

Editorial

Governments Increase Attention to E-Participation and E-Inclusion

There is new attention being focused on “values and benefits” expected from e-Government in terms of greater public participation and inclusion of all citizens and enterprises in a country. This is being documented in reports appearing in this issue and many other sources. Senior officials in OECD countries as well as many developing countries are moving away from infrastructure and design issues relating to the installation of ICT and initial operational performance, to achievements of e-Government in terms of citizen empowerment.

At the same time, as is pointed out in an article on E-Participation Models prepared by the UN, there is a downside that is reflected in a widening “digital divide” between the “e-haves” and the e-have-nots” in the world. In this article, selected national E-Participation models are reviewed, in particular the US, UK, Singapore, Canada, UAE, South Africa and Brazil. Among

the admonitions in this article is there should be a transformation of the “G2C Model.” How this can be accomplished is identified as political will, improved management, tracking grass-roots engagement and publicizing e-Participation.

This issue presents both country case studies (Estonia, Romania and Ukraine) and recent developments in several countries (Jamaica, Korea, Kenya, Latvia and South Africa). In addition there are reports prepared by the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Anti-Span Initiative (led by OECD) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Through this diversity of sources and perspectives, I-Ways is committed to serving those requiring current, authoritative information on e-Government.

Russell Pipe, Editor