1st Meeting of Executive Committee for the electronic/mobile-Government Knowledge Repository in the Asia-Pacific Region

9-10 December, 2008
Macao, People¡s Republic of China

A. Background

ICT provides unprecedented opportunities for developing countries around the globe, giving its users a digital tool to effectively cope with one of the prevailing phenomena in today¡s world, ¡less resource coupled with demanding needs.¡ Traditional public administration has thus been requested, or sometimes forced, to customize itself into ICT-propelled world. One of such efforts has been the use of electronic/mobile-government in servicing the public at large.

However, many government officials and policymakers in developing countries found themselves confronted with a number of challenges before they are to use the digital tool. Those challenges include difficulties to locate appropriate models or best practices which could be applied to their own settings. In order to help alleviate such difficulties, UNDESA initiated the global electronic/mobile-Government Knowledge Repository project and decided to launch subsequent preparatory meetings starting from the Asia-Pacific region.

Against this backdrop, the Capacity-building Workshop on Back Office Management for e/m-Government in Asia and the Pacific Region held from 27 to 28 May 2008 was held to upgrade the policy making capacities and technical skills of government officials and practitioners from developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region in back office management for electronic/mobile-government. This workshop was concluded with a consensus that an executive committee shall be established with the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) entrusted to serve as lead agency. Participants also entrusted UNGC to undertake preparatory actions that will lead to the establishment of an Executive Committee and its first meeting within 2008. The Executive Committee will comprise national and regional focal points responsible for conducting such specific roles as compiling e/m-governance-related information in each Asia-Pacific country, analyzing collected information, and repackaging such information into a platform to be activated within the United Nations Public Administration Network

(www.unpan.org) system.

The e/m-Government Repository in Asia-Pacific Region (hereafter called the Repository project) is part of the Global e/m-Government Repository, which, starting with Asia-Pacific region, will be implemented on a phased approach in cooperation with partners in respective regions. This project reflected increasing demands from UN Member States, especially from those developing countries, of the need for a repository of e-government-related information that can be tailored and benchmarked when designing and implementing their own e-services. This repository, to be called as the e/m-Government Repository, will be systemized to be accessible at any time and from anywhere, thus serving as a global internet-based one-stop-shop for e/m-Government knowledge sharing. The e/m-Government Repository will have been finalized by 2010, and will be expected to meet accelerating needs of governments by providing systematic and holistic information at local, national and regional levels.

B. Objectives

The objectives of the first meeting of Executive Committee for the Repository project in the Asia-Pacific Region are as following.

(i)   To finalize who would participate as project partners to implement the Repository project; and discuss whether to include other interested agencies currently outside of this discussion

(ii) To come up with the phased plan of action that would eventually lead up to the launching of the Repository project; clarify division of labor among focal points; set reasonable timetable for each phase; and determine methodology

(iii) To get a basic idea of how the Repository project would work by the detailed presentation of UNDESA

C. Participants

Those who confirmed their intention to join the Executive Committee at the previous workshop in Shanghai will be invited. Expected to be present at the meeting are UNDESA, UNPOG, NIA, RCOCI/SIECC/e-SDDC, CGG, EROPA, and UNU-IIST CEG. Other interested institutions can be invited if necessary.

D. Time and Venue

The meeting is planned to be held from <u>9 to 10 December 2008</u>. UNU-IIST Center for Electronic Governance based in <u>Macao, People¡s Republic of China</u>, offered to provide a conference facility for the meeting.

E. Agenda

The Executive Committee Meeting will last two days, including three sessions. On the first day throughout the first session called ¡Capacity-Building for e-Governance,¡ participants will be given opportunities to sharpen their understanding over e-governance by a series of special presentations to be made by experts working at UNU-IIST-EGOV. Themes of the presentations include ¡Electronic Governance Projects at UNU-IIST-EGOV¡ and ¡Knowledge Management in e-Government.¡ On the second day, the meeting will continue with the second session where project partners give presentations over institutional framework in line with the Repository project. After all the presentations, a round-table discussion will ensue to finalize partnership agreements.

F. Outputs

Through the First Meeting, the followings are expected as concrete outputs.

(i)   Partnership agreements are made by all the participating project partners with regard to the overall direction and method of substantial research of the Repository project; and the operation of the Executive Committee.

(ii)   Finalization of the phased plan of action for 2009 including the allocation of targeted Asia-Pacific countries among the project partners

(iii) Determining the venue for the 2nd meeting of Executive Committee in the first half of 2009

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