



# Completion Report

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Project Number: 47192-001  
Technical Assistance Number: 8520  
July 2019

## Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network

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TA Number, Country, and Name:			Amount Approved: \$1,400,000	
TA 8520-REG: Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network			Revised Amount: \$2,150,000	
Executing Agency: Asian Development Bank		Source of Funding: TASF-V and TASF-OTH (\$1,650,000); Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund (\$500,000)	Amount Undisbursed: \$127,064.77	Amount Utilized: \$2,022,935.23
TA Approval Date:  2 December 2013	TA Signing Date:  2 December 2013	Fielding of First Consultant:  3 March 2014	TA Completion Date Original: 31 October 2017      Actual: 31 March 2019 Account Closing Date Original: 13 June 2019      Actual: 13 June 2019	
<p><b>Description.</b> The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has promoted electronic government procurement (e-GP) as a key component of procurement reforms in developing member countries (DMCs). ADB's involvement in promoting e-GP acknowledges its potential to enhance procurement transparency and provide wider access to information and markets. In 2011, ADB funded Asia Pacific Electronic Government Procurement conference in Denpasar, Indonesia. While producing knowledge solutions, face-to-face and online collaboration of public procurement professionals involved in e-GP implementation has substantial potential as part of wider procurement reforms. The need for such collaboration was confirmed by the majority of participants at the Denpasar conference. Asia and the Pacific was missing an opportunity to realize synergies of regional cooperation and integration, especially in view of similar initiatives in other parts of the world such as the Pan-European Public Procurement Online and The Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP). As a follow-up to the e-GP conference in Denpasar, the Republic of Korea and ADB organized a Public Procurement Service Workshop on e-Procurement and Cooperation, with participants from Indonesia, Mongolia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam to (i) share experiences, benefits, challenges, and main concerns in implementing e-procurement in the public sector; (ii) identify potential areas of cooperation at the bilateral and regional level; and (iii) enhance e-procurement collaboration through a regional cooperative network. The concept of establishing an Asia Pacific procurement network was supported by all country representatives present at the workshop. The workshop participants also stressed the role ADB plays in facilitating regional cooperation and integration. ADB decided to provide support to establishing Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network to foster formal and informal cooperation within institutions and individuals in Asia and the Pacific at the national level, which are responsible for public procurement regulation, management, and reforms.</p>				
<p><b>Expected Impact, Outcome, and Outputs.</b> The expected impact of the TA was formulated as significant number of participating ADB DMCs will develop e-GP systems based on international best practices. The outcome was formulated as strengthened capacity of public procurement agencies to implement e-GP solutions based on international best practice. The following outputs were envisaged: i) electronic publication of the e-GP handbook; ii) preparation and disclosure of reports on comparative analysis of e-GP platforms and their suitability for cross-border trade; iii) web-forum of public procurement professionals; iv) interactive wiki of e-GP guidance notes; v) annual e-GP meeting; vi) technical working group meetings and vii) pilot study of "software as a service" (SaaS) applicability for small countries.</p>				
<p><b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities.</b> TA was reasonably well formulated with TOR defined for 3 consultants to be engaged in the first instance - Lead technical consultant and e-government procurement expert (international-30 person-months), Project analyst and information technology consultant (national-12 person-months) and logistics consultant (national-8 person-months). Lead technical consultant developed e-GP survey of DMCs to update baseline indicators and determine workplan for TA implementation. Project analyst and IT consultant developed web-forum and website (<a href="https://e-gp.adb.org">https://e-gp.adb.org</a>). Logistics consultant was instrumental in facilitating travel, visa and logistics requirements for workshops and conferences funded by the TA. A major change in scope to expand and include ADB operational activities to increase the adoption of e-procurement under ADB-financed operations was approved by the Vice-President, Administration and Corporate Management on 18 May 2015. This allowed inclusion of e-GP implementation support, such as e-GP assessments, cofinancing of sub-regional procurement together with other development partners and Monitoring and evaluation expertise. However, no additional financing was requested to support this major change. By July 2017, 95% of the allocated TA resources were already committed, leaving no adequate funds for full scale implementation of the TA. Additionally, new Procurement Policy approved in 2017</p>				

included support to e-GP with no specific funding allocated for this purpose. Consequently, request for additional allocation of \$750,000 from TASF-V was approved in July 2017.

A survey was conducted in 2014 to provide an update on the status of e-procurement adoption in various countries. In March 2015, a workshop on piloting the use of SaaS was held at ADB Headquarters with representatives of 13 countries who expressed interest. The workshop was instrumental in defining the Terms of Reference for SaaS which resulted in awarding the contract through competitive tender procedure (QCBS) to In-Tend (UK). The service became available on 1 February 2016. Considering efforts made to accommodate all functional requirements of ADB DMCs for the SaaS procured by ADB, the preparatory work for tender took substantial time. It was considered necessary to extend TA completion date to allow full implementation of the pilot. In 2016, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (IND) was single sourced to provide procurement observatory services to the state of Rajasthan. The contract was supervised by India Resident Mission. In 2018, Grant Thornton Consulting (ARM) was competitively selected to provide support to implementation of e-GP in Kazakhstan. The TA has established an Indefinite Delivery Contract (IDC) which empaneled 4 international e-GP experts to provide demand driven support to e-GP implementation in ADB DMCs. All in all, 35 e-GP systems in 10 countries were assessed. All 35 assessment reports included substantial recommendations to improve technical, functional and security aspects of the e-GP systems. Performance of all consultants was satisfactory.

The first, inaugural conference of the Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network (APPePN) was held in Manila, Philippines in October 2015. Second APPePN conference was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in October 2016 and hosted by Republic of Korea Public Procurement Service. The third conference was held in October 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia and hosted by State Procurement Agency of Republic of Georgia. During the third conference, APPePN participants exchanged video-greetings with Inter-American Network on Government Procurement (INGP) which simultaneously held its annual conference. The fourth conference was organized in cooperation with Inter-American Development Bank and other development partners in Washington, DC in September 2018. The conference gave unique opportunity of exchanging views and fostering inter-regional cooperation with countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The TA utilized a total of 41 person-months inputs of international consultants, 51 person-months inputs of national consultants and 46 person-months inputs of the three firms contracted under the lump sum mode.

**Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome:** The TA funded 2 comprehensive surveys on e-GP implementation in ADB DMCs, 4 annual conferences, 3 regional workshops, multiple e-GP assessments and several knowledge products. Reports and knowledge products were disclosed at ADB e-GP portal and on [www.adb.org \(https://www.adb.org/projects/47192-001/main#project-documents\)](https://www.adb.org/projects/47192-001/main#project-documents).

Outputs listed in the DMF are achieved.

**Overall Assessment and Rating.** Successful. The number of DMCs that have adopted e-GP increased from 12 e-GP systems in 2012 to 22 systems in 2018, with 50% of the systems expanding functional coverage and usage in the last three years (2016 to 2018). The e-GP capacities of public procurement agencies have also improved as demonstrated by the increase in usage of these systems for ADB financed contracts from \$5 billion for the period 2010 to 2014 to \$18.9 billion for the period 2015 to 2018.

**Major Lessons.** Changes in scope of the TA need to be supported by adequate funding.

**Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions.** Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network is reasonably well established and clearly supports procurement reforms and implementation of e-GP in ADB member countries. As a result, follow up TA was justified and processed in December 2018, to provide continuing support to building the capacity of the DMCs in implementing e-GP solutions based on international best practices.

TA = technical assistance.