

Summary Reports of

South Asia Training and Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) 17 – 18 September 2018, Bangkok, Thailand



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Introduction

Public procurement wields enormous purchasing power, accounting for up to 30 percent of GDP in many developing countries. Leveraging this purchasing power by buying more sustainable goods and services can help drive markets in the direction of sustainability, reduce the negative impacts of an organization, and also produce positive benefits for the environment and society. The SDGs have reiterated the strong link between environmental protection, sustainable development, and public procurement. SDG 12.7 focuses specifically on the promotion of “public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities”.

The advancement of sustainable public procurement (SPP) practices is thus recognized as being a key strategic component of the global efforts towards achieving more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

To advance sustainable public procurement in the region, South Asia Training and Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) was organised at Bangkok, Thailand, on 17-18 September 2018. The training provided participants with expert knowledge and tools to initiate and progress on Sustainable Public Procurement policies in their country. In particular, aimed to create a pipeline for technical and financial support to countries to initiate or advance their progress on SPP, and agreed on additional sub-regional cooperation activities and work on declaration.

The workshop was attended by high-level officials from South Asia who design and implement the Sustainable Public Procurement policies in their countries or having a strong interest to embark on the path to Sustainable Public Procurement. List of Participants are in **Annex I**

Highlights of the First Day

Mr. Farid Yaker, Programme Officer, UN Environment introduced the partners and the resource persons.

Dr. Abas Basir, Director General of SACEP welcomed all participants, resource persons and other partners. He stated that since adoption of SDGs, progress in achieving the stipulated targets are very slow and if we need to achieve them is a stipulated time, need to act faster than ever before. Also, emphasis that the importance of looking at global targets from the regional and national perspectives. Dr. Basir highlighted the decisions adopted by Governing Council of SACEP at its 13th meeting and 14th meeting on the Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Ms. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director of UN Environment, Asia and the Pacific Office also welcomed all participants and resource persons on behalf of UN Environment. She detailed out about the activities planned under the SWITCH-Asia II, regional policy advocacy.

Session 1: Speed Dating the Sustainable Public Procurement Guidelines

The first session consisted of presentations that provided an overview of Sustainable Public Procurement.

Dr. Prasad Modak, Executive President, Environmental Management Centre LLP and Director, Ekonnnect Knowledge Foundation gave an introduction on the Sustainable Public Procurement and elaborated the Definitions, Benefits, Current progress and Challenges.

He pointed out that use of Low-impact or low intensity materials, least use of non-biodegradable or recalcitrant substances, use of local materials to the extent possible without adversely affecting local sustainability, design such that there is low energy demand/consumption and a higher energy efficiency, maximum possible use of renewable energy both in the making and use, design of the components for easy dismantling and for reuse and recycling, and low total carbon footprint would make a product or a service green.

Adopting SPP approaches in public procurement would give environmental, social and economic benefits. Also, if strategized, SPP can be a strong stimulus for eco-innovation.

Dr. Prasad emphasized that the SPP policies can be used as mandatory, voluntary, or a mix of both and there are enough successful examples in the world for all three applications.

Common perceptions like sustainable products and/or services are more expensive, repaired/refurbished/remanufactured products can be of poor quality, products with recycled content can pose health and environmental risks are some barriers in implementing the SPP.

Also, people don't see public procurement as a strategic opportunity due to lack of expertise in sustainable public procurement implementation, lack of information and knowledge of SPP, challenge in the quantification of benefits, and in general lack of professionalization in public procurement itself.

Mr. Farid Yaker, Programme Officer, UN Environment then presented the Emerging Global Landscape for Sustainable Public Procurement which reviewed international implementation of SPP.

He stated that Sustainable Public Procurement could bring together the procurement and the policy arms of government, harness the government's immense buying power in favor of sustainable development goals and it is something the best of the private sector is already doing (whether as a result of enlightened leadership or shareholder pressure).

It is something some governments have been doing for years to support local producers, SMEs, minorities and compliance with labor laws.

SPP should not consider only acquisition costs but should factor in life cycle costs. The higher initial price of the greener product is very often more than compensated by the much lower usage and disposal costs.

The review of the current 'state-of-play' in national government's sustainable purchasing activities around the world; recent activities, trends, challenges and opportunities highlight how SPP is becoming a widespread practice.

SPP activities are on the rise in all types of organizations, including local governments, non-profits and private sector companies, both large and small. For a successful SPP, requires a solid policy foundation, top-level leadership support and excellence in implementation.

Still considerable work to be done before sustainability considerations become regular criteria within bid specifications and contracts. Some national governments are shifting their SPP policies towards strategic procurement policies where sustainability is one of several "pillars" or goals.

SPP goes beyond "picking greener products" and encompasses activities at every step of the procurement cycle. SDGs and target 12.7 provide an opportunity to formulate a more standard definition and articulation of SPP practices and measures that help in measuring progress and encourage adoption.

Transforming sustainable production and consumption patterns will require collaboration among all stakeholders along the supply chain.

During Q & A session, Representative of Nepal asked what is circular economy.

Dr. Prasad responded, in a circular economy it uses 6R concept apart from 3R which include reduce, reuse and recycle, three additional steps repair, refurbish and recovery which represent the extended pollution responsibility.

Dr Basir, DG SACEP stated challenges like people think that sustainable products and/or services are more expensive, can overcome by the market process. When producers produced in a bigger volume, the prices come down.

Session 2: Project Setup and Governance Structure Establishment

Mr. Farid Yaker made an introduction to the session and stated that Goals of the UN Environment's SPP approach is to guide countries in the development and application of national SPP policies and action plans.

There are 4 steps in this approach; 1) launch of the project and governance structure, 2) status assessment, legal review, prioritisation, market analysis, 3) SPP policy and action plan, and 4) SPP Implementation. It is necessary to provide ongoing training during the process and these applications should be adapted to the national context. Then he explained components under the step1;

- National Focal Organization - tasks and composition
- Steering Committee - tasks and composition
- Consultative committee, supporting organizations and more importantly the scope.

1st Breakout Group Session

All participants were requested to break into 8 groups based on their country and discussed among themselves on step 1 of the SPP application which is project setup and governance structure establishment. There, eight groups needed to discussed and identify SCP Focal Point in their country, members for Steering Committee, members for Consultative Committee, Support organisations and Scope. After discussion, they were asked to write it on the board given and one representative from each group to report back. The outcome of the breakout groups is in **Annex II**

Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal, Director-Procurement Policy, Ministry of Finance, India presented case study on India SPP task force and future institutional arrangements for SPP implementation.

In March, 2018 a Sustainable Procurement Task Force (SPTF) was established. Identification of few items where SPP can be started is the main focus area of the Task Force.

Terms of Reference for Task Force are review International Best Practices in the area of SPP; inventorise the current status of SPP in India across Government organizations; prepare a draft Sustainable Procurement Action Plan; and recommend initial set of product/ service categories (along with their specifications) where SPP can be implemented.

Members of the Task Force were appointed representing government ministries and corporations, private sector, academia, and UN Environment.

Three sub-committees also established to look into different sectors.

Then he pointed out existing provisions and enabling provisions in Rules & Policies.

Mr. Aggarwal stated that USD 300 Billion worth of e-Procurement happens every year in India and major reforms have taken place in Public Procurement sector in last 4-5 years. However, for SPP reforms to take place, time and expertise both are needed. He also identified lack of sustainable products and information as a barrier in SPP implementation.

Dr. Basir – When we consider the institutional setup for SPP, each country has its own institutions already established for public procurement and need to strengthen those institutions rather proposing new institutions.

Mr. Yaker – Fully agree with the comment and in fact, this morning during the group exercise, we identified who would do what within the existing institutional framework. The objective is changing the way procure and not changing who procures.

Representative from Bhutan – As we understood, we are here to understand the process of SPP and how it implements is entirely up to countries to decide.

Mr. Farid - Indeed, the process is flexible. Planning is a universal practice.

Session 3: Assessment, Legal Review and Prioritisation

Mr. Farid Yaker introduced the step 2 of the SPP approach. There, he explained in detail about goals, tools, define scope, and expected outcome of the assessment. Goals of the assessment are;

- Assess current levels of SPP in country/entity,
- Understand the steps required to improve SPP,
- Identify resources to improve SPP,
- Increase awareness-raising on international commitment to SPP,
- Check progress of the country at a later stage, and
- Compare SPP practices with others.

A well-constructed questionnaire can be used as a tool for status assessment. When defining the scope, will have to identify implementing agency, all the central administration (including autonomous companies) and all levels of administration (national, States, local). It is expected following outcome at the end of status assessment;

- Greater knowledge of the current situation,
- Identification of areas for improvement,
- Baseline for future assessments,
- Internal awareness-raising regarding SPP, and
- Gradual appropriation of project.

Next is legal review and there, goals are; to get to know the legal context and policies related with public procurement and sustainability, to understand the financial structure linked to procurement,

to identify existing or developing sustainability criteria, to identify legal obstacles and opportunities for SPP, and to propose recommendations to improve the legal framework and procedures.

Then, Mr. Yaker elaborated on the contents of the legal review and expected outcomes. Next component is prioritization of products and services. He gave an overview of prioritization steps, goals and outcome. He explained few country examples for preliminary prioritisation of products.

- Moldova - Agriculture Strategy, Energy-Efficiency Strategy, and National Environmental Strategy.
- Ukraine - 1st analysis based on National priorities impacting SPP, and Priority sectors of the economy; 2nd analysis based on spend analysis in public entities and priority economic sectors - Consideration of EU GPP categories - Consideration of potential 'Quick wins'

Finally, he pointed out the goals, expected outcome and overview of the market analysis.

2nd Breakout Group Session

Again, all participants were requested to break into 8 groups based on their countries. Participants were asked to perform the exercise on preliminary prioritization of products. There, following tasks were given:

- Develop a list of product categories for which technical specifications and criteria have already been developed - Outcome 1: long list of product categories (based on the list from EU GPP)
- Select initial products based on the analysis of public expenditures and sustainability considerations defined by the Steering Committee - Outcome 2: Shorter list of products based on the expenditure analysis and sustainability considerations (drawn from the categories defined by EU GPP)
- Conduct a preliminary market study to shortlist the products or product groups - Outcome 3: Shorter list of products selected out of the list of products (or product groups), for which sustainable alternatives are locally available, at a reasonable cost, including when considering the Total Cost of Ownership

Each group were requested to answer to the following questions

- Is your government able to perform a spend analysis? To what level of details? Do you use an e-platform?
- Select 5 initial product groups. Rank them by applying to them the criteria of volume of expenditures, sustainability risk analysis, availability of alternative product, price premium of the alternative product, existence of means of verification (e.g. ecolabel), alignment with strategic priorities.

Ms. Hyunju Lee, Senior Researcher, Sustainable Lifestyle Office of the Korean Environmental Industry and Technical Institute made a presentation on case study of the Korean Green Public Procurement experience with a special focus on prioritization of products, market engagement and ecolabelling.

Korea has different public procurement policies with different Ministries. Public procurement is used as a strategic tool to achieve economic social and environment benefits. Korean eco-labeling programme introduced in 1992 before the introduction of GPP. GPP was introduced in 1994 through Acts on Development of and Support for Environmental Technology by Ministry of Environment.

Initially, GPP was on voluntary basis. But policy was not effectively implemented due to lack of implementing mechanism and incentives for public institution to implement GPP.

In 2005 by Act on Encouragement of Purchase of Environment-friendly Products (Renamed as the Act on Promotion of Purchase of Green Product in 2012) made it mandatory for public institutions. By this act, Ministry of Environment requested to develop Action Plan for promoting purchase of Green Products.

First Action Plan developed in 2006 and it required to update the Action Plan in every 5 years. Currently 3rd Action Plan is in operation.

It is an obligation for Public institutions (approx. 30,000) to purchase green products and submit and publish an implementation plan for GPP with self-defined targets and performance records on annual basis.

Ministry of Environment and KEITI are in charge of collating GPP plan and records, monitor and evaluate the GPP results; formulating a master plan for GPP every five years; and establishing and notifying guidelines for GPP for the following year.

An implementing mechanism established including Ministry of Environment, KEITI, Public Procurement Service, Public Institution, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Interior & Safety.

There are two types of eco-labelling provided by Korean GPP. As of Feb 2018, about 14,542 products supplied by 3,650 companies under 165 product categories. In the beginning, most widely procured items were office supplies and furniture. More than 40% of procurement related building construction is based on GPP.

Public Procurement Service (PPS) has established an online shopping mall of green products and Green Market where procurers can procure online.

In order to effectively monitor GPP, Green Products Information Platform has been established. To support the GPP, developed GPP guidelines and conducting training on regular basis.

In order to encourage, incentives for individuals shown high performance are given in the means of annual workshops to exchange good practices and discuss how to improve the GPP system, recognition awards are also presented to best performing institutions and relevant officials (commendations and overseas training opportunities), and dissemination via best practice compendium.

With the introduction of mandatory regulations, number of eco-labeled products and number of producers of eco-labeled products are rapidly increasing. Korea's GPP recorded around 2.8 billion USD in 2016 which has increased more than 3.5 times compared to the one of 2005.

Clear legal and policy framework for GPP, GPP criteria based eco-labeling, well established e-procurement system, financial and reputational incentives, clear division of responsibilities between ministry of Environment and Public Procurement Service are the key factors behind the success.

Still, there are many challenges to overcome such as: competition among different SPP regulations, lack of awareness/frequent change of public procurers, and lack of policy commitment by the head of organisations.

During Q & A session, Representative of Bhutan ask about the experiences gained while implementing GPP project in Thailand and Vietnam. Whether two countries shown positive impacts in terms of implementing SPP. He also sorts the possibility of extend this assistance to the countries of South Asia.

Answer: As project is not completed, still too early to say whether it produced the results or not, but certainly we are making some progress. Thailand and Vietnam are in different levels, in terms of economy and social development. Thailand has its own GPP programme and policy framework for SPP. Thailand GPP is on voluntary basis. We are providing policy support in Thailand. Vietnam has eco-labeling programme, but they don't have policy framework to implement GPP. There, we support to develop a road map to implement GPP. If requested, we are ready to assist countries in South Asia as well.

Report Back of 2nd Breakout Group Session:

As time was limited, all groups were requested to briefly present the selected products and the reasons for to select those products.

Pakistan:

Categories – Food, Electrical and IT

Products – Milk, Paper and Cell phones

Paper selected due to mostly use in all government Departments. It has high impact on environment and moderate socio-economic impact. There is no certification system available.

Environmental impact of milk is moderate or low and socio-economic impact is high. There is no certificate available locally and milk is mostly producing locally and very few amounts is importing.

In terms of Cell phones, environmental impact is very high, it uses lot of plastics, energy, disturbance to habitats due to dispose. The socio-economic impact is moderate to high, all imported, Pakistan doesn't produce cell phones. No certification available locally.

Bangladesh:

Listed eleven product categories, out of that, six most purchased products are; Chemical fertilizer and pesticides, Coal power plant, Vehicle used fossil fuel, Non-recyclable IT hardware, Medical instruments, and Machineries and equipment for industry and agriculture. Based on our studies, we select chemical fertilizer and pesticides need to be substituted by organic/ green one. The reasons behind it are 1) huge amount of chemical fertilizer and pesticides have been used, 2) high negative environment and socio-economic impact, 3) alternative solutions are available, 4) SPP is possible through domestic and imported efforts, and 5) SPP of this product will improve socio economic and environmental position of Bangladesh.

Maldives:

Cooling and lighting sectors are selected, in future will use smart control system for both. Under the environmental impact, GHG reduction. Don't have certification system and working on eco-labeling system based on energy efficiency.

Afghanistan:

Selected IT equipment due to widely use by all. It has environmental impact such as plastic use, dispose as e-waste, etc.

India:

We select products based on market survey, office equipment, paper, IT equipment and then plastics are more important. We have around more than one dozen.

Sri Lanka:

Air conditioners, electric bulbs and paper are the selected products. These products selected due to level of energy consumption, possibility of reuse/recycle. Though we don't have eco-labeling system, there is a rating system for bulbs based on energy efficiency.

Bhutan:

Initially selected four categories: office paper, laptops, furniture, toner cartridges based on environmental impact, socio-economic impact and availability of certification system. Furniture is top and laptops are second top.

Nepal:

Office paper, lighting and cooling sectors selected based on environmental and socio-economic impacts.

Session 4: SPP Policy and Action Plan

Mr. Sanjay Kumar, General Manager, DFCCIL, Ministry of Railway, Government of India made an introductory presentation on initial elements of an SPP policy and action plan. He stated that before entering into the implementation of SPP, it is necessary to have a Policy and Action Plan in place.

Policy would be the first step for ensuring sustainability in procurement decision and it create awareness among Stakeholders. The moment you published the SPP policy at the government side, many of the people who associated with this get aware of the SPP.

Procurers will not go for SPP unless there is a policy. Policy will articulate the ambition and intentions of procurers to purchase green products and also gives a signal to the market from the highest decision making level in the government on procurement.

It influences the market for development of sustainable products and create dialogue with stakeholders and actors in supply chain. SPP policy will also empower employees to be innovative and demonstrate leadership and raise profile of benefits associated with SPP.

Then, Mr. Sanjay explained the essential elements of SPP policy such as national context, scope, objectives, SPP principles, policy statement, and targets & monitoring. There, he stated that national context is very important as came out of group exercise just before, Bangladesh is focusing on organic fertilizer, Maldives focusing more on imports, India's focus is different because they want to export.

In the scope, it should be clear about whether the policy is for sector level, provincial level or national level. The aim of the SPP policy shall be linked to the larger objectives of the government such as mitigating climate change, reducing carbon footprint, development of local industries, SMEs etc.

Then the policy statement and finally target setting and monitoring. Having a very good policy is essential but not the sufficient condition for implementing SPP. Policy will remain in the files unless it is backed up by an Action Plan. SPP is a multidisciplinary subject, which requires commitments from ministry of finance, ministry of environment, ministry of labour, and so on. The Action Plan so developed will also provide solid, coherent and well-coordinated direction to apply SPP. Once an

Action Plan is developed and communicated, can the implementing agency get commitment from all concerned to apply SPP. Further it helps to improve dialog & collaboration with market and civil society. Eventually, it gives signal to the domestic industry to invest, design, develop and manufacture sustainable products and services.

The monitoring of programme is essential to monitor the progress on the communicated targets for taking feedbacks, improving the approach and its implementation. In a nutshell, a SPP Action Plan shall be able to clarify related issues, such as what actions are to be carried out? responsibilities (who will do what), timeline for implementation of various activities, how to do it (what resources both human and financial needed), monitoring.

Finally, he pointed out the key features of SPP Action Plan; national context, legal framework, institutional framework, SPP implementation, budget, monitoring and control, communication strategy, and awareness & capacity building.

Mr. Yu, China Environmental United Certification Center presented a case study on China's Green Public Procurement (GPP) Policy with a focus on planning GPP and monitoring implementation. His presentation focused on GPP Policy Framework, Environmental labelling Certification, and Government Procurement Programme for environmental labelling products. He explained the evolution of government procurement policy framework over the years, starting with government procurement law of 2002 and promotion of cleaner production law on same year, promotion of circular economy law of 2008 and then in 2013, law of PRC on the prevention and control of environmental pollution by solid waste.

Green public procurement has been included in "The 12th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of PRC" makes clear that it is necessary to improve government procurement policies that prioritize the use of innovative products and green products. However, there are different types of policies promoting GPP within the public sector (in procurement law, national environmental laws and ministerial and state regulations) in which involve different Ministries and National Government institutions (NPC, NDRC, MoF and MEP). All these policies and regulations are linked to the national eco-labelling programme.

The name of the Ministry purview of the subject of environment has been changed from the State Environmental Protection Administration to the Ministry of Environmental Protection with the time and change of the function, and this year it was renamed to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China. The change of name for three times, reflects the China's commitment to the environment. Certification of environmental labeling products began in China with the establishment of China Certification Committee for Environmental Labeling Products in 1994.

In October 2006, the former state environmental protection administration (SEPA) and ministry of finance jointly issued "Suggestion on the implementation of environmental labeling products in government procurement and government procurement list for environmental labeling products. Green public procurement began officially with the implementation of "The government procurement list on environmental labelling products" on January 1, 2008.

China environmental label is a third-party verified voluntary certification, covers multiple sector and addressed multi-impacts. it judges whether a product meets the requirements of environmental protection at all steps in the life cycle. Over the years, China is experiencing the rapid increase of environmental label product categories as well as the number of companies who produce those products.

Currently, in 2018, total of 102 Environmental Label Product Categories are in China. All the product categories in the government procurement list of China Environmental Labelling products are determined by the MOF and MEE. The government centralized procurement catalogue is updated every year and publish in advance. The inclusion of new environmental labelled product to the Environment Label Product Procurement List done by considering the factor of: products should be certified by the Environmental Labelling product certification organization; must have enough production lot, mature technology, reliable quality; and reliable supply systems and good aftersales service.

Institutional framework is already in place. Ministry of Finance (MOF) is responsible for the development of Centralized Purchasing Catalogue. Development and implantation of the Environmental Labelling Products (ELP) list is a responsibility of the Ministry of Ecology Environment (MEE). To support GPP implementation, the government provides:

- Lists of certified products under categories and, for each of them provide information on their producers and certificates
- MOF and MEE make policy announcements for each revision of the lists
- Product lists are published on designated websites and sent to local government agencies and procurement centers
- The list is published on web where anyone can find the product information in the list from this system, including item trademark, manufacturer, certificate number, etc.
- MOF regularly conducts training of local government purchasing agencies
- Environmental Development Center created Chinese Green Purchasing Network to promote GPP and sustainable consumption. All enterprises that have achieved China Environmental Labelling certification are members of this Network.

According to statistics of the year 2016, the scale of government procurement environmental protection reached 136 billion yuan, which was about 81.5 % of the total products with same function purchased by the government.

Benefits of China Environmental Labelling Products calculated the basis of national government's procurement of 10,000 printers and 10,000 laptops per year. Accordingly, found that the major electronic products of government green procurement can save electricity by 1.58 million KWh, reduce CO₂ by 1575 t, SO₂ by 47 t, and NO_x by 23.7 t.

Limited scope of GPP, both in terms of categories and organisations covered; non-inclusion of important public sector (State-owned companies and similar) in the current GPP framework; and non-availability of specific green procurement law are some of challenges faced by SPP in China.

During the Q & A session, participant from Nepal asked, while developing such SPP policy, which approach China followed? Whether It was top-down approach or bottom-up approach. Also asked how long does it take to develop a such policy?

Answer: In this case China followed top-down approach and in China it works well. To tell exact time is difficult and it depend on political willingness.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar – China provided a very good example of use of eco-labelling as a base for implementing SPP. This is something from which all of us in South Asian countries can learn. Eco-labelling is a very powerful tool, which makes life of procurers easy when it comes to verification of supplier's claim about sustainability of products and application of SPP criteria. Also, top-down approach has been more suitable in implementing SPP. For example, if small city adopts SPP policy, it

does not give clear direction to the market whether the other cities will also adopt the same practices. In such case, industries are not willing to invest in sustainable product as market is very small. But if government decides to adopt SPP, it gives clear message to the market that whole country will be going for SPP and accordingly market will invest in manufacturing sustainable products that would help transformation of the market. He also emphasized the importance of institutional mechanism for driving SPP implementation citing South Korea example.

Session 5: Training and Communicating

Dr. Prasad Modak made the introduction to the session. He pointed out different steps of capacity building and the importance of involving many stakeholders. Each of these stakeholders has different roles and expectations.

When launching the SPP Action Plan, though capacity building is in bottom, when it comes to the implementation stage, capacity building comes to the top.

There are two broadly speaking key stakeholders; ministry of Finance and ministry of Environment who has to be in exposed in terms of awareness, and then provide them with resources and more practice experiences which comes through interactive workshops.

Also, it is important to build the capacities of key institutions as well. Normally, that is done through piloting. It has to be a long process and it can't be done in the conceptual models without examples. We need far many learning cases.

It is necessary to engage with sectoral, research and academic institution.

Some of the training programme may be information driven and some may be understanding, procedural or skill driven.

Next important area is a setting up of special groups. Another stakeholder group is people who certify or issuing certificates.

Lastly, consumer organisations, who needs understand what is green products and services. This is where some has to engage with environmental NGOs and CBOs. Creation of communication kits is very important in this regard.

Highlights of the Second Day

Mr. Farid Yaker briefed about the yesterday's session and explained on plan for the day till lunch.

1st Session of Day 2: National action: identification of national needs and next steps

Mr. Sanjay Kumar, in order to take forward the module on Policy and Action Plan, he conducted online survey to get responses on the participants on the following three questions:

- a. What is the most important environmental concern for your country?
- b. What is the most important social concern for your country?
- c. Which product group your country would like to prioritize based on impacts?

The result of the survey is attached in **Annex II**.

Participants were requested to get into groups based on their countries and discuss and report back on a paper, on objectives, actions needed at your end, specific support needed for each step of SPP planning. One representative of each group was asked to present the findings. Results are in **Annex II**

Mr. Yaker – There were few important points came out. First one is connected to the market. In procurement, it is important that how you engage with market. In terms of setting up institutional capacity, yesterday we learned from Korea that there is a need of establishing SPP unit and there is no use of SPP policy without central SPP unit to oversee this policy. Then the cooperation between different ministries, SPP requires collaboration, requires knowledge on environmental and social aspects. It means we have to have framework of collaboration. Evaluation of individual managers performance is also important.

Dr. Abas Basir – In terms of capacity building it is important to have workshops like this and I believe that we need more training programmes in this regard. Many of the SACEP member countries who are participating here need more capacity on this issue. To have a long term effect, SPP should be included into University curricular and also need to provide opportunities to learn in advanced countries by offering scholarships.

Representative of India – Slightly longer programme is necessary, perhaps little longer than 3 days, and more important is that the continuation of such programmes. With regards to the university curricular, postgraduate level programme are more suitable than graduate programmes. Perhaps university research programme at post graduate level could be more effective.

2nd Session of Day 2 : Regional cooperation - building a roadmap to support goals for SPP in South Asia, identification of common needs and cooperation opportunities

Dr. Mushtaq Memon and Dr. Abas Basir co-chair the session.

Dr. Mushtaq expressed that according to the UN environments' point of view, this is the most important part of training programme. You are aware that under the SWITCH-Asia II programme, the component UN Environment handling is the regional policy advocacy. If you put regional policy advocacy for SPP, we will need to look at how we bring the countries to the regional level and vice versa. Basically, it is about the harmonization. In order to harmonize the public procurement, trade is the key. Outcome of this meeting will lead to the next step. There, what type of role should UN Environment convenient play? Is it on policy advocacy or knowledge action role? I believe that, it is important to help in creating a regional harmony and assist to develop their national plans of SPP.

Dr. Basir also said that harmonization of eco-label standards is very important for South Asia. You are aware that we have already established platform for harmonizing these SCP relation activities which is the South Asia Forum on SCP. SACEP itself is an intergovernmental organization for South Asia and its mandate is to promote cooperation among the member countries in the field of environment and to support conservation of environment and wise management of natural resources. I would like to state that we have very good capacities in countries like India, Pakistan, and so on, and it is important to make use of this existing common platform to share these experiences with other member countries.

Mr. Farid Yaker then, gone through the work conducted by UN Environment in South East Asia on regional cooperation. UN Environment developed and implementing a project on Asia Pacific Green

Public Procurement and Eco-labelling. The idea is to build the capacity on SPP and ecolabelling in the ASEAN region. The objectives of the projects are:

- Strengthen SPP and ecolabelling in the ASEAN region, based on the expertise of China, Japan and South Korea in the combined use of SPP and ecolabelling
- Enhance South-South collaboration on those topics, including with the African Ecolabelling mechanism
- Ensure a broad and effective participation of ASEAN+3 countries in the activities of the 10YFP SPP Programme

The activities undertaken are:

- Creation of an ASEAN+3 network of SPP and Ecolabelling experts and policy makers and organization of yearly meetings of the network
- Development of ASEAN case studies on GPP and ecolabelling implementation
- Sharing GPP and ecolabelling knowledge through a regional capacity building scheme
- Improve the performance of GPP policies and eco-labelling schemes through the establishment of regional workgroups coordinated with the 10YFP SPP Programme

The idea was to establish a regional mechanism to share knowledge, develop capacity building capabilities and strength.

During the project; identified 200 practitioners, enhanced south-south collaboration on this topic, invested on developing case studies on SPP, and organised annual trainings.

Next is to submit proposal for China development fund, continue the capacity building, develop new case studies.

In case of ASEAN+3, we have advanced countries, Japan, Korea and China where we can transfer the knowledge to other countries. Same can be applied in South Asia as well. Finally, he briefly presented the One Planet network.

Representative of EUD Pakistan - We have many cases of examples that regional arrangements were not working properly. It same with the many bilateral agreements.

Representative of Bhutan – proposed to establish a regional Task Force on SPP under the South Asia Forum on SCP of SACEP. Sharing knowledge among member countries through SACEP, joint fund raising with SACEP, development of regional strategy for SPP under SACEP, assistance to undertake need assessment for SACEP member countries are also pointed out.

Representative of Sri Lanka – Training for focal points, training of trainers, and establishment of knowledge hub under SACEP

Representative of Bangladesh – Conducting of workshops/trainings/meeting at SACEP member countries on rotational basis and establishment of knowledge fund.

Representative of Maldives – Development of regional eco-labeling standard for South Asia and capacity building

At the last session, Dr. Prasad presented a summary of recommendation came out during this one and half day meeting which participants requested SACEP to prepare a draft declaration based on these recommendations and circulate among member countries.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar stated that sharing knowledge and experiences among stakeholders on a continuous basis is very important for taking forward SPP in SACEP region. He shared two such initiatives on social media [ProcureGreen](#) on Facebook and Asia-Pacific GPPEL Forum on LinkedIn that could be used by participants for sharing knowledge and practices for the mutual benefits of each other.

At the closing session, Dr. Abas Basir, Director General of SACEP, thanks to all for their fruitful contribution. He also thanks to European Union, UN Environment and other partners for their assistance in organizing the event. He assured that a draft resolution will be drafted by SACEP based on the reflections of recommendation of this workshop and will circulate among member countries before put it into the Governing Council of SACEP.

Recommendation of the workshop

- SACEP Governing Council to play a role of regional coordinator in building national capacities on policies and action plans on SPP;
- United Nations Environment to continue to provide technical assistance, institutional support and assist South Asia Forum on SCP in resource mobilization for SPP;
- Need to conduct national as well as regional awareness building and training programs and build training resources to promote SPP on a programmatic basis;
- Countries to identify and involve key relevant stakeholders, including governments, private sector and civil society in SPP through national and regional workshops;
- Build a regional Community of Practice (CoP) of key stakeholders engaged in SPP for knowledge sharing;
- Promote cooperation between countries to mentor each other by sharing of experiences on SPP through exchange of officials and professionals

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY	FOCAL POINT OF SOUTH ASIA FORUM ON SCP	INSTITUTION	CONTACT
Bangladesh	Md. Mohiuddin	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change	dr.mohiuddin2011@gmail.com
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India	Mr. Kushal Vashist Ms. Shikha Garg	Director, MOEFCC MOEFCC	kushalvashist@gmail.com shikha.garg@gov.in
Maldives	Mr. Ajwad Musthafa	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Energy	ajwad.musthafa@environment.gov.mv
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Sri Lanka	Ms. Nalini Kohowala	Assistant Director - Environment Planning & Economic, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment	nalinikohowala@yahoo.com
COUNTRY	FOCAL POINT FROM MIN OF FINANCE	INSTITUTION	
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Bangladesh	Md. Moniruzzaman	Joint Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance	moniruzzaman5762@gmail.com
Bhutan	Mr. Leki Tshering	GPPMD, Ministry of Finance, Bhutan	lekit@mof.gov.bt
India	Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal	Director-Procurement Policy, Ministry of Finance	sanjay.aggarwal68@nic.in
Maldives	Ms. Mariyam Hudhuna	Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Ministry of Economic Development	mariyam.hudhuna@trade.gov.mv
Pakistan	Mr. Ali Abbas	SA to Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance	ali.omg43@gmail.com
Sri Lanka	Mr. M.M.C.P. Mohottigedara	Senior Asst. Secretary, Ministry of Finance and mass media	chaturamoho@yahoo.com

COUNTRY	PRIVATE SECTOR ASSOCIATION	INSTITUTION
Bhutan	Mr. Sangay Dorji	Secretary General, Bhutan Chambers of Commerce and Industry

TRAINERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS			
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Partner	Sutthiya Chantawarangul	EU Delegation to Thailand and Malaysia	
Trainer	Sanjay Kumar	Ministry of Railways, India	sanjayviti@gmail.com
Trainer	Prasad Modak	Environmental Management Centre, India	prasad.modak@emcentre.com
Trainer	Farid Yaker	UN Environment	farid.yaker@un.org
Trainer	Dong-wook Lee	Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute	
Co-host	Dr. Abas Basir	DG, SACEP	director.general@sacep.org
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Co-host	Janet Salem	UN Environment	janet.salem@un.org
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Annex II

Country wise Group Work

Afghanistan

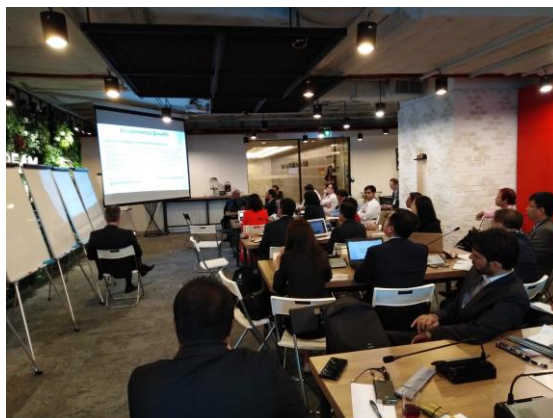
National Focal Point – Department of Environment

Steering Committee

- National Procurement (NPP)
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Economy
- Public Private Partnerships
- Ministry of Commerce

National Support Organisations

- NGOs
- UN Environment
- USAID



Scope – New Kabul (LED)

Priority Sectors Identified – IT equipment

Defining objectives, actions needed and identifying the specific support needed

Key features	Objectives	Action needed at your end	Specific assistance required
Institutional framework	The director of environment will be in-charge of SPP	Assigned specific responsibilities to line ministries Design and prepared Afghanistan's SPP policy	Assistance to implement the activities from the beginning
SPP implementation	Ensure smooth implementation	Create policy and governing structure	
Awareness & capacity building	Make aware the people on SPP	Design training programme for different types of stakeholders	Develop a project and assistance from NGOs
Communication Strategy	Develop a website to connect and aware the people	Advertise on TV, social media	
Budget	Initially assisted by donors and then ministry of finance	PPP directions	

Bangladesh

National Focal Point – CPTU, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Planning

Steering Committee

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Ministry of Finance
- Planning Commission
- Ministry of Commerce, MOL&PA, R&HD, PD&MRD, MOS&T

Consultative Committee

- Budget, DU, CU (experts)
- FBCCI, MCCI, Inter country trade bodies (ICTB)
- BRAC, ASA & PROSHICA

National Support Organisations

BIDS, CPD, private consulting groups



Scope – Initial SPP policy for local governments

Priority Sectors Identified - Chemical fertilizer and pesticides need to be substituted by organic/green alternatives

Defining objectives, actions needed and identifying the specific support needed

Key features	Objectives	Action needed at your end	Specific assistance required
Institutional framework (laws, structure)	To fix responsibility To ensure accountability To coordinate among the stakeholders	Select focal institution Select collaborates Set ToR for different committees Oversee the implementing activities	Legal & executive orders (Acts, Rules), Knowledge, training
SPP implementation	To execute SPP To monitor SPP To evaluate SPP	Implementation plan formation Monitoring framework Evaluation manual	Technical assistance to prepare manuals, guidelines & frameworks Training
Awareness & capacity building	To involve all stakeholders To encourage mass public regarding SPP	Workshops/seminars Campaign through electronic/print media	Support from ICT division and ministry of information
Communication strategy	To keep stakeholders fully informed Response/feedback from all stakeholders	Set common platform Live networking system	Support from ICT division
Budget	To allocate sufficient fund to implement SPP activities	Include in MBF Demand fixation Seek source of fund	MoF, NGO and other organizations

	Mobilization of resources for implementing SPP		
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Bhutan

National Focal Point – Ministry of Finance

Steering Committee

- Ministry of Finance
- National Environment Commission (NEC)
- Gross National Happiness (GNH)
- Bhutan chambers of commerce and industries (BCCI)
- CSO authority

Consultative Committee

- Ministry of Finance
- BSB
- National Environment Commission
- Government ministries
- Media



Scope – arrangement for advocacy, capacity building. Piloting with office equipment and paper

Priority Sectors Identified

- Furniture
- Laptops
- Office paper

Defining objectives, actions needed and identifying the specific support needed

Key features	Objectives	Action needed at your end	Specific assistance required
Institutional framework (laws, structure)	Initiate SPP legal base	Formation of committee/task force consultation	Finance Technical assistance
SPP implementation	Promoting SPP	Awareness/advocacy	HR capacity finance
Awareness & capacity building	Introduce and encourage SPP	Include as practice in agencies	Collaboration from other agencies
Communication strategy	Social media Electronic media	Create website	finance
Budget	Achieve all above objectives	Include in the FYP Line item budgeting	Government support Donor agencies

India

SPP – Environment, Social, Economic

Progress so far

GFR – 173 criteria for evaluation

- 136 – LCC Delhi Metro

- Star rating

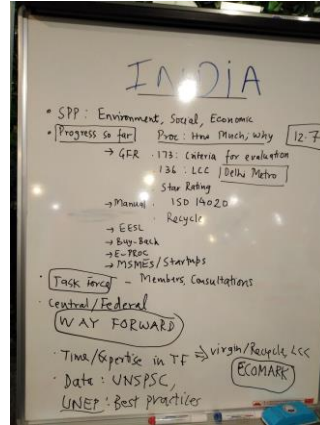
Manual – ISO 14020

- Recycle

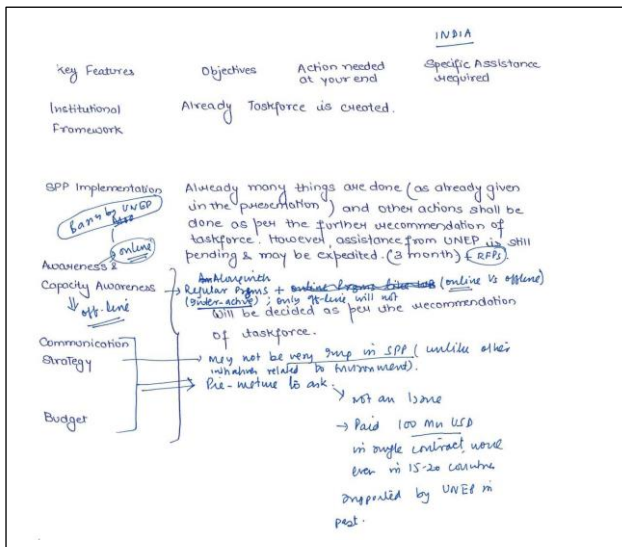
EESL

Buy-back

E-Proc



Priority Sectors Identified - We select products based on market survey, office equipment, paper, IT equipment and then plastics are more important. We have around more than one dozen



Defining objectives, actions needed and identifying the specific support needed

Key features	Objectives	Action needed at your end	Specific assistance required
Institutional framework (laws, structure)	Already Task Force created		
SPP implementation		GFR – 173 criteria for evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 136 – LCC Delhi Metro - Star rating Manual – ISO 14020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recycle EESL Buy-back E-Proc	

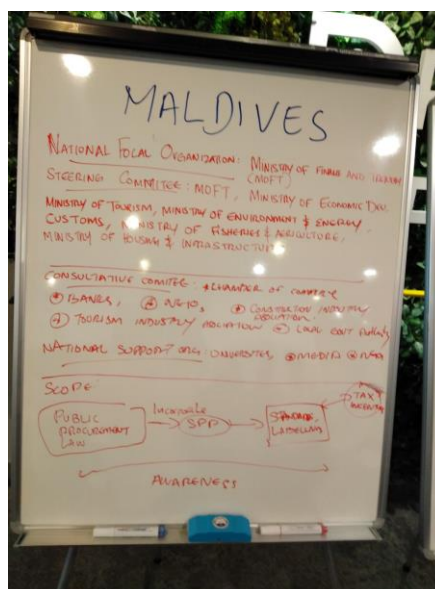
Awareness & capacity building		Regular programmes (online vs offline)	
Communication strategy			
Budget			

Maldives

National Focal Point – Ministry of Finance and Trade

Steering Committee

- Ministry of Finance and Trade
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Environment & Energy
- Customs
- Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture
- Ministry of Housing & Infrastructure



Consultative committee

- Banks
- NGOs
- Construction industry association
- Tourism industry association
- Local Government authority

National support organisations

- Investors
- Media
- NGOs

Scope – National wised SPP

Priority Sectors Identified - Cooling and lighting

Defining objectives, actions needed and identifying the specific support needed

Key features	Objectives	Action needed at your end	Specific assistance required
Institutional framework (laws, structure)	Incorporate SPP into existing legislation framework	Review existing regulations Identify stakeholders Gazette	Technical assistance in conducting stakeholder consultation
SPP implementation	Support SPP Encourage environment friendly businesses	Enforce SPP regulations	
Awareness & capacity building	Create awareness among the	Use of media Meetings/seminars	Technical assistance

	procurement officers and business/related stakeholders		
Communication strategy	Readily accessible platform	Web portal	Technical and finance assistance
Budget	Sufficient funding to implement the above	allocation	Finance assistance

Nepal

National Focal Point – Public Procurement Monitoring Office

Steering Committee

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Forests & Environment
- Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development & Transport
- Ministry of Commerce & Supplies
- Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs
- National Planning Commission

Consultative Committee

- FNCCI
- Association of Construction entrepreneurs
- Automobile dealers association
- University Representatives
- Environment NGOs



National support organisations

- Ministries
- Parliament
- Donors
- Development Partners
- NGOs/INGOs

Scope – Central Government, State Government, Local Government

Priority Sectors Identified - Office paper, lighting and cooling sectors

Defining objectives, actions needed and identifying the specific support needed

Key features	Objectives	Action needed at your end	Specific assistance required
Institutional framework (laws, structure)	To transform or establish framework to internalize the concept of SPP Facilitate better intersectoral coordination	Formulate SPP policy Form a SPP steering committee Strengthen central level public procurement monitoring office	Awareness on SPP across government & public Training & capacity development Internalize concept of SPP in cross sectoral plans & policies

SPP implementation	To optimize benefits from SPP in environment, social & economic aspects	Formulate SPP laws & regulations Establish a monitoring mechanism	Provide financial incentives Develop template for SPP guideline
Awareness & capacity building	To orient the government & public towards SPP	Trainings	Prepare separate action plan for awareness & capacity building Financial and resource person support
Communication strategy	To ensure effective communication of SPP concept & environment concerns between different levels of government and development partners	Develop a separate communication Strategy Ensure financial sustainability to implement the strategy Involvement of private sector	Provide financial & expert services Inter sectoral coordination & cooperation
Budget	Will be based on individual activities formulated		

Pakistan

National Focal Point – Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Climate Change

Steering Committee

- PPRA
- Cabinet of ministers
- Ministry of Law
- Special individuals

National Support Organisations

- Academia
- FPCCI
- NGOs
- CSO
- NUST & LUMS
- UN Environment

Scope – Start at federal level

Priority Sectors Identified

Categories – Food, Electrical and IT

Products – Milk, Paper and Cell phones



Defining objectives, actions needed and identifying the specific support needed

Key features	Objectives	Action needed at your end	Specific assistance required
Institutional framework (laws, structure)	To get mechanism in place for smooth implementation of SPP	Necessary legislation Organizational setup for implementation Comprehensive set of guidelines	Technical expert team Sponsored research specific to SPP
SPP implementation	To do such a procurement not/less detrimental for environment & also serves the purpose	Team of expert running the organization Proper monitoring Private sector inclusion	Training Institutional support finance
Awareness & capacity building	People realize its importance and inculcate this practice in normal life	Curricular change Academic industry link Seminars/conferences	Finances Expert speakers
Communication strategy	Message of SPP & importance of environmental preservation reaches masses effectively	Social media Celebrity endorsement	Finances Media circle's assistance Dedicated social media
Budget	Adequate finances are available to implement the plan	yearly allocation Monitoring Policy to support the programme towards sustainability	Donors grants like that of UNEP

Sri Lanka

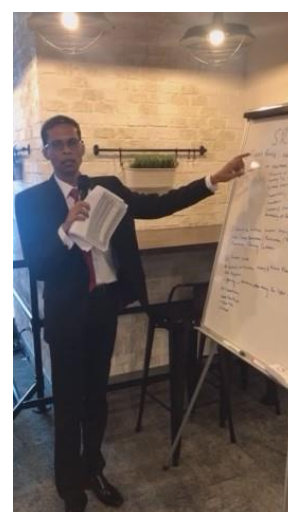
National Focal Point – National Procurement Commission

Consultative Committee

- National Procurement Commission
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Environment
- Sectoral oversight committee of Parliament
- Universities
- Chambers
- Industry and commers/construction
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health

National support organisations and experts

- Auditor General
- Legal Draftsman
- Parliament
- Market shareholders
- Economists
- Training Institutions



Scope – National Strategy and Action Plan for Sri Lanka

Priority Sectors Identified

- Air conditioners
- Electric bulbs
- Paper

Defining objectives, actions needed and identifying the specific support needed

Key features	Objectives	Action needed at your end	Specific assistance required
Institutional framework (laws, structure)	Responsibility Accountability Who is doing monitor and evaluation	Assigned of ministry of Environment	Competency & authority Support from procurement commission, legal draftsman/Attorney General
SPP implementation	Ensure proper practice in SPP implementation. More concern on social, economic & environment aspects	Implementing SPP through all relevant stakeholders	Training, awareness, technical assistance, proper monitoring & evaluation system on SPP implementation integration with other policy measures
Awareness & capacity building	To be aware & enhance the capacity of all staff engaging on SPP process	Technically qualified & competent staff	Professionals with special knowhow on SPP
Communication strategy	Make aware all stakeholders regarding the SPP process & promote the SPP	Circulars, gazettes, news letters & other electronic and printed media	Institutional support, budget allocation, trained staff, private sector
Budget	Ensure smooth & continuous monitoring the SPP process	Budget preparation, budget allocation, monitoring & evaluation	Ministry of Finance

Results of the Online Survey

a). What is the most important environmental concern for your country?



b). What is the most important social concerns for your country?



c). Which product group your country would like to prioritize based on impacts?

