



eGovernance Development Conference

Proposal

The document gives a vision of the conference regarding eGovernance development in Republic of Armenia, which will serve as a research tool for further proceedings. In this paper the general frame and the format of the upcoming conference are described and the global and specific objectives and questions are stated.

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Background and Justification

During last years many International and Governmental organizations tried to develop a schema for building eGovernance in the Republic of Armenia (RA). However, the results are still not visible to Armenian society. The actual results of these organizations need to be summarized and the concrete steps should be done for further development of eGovernance in RA.

It is known that the absence of eGovernance in the RA is pushing back the development of the country and makes difficult its Economic growth. Now the Government and the ministries are making steps towards building eGovernment elements.

Having an aim to help the RA Government in building eGovernance Development Strategy Paper, in October 2008 will be organized a two day conference with the presence and active involvement of stakeholders.

Having in one place all stakeholders it will be possible to hear presentations from all of them and see what is done what can be done, what needs the country has. The eGovernance professionals will present general practical examples which will give clear understanding about the benefits of building eGovernance.

Objectives

Global objective:

Research the Country potential for eGovernance Development for assisting the RA Government in Developing eGovernance Development Strategy Paper and its execution.

Specific objectives:

1. *Stimulate academic and practitioner discussion of the potentials of eGovernance and present all possibilities of it to interested stakeholders*
2. *Draw case examples of electronic democracy, governance, and consultation and participation from across the World.*
3. *Showcase innovative and effective examples of electronic governance practice.*
4. *Develop a domestic view of the value and potential of this emerging field of activity that is sympathetic to the political cultural values of Armenia*
5. *Present/Discuss the possibilities of resources involved into development of eGovernance in Armenia*
6. *What research should be done now to assess the possible development and implementation of eGovernance?*

Date and Venue¹

October 17-18, 2008 – preliminary

Marriott Armenia Hotel – preliminary

- General Conference room – 8:30 – 19:00
- Small Press Conference room – 9:00 – 9:30
- Workshop room 1 – (14:00 – 17:00)
- Workshop room 2 – (15:00 – 18:00)

Day One

- General conference room
 - Registration - 8:45 to 9:20
 - Press Conference – 9:10 to 9:30
 - Opening Ceremony – 9:30 to 10:00
 - Session A – 10:00 to 12:00
 - Coffee Break
 - Session B – 12:15 to 13:00
 - Lunch – 13:00 to 14:00
 - Session C – 14:00 to 17:00 (15:45 to 16:00 Coffee Break)
 - Discussion – 17:00 to 18:00
- Workshop rooms
 - Workshop A – 14:00 to 17:00 (15:45 to 16:00 Coffee Break)
 - Workshop B – 15:00 to 18:00 (16:45 to 17:00 Coffee Break)

Day Two

- General conference room
 - Session A – 10:00 to 12:00
 - Coffee Break

¹ The titles of sessions should be decided by Steering Committee

- Session B – 12:15 to 13:00
- Lunch – 13:00 to 14:00
- Session C – 14:00 to 16:00 (15:45 to 16:00 Coffee Break)
- Discussion – 16:00 to 17:00
- Closing Ceremony – 17:00 to 18:00
- Dinner – 19:00 (Old Erivan)
- Workshop rooms
 - Workshop A – 10:00 to 13:00 (15:45 to 16:00 Coffee Break)
 - Workshop B – 14:00 to 16:00 (15:45 to 16:00 Coffee Break)
 - Workshop C – 15:00 to 18:00 (16:45 to 17:00 Coffee Break)

Modalities and Format

The conference will take place in a two day format, during which the parties will hear speeches by the Government officials/representatives, organizers, and presentations of recognized professionals, raise and discuss problems and questions. More specifically, the conference will consist from Sessions and Workshops.

Sessions:

During Sessions the audience will hear presentations of recognized Armenian and Foreign professionals. Sessions will give audience clear understanding of eGovernance benefits, bring some successful examples of the world recent practices, make comparisons with our country, present already done projects and the ongoing developments in the country, rise general questions that are necessary to solve for eGovernance development. The audience will also have opportunity to ask questions.

Workshops:

The Workshops mainly will be conducted simultaneously with sessions. Here the participants of the workshops will demonstrate existing technological solutions, the interested parties will make presentations regarding their potential role in building eGovernance infrastructure. The workshops will be targeted to stimulating more professional discussions rather than general.

Specifically the organizers of the conference will raise the following questions and will make presentations around the following questions.

1. What is the relationship between electronic governance practices and existing political structures, institutions, processes, and norms? Is electronic governance a concept that fits within our traditions, or does it require new paradigms and lenses?

2. What is the value of electronic governance? Are the benefits worth the costs and risks? How do we (or should we) judge the value of democracy?
3. What are the factors that encourage or impede the development of electronic governance?
4. Who wins and losses? Can electronic governance open up governance processes or is it a technology that closes government to the citizen?
5. Does electronic governance require us to deconstruct the notion of "the citizen"? What is a citizen? And how does this concept negotiate difference and diversity?
6. How should practitioners benefit from research? How can researchers participate in practice? What are the methodological and analytical tools of value in this area of investigation?

Participants and Observers

The participants of the conference will be Academics, researchers, institutions, Governmental Structures, International Organization and the Business representatives. For the conference the organizers will invite eGovernance development professionals from abroad (e.g. Estonia, Great Britain, European Union...) who will make presentations and then will cooperate with Armenian team on the way of building eGovernance in Republic of Armenia.

Though the conference is aimed for eGovernance professionals, stakeholders and invited audience, the participation on the conference is not limited to other interested parties. For not invited parties the organizers will charge the participants for participation, materials and food. The organizers will prepare specific packages for Students, Individuals and organizations. Besides, the organization committee should approve such participants' applications.

Research and Publications

The Conference itself will serve as a research tool for making a situation analysis in a short period of time and for creating a basis of developing eGovernance Strategy and National Action Plan. Consequently, as a result of the conference (research), it is expected to have a special report regarding the nowadays situation (situation analysis), which will serve as a basis for further publications (eGovernance Strategy Paper and National Action Plan).