Designing a Strategy for E-delivery of Government Services to the Interior of Suriname

Paramaribo, 12 December 2011. – On Monday 12 December, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Tourism (TCT) jointly hosted the presentation of a national strategy for e-delivery of government services to the interior of Suriname in the Royal Ballroom of Hotel Torarica.

Around 50 participants from different ministries, development partners, the private sector and NGOs attended this presentation and through discussion contributed to the finalization of the strategy.

The strategy is part of the joint project “Reducing disparities in access to information and services among hinterland communities in Suriname through the use of ICTs” which was signed by UNDP and TCT in March 2011.

This project aims to facilitate the access to information and services (e.g. health, sanitation, nutrition, social protection and public services), by making use of various methods: Digital Doorways (these consist of multiple computer terminals, powered by solar energy, resistant to humidity and weather elements); internet kiosks; mobile technologies and radio broadcasting.

“A strategy to deliver government services to the interior is crucial”, stated Thomas Gittens, UNDP Country Director in his opening remarks. “Much of Suriname’s interior is largely inaccessible by road, lacks basic access to adequate water and sanitation facilities, adequate educational opportunities for children, and there is limited provision of government services. Improved education delivery and access to information will help the interior populations defend their interests, participate meaningfully in the processes that affect them, and sustainably improve their livelihoods”.

To draft the strategy, a wide range of representatives from government, private sector, development partners and NGOs were consulted. Field missions were conducted to the interior districts of Brokopondo and Sipaliwini and the coastal Commewijne district. After the presentation of the workshop, participants will discuss the consultant’s findings and give input to the finalization of the strategy.

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UNDP is the United Nations' global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 177 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

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