. Drawing from the deliberations of the 21st United Nations/INTOSAI Symposium, held in 2011, the Compendium analyses the responses of INTOSAI members to a questionnaire aimed at identifying successful innovative practices of public engagement with Supreme Audit Institutions. The book is available at: http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN92198.pdf

INCOSAI is a triennial congress of members of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). Chaired by the hosting Supreme Audit Institution, the congress offers INTOSAI Members an opportunity to share experience, discuss priority issues, and adopt resolutions and recommendations to improve government auditing and accountability worldwide. More information is available at: INTOSAI.org: Home

UN Public Administration Programme

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

10. Internet Governance Forum 2013 and High Level Leaders Meeting

On 22 October 2013, ASG Mr. Thomas Gass, reaffirmed the support of the UN for the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance that the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) embodies. He was speaking on behalf of the USG, Mr. Wu at the opening ceremony of the 8th Annual IGF Meeting in Bali, Indonesia which was attended by 1,300 live delegates and many more who participated remotely over the course of the Forum (22-25 October 2013) to discuss Internet governance related issues, under the general theme of "Building Bridges – Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation for Growth and Sustainable Development".

Prior to the opening, a High Level Leaders Meeting was officially opened by Mr. Tifatul Sembiring, Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Indonesia on 21 October 2013. At the meeting, Mr. Gass highlighted the critical role of cyberspace in improving the lives of all in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. He acknowledged the need for people to feel safe online as they would offline and highlighted the need to strike a balance between individual freedom of expression and collective security, emphasizing that the international community needs to agree on principles for an open yet secure cyberspace.
More information about the forum can be found at: http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/

11. DESA and Emirates Identity Authority create Foundation of Cooperation

DESA, through DPADM, with the assistance of CDO signed a memorandum of understanding with the Emirates Identity Authority (EIDA) creating a foundation of cooperation between the two institutions at a meeting held on 17 October 2013 in New York. The two institutions also signed a project document and its corresponding Trust Fund Agreement valued at $175,000. The activities under the project document range from capacity-building workshops to develop open government strategies. At the meeting, the two parties made presentations showing their respective strengths and mandates and how they could work together. DESA will use this partnership as positive step towards galvanizing the region on e-government.

12. USG's Visit to DPADM's United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)

At a meeting held with all staff of DPADM's United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) in Seoul, Republic of Korea, USG Mr Wu emphasized the importance of governance in facilitating sustainable development and advised UNPOG to prioritize its promotion in their work programme, especially relating to the Asia and Pacific Region. He cited UNPOG's research work on the same in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as possible contribution towards the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference in 2014, especially in consideration of ICT infrastructure and the low uptake of e-government services. He commended UNPOG on its advisory services and training to CIOs in post-conflict countries such as Afghanistan and expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Security and Public Administration (MOSPA) for their support and cooperation since the inception of UNPOG in 2006.

Mr. Wu was in Seoul to attend the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace 2013 and was accompanied by Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro and Ms. Elia Armstrong, Chiefs of DPADM's e-GB and DMB respectively. The delegation was hosted at the UNPOG Office premises by its recently appointed Head, Mr. Jae-hong Lim, who also appraised Mr. Wu on the major achievements of UNPOG in the past year and the way forward.

UN Public Administration Programme

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

13. 5th Congress on Transparency and Innovation in the State, held in Costa Rica

The Secretariat for Digital Government in Costa Rica proposed to fund a small-scale pilot project to be executed by DESA, through DPADM on how to implement key performance indicators to improve transparency, efficiency and inclusiveness in selected institutions in Costa Rica. The proposal was made after DPADM's IRA, Mr Jonas Rabinovitch, delivered the key note address entitled "Key Performance Indicators: We Can Not Improve What We Can Not Measure" at the 5th Congress on Transparency and Innovation in the State, held in San Jose from 14 to 16 October 2013. Presentations from various experts highlighted successes and lessons learned about specific programmes such as "Enterprise Creation", "Medicine for All", "Housing Portal", "Single Registry in Costa Rica", "E-procurement sites for public purchases", among other relevant themes for state modernization. The President of Costa Rica, Laura Chinchilla Miranda, closed the Congress by stating that "the only way to efficiently support the human factor in our development efforts is to improve digital technology and overcome the digital gap" and that "Digital technology has allowed Costa Rica to actually implement national State reforms at a level that would not have been possible only with legislative or administrative reforms".

14. NYU Wagner School - Capstone Proposal

On 22 October 2013, New York University's (NYU) Wagner School of Public Service proposed research collaboration with the DPADM within the framework of the Capstone Initiative, through which NYU would contribute human and financial resources for conducting substantive research and analysis based on the Monitoring and Evaluation Tool on Engagement and Participation (METEP) being developed by DESA. Discussions on the objectives of the proposed project, which is to be conducted in a number of countries possibly in Sub-Saharan Africa, were discussed and a start date for the same set for January 2014.

15. Kick-off Meeting to launch the Centre of Innovation on e-Government in Columbia

Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro, Chief, eGB/DPADM delivered the opening statement via video-conference following the remarks of the Vice-Minister of ICT, Ms. Maria Isabel Mejia, at the Kick-off Meeting to launch the new technical cooperation project entitled the Centre of Innovation on e-Government (INT/13/001) in Colombia on 30 October 2013. The meeting, which takes place from 30 October to 1 November 2013, aims to provide an overarching conceptual framework and architecture of the project, discuss knowledge management and sustainability aspects of the project, and agree on the next implementation steps. The overall goal of the Centre is to support capacity-building activities in the area of innovation and e-government in Latin America and the Caribbean. The activities led by DPADM cover 70% of the allocated budget (approximately US$ 800,000) provided by the Government of Colombia. The meeting is being attended by DPADM's IRA, Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch together with representatives of UNDP-Colombia and Colombia's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MINTIC).

16. Mission to the Center for Public and Corporate Governance, Universidad del Turabo, Puerto Rico

DPADM's Governance and Public Administration Officer, Ms. Arpine Korekyan, made a presentation on "The Role of Active Participation and Citizen Engagement in Good Governance" at the first capacity development activity of the Center for Public and Corporate

UN Public Administration Programme
Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Governance at the Universidad del Turabo, Puerto Rico. The presentation reflected on the importance of public participation and citizen engagement in current paradigms of governance and why it is important for governments to reform public institutions so as to be more responsive and accountable. It also highlighted the Division's United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS) research work on citizen engagement and participation, focusing on the Americas Region in the context of the post-2015 Development Agenda and the role of good governance in achieving sustainable development results. The mission was a follow up to a visit made by the Center's Executive Director, Dr. Eneida Torres de Durand in March 2013, to explore possibilities of collaboration with the Division on research and capacity development initiatives. The Center's mission is "to promote research opportunities and the sharing of knowledge and best practices on good governance, visionary, leadership, transparency, accountability and anti-corruption practices".

17. 2013 Global e-Government Forum advances a common understanding of Smart Government

DPADM, through the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), in partnership with the Ministry of Security and Public Administration (MOSPA), organised the 2013 Global e-Government Forum (GeGF) on "Smart Government and Smart Society" Forum in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, from 21 to 23 October 2013. Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro, Chief, eGB/DPADM delivered the opening statement on behalf of USG, Mr. Wu and made concluding remarks at the Ministerial Round-Table on the last day of the event. The Forum resulted in: (a) a set of recommendations on how to build capacity for Smart Government; (b) requests for DPADM's support towards capacity-building in the area of innovation and e-government by countries including Afghanistan, Botswana and South Africa among others; and c) an offer from the Government of Kazakhstan to host next year's Forum, for which DPADM has designed a draft project document to support this activity through funds-in-trust from Kazakhstan. This year's Forum was co-located with ICEGOV 2013, sharing a joint opening ceremony and plenary sessions. UNPOG and MOSPA each organised 4 parallel sessions, providing a platform for participants to present their respective practices on innovative e-government services, as well as to build North-South and South-South cooperation for future ICT-enabled good governance. Approximately 1,300 participants attended the forum including 25 ministerial level participants (10 ministers and 15 deputy ministers) and over 300 international participants.

18. Second Meeting of the Regional Hub's Provisional Steering Committee (PSC)

Members of the Regional Hub's Provisional Steering Committee (PSC) discussed and agreed on; a) the composition of their working group; b) to establish an expert network; and c) to work on their web portal's content, at their second meeting held on 30 October 2013, in Kazakhstan. The Regional Hub is a joint project between Agency for Civil Service Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNDP in Kazakhstan which aims to establish a multilateral network for continuous exchange of knowledge and experience in the civil service across the countries of the Asia. DPADM representing the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN), serves as Co-chair of Knowledge Management and Expert Network (KM&EN) work group and was represented by Mr. Gerald Kandulu via video-conference.