

The World Bank Procurement Policy Review Feedback Summary

Date: November 20, 2012

Venue: Tashkent, Uzbekistant

Total Number of Participants: 16

Overview and General Reactions

Consultation on the Bank's Procurement Policy Review with Uzbekistan in Tashkent, Uzbekistan Republic was held on November 20, 2012. The consultations were organized by the Bank's Regional Office for Central Asia and lasted around two hours. Participants included Government officials from various line ministries such as Ministry for Agriculture and Water Resources, Ministry of Economy, etc., Project Directors, Procurement specialists, members of tender committees, Representatives of supreme audit institutions, like Chamber of Audits, Federation of Accountants and Auditors, commercial banks, etc. The list of participants is attached.

The consultation was led by Nagaraju Duthaluri, Lead Procurement Specialist, ECA Region via VC from Almaty. At Tashkent, the event was coordinated by Fasliddin Rakhimov, Procurement Specialist, and Sevara Abdusamatova, Procurement Assistant. The discussion was live and interesting and the participants were proposing different changes based on the local and country conditions. The common wish was expressed that whatever the Bank would carryout changes , it should serve for the most expedient and successful implementation of the projects. The main points that came out of the consultation are the following:

1. The Bank's Procurement policies shall reflect the country specifics or use the country procedures in order to make the project implementation smooth and fast. Use of country public procurement system would be highly appreciated.

Specifically, it was suggested that the Joint Venture definitions shall be governed by the local legislation definition rather than the one described in the Bank's procurement documents.

- 2. Procurement Guidelines should be more specific in defining the "substantial margin" in respect to the exceeding cost estimates. For example, to establish what percentage the price increase compared to the estimates could be accepted.
- 3. The Guidelines should mandate estimated costs to be disclosed in case of civil works.
- 4. The Bank's clearance procedures shall be simplified and number of those mandatory clearances has to be reduced. Prior review should be applied for large contracts only to reduce the risks. The Bank's no objections shall take shorter, say, two days instead of the standard response time, as determined now.
- 5. It was suggested that the Consultants proposals are allowed to be solicited in the local language in addition to English and the evaluation of the consultants is made based on collective discussion among the members of the Evaluation Committee and their voting (due to limited knowledge of English language and Bank's procedures).
- 6. From another hand, it is felt that the prior-reviews help to strengthen capacity of the Project Implementation Entities and particularly helps low capacity PIUs.
- 7. The difference between countries shall be taken into account in the Guidelines. Simplified requirements and bidding documents for different sectors would be helpful.
- 8. The Bank's Client Connection portal shall be made more comprehensive, more procurement functions are included so it becomes a useful tool for the Borrower and the procurement specialists.
- 9. The discussion raised a point that is the Bank ready to change its policies radically? There were even questions how realistic these intentions and plans are.

Specific Feedback from Stakeholders	
	nted in the Initiating Discussion Paper captures the key issues and concerns that should be addressed in the review. Are s which the review should try to address?
	• The participants think that the analyses in the Initiating Discussion Paper do cover the main concerns of the audience.
	t the new concepts of public procurement and the broader context of public sector management best practices, what d the Bank take into consideration in modernizing its procurement policies?
	 The participants advised about the use of the country regulations procedures as they do also address all the procurement aspects. It was emphasized that specific, country-wise or sector-wise approach would be useful.
3. In light of various le used for the purpose i	evels of risks and capacity among borrower agencies, how can the Bank best ensure that funds provided by the Bank are ntended?
	• It was also proposed that the Bank reduce the extent of prior reviews. Though there was another contradicting opinion that all the large contracts are to be prior reviewed in order to avoid any misprocurement and help PIU with inadequate procurement capacity.
instruments, delivery	cussion paper highlights the multiplicity of demands and contexts procurement is serving today –diverse sectors, mechanisms and clients with varying institutional frameworks and governance conditions. What recommendations est tailor its procurement requirements to meet these diverse and varying demands and needs?
	No comments.
5. What could the Ba procurement and IT-b	ank do to simplify and streamline its current policies and to take advantage of the potential gains offered by e- pased tools?
	Client connection should be improved to include procurement document submission and monitoring.
	ensus calls for use of country systems and harmonization among development partners. What can the Bank do to intry systems and harmonization among partners?
	The harmonization of the IFI procedures would definitely useful for the client countries.
7. What suggestions do you have to monitor and evaluate the Bank's Procurement policies and assess their impact and effectiveness?	
	• It was proposed that the TTLs shall collect the issues regarding procurement performance and could pass the performance data to the Bank management on an annual basis.

8. Do you have other suggestions to help the Bank develop a proposal for a new policy framework and guiding principles for revisions to the Bank's procurement policies?

• The Bank's initiative is highly appreciated. At the end, all changes to the policies should lead to
simplification of the procurement procedures.