

Summary

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The Presentations

Four presentations given:

- 1) Introduction to the UNeGov.net initiative
- 2) Benefits, challenges and applications of e-governance in developing countries
- 3) GTZ and InWEnt efforts in the effective adoption of Open Source Software in developing countries
- 4) Building knowledge networks for e-governance

UneGov.net

Key Points:

- 1) UNU-IIST initiative to build a community of e-governance practice.
- 2) Network of e-governance experts and practitioners from government, civil society, academia and industry.
- 3) Allows sharing and transfer of knowledge as well as consensus building on best practices.
- 4) Assists developing countries in implementing e-governance through peer-experience and collaborative problem solving.
- 5) Characterized by at least seven elements: Portal, Schools, Workshops, Certification, Reports, Practice and Conference.

e-Governance

Key Points:

- 1) Digital divide could widen if developing countries fail to adopt e-governance.
- 2) ICT policy is critical for the inclusion of developing countries in knowledge society.
- 3) E-governance can serve as tool to address corruption – a major problem in developing countries.
- 4) Major factors for e-governance include: leadership, funding, partnership, best practices and capacity development.
- 5) Typical challenges in e-governance implementation include: funding, IT literacy, policies, trust and privacy.

Open Source

Key points:

- 1) The use of open source software has attendant benefits and challenges.
- 2) GTZ and InWent efforts in promoting the use of open source software include:
 - a) Met@logo Project
 - b) IT@foss (2005 – 2008)
 - c) CosGov Vietnam 2005
- 3) These efforts are fostering: regional cooperation, public-private partnership and networking in the SE Asia region.

Knowledge Networks

Main points:

- 1) Creation of knowledge networks is useful in advancing e-governance
- 2) Considerations in building government networks differ from those associated with private-sector networks.
- 3) The ability to discover resources, diagnose problems and re-design government networks is essential
- 4) Three typical government networks: Emergency Response, Environment and Public Health networks

Conclusion

- 1) Electronic Governance adoption remains imperative for developing countries despite the challenges.
- 2) The adoption open source software is beneficial to e-governance, but with some challenges. GTZ and InWent are addressing some of the challenges through 3 projects.
- 3) Knowledge networks are essential for cooperative learning, sharing and dissemination of knowledge and best practices in a field of practice.
- 4) UNeGov.net is a knowledge network conceived by UNU-IIST to assist developing countries in learning from both peer developing nations and leading e-governance nations all over the world.