**WTO Regional Workshop on the GPA 2012 for the AsiaN REGION**

**Seoul (TBC), Republic of Korea**

**12 - 14 September 2023**

**Draft Programme**

The purpose of the Workshop is to provide a forum for both trade and procurement experts from the Asian region to exchange experience and views on the international trade and government procurement nexus. The main objectives of the Workshop are: (i) to familiarize participants with the GPA 2012 and related WTO activities on government procurement, with a focus on such GPA 2012 features as trade opening, good governance, and economic and sustainable development; (ii) to elaborate on the process and the benefits and costs of accession to the GPA 2012; and (iii) to explore the interaction between the GPA 2012 and bilateral / regional free trade agreements in the Asian region.

The programme adopts an interactive approach with embedded breakout sessions to encourage consideration of practical issues, networking, and the exchange of relevant experiences.

Participants are encouraged to come prepared, where possible, to contribute to the workshop especially during the breakout sessions.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Tuesday, 12 September 2023**

**08:30 Registration**

**SESSION 1: Opening**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | 1.1 Opening remarks | Public Procurement Service (PPS), Republic of Korea  WTO Secretariat |
| 09:15 – 09:30 | 1.2 Participant introductions and objectives | Workshop participants |

**SESSION 2: Policies underlying the GPA 2012 and the global and regional context**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | 2.1 Government procurement as a tool to promote sustainable development and economic performance: Recent trends and developments in Asia | Invited regional expert |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | 2.2 The GPA 2012: Global policy context, trade dimension, objectives, key principles, and policy considerations for developing economies | WTO Secretariat |
| 10:30 – 10:40 | 2.3 General discussion | |

**10:40 – 11:00 Break**

**SESSION 3a: Main commitments and flexibilities, and implementation, of the GPA 2012**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | 3.1 Introduction to the GPA 2012: Main substantive and procedural commitments and built-in flexibilities *(Walk-through of the text of the GPA 2012)* | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:30– 12:00 | 3.2 The 2011 UNCITRAL Model Law: A useful guide to implementing the GPA 2012 domestically | UNCITRAL |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | 3.3 General discussion | |

**12:15– 13:45 Lunch Break**

**SESSION 3a: Main commitments and flexibilities, and implementation, of the GPA 2012 (cont'd)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:45 – 14:30 | 3.4 The future shape of the GPA 2012: A look at recent regional legal reforms and innovations in Korea and beyond | Host country representative,  Workshop participant country representative,  Invited regional expert |

**SESSION 3b: The rules of the GPA 2012 as a requirement (GPA Parties) or best international practices benchmark (non-GPA Party WTO Members): The situation in Asia – *Breakout session***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | 3.5 National and regional government procurement legal frameworks and practice: A comparative review vis-à-vis the rules of the GPA 2012 | Workshop participants |

**16:00 – 16:30 Break**

**SESSION 3c: The GPA 2012 and specific government procurement policies**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 16:30 – 16:45 | 3.6 SMEs: Relevant GPA 2012 rules and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement | WTO Secretariat |
| 16:45– 17:00 | 3.7 Sustainable procurement: Relevant GPA 2012 rules and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement | WTO Secretariat |
| 17:00– 17:15 | 3.8 General discussion | |

**Wednesday, 13 September 2023**

**SESSION 5: Scope and coverage of the GPA 2012, potential market access benefits and national experience of the Republic of Korea**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | 5.1 Market access opportunities under, and scope and coverage of, the GPA 2012: Use of the e-GPA tool as a market access information resource (<https://e-gpa.wto.org/>) | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:30 – 09:40 | 5.2 General discussion |  |

**09:40 – 10:00 Break**

**SESSION 6: The GPA 2012 and good governance in government procurement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | 6.1 Good governance in Asia's government procurement systems: Current challenges and opportunities | Invited regional expert |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | 6.2 Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market: More/better value for money | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | 6.3 Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market: The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption | WTO Secretariat |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | 6.4 General discussion | |

**12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break**

**SESSION 7: Enforcement of the GPA 2012: WTO dispute settlement mechanism and the domestic review procedures under the GPA 2012**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 13:30 – 13:40 | 7.1 Securing adherence to the GPA 2012 through the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU): WTO intergovernmental dispute settlement | WTO Secretariat |
| 13:40 – 14:10 | 7.2 Securing adherence to the GPA 2012 at the domestic level: Domestic review procedures | WTO Secretariat |
| 14:10 – 14:30 | 7.3 General discussion |  |

**14:30 – 15:00 Break**

**SESSION 8: Applying the rules of the GPA 2012: A practical exercise – *Breakout session***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 15:00 – 16:30 | 8.1 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 rules and their implementation – ***breakout session*** | Workshop participants |

**Thursday, 14 September 2023**

**SESSION 9a: Observership and accession to the GPA 2012**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | 9.1 Observer status in the WTO Committee on Government Procurement: Benefits and procedure | WTO Secretariat |
| 09:15 – 10:00 | 9.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: Benefits and challenges, the accession procedure and ongoing accession negotiations | WTO Secretariat |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | 9.3 Accession to the GPA 2012: Policy considerations for Asian developing economies and prospects | Invited regional expert |
| 10:20 – 10:30 | 9.4 General discussion |  |

**Session 9a: Observersip and accession to the GPA 2012 (cont'd)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 10:30 – 10:40 | 9.5 Availability of technical assistance from the WTO Secretariat | WTO Secretariat |
| 10:40 – 11:00 | 9.6 Current work and focus of the EBRD, and its GPA 2012 TA facility | EBRD |

**11:00 – 11:30 Break**

**SESSION 9b: Market access negotiation covering government procurement: A practical exercise: *Breakout session***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | 9.6 Group exercise on market access negotiation under the GPA 2012/in an FTA context | Workshop participants |

**13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break**

**SESSION 10:** **Significance of the GPA 2012 in the context of FTA negotiations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | 10.1 The GPA 2012 as a template for bilateral and regional free trade agreements, with a specific focus on Asia | WTO Secretariat |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | 10.2 The treatment of government procurement in regional and bilateral free trade agreements: Recent developments in Asia | Host country representative negotiator,  Workshop participants |
| 15:30 – 15:40 | 10.3 General discussion | |

**15:40 – 16:00 Break**

**SESSION 11: Concluding session**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Subject** | **Speaker** |
| 16:00 – 16:20 | 11.1 Summary observations and main take-aways from the Workshop | Invited regional expert |
| 16:20 – 16:40 | 11.2 Participants' evaluation of the Workshop, feedback and comments | Workshop participants |
| 16:40 – 17:00 | 11.3 Closing remarks | Public Procurement Service,  Republic of Korea,  WTO Secretariat |

**17:00 CLOSE**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**