

**Working Group on Transparency  
in Government Procurement**

Original: English

## **TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**APEC GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT EXPERTS GROUP (APEC/GPEG)**

### Revision

At its meeting of 22 June 1998, the Working Group agreed to request the Secretariat to provide information on the technical cooperation programmes of international and regional intergovernmental organizations in the area of government procurement, so as to enable the Group to have as complete a picture as possible of the availability of technical assistance in this field.

In consequence, the Secretariat wrote to relevant international and regional intergovernmental organizations requesting them to provide such information. The information which has been received in response from the Chair of the APEC Government Procurement Experts Group was circulated in document WT/WGTGP/W/20/Add.4. The current document reproduces the updated information which has been received from the APEC Secretariat by a communication, dated 18 August 2000.

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The APEC Government Procurement Experts Group (GPEG) was established in 1995 to consider ways to increase the transparency of, and liberalize, government procurement markets in accordance with the Osaka Action Agenda adopted by APEC Economic Leaders in 1995.

The GPEG finished its full set of government procurement non-binding principles in 1999. These principles are in the areas of transparency, value for money, open and effective competition, fair dealing, non-discrimination, accountability, and due process. The GPEG has encouraged APEC members to review in their individual action plans the consistency of their government procurement systems with the non-binding principles and how best to implement them and voluntarily bring their systems into conformity with the principles, with progress reported to the GPEG. Three APEC member economies are currently undertaking such reviews. (Note: These individual action plans chart each APEC member's progress toward the Bogor goals of trade liberalization by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies in the APEC region.)

In the area of technical cooperation, the work of the GPEG has so far focused on two areas: information exchange and educational events.

On information exchange, the GPEG surveyed member economies' existing government procurement systems and publication arrangements for government procurement information. Members' returns to these surveys are posted on the APEC Government Procurement Homepage (website: <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/gphome.html>) for free and easy access by interested parties.

Members update these returns annually. In addition, contact points were established to facilitate the ongoing exchange of information.

On educational events, the GPEG is committed to holding workshops, seminars and training courses to enhance members' understanding of government procurement systems and international agreements. The aim of these activities is to provide a foundation for future work, with a view to achieving the long-term goal of liberalization of government procurement markets throughout the Asia-Pacific region in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Bogor Declaration by APEC Economic Leaders in 1994.

Finally, the GPEG has been discussing the development of electronic commerce and its application to procurement. Work is moving ahead in this area with a particular focus on how the work being done on electronic commerce in APEC links with the GPEG's work on the non-binding principles, including transparency. This is also a part of APEC's developing interest in moving government "on-line," not only in the area of government procurement but in many other areas as well.

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