

## The Ash Institute Selects Most Innovative Programs in Global Government



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For details on the top 20 global programs [click here](#).

**Cambridge, Mass. – August 22, 2007** – The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government today announced the Top 20 global programs under consideration for the Innovations in Transforming Government Award, sponsored by IBM. This \$100,000 award, administered by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance, recognizes preeminent transformative government initiatives in operation worldwide.

Innovative programs were selected from more than 100 applicants representing over 30 countries and all levels of government, in areas ranging from social services to government procurement activities. Five finalists and a first winner of the IBM Award will be chosen from the Top 20 programs, based on five criteria: innovation, tangible results, scope, collaboration and the potential for global replication.

The recipient of the IBM Innovations in Transforming Government Award will be announced and honored at a reception and dinner on September 24, 2007, in Washington, DC. The event kicks off a year-long celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Ash Institute’s Innovations in American Government Awards program. The IBM-sponsored award will be among eight \$100,000 awards that the Ash Institute will announce.

“Innovation has been the cornerstone of IBM's long-term success in the marketplace.” said Todd Ramsey, general manager, IBM Global Government and Education. “As sponsor of the IBM Innovations in Transforming Government Award, we are pleased to join the Ash Institute in recognizing the leading innovators in government and sharing

their programs and experiences with other governments that may be facing similar challenges.”

“In an age where cynicism in government has become commonplace, I am proud of the Ash Institute’s collaboration with IBM to celebrate the truly transformative innovations of these global governments,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director, Innovations in American Government Program at the Ash Institute. “We hope that our recognition of these superb best practices will encourage other government programs around the world to reach for the same level of creativity and impact.”

The 20 government programs under consideration were chosen by a team of government evaluators including experts at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. The most innovative government programs are:

- Bhoomi, India
- Congressional Directory: A Tool for Legislative Transparency, Honduras
- Customer Debt Relief Program, South Africa
- e-Alexandria Government Services Development Program, Egypt
- eProcurement Project in Andhra Pradesh, India
- e-Systems in Transparency and Right to Information, Mexico
- Grants Center for Excellence, USA
- Government Information Center, USA
- Government of Georgia Comprehensive Reforms, Georgia
- Implementation of Performance Contracts in Management of Public Services, Kenya
- Interoperable Communications for Public Safety, USA
- Khuda-Ki-Basti, Pakistan
- Lok-Samwad Democratic Dialogue with the Common People, India
- OneCommunity: Connecting, Enabling, Transforming, USA
- Participa.net, Italy
- Real Time Crime Center, USA
- Rural Microfinance Technical Assistance Project, Mexico
- Service Canada, Canada
- Trail-Blazing Transformation in Vocations and Technical Education, Singapore
- The Treasury of Singapore, Singapore

For more details on these programs [click here](#).

### **About The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation**

The Roy Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network and awards program – developed in collaboration with a diverse, engaged community of scholars and practitioners - the Ash Institute fosters creative and effective government problem-solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the

world's citizens. The Ford Foundation is a founding donor of the institute. Additional information about The Ash Institute is available at [www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu](http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu).

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