

Country Report
On IT
In Saudi Arabia

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National Information Technology Plan

The objectives of the National Information Technology Plan in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia are summarized as follows :

- To support the national economy by creating and developing an IT industry and reliance on e – Commerce and Teleworking.
- Creating vast job opportunities for young men and women .

- Urbanization through electronic education ,
electronic government and remote medical assistance .
- Preserving the Arab and Islamic cultures in the
digital world .
- Enhancing productivity and efficiency and
minimizing costs .
- Strengthening national security through investment
in information technology .
- Enhancing infrastructure to achieve the foregoing
objectives .

IT Plan Covers :

- E- Gov.
- E- Commerce
- E- Education
- E- Health
- IT Industry

E- GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

The e-Government Program – Yesser – translates the Saudi Government's keen interest in implementing the e-Government concept . It is part of many initiatives and projects adopted by the government to achieve sustained growth and development in all aspects of life .

Program Objectives

- Raising the productivity and efficiency of the public sector .
- Providing better and more easy-to-use services for individual and business customers .
- Increasing return on investment (ROI) .
- Providing the required information in a timely and highly accurate fashion .

E-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Program Objectives

The e-Government program – Yesser – was launched with the objectives :

- Raising the public sector's productivity and efficiency .
- Providing better and more easy-to-use services for individual and business customers .
- Increasing return on investment (ROI) .
- Providing the required information .

The program's work methodology based on the follow principles :

- Principle 1 • Unified vision, priorities, standards
- Principle 2 • Not only technology, but much more .
- Principle 3 • Reduce centralization as much as possible .
- Principle 4 • Develop once, use many times .

The Organizational Structure

The organization structure of the e-Government program consists of three components :

- The e-Government program supreme supervisory committee :

This committee is formed by His Excellency the Minister of finance Excellency the Minister of Communications and Information Technology His Excellency the Governor of the Communications and Information Technology Commission .

- The e-Government Program steering Committee :
This committee is headed by His Excellency the Governor Communications and Information Technology commission .
- An e-Government Committee in each government organization is to linked to the top executive in that organization . The majot task of committees is to supervise the implementation of the e-government and their respective organizations (these committees are currently being
- The Advisory Group :
consists of expert members specializing in areas related to this field .

The Organizational Structure for the e-Government

The Advisory Group

- **The Supreme Supervisory Committee**
 - His Excellency the Minister of Finance
 - His Excellency the Minister of Communications and Information Technology
 - His Excellency the Governor of the Communications and Information technology Commission
- **The Steering committee**
 - His Excellency the Governor of the Communications and Information technology Commission
 - Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, the Commission of Communication and Information Technology, Program Director
- **program Directorate**

The role of supreme supervisory committee :

- Approval of strategies and general policies relating to e-government .
- Supervision of e-Government implementation .
- Follow-up and strategic coordination between government organization .
- Provide support for the implementation of e-government .

The e-Government Program Steering Committee

- This Committee handles the following tasks :
- Execution of strategic resolutions issued by the supreme Committee and development of the necessary directive process implement these resolutions .
- Completion of preparatory tasks for the supreme supervisory Committee .
- Reporting on necessary topics and recommendations to the supervisory Committee for approval .

- Direct supervision of the program's administrative tasks .
- Preparation of the detailed work plans .
- Prepare e-government projects, submit them to the Supreme Committee and follow up their implementation .
- Identify priorities and formulate policies, standards, framework procedures for e-government projects .
- Evaluation of the efforts exerted by government and organizations relevant to the e-government program .

The Advisory Group

The advisory group consists of an elite group of experts and specialists, public and private sectors, whose expertise is utilized in the following functions :

- Participate in the identification of priorities .
- Participate in identifying requirements for implementation of e-gov. projects implementation and requirements for the application of e-government .

- Study the matters referred to them by the steering Committee recommend the appropriate consultation on these matters .
- Provide suggestions and recommendations on the e-government program for the steering Committee.

The Program Director

The program has a full time Director whose functions are :

- Execute the strategic resolutions issued by the Directive Committee .
- Assume the preparatory tasks for the Directive Committee and secretariats of the high supervisory and Directive Committees .
- Report on topics and necessary recommendations to the Directive supervise committee .

- Suggest detailed work plans, priorities, policies, standards, frameworks and procedures for the e-government program .
- Perform the program's administrative tasks .
- Supervise the work of the program's consultant .

The Work Plan

The e-government program will be executed over a five-year period in two parallel tracks . The first track is expected to continue for a maximum 2 years, while the second track lasts for the full five – years period as shown

The First Track (The Fast Track)

This track involves the following :

- Providing the basic program requirements .

- Executing a number of pilot e-government projects that are according to the following criteria :
 - High revenue .
 - Quick results .
 - Relatively low implementation cost .

The Second Track

This track starts with the beginning of program implementation for five years . In this track the program consultant will be appointed to the following tasks will be performed :

- Formulating the program's execution plan and identifying the priorities .
- Formulating the policies, procedures, specifications and regulations .
- Government organizations are to implement their e-government services .

National Initiatives and Projects

The kingdom's government has given special attention to information technology because of its effective role in boosting state economy, the IT sector witnessed massive changes throughout the past years .

Through the Saudi leading companies such as : ARAMCO, the private sector in Saudi Arabia took the role in using IT as of the seventies of the last century . Currently, Saudi companies especially large organizations such as Saudi ARAMCO,

SABIC, Telecommunications Company (STC), Saudi Arabian Airlines, banks use state-of-the-art technologies in their applications . Indicate that more than 80% of industrial companies use computer systems .

Government organizations apply the e-government concept . Some of them have gone a long way in this field . Some e-government projects undertaken by some of the gov.

E-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

The National Center for Digital Certification

The National Center for Digital Certification

provides a complete system managing the public key infrastructure (PKI) on which all electronic served e-Government, are based . (PKI) enables Internet users to perform all electronic transactions confidently and securely .

E-Government Portal

E-Government Portal is a joint project between the ministry of finance (MOF), the ministry of communication and information technology (MCIT), and the communication and information technology commission (CITC) . The objective of this project is to facilitate innovative and effective use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) in the country to simplify government transactions with the public .

Developing an e-Government Services Portal

The implementation of the E-Government Services Portal has been divided to many stages . The objective of phase I is to install a reliable unified and Information Portal aiming to serve the users through using modern communications means to provide information about government service for the public .

Saudi Arabian Communication and Information Technology Commission Signs MOUs with Partners in Home Computing Initiative

Riyadh Wednesday, May 11, 2005,

The Government of the communication and IT commission (CITC) signed Today a number of Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with several companies participating in the Saudi Arabian Home Computing Initiative, which is lead and coordinated by CITC . The participating companies are :

The Saudi Home Computing Initiative aims at bridging the digital divide and moving the Saudi Society towards the knowledge society . The initiative has a number of objectives including : support the move into the digital economy, increasing PC and internet penetration, spurring PC manufacturing activities, raising productivity and promoting electronic transactions . In addition, the initiative would contribute to educating the public on the use of computing and the Internet which would create an environment that would enable remote work especially for females and also would increase the readiness of Saudi Arabian to build a strong IT content and services industries .