The mission of the United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN) is to promote the sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices throughout the world in sound public policies, effective public administration and efficient civil services, through capacity-building and cooperation among the United Nations Member States, with emphasis on south-south cooperation and UNPAN's commitment to integrity and excellence.

**UNPAN NEWS HEADLINES**

**UNPAN Web Site Evolves**

In recent months, UNPAN has made both substantive and minor changes to its web site:

*Substantive changes*

- DPADM major publications
- Virtual Library – Information by core theme
- Profiles and contact information of the members of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) 2006-2009

*Minor changes*

- Contact Us and Users' Survey
- What's New
- All regional sites: International, Africa, Arab States, Asia/Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, and North America

**UN Releases World Public Sector Report 2005**

The conditions of globalisation, including economic integration, fiscal discipline, introduction of information communications technologies (ICTs) and democratic governance, have increasingly forced states to redefine their role in public management and to reform the public administration system. However, there is growing realisation amongst decision makers that policy and institutional reform per se will not be sufficient to revitalise the public sector. Major strengthening of the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and leadership abilities of human capital is also needed to transform the public sector, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. *Unlocking the Human Potential for Public Sector Performance* is expected to contribute to global and national debates on this important topic.

URL: [http://www.unpan.org/dpepa_worldpareport_hr.asp](http://www.unpan.org/dpepa_worldpareport_hr.asp)

**UNPAN Users Can Access UNPAN Learning Manager**

UNPAN-HQ is pleased to announce that the UNPAN Learning Manager is now open to
all UNPAN users. The first online course, titled "eGovernment - What a Government Leader Should Know" will be comprised of three parts. For more information, please contact Ms. Adriana Ribeiro at ribeiroa@un.org.
URL: http://www.unpan.org/training_egovform.asp

Call for Nominations for the 2006 UN Public Service Awards
The Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs invites nominations for the 2006 United Nations Public Service Awards. Awards will be given in the following three categories:

- Improving transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in the public service;
- Improving the delivery of services; and
- Application of information and communication technology (ICT) in government: e-government.

URL: http://www.unpan.org/dpepa_PSaward2006.asp

IN THIS ISSUE
- News from ASPA
- News from CAFRAD
- News from CIIPAP
- News from DPADM
- News from ECE
- News from EROPA
- News from ICCE
- News from IPAC
- News from IPMA-HR
- News from RCOCI
- News from UNCRD

UNPAN LINKS
- UNPAN Web Site
- UNPAN Calendar of Events
- International
- Africa
- Arab States
- Asia & Pacific
- Europe
- Latin America & Caribbean
- North America
- What's New
- UNPAN Newsletter

NEWS FROM ASPA
American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
http://www.aspanet.org

ASPA Delegation Travels to Chengdu, China
A fifteen member ASPA delegation led by President Donald C. Menzel traveled to Chengdu, China, for the International Conference on Public Administration 21-22 October 2005. The conference provided a forum for distinguished speakers from academia, government and industry to discuss problems and new ideas, share experiences of success and failure in public administration, explore the changes that public administration poses for all aspects of governance, and promote international co-operation in the field of public administration. The conference was co-sponsored by ASPA, the Chinese Public Administration Society, and the School of Public Administration, Moscow State University, Russia, and the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China.

ASPA Will Co-Sponsor 3rd Sino-US International Conference for Public Administration
The School of Public Administration, Renmin University of China, the American Society for Public Administration and the Chinese Public Administration Society will jointly organize the Third Sino-US International Conference for Public Administration in Beijing, P. R. China, 8-9 June 2006. The conference will take place at Run Run Shaw Conference Center, Renmin University of China and will focus on the following sub-topics:

- Theory basis of public service-oriented government, with particular emphases on components, institution frames, administrative ethics, etc);
• Policy choices of public service-oriented government (with particular emphases on experience and policy innovation in China);
• Performance evaluation of public service-oriented government; and
• Citizen participation within public service-oriented government.

URL: http://zmen.mparuc.edu.cn

Recent Publications

• PA TIMES - October issue
• Public Administration Review - September/October issue

Conference Information

67th Annual ASPA National Conference
Theme: "The Sky's the Limit: Idealism and Innovation in Public Service"
Dates: 1-4 April 2006
Location: Denver, CO, USA
Contact: Ms. Heidi Salati
E-mail: hsalati@aspanet.org

3rd Sino-US International Conference for Public Administration
Theme: "Building Public Service-Oriented Government"
Dates: 8-9 June 2006
Location: Beijing, P. R. China
Host Institute: School of Public Administration, Renmin University of China
Organizing institutes: American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) and Chinese Public Administration Society (CPAS)
Contact: Dr. Mengzhong ZHANG
E-mail: menzhong@yahoo.com
URL: http://zmen.mparuc.edu.cn

NEWS FROM CAFRAD

African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD)
http://www.cafrad.org

CAFRAD's Staff Mission Abroad

• The Director-General of CAFRAD paid a working visit to the Arab Fund from Technical Assistance to African countries (AFTAAC) in Cairo (Egypt), from 24-27 September 2005. The aim of the visit was to examine the possibility of collaboration in areas of common interest. A memorandum of understanding for collaboration was signed and areas of partnership were identified for joint implementation, starting in 2006.
• A preparatory meeting for the organization of the International Conference on Implementing the Charter and Related Initiatives for Public Service Improvement in Africa was convened in Frankfurt (Germany) in August where the Director-
General of CAFRAD took part. Participants from Namibia, InWent, ESAMI and CAFRAD examined all the issues relating to the organization of the conference.

Recent Conferences

**CAFRAD/IDRC LOG-IN Africa, Pre-Project Workshop**

Dates: 3-5 September 2005
Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Contact: cafrad@cafrad.org
URL: [http://www.cafrad.org/Workshops/Kenya2005/Log-In-Africa.htm](http://www.cafrad.org/Workshops/Kenya2005/Log-In-Africa.htm)

**International Conference on Implementing the Charter and Related Initiatives for Public Service Improvement in Africa**

Dates: 3-7 October 2005
Location: Swakopmund, Namibia
Contact: cafrad@cafrad.org

Conference Information

CAFRAD, in partnership with UNDESA and other institutions, is organising a regional seminar for Secretaries to Cabinet, on visionary planning, strategic management and follow up of Government actions, Tangier (Morocco), 28-30 November 2005.

**NEWS FROM CIIAP**

International Centre of Innovation and Exchange in Public Administration (CIIAP)  
[http://www.flem.org.br/ciiap](http://www.flem.org.br/ciiap)

**CIIAP Commemorates SAC Anniversary**

A commemorative seminar on the occasion of SAC’s ten-year anniversary was held at the Luís Eduardo Magalhães Foundation on 21-23 September. The meeting featured a discussion on how to strengthen democratic governance through high quality public service delivery. At the same time, the meeting was seeking to update and share the advances in integration of public services.

**Debate on Criminality and the Brazilian Disarmament Policy**

A videoconference connecting four Brazilian state capitals (Salvador, Belo Horizonte, Recife and Brasília) to discuss the many themes surrounding the referendum on the prohibition of the firearms trade in Brazil was held at the Luís Eduardo Magalhães Foundation on 20 October. The event was promoted by the World Bank Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), the Catholic University of Minas Gerais and the Luís Eduardo Magalhães Foundation.

**II Seminar on Sustainable Human Development**

A seminar set up to discuss the current meaning of the concept of sustainable human development and a view of the actions necessary to implement it was held at the Luís Eduardo Magalhães Foundation (Salvador, Brazil) on 26 October. The meeting was promoted by the United Nations Programme for Development, the Institute of Sustainable Human Development of the Catholic University of Minas Gerais and the Luís Eduardo Magalhães Foundation.
Conference Information

*International Seminar on Competency Assurance*
Dates: 29-30 November 2005
Location: Salvador, Brazil
Contact: CIIAP
Tel.: +55 71 270.5246
URL: [http://www.flem.org.br/certifica/](http://www.flem.org.br/certifica/)

*Creative Industries: The Culture in the 21st Century*
Dates: 5-6 December 2005
Location: Salvador, Brazil
Contact: CIIAP
Tel.: +55 71 3115.3750
URL: [http://www.flem.org.br](http://www.flem.org.br)

*Cycle of Seminars on Municipal Management for the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals*
Theme: "Municipal Public Management and the MDGs"
Locations: Municipalities of Bahia, Brazil
Tel.: +55 71 3115.3750
URL: [http://www.flem.org.br](http://www.flem.org.br)

**NEWS FROM DPADM**
Division for Public Administration and Development Management, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DPADM/UNDESA)

Recent Publications

- *Governance World Watch*
- *Development Administration Newsletters*
- *Human Resources for Effective Public Administration in a Globalized World*
- *Decentralised Governance for Democracy, Peace, Development and Effective Service Delivery*
- *Public Administration Country Profiles*
- *E-government Survey*
- *e-Government Readiness Assessment Methodology*

**NEWS FROM ECE**
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
[http://www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org)

Highlights from Recent Programmes

- Workshop on WTO Accession, Trade Facilitation and Transit UNECE, in collaboration with the Ministries of International Economic Relations of Serbia and Montenegro and the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia, the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC) and the WTO secretariat, organised a Workshop on WTO Accession, Trade Facilitation and
Transit in Belgrade, Serbia on 19 and 20 October 2005. The objective was to raise awareness of the importance of integration of Serbia in the international rules-based trading system and of trade and transport facilitation for the economic and political development of Serbia and Montenegro. The Workshop examined such issues as the Single Window in Serbia and Montenegro, implementation of major international transit instruments (such as TIR) and the implications of the WTO trade facilitation agenda for the country. For further information, please contact Mr. Mario Apostolov at mario.apostolov@unece.org.

- The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) set a major course for paperless trade at its annual session. The ‘Roadmap towards Paperless Trade’ was launched at the international Forum on trade facilitation: “Paperless Trade in International Supply Chains: Enhancing Efficiency and Security”. This third international forum on trade facilitation took place on 20 and 21 June, with more than 300 participants representing 61 countries and 88 international organizations and NGOs. It focused on the numerous benefits and challenges of switching to paperless trade, especially for customs clearance, trade logistics, banking, port management and air transport. The meeting produced the document, *Roadmap towards Paperless Trade*, which is one of the UNECE’s contributions towards the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which will be held in Tunis 16-18 November 2005. For further information, please contact Mr. Markus Pikart at Markus.Pikart@unece.org.

- The UNECE also continued policy discussions regarding trade facilitation in the WTO context. This was the theme of the Policy Segment of the 2005 annual session of the UNECE Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development. The discussion covered issues such as trade facilitation’s impact on the competitiveness of companies, nations and regions, and, thus on economic development; objectives of negotiations on trade facilitation in the WTO, with their focus on Articles V, VIII and X of the GATT as well as the costs and benefits of trade facilitation measures, and their influence on economic development. The presentations and the related documents are available at [http://www.unece.org/trade/welcome.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/welcome.htm).

- The UNECE Regional Adviser on Trade Facilitation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, State Customs Service and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine, organized a workshop on trade facilitation, with participation from Armenia, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova on 10 and 11 October 2005. The Workshop focused on the status of market reforms in Ukraine and the other participating countries, implementation of trade facilitation measures, strengthening public-private partnerships for trade facilitation, transit policy and practical issues, and definition of concrete projects on trade facilitation implementation, including harmonization with international standards. It also discussed the Single Window approach and existing trade facilitation and transit issues as part of regional initiatives such as TRACECA and GUAM and among national trade facilitation bodies (PRO Committees). For further information, please contact Mr. Mario Apostolov at mario.apostolov@unece.org.
Recent Publications

ECE/TRADE/362 – September 2005

The United Nations, through its Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations from developed, developing and transitional economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively. The Directory is based on an international standard ISO 7372, which was prepared jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It includes processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration and it is maintained by a joint ISO-UNECE Maintenance Agency.


In many countries, companies involved in international trade regularly have to prepare and submit large volumes of information and documents to governmental authorities to comply with import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements. This information and documentation often has to be submitted through several agencies, each with its own specific (manual or automated) systems and paper forms. These extensive requirements, together with their associated compliance costs, can constitute a serious burden both to Governments and to the business community and can also be a serious barrier to the development of international trade. One approach to addressing this problem is the establishment of a Single Window whereby trade-related information and documents need to be submitted only once at a single entry point. This can enhance the availability and handling of information, expedite and simplify information flows between trade and government and can result in a greater harmonisation and sharing of the relevant data across governmental systems, bringing meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade. The use of such a facility can result in improved efficiency and effectiveness of official controls and can reduce costs both for governments and for traders due to a better use of resources. The UNECE Recommendation 33 on the Single Window was formally approved by UN/CEFACT in September 2004, after an extensive review process by various industry, governmental and international organizations.


The Compendium is a reference guide for all those engaged in simplifying, harmonizing and rationalizing trade procedures and practices. It is also useful for industry, commerce, transport, administrations and organizations, to create awareness of the possibilities that exist in the area of facilitation and harmonization of trade and transport.
**United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents**

*ECE/TRADE/270 – available in English, French and Russian (Reroll 2005)*

The publication, which includes an extensive Appendix with illustrations of forms for several sectors based on the UN Layout Key (UNLK), also takes into account the relationship between paper documents and their electronic counterparts. Since its introduction in 1973 as the UNECE Recommendation No. 1, the UN Layout Key has provided Governments and the business community with a basis for a standard and aligned design of documents used in trade and transport.

**Facilitation Measures related to International Trade Procedures, Recommendation 18**

*ECE/TRADE/271 – available in English, French and Russian (Reroll 2005)*

The third revised edition of UNECE’s Recommendation 18 provided a comprehensive set of recommendations regarding international best practices and standards for the facilitation and harmonization of trade transactions from initial commercial documents to payment measures, official controls and transportation of goods.

**Conference Information**

**UN/CEFACT Workshop on Common Standards & Interoperability for Single Window**

The Workshop will include presentations by existing Single Window operators on how they exchange information; presentations and discussion regarding the establishment of common standards and other related issues of interoperability; and discussions among key stakeholders regarding the overall work required to achieve the common standards.

Date: February 2006  
Location: Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland  
Contact: Mr. Tom Butterly  
Tel.: (+41) 22 917 1178  
Fax: (+41) 22 917 0629  
E-mail: Tom.Butterly@unece.org

**NEWS FROM EROPA**

**Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA)**

http://www.eropa.org.ph

**EROPA Hosts Executive Council Meeting and Conference in Hanoi**

The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration concluded its five-day 51st Executive Council Meeting and 20th General Assembly and Conference on “The Role of Public Administration and Governance Stakeholders in Attaining the Millennium Development Goals” 13 October 2005 in Melia Hanoi Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Executive Council held its 51st meeting on the evening of 9 October 2005 that was presided over by Council Chair Ajay Sawhney of the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of India. Forty-five (45) delegates of state members, group members, individual representatives and observers attended the meeting.

The EROPA Deputy Secretary General gave an update on the organization’s activities as well as the activities of the three EROPA Centers: the EROPA Development
Management Center at the Central Officials Training Institute in Korea, the EROPA Local Government Center housed in the Local Autonomy College of Japan and the EROPA Training Center in the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dzung opened the 20th General Assembly while EROPA Deputy Secretary General Alex B. Brillantes, Chair of the Vietnam Organizing Committee Nguyen Ngoc Hien and the Chair of the EROPA Executive Council Ajay Sawhney also delivered opening statements to celebrate the opening of the conference. The officials also extended warm greetings to the City of Hanoi on its 995th founding anniversary and greetings for a successful conference. Heads of State members’ delegations likewise gave their respective messages.

Two hundred and thirty (230) participants from twenty (20) countries attended the conference. The participants were able to share and learn from the presentations made throughout the conference. The four sub-themes covered: 1) Learning from the Challenges and Success Stories of Various Stakeholders in Attaining the MDGs; 2) Creative, Effective and Viable Strategies to Build Capacities of Various Stakeholders Towards Attaining MDGs; 3) Assessing the Impact and the monitoring Mechanisms for Attaining the MDGs; and 4) Focusing Special Attention on Specific Goals and Targets of the MDGs.

Dr. G. Shabbir Cheema and his team presented reports on Attaining the Millennium Development Goals from South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific Islands. Participants were also able to view a documentary on the issues facing the Least Developed Countries in the Asia and the Pacific through a report made by a UNDP representative.

Dr. Nguyen Khac Hung of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), Vietnam presented a summary of the workshop results and outputs during the Closing Ceremony. Representatives from the Public Service Department of Brunei Darussalam, host for EROPA’s meeting next year invited all the participants to attend the conference scheduled for the last quarter of 2006.

NEWS FROM ICCE
Park University International Centre for Civic Engagement (ICCE)
http://www.park.edu/icce

UNPAN Selects ICCE as Online International Centre
Last month, Park University's International Centre for Civic Engagement (ICCE) became the newest UNPAN Online International Centre. Centre Director Erik Bergrud edits UNPAN Newsletter and has been actively involved in UNPAN since 2001.

ICCE Launches Blog
The ICCE has launched a blog that features international civic engagement news and analysis. Access the blog at http://icce.typepad.com.
ICCE Will Publish First White Paper This Month
The ICCE will publish its first white paper later this month. "Toward a Theory of Civic Engagement," written by Jerzy Hauptmann, professor emeritus of political science and public administration at Park University, will be posted on the ICCE and UNPAN web sites and available in print upon request. For more information, please contact Erik Bergrud at erik.bergrud@park.edu.

Special Event Announcement
"From e-Government 2 e-Governance: A multi perspective appraisal", an Open Event of the Executive Master in e-Governance of the Chair of Management of Network Industries (MIR) at the College of Management of Technology (CdM) of the EPFL – École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 16 December 2005. The Event, jointly organised by the EPFL's School of Continuing Education and MIR will gather in Lausanne high-level academic, institutional, and industrial actors, to discuss about the construction of e-Governance so far, and its future challenges. Contact: Gianluca Misuraca, e-gov Managing Director, at gianluca.misuraca@epfl.ch
URL: http://egov.epfl.ch

NEWS FROM IPAC
Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC)
Institut d'administration publique du Canada (IAPC)
http://www.ipac.ca (English)
http://www.iapc.ca (French)

"RESPONDING TO GOMERY: THE FUTURE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CANADA" (15 November 2005: Chateau Laurier, Ottawa)
IPAC is teaming up with Carleton University's School of Public Policy to present an in-depth exploration of the findings of Judge Gomery’s Commission, studying allegations of criminal malfeasance in the federal government, and to create an opportunity for response before the final recommendations are issued in early December. The panels will feature some of the best public administration experts from across Canada. For more details on the event, go to: http://www.ipac.ca/events/responding_to_gomery.html
To register, visit: http://www.ipac.ca/events/forms/responding_to_gomery_signup.html.

"BRIDGING GAPS AND BUILDING LEADERSHIP: RENEWING THE PUBLIC SECTOR’S INTELLECTUAL INFRASTRUCTURE" (30 November 2005: Château Laurier, Ottawa)
The 2004 IPAC survey of Deputy Minister and Chief Administrative Officers revealed that public sector leaders are concerned by the magnitude of the retirement wave hitting their organizations, and the need to manage the generation shift in a much more organized way. The survey also pointed to a concern about the implications of this generational shift for knowledge transfer, knowledge management, and for the training and development of staff within their organizations. This summit will convene public sector leaders across Canada who have led the charge in responding to these giant challenges. This is the second annual IPAC Workshop on "Making Government the Best Place to Work". Topics include:
• What are effective Strategies to Promote Policy Effectiveness?
• How to Develop and nurture a learning culture in the Public Sector?
• What are Innovative Rewards and Recognition strategies to strengthen the Intellectual Infrastructure?
• Building Bridges to Where?

For more details, visit: http://www.ipac.ca/events/bridging_gaps.html. To register, click here: http://www.ipac.ca/events/forms/bridging_gaps_signup.html.

IPAC Will Hold 2006 Annual Conference in Charlottetown, PEI
"In Search of Democracy", the theme for the 2006 IPAC Annual Conference, offers a compelling review of the challenges and options faced by public administrators as they seek to capture the diverse voices of individuals and groups that animate our democratic society. Come and join in the search! The Conference will be held at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel, Charlottetown, PEI, Canada from 28-30 August 2006. Stay tuned for the official 2006 Conference Website!

IPAC Issues Calls for Papers
IPAC invites UNPAN Newsletter readers to respond to the following calls:

• "Leadership Lessons of Deputy Ministers" - Proposals for an IPAC Leadership Summit in Toronto in May 2006
• "In Search of Democracy" - Proposals for the IPAC Annual Conference, 28-30 August 2006

URL: http://www.ipac.ca/research/calls_for_papers.html

NEWS FROM IPMA-HR
International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR)
http://www.ipma-hr.org

Recent Publications

• October issue of IPMA-HR News available online at www.ipma-hr.org (for IPMA-HR members only)
• The weekly IPMA-HR HR Bulletin
• The bimonthly electronic IPMA-HR International News. (The August issue available online at www.ipma-hr.org; October issue to be available soon)
• The Fall 2005 issue of Public Personnel Management, available online at www.ipma-hr.org (for IPMA-HR members only)
• The July/August issue of the Federal Section News, available online at www.ipma-hr.org (for IPMA-HR members only). The September/October issue of the Federal Section News will be available soon.
• The October issue of the Assessment Council News, available online at www.ipmaac.org.
• Various press releases can be found online at www.ipma-hr.org.
Audioconference on Benefit-Cost Containment Strategies
Date: 10 November 2005
Contact: Carrie Hoover
E-mail: choover@ipma-hr.org
URL: http://www.ipma-hr.org/index.cfm?navid=254

Annual Federal Section Conference
Theme: "Building a 21st Century Federal Workforce"
Dates: 29-30 November 2005
Location: The George Washington University Cafritz Conference Center, Washington, D.C., USA
Contact: Carrie Hoover
E-mail: choover@ipma-hr.org
URL: http://www.ipma-hr.org/conference/display.cfm?confid=8&bid=1

2006 IPMA-HR International Training Conference
Dates: 7-11 October 2006
Location: The Flamingo, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
Contact: IPMA-HR
E-mail: meetings@ipma-hr.org

NEWS FROM RCOCI
Regional Cooperation Office for City Informatization (RCOCI)
http://www.apcity.org

RCOCI Attended the 10th Annual Forum of China TCDC/ECDC Network
As one of its members, RCOCI attended the 10th Annual Forum of China TCDC/ECDC Network and the 1st Training Workshop on the Reinforcement of PPP (Public Private Partnership) in Ji’nan, Shangdong Province 12-14 September 2005. The members reported their work and future plans respectively. They also exchanged views about the cooperative advantage and capacity building of this Network as well as its cooperation with relevant agencies of developing countries.

3rd Annual Forum of Development Gateway Foundation (DGF)
As the member of DGF Research and Training Center Network, the DGF Shanghai Research Center attended the 3rd Annual Forum in Beijing 16-17 September 2005. The forum was co-hosted by DGF and important agencies in PRC including the State Council Informatization Office, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Information Industry, and the Advisory Committee for State Informatization. The forum was devoted to the theme of 'Information Technology and Collaborative Development' and proved to be quite a success.

Recent Publications
- Governance Asia-Pacific Watch, August 2005, Issue 45
- Governance Asia-Pacific Watch, September 2005, Issue 46
- Governance Asia-Pacific Watch, October 2005, Issue 47
Recent UNCRD Activities
The UNDESA/UNCRD Workshop on Decentralisation: Poverty Reduction, Empowerment and Participation was held from 14-17 August 2005, as part of the International Conference on Engaging Communities in Brisbane, Australia. Discussions and presentations were made on concepts and experiences in the areas of Decentralisation and Pro-Poor policies as they affect the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly, Goal One - halving of poverty by the year 2015.

The First Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia was held on 1-2 August 2005 in Nagoya, Japan under the overall framework of the International Conference on Environment and Transport in Aichi and in conjunction with WORLD EXPO-2005. The Conference had three main components: (1) Regional Forum in Asia; (2) Automobile, Environment, Technology 2005; and (3) Symposium on Environment and Transport.

UNCRD will hold its 34th International Training Course in Regional Development (ITC) from 18 May to 28 June 2006. The six-week Course will deliver the expected outcomes through a compact programme replete with cases for study and discussion, as well as field study visits to provide insights into Japan's regional development experience. The deadline for the application is 23 December 2005.

For further information, please visit http://www.uncrd.or.jp.

Recent Publications
- Annual Report 2004 (in English)
- Newsletter July-December 2004, No. 58 (in English)

Conference Information
7th Training Course on Local Development Planning and Management: Focus on Training of Trainers (TOT)
Dates: 30 October - 11 November 2005
Location: Pakse, Bolikhamsai Province, Lao PDR
Contact: Human Security Unit, UNCRD
Tel.: 81-52-561-9377 (general)
Fax: 81-52-561-9458 / 9375 (general)
E-mail: hs_group@uncrd.or.jp
URL: http://www.uncrd.or.jp/hs/

8th Training Course on Local Development Planning and Management: Focus on Training of Trainers (TOT)
Dates: 5-16 December 2005
Location: Xam Neua, Huaphanh Province, Lao PDR
Contact: Human Security Unit, UNCRD
Tel.: 81-52-561-9377 (general)
Fax: 81-52-561-9458 / 9375 (general)
E-mail: hs_group@uncrd.or.jp
URL: http://www.uncrd.or.jp/hs/
**Training Seminar on Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development**

Dates: 19-23 December 2005  
Location: Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China  
Contact: Training Office, UNCRD  
Tel.: 81-52-561-9377 (general)  
Fax: 81-52-561-9458 / 9375 (general)  
E-mail: training@unccd.or.jp  
URL: [http://www.unccd.or.jp/](http://www.unccd.or.jp/)

**Mini-Workshop on Human Security Assessment in Sri Lanka**

Dates: 21-22 December 2005  
Location: Colombo, Sri Lanka  
Contact: Human Security Unit, UNCRD  
Tel.: 81-52-561-9377 (general)  
Fax: 81-52-561-9458 / 9375 (general)  
E-mail: hs_group@unccd.or.jp  
URL: [http://www.unccd.or.jp/](http://www.unccd.or.jp/)