



The International Green Purchasing Network 2021 Annual Meeting Report

Date: 25th December 2021, 16:00-19:00 (GMT+8); 9:00-12:00(CEST)

Venue: ZOOM

1. Kick Off

- The webinar kicked off moderated by Ms. ZHANG Xiaodan, warmed up with a round self-introduction by the participants.

2. Welcome Remarks

(1) Mr. CHEN Yanping:

(Chair of the IGPN, used to be the former Director General of Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection; the first Chairman of the Board of China Environmental United Certification Centre; the former Director General of MEE Organs Service Centre and deputy Director General of MEE General Affairs Office, in charge of MEE government procurement. during the leadership, CEC joined in GEN and was invited to be a member of IGPN Advisory)

- Illustrate the Sustainable consumption and green procurement are important means to promote sustainable development, and also as important tools to promote global carbon reduction and carbon integration, bio-diversity loss and pollution abatement.
- Brief introduce the annual work output of the IGPN Secretariat, pointed out that the work of IGPN in 2021 is more standard, proactive, and productive.
- Expect to discuss in-depth and exchanges views opinions on the development of next year, contribute to the implementation of green procurement practices in various countries.

(2) Mr. Mark Hidson:

(Vice chair of IGPN, joined ICLEI – Local Government for Sustainability in 2003; A member of ICLEI Europe's Board of Directors and responsible for ICLEI's Sustainable Economy and Procurement work; Co-lead of the United Nations One Planet Network on Sustainable Public Procurement. oversees ICLEI's Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement OECD, the Procura+ European Sustainable Procurement Network and ICLEI's sustainable procurement conference series – Eco Procura).

- Introduced the ICLEI- local governments for sustainability has long been collaborated with the IGPN advancing green purchasing agenda since it started.
- Explained that GPNs, IGPN and networks go beyond of raising awareness, not only identify the green procurement but also support the implement. Stated that the IGPN plays key role in sharing practices, bringing people together, collaboration to research and pilot practices.
- At present, toward the move from SCP to circular economy, sustainable procurement should not be as

an idle, should have institutional with standard system and practice and implementation. With changes over past 10 years, the role of placing an order has changed to a strategy function which strategic sourcing, operation, management is as the 3 elements. On this basis, it is time to develop practical tools to go in-depth and to move level down, this is the difference with the previous.

- Make example for US, executive order to capitalize clean energy through federal procurement to achieve carbon neutrally target, EU also get sustainable products initiative legislation next year, to set mandatory procurement target of sustainable products. This need the network to help the capacity and this is right the IGPN and GPNs good at.

3. Session 1: Opening and introduction

(1) Progress of SPP implementation: Results of the SDG12.7.1 First data collection exercise

Mr. Farid Yaker, Programme officer, Economy Division, UNEP

- Brief introduction of the role of UNEP as custodian for the SDGs, the methodology for measuring progress on SDG indicator 12.7.1 for SPP, has been officially reclassified as Tier II – meaning that countries can now move towards measuring progress with an agreed indicator and metric.
- The SDG 12.7.1 index measures the level of SPP implementation in a single country, reporting against SDG 12.7.1 will be useful for government agencies wishing to advance their SPP actions and policies- whether it be beginning countries or more advanced ones.
- Brief explain the metric of SPP 12.7.1 methodology and the formula and scoring system, classification of governments into 5 different groups: Advanced implementation (score higher than 4); Upper-intermediate implementation (score 3 to 4); Lower-intermediate implementation (score 2 to 3); Low-level implementation (score 1 to 2); Insufficient data or implementation (score below 1).
- Introduce the timeline of SDG12.7.1 data collection exercise process started from October 2020 to February 2021. The outcomes of the data collection are as follows:
 - 40 submissions received from national governments; 39 submissions received from subnational governments;
 - From the 40-participating national/federal governments, 33 were deemed compliant with the proposed assessment. Upper-intermediate implementation is 9, Lower-intermediate implementation is 14, Low-level implementation is 10 countries.
 - Illustrated the outcome in Asia pacific region in terms of legal framework, procurement practitioners, SPP criteria, monitoring of SPP, and the share of SPP. Briefly speaking the average score in Asia pacific is 2.30, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia and New Zealand are the participating countries.

(2) Sustainable Public Procurement of Plastics

Dr. Mervyn Jones, Senior advisor, Circular Economy, Netherland Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

- Introduce the background of the guideline: Plastics was adopted as theme across the One Planet network for 2020-2021. In support of the 4th UN Environment Assembly Resolution 6 on Marine litter and microplastics, the One Planet Network and SPP program committed to provide guidance on addressing plastic packaging in the different sectors and areas covered by its programmes in support of

the ambitious 2025 targets to work to eliminate the plastic.

- Introduce the plastic loop under the circular economy logic, to use public procurement as a driver to accelerate the plastic loop, that is a) avoid plastic where possible(reduce) or feasible to reuse model; b) influence plastics procured by using criteria at recyclable; c) encourage market to recycle which aim to close the plastic loop; d) plastic packaging is reused or recycled.
- To address the challenge faced by the procurement, the guidance focuses on using procurement as a strategic rather than just a purchasing function by adopting 3 specific principles, buy less, buy better, and using longer.
- The guideline explains the pre-tender actions and tender actions, in terms of pre-tender actions, that is Eliminate-use of problematic and unnecessary plastic in all purchases; Reduce-overall consumption and associated plastics; Reuse – switch from single use to reuse models where possible; in terms of tender actions, market engagements, criteria, standard and labels
- It uses a picture of different geographic logos ensure the awareness of impact along the plastic supply chain, and support the strategic procurement is approach rather than a criteria-led approach.

(3) Mainstream of International Green Purchasing Network Annual Work

Ms. WANG Jing, the IGPN Secretariat

- Introduce the IGPN annual work in terms of the role of IGPN and the secretariat, the annual plan, the output and next year plan;
- Explain the role as the secretariat by 4C (communicator, connector, contributor, coordinator) to achieve the annual target of IGPN, that is alive, active and action;
- Brief introduce the annual output from the operation rules, information dissemination, collaboration activities respectively;
- Use 3 points to summarise the annual work, a) demand, needs or expectation of green purchasing or procurement exists regionally; b) communication is the essential part of the network building which will carry forward; c) diversity or attractive activities need to be planed for next year development;
- In term of development, several questions come up such as the priority, character, project, fund and so on, and will be follow up to discussion.

(4) Q+A

- Q1 from Mr. Felix Lam of Green council: regarding the indicator, from the outcome, do you think which part could be pay more attention?

Feedback from Mr. Farid: considering the limit numbers are reported, and few countries are missed, not all the country in the world involved in. focus more on policy rather than measuring the practice, few countries have such data; consoled data to track progress is till the problem, in the future will help the countries to facilitate the measures and improve the performance. In private sector, Korea make example on that to measure the performance in private sector.

- Q2 from Mr. Chaoyoid of Thai SCP Network: how do you see green products and service, how do you think green infrastructure in this region?

Feedback from Mr. Farid: quick wins are still leading, works are lag behind, at the carbon reduction background, which receive more attention, believe the progress will work, and now government are realise this, and in the 1 or 2 years this will be sort out.

- Q3 from Mr. Felix Lam of Green council: how do you think the substitute have high carbon footprints when phasing out single use plastic?

Feedback from Dr. Mervyn: lots of aspects are balanced during the SPP practice, the key to plastics is make sure the alternatives have not bad impact to the environment. How to avoid the single use plastic at the first place, make an example in UK, for the glass bottle replaced the plastics at least use 20 times. Reaffirmed that it should look the green purchasing more strategically.

4. Session 2: Opening and introduction

(1) Recent activities and outcomes

Mr. Gakuji FUKATSU, Executive Director, GPN Japan

- Brief introduce the GPN Japan, established in 1996 to promote ideas and practices of green purchasing in Japan, with an initiative of Japanese Ministry of the Environment, more than thousands of members, including six local networks across the country and 47 directors and 12 advisors;
- Seminars and workshops are offered by GPN Japan as learning opportunities, focusing on SDGs, supply chain risk management, renewable energy procurement, GPP implementation this year;
- Dissemination and implementation opportunities include awarding the best practices of green purchasing, and the award-winner's practices can be taken up by the media;
- The number of participants of seminars increased to 294 in 2021 from 232 in 2020; government policy toward carbon neutral makes the local authorities revise their contracting policy with a shift to renewable energy, GPN Japan provides consultation for them;
- Formulate online database of environmentally friendly products and services, the only members of GPN Japan post their product information on the database, and local governments refer to the database for their procurement.

(2) Key words of China Environmental Labelling and Green Purchasing

Mr. YAN Tao, Deputy General Manager, China Environmental United Certification Center, GPN China

- Brief introduce the milestones of China GPP practice, China Environmental Labelling program was initiated in 1994, GPP practice launched in 2006, CGPN-China Green Purchasing Network was formulated in 2008;
- From several statistics to illustrate the China CEL GPP progress, 109 China Environmental Labelling Product Criteria with more than 4000 manufacturers, CEL GPP purchasing scale in 2020 reached into \$12.53 billion;
- Illustrate 5 key messages of 2021:
 - Innovation: China EL Government Procurement Wins Annual Innovation Awards, this is the fifth time winning the award due to its great and continuous contributions to national government green procurement;

- Toward carbon neutrality: the first Carbon Neutral Certificate for furniture industry and hotel industry were issued;
- Enforcement implementation: China environmental labelling certification provide products group, which is almost 10095 Certificate with 4360 Enterprises; Pilot compulsively implement in Hainan, goes into large-scale event such as Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games and Paralympic Games;
- Performance focus: monitoring the environmental performance, make example for total VOCs reduction in office furniture;
- Collaboration: Co-leads of the One Planet Network SPP program, core member of Asia Pacific GPP Network, board member of Global Ecolabelling Network.

(3) TGNP: Activity and Progress

Dr. Chuttree Phurat, Senior Project Manager and Acting Director of Green Label and Environmental Label Unit, Thailand Environment Institute, GPN Thailand

- Brief introduce the background of GPP in Thailand. Green Label initiated in 1993, First pilot actions within Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in 2015, GPP included in national overarching policies; 1st GPP Promotion Plan (2008-2011), 2nd GPP Promotion Plan (2013-2016); 3rd GPP Promotion Plan: Integrated into National Action Plan by Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council.
- Recap the 2021 activities: Green Procurement Criteria approved by Pollution Control Board, including Brick and block, PVC pipe and Packaging; 1385 Products/ Services trade marks were registered; Revision of Green label criteria, for example, Recycle Plastic (TGL-01); Biodegradable and compostable; plastic (TGL-44); Plastic Packaging (TGL-105); Projects updated of “Analysis study on national green public procurement of selected countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and Bhutan); Comprehensive Analysis on Green Public Procurement (GPP) System of Thailand; Climate friendly product criteria development; Market readiness analysis to support GPP criterial development”.
- Next step: based on the 3rd GPP Promotion Plan 2022-2027, illustrated the plan in the perspective of Demand, Supply; System of Managing /Monitoring/Reporting/Evaluating and Measures/Rules/Regulations.

(4) GP Interventions for the Public and Private Sector

Ms. Maureen Grace Lebria, Programmes and Projects Director, Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, GPN the Philippines

- Introduced the 2021 capacity building for the government sector. In local level, continued support and on-demand training on GPP for DENR Central Office; In national level, supported by GIZ Advance SCP Project, expansion and mentoring on the implementation of the developed guidelines, roadmap, capacity building and expand products lists; In the private sector, campaigns were launched in the tourism sector and responsible consumerism.
- Explain the key points and campaign strategy include using data and examples, telling how to create awareness in the perspective of relatable concepts, using local or street language, and engaging content.

(5) Strengthening of Green Purchasing Networks

Mr. Asmadi Md, Council member of GPN Malaysia

- Introduce the insights from points and views of green purchasing network highlights and activities;
- Illustrate the challenges and barriers GPNs face in terms of unbalance developed, impact to change the society, long term plan to integrate to circular economy;
- Provide proposals such as 2-5 years' work plan; capacity building by transferring the strong experiences to the GPNs which lack of progress; and implement specific program to all GPNs, such as on-line shopping, GP award, Ecolabels and Green purchasing;
- Finally, bring the thought of "Certification and Training of Green Procurers Between IGPN Berhad and SIRIM QAS SDN BHD".

(6) Singapore's Green Procurement Programme Green Gov. Sg and Updates on Green Labelling

Ms. Jen Teo, Executive Director, Singapore Environment Council, GPN Singapore

- Kick off by reference the words from MOE which is "by including more sustainable requirements into tenders and actively sourcing for and developing more sustainable alternatives, buyers of goods and services can send a strong and clear message that sustainable procurement is the way forward. When more businesses buy sustainably, others within the supply chain would be encouraged to do so";
- Introduce the key program of Singapore 2030 green plan in terms of city in nature, sustainable living, energy reset, green economy, and resilient future;
- Under this background, introduce Green Gov. SG movement by its 3E strategic pillars, which is Excel in public ambitious targets, Enable a sustainable economy and green citizenry, Excite public officers to contribute sustainable activities; make examples of green GOV. SG movement set measures and targets to cut carbon emissions across public sector in this July; this Enabling Green Procurement Across Extensive Range of Green Label Products;
- Green Label Heroes Campaign, SGLS Marketing Campaign-Green Label Heroes, inspire consumers and businesses to choose Green Label, which is the only label that matters. Survey shows that 96% People in Singapore say they care about saving the planet and can help with their choices and actions; 92% People in Singapore will buy from companies that are environmentally compliant or take a positive stance on environmental issues.

(7) Promotion of Recycled Materials

Mr. Felix Lam, Head of sustainability, Green Council, GPN China Hongkong

- Brief introduction of the Green Council: GC is an environmental stewardship organisation established in 2000; and Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS) in 2000 to certify products that are environmentally preferable;
- Introduce the recycling policy and target in Hong Kong: Hong Kong municipal solid waste recovery rate has been decreased from about 50% to 30% since 2010, HKSAR Government announced "Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035" in February 2021 which setting out the vision of "Waste Reduction-Resources Circulation-Zero Landfill", Charging scheme on disposal of municipal solid waste will start in 2023, Government has also provided funds to support recycling value added chain covering processing, marketing and sales of recycled products made from recyclables.

- Illustrated the newly developed certification scheme of Recycled Content (type II) Certification in HK, the process, the logic and the benefits of this program. The benefits are including: a) Provide 3rd party verification of actual recycled content; b) Support market development of recycled products; c) Increase buyers' trust; d) Meet purchasing specifications; e) Improve product competitiveness; Avoid green washing.

(8) How does the new generation of TCO Certified help on sustainable IT procurement?

Mr. Nick LIU, Manager, Sustainable Purchaser Engagement, Asia Region, TCO development

- Through the potential sustainable risk IT products might bring illustrate that procurement has the power to influence the IT industry, and brief introduce three characters of TCO certified and its impacts of environmental and supply chain social responsibility, independent verification and Industry accountability;
- Illustrate the new TCO Certified generation 9 in terms of further up in the supply chain; System for safer chemicals expands from product to production; Expand from product to production; next step toward circular IT management,
- Introduce to use sustainability Performance Indicators (SPI) to help purchasers make more informed purchasing decisions and reduces the risk of being subject to greenwash.; help brand owners to measure their sustainability progress.

5. Discussion for 2022 IGPN development

Guiding questions on the topic of the function, challenge and role of GPNs to SPP:

- **What is the principle and character of the Green Purchasing Network? And why?**
- **What's the function and challenge of the GPN support the GPP implementation?**
- **When would be the best time to established the GPN if one country starts to launch the SPP/GPP action plan?**
- **How would the GPN interact with the Ecolabelling program?**
- **What will be the priorities of IGPN network development?**
- **How to motivate more to become IGPN members?**

(1) Mr. Augustine:

- the character and principle mostly stated and clear in the mission of IGPN unless add more, promote globally the development; share information and know-how; harmonize the efforts of Green Purchasing and the development of environmentally friendly products;
- Generally, since development of GPNs, some is very strong, part of government, or institution, yet some are individual, gaps do exist, challenges are facing is the linkage between strong and weak; the second point is that if there have standardization for GPN operation or activities, it will be helpful for the GPNs and their activities.

(2) Mr. Asmadi Md:

- Human capital, human capacity is very important, certify the procurers will be essential for where GPNs is



weak, especially for the carbon emission and the value measurement or certificate;

(3) Mr. Farid Yaker:

- Suggest to integrate the SDG 12.7.1 reporting into the IGPN development and stimulate more countries involving SPP/GPP monitoring exercise in the GPP/SPP implementation and continuing to training and exercises

6. Closing remarks presented by Ms. ZHANG Xiaodan

Firstly, impressed with progressing activities and practices, appreciated with insights and built our common understanding of the how green purchasing networks works, and how could the International Green Purchasing Network perform well in next year.

Secondly, introduced the next step of the IGPN, will provide more opportunities to members, meetings or webinars for the cases study of SPP tackling climate change, activities will be planned to attract more members for the network, pursue better collaborations with partners and networks.

Thirdly, give best wishes and greetings of new year.

Annex1: Participants List

Name	E-Mail address	Organization	Role in IGPN
CHEN Yanping	ypchen@mee.gov.cn	China Environmental United Certification Center	Chair
Mark Hidson	mark.hidson@iclei.org	Director of Global Sustainable Procurement Centre, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability	Vice Chair
ZHANG Xiaodan	zhangxd@mepcec.com	General manager, China Environmental United Certification Center;	Advisory board member
Yasushi UMEDA	umeda@race.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp	Chair, Green Purchasing Network Japan	Council member
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Asmadi Md Michele	asmadi.mdsaid@gmail.com michele@maverick-malaysia.com	Council member of GPN Malaysia GPN Malaysia	GPNS
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Linda W P Ho	lindaho@greencouncil.org	Chair, Green Council, GPN China Hongkong	GPNS
Felix Lam	felixlam@greencouncil.org	Head of sustainability, Green Council, GPN China Hongkong	GPNS
Nick LIU	nick.liu@tcodevelopment.com	Manager, Sustainable Purchaser Engagement, Asia Region, TCO development	Advisory board member
Farid Yaker	farid.yaker@unep.org	Programme officer, UNEP	Advisory board member
Vincent Teo	vincent.teo@sec.org.sg	Head of Eco Certifications from the National Environment Agency, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources	GPNS



INTERNATIONAL GREEN PURCHASING NETWORK

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Isabella LOH	isa.loh@sec.org.sg	Chair, Singapore Environment Council	GPNs
Chaiyod Bunyagidj	chaiyod.b@gmail.com	Thai Sustainable Consumption and Production Network	Advisory board member
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Annex2: Meeting Agenda

**The International Green Purchasing Network
Annual Meeting Agenda**

Date of meeting: December 15th 2021, 16:00-19:00 (GMT+8); 9:00-12:00(CET)

Place of meeting: Via [ZOOM](#)

<p align="center"><i>16:00-16:10 (9:00-9:10 CET)</i></p>	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. CHEN Yanping, Chair of the IGPN - Mr. Mark Hidson, Vice Chair of the IGPN, Director of Global Sustainable Procurement Centre, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability <p>Moderator: Ms. ZHANG Xiaodan, General manager, China Environmental United Certification Center, Advisory member of the IGPN</p>
<p align="center"><i>16:10-16:50 (9:10-9:50CET)</i></p>	<p>Session 1: Opening and introduction</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. ZHANG Xiaodan, General manager, China Environmental United Certification Center, Advisory member of the IGPN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress of SPP Implementation: Results of the SDG12.7.1 First Data Collection Exercise-15 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Farid Yaker, Programme officer, Economy Division, UNEP • Sustainable Public Procurement of Plastics-10 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Mervyn Jones, Senior advisor, Circular Economy, Netherland Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management • Mainstream of International Green Purchasing Network Annual Work-10min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. WANG Jing, Representative of the IGPN Secretariat <p>Q+A (5-10mins)</p>
Break	
<p align="center"><i>17:00-18:20 (10:00-11:20 CET)</i></p>	<p>Session 2: Sharing Progress among IGPN members</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Augustine Koh, Secretary General, Green Purchasing Network Malaysia, Council member of the IGPN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent activities and outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Gakuji FUKATSU, Executive Director, GPN Japan • Key words of China Environmental Labelling and Green Purchasing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. YAN Tao, Deputy General Manager, China Environmental United Certification Center, GPN China • TGPN: Activity and Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Chuttree Phurat, Senior Project Manager and Acting Director of Green Label and Environmental Label Unit, Thailand Environment Institute, GPN

<p><i>(8 mins each presentation)</i></p>	<p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP Interventions for the Public and Private Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Maureen Grace Lebria, Programmes and Projects Director, Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, GPN the Philippines • Strengthening of Green Purchasing Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Asmadi Md, Council member of GPN Malaysia • Singapore's Green Procurement Programme Green Gov. Sg and Updates on Green Labeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Jen Teo, Executive Director, Singapore Environment Council, GPN Singapore • Promotion of Recycled Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Felix Lam, Head of sustainability, Green Council, GPN China Hongkong • How does the new generation of TCO Certified help on sustainable IT procurement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Nick LIU, Manager, Sustainable Purchaser Engagement, Asia Region, TCO development
<p>18:20-18:50 <i>(11:20-11:50 CET)</i></p>	<p>Session 3: Discussion for 2022 IGPN development</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. ZHANG Xiaodan, General manager, China Environmental United Certification Center, Advisory member of the IGPN</p> <p>Guiding questions on the topic of the function, challenge and role of GPNs to SPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the principle and character of the Green Purchasing Network? And why? - What's the function and challenge of the GPN support the GPP implementation? - When would be the best time to established the GPN if one country starts to launch the SPP/GPP action plan? - How would the GPN interact with the Ecolabelling program? - What will be the priorities of IGPN network development? - How to motivate more to become IGPN members?
<p>18:50-19:00 <i>(11:50-12:00 CET)</i></p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. CHEN Yanping, Chair of the IGPN - Ms. ZHANG Xiaodan, General manager, China Environmental United Certification Center, Advisory member of the IGPN