E-government Standardization Status in China

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Abstract

The development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) greatly accelerates the evolution of global economy, science and technology, culture, education and management sectors. In particular, the technologies such as the airplane, the mobile phone, and the Internet have narrowed the gap between communities on earth, making the earth like a small village.   ICT has been considered a trigger for developing national economy and the society and the degree of ICT adoption has been considered a measure for a nation or region's modernization and power. In order to adapt to the new global economy structure and the world trend, the Chinese Communist Party made a key decision at its 16th General Congress: "Digitization drives industrialization, industrialization accelerates digitization, and we are going on a new road for industrialization." E-government is one major field of national digitization in China.

E-government is a big system engineering effort. Standardization is a key element in the process of promoting national e-government construction. They are technical regulations that specify technology development, product development, and project management. Unification of standards is a precondition of interconnection and interoperation of information systems. Only with unified requirements for technologies, transactions, and management we can ensure e-government related projects and processes to be going smoothly as a whole in the whole country, thus to avoid blindness and repetition as well as to reduce costs and enhance benefits.

Our government pays attention to e-government standardization, and established the "National E-government Standardization General Group" in 2002. The policy for e-government standardization is "to start standards research as early as possible; to trace technical trends actively; to draft standards suitable for the nation; to publish standards at appropriate time; to review the application of national standards in a timely fashion."

The basic standards and management standards for e-government are determined by the government departments; the standards for application-oriented software products are determined considering the demands of the market and the interests of the enterprises in order to encourage enthusiasm of the relevant parties. The standards research and preparation should be done in advance of key projects involving the

acquisition of operating systems, large database management systems, network platforms, development platforms, information platforms, embedded systems, huge application software systems, component libraries, etc.

The "E-government Standardization Framework", which is the blueprint of e-government standardization, has been fixed. There are six parts in the E-government Standardization Framework: the general standards, the application standards, the application platform standards, the network standards, the information security standards, and the management standards.

The application standards are the key part of the framework, since they are related to data sharing. The aim of governance digitization and enterprise digitization is to realize information sharing and business cooperation among different information systems across regions, industries and agencies. Information sharing and business cooperation are done on the basis of identical understanding among the information users and owners for the meaning, presentation, and identification of the shared data. However, different industries and different agencies have different function requirements and different presentations, causing data inconsistency. Data standardization therefore becomes an important concern in e-government. There are a lot of standards work on data sharing, such as data element specification, the catalog system of e-government information resource, the exchange system of e-government information resource, etc.