

## PRESS RELEASE

**Event:** South India Regional Workshop on '**Software Principles for the Public Sector, with Focus on Public Education**'

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Place:** The Monarch LUXUR Hotel, #67, Infantry Road, Bangalore Tel: 080 25328253/2532 8250

**Co-organisers:** UNESCO, e-Governance Department, Department of Public Instruction and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Government of Karnataka), Karnataka Jnana Aayoga (Karnataka Knowledge Commission) and IT for Change (ITfC)

### **South India policy makers meet to discuss public sector software principles and policies**

Policy makers from the four South Indian States (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) will meet at The Monarch LUXUR Hotel, Bangalore on 1 and 2 Feb for the **South India Regional Workshop on 'Software Principles for the Public Sector, with Focus on Public Education'**. The event will also be attended by scholars, practitioners and civil society representatives with expertise and perspectives in **public software** area.

As software becomes important for almost all organisational processes, its importance to governments is no less. In fact digital tools and systems, if employed appropriately, can be instruments of major governance reform in India. In this context it is important to discuss what are the specific characteristic and imperatives of software for the public sector. Are the corresponding requirement of kinds of software, and its processes of development, procurement, sharing, transparency etc same as in the case of private sector? What are the unique issues vis a vis public sector software?

The workshop is a opportunity to conceptualize the principles for 'software for the public sector' and discuss the challenges and possibilities in adopting software for the public sector on a large scale for maximum societal benefit. Day 1 will focus on public education. Day 2 will evolve overall public sector software principles.

The conference will contribute to a better understanding of how the specific contexts of the public sector, including principles of universal access, participation, transparency and social justice, inform the design of software for the public sector. This event will also promote sharing of experiences and lessons in "public sector software" development and implementation programs in southern states of India .

Two documents will be created from discussions: '**Guiding principles for public sector software**' and '**Experiences and learnings as well as challenges from public software projects**'. These documents will feed into a subsequent international workshop on a similar theme being organized by Government of Kerala, UNESCO, Solution Exchange, and IT for Change in April 2010.

Participation in the workshop is by invitation.

**For more information please contact:**

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