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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

International Conference “Taking Public-Private partnerships forward:
New opportunities for infrastructure development in transition economies”

Moscow, Russian Federation, 21-22 October 2008

INFORMATION NOTICE

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are becoming commonplace around the world as an instrument for improving infrastructure. The latest group of countries to take a keen interest in PPPs is the countries with economies in transition. As a rule, these countries do not have sufficient public resources to fully meet their infrastructure goals and to provide high quality services to their populations. Experience shows that PPPs, with their features of generating new resources, and improving efficiency and innovation, have the potential in transition economies to improve infrastructure and the delivery of public services.

2. However, PPPs are difficult to do. The lessons from countries with experience in PPPs for those who are just getting started, highlight the importance of the following: (i) a clear, results orientated PPP policy and a strong institutional framework to bring the policy goals to fruition; and (ii) the need for significant investments in developing the knowledge and skills in the public sector to work in the new “institutions of partnerships” such as PPP task forces and units, that are charged with championing the process and taking PPPs forward. This was one of the key conclusions of the International Conference on “Knowledge sharing and capacity-building to promoting successful PPPs in the UNECE region”, organized by the Government of Israel in cooperation with the UNECE (Tel Aviv, 5-8 June 2007).

3. For several years the UNECE has been active in promoting a better understanding of PPPs amongst government officials through the organization of conferences and seminars and the elaboration of guides on best practices in PPPs. Under the auspices of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, the UNECE has now a clear mandate to build the capacity of governments to undertake PPPs. At its second session (3-4 December 2007), the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) adopted its programme of work for 2008 and 2009, which included a focus area on promoting best practice in efficient public-private partnerships (ECE/CEC/2007/2/Annex II). In the programme, it was agreed to organise in 2008 a capacity-building event in conjunction with an international conference on sharing of national experiences in PPPs.

4. To address increasing demand of the governments to get assistance in developing PPPs, the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships was established under CECI to facilitate information-sharing and exchange of practical experience in public-private partnerships among UNECE member States and contribute to the implementation of a capacity-building programme for public and private sectors officials from catching-up economies on this topic. At the first session of the Team of Specialists (28-29 February 2008), the representative of the Russian Federation announced that the Government would be organising an international conference on public-private partnership and a capacity-building event for public sector officials in October 2008 in Moscow (ECE/CEC/PPP/2008/2, para 33). In subsequent consultations with the host government, it was agreed that the conference would take place on 21-22 October.

5. Given its own stage in PPP development and fully aware of the need to develop a strong supportive policy and institutional PPP framework, as well as enhancing its own professional skills in PPPs, several organizations in the Russian Federation, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Culture, as well as the State corporation "Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank)" and the State University – Higher School of Economics, have decided to organize an International Conference entitled "Taking Public-Private Partnerships forward: New opportunities for infrastructure development in transition economies" and to undertake this in cooperation with the UNECE.

6. This Conference is also organized as a part of the United Nations Development Project "Public-Private Partnership Alliance Programme for Capacity-Building in Infrastructure Development and Provision of Basic Services" jointly implemented by UNESCAP, UNECE and UNECA.

7. The Conference will consist of two parts, involving as partners the two organizations which are very active in taking PPPs forward from these different perspectives:

(a) The first day of the Conference which will discuss the policy and institutional requirements for successful PPPs will be organized in cooperation with Vnesheconombank, which recently established a national PPP Development Center; and

(b) The second day of the Conference on building the capacity to do PPPs will be hosted by the State University – Higher School of Economics, an institution, which already provides training for government officials at federal, regional and municipal levels.

II. OBJECTIVES

8. The objectives of the Conference are threefold:

(a) To present policies, plans and current state of thinking of the government for PPPs;

(b) To discuss the progress made in developing a strong market for PPPs in the region and the key policy, institutional, financial and capacity-building challenges that still remain to be addressed; and

(c) To launch a new initiative in PPP capacity-building for more effective project implementation for the Russian Federation and other countries in the region that will sustain progress and build success in the emerging PPP market.

9. The Conference will also provide a forum in which the public and private sectors can share expertise and exchange ideas, as well as explore new investment opportunities in the PPP market.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

10. This event will have a number of outcomes. It will:

(a) Ensure better understanding by government officials on the challenges of implementing a successful PPP programme such as meeting the institutional, financial and legal and policy requirements in PPP good governance;

(b) Provide officials with the basic concept of PPP training on how to develop projects in specific sectors, such as transport, communal services, housing, education, health, cultural heritage and others; and

(c) Inform prospective investors of the opportunities of PPPs in the current Russian market.

IV. PROGRAMME

11. The Conference will consist of two parts. The first day will be focused on policy and institutional challenge in implementing PPPs and will be organized into plenary in the morning, 2-3 meetings on PPPs in specific sectors running in parallel in the afternoon and a concluding plenary session. A special PPP exhibition will be held at the margins of the first day of the Conference where government agencies, private sector and leading PPP experts can meet to discuss project opportunities.

12. The second day will be focused on enhancing professional standards in PPPs and will be structured around thematic training modules and training sessions on specific PPP projects in different sectors. A Provisional programme is contained in Annex I.

V. TARGET AUDIENCE

13. The following groups will have a special interest in this event: (i) government officials from the Russian Federation at federal, regional and municipal levels; (ii) government officials from neighbouring countries in particular member countries of the UN Special Programme for the Economies in Central Asia (SPECA); (iii) members of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships; (iv) representatives of foreign and local business (bankers, lawyers, project developers); (v) representatives of the following international and regional organizations, and development banks: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the European Union, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), World Bank Institute and Asian Development Bank Institute; (vi) non-governmental organizations (such as International Road Federation, associations of consumer groups, roads users etc., that are the prospective beneficiaries of services provided through PPPs).

14. Governments are invited to inform their national bodies, PPP units or task forces, and ministries which are involved in the subject, business associations, academia and other relevant organizations on the International Conference, so as to encourage participation of the interested experts dealing with various aspects of PPPs.

VI. PARTICIPATION

15. Participation in the Conference is open to representatives of all UNECE member countries as well as other member States of the United Nations, and to representatives of UN specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Participation from the business community is encouraged.

VII. VENUES

16. The International Conference will take place in Moscow, Russian Federation. The first day, organized in cooperation with the Vnesheconombank (<http://www.veb.ru>), will be held at the International Trade Centre, (Krasnopresnenskaya embankment, 12, “Mezhdunarodnaya” metro station - <http://www.wtcmoscow.ru>). The second day will take place at the State University - “Higher School of Economics” (Myasnitckaya Street, 20, “Lubyanka”/“Kitai-Gorod” metro station - <http://www.hse.ru>).

VIII. DOCUMENTATION

17. Three weeks before the Conference, the UNECE Secretariat will distribute the first set of the training modules, which is a part of a Toolkit on “How to do PPPs”. Based on these documents the second day of the Conference, a capacity-building training, will be organized and the modules will be tested and then further elaborated following the feedback from the participants.

IX. INTERPRETATION AND VISUAL AIDS

18. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian, facilities for computer-aided presentations (e.g. Power Point) will be provided.

X. CONFERENCE FEE AND OTHER EXPENSES

19. No conference fee is charged for the participation in the International Conference. Travel and accommodation expenses and medical insurance are borne by the participants.

XI. PASSPORTS AND VISAS

20. All participants should be in possession of a valid passport, with an entry visa (if required) which can be obtained from the diplomatic representation of the Russian Federation in their country of residence. Information and addresses of the Embassies and General Consulates is available at the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation at the following address: <http://www.ln.mid.ru/>. It is advisable to make such visa applications well in advance of the date required.

XII. TRAVEL AND HOTEL RESERVATION

21. Participants are requested to make their own hotel and travel arrangements to and from the Russian Federation. A list of hotels situated relatively nearby to both venues of the Conference is attached in Annex II.

XIII. FURTHER INFORMATION AND PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION

22. Further information on the International Conference can be obtained from:

Russian partner organizations:

Vnesheconombank

Ms. Oksana Ignatieva
PR Department
Tel.: +7 495 782 94 87
Fax: +7 495 604 65 42
E-mail: oks@veb.ru

State University - Higher School of Economics

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23. Interested parties are invited to fill in the attached Registration form (Annex III) and return it by **20 September 2008** to the UNECE Secretariat.

Annex I**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE**

Day 1, 21 October 2008 (International Trade Centre, Krasnopresnenskaya nab., 12)

PART 1. “ADDRESSING THE POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE”

9.00 – 10.00 Registration

10.00 - 11.00 **Opening Plenary “Taking PPP forward”**
Introductory statements by representative of the Russian Federation and Mr. Marek Belka, UNECE Executive Secretary

The opening plenary will set out policies on how PPPs can provide an innovative mechanism to address infrastructure needs and improve public services. It aims to engage both the public and private sectors. International PPP leaders from private and public sectors will provide their views on PPP strategic development in the UNECE region and countries with economies in transition in particular.

Key topics to discuss:

- New policy approaches in PPPs
- How PPPs can help governments to address their responsibilities to provide social services
- How local and foreign business can benefit
- Lessons from international experiences in PPPs
- Presentation of National PPP Center (Vnesheconombank)

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 **Session 1. “Enhancing the potential of PPPs for infrastructure development and delivery of public services”**

Overall the most important elements in establishing a framework for PPPs are:

- A strong supportive policy towards PPPs;
- An institutional framework adapted to the promotion of PPPs, including effective coordination and cooperation within governments and the setting up of PPP units; and
- A legal framework enabling flexible PPP contracts and transparent and fair selection process of the private sector partners.

The session will discuss:

- To what extent each of these elements has been achieved in the region and what else is required?
- The ways to increase the capacity of public administrations at local and federal levels to meet new challenges.

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 16.00 **Session 2. “Development of PPP projects market in various infrastructure sectors”**

(will be organized through several parallel meetings on PPPs in specific sectors)

The session will bring together approaches of the Russian Federation and countries with economies in transition and international experience in PPP opportunities in specific infrastructure sectors and will discuss the PPP project pipeline and its future prospects in specific infrastructure sectors:

- Transport infrastructure
- Energy infrastructure
- Regional development
- Urban development
- New technologies, science and innovations

It will also address the following questions:

- What the public sector is looking for from PPP projects and bidders
- Identifying possible ways in which foreign and domestic companies can collaborate on PPP projects

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 – 17.30 **Question and answer session for Russian and international PPP operators**

17.30 – 18.00 **Concluding Plenary**

19.00

Reception

Throughout the first day of the Conference

“Exhibition of PPP projects”

During the day the exhibition of PPP projects will be organized. This event will allow opportunities for governments, private sector participants and leading international PPP specialists to explore the possibility of working together. A number of projects covering the various sectors could be presented. Those presenting project proposals would be available to provide more detailed information at their stands. If needed, small meetings could be held amongst interested parties to discuss ways and means of taking the project forward. To facilitate discussion it is recommended that projects will be submitted in advance in English and circulated before the Conference will take place.

Day 2, 22 October 2008 (State University “Higher School of Economics”, Myasnitskaya str., 20)

PART 2. “ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS IN PPPS”

09.30 – 11.00 Session 1. Public and Municipal Governance in PPPs

Key questions to be discussed:

How to identify PPP opportunities and to find the best private sector partners for a PPP?
How to organize a PPP programme within a government by enhancing cooperation amongst the relevant departments and ministries, local, regional and national authorities?
How to be an effective manager and leader in a dynamic PPP unit?
How to engage public support for PPPs?
How to use international instruments to increase investor confidence?

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 Session 2. Legislative and Regulatory Framework on PPPs

Key questions to be discussed:

How to design the best legislative, institutional and regulatory frameworks for successful PPPs?
How to structure standard PPP contracts?
How to organize the selection process for the best bids in a PPP?
How to negotiate contracts, monitor private sector performance, ensure programmatic and contract compliance in order to protect the public interest?
How to select the best consultants?

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 16.00 Session 3. PPP Financing

Key questions to be discussed:

How to finance a PPP?
How to achieve value for money from a PPP project?
How to manage prices and tariffs of infrastructure services in PPPs?
How to allocate and minimize risks?

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 – 19.00 Training sessions (running in parallel)

Session 1. PPP projects in transport

Session 2. PPP Projects in education or health

Session 3. PPP projects in other sectors (science or innovation, culture, housing, energy)

Annex II

[ENGLISH ONLY]

HOTELS IN MOSCOW

Exchange rate: 1US\$ = 24 RUB (approximately)

| Name of hotel | Address |
|---|--|
| Crowne Plaza Moscow (the same location as the first day of the Conference) | International Trade Centre 12, Krasnopresnenskaya nab. “Krasnopresnenskaya” metro station Single room: from RUB 15,000 Tel. +7 495 980 75 50 http://www.wtcmoscow.ru/hotel/ |
| Hotel “Sretenskaya” | 15, Sretenka street «Sukharevskaya» metro station Single room : from RUB 10,560 Tel. +7 495 933 55 44 Fax. +7 495 933 55 45 info@hotel-sretenskaya.ru http://www.hotel-sretenskaya.ru/ |
| Hotel “Kosmos” | 150, Prospekt Mira «Prospekt Mira» metro station Single room : from RUB 4,060 Tel.+7 495 234 1000 Fax. +7 495 615 8880 reservations@hotelcosmos.ru |
| Hotel “Akademicheskaya” | 1, Donskaya street “Oktyabrskaya” metro station Single room: from RUB 5,850 Tel. +7 495 236 5050 http://www.maan.ru/ru/profile/hotel/ |
| Hotel “Belgrad” | 8, Smolenskaya street “Smolenskaya” metro station Single room: RUB 4,800 Tel. +7495 785 1263 http://www.belgrad-hotel.ru/ |
| Hotel “Zolotoe Kol'tso” | 5, Smolenskaya street “Smolenskaya” metro station Single room: from 14,600 RUR Tel.+7 495 725 0100 Fax.+7 495 725 0101 info@hotel-goldenring.ru http://www.hotel-goldenring.ru/ |

| Name of hotel | Address |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Hotel "Radisson – Slavianskaya" | 2, Evropy square "Kievskaya" metro station Single room: RUB from 13,150 Tel. +7495 921 4105 http://redisson.bookin.ru/ |
| Hotel "Bega" | 11, Begovaya alleya "Begovaya" metro station Single room: from RUB 4,400 Tel. +7 495-946-10-51 Tel. +7 495 945-5213, 946-1051, 946-1052, 946-1070 Fax. +7 495 946-1537 reservation@bega-hotel.ru http://www.bega-hotel.ru/ |
| Hotel Baltshug Kempinski | 1, Balchug street "Tretyakovskaya" metro station Single room: from RUB 16,340 Tel. +7 495 230 5500/230 6500 Fax. +7 495 230 5502/230 6502 info.baltshug@kempinski.com http://www.kempinski-moscow.com/ |
| "Metropol" Hotel | 4, Teatralny proezd "Teatral'naya"/ "Okhotny Ryad"/ "Ploshchad' Revolutsii" metro station Single room: from RUB 12,300 Tel. 7 499 501 78 00 Fax 7 499 501 78 10 metropol@metmos.ru http://metropol-moscow.ru/ |
| President Hotel | 24, B.Yakimanka street "Oktyabrskaya" metro station Single room: from RUB 14,000 Tel. 7 495 239-3800 Fax. 7-495 230-2318 reservation@president-hotel.net http://www.president-hotel.ru/ |
| Katerina City Hotel | 6, Shluzovaya Naberezhnaya "Paveletskaya" metro station Single room: from RUB 11,900 Tel. +7 495 933 04 01 Fax. +7 495 795 24 43 reservation@umaco.org http://www.katerina.msk.ru/ |

| Name of hotel | Address |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Hotel “Novotel Moscow Center” | 23, Novoslobodskaya street “Novoslobodskaya” metro station Single room: from RUB 14,500 Tel. +7 495-780-40-00 http://www.hotelnovotel-moscow.ru/ |
| Hotel “Holiday Inn Lesnaya” | 15, Lesnaya street “Belorusskaya” metro station Single room: from RUB 15,500 Tel. + 7 495 783 6500 http://www.holidayinn.com |
| Hotel “Petr 1” | 17, Neglinnaya street “Kuznetcky Most” metro station Single room: from RUB 9,700 Tel. +7 495 925-30-50, 623-76-86 Fax. +7 495 621-52-90 http://www.hotel-peter1.ru |

Annex III

REGISTRATION FORM

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Taking Public-Private Partnerships forward: New opportunities for infrastructure development in transition economies”

Moscow, Russian Federation

21-22 October 2008

Please fill in this form and return it **not later than 20 September 2008** to:

MS. VICTORIA GOUDEVA

Fax: +41 22 917 01 78

E-mail: victoria.goudeva@unece.org

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Family name (Mr., Ms.): | |
| 2. | First name: | |
| 3. | Nationality: | |
| 4. | Representing government, organization or company: | |
| 5. | Official position (full title, department, etc.): | |
| | | |
| | | |
| 6. | Professional address: | |
| 7. | Telephone No. (with country and city codes): | |
| 8. | Telefax No. (with country and city codes): | |
| 9. | E-mail address: | |

Date:

Signature:

* * * * *