Quarterly
NEWSLETTER

Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU)

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Public Procurement

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GOODS
WORKS
SERVICES

Essence of Public Procurement

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Non Discrimination
- Fair Competition
- Equal Treatment

Happy New Year 2019

CPTU wishes readers of its newsletter a very happy new year

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Hon'ble Prime Minister appreciates e-GP

On 29 October 2018 Honorable Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina mentioned introduction of electronic government procurement (e-GP) while informing the Parliament (Jatiya Sangsad) of her government's successes in digitizing public service delivery.

"In order to establish transparency and accountability in public procurement e-GP has been introduced in 1267 government procuring agencies," she said while delivering her valedictory speech at the last session of the 10th Jatiya Sangsad on 29 October 2018.

While elaborating the Prime Minister said, "Until now a total of 216742 tenders worth of taka two lakh 3 hundred 31 thousand crore have been invited through e-GP."

She asserted that there was no more chance for tender snatching, lifting of tender boxes and obstruction to tender submission.

"e-tender has established transparency and accountability, and it is leading to establishment of a society free from corruption," the Prime Minister told the House.

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning, has been implementing e-GP since August 2011 with support from the World Bank. On 2 June 2011 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the e-GP portal.

Greetings to new Finance Minister

On January 8, 2019, the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division greeted the new Hon'ble Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal FCA MP at his office in the Ministry of Planning at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar where he performed as the Planning Minister for the last five years.

Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah, ndc, Secretary in Charge of IME Division and other senior officials greeted the new Finance Minister by presenting him a bouquet.

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IME Division welcomes new Planning Minister

The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) welcomed M A Mannan MP who took over as the new Planning Minister on 8 January 2019 at his office on the Planning Commission campus at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

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Planning Minister visits CPTU

On 14 January 2019, new Hon'ble Planning Minister MA Mannan MP visited CPTU. During the visit he sat with officials of IME Division and exchanged views on functions of the Division including CPTU and various projects.

Secretary in Charge, IME Division Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah, ndc, Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain, Additional Secretary Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Additional Secretary Md Kamruzzaman Joint Secretary Md Mahmudul Haque, Directors General of different sectors and other officers of IME Division were present during the views-exchange meeting at CPTU Conference Room.

The Planning Minister laid emphasis on accomplishing the office tasks on a regular basis within the office hours. He gave suggestion to conduct this kind of meeting in every 2/3 months. He mentioned the need for digital display board for various projects starting from large to small ones.

The Secretary in Charge focused on various projects. He said his Division including CPTU is working for the improvement in project implementation and public procurement.

The DG, CPTU explained the positive results of e-GP. He also touched upon various aspects of DIMAPP Project which is now being implemented by CPTU.

From Page 1 (IME Division welcomes new Planning Minister)

On 8 January 2019, Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah, ndc, Secretary in Charge of IME Division, led a team of his Division while greeting the new Planning Minister with a bouquet.

The Secretary in Charge, who joined the IME Division on 29 November 2018, was accompanied by Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary, Md Faruque Hossain, Additional Secretary Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Joint Secretary Md Mahmudul Haque and Deputy Secretary Mst Hajera Khatun of Administration, IME Division, Ministry of Planning

Earlier on 7 January 2019, Hon'ble President Abdul Hamid administered the oath of office to Sheikh Hasina as the Prime Minister. After her swearing-in as Prime Minister the President administered the oath of office to the Council of Ministers at the Bangabhaban.

On 30 December 2018, the Awami League-led Grand Alliance swept to a landslide victory in the 11th Parliamentary elections.

During the immediate-past AL government M A Manan MP held the portfolio of the State Minister for Finance and State Minister for Planning.

A H M Mustafa Kamal FCA MP, who performed as the Planning Minister of the last government has been made the Finance Minister in the new government.

In the afternoon, the immediate-past Planning Minister was accorded a farewell reception in presence of the new Planning Minister and officers at the NEC-2 auditorium.

From Page 1 (Greetings to new Finance Minister)

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) is located on the Planning Commission campus at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. The new Finance Minister is expected to attend office one day in every week here.

Capacity development on public procurement under DIMAPPP

ITC ILO set to begin assignment

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning, signed a contract on Capacity Development and Professionalization with ITC ILO, Turin, Italy, on October 10, 2018 at the NEC Conference Room, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

The contract involving more than 12 million US dollars will be executed until 30 June 2022 under the Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project being implemented by CPTU with support from the World Bank.

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The ITC ILO is set to begin its activities from February 2019. Apart from project arrangement, training on public procurement did not stop on completion of the last PPRP-II. Arranged by CPTU the three-week training continued under a separate contract with Engineering Staff College, Bangladesh.

The project has four components of which capacity development and professionalization is the largest. About 11 thousand persons, mostly from the government, including the private sector tenderers, elected local government representatives and journalists will receive training under the contract to be facilitated by the Engineering Staff College Bangladesh (ESCB) as the nominated sub-consultant.

On October 10, 2018, Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain and Manager, Sustainable Development Programme of ITC ILO, Turin, Italy, Ralf Kruger signed the contract in presence of the Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal FCA MP as the Chief Guest. Secretary, IME Division Md Mofizul Islam was present as Special Guest and Acting Country Director of World Bank Ms. Sereen Juma was also present as the Guest of Honour.

Creating professionalization in public procurement is a priority of this contract. After training procurement professionals of various tiers will be certified under this contract. The CPTU was established in 2002 and at that time ITC ILO worked behind its creation and bringing about subsequent reforms in public procurement of Bangladesh. ITC ILO is renowned globally for its efficiency in providing public procurement training and professionalization.

Institutionalizing GTF underscored

Sustainability and institutionalization of Government-Tenderers Forum (GTF) formed in 64 districts of Bangladesh to facilitate bilateral dialogue on public procurement issues was underscored at a workshop held on 22 November 2018 LGED Conference Room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka.

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of IME Division, Ministry of Planning, organized the workshop which was facilitated by Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programs (BCCP).

Secretary, IME Division, Md Mofizul Islam was present at the workshop as Chief Guest. Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain, Lead Procurement Specialist of World Bank Dhaka office Dr. Zafrul Islam and Additional Chief Engineer of LGED Khandaker Ali Noor were also present.

Dhaka district GTF members, representatives of GTF of other districts, various procuring entities, officers of CPTU attended the workshop.

To create a platform for dialogue at local level of tenderers and procuring entities to speed up and better implement contracts and remove any confusion or ambiguity within professional practices 64 GTFs have been formed in 64 districts.

After the inaugural session, the participants sat group-wise. They discussed, brainstormed on making recommendations on possible ways to institutionalize GTF for improving public procurement environment in the country through dialogue between the main two stakeholders.

Then they presented their group work outcomes before the audience.

The recommendations include policy intervention, subscription fees by GTFs, fund mobilization through a nominal contribution from winning tenderers, allocation from other possible government sources, preparation of a website for GTF, GTF linkage with Citizen Portal, creation of an apex body for GTF etc.

They expressed the view that adoption of these mechanisms may help GTF get institutionalized and its sustainability is necessary for the betterment of public procurement culture in the country.

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46 banks now linked to e-GP for payments

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICB Islamic Bank Limited in connection with receipt of payments from tenderers under electronic government procurement (e-GP) system on 20 December 2018.

The signing ceremony took place at the Conference Room of CPTU on the Planning Ministry campus at Agargaon in Dhaka.

Under the MoU, CPTU will provide the bank access to e-GP Portal Dashboard. Nominated focal persons of the bank will also receive training from CPTU to start e-GP payment services for tenderers.

The bank will receive e-GP registration fees, registration renewal fees and tender document fees from registered tenderers and upload the payment information on e-GP portal.

With the MoU signed with ICB Islamic Bank Limited the number of banks now having MoUs with CPTU has stood at 46.

Secretary, IME Division, Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah, ndc was present at the signing ceremony as the chief guest. Md. Faruque Hossain, Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary and Muhammad Shafiq Bin Abdullah, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of ICB Bank Limited signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides.

Until 23 December 2018, the number of tenderers registered with e-GP stood at 53586. A total of 1282 government procuring agencies are now connected to e-GP. There are about 1324 procuring agencies in the country. So far 2 lakh 35 thousand 830 tenders worth taka 2 lakh 24 thousand 453 crore have been invited through e-GP system.

Senior officers of IMED and the bank were also present at the signing ceremony.

Dialogue on public procurement policy held

A half-day dialogue on public procurement policy and gender perspectives was held by BUILD, a private sector organization promoting business entrepreneurship in the country at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka on October 4, 2018.

The DG, CPTU, Md Faruque Hossain was present at the dialogue as a Guest of Honour. Ferdous Ara Begum, CEO, BUILD, made a presentation on how the number of women participating in public procurement can be increased.

Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, was present as the Chief Guest.

Citizen portal on public procurement on the cards

A citizen portal on public procurement is going to be developed by CPTU to hear citizens' voice on various issues of public procurement. It is expected to also raise voice of the citizens on how efficiently and effectively public funds are spent on procurement.

The portal will be an information disclosure vehicle of the government on public procurement, data analytics etc. The portal contents will be in Bangla language for easy understanding of tenderers and procuring entities.

This will facilitate citizen engagement in public procurement through promoting public information from both sides of demand and supply. Information will come from e-GP system with categorized public data, GTF, Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC), Citizen Engagement activities and other relevant sources.

All concerned about public procurement can take and use such public information for research, studies etc.

Policy makers can also see and understand the scenario of public procurement management and take inputs for policy interventions.

National Works and Goods tenders

Now e-GP open to any value

In the procurement of Works and Goods (national), the electronic government procurement (e-GP) system is now open to any threshold.

Earlier it was up to Tk100 crore for the above public procurement. The CPTU issued a circular to this effect on 26 September 2018 removing the limit. The circular available at www.cptu.gov.bd also made it clear how the procurement processes, which come across the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP), will be conducted in e-GP.

The procurement of intellectual and professional services is soon going to be incorporated in the e-GP system. Also steps have been taken up to include international tenders in e-GP.

Meanwhile, Contract Management System (CMS), in e-GP has been developed, which is a milestone achievement. The CMS will be put into e-GP practice upon some tests as its harmonization has been very difficult amid government procuring agencies having various systems regarding payments and other fundamentals.

These are being implemented under Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP) which is now being implemented by CPTU with support from World Bank.

Under the project e-GP is being enhanced in 28 newly selected public sector organizations. Dedicated procurement cells have been formed in those SPSOs. The cells will provide advisory services to their own agencies on public procurement issues.

Entries for S Asia procurement innovation awards invited

Like previous years, entries in various categories of South Asia Public Procurement Innovation Awards 2018 have been invited.

South Asia Regional Public Procurement Network (SAPPN), the World Bank and Procurement iNET have launched the awards. The closing of submissions is on 31 January 2019 and the awards will be announced on 28 February 2019. Details of award categories, rules and other information is available at http://procurementinet.org/sapia

Any government, public sector, university or research and training institutions following the public procurement regulatory framework and NGOs/CBOs involved in public procurement management, awareness and communication and oversight support in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka can submit case stories for consideration. Officers and staff nominated by the countries and partner agencies as part of the selection mechanism cannot submit a case story.

The objective of such awards is to enhance learning and sharing from innovative procurement practices adopted in South Asian countries.

Bangladesh has been playing an active role in strengthening the SAPPN. In 2015 the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of IME Division, Ministry of Planning, hosted the third regional conference of SAPPN in Dhaka.

Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain had been made the SAPPN chair for a year in 2016.

In 2017, among others, Roads and Highways Department won an award for its case story on e-GP in RHD. In 2016, BIGD also won an award for its case story on citizen engagement. The winners are invited to SAPPN annual conference and the awards are given there through ceremonies.

The next sixth South Asia Regional Public Procurement Conference is going to be hosted by Bhutan in Thimpu on April 22-25 in 2019. The heads of government public procurement regulatory bodies, procurement related officials and civil society bodies attend the conference.

ESCB conducts three-week training

To maintain continuity in procurement capacity development, the Engineering Staff College Bangladesh (ESCB) under a contract with CPTU conducted three-week training on procurement of goods, works and services from September 5, 2018 to December 23, 2018.

A total of 272 government officers related to public procurement received the training in 9 batches. The officers are from various government ministries, divisions and agencies.

The three-week training took place in both ESCB Dhaka and Gozaria campuses.

e-GP training for registered tenderers going on

Training for private tenderers who are registered with the e-GP system is now going on.

The CPTU has arranged the training under the auspices of DIMAPPP. It has been implementing DIMAPPP since July 2017.

On behalf of CPTU, the Dohatec New Media at its Khilgaon venue in Dhaka city has been providing the training since 17 October 2018.

Registered tenderers who have not received training earlier are given one-day training on e-GP. For training related queries registered tederers may contact at 01759945853 or 01678625336 at CPTU.

IMF team appreciates monitoring, evaluation, public procurement activities

A five-member team of International Monitoring Fund (IMF) met Md Mofizul Islam, Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning, at his Conference Room on 30 September 2018.

During the two-hour meeting the IMF team was informed of various functions of IME Division including public procurement, Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) Software and implementation monitoring of projects.

The IMF team appreciated the progress and reforms in public procurement and monitoring and evaluation activities of IMED.

The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) is an office under IMED that monitors and regulates implementation of Public Procurement Act 2006 and Public Procurement Rules 2008.

Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain and other officials of IMED were present in the meeting.

DIMAPPP implementation progress satisfactory

The Third Review of World Bank Implementation Support Mission has found progress of DIMAPPP implementation satisfactory.

The outgoing Secretary, IME Division, Md Mofizul Islam, opened the kick-off meeting of the World Bank Mission at the conference room of CPTU.

The new Secretary-in Charge, IME Division, Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah, ndc, presided over the wrap-up meeting at CPTU on 4 December 2018. Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain, Practice Manager of World Bank Ms. Almas Arisoy, Task Team Leader of DIMAPPP Dr Zafrul Islam were present in the meeting.

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The draft Aide Memoire of the Third Review of DIMAPPP implementation by CPTU was shared earlier. Upon detailed discussion on the draft for finalization it was agreed that the progress of implementation was satisfactory.

DIMAPPP Component directors, IMED and WB officials, representatives of 32 selected public sector organizations and consultants attended the meeting. The fourth Review meeting is scheduled for May 2019.

The Secretary-in Charge requested all to work sincerely to implement the project on schedule.

'Study of project management must include procurement'

The study and practices of project management, among other issues, need to address procurement. If it is in the public sector having idea and knowledge about public procurement is a must.

Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain made such observation during his interactions with a group of MBA students of Jahangirnagar University at CPTU on August 16, 2018.

The students came to CPTU as part of their project management exposure visit. Director (Coordination & Training) Shish Haider Chowdhury moderated the session.

The DG, CPTU briefed them on the importance of knowing public procurement in the process of project management. Senior System Analyst Md Mosharraf Hussain made a presentation on the e-GP system which is being implemented by CPTU while Senior Communications Consultant Md Shafiul Alam spoke on the openness of the government and disclosure of relevant information on public procurement.

Planning Minister gives away certificates in IMED training

On August 9, 2018, Hon. Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal FCA MP graced as chief guest the closing ceremony of a training programme organized by the IME Division at its conference room.

A total of 23 officers of the Cabinet Division participated in the three-day training titled, "Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation".

On the last day there were two sessions relating to public procurement. Director General of CPTU and Additional Secretary Md Faruque Hossain conducted a session on reforms, digitization and management aspects of public procurement.

Director (Coordination & Training) Shish Haider Chowdhury took another one on procedures of public procurement. Public procurement entails a major portion in project implementation and management.

At the concluding ceremony, Hon. Planning Minister was present in the afternoon as the chief guest. Secretary, IME Division, Md Mofizul Islam, presided over the concluding session. The Secretary expressed his gratitude to the Minster for his first-ever presence at any event at the IME Division.

Directors General of various sectors of the IME Division and officers were present on the occasion.

The Planning Minister said, "Activities of IMED are associated with my activities. Project processing, procurement and other issues have taught here. I hope you would utilize the knowledge you (Cabinet Division officers) acquired from here in the last three days."

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Faizullah attended the National Defence Course in Bangladesh National Defence College and obtained Masters on Security Studies from Bangladesh University of Professionals. He also enrolled in higher studies courses in Japan and the Netherlands. He also served as the Commercial Counselor at Bangladesh Embassy in Japan. Besides, he worked as Alternative Director on behalf of Bangladesh government in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Faizullah served Economic Relations Division before taking over as the Chairman, Petrobangla. He attended many training courses, workshops and presented papers as keynote speaker at home and abroad.

Secretary in Charge of IME Division

Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah, ndc, has been made Secretary in Charge at the IME Division, Ministry of Planning. Before this, he worked as Chairman of Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla). The Secretary-in Charge of IME Division assumed office on 29 November 2018.

The immediate-past Secretary, IME Division, Md Mofizul Islam, has been made Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

The newly-appointed Secretary in Charge, Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah, ndc, held the position of chairman of boards of directors of four companies and also the position of member, board of directors of four other companies in the energy sector since January 2017.

He is a member of 1984 batch of the BCS Administration Cadre. During his long career in Civil Service, Faizullah served in the field of administration, diplomatic mission and different ministries/divisions.

Faizullah rendered services as Commercial Counselor at Bangladesh Embassy in Japan for five years. He also worked as Director (Administrator and Finance) at Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

In the field administration, he worked as Deputy Commissioner of Barguna, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Brahmanbaria and the UNO of Sitakunda in Chittagong.

He achieved B.Sc. (Hons) and M.Sc. degree in Soil Science from the University of Dhaka (DU).

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Happy New Year 2019

From the editor

Turning CPTU into an Authority

As yet another year is waning into the womb of oblivion CPTU wishes all concerned a happy English new year 2019.

Over the year 2018 there have been some important developments in the domain of public procurement in Bangladesh.

With a view to infusing more dynamism into its activities and empowerment in the wake of growing diversity and volume of public procurement and its digitization, the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) is expected to be made an authority called Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA).

A draft of BPPA Act has been prepared and is now under official process to be finally placed in Parliament hopefully in early 2019. A project titled Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement (DIMAPPP) is being implemented with support from World Bank.

Under the project e-GP is being enhanced. In 2018, the provision for procurement of any threshold was introduced in e-GP. Contract Management System was developed and is now to be in practice. Necessary preparations for introducing International Tenders, Intellectual and professional Services in e-GP were taken up. ITC-ILO has been engaged for implementing large-scale training and professionalization in public procurement.

Steps are underway to achieve SDG targets in public procurement. Citizen engagement and translation of STDs into Bangla have been initiated. A Citizen Portal is also being developed at CPTU to display procurement data for greater openness and hearing voice of the citizens. Disposal policy, reverse auction etc. will be incorporated in the law to be amended.

Implementation of the all above is expected to ensure sustainable public procurement in Bangladesh despite the facts that there are challenges too.

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