



AIDE MEMOIRE

Capacity Building Programme for Government Procurement Reform 19-21 December 2006, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Background and Purpose

Transparency, accountability, fairness and efficiency are most important values to pursue in the realm of good governance and government reinvention because they enhance both the capacity of government and the quality of life for citizens. While most of the countries have attempted various initiatives to realize these values, e-government has emerged as one of the central themes of their attention.

One of the important areas that government could be recommended to consider on priority in their implementation of e-government at the initial stage is public e-procurement system which will bring about the following spillover effects.

First of all, the e-procurement system will contribute greatly to saving government expenditure and labor. The Republic of Korea which has introduced e-procurement system since 2003, has saved roughly \$2.5 billion annually. Secondly, the system generates other numerous benefits including improvement of administration efficiency, more participation by private sector, and more fairness and competitiveness in the procurement process and elimination of corruption. Lastly, the system has helped the government to regain the trust of people by demonstrating its will to make the society more transparent and effective.

In addition, the Program on the e-procurement reform which will introduce in one of the sessions the Korean e-procurement system which was endowed with the United Nations Public Service Award in 2003 will enhance the public recognition of the UN Award.

It is against this backdrop that the United Nations Governance Centre in collaboration

with the Public Procurement Service of Korea is to organize the “Capacity Building Programme for Government Procurement Reform,” with a view to providing answers to the challenges and opportunities that governments of the Asia-Pacific region are facing in the process of introducing e-procurement services.

The UNGC will plan to organize another program on the same subject for East European and African countries in November 2007.

Format

- Date:
December 19 (Tue.) ~ December 21 (Thu.), 2006

- Venue:
Seoul Plaza Hotel

- Proceedings:
 - Day one: Lectures on E-government and E-procurement
 - Day two: Country reports on public procurement reforms
 - Day three: Site Tour (site visit to the Government Innovation Hall, Samsung SDS, and the Seoul Regional Public Procurement Service)

- Participants:
Around 20 participants are expected to attend this three-day training workshop, including one or two middle-level officials from public procurement-related agencies in each of the following countries: Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Programme Contents and Composition

- Presentations and discussion on policy and standards framework for e-government and its impact on electronic government procurement systems.
- Presentations and discussion on public procurement reform, its linkages with electronic government procurement systems and potential impact of both on public sector transparency, accountability, fairness and efficiency.
- Presentations and discussion on electronic government procurement systems, their functionality, implementation issues.
- Presentations and discussion of the progress of trainee countries on E-government, government procurement reform and electronic government procurement systems.
- Presentations and discussion of the Korea experience on E-government, government procurement reform and electronic government procurement systems.
- Discussions of the application to the between government officials and experts from trainee countries of the topics explored, as well as to formulate new or modified plans of action.