

## Preface

As the e-government continues to mature and mobile/wireless Internet applications and services become successful, the governments face an inevitable e-direction: mobile government (mGovernment). mGovernment is the strategy, tactics, and implementation involving the utilization of all kinds of wireless and mobile technology, services, applications and devices for improving benefits to the parties involved in e-government including citizens, businesses and all government units.

The set of papers in this volume presents the first large collection of work on mobile government from various authors who submitted their work to The First European Conference on Mobile Government (EURO mGOV 2005), held at the University of Sussex, Brighton, UK during July 10-12. Although mGovernment is a new field, there is a considerable and growing interest from the public sector, industry and researchers.

The main theme of the articles in this proceeding is concerned with the evaluation of the transition “from eGovernment to mGovernment, and contains recent developments in mobile government from an international perspective. Majority of research focuses on giving examples of applications developed either at a central or a local government level in various countries such as UK, South Africa, Germany and Canada. These are contributions to mobile government through specifying some early lessons learned and providing guidance for future implementations. The other significant work includes discussions on various mobile government applications and usability issues. While the development of new applications through mobile technology shows an increasing trend, user adoption is a major challenge for the success of these applications.

mGovernment is a new and fertile field. It is one of the most important directions in the progress of eGovernment. mGovernment will often supplement eGovernment but its essential value is hidden in those applications and services that cannot be done without mobile/wireless technologies. In the years to come we hope to see a growing discussions, research and applications assessing the value of mGovernment under the broader umbrella of eGovernment. Thanks to all who have contributed to the organisation of this first large conference on mGovernment and for creating an opportunity to mGovernment researchers and opening new directions for mobile government field.

Euro Mgov 2005 was co-sponsored by CISCO, NOKIA, and International University of Japan, supported by Project NOMAD; and organized by the significant contributions of mGovlab and Mobile Government Consortium International. There are 49 papers in this proceeding and approximately a hundred government officials, academics, and

representatives from IT and telecom corporations are expected to attend the conference. The papers at the EURO mGOV 2005 is also a reflection of collaborations among public sector, industry and researchers evidenced by practice and policy papers and plenary talks from leading experts and exhibitions and demos from IT and telecom companies.

This proceeding will hopefully serve as a nucleus to the gradually growing mGovernment field of study and practice and help promote importance and understanding of the field. Through presenting a real world mGovernment examples, their evaluations, challenges and opportunities, this proceeding will be useful for IT solution providers, researchers, government officials and policy makers.

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M. Halid Kuscu. CEO  
Mobile Government Consortium International  
<http://www.mgovernment.org> [mgci@mgovernment.org](mailto:mgci@mgovernment.org)