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Consultative Workshop on Public Procurement Certification Module

8th June, 2017

Karachi

Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (SPPRA) in collaboration with the World Bank organized a consultative workshop on Public Procurement Certification Modules on 8th June, 2017 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi. The Agenda of the Workshop enclosed as **(Annexure-A)**.

The workshop was attended by the following Universities/Institutes:

S. No.	Universities
1.	Representatives from IBA Karachi
2.	Representatives from IBA Sukkur
3.	Representative from Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur
4.	Representative from NED University
5.	Representative from University of Sindh
6.	Representatives from Civil Services Academy
7.	Representative from Pakistan Institute of Management

The workshop was started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.

Mr. Akhter Hussain Bugti, Managing Director, SPPRA welcomed the participants and presented brief background & functions of the Authority. He, while highlighting the salient features of National Training Strategy (NPS) developed by Federal PPRA, apprised that Capacity Building of the Procuring Agencies and suppliers is one of the Goals of NPS. To achieve this goal PPRA in collaboration with World Bank has conducted Training Need Assessment and developed a National Training Strategy for public procurement in Pakistan, which has been adopted by the Sindh PPRA. He added that the strategic goal of this strategy is to “improve public procurement process to ensure maximum, effective and transparent utilization of public exchequer”. He informed that SPPRA has hired services of a consulting firm for development of procurement certification modules, which has developed the outline of the course. As these courses are to be taught through universities and institutes, therefore, it was imperative to discuss the course outline with the universities and institutes, to obtain their valuable input on the outlines, hence, this workshop has been organized. He further informed that only those staff would be allowed to carry out public procurement and included in the procurement and consultant selection committees who have attained mandatory trainings. The detailed presentation is enclosed as **(Annexure-B)**

Ms. Uzma Sadaf, Senior Procurement Specialist, World Bank briefly discussed the agenda of the day and shared her views on Public Procurement Overview. She communicated that agenda of bank is to be ensure that systems within the government should be strong and robust enough so that no more interference of procurement professionals from bank is required. She emphasized that South Asian countries don't have a procurement cadre and the second best option is that procurement is done by certified people. She also stated that there is no mandatory certification requirement in entire South Asia. She said that though all PPRAs are willing to professionalize

public procurement, however, Sindh has taken a solid step towards it by issuing the mandatory certification notification and organizing this consultative workshop with institutes to decide as to how to move ahead. While highlighting the importance of public procurement through certified professionals, she said that the developing countries spend around 12-15% of their GDP on public procurements. In 2015 Pakistan's GDP was US \$ 271 billion and an improved performance in public procurement by even 5% will have savings of US \$ 1.60 billion, which is more than the Bank's largest funded contract Tarbela Dam at a cost of US \$ 1 billion. She appreciated that Sindh has already moved towards the mandatory certification by a notification that public procurement professionals cannot carry out public procurement without the certification from 1st of November 2017. She further dilated that the target is challenging but doable. Her detailed presentation is at (**Annexure-C**).

Mr. Abbas Ali, Partner EY briefed about the role of EY's existing training strategy i.e. designing modules reviewing and updating existing regulations and bidding documents, develop contract management guidelines on blacklisting of suppliers as per existing rules. He conveyed the outline of training strategy which included Training Approach, Training Methodology, Training Curriculum, Training Plans and Training Delivery and Training Evaluation and Sustainability. Training modules would cover Procurement Governance, Procurement skills, and the procurement cycle and it would cover goods/works/services and consultancy. The handouts of training outline were shared with institutes and any suggestions were invited. EY's Presentation and the outline of the certification training are enclosed at (**Annexure-D & E**).

Forum was open for discussions; a healthy Q & A session was observed.

The following questions were raised by institutions

Sukkur IBA

- ▶ Duration of Programme? To this Ms Uzma Sadaf responded that it would be five days and at least for two quarters
- ▶ Three levels? How will the basic, intermediate and advance be decided? To this MD SPPRA responded that this depends upon the level of understanding and there would be a common certification and MoU with institutes. Ms Uzma added to this that universities may test this at the time of admission with a simple questionnaire.

Civil Services Academy

- ▶ Will there be three modules or a single module for training? To this Mr Ali Raza Hanjra responded that the module would be single however, it would vary in complexity covering all cadres.

NED

- ▶ There is confusion over levels. As some individuals would be involved in planning and forecasting and some would be involved at strategic level. How are we going to cater them all? To This Ms Uzma Sadaf responded that there is a separate half day for BPS 20 and above cadre

Sindh University

- ▶ Would there be an examination body? To this Ms Uzma Sadaf responded that Universities/Institutes would act as the examining body
- ▶ Further she added that Universities/Institutes are open to tilt the curriculum and modify it.

There was a 5 Minutes session on Resources and Cost and input was sought from all invited universities. Following was the input:

NED

- ▶ Examination methodology should be based on MCQS.
- ▶ An agreed upon percentage of marks i.e 70% for certificate of competence and if below 70% a certificate of participation should be awarded.
- ▶ Cost should be kept low and we would suggest PKR 15,000 per person.

Sindh University

- ▶ We do agree and extend our cooperation.
- ▶ Cost should be PKR 25,000 per person (Would include refreshment, stationery and hand book).

IBA Karachi

- ▶ We have ample resources and have conducted similar training with PPRA
- ▶ We suggest that the exam should be centralized, we can use NTS or any similar system
- ▶ The cost should be above PKR 25,000 per person

IBA Sukkur

- ▶ We understand that quality should matter and not the cost.
- ▶ We understand that examinations should be divided into two categories i.e. Knowledge based and skill based.
- ▶ Cost should be PKR 50,000 per person(includes boarding facilities)

Civil Services Academy

- ▶ We can do it for a low cost and can do it for free too.

PIM

- ▶ We agree on the suggestion of NTS
- ▶ Cost should be PKR 25,000 per person

Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur

- ▶ We are ready to go on lower cost i.e. 4,000 per person

Concluding Remarks

The Managing Director, Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, while concluding the session, highlighted the importance of the procurement certification course in improving the public procurements in the Province. He said that as the procurement certification is a new initiative, therefore, the procuring agencies will have budgetary constraints during the current financial year. He emphasized on the need to keep the certification fee as low as possible during the current financial year keeping in view the budgetary constraints of the procuring entities.

The session was concluded with a vote of thanks by MD, SPPRA.