

Meeting on Promoting Capacity-Building in PPPs

“PPP CENTER: BRIDGING THE GAP IN PPP KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS”

Organized by PPP Forum in cooperation with the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships

Venue: Fulbright & Jaworski International LLP, 85 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AE

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14 September 2009

9:30 am – 17.00 pm

Background information

There are various initiatives currently being undertaken to develop training on PPPs. For example, under the auspices of the UNECE Team of Specialists, a toolkit on how to do PPPs is being elaborated and will be implemented in national campaigns, while the World bank is elaborating a Global library of information on PPPs. Products such as these are much in demand from governments. However given the pace of innovation and change in the PPP market, once completed these materials can become quickly outdated. Consideration should therefore be given urgently to ways and means of sustaining these initiatives by keeping the materials up to date and ensuring their integration in national PPP capacity building programmes. In this regard it was agreed by an inter-regional meeting (Bangkok, February 2009) of the UN Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to establish a centre to coordinate research education and training activities in the area of PPPs. It is proposed that the PPP Centre would:

1. develop and maintain a portfolio of case study materials for the various PPP training initiatives;
2. develop a dialogue with governments about their needs in the area of PPPs, and work with the appropriate agencies to ensure that these needs are met;
3. interface with the private sector concessionaires and developers, as well as IFIs to assist governments with putting in place all the elements for the development of successful PPP programmes;
4. promote the shared interests of the PPP sector;
5. establish an academic network of institutions and researchers interested in PPPs, and through this network ensure that PPP materials are kept up to date.

The PPP Centre would be a unique network bringing together the private sector, PPP Units, policy makers and researchers meeting on a regular basis. The existing international structures (for example UNECE Team of Specialists on PPPs) cannot bring these people together frequently enough and there is perceived to be a demand for more frequent contacts and structured dialogue between governments and the private sector. It is suggested that the PPP Centre would be hosted by the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, Switzerland and would be financed by the private sector, with a total annual budget of around € 250,000, financed mainly by membership fees from major organizations interested in PPPs.

Items to be discussed

1. Discussion on proposal to establish a PPP Centre: objective, demand and outcomes
2. UNECE as a potential host organization for the Center
3. Overview of the UNECE PPP capacity-building programme and mutual added value to set up a Center under the UNECE
4. Discussion on the “Prospects for emerging market PPPs in the current economic climate”
5. Discussion on information exchanges and support from PPP clubs and private companies
6. Financial issues of running the PPP Center