e-GP in Sri Lanka
a candid account

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Preamble

• Sri Lanka’s 2014 ‘moment’

• Focus on freedom of expression and dissent

• Concern for excesses addressed via Constitutional amendment
  • Setting up of 7 independent commissions

• Some ‘throwing baby with bathwater’

• Not a replacement of one regime with another
Taking stock of where we are

• Sri Lanka had an initiative in e-Procurement in 2003/4
• A lead agency (NPA) was created in 2005
• Subsequently closed down in 2008
• And with it the e-GP initiative itself stalled
• We are now back to the drawing board
The bigger picture

• e-Gov initiative very active via e-Sri Lanka programme

• Driven by ICTA as lead agency from 2004 to 2013

• Many other priority areas, some success stories (e.g. Visa, Passport, Revenue License etc.)

• Major achievements in legal framework, network access, CIO training, community engagement
Approach taken

• Need to start new initiative

• Cognizant of significant achievements in enabling environment

• Rest of presentation: SWOT analysis
Strengths

• Legal framework up to date
• Overall e-Gov implementation experience
• ICT infrastructure and penetration
• Trained pool of government CIOs
• Increasing ICT literacy among population
• Ministry of Finance initiative (new)
Weaknesses

• Previous effort stalled
• Ministry silos
• ICTA confined to a line ministry
• No dedicated agency for e-GP
• e-GP not in the ICTA radar
• Lack of updated e-Gov framework
Opportunities

• Good governance mandate and momentum
• Learn from countries in the region
• Adopt best practices in planning, rollout
• Adapt ICT solution without starting from scratch
• Leapfrog by avoiding pitfalls
• Civil society push
Threats

• Government/policy change

• Spread of corruption owing to delay in implementing e-GP
Conclusions – Road Ahead

• Sri Lanka has to reboot its e-GP process: need a champion
• There’s much we can learn – adopting best practice, avoiding pitfalls
• Seizing the window of opportunity when the political will is present
• Importance of business model for sustainability
• Need for planning for contract management and monitoring
• Watch this space (5th SAR PPC) for e-GP a la Sri Lanka!