

**REGIONAL PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FORUM  
TASHKENT, APRIL 25-28, 2005**

The first ever Central Asia Regional Public Procurement Forum was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from April 25 to 28. The Forum was sponsored by the World Bank. The heads of public procurement in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan attended the Forum. Several participants from Uzbekistan took part in the Forum. ADB, EU, Islamic Development Bank, International Trade Center, UNDP, and USAID were also represented. (See the attached list of participants).

The main objectives of the Forum were to bring together the public procurement officials of the four countries to foster regional cooperation and to provide them with a platform to exchange their knowledge and experiences over public procurement reforms. These objectives have been successfully achieved.

From the presentations made by the four delegations, the participants learned about the status of development of their procurement systems, the areas that needed attention and their solutions. Kazakhstan has made continuous efforts to improve its system and is now in an advanced stage of e-procurement introduction; the Kyrgyz Republic has also been improving its public procurement law and is making efforts to organize itself for an effective implementation of the law. Tajikistan has just prepared a draft comprehensive public procurement law; while Uzbekistan has several resolutions which regulate public procurement.

The Forum provided an excellent opportunity for the donor representatives also to learn about the public procurement systems in the four countries. They informed the participants about their support to public procurement, and their intention to improve these systems which can bring substantial gains to the country's economy and also to bring them up to an acceptable level where the country may be able to use its own system for the projects financed by them rather than continuing with the present arrangement of "ring fenced" projects and application of respective donor procedures.

Ms. Françoise Bentchikou and Mr. Walser from the World Bank informed the participants of the latest developments in the area of procurement regulatory framework both at the international and national levels. They also discussed the issues that are generally found in the pieces of procurement legislation in different countries and affect the economy and efficiency aspects of public procurement. Ms. Bentchikou held training sessions in identifying and preventing corruption and in evaluation of bids; Mr. Bhattacharya in preparing technical specifications that promote transparent procurement process.

The highlight of the Forum was the break-out sessions. The participants broke into three groups. The groups in breakout sessions considered the following topics:

- a. Regional cooperation and integration in the medium and long-term;

- b. Identification of best practices the implementation of which will ensure the establishment of a sound public procurement system; and
- c. Donors' support to Central Asian Countries in Establishing and Implementing Sound Public Procurement Systems.

The groups identified best practices from each country. It is expected that the authorized body in each country will ensure that these practices are followed.

The groups also discussed the needs of each of the four countries for improving their public procurement systems. For example, the main recommendations are for the government to designate an organization to lead the public procurement reform and eventually to improve the legislation through consolidation of resolutions.

Continuous improvement in the public procurement regulatory framework and the need for training a large number of public procurement officials were identified as common issues in all the countries.

The participants learned about the status of e-procurement in Kazakhstan, and the prerequisites of e-procurement. Kazakhstan being in an advanced stage of introduction of e-procurement can serve as a model and resource for the other countries that also intend to introduce e-procurement as well. The participants learned that the main advantages of e-procurement are speed and improved transparency. The Kazakhstan delegation offered to help the other countries in this respect.

While Kazakhstan needs technical assistance in e-procurement, all other countries are at an inception stage of e-procurement and also need support.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan also need assistance in effectively implementing their public procurement laws, including preparation of implementation regulations, manuals, standard bidding documents, etc.

The conclusions of the three groups are included in the attachment below. The groups made, among others, the following recommendations:

- Establish a regional public procurement group to ensure regular contact and dialogue for exchange of experiences;
- Organize this Forum on an annual basis. The participants agreed that the next Forum will be organized in Kazakhstan in early June 2006;
- Introduce trial regional bidding using national regulations. This will not only expand competition but will promote regional integration and cooperation; and

- In the long-term, strive for making the public procurement regulatory framework of the four countries essentially identical.

The donor representatives (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, USAID, etc) appreciated the need to support through technical and financial assistance the public procurement systems in the country. Following Governments requests, they will be willing to consider the needs identified by the Forum and will explore ways and means of fulfilling these.

For Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the Government(s) would wish to proceed with the actions recommended by the Forum and would need resources, Donor community should consider mobilizing support and grant funds.

### **Next Steps:**

The participants unanimously agreed on the following next steps:

- a. Each country will nominate two senior public procurement officials, including, preferably, the head of public procurement in each country, to the Regional Public Procurement Group. The terms of reference of the Group will be to: (a) assure regular contact among the authorized bodies of the four countries to keep abreast of the developments in the public procurement system of their respective countries; (b) to organize regional learning events for senior public procurement officials to improve their knowledge and skills in ensuring effective functioning of their public procurement systems; (c) to exchange their staff for on-the-job training; (d) to continuously explore ways and means for strengthening regional cooperation in the field of public procurement, including regional open tendering; and (e) to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Tashkent Forum and those of future forums. Until the Regional Group is established and becomes operational, Naushad Khan will serve, on behalf of the World Bank, as the coordinator of the Regional Public Procurement Group.
- b. Organize the next Regional Public Procurement Forum in Kazakhstan in early June 2006 (location to be decided upon by the Kazakh Government).

### List of Participants

Country	#	Name	Company
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	1	Djamankulov Arslan - Deputy Chairman of the State Commission	State Commission under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Procurement and Material Reserves
	2	Saina Abdymomunova – Head of the department for supervision and analysis of state procurement	State Commission under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Procurement and Material Reserves
	3	Anarbek Tashiev – Head of Chui regional branch of the State Commission	State Commission under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Procurement and Material Reserves
	4	Jyldyz Sydykova – Lead Specialist of the division for supervision and analysis of state procurement	State Commission under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Procurement and Material Reserves
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	5	Abdualik Nalibaev, Head of Committee	State Procurement Committee and Financial Controls under the Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan
	6	Seryk Eshtaev, Head of the department for supervision state procurement of the Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan	State Procurement Committee and Financial Controls under the Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan
	7	Gulmadina Kakimova, Head of the department for supervision of state procurement & financial control of the Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan	State Procurement Committee and Financial Controls under the Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan
	8	Ardak Turgankulov, Acting Director of the Electronic Commercial Center, Committee for supervision of state procurement and financial control of the Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan	State Procurement Committee and Financial Controls under the Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan
<b>Tajikistan</b>	9	Tagaimurodov Hamdam, Director	Agency on Procurement of Goods, Works and Services under Ministry of Economy and Trade, Republic of Tajikistan
	10	Kholmuratov Kobiljon, Deputy Director	Agency on Procurement of Goods, Works and Services under Ministry of Economy and Trade, Republic of Tajikistan

Country	#	Name	Company
	11	Sadulloev Khairullo, Representative in Khujand branch	Agency on Procurement of Goods, Works and Services under Ministry of Economy and Trade, Republic of Tajikistan
	12	Sattorov Muzaffar, Representative in Qurgonteppa branch.	Agency on Procurement of Goods, Works and Services under Ministry of Economy and Trade, Republic of Tajikistan
<b>U z b e k i s t a n</b>	13	Uzeirov Dilyaver, Lead specialist	State Committee on Architecture and Construction Works (GosKomArchitectStroy)
	14	Muksinov Bahtior, Lead specialist	State Committee on Architecture and Construction Works (GosKomArchitectStroy)
	15	Ramzitdin Parahitddinovich Sagdullaev, Chief Specialist on Internation Bid Management	State Committee on Architecture and Construction Works (GosKomArchitectStroy)
	16	Abdukhamid Abdullaevich Abdurakhmonov, Head of Department, Department of Authorised Representatives	State Committee on Architecture and Construction Works (GosKomArchitectStroy)
	17	Vasitov Hushnutbek Rapikovich, Lead Specialist	Ministry of Economy
	18	Kushakaev Bakhtiyar, Member of Committee on Agricultural and Ecology	Oliy Majlis
	19	Akramov Jasur Akhadovich, Member of Committee on Industry, Construction and Trade	Oliy Majlis
	20	Tukhtabaev Abdurashid, Member of Committee on Budgeting and Economic Reforms	Oliy Majlis
	21	A.Zh. Artikov, Deputy Head, Main Department on Financial Management, Social and science spheres	Ministry of Finance
	22	D.K. Mukhamedjhanov, Chief Economist, Main Department of Currency & Finance Management	Ministry of Finance
	23	Hakimov Oibek, Intrnl Legal Department	Ministry of Justice

Country	#	Name	Company
	24	Shadibaev Artur, Sr.Consultant	Ministry of Justice
	25	Aziza Tulyaganova, Tutor / Independent Consultant	Westminister University, Tashkent
<b>D O N O R S</b>	26	Valeri Malotchko, Senior Specialist, Management and Development Programm	ILO/ Turin
	27	Sharof Mashrabi - National Programme Manager	Intl Trade Center
	28	Sultan-Mahmud Sultanov - Progamme specialist	Intl Trade Center
	29	Akhundjanov Dilshod, Associate Banker	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
	30	Ms. Donneth Walton, Senior Portfolio Management Specialist	Asian Development Bank
	31	Mr. Bernard Zentgraf, Senior Procurement Specialist	Asian Development Bank
	32	Nasritdinhodjaev Omonullo, Program Analyst	UNDP, Uzbekistan office
	33	Mr Jahongir Haitov, Procurement Specialist	Europa House
	34	Mr.Hector Millen, Senior Regional Advisor	USAID, TFI Project
	35	Moulaye El Mehdi, Chief Procurement Division	Islamic Development Bank,Saudi Arabia
<b>World Bank</b>	36	Sunil Bhattacharya, Regional Procurement Manager	WB, HQ
	37	Naushad Khan, Lead Procurement Specialist	WB, CARO Office
	38	Francoise Bentchikou	WB, HQ
	39	Christian Walser	WB, HQ

Country	#	Name	Company
	40	Nurbek Kurmanaliev, Procurement Analyst	WB CO, KG
	41	Anara Akhmetova, Team Assistant	WB CO, Kz, Astana
	42	Fasliddin, Rakhimov, Procurement Analyst	WB, Uzb
	43	Firuza Makhmudova, Team Assistant	WB, Uzb