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DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: October 2014

1. Third Global e-Government Forum held in Astana, Kazakhstan

DPADM, in collaboration with the Government of Kazakhstan, organized the 2014 Global e-Government Forum held on 6-8 October in Astana with the theme "E-Government for the Future We Want". Among the keynote speakers during the Forum's Plenary, were the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. Karim Massimov, Mr. Chong Jong-sup, Minister of Security and Public Administration of the Republic of Korea, and Mr. Wu Hongbo, USG, DESA. Mr. Wu assisted by DPADM's Chief of e-GB, presented the special awards for the highest ranking countries based on the 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey. DPADM also organized one of the breakout session workshops, with the theme "Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Possibilities of Partnership in the Networked Society".

2. National Digital Conference and FutureGov Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

DPADM Interregional Adviser, Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch was invited by the Government of Malaysia, through its Multimedia Development Corporation, to participate as Keynote Speaker and to lead various interactive discussions at the FutureGov Summit and the National Digital Conference which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 8-10 October 2014. He also made on 7 October a presentation about the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-Government Readiness (METER) before an audience comprising of a cross-section of relevant Malaysian agencies such as the Ministry of Communication and Multimedia Malaysia.

3. Joint-Capacity Workshop on 'Developing Government and Governance Capacities for Sustainable Development' in Armenia

DPADM arranged a capacity-development workshop in Yerevan from 8 – 10 Oct. 14 on 'developing government and governance capacities for sustainable development' in countries with economies in transition, including the Commonwealth of Independent States, by promoting collaborative governance methods. Participants from more than 20 Member States including high-level government officials came together during the Workshop which is a joint capacity-development initiative of DPADM/DESA and UNDP, in cooperation with the Regional Hub of Civil Society.

4. Informal Discussion and Information Sharing Session on Developing Countries and Internet Governance

On 7 October 2014 the Chief of DMB of DPADM represented DESA as a panellist in an 'Informal Discussion and Information Sharing Session on Developing Countries and Internet Governance'. The meeting was convened by the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations in cooperation with The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) at the United Nations Headquarters and was open to permanent missions and permanent observer missions. The Chief spoke about the importance of the Internet and its governance in implementing future sustainable development goals and about the evolving role of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

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H.E Mr. Amr Aboulatta, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations, Chairman of the Group of 77, were also on the panel, together with senior representatives from ICANN. The objective of the meeting was to give ICANN a chance to present their ongoing work to the United Nations and for Member States, particularly developing countries, to gain information on emerging issues related to Internet Governance.

5. Colombia Confirms New US$ 1.6 Million Funding and Extension of Centre for Innovation on e-Government Development into 2015

Based on positive results generated in its initial months of operation, the Government of Colombia signed additional funding in the amount of US$ 1.6 million to advance the activities of the Centre for Innovation on e-Government Development until the end of 2015. The Centre is sponsored by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies of Colombia in partnership with DESA and UNDP. The Centre's agenda includes: the consolidation of the knowledge management architecture of the Centre; the establishment of an observatory of tendencies in e-Government development; the consolidation of a methodology for the creation of a sustainable model and the parameters for the establishment of a culture of innovation in e-Government in Colombia and Latin America. There are 68 well documented success stories on e-Government development which will be placed in the website to be launched in December at the event, E-xperience 2014. The Spanish edition of the 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey will also be launched at the same event.

6. Follow-Through Meeting with Kazakhstan after 2014 Global e-Government Forum

Following the successful Global e-Government Forum held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 6-8 October 2014, e-Government Branch Chief, Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro and his team had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Askar Zhumagaliyev, Vice Minister of Innovation and Development of Kazakhstan. The Vice Minister discussed the importance of e-government for Kazakhstan in particular and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole. The United Nations team thanked Kazakhstan for actively supporting the promotion of e-government development and talked about future cooperation and collaboration between DESA and the Government. One of the points of agreement is that the United Nations will assist Kazakhstan in enhancing its Open Data platform and design a project document to support the process.

7. Capacity Development Workshop on E-Participation in Kazakhstan

DPADM organized a capacity development workshop on E-participation as part of the 3rd Global E-Government Forum in Astana, Kazakhstan from 6 to 8 October 2014. The Workshop, "Developing Capacity for e-Participation: Engaging Citizens in Development Policy and Decision-making Process through Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)", targeted approximately 85 Kazakhstan government officials including representatives from regional, national, and local offices. The objective of the workshop was to bring together relevant policy makers and practitioners with the purpose of enhancing their knowledge on e-participation.

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During the Workshop, participants utilized a self-assessment tool, "Measurement and Evaluation Tool for Engagement and E-Participation (METEP)" which includes more than 150 features that policy makers need to pay attention to while designing e-participation policies and strategies. As a follow up to the Workshop, DPADM will closely work with the Ministry of Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan in order to ensure e-participation is adequately addressed and all aspects of e-participation are covered in the upcoming e-government strategy. More information about the Workshop and METEP can be found at:
http://www.unpan.org/DPADM/Themes/EParticipation/tabid/1772/language/en-US/Default.aspx

8. Arabic Version of 2014 E-Government Survey Launched in Bahrain

e-Government Branch Chief, Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro and Interregional Adviser, Mr. Richard Kerby joined Mr. Mohammed Al Qaed, CEO of the eGovernment Authority of Bahrain at a press conference held in Manama on 11 October 2014 to launch the Arabic Version of the 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey. On 13 October 2014, Mr. Aquaro met with Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister of Bahrain and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology, and presented the latter with the Arabic version of the 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey. The Deputy Prime Minister commended DPADM and DESA in general, for the support it has provided towards the development of e-government in Bahrain and discussed with Mr. Aquaro, future collaborations in capacity-building and promoting e-government within the region.

9. Advisory Support on e-Government and National Modernization in Malaysia

While on mission in Malaysia as Keynote Speaker at the FutureGov Summit and the National Digital Conference held in Kuala Lumpur on 8-10 October 2014, Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch, DPADM Interregional Adviser, in collaboration with the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), had a series of sessions with various government officials. The discussions were mostly focused on the United Nations e-Government Survey and opportunities for future cooperation to support the development of Malaysia's potential to deliver more services online and achieve digital excellence, as promised by Prime-Minister Najib Razak. The mission also met with the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Michelle Gyles McDonough to discuss possible contribution from DPADM towards the forthcoming public sector transformation framework in Malaysia. Government officials acknowledged UNDESA's support as "very strategic" concerning current development plans and their priorities.

10. United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) Briefing for Tanzania Global Learning Agency (TaGLA)

The Chief of Public Administration Capacity Branch Mr. John-Mary Kauzya and the UNPSA Coordinator conducted a video tele-conference (VTC) via Skype with Mr. Charles Y. Senkondo, the Executive Director of the Tanzania Global Learning Agency (tAgla) in Dar-es-Salaam on 15 October. The VTC was conducted for the purpose of explaining the UNPSA programme in detail to Mr. Senkondo, and to answer any questions on any aspect of the awards programme. It was also discussed to potentially arrange subsequent VTC sessions for other agencies in the region, to further promote the UNPSA programme.

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11. Expert Group Meeting (EGM) Organised by DPAD/DESA Colleagues in New York, in Support of Preparation of the World Economic and Social Survey 2015

On 16 October, DPADM participated in EGM organised by DPAD/DESA colleagues in New York, in support of preparation of the World Economic and Social Survey 2015. The survey will focus on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Lessons for Post-2015 and is scheduled for publication by the middle of next year. The EGM brought together members of the DESA Team for the World Economic and Social Survey 2015 (WESS 2015) and experts from key member organisations of the United Nations Task Team (UNTT) to discuss the sketches of the various chapters of WESS 2015 prepared by DPAD team. Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Officer in Charge for DPADM, was a discussant at Session III: Lessons from sectoral and MDG-specific enablers and policies that aim at identifying strong and well-coordinated institutional and governance settings, their processes and policies, which have encouraged adoption and effective implementation of MDGs at the national and sub-national levels. DPADM was represented also by Governance and Public Administration Officer from Development Management Branch, who is the focal point on institutional and governance dimensions of WESS.

12. PACB and E-GB met with the Office of Internal Oversight Services to discuss collaboration in the evaluation of capacity building projects

The Chiefs of PACB and e-GB held a meeting with an Evaluation Officer from the Peacekeeping Section, Inspection and Evaluation Division in the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on Thursday 16 October. During the meeting, the possibility of collaboration in the evaluation of capacity building projects of police was discussed. It was observed that there are complementarities that could be built on, especially the experience of DPADM in evaluating capacity building projects in the field. It was agreed to continue to discuss how DPADM and the Inspection and Evaluation Division in OIOS can collaborate in the evaluation to be conducted in Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

13. Expert Group Meeting on Formal/Informal Institutions for Citizen Engagement for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

DPADM in partnership with ESCWA, OECD and UNESCO organized an expert group meeting (EGM) on Formal/Informal Institutions for Citizen Engagement for implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Paris from 20 to 21 October 2014. The twenty six experts at the meeting examined ways in which governments can address increasingly complex realities through effective collaboration with citizens and analysed engagement practices in the context of conflict and its spill-over effects. They underscored the need to ensure "responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels" as part of the proposed sustainable development Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. They further highlighted that moving towards effective forms of participation requires enhanced awareness of challenges and opportunities for formal and informal ways to engage citizens and that sustainable development outcomes can only be achieved through promoting opportunities for collaboration and attaining greater harmonization between the two forms of engagement.
More information is available at http://www.unpan.org/ceforpost2015

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14. The ITU/NBTC Regional Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand (NBTC) jointly organised the ITU Regional Forum on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators: Measuring the Information Society and the ITU/ASEAN Meeting on Establishing National ICT Statistics Portals and Measuring ASEAN ICT Targets in Bangkok, Thailand from 13 to 16 October 2014. They were supported by the Department of Communications of the Government of Australia in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Programme Office on Governance (UNPOG), and the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association. The objective of the Forum was to strengthen the capacity of countries in the region, particularly ASEAN and Pacific countries, to produce national indicators and statistics on telecommunication/ICT, based on internationally agreed standards and methodologies. UNPOG Head, Mr. Jae-hong Lim, delivered welcome remarks at the Opening Session of the Forum and met with representatives from ITU and ADB at the sidelines where establishment of a trilateral committee was proposed to facilitate cooperative activities. UNPOG also presented on the key findings of 2014 UN E-Government Survey, E-Government Indicators, and the United Nations E-Government Development Database in Session 3 of the Forum entitled "Regional Coordination and Knowledge and Information Sharing Platform".

15. New United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) Partner

The Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) became the first United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) Partner from the Western Balkans after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DPADM on 31 October 2014. This took place at the annual ReSPA Ministerial Governing Board Meeting in Skopje, Macedonia. The Conference focused on advancing regional cooperation in public administration especially in the areas of ethics and anti-corruption as well as growth, competitiveness and job creation. It was attended by Ministers from Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as the Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland and representatives from the European Commission. DPADM also held bilateral meetings with the Minister of Information Society and Administration of Macedonia Mr. Ivo Ivanovski, the Executive Director of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) Mr. Kelmend Zajazi and ReSPA on future collaboration.
More information on UNPAN is available at http://www.unpan.org