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Resilient nations.

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE/
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
7-9th October 2014**

I. Background & Rationale

An efficient public administration system lays the foundation for a transparent and accountable government and fosters equitable growth. In the present times of transitioning democracies and economies, it has become essential that nations share and support each other in building strong public service systems for economic growth, peace and stability.

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India (GoI) is implementing a project on “Strengthening Public Administration and Governance” with support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). One of the objectives of the project is to foster sharing of experiences and best practices in public administration and governance from international and national level including best practices in service delivery, with greater transparency and accountability, anti-corruption, public administration reforms, gender responsive governance etc.

In the context of this partnership, DARPG and UNDP aim to create knowledge exchange opportunities to provide access to existing good practices on public administration and governance. DARPG, Government of India, and UNDP are organizing an ‘International Symposium on Excellence in Public Service/Public Administration’ that will be held every year in the month of October in India.

The first 'International Symposium' will be held from 7-9 October 2014 in New Delhi, India. It will be a one of its kind learning opportunity that will provide a platform for cross learning and sharing of successful international public administration reforms and best practices in governance, including e-governance and m-governance. Besides facilitating exchange of best practices in public administration, the International Symposium will delve into factors that support implementation of good practices, as well as challenges that had to be overcome during the process, what strategies contributed towards the success and what did not.

II. Objectives of the International Symposium on Excellence in Public Service/ Public Administration

The major objectives of the International Symposium will be:

- ✚ To acknowledge, disseminate and learn from the innovative practices and extraordinary achievements in improving public administration and governance globally;
- ✚ To facilitate replication;
- ✚ To foster a spirit of excellence in Public Administration;

IV. Structure of the Symposium & Nature of Participation

The Symposium will be structured around select themes viz. Public Service Delivery, e-Governance, anti-corruption, citizen centric measures etc.

- Improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in Public Services
- Preventing and combating corruption in the Public Service
- Improving the delivery of public services
- Advancing knowledge management in Government/Promoting whole of Government approaches in the Information age
- Promoting Gender Responsive delivery of Public Services
- Global Best Practices in Public Administration Reforms

UNDP and DARPG have identified 38 global best practices across the themes

listed above. The best practice initiatives have been drawn largely from award-winning UNPSA (United Nations Public Service Awards) and CAPAM (Commonwealth Association for Public Administration & Management) initiatives. The best practice examples of broader public administration reform (across-Departments or whole of government) have been identified through UNDP's research and global knowledge base. The best practices being presented should be at least 2 years in existence and should have had demonstrated impact. A suitable proportion of initiatives from developed, developing and least developing countries/from different continents/G-20, Commonwealth, SAARC countries will be accommodated. One or two award winning best practices from India will be included in the International Symposium. Efforts will be made to ensure participation of around 25 countries/best practices by targeting around 38 countries. A time slot of 20 minutes for presentation of each best practice will be provided. A question and answer session for 20 minutes will follow after the presentation of 3 best practices.

The participants at the Symposium will include Government representatives from departments responsible for Public Administration Reforms or representatives from Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs)/Central Training Institutes (CTIs), Prime Minister's Award Winners for Excellence in Public Administration, National e-Governance Award Winners, officials recognized for Excellence in Public Service, interested representatives of various International Bodies located in Delhi.

VI. Logistics and Financial Support

UNDP will sponsor one representative from each participating country (return economy class airfare, airport transfers, boarding and lodging for a maximum of 3 nights (one night prior to the start of the event) in New Delhi.

A learning journey to Agra will be organized (optional) on October 9 for interested international participants.

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