

Agenda:

1. The following are the highlights of the Consultative meeting on the procurement of medical equipment for FY 2023-2024:

- The Chief gave a briefing to the Department. An email dated 6 June 2023 was received from the ADB Desk Officer regarding:
 - a. procurement of medical equipment for FY 2023- 2024.
 - b. restructuring of AVPAX Loan USD 7 Million (ADB) and USD 1 Million JFPR Grant (ADB) to be used for procurement of medical equipment for FY 2023-2024.
- The original scope of the APVAX project was to procure Covid-19 vaccines. However, due to the improved COVID-19 pandemic situation in Bhutan and the availability of free COVID-19 vaccines from donor countries, procuring COVID-19 vaccines using the APVAX loan financing is no longer necessary.
- DMDF proposed to restructure and reprocess the APVAX loan by changing the scope of the loan from vaccine procurement to health system. This will strengthen related investment to improve health system resilience against future pandemics.
- He informed the floor of the current economic situation of the country and the critical resource constraints of the RGoB
- The Ministry of Finance is currently in discussion with donor agencies to finalize the budget.
- It was decided that procurement shall adopt the RFQ method of ADB and Bhutan was to be invited through the RGOB -e-GP system.

2. Presentation on ADB procurement requirement presented by Mr. Taisuke Miyao, Senior Procurement Specialist

Mr. Taisuke Miyao gave a briefing about the ADB Procurement framework and explained the process adopted by ADB for procurement. He clarified that the ADB procurement framework focuses on 6 basic principles: Economy, Efficiency, Fairness, Transparency, Quality and Value for Money.

He also highlighted the ADB Anti-Corruption Policy to be followed by all agencies including borrowers and suppliers.

He informed us that this consultative meeting is part of the preparation of a procurement strategy for the revised loan.

He advised that for the JFPR grant, suppliers are only allowed to quote the products from 68 member countries. However, there are exceptions for procurements under a Loan, and the product can be from any country.

3. Any other business