

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

WT/WGTGP/W/20/Add.8

24 June 1999

(99-2576)

**Working Group on Transparency
in Government Procurement**

Original: English

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

WORLD BANK

Addendum

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 present document reproduces the information which has been received in response from the World Bank by means of a communication, dated 8 June 1999.

General

The World Bank policy unit, OCSPP, issued a new procurement directive in June 1998 revising the Country Procurement Assessment Review (CPAR). In FY99, approximately 20 CPARs were initiated in the six regions of the Bank (see the attached list of countries). Each review includes the joint Bank/government development of an action plan to improve the public procurement system in the country under review. The World Bank anticipates major growth in the area of support for procurement reform activities as the Bank continues to conduct CPARs and finance implementation of activities in the action plans.

To date, the Bank has neither tracked nor maintained data on the implementation of procurement technical assistance activities. Most of the financing is provided under financial management or public sector development projects that are designed and managed outside the procurement family.

Bank procurement staff are actively involved in providing procurement training, advice and assistance in the Bank's client countries. Procurement training is provided as part of the implementation process for every new project. In addition, the Bank works closely with the ILO International Training Center in Turin, Italy and several institutions in Africa to provide procurement training for staff from our client countries. Most of this training is Bank-specific intended to ensure proper implementation of the Bank's procurement guidelines. However, as the guidelines are based on international practices, they have been a source of development of procurement skills and knowledge. In addition, the standard bidding documents prepared for use on Bank-financed projects have been adapted by many countries for use in their public procurement system.

Specific Information by Regions

Latin America/Caribbean Region

1. Procurement Components in Bank-financed Projects

The LCR regional portfolio includes projects for public sector modernization and for financial and fiscal management in several countries (Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Argentina, Colombia, Bolivia, etc.). Many of these include technical assistance, either directly or indirectly, to national procurement authorities as part of a broader programme of public sector reform. One concrete example of this type of work is in Jamaica.

Jamaica: Public Sector Modernization Project: This Bank-financed project, currently under implementation, includes a US\$2 million component to address Government Procurement, Contracting, Internal Control and Auditing. Among other activities, the component is financing the establishment of a **Procurement Policy Implementation Unit** in the Inspectorate Division of the Ministry of Finance; and institutional strengthening of the office of the **Contractor General** and of **Procurement/Contracting Units** and **Procurement Committees** in several Ministries.

New Projects under Preparation: As you know, we intend to include similar procurement components in new projects, as opportunities are identified through our work on CPARs (see below), Country Assistance Strategies (CASs), and other ongoing dialogues with our borrowers. In particular, we expect to include investments in capacity-building in Public Sector Modernization projects in **Trinidad and Tobago** (e.g. through assistance to Central Tenders Board, strengthening of procurement research and supervision capacity, and establishing a training centre) and in Guyana.

2. Country Procurement Assessment Reports (CPARs)

New format CPARs are planned for Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Uruguay in FY99. A possible CPAR is also under discussion for Paraguay. As you know, one of the key purposes of the new CPAR format is to help governments to increase their capacity to manage and monitor the procurement process. The design of detailed action plans for institutional improvements as part of these CPARs will constitute the delivery of technical assistance in this area. Financing for the CPARs will be provided by the Bank's own administrative budget, supplemented by Strategic Compact funding. Work is already under way on the **Guyana** CPAR and a plan of action to improve procurement processes in the country will be agreed upon with the Guyanese Government by the end of September.

3. Procurement Training delivered by Bank Staff and Consultants

LCR regional procurement staff and consultants regularly deliver about ten "Country" Procurement Seminars per year to government officials of the agencies implementing Bank-financed projects. While these seminars focus primarily on the application of the Bank's own Guidelines for Procurement and for Consultants Selection in Bank-funded projects, the fact that the Bank's guidelines are based in widely accepted international business practices makes the seminars a sort of introduction to international procurement procedures for government agencies.

In addition, through a new training initiative in Peru, Bank staff will provide technical assistance by leading a series of seminars as part of the Peruvian Government's efforts to establish a national programme for procurement training of government officials (a sort of "procurement college"). Topics covered by the seminars will include anti-corruption measures, procurement and privatization, international trade, legal and regulatory frameworks, etc.

Funding for such procurement training usually comes from the Bank's own administrative budget, although Institutional Development Fund (IDF) grants have also been used to launch training-of-trainers programme in Brazil, and the new initiative in Peru is expected to be funded entirely by the Government.

East Asia/Pacific Region

Technical Assistance Projects in the Philippines and China to establish ongoing procurement training facilities through local training institutions to provide training related to implementation of Bank-financed projects as well as improve public sector procurement.

ATTACHMENT

List of Country Procurement Assessment Reviews

Africa Region

Mali
Niger
Mauritania
Guinea
Benin

East Asia/Pacific Region

Viet Nam

South Asia Region

Pakistan

Europe and Central Asia Region

Croatia
Bulgaria
Romania

Latin America/Caribbean Region

Guyana
Dominican Republic
Uruguay
Haiti
Guatemala
Honduras
Trinidad and Tobago
Nicaragua

Middle East/North Africa Region

Jordan
Morocco
