The Ideas and Practices of Promoting E-government in China

— Presentations on “Asia E-government Forum 2007”

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Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend “Asia E-government Forum 2007”. With the rapid development and wide application of information technology (IT), all countries are promoting e-government and facilitating business re-constructing, to improve government’s capability, efficiency and services, and form their own patterns, practices and experiences. Popularizing e-government has become the key matter for enabling government transformation and improving informatization development. It is very significant for us to discuss the development of e-government today, and it will help us gain further understanding and share best experiences. On behalf of the State Council Informatization Office (SCITO), I give my enthusiastic congratulations to the opening of the Forum.

Now, please let me introduce the ideas and practices of China’s e-government.

I Strategic Ideas of Promoting Informatization Development in China

Chinese government pays great attention to informatization development. In the progress of reform and opening up and modernization, China has taken up with boosting the development of economy, society, politics and culture by the application of IT, particularly in the area of government’s reform and construction. Since 1970s, China has called for using computers in administrative activities. In 1980s, a set of computer management information systems were completed in twelve key sections of national economy, such as macroeconomic adjustment, posts and communications, civil aviation, banking, electric power, railway, spaceflight and weather. In 1990s, several important projects were implemented, noted by “Golden Card”, “Golden Taxation” and “Golden Customs”. These are helpful experiments for China’s informatization development and e-government.

China pays attention to study the ideas, practices and experiences of promoting informatization and e-government from South Korea, Singapore, Japan, United States, Europe and so on. In 2006, Chinese government mapped out “The State Informatization Development Strategy (2006-2020)”. The Strategy set forth China's goals, tasks, plans and policies in informatization development for the next 15 years.
The general ideas of informatization development are: insisting on industrialization to be promoted by informatization and informatization to be driven by industrialization; promoting the new industrialization featuring extensive use of state-of-the-art technologies, well-performing economy, low level of resource consumption, less environmental pollution, and dynamic and productive human resource; utilizing the effect of informatization in the area of economy, politics, culture, society and defense; taking a Chinese-characterized road of informatization.

The strategic goals for informatization development are: providing information infrastructure nationwide; strengthening capacities of independent innovation of information technology; optimizing the information industry structure; improving information security; making effective progress on building more information-oriented national economy and society; establishing the new type of industrialization model; building a perfect national policy system for the informatization; enhancing the capability of applying IT among the public; laying a good foundation for striding toward the information society.

Nine key aspects emphasized in the Strategy are: promoting informatization of the national economy; popularizing e-government; establishing advanced Internet culture; pushing ahead social informatization; popularizing information infrastructure; exploiting information resources more efficiently; improving information industry competition; building national information security system; improving people's ability in using information technology and cultivating more talents in information technology.

Six top-priority action plans are: education and training plan of improving people’s ability in using information technology; e-commerce action plan; e-government action plan; development and application of cyber information resources plan; digital divide bridging plan; independent innovation of key information technology plan.

II Progress of China’s e-Government

In 2001, China decided that government should advance and drive the informatization of national economy and society development, and take e-government as a priority of informatization. From then on, China has issued a serial of plans and policies to promote e-government, and published “The Overall Framework of National E-government”. During the next period, to promote e-government China will meet the need of the concept of scientific development and building a harmonious society, base on the national e-government network, focus on the development and application of information resources, emphasize on improving application, establish information sharing and business collaboration mechanism, consummate information security system, strengthen legislation and standardization, face the need of enterprises, public and administrative activities, improve the government information publicity, enhance the ability of government to improve the people’s livelihood, improve the
administrative efficiency and public service, utilize the effect of e-government on constructing service-oriented government, and try to walk out a Chinese-characterized way of e-government.

According to such idea and need, all districts and agencies have carried out the deployment of promoting e-government seriously. China’s e-government has been promoted steadily and obtained obvious progress as follows:

Firstly, e-government network infrastructure has been completed basically. On the national department level, most agencies constructed LANs and private business networks. On the local government level, e-government network has covered all provinces, 90 percent cities and 70 percent counties. Uniform national e-government network is under construction. Continuously consolidating network infrastructure lay a solid base for e-government and better service in the future.

Secondly, national government website system has come into being. Up to the end of 2006, the official portal of the Central People’s Government had come into operation, 96.1 percent ministries and commissions under the State Council, 100 percent provincial governments, 97.3 percent prefecture-level city and 83.1 percent county governments had set up government websites. Information on the government websites has been enriched, the ability to serve public has been improved, and the interaction with public has been strengthened in each level governments. Government websites have turn into the new windows to serve public and the new channel to interact with public, and contribute to building up a new image of the government in the new period. For instance, “Shanghai China” website can provide 1,667 online services and 6,011 forms and meets the need of public and enterprises properly.

Thirdly, a serial of important application systems has been completed and put into use. In recent years, in order to improve the decision-making, surveillance and service, regulate government business and uphold social stability, Chinese government deployed more than twenty basic application systems in the areas of the customs, tax, finance, public security, audit, social security, population management, agriculture, environment protection, food and drug administration, land and resources, quality supervision, work safety, etc. Up to now, these projects go on wheels, some have been completed and put into use and begin to improve administration.

Fourthly, the environment of e-government has been optimized continuously. Policies and legislations on electronic signature, government information publicity, project management and website management have been issued. Many regions have set up principles and regulations on government information sharing, network management, computer using, etc. E-government standard system has been accomplished basically. A serial of fundamental standards in the area of network infrastructure, application supporting, information resources, information security have been mapped out, which supported the constructing and running of e-government systems. IT infrastructure
has spread continuously. Penetrations of information terminals including computer, telephone, mobile telephone and Internet have improved steadily. All kinds of training for government employee and public were offered widely. People’s ability to use IT has been improved obviously. Public awareness and recognition to e-government improved, which creates environment for future e-government development.

Altogether, based on these efforts, China’s e-government has made new progress, with construction and application reaching a scale, and overall level improving continuously.

### Future Trends and Emphases of E-government

Currently, China is making great efforts to build a well-off society in an all-round way. We’ll endeavor to push rapid and good economy development, and build a harmonious society, according to the concept of scientific development. To pursue this aim, we’ll continue to keep the fast steps of IT industry, boost the national economy and society informatization actively, push the e-government energetically, and meet the increasingly public needs for information technology, networks and information services. The emphases of e-government are:

As for the need of deepening the reform of administrative system and establishing the service-oriented government, we must push the e-government development, to innovate our administrative management pattern, to promote the publicity of government information, to strengthen the supervision on the administration functions, to improve the transparency and efficiency of government work, to reduce the administration cost, and to support the agencies performing the social management and public service function better.

As for the need of promoting the science development and building a harmonious society, we must make better use of the e-government means, to strengthen the supervision on the energy saving and emission reduction, to accelerate the transformation of the pattern of economic growth, and to settle the problems on the people's livelihood, such as education, healthcare, career, housing, food sanitation and social security.

As for the trend of malicious information and cyber crimes extending along with the increasingly widespread Internet, we must improve government websites, publish roundly the government information in time, promote the spreading of the excellent network culture and fine information, and build a satisfying network environment for the public and enterprises.

As for the unceasing advance of e-government, we must utilize adequately the present networks, application systems and information resources, emphasize on promoting resources integration, sharing and use, build the information sharing mechanism, pay
attention to the legislation and standard environment construction, make better the running and maintenance mechanism, improve the overall benefit continuously, strengthen the sustainable development capability of e-government, thus to realize the good and fast development of e-government.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Chinese government has been cooperating with other countries in e-government development for many years, including many bilateral and multilateral activities such as training and conferences. China’s e-government is pursuing deeper and wider application. We hope to advance e-government development together with all of friends be present, through our deep communication and cooperation.

I wish the Forum a great success!

中国推进电子政务的思路和实践——在2007亚洲电子政务论坛上的发言

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（2007年9月20日，韩国·首尔）

各位来宾，女士们、先生们：

很高兴有机会参加2007年亚洲电子政务论坛。随着信息技术的快速发展和广泛应用，各国政府都在通过推行电子政务，促进业务流程改造，提高政府管理水平、工作效率和公共服务水平，并形成了各自的模式、经验和做法。推行电子政务，已成为各国推进政府改革和提高信息化水平的主要内容。今天，我们在这里共商电子政务发展，很有意义，必将对大家在电子政务领域增进了解，加强交流，开展合作起到积极的推动作用。我谨代表中国国务院信息化工作办公室，对论坛的召开表示热烈地祝贺。下面，我就中国推进电子政务发展的思路和实践做一介绍。

一、中国推进信息化发展的战略思路

中国政府高度重视信息化建设。在近三十年来的改革开放和国家现代化建设进程中，始终致力于利用信息技术，提高经济、社会、政治、文化发展水平。特别是重视利用信息技术，加强政府自身的改革和建设。从二十世纪七十年代起，国家就倡导在政府活动中推广应用计算机。八十年代，在宏观经济调控、邮电、民航、银行、电力、铁道、航天、气象等12个国民经济重点行业建成了一批计算机管理信息系统。九十年代在银行、税务、海关等领域，推进了以“金卡”、“金税”、“金关”等“金”系列工程为标志的重大信息化工程建设。这些建设，为中国信息化和电子政务的发展进行了有益探索和尝试，形成了一些做法，积累了一些经验，取得了积极成效。

中国注意学习和借鉴韩国、新加坡、日本、美国、欧洲等推进信息化和电子政务建设的理念、做法和经验。2006年，中国政府发布了《2006——2020年国家信息化发展战略》，从目标、任务、战略行动、政策措施等方面对中国未来
年的信息化发展进行了总体部署。

——推进信息化的总体思路是：坚持以信息化带动工业化、以工业化促进信息化，走科技含量高、经济效益好、资源消耗低、环境污染少、人力资源优势得到充分发挥的新型工业化道路，充分发挥信息化在促进经济、政治、文化、社会和军事等领域发展的重要作用，走中国特色的信息化道路。

——推进信息化发展的战略目标是：综合信息基础设施基本普及，信息技术自主创新能力显著增强，信息产业结构全面优化，国家信息安全保障水平大幅提高，新型工业化发展模式初步确立，国家信息化发展的制度环境和政策体系基本完善，国民信息技术应用能力显著提高，为迈向信息社会奠定坚实基础。

——推进信息化发展的九个战略重点，分别是：推进国民经济信息化，推行电子政务，建设先进网络文化，推进社会信息化，完善综合信息基础设施，加强信息资源开发利用，提高信息产业竞争力，建设国家信息安全保障体系，提高国民信息技术应用能力。

——优先制定和实施六项战略行动计划，即：国民信息技能教育培训计划、电子商务行动计划、电子政务行动计划、网络媒体信息资源开发利用计划、缩小数字鸿沟计划、关键信息技术自主创新计划。

二、中国电子政务发展的进展情况

进入新世纪，2001年中国政府决定：政府先行，带动国民经济和社会发展信息化的思路，把电子政务作为国家信息化工作的重点。先后出台了一系列国家推进电子政务的规划、政策，编制了国家电子政务总体框架。今后一个时期，中国推进电子政务发展的总体思路是：按照贯彻落实科学发展观和构建和谐社会的要求，以国家电子政务网络为依托，以信息资源开发利用为主线，以提高应用水平为重点，建立信息共享和业务协同机制，完善信息安全保障体系，加强法制和标准化基础工作，面向企业和公众的需求，面向政务活动的需求，提高政府信息公开的水平，提高政府改善民生的能力，提高行政效率和公共服务水平，发挥电子政务在服务型政府建设中的作用，努力走出一条有中国特色的电子政务发展道路。

按照这一思路和要求，各地区、各部门认真贯彻落实国家推进电子政务建设的各项部署，全国电子政务建设得到稳步推进，应用效果也比较明显。具体表现在以下几个方面：

一是电子政务网络基础设施建设基本完成。在国家部门层面，基本上都建成了局域网，大多数还建立了专用业务网络。在地方层面，电子政务网络已经覆盖了所有的省、90%的市和70%的县。统一的国家电子政务网络正在逐步形成之中。网络基础设施的不断完善，为电子政务的发展夯实了基础，也为下一步政府更好地服务社会奠定了基础。

二是全国政府网站体系已经形成。截至2006年底，中央政府门户网站已经开通，96.1%的国务院部门、100%的省级政府、97.3%的地市级政府和83.1%的县级政府已经建立了政府网站。各级政府的信息内容不断丰富，为民办事的能力不断提高，与公众的交流互动不断增强。政府网站成为中国各级政府为民服务的新窗口、联系群众的新纽带，树立了新时期政府的新形象。例如，“中国上海”能够提供网上办事和服务项目达1667项，可提供网上下载的相关表格达6011张，比较好地满足了社会公众和企业的需要。

三是重点电子政务建设不断加强。这些年来，国家从提高决策、监管和服务水平，规范政府业务流程，维护社会稳定出发，先后在海关、税务、财政、
金融、公共安全、审计、社会保障、人口管理、农业、环境保护、食品药品监管、国土资源、质量监督、安全生产监管等领域部署了二十几个重点应用系统。截止目前，这些工程建设总体进展顺利，部分工程已经建成投入使用，对于提高政府管理水平开始发挥作用。

四是电子政务发展环境不断优化。国家在电子签名、政府信息公开、工程项目管理、网站管理等方面出台了相关政策和法规，许多地方还在政府信息共享、网络管理、计算机使用等方面建立了制度规范。基本建成了电子政务标准化体系，在网络基础设施、应用支撑、信息资源、信息安全等制订了一批基础性标准，保障了电子政务系统的建设和运行。普及通信基础设施不断完善，计算机、固定电话、手机等的现代信息终端和互联网的普及率不断提高，面向公务员和社会公众的各类培训活动得到了大力推进，国民的信息技术应用能力得到显著提升，社会公众对电子政务的认知度和认可度都有所提高，为电子政务的长远发展创造了良好的社会氛围。

总的来看，通过这些年的建设，中国电子政务发展取得了新的进展，建设和应用都初具规模，总体水平不断提高。

三、下一步推进电子政务发展的方向和重点

当前，中国正致力于全面建设小康社会，按照科学发展观的要求，努力实现经济又好又快发展，构建和谐社会。我们将围绕这一目标，继续保持信息产业快速发展，积极推进国民经济和信息化，大力推行电子政务，满足社会对信息技术、网络和信息服务的日益增长的需要。重点从以下几个方面出发，做好电子政务工作：

——面对深化行政管理体制要求，需要通过推行电子政务，创新政府管理方式，推进政府信息公开，强化行政权力运行的监督，提高工作透明度和办事效率，降低行政成本，支持政府更好地履行社会管理和公共服务职能。

——面对推动科学发展、构建和谐社会的要求，需要更好地利用电子政务手段，加强对节能减排的监控，促进经济增长方式的转变，着力改善教育、医疗、就业、住房、食品安全、社会保障等民生问题。

——面对互联网日益普及，各种不良信息、网上犯罪活动滋生蔓延的趋势，需要进一步建设好、发挥好政府网站的作用，及时、全面地发布政府信息，推动优秀网络文化和健康信息的传播，为广大社会公众创造良好的互联网应用环境。

——面对电子政务发展不断推进的要求，需要充分发挥已经建成的网络、应用系统、信息资源等的作用，把工作重点放在推进资源整合、共享和应用上，建立信息共享机制，注重法制和标准化环境建设，完善运行维护保障机制，不断提高整体效益，增强电子政务自身的可持续发展能力，实现电子政务又好又快发展。

女士们，先生们！

多年来，中国政府与各个国家和地区在电子政务领域进行了富有成效的合作，举办了一些双边或多边的培训、会议等交流活动。中国的电子政务正在向进一步提高应用的广度和深度发展。我们期待着与在座的各位朋友进一步增进共识，携手合作，共同推进电子政务的发展。

祝论坛取得圆满成功！

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