

Showcase on e-governance in Hawaii

Just as information technology (IT) has revolutionized business and management practices through the introduction of e-commerce and intranets, it is also rapidly changing traditional forms of government administration and services. e-Governance has emerged as a new reality. It enables: 1) governments to use IT-based tools and strategies to improve public service efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness; and 2) constituents to provide direct feedback on how they perceive and evaluate government performance. Hawaii is leading the development and application of e-governance in the USA. As this IT application is relatively new in most APO member countries, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) of Hawaii hosted a workshop on “e-Governance” for the APO in Honolulu, 8–12 December 2003. Sixteen participants from 14 countries took part.



Participants at the Honolulu Traffic Center

DBEDT administrator Dennis Ling, in welcoming participants on behalf of the government of Hawaii, said that the workshop was to showcase Hawaii's expertise in IT and e-governance, with the hope that it would contribute to economic development in the Asia-Pacific region and to building cooperative relationships between Hawaii corporations and organizations represented by the APO delegates. Hawaii has hosted 11 projects for the APO since 1996, including the e-governance workshop. Other subjects covered were: Ecology and tourism planning and development; Coastal resource management; Telemedicine; Health care management; and e-Commerce.

The e-governance workshop featured presentations on: e-Learning in the Department of Education; eHawaii.gov; e-Government in the city and county of Honolulu; Community television and government; Open source tools in government; State of Hawaii next-generation network; Cyber crime; e-Application in traffic management; and State of Hawaii intranet portal. A special presentation on APO e-services was given by APO Senior IT Officer Mukesh Bhattarai. Participants were also taken on business tours to observe best practice models on e-governance at Olelo Studios, Equinix, Honolulu Traffic Center, and ICSD Computer Center. 