

Essence of Public  
Procurement

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Non Discrimination
- Fair Competition
- Equal Treatment

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e-GP support  
16575

# Public Procurement

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## Workshop on citizen engagement: Ensuring quality in public procurement underscored



Representatives of various procuring entities, tenderers, media and civil society gathered at a workshop at RDRS Rangpur on 11 July 2019 to suggest ways to engage citizens in the monitoring of public procurement implementation to improve quality.

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of IME Division and the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) organized the workshop at the divisional level under the Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP) which is being implemented by CPTU with support from the World Bank.

Mr. Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah ndc, Secretary, IMED, was present as the chief guest while Mr. Md. Ali Noor, the Additional Secretary and Director General of CPTU, and Mr. Imran Matin, PhD, Executive Director of BIGD, attended the workshop as special guests with Syed Enamul Kabir, ADC (General) of Rangpur, in the chair. Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain, Additional Divisional Commissioner of Rangpur, was also present on the occasion.

Dr. Mirza Hassan of BIGD made a presentation on the progress of citizen engagement which is being implemented in 16 upazilas under the project. In total, it will cover 48 upazilas of 16 districts under 8 divisions of the country.

After the presentation the open-floor discussions include points like ensuring quality of works, morality of the citizen groups, procuring entities, tenderers, wider publication of public procurement notices, etc.

The DG CPTU stressed the need for having honesty and morality of all involved in public procurement. He said that public procurement is done with public funds. So people have the right to know how their money is spent. The DG CPTU observed that the BIGD has been doing the task of citizen monitoring since the lack of transparency is alleged. He said, "We have introduced e-GP to ensure transparency in the process of public procurement."



The Secretary said that the GDP growth rate of Bangladesh has surpassed the rate of global GDP growth. The size of ADP has increased significantly and so the value of public procurement has also gone up. "We must ensure transparency in it," he noted.

## CPTU advances in making citizen portal on public procurement

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) is developing a citizen portal to give information on public procurement to citizens in Bangla in an organized way.

To take views and recommendations on the name of the portal and its domain, layout and contents, a workshop on developing the portal was held on 21 July 2019 at LGED Auditorium in Dhaka.

Dnet, a social-development and IT firm, has been engaged as the Consultant of CPTU in developing the Citizen Portal. It managed and facilitated the workshop on behalf of the CPTU.



Director General (Additional Secretary) of CPTU Md. Ali Noor chaired the workshop. Chief Engineer of LGED Md Khalilur Rahman and Lead Procurement Specialist of the World Bank Dr. Zafrul Islam were present as the special guests. Director of CPTU Shish Haider Chowdhury and Chief Executive Officer of Dnet Sirajul Hossain were also present in the workshop. Senior Communications Consultant of CPTU Md. Shafiqul Alam moderated the workshop.

Officers of various government procuring agencies, tenderers, media and civil society members were present as participants of the workshop.

The DG CPTU in his speech said, “We have advanced a lot in the digitization of public procurement. The development of this portal as a digital platform will be a milestone achievement in disseminating procurement information to citizens.”

Appreciating the idea of developing a citizen portal on public procurement, the LGED Chief Engineer expressed the hope that the CPTU initiative would be a success.

The World Bank Lead Procurement Specialist said, “Bangladesh has achieved significant improvement in its procurement management and now the citizen portal will be another success.”

The CPTU is developing the citizen portal under DIMAPP Project supported by the World Bank.



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He mentioned about the Right to Information Act which is ensuring free flow of information in the country.

The quality in public procurement must be ensured, he said. “We are falling behind due to lack of morality and sincerity,” the Secretary added. He said that 70 to 80 percent of projects are not finished in time. “This must stop. We must utilize resources very cautiously,” he observed.

In group activities, participants gave suggestions about citizen engagement in public procurement.



## Central GTF to be launched soon



Bangladesh Government-Tenderers Forum, an apex body of all GTFs formed in 64 districts, is going to be launched in Dhaka soon. The move has been initiated as part of the process to make GTF sustainable on the basis of the findings of workshops so far held at the divisional level under DIMAPPP.

The GTF is a bi-lateral platform of procuring entities and tenderers at the district level. The two parties sit face-to-face in dialogues in every three months and discuss issues of public procurement.

In November 2018, a workshop on institutionalization of GTF was arranged by CPTU and BCCP at LGED in Dhaka. The participants were from PEs, tenderers, media and civil society.

They provided suggestions to have a central body of GTF. Later, the similar suggestions came from several divisional level workshops in which Secretary, IMED, DG CPTU and World Bank representatives were present as guests.

Now an ad hoc committee of BGTF will be formed and then the committee will formally launch the BGTF with support from CPTU. The overall management is being done by BCCP as the Behavioural Change Communication Consultant under DIMAPPP.

They resolve procurement related problems through discussions. The subjects which they cannot solve will be referred to CPTU.

The objective of BGTF is to make the platform sustainable for better implementation of the public procurement contract across the country.

It is expected to main liaison with district level committees and guide them as part the ToR of the central body.



### e-GP training in May-July 2019

The Dohatec New Media on behalf of CPTU provided e-gp training between May and July 2019 as shown in the table. In total since 2011 to 2019 July 16094 persons received e-GP training.

May-June-July 2019

Training Type	Number of Trainees
3-Day PE User Training	360
1-Day Organization Admin Training	13
1-Day Tenderer Training	140
<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>

## IMF team visits CPTU, knows about e-GP



A five-member IMF team led by its Mission Chief of Bangladesh Mr. Daisaku Kihara visited CPTU on 25 June 2019. A meeting between the IMF team and the CPTU was held at CPTU Conference Room. Mr. Md. Ali Noor, Director General of CPTU, chaired the meeting.

The DG CPTU welcomed the IMF team. He said the CPTU has been working to ensure value for money in public procurement. Mr. Ali Noor said such interactions with international partners may continue in future. The CPTU works in a wide range of areas including digitization of public procurement. "Our e-GP has earned appreciation at home and abroad," he observed.

The objective of their visit was to know about functionalities of the e-GP system being implemented by CPTU. Mr. Md. Mosharraf Hussain, Senior System Analyst, made a brief presentation on e-GP. He touched upon legal frame-work and background of e-GP, its growth and benefits.

Mr. Mosharraf said that at present competition rate in e-GP is now 14 per tender. He mentioned that on an average an amount of 18 billion US dollars is spent on public procurement every year. In the fiscal year 2018-19, the total value of procurement through e-GP was 16 billion US dollars. On that basis, he said the share of e-GP in total value of public procurement is 80 per cent.

Mr. Shish Haider Chowdhury, Director (Training and Coordination) conducted the meeting.

Other members of the IMF team included Mr. Ragnar Gudmundsson, Resident Representative, Dhaka, Ms. Jiri Jonas, Senior Economist, Mr. Rach Moussa, Economist and Mr. Muhammad Imam Hussain, Economist. They wanted to know various aspects of e-GP.

From CPTU side Mr. Masud Akhter Khan, Director (Opinion), Mr. Asad Ibne Moin, Senior IT Security Assurance Consultant and Md. Shafiu Alam, Senior Communications Consultant, also spoke in the meeting.

The IMF team members raised issues regarding e-GP functions, competition, share of e-GP in public procurement in Bangladesh, international tender and service procurement through e-GP, performance measurement, time reduction through e-GP, performance of procuring agencies etc. The Senior System Analyst replied to such queries. They appreciated the government for speedy growth of e-GP system.

## BASIS discusses IT procurement issues with CPTU

On 8 July 2019 a delegation of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) called on Additional Secretary and DG CPTU Mr. Md Ali Noor at his office at CPTU.

The meeting discussed various issues of mutual interests. BASIS leaders expressed the view that they were keen to support government steps to digitize public procurement.

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## Review Panels address grievances

According to the Section 29 of PPA-2006, the Review Panels constituted by the government at CPTU address grievances of the aggrieved persons in the process of public procurement.

At present there are five independent Review Panels at CPTU. The CPTU under the law cannot interfere in the activities of the panels. It only provides logistics support to the panels.

Since 2005 the review panels have so far settled 561 appeals. The year-wise decisions are given here.

Year-Wise Review Panel Decisions

Year	Decision in Favour of		Decisions Available	Percentage	
	PE	Appellant		PE	Appellant
2005	0	1	1	0	100
2006	6	4	10	60	40
2007	3	4	7	43	57
2008	7	4	11	64	36
2009	13	13	26	50	50
2010	13	12	25	52	48
2011	14	14	28	50	50
2012	20	21	41	49	51
2013	23	10	33	70	30
2014	27	18	45	60	40
2015	37	20	57	65	35
2016	28	37	65	43	57
2017	49	36	85	58	42
2018	53	24	77	69	31
2019	32	18	50	64	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>42</b>

### Percentage

**PE 57.93**  
**Appellant 42.07**

## Procurement processing through e-GP improves

The CPTU conducted a workshop to review draft final reports submitted by four individual consultants on post-procurement reviews of 12 contracts each of BWDB, LGED, RHD and REB at the conference room of IMED on 12 June 2019.

Secretary, IMED, Mr. Abul Mansur Md Faizullah ndc was present as the Chief Guest while Mr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Additional Secretary, IMED, was present as the Special Guest.

Mr. Md. Ali Noor, Director General (Additional Secretary) of CPTU presided over the workshop.

Participants from ERD, Planning Commission, IMED, CPTU and the officials of the four large procuring agencies (BWDB, LGED, RHD and REB) were present in the workshop.



They provided comments, suggestions and inputs in order to finalize the reports. Four main discussants for four separate reports touched upon various points missing in the reports. The findings show processing of tenders in e-GP has improved significantly. But competition in some cases did not improve.

The Secretary, IMED, advised the consultants to address the concerns expressed by the participants in the reports. "We can present and place our recommendations on policy issues to the government on public procurement on the basis of the reports. So these have to be authentic, accurate and justified."

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They also placed some demands before CPTU including protection of local IT entrepreneurs through provisions in the PPR, providing training to BASIS members on e-GP, PPR etc and formation of a joint committee to prepare sample tender documents for the IT sector.

The BASIS is a private sector national trade body for Software and IT Enabled Service industry of Bangladesh. Established in 1997, the association has been working with a vision of developing vibrant software and IT service industry in the country.

## Skills of project directors in public procurement underscored

Project directors in the public sector need to have clear understanding and knowledge on the issues of public procurement, said Abul Mansur Md Faizullah, ndc, Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) under the Ministry of Planning.

The Secretary underscored the importance of having proper knowledge in public procurement while speaking as the Chief Guest at a certificate giving ceremony of a training of trainers' course for the national procurement trainers on the concluding day on 7 July 2019 at a city hotel.



The Secretary in his speech said, "In project implementation often we stumble in procurement. Therefore, project directors need some orientation on public procurement."

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the IMED organized the training in cooperation with ITCILO, a consulting firm engaged by CPTU in capacity development and professionalization under Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP). The CPTU has been implementing DIMAPPP since 1 July 2017.

Additional Secretary and Director General of CPTU Md. Ali Noor and Programme Director of ITCILO Andreas Klemmer were present as the Special Guests while Team Leader of ITCILO Richard Lorenz chaired the concluding session of the 4-day ToT course. It had started on 2 July 2019. *See Page # 7*

## DG CPTU emphasizes timely completion of DIMAPPP activities

Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Mr. Md Ali Noor has laid emphasis on timely completion of all tasks under Digitization Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP). He put the emphasis while speaking at the opening and the concluding sessions of the Fourth Implementation Support Mission for DIMAPPP which was held at CPTU from 28 April to 6 May 2019.

Secretary in Charge, IME Division, Mr. Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah ndc, chaired the kick-off meeting of the Fourth Mission at CPTU on 28 April 2019.

The Director General of CPTU delivered the welcome address. Task Team Leader of DIMAPPP and Lead Procurement Specialist of World Bank Dr. Zafrul Islam led the World Bank team and spoke at the opening session.

The Mission concluded on 6 May 2019. The DG CPTU chaired the wrap-up session. Focal Points of 32 selected public sector organizations (SPSOs), IMED and CPTU officials, consulting firms and individual consultants were present in both the opening and the wrap-up sessions.

During the period between 28 April and 6 May 2019, the Mission members visited two sites of citizen monitoring of public procurement at Chakaria and Lohagara upazilas under Chattogram Division on 29 April and 30 April 2019. They also held meetings with other stakeholders and component directors of DIMAPPP during the time.

The Mission reviewed progress of implementation of DIMAPPP which is being implemented by CPTU of IMED with support from the World Bank. In every six months such a mission is held at CPTU under the project.

This time progress in implementation of 28 tasks agreed in the previous mission was reviewed and timeline has also been set for the next course of actions. The next mission of the World Bank is expected to take place in November 2019.



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From among 20 participating trainers, Shohelur Rahman Chowdhury and Sonia Nowrin, spoke on the occasion expressing their positive experiences and feelings about the ToT.

Expressing the importance of public procurement in proper implementation of various projects under ADP the Secretary said the value and volume of public procurement are increasing every year. In the current fiscal the total value of public procurement under ADP is expected to stand at 18 billion US dollars. The size of the current ADP is about 25 billion dollars. About 75 per cent of ADP allocation is spent on public procurement. The national budget of the current fiscal year of 2019-20 is about 58 billion dollars.

The Secretary gave away certificates among the national procurement trainers at the end of the concluding ceremony

The DG CPTU expressed the hope that the TOT had been helpful and useful for the national procurement trainers in updating their knowledge base and acquiring new techniques for providing training to government procurement officers.

There are 59 national procurement trainers in the country now, he mentioned. The DG further said that CPTU under DIMAPPP would organize more orientations for them. About 8 thousand officers will be trained in public procurement under courses of various durations.

Director (Training and Coordination) Shish Haider Chowdhury, who is also the Component Director for capacity development and professionalization, delivered the thanks-giving speech in the programme. The DIMAPPP has four components.

## CPTU going forward with implementation of reform

The e-GP implementation which is a significant achievement of CPTU has witnessed a faster growth over the last several years.

There are a total of 1362 procuring agencies. Up to 31 July 1308 agencies registered with e-GP system. A total of 61417 tenderers also got registered with e-GP. About 0.3 million tenders worth of 37 billion US dollars were invited through e-GP.

Over 75 per cent of the ADP is spent on public procurement annually. The yearly value of public procurement in 2018-2019 fiscal was about 16 billion US dollars. More than 55 per cent of the total procurement was conducted through e-GP until that time. It has reduced time and costs. The e-GP has contributed to improvement in law and order. It has boosted transparency and accountability.

There are now 59 national public procurement trainers in the country. More than 30 thousand persons (officials, tenderers, journalists, banks) have so far received procurement and e-GP training. Presently, DIMAPP project is being implemented by CPTU with support from the World Bank to implement further reforms and e-GP expansion. Capacity development and professionalization, citizen engagement and BPPA establishment are some of the major agenda of DIMAPPP.

A dedicated 24/7 Help Desk (16575) is working at CPTU and 10 other selected public sector organizations. All newly selected 28 SPSOs are connected to the services.

A citizen portal has been in the making and it will be launched in 2019 to disclose more procurement data to citizens. The portal will be in Bangla and it will include various information on public procurement.

A central Government-Tenderers Forum will be launched in Dhaka in October 2019. It will connect all 64 GTFs formed in 64 districts.

## South Asia region Procurement conference

The Sixth South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference was held in Thimphu, Bhutan, from April 22-24, 2019. Pakistan has offered to host the next conference. In 2015, CPTU hosted the third conference in Dhaka. This is a yearly assemblage of the heads of public procurement bodies of 8 member countries of the SAARC. The CPTU participated in the last conferences and made presentations on country procurement and e-GP. Bangladesh is leading in e-GP implementation in the SAARC countries.



From the editor



## A successful journey and way-forward for CPTU

In 2000, the government of Bangladesh (GoB) led by Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took up a joint Country Procurement Assessment Study involving the World Bank and ADB. In 2002 the study put forward three major recommendations for the GoB to develop an institutional public procurement system to achieve Value for Money from public expenditures.



- ✓ **Establish Policy Unit;**
- ✓ **Carry Out Reforms;**
- ✓ **Improve Procurement Capacity.**

The GoB established CPTU within IMED in April 2002, issued Public Procurement Regulations in 2003 and started implementing reforms under a project taken up in 2002. Standard Tender Documents (STDs) and other policies were prepared and issued. Capacity building continued. In 2006, the Parliament passed the Public Procurement Act-2006. In 2008, the Public Procurement Rules-2008 was prepared and both the Act and Rules were put in place in January 2008. Since then public procurement is conducted under the unified law and rules.

To ensure transparency and efficiency, e-GP Portal of CPTU was opened on 2nd June 2011. The e-GP is an ICT based online government procurement system. This is also a commitment of the government to digitize all public services by 2021.

### Way-forward:

There are some activities under process which need to be implemented to make public procurement sustainable. The CPTU now has 25 standard tender documents (STDs). International tender and CMS will be introduced in e-GP system soon. Other plans include restructuring of CPTU as Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA), finalization of BPPA organizational structure, institutionalization of e-GP, Disposal Policy, incorporation of sustainable public procurement in legal framework and preparation of 12 more STDs in Bangla.

It is expected that with the implementation of above tasks CPTU will be able to live up to the expectation of the stakeholders and establish a sustainable public procurement system in the country.



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