



Promoting Knowledge for Building an Inclusive, Responsive and Capable State

Democratic Governance Knowledge Exchange Forum (DGKEF)



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Knowledge management is at the heart of democratic governance programming and policy discourse. It connects the members of the democratic governance community of practice to global trends, regional issues, and, local knowledge. The UNDP Strategic Plan 2008 to 2013 has reiterated UNDP's role as a knowledge-based organization. It also emphasizes that UNDP must learn from its past and leverage its core competencies and unique capabilities, including its extensive knowledge network, universal presence and decentralized structure. The new UNDP Knowledge Strategy (2009) builds on existing ways and systems of sharing knowledge in UNDP through a unified platform to guide knowledge learning, creation, gathering, sharing and retention, and to enable closer collaboration internally and with partners. The aim of the strategy is to make UNDP fully able to capitalize on and leverage the expertise and knowledge that each one of us brings to the workplace as well as help us track and monitor our development impact.

For country offices this will mean the capacity to have the knowledge of the entire organization available in a contextualized, easy to search platform. And for Democratic Governance Group (DGG) this will mean the enhanced capacity and knowledge to respond to the identified needs, newer demands and emerging global-regional-national challenges. The Democratic Governance Knowledge Exchange Forum is a response to these emerging realities.

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What is Knowledge Exchange Forum?

Free-flowing, open, flexible, and non-hierarchical in its essence, the Knowledge Exchange Forum focuses on useful knowledge products and services, and, makes them accessible to colleagues, partners and clients. People can see what is happening, exchange ideas, and understand what others are doing or 'not doing'. The process is stimulating, and generates informal displays and interactions. It also articulates new demands; generates user feedback, and tracks application of knowledge products and services. This generally leads to enhanced and sustained collaboration and knowledge exchange among different stakeholders including policy entrepreneurs and policy researchers. This also promotes the use of knowledge management methods and tools.

About the DGKEF

The Democratic Governance Knowledge Exchange Forum (DGKEF) has been designed as a mutual sharing and learning forum where all participants can participate to promote knowledge products & services; foster cross-practice, cross-regional exchange, and, share ideas and innovations. It is designed to tap into the notion of a “marketplace” where products are exhibited and lessons on innovations are learned and discussed. Most importantly, the DGKEF will act as a permanent practice architecture based forum to deliberate, create, share, use/apply, and assess cross-regional, thematic, and cross-practice knowledge development and application. In many ways, UNDP/DGG's knowledge is its future and it cannot be lost, wasted, or go under-capitalized. This forum brings together the tremendous capacity that UNDP's DG knowledge can generate and puts it at the fingertips of the organisation's human infrastructure.

Objectives

The prime objective of the 'Democratic Governance Knowledge Exchange Forum (DGKEF)' in Dakar is to launch a permanent forum to promote active knowledge sharing, and, cross-regional knowledge exchange and collaboration among colleagues in the democratic governance practice.

It will also encourage cross-practice collaboration. Participants/members are welcome to showcase knowledge products, services and or demonstrable innovative ideas.

Knowledge Products could include a traditional paper publication such as a report, practice note, thematic guidelines, toolkits, an electronic product such as a CD Rom, web portal, website, computer programme, audio-visual products, or other relevant knowledge product such as a workshop/seminar training tool, methodology, and/or a detailed curriculum plan.

Knowledge Services could include, among others, interactive portal, wiki based platform, dedicated cop facilitation support, knowledge base, knowledge audit, etc. Most importantly, the DGKEF would be a platform for spreading Innovative Ideas.

Outcomes

- Shared understanding of the state of DG knowledge products and services
- Opportunities for collaborative knowledge creation and enhanced partnership
- Fostering innovation in DG Knowledge (Products and services) development and application
- DG Practice Architecture strengthened

Outputs

- A dedicated DG Knowledge Exchange Forum linked to the DG Global Practice Architecture
- A preliminary list of knowledge products and services (a work in progress document). This will also work as part of demand tracking process
- A Teamworks Usergroup on DGKEF and a forum for discussion and sharing. The Knowledge Exchange Forum is expected to expand the awareness and interest among participating UNDP practitioners and partners of our current knowledge assets, partnership, and activities

Process

- Based on expressions of interest (EoIs) to exchange knowledge, a preliminary list of knowledge products and services will be prepared and disseminated. Exchange booths will be set-up at the venue to further facilitate the process.
- The DGG will facilitate the knowledge exchange follow-up with interested parties to implement and/or replicate the ideas globally and/or regionally based on actual needs
- The UNDP Regional Centers and interested Country Offices will be involved in the DGKEF follow-up and subsequent activity

Timeline

The process will start with the 'Request for Participation' by participants to present a particular knowledge product (tool), service, and/or idea preferably linked to the state building agenda, initially for the DGCoP 2010 meeting in Dakar. All (i.e., Business Units, RSCs, Global/Regional Programmes, designated COs, and practitioners) are welcome to participate. With the launch, the DGKEF will initiate the necessary dialogue of collaborative knowledge creation, sharing, and uptake. The Forum will continue to grow during 2010 and beyond.



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DGKEF in Teamworks:

<http://teamworks.beta.undp.org/pg/groups/93158/democratic-governance-knowledge-exchange-forum/>