Foreword

E-government refers to concepts of performing activities related to government matters, varying from government proceedings and national affairs to business entrepreneurship by electronic means. E-readiness refers to a country's capability to take advantage of the newly evolved information and communication technologies (ICTs) as an active engine of human development and economic empowerment. E-readiness ranges from preparedness in information infrastructures and human resources development to framework for policy and planning depending on national demand and standing.

In this perspective, e-government readiness has turned out to be one of the important elements of a country's state of being ready to act within the country enabling prospective economic dynamics and at the same time compete regionally and globally. E-government readiness should enslave the benchmarking, preparedness, and promotion of technological and telecommunication infrastructures, human resources management, education, environment, and health, including basic livelihood infrastructures.

It is a notable sign that global leaders, international organizations, the United Nations, and national governments have considered e-government readiness as an essential component of human development and countries across the globe are performing professionally towards raising their e-government platforms. Already, many have taken leadership in this aspect and many are reacting positively towards achieving a better goal.

A handbook of research on e-government readiness for information and service exchange utilizing the progressive ICTs would stand as a milestone in the arena of ICT for development. This book will not only act as a guideline for the stakeholders, but also act as a pathfinder to select appropriate e-government plan in national and local context.

This handbook will be useful to development practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and academics as a valuable knowledge content and potential guidebook in learning, designing, and understanding effective, efficient, transparent, and responsive e-government systems.

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