

# FOREWORD

As technology moves on, e-governance also has to evaluate the new technological options and standards available to provide better governance. We have seen the internet embrace the technologies of Web 2.0. We have seen the world moving towards open standards such as Open Document Format (ODF) with much more vigour than ever before. We have seen communities moving towards a greater adoption of open source software such as Open Solaris and Linux. We are at a point of influx where we need to re-evaluate the options available to e-governance which will determine the next wave of IT adoption in governments.

Till now we have seen e-governance to only bring to the the electronic world that which existed in the brick and mortar world. We have not had any significant solution that has been a pure play e-governance solution, the equivalent of google or eBay in the e-business domains. We have also not yet seen any significant e-governance solution that leverages the power of Web 2.0 that can open up a whole new dimension in participatory governance, enabled by the interactive Web 2.0 technologies.

Similarly, driven by the need for technological sovereignty and need to protect government data for long periods of time, governments all over the world are aggressively adopting Open Standards. Governments such as the Government of Holland has adopted the ISO open standard Open Document Format (ODF) as their standard. It is necessary to have the appropriate open standards to ensure a longer duration of IT investments being put in by the governments.

And finally, the third dimension of the next wave of e-governance is Open Source adoption. Open Source is important not just from the point of view of reduced total cost of ownership but also from the point of view of control over the IT infrastructure and being able to give a boost to the local IT industry. Fortunately, the best of breed solutions are actually open source. A very good example is the Open Solaris operating system that is considered by many to be one of the best and most robust operating system on this planet, is an open source solution.

This book has deftly brings in the details of all these issues in a very comprehensive manner. The book will definitely help practioners of e-governance to take a more informed technology policy decision.

**Lalith Weeratunga**  
Secretary to President of Sri Lanka