

February 25, 2016

62-9, Seocho-daero 50-gil, Seocho-gu, Seoul, Korea
www.opennet.or.kr/

Dear the Steering Committee of the Open Government Partnership,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Seoul City to join the Open Government Partnership subnational pilot program.

Open Net Korea is a NGO to make the Internet a platform for freedom, openness and sharing. Open Net Korea aims to provide a forum for discussion and collaboration to explore effective policies and solutions on freedom of expression, surveillance, unreasonable regulations, net neutrality and open data.

Open Net Korea believes that Seoul City is a strong candidate for the OGP subnational pilot program because Seoul has a long track record of cooperating with many NGOs in Korea to become an truly open government which encourages citizen participation, communication and sharing.

Seoul has disclosed almost all data and administrative documents created and owned by the city and tried to include civil society and the citizens in the policy making process by using various channels such as public hearings, surveys, interviews and evaluation meetings.

For example, Seoul has created a mobile voting app called "m-Voting" which allows citizens and city officials to create vote agendas related to the public policies and daily life and vote on them.

Recently, Seoul has used m-Voting to let the citizens to determine which city projects would receive a pre-determined budget of 50 million dollars. Considering that the size of the annual budget of Seoul is 25 billion dollars, 50 million dollars may seem small but by allowing the taxpayers to choose which city projects receive funding, is a positive move towards overcoming the limitation of representative democracy.

I have no doubt that Seoul will play a big role in the development of the OGP and actively share its best practice cases and know-how while supporting other cities. Open Net Korea will be glad to support and work together with Seoul along the way.

Sincerely,



Mr. Kyungsin Park
Director of Open Net Korea