

DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: June 2013

1. Divisional Meeting

A divisional meeting was held on Tuesday 11 June 2013 for all DPADM staff. Mr. Wu attended part of the meeting. He noted that the Division is uniquely positioned to make a positive impact in the area of good governance and public administration with reference to sustainable development, including Internet governance, and encouraged staff to take a lead in this area. He also strongly urged staff to ensure to find innovative ways in which to pursue their work, to work as efficiently as possible and, in particular, to ensure that DESA ‘delivers as one.’ DPADM staff were motivated by Mr. Wu’s words to actively contribute to the social pillar of sustainable development and to work more closely with colleagues from other Divisions.

2. The 2013 United Nations Public Service Day, Awards Ceremony and Forum

The 2013 United Nations Public Service Day, Awards Ceremony and Forum was for the first time held in the Middle East, under the theme “Transformative e-Government and Innovation: Creating a Better Future for All”, from 24 to 27 June 2013. The high-level event was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.H. Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa and the Under-Secretary-General, Secretary General’s Special Adviser on Africa, Mr. Maged A. Abdelaziz. It was organized by the DPADM/DESA in collaboration with UN WOMEN, UN ESCWA, UNIDO, UNDP, the Bahrain Institute of Public Administration (BIPA) in partnership with the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, who hosted the event. The event included a plenary session, two ministerial roundtables, seven parallel capacity building workshops, an expert group meeting, a special meeting on “Essential Leadership Capacities and Actions for Transformational Government” and the 2013 United Nations Public Service Day and Awards (UNPSA) Ceremony. The UNPSA Ceremony which was held on 27 June 2013 featured opening statements by the Minister of Transportation of the Kingdom of Bahrain Mr. Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed and the Under-Secretary-General of UNDESA Mr. Wu Hongbo.

By the end of the event DPADM received requests to: i. assist a number of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) adapt and implement innovative practices for improved service delivery through practitioner-to-practitioner knowledge transfer activities; ii. build e-leadership and institutional capacities by establishing partnerships with United Nations regional commissions and other development partners to ensure coherence and coordination to deliver as one United Nations; iii. address and discuss the ethical use of open government data through its forums and United Nations intergovernmental bodies; and iv. support a number of United Nations Member States, including Tunisia, Bahrain, Oman, Iraq and Tanzania in building institutional e-government capacities.

DPADM also received input from experts on the design, the creation of a roadmap and advice on how to engage governments as part of the development and use of a self-assessment tool-kit that will assist Member States to engage citizens in setting the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In addition, the Government of Seychelles and Nigeria offered to host DPADM's Africa Regional Meeting on e-government, while Colombia reaffirmed its request to host the next United Nations Public Service Day, Awards Ceremony and Forum. ESCWA, OECD, The Republic of Korea and UNDP expressed an interest to cooperate with DPADM in three of their mandated events in 2013 and 2014, whole-of-government and open government data respectively.

3. Video Presentation on the Guidelines on Open Government Data for Citizen Engagement

On 26 June 2013, DPADM made a video presentation entitled “Lineas Guia sobre Datos de Gobierno Abierto Para la Participacion Ciudadana en la Gestion del Desarrollo” at the Regional Conference on Open Data for Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo, Uruguay. The video introduces DPADM’s Guidelines on Open Government Data for Citizen Engagement (OGDCE) in Spanish and stresses the importance of open government data as an instructive tool for governments and the public. It has been uploaded to UNPAN’s Youtube channel, and is available at: <http://youtu.be/eyd7i5CP8vo>