

**Workshop Session Design Note - South India Regional workshop on  
'Software Principles for the Public Sector, with focus on Public Education'  
on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010 in Bangalore**

**South India Regional Workshop in Bangalore**

UNESCO, e-Governance Department, Department of Public Instruction and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (Government of Karnataka), Karnataka Jnana Aayoga (Karnataka Knowledge Commission) and IT for Change (ITfC), are co-organising a workshop “Software Principles for the Public Sector, with focus on Public Education” on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010 in Bangalore. This note discusses the session design and methodology of the workshop.

**Workshop Session design**

Discussion Topic	Time	Resource Persons / Panelists (Chair)
<b>Day 1 – Public Software for Public Education</b>		
Registration	8.30 - 9.30	
Welcome Note	9.30 - 9.45	Sri M N Vidyashankar <sup>1</sup>
Inauguration	9.45	
Context setting - objectives and methodology	9.45 – 10.00	Dr. Iskra Panevska
Brief presentation and panel discussion: Building a scenario of the digital needs of the public education over the next decade, towards appropriate planning for policy and practice	10.00 – 11.15	Sri Suresh Chanda, Sri Manas Chakrabarti, Dr Nutan Bharati, Sri Gurumurthy Kasinathan (Chair - Dr. Cecilia Barbieri) <sup>2</sup>
Tea/Coffee break	11.15 - 11.30	
Case study on Kerala IT@Schools program  Sharing from experiences of ICT programs in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal to identify underlying 'principles' for ICT programs in public education	11.30 - 13.00	Sri Anvar Sadath, Sri Mohammad Ali Rafat  Sri Khannaji  (Sri Sri MN Baig)
Lunch	13.00 - 14.00	
Panel Discussion - Making a framework for educational material / content policy arena. Current content policies and practices; what needs to be done	14.00 - 15.15	Sri Mohammad Ali Rafat, Dr Nagarjuna, Dr V Sasi Kumar, Dr. Geetha Narayanan  (Sri BA Harish Gowda)
Tea/Coffee break	15.15 - 15.30	
Teacher education and ICTs	15.30 - 16.30	Prof Veni Madhavan, Dr Devaki L. (Prof. Poonam Batra)
Wrap-up: Outlining the critical principles for ICTs in education – policy and program. Making a framework for educational software policy arena	16.30 - 17.30	Dr V Sasi Kumar (Sri M N Vidyashankar )

1 Organizational affiliation is mentioned in Annexure at end of this document, for ease of reading the session plan

2 The name of the Chairperson for every session is mentioned in parentheses within the session

<b>Day 2 – Public Sector Software Policy and guidelines</b>		
Concepts, requirements and issues of a Public Sector Software policy, extrapolating from sessions of the previous day on principles of ICTs in the public education system and deriving from concrete examples	10.00 – 10.45	Sri Parminder Jeet Singh, Dr Santhosh Babu, (Dr Ajay Kumar)
Discussions on issues in current program designs and software development / implementation for public sector in the context of public software principles	10.15 - 12.00 <sup>3</sup>	Sri Amit Chakravarty, Dr N Sarat Chandra Babu, Sri Rathan Kelkar (Sri A Venkatesan)
Digital architecture for an inclusive Knowledge Society	12.00 - 13.00	Dr MK Sridhar, Dr.Chidananda Gowda, Sri. Rajen Varada (Dr Mukhyamantri Chandru)
Lunch	13.00 - 14.00	
Action Planning – Document on principles, architecture of public sector software	14.00 - 15.30	Sri C. Umashankar, Sri P Manivannan, (Sri James Varghese)
Tea/Coffee break	15.30 - 15.45	
Open House and Way forward	15.45– 16.45	Anchored by Sri Rajen Varada

Note: A few participants are yet to confirm

## Workshop Methodology

One of the challenges of the workshop would be that in the “ICTD” space, workshops and conferences have in most cases adopted 'presentation' as the primary mode of discussion – and this has often meant that technology vendors advertise their products and government officials talk about the successes of their programs.

**The important need is to be able to identify the core principles and philosophies of the public sector which would need to inform and direct software architecture and design and explore how these would help in addressing the real issues on the ground which affect current ICT programs. Challenges and failures need to be freely discussed to collate collective wisdom.** Information from critical research on ICT programs as well as perspectives of experts in governance, education, health, political science need to also be considered in this processes.

Hence the workshop would keep to minimum presentations on achievements of different departments or of the capacities and features of different products. **The workshop would instead encourage participants to delve into more details of challenges and possibilities, through panel discussions** that would be suitably facilitated by the chairperson, an expert researcher or practitioner in the domains of governance, education etc. **The discussions would try not to get bogged down in purely technology architectures or issues, since the goal is to derive the principles of public sector software from underlying ethos of the public sector, which would then inform technology / software principles.**

The intention to focus on public education arises from the understanding that our schools are our vehicles for evolution of tomorrows society and hence a powerful way to integrate public sector software principles would be to begin with the public education system<sup>4</sup>. Also there have been several large scale programs from which lessons can be derived. Hence the first of the two days would focus on the public education system, including examining the programs and underlying principles from the four states. The second day would look at extrapolating the first days understanding to the public sector at large into health, governance, local government, livelihoods etc and would end with a session on action planning for the way forward. This workshop is a prelude to an International Workshop in Kerala and the inputs, both conceptual and action-oriented, as well as unresolved issues and dilemmas would feed into the second workshop.

<sup>3</sup> Includes a 15 minute Tea/Coffee break

<sup>4</sup> This is already happening with many state governments, including those of Kerala, Gujarat, Karnataka, Orissa and Assam adopting public software in their school programs

## Annexure – Resource Persons<sup>5</sup>

Name	Organization
Dr Ajay Kumar, IAS	Principal Secretary, IT and e-Governance, Government of Kerala
Dr Cecilia Barbieri	UNESCO
Dr Devaki L	Azim Premji Foundation
Dr Geetha Narayanan	Director, Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology
Dr MK Sridhar	Director, Karnataka Knowledge Commission
Dr Mukhyamantri Chandru	Chairperson, Kannada Development Authority
Dr N Sarat Chandra Babu	Director, C-DAC, Andhra Pradesh
Dr Nagambika Devi, IAS	Director Collegiate Education
Dr Nagarjuna	Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education
Dr Nutan Bharati	NIIT University, Rajasthan
Dr Sameer Sharma, IAS	Principal Secretary, IT and e-Governance, Government of Andhra Pradesh
Dr Santhosh Babu, IAS	Managing Director, ELCOT, Government of Tamil Nadu
Dr Sasi Kumar	Coordinator, SPACE
Dr. Iskra Panevska	UNESCO
Prof Poonam Batra	Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi
Prof Veni Madhavan	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
Smt Sandhya Sharma, IAS	State Project Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Karnataka
Smt V Radha, IAS	Managing Director, Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh
Sri A Venkatesan	Deputy Director-General and State Information Officer, National Informatics Centre, Karnataka
Sri Amit Chakravarty	National Institute for Smart Governance
Sri Anvar Sadath	Executive Director, IT @ Schools Project, Government of Kerala
Sri Ashok Kumar C Manoli, IAS	Principal Secretary, IT, BT and Science and Technology, Karnataka
Sri B A Harish Gowda, IAS	Commissioner for Public Instruction
Sri Gurusurthy Kasinathan	Director, IT For Change
Sri James Varghese, IAS	Principal Secretary, Primary and Secondary Education, Government of Kerala
Sri Khannaji, IAS	Secretary, IT, Government of Pondicherry
Sri M N Vidyashankar, IAS	Principal Secretary, e-Governance, Government of Karnataka
Sri Manas Chakrabarti	Consultant on e-learning and ICTDs
Sri Mohammad Ali Rafat, IAS	State Project Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Andhra Pradesh
Sri P. Manivannan, IAS	Commissioner - MCC and MUDA
Sri Parminder Jeet Singh	Executive Director, IT For Change
Sri R Venkatesan, IAS	State Project Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Tamil Nadu
Sri Rajen Varada	UN Solution Exchange ICTD Community
Sri Suresh Chanda, IAS	Principal Secretary, Primary and Secondary Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh

5 In alphabetical order of names