Quarterly
NEWSLETTER

Central Procurement
Technical Unit (CPTU)

Public Procurement

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VOLUME: 09 Issue: 17 December 2017

GOODS

WORKS

SERVICES

ESSENCE OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- TRANSPARENCY
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- NON DISCRIMINATION
- FAIR COMPETITION
- EQUAL TREATMENT

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DIMAPPP gets a good start

Finance Minister A M A Muhith speaking as chief guest at the launching of DIMAPPP at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden on October 25, 2017.

Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP) got off to a good start on October 25, 2017 with the Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith MP as chief guest declaring its launch in a colourful ceremony in presence of dignified guests and about 250 participants representing major stakeholders of public procurement.

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), Ministry of Planning, organized the launching of DIMAPPP at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden in the evening.

With support from World Bank, the CPTU will implement the project having four components for five years (July 2017 to June 2022). The components are: Restructuring of CPTU and Institutionalizing e-GP, Enhancing Digitization of Public Procurement, Professionalization of Procurement and Citizen Engagement, and Digitizing Project Implementation Monitoring.

The main objective of the project is to improve overall public procurement management in the country.

Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal FCA MP chaired the programme. Secretary of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division,

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Sri Lankan procurement team lauds e-GP system at CPTU

Md. Mofizul Islam, Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, presiding over a meeting with Sri Lankan procurement delegation at CPTU on November 21, 2017

A three-member delegation of the National Procurement Commission of Sri Lanka that paid a four-day visit to Dhaka from 20 November to 23 November 2017 appreciated public procurement environment and electronic government procurement (e-GP) system of Bangladesh.

The delegation headed by Dr. Palitha Ekanaiyake, Member, NPC had a series of meetings with Central Procurement Technical Unit. Two other members of the team were M. Vamadevan, Member, NPC and W. A. de Alwis, Director, Procurement Investigation of NPC.

Md Mofizul Islam, Secretary, IMED, chaired the first day meeting. Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain made a presentation on the general overview of public procurement reform in Bangladesh.

Lauding the comprehensive e-GP system at CPTU, the Sri Lankan team leader said that their Commission had been formed two years back to recast the existing procurement guidelines on public procurement and also to introduce e-GP in their country.The IMED Secretary said, "In all aspects of e-GP implementation, Bangladesh is in a leading position in South Asia and beyond." He assured them of all possible cooperation they need from IMED.

Two innovations

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) has made two innovations in the domain of public procurement. Such innovations will help stakeholders, especially procuring entities and tenderers.

e-GP Video Tutorials

Video tutorials to help procuring entities, tenderers, financial institutions and others in the conduct of e-GP have been developed and finalized for CPTU by Dohatec New Media. The innovative online tutorials have 20 separate modules in separate videos. Total duration of all the video tutorials is one thousand minutes.

Uploading of tender notices on CPTU website by PEs

The CPTU has launched its new website (www.cptu.gov.bd). Earlier, PEs used to send their tender notices (non-eGP) and CPTU would upload those on its website. But now arrangement has been made and system innovated for PEs to post their tender notices on the new website by themselves.

28 more target agencies

To expand e-GP implementation 28 more large procuring agencies have been targeted under the DIMAPPP. Earlier there were four target agencies under PPRP-II such as BWDB, BREB, LGED and RHD.

The newly selected public sector organizations (SPSOs) are Election Commission Secretariat, Bangladesh Police, Public Works Department (PWD), Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), Directorate of Primary Education (DPE),Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), Directorate of Food, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS),Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Department of Fisheries, Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), Education Engineering Department (EED), Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Health Engineering Department (HED), Chittagong Water Supply & Sewerage Authority (Chittagong WASA), Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority (Dhaka WASA), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport

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Finance Minister opens new website of CPTU

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith MP formally inaugurated the new website of the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) during the launching of the Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project.

He was present in the launching as the Chief Guest. By clicking the button he opened the website having both English and Bangla versions. The Minister expressed his happiness over the presentation of the website which is dynamic and modern.

The Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain at the time made an announcement that the website will have the arrangement under which the procuring entities can themselves upload their tender notices.

The CPTU has kept the provision for this in the new website. As per the law, notices of tender worth of taka one crore and above, which are still manually done, have to be posted on CPTU website.

Open Contracting Mission talks disclosure of procurement data

A mission of World Bank on Open Contracting Data that started at CPTU on August 26, 2017 concluded on August 31, 2017.

Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain presided over the meeting on the subject of open data. Director (Coordination) Shish Haider Chowdhury moderated the meeting.

Task Team Leader and Lead Procurement Specialist Dr Zafrul Islam led the WB team in the mission. Other mission members who attended the meeting at CPTU were Marcela Rozo, Open Contracting Team Leader, Stephen Davenport, Global Lead, Open Government Citizen Engagement, Kristina Aquino, Research Analyst and ANM Mustafizur Rahman, Senior Procurement Reform Consultant of World Bank.

CPTU officials and Adviser were present in the meeting. Senior e-GP Consultant Ashfakul Islam made a detailed presentation on e-GP and its associated aspects.

Open contracting refers to increased disclosure of information in a customized environment, with the participation of stakeholders in all stages of public contracting, including planning, procurement, and performance.

For the open contracting work to be most effective, allowing analysis of bidder performance quality, it is important to use the full cycle and data of e-GP system. The data analytics part of CPTU will also need to be strengthened.

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Authority (BIWTA), Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK), National Curriculum & Text Book Board (NCTB), Local Government Institutions under LGD (Pourashava-327; Upazilla Parishad-491; Zilla Parishad-61; City Corporation-9), National Sports Council, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), Comptroller and Auditor General (C & AG) and Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

Appropriate knowledge of PPR, e-GP for IMED officers underscored

A two-day in-house capacity development training on public procurement and e-GP system ended on 12 October 2017 at the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning.

Staff members and officers of IMED and CPTU attended the training organized by IMED as part of its plan for a series of such training to equip all concerned in the division with the idea and knowledge of Public Procurement Act 2006 and the Public Procurement Rules 2008 as well as electronic government procurement (e-GP) system.

AKM Badrul Mazid, Additional Secretary (Admin) of IMED, opened the training on 11 October 2017. Md Faruque Hossain, Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary, was also present.

AKM Badrul Mazid said, "We must know provisions of the procurement law and the rules as we often need to deal with issues of public procurement." He added that the rules are part of law and all concerned need to uphold and protect the law. This training is, therefore, very important, he observed.

The DG, CPTU, Md Faruque Hossain, who is also a national trainer of public procurement, conducted the first session on "Public Procurement Overview of PPA-2006 and PPR-2008. Shish Haider Chowdhury, Director (Coordination & Training), Aziz Taher Khan, Director (e-GP), Masud Akhtar Khan, Director (opinion), Md. Mosharraf Hussain, Senior System Analyst, K. M. Ali Newaz, Training Coordinator, Md. Aknur Rahman, Deputy Director, Assistant Director (Coordination) Shahadat Hossain Masud, Sheikh Shariful Islam, Assistant Maintenance Engineer of CPTU conducted classes. At the concluding ceremony, DG, CPTU reviewed the discussions and conducted the question-answer session while Md Mahmudul Huq, Joint Secretary, IMED, Ministry of Planning, made the concluding remarks.

DIMAPP gets a good start

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Md Mofizul Islam, made the opening remarks.

Country Director, World Bank Bangladesh, Qimiao Fan, and Director, Governance Global Practice, World Bank Vinay Sharma also spoke as special guests. Director General of CPTU Md Faruque Hossain made a detailed presentation on the objective and components of the new project.

The Finance Minister also inaugurated the new website of CPTU. At the DIMAPPP launching programme a MoU was signed between CPTU and LGED. Under the MoU, LGED will take care of e-GP implementation by 888 local government institutions (LGIs).

Officials of government procuring agencies, representatives of development partners, business associations, members of the civil society and media attended the launching programme.

In his speech the Finance Minister expressed his satisfaction over the progress achieved in the process of public procurement in Bangladesh.

The Planning Minister mentioned that the aim of the present government is to make public procurement transparent so that there is no waste of public funds here and there.

The Secretary, IME Division said effective implementation of any development project depends on efficient management and procurement. In this line, the IMED has planned to digitize its project monitoring system under the new DIMAPPP through CPTU.

After the opening remarks of the Secretary, the DG, CPTU explained the context, rationale, objective and every component of DIMAPPP in his presentation. He said, "We need to make public procurement sustainable to fulfill the concerned SDG goal."

The Country Director of World Bank, Bangladesh appreciated the government of Bangladesh for the progress it achieved in digitization of public procurement.

Director, Governance Global Practices, World Bank, observed that increased value-for-money with efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the expenditure of public resources are critical to sustainable development and the reduction of poverty.

Public procurement needs to consider one more 'e'

Knowledge exchange meeting at CPTU told

While public procurement puts thrust on ensuring efficiency, economy and effectiveness, it also needs to consider 'equity' in the socio-economic setting of a country. Such an observation dominated the discussion of a knowledge exchange meeting on public procurement at CPTU on October 26, 2017.

Md Mofizul Islam, Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) chaired the meeting that brought together about 50 participants from government procuring agencies, business associations, civil society, development partners and media.

The CPTU of IMED conducted the meeting to exchange ideas and knowledge on practices and developments taking place at home and abroad in the domain of public procurement.

Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain, Director, Global Governance Practice, World Bank Vinay Sharma, Lead Procurement Specialist of World Bank Dr Zafrul Islam, Executive Director of BIGD Sultan Hafeez Rahman, President of BASIS Mustafa Jabbar were also present on the occasion.

Director (Coordination and Training) Shish Haider Chowdhury conducted the meeting.

Orientation on digital archive held

On November 23, 2017, an orientation session on digital archive for officers and employees of CPTU was held at CPTU Conference Room. Director General of CPTU Md Faruque Hossain chaired the session. Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) developed the archive for CPTU.

The archive hase search and advance search options. Compilation of various reports, documents, contracts etc have in the archive has made it a good repository of information and knowledge store for CPTU.

Among others, Director (Rules) Zehsan Islam, Senior System Analyst Md Mosharraf Hussain, Senior Communication Consultant Md Shafiul Alam, System Analyst Ariful Islam and BCCP Senior Deputy Director Khadiza Bilkis spoke on the occasion.

BCCP made a presentation on the use of the archive. A user manual was also distributed to all participants in the orientation session. More orientations are planned.

CPTU signs MoU with LGED on LGIs' e-GP implementation

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) during the launching programme of Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP) at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden on October 25, 2017.

Under the MoU, the LGED will provide various supports to a total of 888 local government institutions (LGIs) for implementation of e-GP. Such supports include in-depth supervision, capacity building of the LGIs etc.

Among the LGIs the number of upazilas is 491, district councils 61, municipalities 327 and city corporations 9. However, three Chittagong Hill District Councils and two city corporations in Dhaka are not included in the list of those LGIs.

Of the four components of DIMAPPP the most important one is the Enhancing Digitization of Public Procurement. Under this component, among other activities, e-GP implementation capacity of upazilas, district councils, municipalities and city corporations will be enhanced. Besides, establishment of specific area-wise e-GP labs, providing hardware and software support and bringing those under in-depth supervision in terms of e-GP implementation are also planned in this component of DIMAPPP.

CMS, post procurement review, data archiving in e-GP under preparation

As part of fulfilling the total process designed for e-GP system, CPTU on September 18, 2017, conducted a meeting with GSS Infotech and Dohatec New Media on implementing contract management system (CMS), post-procurement review and data archiving to e-GP.

GSS Infotech and Dohatec New Media are working at CPTU for e-GP system. The team members of both the consulting firms and officers of CPTU attended the meeting chaired by Director (Coordination and Training) Shish Haider Chowdhury.

Public Policy Implementation Adviser AKM Fazlul Karim, Director (e-GP), Md Aziz Taher Khan, Senior e-GP Adviser Ashfakul Islam, System Analyst Asadul Hoque of CPTU, Team Leader of GSS Infotech, Joji Joseph George, and Deputy Team Leader (O & M) of Dohatec New Media, Md Nazmul Islam Bhuiyan, were also present in the meeting.

At the meeting on September 18, 2017, the Dohatec made a presentation on how the features of three items would be implemented in the e-GP. The CPTU experts gave their opinions on those features. They gave suggestions for search options with procurement method and type so that while doing any post-procurement review, CPTU can also track any tender in the system.

Through CMS the procuring entities will be able to execute contract management including payments, certifications etc under e-GP. Data archiving is an important aspect of the e-GP system.

Call 16575 for e-GP support

Procuring entities, tenderers and banks can now call at 16575 to get help for electronic government (e-GP) from the 24/7 Help Desk at CPTU.

CPTU has introduced the short code for the convenience of procuring entities, tenderers and banks who are directly associated with the conduct of e-GP.

Earlier numbers and email contacts available at www.eprocure.gov.bd for e-GP Help Desk are also functioning.

A dedicated 24-hour seven days help desk has been functioning at the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of IMED, Ministry of Planning, for the smooth conduct of electronic government procurement (e-GP) in the country.

The e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) is equipped with required resources and expertise. Recently, its capacity has been enhanced with more resources to cope with the growing number of registered and non-registered tenderers and procuring entities seeking support from various parts of the country.

The number of PEs and tenderers registering with the system is increasing day by day. The Help Desk is working non-stop 24 hours every-day to provide e-GP related information and solutions as and when the PEs and tenderers make queries on phone, email and mobile numbers.

They can also connect Help Desk from CPTU Mobile App which is available on CPTU website and Google Play Store.

First implementation support mission of DIMAPPP concludes

The first implementation support mission of Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP) was held between November 5 and November 10, 2017.

Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) Md Mofizul Islam inaugurated the meeting of the mission on November 5, 2017. It concluded on November 12, 2017 at the Conference Room of CPTU.

Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md. Faruque Hossain, and Task Team Leader of DIMAPPP Dr. Zafrul Islam (Lead Procurement Specialist of World Bank) were also present on both the occasions. The CPTU is implementing DIMAPPP with the support of the World Bank.

Director (Coordination and Training) of CPTU Shish Haider Chowdhury conducted all sessions of the meetings. Members of the World Bank mission team, officers of IMED/ CPTU, focal persons of DIMAPPP from 32 selected public sector organizations attended the meetings.

The project has four components and these are: Restructuring CPTU and Institutionalizing e-GP, Enhancing Digitization of Public Procurement, Professionalization of Procurement and Citizen Engagement (CE), and Digitizing Project Implementation Monitoring.

At the wrap-up of the DIMAPPP mission, a draft Aide Memoire was shared with all concerned. An action plan for next six months was agreed with CPTU and implementing partners upon a detailed discussion on the components. The next mission is expected to be held in May 2018.

From the editor :

Making public procurement sustainable

A disposal policy in Bangladesh's public sector is very relevant to making public procurement sustainable. The current Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target 12.7 refers to sustainable public procurement. It says, "Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities."

The SDGs have been aligned with Seventh Five-Year Plan (2016). Actions to achieve the SDG target of 12.7 are; i) procurement process using e-GP and (ii) usage of PPR in public procurement. The lead division responsible for this is Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning. The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of IMED is implementing e-GP and PPR as part of its responsibilities mandated by the Public Procurement Act-2006 as the nodal office for monitoring of public procurement in the country.

Proposed global indicators for performance measurement of the SDG target 12.7.1 refer to number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans.

In the context of Bangladesh, to ensure sustainable public procurement, disposal of public assets after its life cycle is very important. Besides, salvage value/resale price also needs to be considered upfront while making official cost estimate for government procurement. Many other countries in the world have their laws/policies for disposal of public assets along with their procurement laws and policies.

In Bangladesh, there is no unified legal framework or rules for disposal of public assets after its life cycle use. Only the Ministry of Public Administration has a policy for the disposal of public sector transports and typewriters. But its applicability is not self-sufficient. Therefore, a disposal policy in public procurement is indispensable for ensuring sustainable procurement.

The activity of formulating a disposal policy in the public sector has been included in DIMAPPP. Reverse-auction is expected to be introduced in public procurement under this project.

Published by

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