

Flash report

A workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement for South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) Countries



Workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement

(note: No group photo due to the online event)

Date: November 25, 2020, 14.30 PM to 16.00 PM (IST)

Venue: Virtual workshop

Disclaimer

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List of Acronyms:

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG 12	Sustainable Development Goal 12
SPP	Sustainable Public Procurement
SACEP	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
GPP	Gross Primary Product
EU	European Union
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Background:

Public procurement accounts for up to 30 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in many developing countries. Leveraging this purchasing power by promoting public procurement practices that are sustainable can play a key role in achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), a goal of SDG 12 and achieve environmental, social, and economic policy objectives. Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) has a potential for transformative impact as it can enable policy makers to 'lead by example' and drive markets and supply chains. The SDG 12 has reiterated the strong link between environmental protection, sustainable development, and public procurement with target – 12.7 on the promotion of SPP practices.

The SWITCH-Asia Programme aims at increasing better understanding of the benefits of Sustainable Consumption and Resource Efficiency for targeted countries in Asia and linking SCP objectives with relevant cross cutting thematic areas. So far, the region is progressing in adopting SPP policy or policy measures, however national governments continue to find challenges in monitoring and implementation of SPP. Capacity building is the key to support implementation and wider adoption of SPP measures

As part of its capacity building support, SWITCH Asia in partnership with South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) offered a virtual workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement for SACEP member countries.

Objectives of the event

1. Improve the knowledge and raise awareness on SPP and its effectiveness as a tool to promote SCP and greener economies
2. Support the implementation of SPP at the national level through capacity building tools and increased collaboration and network

Participants/Target audience

This virtual workshop is developed for national experts from SACEP member countries who are involved in Public Procurement activities.

Review on Participants:

26 participants from SACEP member countries joined the virtual workshop.

Summary of key messages:

Welcome and Opening remarks

Dr. Abas Basir

Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

Dr. Abas in his welcome address appreciated the support of SWITCH-Asia RPAC and UNEP regional office for Asia-Pacific for organizing the workshop with aims to enhance and knowledge and understanding on SPP as an effective tool to promote SCP and SDG12. He emphasized that public procurement is a key economic activity of a government and advancement of SPP practices is a key strategic component in order to mainstream SCP. Goal 12 at large and SDG12.7 target in specific are underlined in accordance with national policies and reality. In the end, Dr. Abas mentioned that the aim of this virtual workshop is to serve SACEP member states more effectively and it will continue to organize similar programmes in future.

Keynote Speech

Dr Young Woo Park

Former Senior Advisor for Environmental Policy and Project Development, (SACEP)

Dr. Park highlighted the importance of SWITCH-Asia programme in driving SCP in Asia region. In order to successfully implement and achieve SCP and SDG12, he stated that all stakeholder; industrial, private sector, consumer, expert, civil society, NGOs, must participate at all policy making and implementation stages. He also mentioned that while the countries should learn from each other's experiences/guidelines/policy frameworks but they must localize these guidelines and policies to make it appropriate and adoptable.

Technical session

SPP in the EU

Ms. Alessandra Lepore,

International Cooperation Officer – SWITCH Asia Programme, European Commission

Ms. Alessandra gave the presentation on how sustainable public procurement is reflected into European policies and regulatory frameworks. A timeline to achieve a guidance of public procurement for a circular economy in 2017 was briefly explained with two examples of circular procurement in the Netherlands and Finland (biogas buses). In conclusion, stakeholder consultations, mandatory criteria, National Action Plans (NAPs), and joint projects are key messages from the EU to SACEP.

Benefits and Basis of Sustainable Public Procurement

Dr. Mushtaq Memon

Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency in Asia and the Pacific & Project Manager for EU- funded SWITCHC Asia RPAC, UNEP

Dr. Mushtaq gave an overview of work that regional policy advocacy component is supporting for SCP transformation. He highlighted that moving from linear to circular economy with the help of Life cycle assessment (LCA). In the end, benefits of SPP towards to circular economy are highlighted. Finally, legal framework, roadmap, criteria, capacity building, and market readiness are taken into consideration for foundation for SPP.

SDG 12.7 Monitoring & Reporting

Mr. Farid Yaker

Programme Officer, UNEP Manager

Mr. Farid delivered a brief introduction to SDG 12.7.1 indicator and reporting process and shared information on number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans. The indicator is now Tier 2 indicator with the focus of methodology on degree of SPP implementation in a given country measuring through six different indices.

Case study 1: Sustainable Procurement of Construction/Infrastructure in India

Mr. Sanjay Kumar

Ministry of Railways, Government of India

Mr. Sanjay presented a case study on implementing SPP in construction of administrative building and hostels (Bamboo construction). Life cycle thinking approach and local community association were some of the key elements that were considered in this project. He highlighted that a programmatic approach is a must for a broader uptake of SPP in Construction and three is need for developing a collaborative platform for exchange of best practices in the South Asia region.

Case study 2: European Best Practice - Examples on SPP

Mr. Walter Kahlenborn

Managing Director, Adelphi

Mr. Walter presented three examples of SPP implementation; Aalborg (learning environment), Stockholm (ICT procurement), and Mechelen (indoor lighting service). Three examples are more focused on environmental and social aspects in all phase of public procurement rather than technical specification for products. Mr. Walter emphasized that all possibility of every agreement or procurement should be considered for integrating social and circular aspects and promoting environmental innovation. At the end, a broad concept of SPP will bring lots of opportunities to introduce social and environmental aspects to every corners of usual public procurement processes.

Key findings of the Survey on Role of Businesses in Promoting SCP in Asia

Ms. Archana Datta

National Coordinator for India, SWITCH- Asia RPAC

Ms. Archana gave an update on the assessment survey on SCP practices in South-Asian businesses (SACEP countries). The assessment aims to identify the enabling environment and tools needed by South-Asia companies and to ensure that they can mainstream sustainability and promote SCP through their business practices. Some barriers and enablers at both company and policy levels are indicated based on existing policy perspective and survey results. In summary, technological barrier and lack of awareness are strongly highlighted from additional observations.

Introduction to Global SPP Survey

Mr. Farid Yaker

Programme Officer, UNEP

Mr. Farid gave an overview of global SPP review which is a global report periodically reviewing the implementation of SPP across countries. SPP policies consider sustainability aspects through environmental and socio-economic aspects with targets and goals. Two main activities of SPP implementation are related to SPP criteria and guidelines, and SPP training. Perception on expensive sustainable products and/or services, and lack of expertise on SPP implementation are the top barriers to SPP. Several emerging topics, strategies, and activities related to SPP implementation were presented in the end.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Priyankari Alexander

Programme Officer, SACEP

In the closing, Ms. Priyankari highlighted that SPP plays an important role in achieving SDG12. Implementation of SPP, some countries are in advanced stages and others are at an initial stage. She highlighted that a need for capacity development and building is required in the region.

Snapshots of the event




Workshop
"Sustainable Public Procurement" for SACEP Countries

How Sustainable Public Procurement is reflected into European policies and regulatory frameworks

Buying green!
A handbook on green public procurement and e-procurement

Alessandra LEPORE, SWITCH-Asia Programme Coordinator
Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development
European Commission

25 November 2020



Benefits and Basis of Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)

Muhtaq Ahmed Iqbal, Ph.D. (mqal@un.org)
Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency in Asia and the Pacific &
Project Manager for EU funded SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component,
United Nations Environment Programme



SDG 12.7.1. Indicator

TARGET 12-7

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PRACTICES

Why is SDG 12. 7. important?

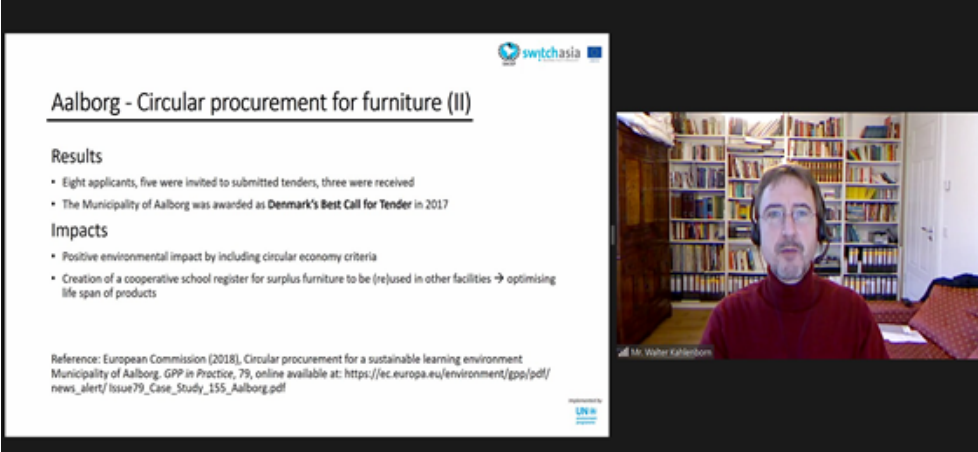
- Shifting to sustainable public procurement is recognized as a key activity to achieve more sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Is an indication of the willingness of governments to walk the talk on sustainable consumption and production



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Sustainable Public Procurement of Construction/Infrastructure in India – A Case Study

- Sanjay Kumar, IRSS



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Aalborg - Circular procurement for furniture (II)

Results

- Eight applicants, five were invited to submitted tenders, three were received
- The Municipality of Aalborg was awarded as **Denmark's Best Call for Tender** in 2017

Impacts

- Positive environmental impact by including circular economy criteria
- Creation of a cooperative school register for surplus furniture to be (re)used in other facilities → optimising life span of products

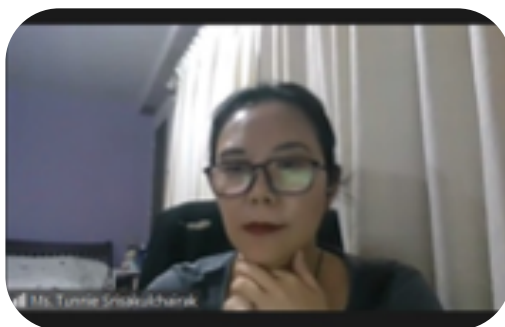
Reference: European Commission (2018), Circular procurement for a sustainable learning environment Municipality of Aalborg. *GPP in Practice*, 79, online available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/news_alert/issue79_Case_Study_155_Aalborg.pdf



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Assessment on Sustainable Consumption and Production Practices in South-Asian Businesses

Archana Datta
SWITCH-Asia RPAC Coordinator for India
25 Nov 2020



Annex:

Annex 1: The Final agenda

Time (IST)	Theme
1430-1435	Welcome and Opening Remarks Ms. Jacintha S.Tissera Charge d' Affaires/ Head of Chancery South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
1435-1440	Keynote Speech Dr Young Woo Park Former Senior Advisor for Environmental Policy and Project Development, (SACEP)
1440-1450	SPP in the EU Ms. Alessandra Lepore International Cooperation Officer-SWITCH Asia Programme, European Commission
1450-1500	Benefits and Basis of Sustainable Public Procurement Dr Mushtaq Memon Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency UNEP Asia Pacific Office SWITCH-Asia RPAC Project Manager
1500-1510	SDG 12.7 Monitoring & Reporting Mr. Farid Yaker Programme Officer, UNEP
1510-1520	Case study 1: Sustainable Procurement of Construction/Infrastructure in India Mr. Sanjay Kumar Ministry of Railways, Government of India
1520-1530	Case study 2: European Best Practice - Examples on SPP Mr. Walter Kahlenborn Managing Director, adelphi
1530-1535	Key findings of the Survey on Role of Businesses in Promoting SCP in Asia Ms. Archana Datta National Coordinator for India, SWITCH- Asia RPAC
1535-1540	Introduction to Global SPP Survey Mr. Farid Yaker Programme Officer, UNEP
1540-1555	Q & A
1555-1600	Closing Remarks Ms. Priyankari Alexander Programme Officer, SACEP

Session moderated by Ms. Tunnie SRISAKULCHAIRAK, UNEP Programme Management Officer, implementing the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia.

For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

<https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/workshop-on-sustainable-public-procurement/>

Contact SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Funded by European Union

Implemented by United Nations Environment Programme, Asia and the Pacific Office

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