About the Contributors

Danilo Piaggesi was Knowledge Economy Coordinator in the Vice Presidency of the *Inter American* Development Bank (IADB), in Washington D.C, from 2007 to 2009 and Chief of the Information and Communication Technology for Development Division (ICT4DEV) at the IADB, from 1999 to 2007. The ICT4DEV Division was in charge of structuring and implementing the Bank's policy to introduce ICT in the Bank's project portfolio, providing technical assistance to IADB's borrowing member countries, and better informing government decisions regarding ICT and its applications. Prior to the IABD assignment, from 1981 to 1991, Mr. Piaggesi worked for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at different duty stations in Africa and Latin America in the field of technology transfer for development. From 1992 to 1998 he was part of the technical staff of Telespazio, Telecom-Italia Group in Rome, where he was in charge of the Strategic Alliances and International Activities Division. Mr. Piaggesi also consulted for the European Union in Brussels, evaluating project proposals for funding in the field of telecommunications and environment. While at IADB, he was the alternate of the Bank's President in the Steering Committee of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID); after leaving the Bank, he has remained a member of its Strategic Council. At present he is Managing Director of the Fondazione Rosselli Americas (FRA) and a member of Fondazione Rosselli's Board. FRA focuses on Knowledge Society, ICT and innovation for development. One of the major programs of FRA is the IKEP (International Knowledge Economy Program) working with multi and bi-lateral cooperation to support development projects where ICT, innovation and the principles of the Knowledge Economy can be instrumental for achieving socio-economic growth. Mr. Piaggesi holds a PhD degree in Physics with a diploma in geophysics, *cum laude*, from the University of Rome (1980), and an Executive International Business Certificate from Georgetown University/John Cabot University, in Washington D.C and in Rome, (1996). His professional training is in remote sensing (1981); digital image processing and analysis (1986); technical cooperation project formulation and appraisal (1989); telecommunications (1995-1996) and ICT, innovation and Knowledge Society for development. He lives and works in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, with his wife Helena.

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Ajay Kumar Reddy Adala is an Engineering Graduate from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – Kharagpur, India and a Management Graduate from Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (IIITM) – Gwalior, India. He also has an Executive Masters Degree in e-Governance from Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), Switzerland. He has to his credit 15 years of work experience in manufacturing sector, IT sector and government sector. He served Government of Chhattigarh, India as Joint CEO (Projects) implementing e-Governance projects and currently in the position of Technical Director, e-Procurement in Centre for e-Governance, Government of Karnataka, India rolling-out e-Procurement project in the State of Karnataka.

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Monis Aziz holds a Masters degree in eGovernance from EPFL, Switzerland and ITSM Certification. Monis has extensive experience in functional areas of Service Delivery Management, Project Management, Customer Support, Business Development and eGovernance. Monis possesses international experience in post conflict environments and varied professional consultancy work with The World Bank Afghanistan in the field of Information Technology Consultancy and Project Implementation. Monis has also worked as Venue Technology Manager at the 15th Doha Asian Games in 2006. He is presently working with IBM India and is based in Bangalore, India.

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Chris Vein, called San Francisco's "tech zeitgeist" by Computerworld Magazine, is the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the City and County of San Francisco (City). In this role, he is responsible for setting the City's technology vision and direction, ensuring the development and implementation of Citywide standards, policies, and procedures, and running the technology "utility" department providing enterprise services to the City with its 28,000 employees, 52 departments, and \$6.5 billion annual budget. In his tenure as CIO, Chris has led the City in becoming a national force in the application of new media platforms, use of open source applications, creation of new models for expanding digital inclusion, emphasizing "green" technology, and transforming government. In 2010, Chris was named to Government Technology Magazine's Top 25: Dreamers, Doers, and Drivers. Last year, Chris was named to the top 50 public sector CIOs by InformationWeek Magazine and was honored as the Community Broadband Visionary of the Year by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA). Chris is a sought-after commentator and speaker, quoted in a wide range of news sources from the Economist to Inc. Magazine. In past work lives, Chris has worked in the public sector at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), for the American Psychological Association, and in a nonpolitical role, at the White House supporting three Presidents of the United States. In his spare time, Chris is a voracious reader, pretty darn good cook, and sometimes mentor.

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