Saudi Government Officials Attend a Workshop about the Austrian e-Government

18 October 2008 - 'Yesser' Organizes 1-day Workshop withAustrian e-Government Delegation

A high-level Austrian e-Government delegation led by Mr. Christian Rupp, Federal Executive Secretary for eGovernment in Austria and spokesperson of the Federal Platform Digital Austria in the Austrian Federal Chancellery visited Ministry of Communications and Information Technology or recently, for a one-day workshop held under the title "The Accomplishments of Austrian e-Government" in Riyadh.

The workshop was organized by the Saudi e-Government Program "Yesser" in cooperation with 4C Consulting and 2MAS Integrated Solutions Co. to share Austrian practices and exchange of experiences in the field of electronic transactions and their implementations in government. In the e-Government transactions rankings, Austria has attained the top position among European countries according to a report by CAP GEMINI.

The workshop highlighted to the Saudi government officials the experiences of Austrians in e-Government, predominantly in the areas of IT applications and solutions for number of different ministries such as Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Environment, Trade and Investment, and an opportunity to meet with their counterparts in the Austrian government for exchange of information and experiences.

At the commencement of the workshop, Eng. Ali Al Soma, the Director-General of the e-Government Program 'Yesser' and Advisor to His Excellency the Minister of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) welcomed the visiting delegation, which comprised of Mr. Christian Rupp - Federal Executive Secretary for e-Government in Austria, Matthias Bruck - Director of the Austrian Business Agency, Erich Waldecker - Head of Department at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance, Dr. Martin Schneider - Director at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice, Dr. Helmut Prugger - General Director at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, Dr. Oswald Kessler - Director at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, Andreas Aschauer - Assistant at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, Horst Pittnauer - CEO Federal Computing Center of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Michael Butz - CEO of the Austrian Digital Signature Authority and Richard Pollak - CEO of 4C Consulting Austria.

A number of officials from government agencies in the Kingdom participated in the workshop, which included Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Water and Electricity, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice, the Vice-Ministry of Civil Affairs, Directors of Passports, National Commission for Wildlife Conservation & Development, Presidency of Meteorology and Environment, National Information Center, Diwan Al Madhalim, Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Saudi Project for exchanging information electronically Saudi EDI. The event included topics about Republic of Austria's organization, cooperation, implementation and best practices in the e-government transactions. There were also presentations about Austria's experience in Finance Online - the virtual tax office and eCustoms - Electronic Customs Clearing, eJustice Services, Central Register of Residence and other eRegisters, Austrian Portal Network and Organization Register for the Public Administration, Digital Signatures in Public and Business Sector and Marketing in Digital Austria.

At the end of the event, Eng. Al Soma accompanied the delegation for a short visit to the headquarters of the e-Government Program 'Yesser' and invited the delegation to attend a general presentation about Yesser.

The Austrian delegation reviewed with the Saudi e-Government team their experiences and discussed ways of further possibilities to add more services and future of e-Government initiatives. The Austrian delegation highly praised the progress made in the field of e-Government by the Saudi government.

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