

ANNUAL REPORT: Procurement Capacity Development Centre (PCDC)¹

Main Achievements of PCDC in 2011:

- Expanded the knowledge content and global reach of the PCDC online knowledge repository.
- Collaborated with OECD DAC Procurement Task Force to publish [A Practical Guide to Transforming Procurement Systems](#) for the High Level Forum in Busan.
- Developed and designed a web-based application ('App') for procurement capacity development.
- Successfully launched the on line Procurement Capacity Development Discussion Forum with over 40 active topics during 2011.
- Delivered on demand-driven country support on procurement capacity development issues.
- Integrated procurement capacity development into sectors as well as with other priority government functions.
- Participated actively in global public procurement policy discussions and forums with a focus on capacity development and knowledge management.

PCDC Website

The UN PCDC website (www.unpcdc.org) is dedicated to sharing knowledge on improving public procurement in the developing world. The site offers methodologies, toolkits, documents, publications and links within a number of key focus areas such as capacity assessments, anti-corruption and procurement practices.

During 2011 the website has made significant progress, both in terms of the quality and scope of the public good that is offered and in terms of its user base. The website saw a range of key enhancements to its functionality, together with an increase in the amount of knowledge resources (which currently include over 1,100 research documents, websites, policy papers toolkits, guidance notes and more). As of December 10, 2011 the PCDC website has had over 16,000 visits in 2011 from more than 10,000 people.

SELECTED USER STATISTICS: www.unpcdc.org		
Parameter	November 2010	November 2011
Number of Visits	1,148	2,204
People visiting	868	1,447
Number of pages on unpcdc.org viewed	2,784	6,831

¹ PCDC is hosted by the Capacity Development Group in the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy as a unit under its National Implementation Capacities service area. UNDP's response is to demand capacity development for the global financial/economic crisis, climate change adaptation, crisis prevention and recovery, as well as international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals and the Aid Effectiveness agenda.

A major review of the website got underway in July 2010 based on the experiences with the PCDC website since its launch in 2008 and the increase in its reach and number of active users. The aim was to build on its strengths and dramatically improve its value for end users.

PCDC has expanded its reach through enhanced use of social media and the [PCDC twitter account](#) has reached more than 370 followers in a few months. The new website will include even stronger integration of social media tools.

Building on the two strongpoints of the website – the knowledge repository and the online forum – PCDC realized that the value-add could be strengthened by enhancing the practitioner-oriented guidance for procurement capacity development. Work has been undertaken throughout the latter half of 2011 to develop a brand new website that strengthens the existing service offering, but more importantly introduces the concept of web applications or ‘Apps’ containing step-by-step guidance for developing capacities for public procurement. The new

website will have a soft launch at the end of December 2011 so that users can test and comment on the new Apps before a formal launch in 2012.

The online guide or ‘App’ is based on the OECD/DAC publication [A Practical Guide to Transforming Procurement Systems](#) (2011) and PCDC’s own [Public Procurement Capacity Development Guide](#) (2010). It will provide procurement practitioners, policy makers, advisors and other stakeholders involved in a procurement transformation with guidance, tools and templates. Further, utilizing the strengths of the online format, the application content will be dynamic and evolving based on experiences from use on the ground.

Moreover, the guide will contain a series of tools that can be collected based on the needs of the user and downloaded or shared with other stakeholders. The online guide can be seen in the image here.

Further to the website developments, PCDC is designing a mobile web based ‘App’ which will extend its reach beyond the office and get a stronger field presence through the use of smart phones and tablets. Therefore a platform-independent mobile version of the website will launch during the first quarter of 2012.



Online Forum on Public Procurement

In 2010 a PCDC user survey revealed that there was a strong interest in the user base in having an online forum for discussion and sharing of experience and information. This was implemented and was launched in January 2011. Since then approximately 100 users have signed up as active members of the forum. The combined number of views on the more than 140 forum posts has surpassed 24,000 since the launch of the [forum](#).

Based on the experiences utilizing the forum it was decided to take the opportunity of the reworking of the PCDC website to change the forum platform to one that offers better integration with the website's content management system and will ensure the smooth functioning of the forum going forward. The new forum platform will launch with the rest of the new PCDC website in early 2012.

Advisory Support

During 2011 PCDC, as part of the National Implementation Capacities service area in UNDP's Capacity Development Group, has supported or directly undertaken advisory support for capacity development on the ground in several countries:

- Undertook capacity diagnostic and development of capacity development plan for Global Fund Sub-Recipients in Zimbabwe;
- Undertook capacity diagnostic of climate change adaptation capacities among local government institutions in Mozambique in support of GEF project formulation (jointly with the Capacity Development Practice in UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa);
- Undertook capacity assessment of AUC partnership management capacities (jointly with the Capacity Development Practice in UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa);
- Facilitated the finalization of a Capacity Development Plan in Zambia and documented the process and lessons learned;
- Developed and piloted an approach in Burkina Faso for diagnosing and developing the capacities for accessing Climate Change financing, including; programming; procurement; financial management; and monitoring & evaluation. This approach was adapted in Lao PDR and other countries;
- Supported a presentation as part of the Anti-Corruption and Procurement training for Ministry of Justice in Romania;
- Facilitated support to the Public Procurement Office in Serbia in order to assess, evaluate and provide recommendations for improvements of the Public Procurement Certification process;

Common for the advisory support is the effort to link implementation and public procurement capacity development with broader initiatives at sector level (e.g. health and climate change) or with other cross-cutting reform initiatives

(Financial Management Anti-Corruption). Strengthening links between procurement and broader public sector reform efforts, either at sector level or within centre of government functions, is a priority for PCDC for 2012.

Knowledge Products

During 2011 PCDC managed the preparation of the OECD/DAC publication [A Practical Guide to Transforming Procurement Systems](#) as support to the Task Force on Procurement.



The publication covers all the steps of the capacity development process in public procurement: Stakeholder engagement and assessment; strategic planning; implementation; monitoring; and evaluation. It provides sample worksheets and practical advice on capacity development for procurement. The practical guide was part of the OECD/DAC Task Force on Procurement's submission to the 4th High Level Forum (HLF-4) on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea.

In support of the knowledge-base on the increasingly important area of public procurement in fragile states, PCDC published the discussion paper [Applying the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations to Strengthen and Transform Public Procurement Systems](#). PCDC intends to continue with a series of

thematic discussion papers during 2012. The next paper is currently under preparation and will deal with Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP).

In addition PCDC is currently collaborating to develop comprehensive guidance on the integration of procurement capacity development with; programming; financial management; risk management; supply chain management and Monitoring and evaluation. This will build on case material compiled from country experiences and good practice.

Within UNDP PCDC has provided cross-practice input to the publication 'Practitioner's Guide: Capacity Assessment of Anti-Corruption Agencies' from UNDP's Democratic Governance Group.

Acknowledgements

The significant achievements of 2011 have been made possible due to; a) the collaboration with the OECD DAC Procurement Task Force and members of the working group; b) the support of Danida and AusAID and the Government of Germany; c) the active engagement by country partners; d) collaboration within UNDP; new partnerships that are currently being put in place; and e) most importantly the thousands of active users of PCDC.

PCDC plans for 2012

- Launch of the mobile website, including the web application ('App') providing practice-oriented guidance on procurement capacity development.
- Continued development of PCDC's knowledge management and online offer.
- Piloting and testing of the procurement capacity development guide.
- Piloting and testing of the capacity development of sector-based toolkits integrating public procurement.
- To identify other partners to develop additional toolkits with practical capacity development guidance and web applications in functional and technical areas that integrate public procurement, such as climate change financing.
- To further develop the discussion paper series.
- Meet demand for advisory support and knowledge services for procurement and other related functional areas.