

Minitrack Title: E-government in Developing Countries: Impact and Implications

Track: E-government

Minitrack Chairs:**Rhoda C. Joseph**

Pennsylvania State University Harrisburg
School of Business Administration
777 W. Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
Phone: (717) 948-6144
Fax: (717) 948-6456
Email: ruj1@psu.edu

Patrick I. Jeffers

Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business
University of the West Indies
Mt. Hope, Rep. of Trinidad and Tobago
Phone/Fax: (515) 278-0414
E-mail: patijeff@aol.com

Abstract:

E-government is an important development in the information technology (IT) landscape. Specifically, e-government in developing regions can potentially serve as an important catalyst for reducing the global digital divide. Developing regions also exhibit unique and specific challenges associated with e-government implementation – such as economic and social disparities. Conversely, e-government projects can be overwhelmingly supported if there is strong administrative and legislative support for the projects. Focusing on developing countries will provide both an important and relevant perspective to the AMCIS 2010 e-government track.

Proposal:

Many countries have identified the need for and benefits associated with the implementation of e-government projects. Such projects provide an alternative mechanism for citizen interaction with government. Successful projects have catalogued government services for citizens, provided online transactions, and helped to streamline internal government operations.

Successful e-government projects have been initiated and implemented in many developing countries, and they provide important benchmarks for others to follow. However, developing countries may also face unique challenges that can hinder the development of e-government projects. Some regions may lack the necessary IT infrastructure to allow citizen access to the e-government platform. Secondly, government officials and project developers may have limited resources and divest funds to other areas instead of IT and e-government. Thirdly, the citizen participation in e-government projects may be low based on economic, social, and political factors. External consultants, that may lack the requisite understanding of specific social and cultural norms in that country, may also directly impact the e-government initiatives.

The information age holds the promise of new and potent weapons in the arsenal of all developing countries wrestling against economic, social, and political challenges. An e-government platform can provide an avenue for more direct governance and citizen and business participation in government. It is thus important to examine both the impact and implications of e-government progress in developing countries.

Possible Topics:

- E-government in the Caribbean and Latin America.
- E-government in the Middle East.
- E-government in Africa.
- E-government in Asia.
- Challenges of e-government in developing economies.
- Politics and e-government in developing countries.
- E-government developmental case studies.
- E-government and E-governance: global challenges.
- Economic implications of e-government in developing countries.
- M-government in developing regions.
- Public sector and e-government in developing countries.
- Private sector and e-government participation