

Full report

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



Workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement

Date: 25th November 2020

Time: 14:30 – 16:00 hrs (Indian Standard Time)

Venue: Zoom Online platform

Disclaimer

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List of Acronyms:

EU	European Union
GDP	Gross domestic product
GPP	Gross primary product
LED	Light emitting diode
RPAC	Regional Policy Advocacy Component
SACEP	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPP	Sustainable Public Procurement
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

Logistical information about the event

The event was organized by the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC), funded by the European Union (EU) in partnership with South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). The event occurred through Zoom on the 10th of June from 14.30 to 16.00 hrs (Indian Standard Time) with 20 participants from SACEP member countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan).

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 national governments 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. The European Union (EU) has published its guidelines on “Public Procurement for a Circular Economy” in 2017 and is implementing the SPP following mainly two approaches, i.e., core criteria (addressing the key environmental impacts) and comprehensive criteria (best environmental products). Several sectors are selected for SPP using both the Quantitative and Qualitative indicators. From the experience of the EU, South Asia can boost the regional dimension of SPP through stakeholder consultation, moving from voluntary to mandatory criteria, setting national action plans, and funding of joint projects.

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 SDGs can be achieved through SPP by moving

from linear to a circular economy. He also mentioned that legal framework, criteria, capacity building, and market readiness should be taken into consideration for mainstreaming and successfully implementing SPP.

SDG 12.7 Monitoring & Reporting

Mr. Farid Yaker

Programme Officer, UNEP Manager

Shifting to SPP is a key activity for achieving SCP. The UNEP has therefore developed a [SPP Index Methodology](#) for reporting the SDG indicator 12.7.1 which is now being exercised for data collection. The indicator is classified as in Tier 2 and it uses a quantitative approach allowing the three different level of reporting, i.e., national, province, and city level.

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 SPP plays a vital role in achieving SDGs, particularly SDG 12. South Asia is a unique region where some countries are in the advanced stages of implementing SPP while others are still in the early stages. The member countries of the region have expressed their interest by adopting the [SPP resolution](#) at the governing council of SACEP. The building of capacity for countries is vital in this regard. The preferred areas include national guidelines, setting up national policies, and strategies, etc.

This virtual meeting is just an initial step for helping the member countries and SACEP together with UNEP and Switch Asia will continue these activities in the future for in depth training.

Highlights of discussions:

Some of the key highlights of discussion are listed below:

- SPP plays a vital role in achieving SDGs, particularly SDG 12 and also accelerate transition from a linear to circular economy.
- Most of the global SPP policies target only the environmental aspect and lack of expertise on SPP implementation are the top global barriers.
- A broader concept of SPP that considers both social and environmental aspects will bring lots of opportunities for governments and businesses alike.
- The main enablers in promoting SCP in Asia are the subsidies, fiscal incentivization, SPP, and government supported capacity building programs.
- Capacity development is key to support implementation and wider adoption of SPP measures as national governments continue to find challenges in monitoring and implementation of SPP.
- To mainstream SPP in the sub-region, handholding is required in some areas such as a national guideline, a national policy and strategy, etc.

Participant's analysis:

Based on the attendance list of this session, 7 countries were represented and showcased on a world map with the different countries colored (Figure 1). The list of participants per country are presented in Table 1 below.

Figure 1 World map presenting country wise participation

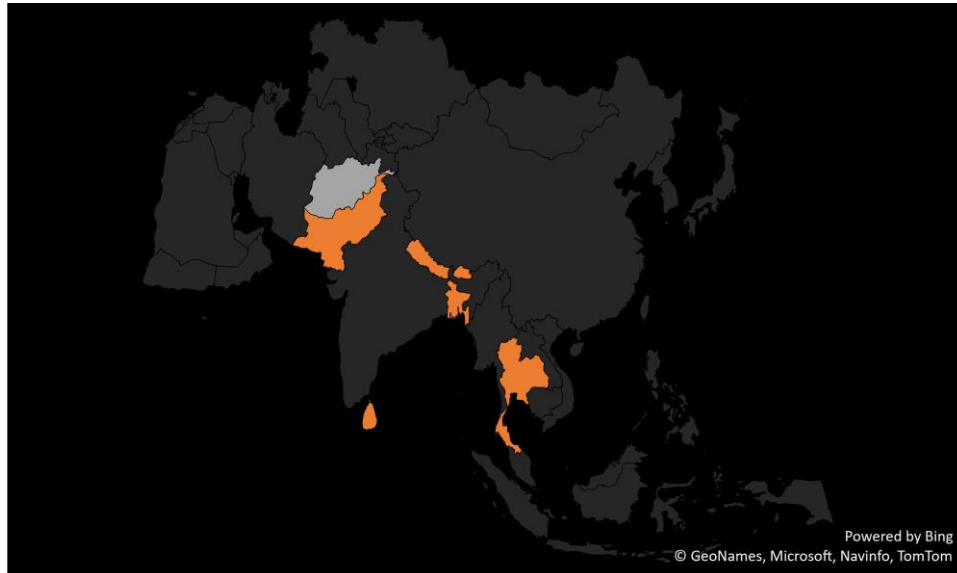


Table 1 List of participants per country

Registrant				
First Name	Last Name	Organization	Country	Attended
Ranjan Prakash	Shrestha	European Union Delegation to Nepal	Nepal	Yes
Basudev	Regmi	Ministry of forest and Environment	Nepal	Yes
Badri Raj	Dhungana	Department of Forests and Soil Conservation	Nepal	Yes
Md	Rahman	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Bangladesh	Yes
Bedkumar	Dhakal	Department of National Parks and wildlife Conservation, Government of Nepal	Nepal	Yes
Ahmed	Wisam	Ministry of Environment	Maldives	Yes
Md. Shamsul	Islam	Local Government Division	Bangladesh	Yes
Rinchen	Tshering	National Environment Commission (NEC)	Bhutan	Yes
Navoda	Mihiraj	Ministry of Environment	Sri Lanka	Yes
Thamila	Dulani	Ministry of Environment	Sri Lanka	Yes
Muhammad Saleh	Izhar	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority	Pakistan	Yes
W. K.	Rathnadeera	SACEP	Sri Lanka	Yes
Indu Bikram	Joshi	Department of Environment	Nepal	Yes
Karma	Tshering	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests	Bhutan	Yes
Tashi	Lhundup	Department of National Properties, Ministry of Finance, Bhutan	Bhutan	Yes
Parimal	Singha	MoEFCC	Bangladesh	Yes
Sutthiya	Chantawarangul	EU Delegation	Thailand	Yes
Rajitha	Jagoda	Department of National Planning	Sri Lanka	Yes
Ateeq	Baig	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA)	Pakistan	Yes
Dr. Asim	Jaleel	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority	Pakistan	Yes
Arghawan	Dost	national environmental protection agency	Afghanistan	No
Mohammad	Bawar	UNEP	Afghanistan	No

Registrant				
First Name	Last Name	Organization	Country	Attended
Kulani	Karunathne	Ministry of Environment	Sri Lanka	No
Mohammad Zahirul	Islam	Local Government Division	Bangladesh	No
Pemil	Jayasekara	Ministry of Environment	Sri Lanka	No
Mafiz Uddin	Ahmed	Finance Division, Ministry of Finance	Bangladesh	No
Muhammad	Zubair	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority	Pakistan	No
Naqibullah	Sediqi	NEPA	Afghanistan	No
Atiwillah	Mohammadi	NEPA	Afghanistan	No
Ishara	Jayawardena	Ministry of Environment	Sri Lanka	No
Cosima	Stahr	SWITCH Asia SCP Facility	Thailand	No

20 participants from 31 registrants

This session was delivered online; therefore, no evaluation/assessment of participant feedback was undertaken.

Next Steps:

There is a need for accelerating progress in Asia towards achieving desired targets of SDG 12 and clearly this can't be achieved without mainstreaming SPP. While some countries in South Asia region have advanced the progress on implementing SPP, others are still in the early stages and hence capacity building efforts are required to mainstream SPP in the sub-region. This virtual workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement or South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) Countries was organized to support better understanding of SPP and promote peer to peer learning. A physical workshop/training programme will be planned once COVID -19 related restrictions are lifted.

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.

Annex 2: Presentations

A total of the seven presentations were delivered during the session. These presentations are available at <https://www.switch-asia.eu/event/workshop-on-sustainable-public-procurement/>

SPP in European policies and regulatory framework

Ms. Alexandra Lepore

International Cooperation Officer – SWITCH Asia Programme, European Commission



Benefits and Basis of Sustainable Public Procurement

Dr. Mushtaq Memon

Regional Coordinator Resource Efficiency

UNEP Asia Pacific Office SWITCH-Asia RPAC Project Manage



Mushtaq Ahmed Memon, Ph.D (memon@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 Monitoring & Reporting

Mr. Farid Yaker
Programme Officer, UNEP



SDG 12.7 Monitoring & Reporting

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

Mr. Sanjay Kumar
Ministry of Railways, Government of India



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

- Sanjay Kumar



Case study 2: European Best Practice - Examples on SPP

Mr. Walter Kahlenborn
Managing Director, Adelphi



European Best Practice - Examples on SPP
Walter Kahlenborn



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

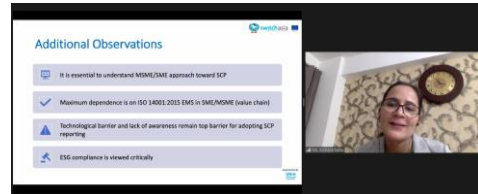
Ms. Archana Datta

National Coordinator for India, SWITCH- Asia RPA



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

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



Introduction to Global SPP Survey

Mr. Farid Yaker

Programme Officer, UNEP



Introduction to Global SPP Review

Workshop on Sustainable Public Procurement for SACEP Countries

Farid Yaker
Programme Officer, Sustainable Public Procurement
United Nations Environment Programme
25th November 2020
Farid.yaker@un.org



For more information

SWITCH-Asia event page:

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

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