



Welcome Address

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Executive Development Course: Digital Government for Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies – The Singapore Experience

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Singapore

Ms. Jacqueline Poh, Chief Executive of Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech),

Mr. Arndt Husar, Deputy Director of UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence (GCPSE),

Distinguished Participants and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), it is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you to this “*Executive Development Course: Digital Government for Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies – The Singapore Experience*”. This is co-organized with Singapore GovTech and UNDP GCPSE. I hope you all had a good flight.

So, first of all, please allow me to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to our co-organizers, GovTech and UNDP GCPSE, who have made great efforts to prepare for this Course.

I especially thank Ms. Jennifer Tan and Mr. Justin Lee and the organizing team of GovTech, as well as Mr. Arndt Husar and Mr. Kelvin Chai of UNDP GCPSE for their great work.

I also welcome my colleague from DPADM, Mr. Jonas Rabinovitch, who is senior advisor on capacity development.

I am very happy to see this event is attended by 21 countries with good representation from Asia-Pacific region, Eastern Africa, and Latin America. We have SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs and middle-income countries with different country contexts and challenges.

I would also like to share with you that most participants present today are SDG focal points, who are in charge of planning, implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in your countries.

I fully believe that you could benefit from this Course as the overall theme on *Digital Government for Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies* is highly relevant to SDG implementation, which is also the theme for 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

It is widely recognized by Member States that ICT and e-government could be an important enabler for implementing the SDGs.

In particular, innovations in digital government with the advent of new and emerging technologies foster the inclusive service delivery and participatory decision making of all people, especially the most vulnerable and poorest in the society, which is also the overarching theme of 2030 Agenda.

Now, let me briefly introduce the general structure of this Course.

This week-long course will include 11 sessions covering a wide range of topics. They include: policy and strategy formulation, ICT infrastructure, cyber security, data governance, disaster risk reduction, digital economy,

digital inclusion, technology foresight and government strategy and partnership building.

GovTech as the hosting agency will share the valuable experience of Singapore, which has been spearheading in applying digital and smart solutions to provide better services for its citizens.

Thanks to the thoughtful arrangements by GovTech, we have 4 site visits to gain in-depth knowledge of selected good practices of delivering public services by leveraging digital technologies.

Nevertheless, this Course is not just about learning about how to mobilize digital government for SDG implementation. It also serves as a good platform to exchange good experiences and build partnership between countries and with GovTech, UNDP GCPSE and DPADM/UNPOG as well.

This exchange will help you better understand the common challenges of countries in special situations, particularly SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs and find viable solutions through peer-to-peer learning.

The partnership building through this Course will lead to future collaboration for sure in the field of digital government and ensure sustainable impacts and concrete policy actions.

To further this partnership building, UNPOG in collaboration with our DPADM colleagues will do our best to support capacity development in your endeavors to advance digital government.

The primary mission of UNPOG of DPADM is to assist the Member States to improve their governance capacity. Since its inception in 2006, UNPOG has been working on promoting participatory, transparent and effective governance.

UNPOG currently focuses on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions for advancing the implementation of the SDGs. This is also the main target of the SDG Goal 16.

One of UNPOG's main areas of work is promoting ICT/e-government for sustainable development in developing Member States.

This is in tandem with the strong demand from the Member States for UN's capacity development support in this field of ICT/e-government. This demand for support in ICT/e-government has been also pinpointed as one of the priority areas by many countries who responded to DPADM/UNPOG's Capacity Needs Assessment.

UNPOG has in the past conducted various researches and organized capacity-building activities in the field of ICT/e-government for development, such as e-government for women's empowerment and e-government for sustainable development in SIDS.

We have also disseminated good country practices particularly that of the Republic of Korea, which, as the host country of UNPOG, has been pioneering in e-government for citizen's happiness.

I sincerely hope that this Executive Development Course could be another significant opportunity for us to better serve developing Member States in the future.

Lastly, before I finish, I would like to mention that we hope this week's Course does not end here at the end of this week.

We strongly wish that the knowledge and capacities learned from this Course can be shared with many more government officials in your countries when you go back.

Thank you very much once again for joining the Course.

I very much look forward to your active participation and discussion

throughout the Course.

Thank you.