



IGPN

NEWSLETTER

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IGPN 2023 Knowledge Sharing Webinar Held to Strengthen Collaborations



2023 knowledge sharing webinar of the International Green Purchasing Network-IGPN was held visually on June 15th. Participants from national Green Purchasing Networks, IGPN Council and IGPN Advisory Board, invited guests from UNEP, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, GEN-Global Ecolabelling Network, TCO Development, GIZ Thailand office attended this meeting. The meeting was hosted by the IGPN Secretariat, China Environmental United Certification Center–CEC.

the IGPN met to share latest progresses in sustainable procurement and formally initiate the Green Purchasing Network measurement methodology development

SPEECHES FROM THE CHAIR

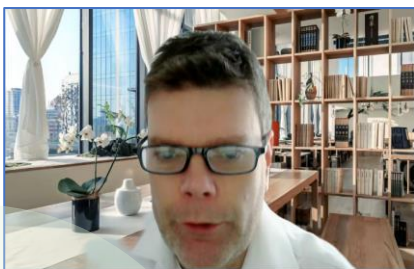
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IGPN as an international network, has embedded to support global sustainable procurement development in capacity building, awareness raising, tools and approach development, scientific measurement and evaluation the impact of GPNs from IGPN toward SDG will be extremely important not only for the GPNs but also for the IGPN development. Consequently, the initiative of development GPN measurement methodology was proposed and listed as the 2023 annual work plan of the IGPN Secretariat. I hope the discussion will be in depth, and members take real action in participation, in order to formulate measurable, reportable, and replicated IGPN green purchasing network measurement methodology, which in turn promote the high quality development of the IGPN.



—Mr CHEN Yanping, Chair, the International Green Purchasing Network

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In the context of the global economic slowdown, cooperation and collaboration are more vital than ever. Past 20 years' practice has proved that knowledge sharing and experience exchange have become the main driver for enhancing professional knowledge, promoting practice, reducing risks, and expanding benefits in the field of sustainable procurement. New research and new activities such as addressing climate change and e-procurement have gradually become the mainstream in the field of sustainable public procurement. And hope the IGPN will play a more important role in sustainable procurement practices

—Mr Mark Hidson, Vice Chair of the IGPN, Director of Global Sustainable Procurement Centre, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

INVITED SPEAKERS

Ms. Jellie Molino, Consultant of UNEP Economic Division, presented the low carbon public procurement policy study in the Asia Pacific;

Ms. Kate Harris, Global Ecolabelling Network Secretariat, shared the GEN project on SPP and ecolabel roles in mitigating climate change;

Mr. Nick Liu, manager of TCO Development Asia region sustainable purchaser engagement, introduced the low-carbon procurement practice case;

Mr. Farid Yaker, IGPN Advisory Board member, former UNEP SPP Global lead, exchanged the main findings from the 2022 SPP Global Review and experiences of SDG 12.7.1 data collection exercise;

Additionally, **Yuan Anqi**, representatives from **CEC** shared the application of Scope 3 inventory in ICT industry;

IGPN secretariat, together with **Mr. Augustine Koh**, Director of GPN BERHAD, IGPN Council member, and **Dr. Chuttree Phurat**, Senior Project Manager of GPN Thailand exchanged comments of the methodology and initiative.



OUTPUT

During the meeting, **the IGPN Initiative on development of Green Procurement Network measurement methodology formally launched**, aimed to formulate a comprehensive measurement framework of with GPN characteristic, encourage IGPN members to apply the methodology and conduct reporting, promote the sustainable consumption and production transition by make this IGPN's unique GPN model ubiquitously.

NEXT STEP

“

Since CEC holds the IGPN Secretariat in 2018, it consistently works on the IGPN operational and members' collaboration activities. Stated by **Mr. LIU Zunwen, CEC general manager**, in the summary speech, “Next, IGPN Secretariat will solicit comments and suggestions from members and establish a working group to complete full-range research, survey, and comments collection, the pilot and release of methodology are supposed to be conducted in 2024. We expect the GPN measurement methodology can facilitate knowledge exchange among members, inspire more green procurement practice and expand the IGPN community.”

IGPN Initiative Launch: Green Purchasing Network Measurement Methodology Development

On June 15, the **initiative of Green Purchasing Network (GPN) measurement methodology development** was launched by the International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN).

This initiative is initially funded by China Environmental United Certification Center (CEC)-IGPN Secretariat, it helps to identify the impact for International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN) with its characteristic of linking the environmentally friendly products and services with the green purchasing toward the sustainable consumption and production, motivate and inspire more network on the topic of green purchasing, provide efforts to support the sustainable procurement implementation and practice; provide opportunity to learn from peers with shared insights and recommendation by informing the correct directions for continuously improvements.

The duration of this initiative is **2 years from 2023 to 2024** and it is initially implemented in IGPN members. the planned output will include:

- A measurement methodology with feasible access of GPN definition, qualitative and quantity monitoring indicators;
- An excel calculator guide the pilot testing of the methodology;
- A pilot testing report of the methodology which brought performance overview of each Green Purchasing Network with recommendations.

So far, IGPN members-Japan Green Purchasing Network, Green Purchasing Network Malaysia (GPN BERHAD), Thailand Green Purchasing Network (Thailand Environment Institute) joined the work group led by IGPN Secretariat (CEC), to develop the methodology, identify the framework and indicator, conduct survey and pilot testing. Meanwhile, a Draft GPN Measurement Methodology with the Compilation Illustration has been formulated to solicit comments and suggestions by **July 31st 2023**.

More details at [IGPN website](#).

Green Purchasing Guidelines for Sanitary Paper Revised and Established New Guideline

Green Purchasing Network Japan (GPN) has revised two Green Purchasing Guidelines and established a new one for sanitary paper.

Key Points

/01

GPN-GL3a " Purchasing Guidelines for Toilet Paper " (revised)

More than five years have passed since the last revision, and the Guidelines have been updated to reflect trends in the production of products using recycled paper. In addition, from the viewpoint of resource and energy conservation, "longer length per roll," whose production has been growing in recent years, has been made an independent guideline item.

/02

GPN-GL3b " Purchasing Guidelines for Toilet Paper " (revised)

More than five years have passed since the last revision, and the Guidelines have been updated to reflect trends in the production of products using recycled paper. In addition, the sustainability of virgin pulp, which was an "information item" in the previous guidelines, has been moved up to a guideline item to align with the guidelines for the purchase of printing information paper and furniture.

GPN-GL3A Purchasing Guidelines for Toilet Paper Green Purchasing Network (GPN)

1. Scope

These guidelines cover important environmental issues that shall be considered when purchasing toilet paper (rolled products).

2. Guidelines

When purchasing toilet paper, the following articles shall be considered for purchasing products with as little environmental burden as possible. "Raw material composed of 100% recycled paper" is the most important condition.

- (1) Made with raw materials from 100% recycled paper
- (2) Narrow width
- (3) Single-ply
- (4) Longer length of one roll
- (5) Core-less type
- (6) Meets levels of unexcessive brightness

*These guidelines are subject to change in accordance with new findings and changes in social conditions.

Established November 27, 1997
Revised August 27, 2003
Revised November 11, 2014
Latest Revised June 15, 2023
By Green Purchasing Network (GPN)

Green Purchasing Guidelines for Sanitary Paper Revised and Established New Guideline

Green Purchasing Network Japan (GPN) has revised two Green Purchasing Guidelines and established a new one for sanitary paper.

Key Points

/03

GPN-GL3c " Purchasing Guidelines for Toilet Paper " (revised)

As hygiene and infection control in daily life advances, the use of paper towels in restrooms, hot water supply areas, etc. is expanding. Since paper towels are made of only paper and have a similarity in that they are used only once, we have newly established guidelines for the purchase of sanitary paper, following toilet paper and tissue paper.

Future Schedule

Around October 2023 (scheduled) Product information in accordance with the new guidelines will be posted on "Eco Products Net".

Learn more at <https://www.gpn.jp/english/guideline/>

Expert Meeting to Develop an Integrated Certification System for Traceability and Transparency Within a Block-chain Eco-system

Seventeen experts from GPN Berhad, Empower AS and Wongpanit Krabi met in Krabi, Thailand from May 22nd to May 26th 2023, with a shared vision of using blockchain to revolutionize the field of Green Procurement Certification. The experts, with expertise in certification and auditing; blockchain and tracking system; and recycling participated to ensure a comprehensive framework and operational methodology for the integrated certification system. The key outcome of this meeting was the signing of a strategic partnership, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), by GPN Berhad (integrated certification system), Empower (tracking technology) and Wongpanit Krabi (collection and sorting system).



Under the terms of the MOA, Empower's tracking & traceability system and the the proposed certification, tracking & auditing of materials throughout the supply chain, namely "GP-x" will pioneer a pilot project at Wongpanit Krabi's recycling facility and specific recycling facilities in Malaysia.

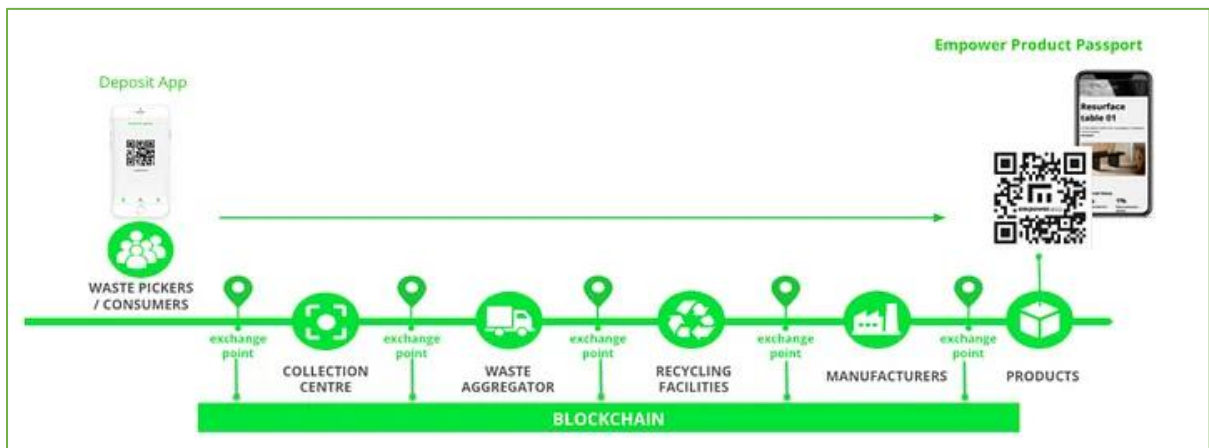
The experts visited the Wongpanit Krabi recycling center to understand the process, technique and system practiced during collection, segregation and recycling.



At the heart of this initiative lies the objective of ensuring transparency and fostering confidence in Green Procurement practices. By leveraging the immutability and decentralized nature of blockchain, the collaboration aims to address challenges associated with verifying the authenticity and sustainability of products and materials.

Expert Meeting to Develop an Integrated Certification System for Traceability and Transparency Within a Block-chain Eco-system

For an example, buyers of ocean-bound plastics, require assurance that the materials and products they received are from the sources declared, and that the data collected can be easily accessed, audited and verified. This can be similarly applied to municipal plastics and other sectors supply chain operations. This supply chain transparency solution aims to address the growing importance of Digital Product Passports, empowering businesses to prepare and fill data gaps and ensure compliance with buyer's and upcoming legislative requirements.



This collaborative effort marks a significant milestone in promoting sustainable practices within the green procurement sectors. The application of blockchain technology in the certification process will foster trust, empower consumers, and drive the adoption of environmentally responsible choices.

As the world becomes increasingly digitised, many industries are undergoing a digital transformation. The waste management industry is no exception, with digitisation playing an increasingly important role in the sector.

The pilot project's success will hold the potential to set new industry standards, paving the way for broader adoption of blockchain-enabled certifications and promoting greener supply chains worldwide. By joining forces, Empower, GPN Berhad, and Wongpanit Krabi are leading the charge towards a more transparent and sustainable future for Green Procurement.



Toward a safer IT industry with more accepted substances

Tens of thousands of chemicals are in use globally today. Very few have been studied for their impact on humans and the environment. To accelerate the shift to safer alternatives, the ground-breaking TCO Certified Accepted Substance List presents substances proven to be a better choice.

Hazardous substances used by the IT industry are a risk to both humans and the environment. Dioxins, halogens and other toxic substances end up in the natural environment because of improper use in manufacturing and when products are not recycled responsibly in a controlled environment. Since a very low percentage of substances have been studied and hazard-assessed, only banning a few substances that have been proven to be harmful is not enough. Substances should instead always be considered hazardous until proven safer before they are used..

TCO Certified is the leading sustainability certification for IT products. With the ground-breaking [TCO Certified Accepted Substance List](#), TCO Certified creates more transparency and promotes a shift to safer substances. The list only includes substances which are proven to be safer. As the list is public and available to everyone, it helps drive chemical safety in the IT industry and society as a whole.

Recently, six new substances (all process chemicals) were added to the list. The full list with all safer substances is available [here](#).

Criteria limiting the use of hazardous substances have been part of TCO Certified since 1995. Only plasticizers and flame retardants included on TCO Certified Accepted Substance List can be used in certified products. TCO Certified Accepted Substance List continues to expand to include additional substances that are identified as safer alternatives for both humans and the environment. In 2021 the system was expanded from substances used in products to also cover cleaner and degreaser substances used in the manufacturing processes.

ICLEI Europe and Lisbon to host 11th Procura+ Conference in March 2024



Save the date! [ICLEI Europe](#) and ICLEI Member Lisbon (Portugal) are proud to announce that the **11th Procura+ Conference will be held in the Portuguese capital from 13-14 March 2024**. The conference will showcase how cities and public authorities can use public procurement to implement step changes that make a big impact.

During the conference, cities, public authorities, representatives of the European Commission, business leaders, researchers and other public procurement stakeholders will be able to:

- **Perfect their procurement skills** in specialist Breakout Sessions
- Be inspired to **think more strategically** by Disruptors and Game Changers
- Learn from the wisdom of **experienced procurers** in the Confessions session
- Engage with peers and **learn about their latest tools, actions and initiatives** in the Market Lounge
- Hear how public money is being directed towards technologies and businesses that support an **innovative, net zero and just sustainable society**
- **Explore the latest policy updates** and the future of procurement

In the last 25 years, the Procura+ conference has become one of Europe's key public procurement events—a conference where sustainable, circular and innovation procurement policy meets practice, and where procurement innovations have originated. It offers public procurement stakeholders a great opportunity **to exchange information, build capacity, and network, aiming to accelerate and enable the implementation of high quality, cost effective, sustainable, circular and innovative procurement practices**.

To find out more about the conference, visit the Procura+ [conference website](#). More information about the programme, speakers and registration will be made available soon. If you are interested in collaborating, or have any questions about the conference, contact conference@procuraplus.org.



The banner features the Big Buyers Working Together logo on the left, a central image of hands holding a smartphone, and a blue 'Join Now!' button on the right. Text on the banner includes 'Big Buyers Working Together Needs Assessment', 'Take part in the assessment and shape the future of public procurement', and 'Funded by the European Union'.

Big Buyers Working Together extends deadline for consultations on public buyers' needs

The [Big Buyers Working Together \(BBWT\) Project](#), coordinated by [Eurocities](#), [ICLEI Europe](#) and [BME](#) on behalf of the European Commission, aims to help public buyers across Europe to find innovative and sustainable solutions to their current procurement challenges. To build the foundation for four years of collaboration, the Project is currently in the [Needs Assessment Phase](#). All public buyers are invited to participate in the consultations by filling in [the Survey](#). **The deadline, previously 25 June, has been extended to give all public buyers an opportunity to voice their needs and recommendations.**

When talking about public buyers, BBWT refers to all public purchasing entities, so anyone who is involved in public procurement on a contracting authority's side, is welcomed to contribute. Filling in the survey takes around 15 minutes and the recommendations can shape the next 4 years of this flagship project. **Public procurers that fill in the survey also have the opportunity to join the project.**

Based on the Needs Assessment, ten communities of practice will be created on the [Public Buyers Community](#), a new platform developed by the European Commission. Each community of practice will be devoted to the purchase of a specific product, work or service where European collaboration is needed. To support the process of developing more strategic procurement approaches, public buyers will meet regularly online and in person. Additionally, the Big Buyers Working Together Secretariat will **facilitate the organising of study visits, market dialogue, producers' pitching sessions, meetings with industry associations and other events that will respond to identified capacity gaps and community members' needs.**

For more information, visit the [project website](#) and watch the recording of [the Kick-off Webinar](#).

Any questions? Reach out to big.buyers@eurocities.eu.

Solutions from the One Planet network to curb plastic pollution



Solutions from the One Planet network to curb plastic pollution

[This compendium](#) of solutions to curb plastic pollution was developed in collaboration with the stakeholders of the One Planet network ([Consumer Information, Lifestyles and Education, Public Procurement and Tourism programmes](#)). The examples provide some concrete illustrations in line with the recommendations from the UNEP spotlight report "[Turning off the Tap: How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy](#)", and in particular around:

- Reliable sustainability information within existing standards, labels, and claims
- Triggers for behaviour change, including nudging strategies and awareness campaigns
- Creation of markets for sustainable solutions and concrete pathways for governments to lead by example using sustainable procurement practices
- Implementation of circular economy of plastics in the tourism sector, including through direct engagement of businesses towards reduction of plastics pollution

Additionally, the present compendium builds on findings from previous reports by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Marine Plastics Project and brings forward solutions to address plastic pollution as assessed in the 2021 report *From Pollution to Solution - A global assessment of marine litter and plastic pollution* and demonstrates of how a multi-stakeholder network can mobilize action to agilely deliver concrete outputs and a practical way to implement requests by Member States.

It becomes clear that only a systemic change in the ways we produce and consume can reverse the current trends. Circular economy approaches can support driving this systemic change. The Plastic Waste Amendments to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes recommends actions that governments, business and individuals can take to facilitate upstream and systemic solutions to address plastic pollution. A coordinated multistakeholder action is needed, particularly by addressing use and consumption of plastic packaging - a major source of marine litter.

SDG12.7.1-Global Monitoring of SPP Update

As custodian of SDG 12.7.1 indicator, UNEP collects contributions and data from national governments on the results of their SPP policy implementation.

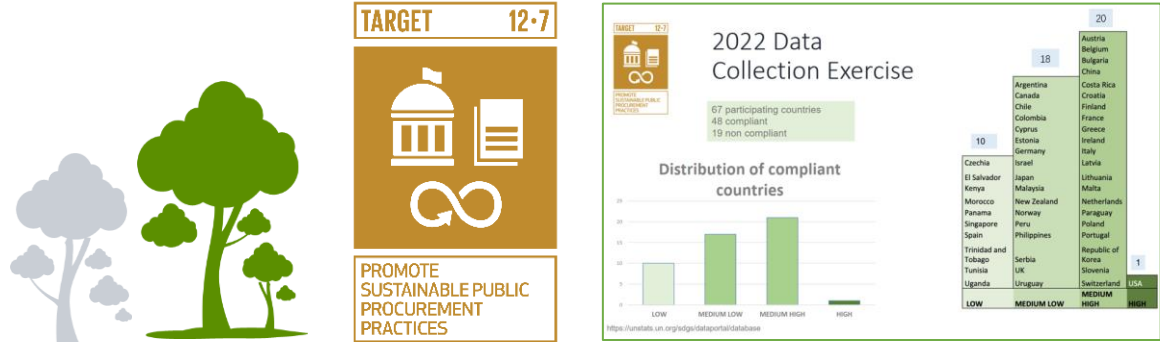
This biennial exercise measures progress toward the achievement of SDG Target 12.7 (“Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities”), while also providing national governments with an opportunity to monitor their SPP efforts.

The second reporting exercise was conducted in the fall of 2022, so far, in total 67 countries from around the world submitted reports on the status of their SPP implementation efforts, marking a 67% increase over the number of countries that participated in the first data drive in 2020. China, along with Sweden, the Netherlands, France, Finland and South Korea etc, is ranked as a level 3 “medium-high”, second to level 4 which is highest, moved from the level 2 “medium-low” in 2020 to level 3 “medium-high” in 2022.

The results of the 2022 data drive (names of countries compliant with the indicator and their level of SPP implementation) are available on [the United Nations SDG Indicator Database](#), while a news release and report on the main findings and conclusions of 2022 data collection will be published later this year.

For further information on the SDG 12 indicators, please consult the following [link](#).

(Note: Contents are from UNEP and the One Planet Network SPP Program)





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Photoes used were provided by the IGPN members

Compiled by the IGPN Secretariat- China Environmental United Certification Center