E-Government Developments

International Academy of CIO Announces New Members and Programs

The Third International Conference on Chief Information Officers (CIOs), Environment, and IT Governance was held at Waseda University, Tokyo, in November, under the leadership of Prof. Toshio Obi. Several international organizations were represented and participants from 32 countries.

Sessions focused on advances in e-Government, e-Municipality, the Global City Portal project, as well how to develop programs for Green-ICT.

As part of the conference the Federal International Academy (FIAC) of CIO held its annual general meeting, adopting the Waseda-IAC Statement on the Future of e-Governance and e-Governance. Prof. Dr. Pairash Tajachayapong, president of FIAC, presided with participants from national chapters from Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, Russia, the United States and countries planning chapters, such as China, India and Vietnam. Professor Obi was elected president of FIAC for the term beginning in mid-2009.

Among the items of business was report on progress in establishment of the International CIO University and Training Center. Waseda University in Japan is to be the Secretariat of the Asia CIO University Network. A progress report on the International Accreditation Program for CIO Studies was submitted by Prof. J.P Auffret. Plans were announced for ongoing joint activities and future cooperation with ITU, APEC, UNESCO and UN University.

The full text of the Waseda statement follows:

Waseda-IAC Statement on the Future e-Government
and e-Governance
November 7, 2008

The 3rd International Conference "ICT, CIO, Environment, IT Governance" was held together with the Annual General Meeting of the Federal International Academy of CIO (FIAC) and the Open Forum of the International Academy of CIO (Japan Chapter) on November 6–7, 2008 at Waseda University. One hundred and twenty participants from 32 countries as well as international organizations actively engaged in the activities of the program. We, the participants, would like to thank the organizers of this conference, especially Waseda University, and the International Academy of CIO.

This conference successfully integrated the experience and work carried out by academia, international organizations and governments for the development of an inclusive information Society, through Human Resource Development (HRD) in the form of education, training and personnel exchange in the field of ICT. In this sense, we compliment the high quality of the presentations made by experts in different fields related with the latest development and trends in ICT studies, as well as the challenges and opportunities for further research in the following fields:

1. e-Governance and e-Government
2. The evolving role of the Chief Information Officer (CIO)
3. e-Municipality and Open City Portal
4. Global Environment and Agenda (ICT, Standard and related issues)
5. Role of ICT for the Protection of the Environment
6. ICT Leadership and Strategy
7. Forecasts for the ICT industry
8. Global View on the ICT Society
9. Strengthening Partnership between Japan and ASEAN

Three years after the Second Phase of the World Summit on Information Society, which urged coun-

tries around the world to build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, we have come to the conclusion theat further efforts are necessary to close the digital divide, as well as coordinated action for capacity building. In this sense, the role of universities as knowledge enablers is

Programs is necessary. The role of universities as centers in charge of knowledge production and diffusion is fundamental in this context.

c) Training in the usage of ICT as tools for learning must focus on development of capacities to critically analyze information. This capacity is especially important due to overflow of available information.

1. Sharing a common understanding that the enhanced service delivery to and inclusive participation of citizens are essential for the better governance anywhere in the world, we will provide active support to the Open City Portal initiatives, such as those led by the Open City Foundation, to design and implement programs and activities to benefit cities around the world.

2. Regarding the so-called "Web 2.0" issue, we have discussed the potential of the available ICT to actively integrate citizens; opinion in policy-making. This, in turn, will support better governance, while increasing transparency. We consider that not only the state but also society should promote the usage of ICT (civic engagement).

3. We also recognize that in order to build an inclusive information Society, it is necessary to reach a consensus over the required technical and regulatory standards for ICT. This consensus must be the result of a continuous discussion among the government, the industry, the civil society and academia. This issue also includes the necessary cooperation among developed and developing countries.

Given the benefits of the conference, we would like to propose Waseda University and other interested parties the following:

1. Continue to promote the International Academy of CIO in collaboration with other forums such as ITU, OCED, UNESCO, APECTEL, World Bank, ADB, Asia and Africa in holding international conferences to promote the network and capacity building for Government CIOs (GCIOs).

2. Under a framework of e-governance, a global Green ICT network should be established in order to alarm and provide feedback for abnormal situations in the global society. At the same time, we will take this initiative to international organizations such as ITU, OECD, APEC, United Nations University, ADB, World Bank and ASEAN in order to look for a common consensus to build a better future.

3. In line with the need for reforms and innovative insights in ICT due to the world financial crisis, new roles for CIO in e-Government programs are emerging: CIO should integrate 4 "1" functions: Innovation, Information, Intelligence and Investment, In addition, in order to build up a "Green" Information Society to solve the global climate change issues, we emphasize the importance of education for CIOs and other stakeholders in e-Government.

4. We encourage the expansion of activities carried out by UNESCO/UNITWIN (University Twining and Networking) on distance education, as well as the APEC ICT HRD training scheme.