11th Conference of the Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network

5–6 October 2026
Thimphu, Bhutan

Day Zero – 3–4 October 2026: Networking and Cultural Immersion

3 and 4 October – morning	**Arrival of participants, Thimphu, Bhutan** Hotel check-in
4 October – afternoon	
13:30 – 17:30	**Cultural visit**
17:30 – 21:30	**Networking dinner with traditional Bhutanese Cuisine** Welcome remarks and cultural performance (Simply Bhutan)

Day One – 5 October 2026: Opening and Keynote Panel Sessions

8:00 – 8:45	**Registration and Welcome Coffee** **Networking opportunity for participants*
8:45 – 10:00	**OPENING SESSION** MC: **Tshering Denkar,** Department of Procurement and Properties (DPP), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) *Opening Remarks* **Sonomi Tanaka,** Country Director, Bhutan Resident Mission (BHRM), ADB *Opening/Welcome Remarks* **Leki Wangmo,** Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Finance (MoF), RGoB *Keynote Address* **Sung Min Kang,** Vice-Administrator, Public Procurement Service (PPS), Korea *Group Photo Session*
10:00 – 10:30	**Coffee Break**
10:30 – 11:30	**SESSION 1: Digital Transformation and Procurement – Policy Updates and Trends** Moderator: **Ngan Luong,** Procurement Specialist, PPFD, ADB *Digitalization to Intelligence – The Journey to version 2.0 in Asia and the Pacific* Presenter 1: **Galiya Ismakova**, Procurement Director, PPFD, ADB *Innovation and Intelligence – Next-Generation KONEPS* Presenter 2: **Bongki Shin**, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Public Procurement Service *Panel discussion and Q&A* Panelists: All presenters, **Tuan La** (Director of e-GP system, PPA, MOF, Viet Nam), **Shaikh Muhamad Refat Ali** (Director (Joint Secretary) BPPA, MOP, Bangladesh)
11:30 – 12:30	**SESSION 2: AI and Data Powered e-GP Systems-Driving Sustainable Procurement** Moderator: **Anna L Wielogorska**, Manager (Procurement), South Asia Region, World Bank

	AI applications in EKAP (Türkiye's e-GP system) Presenter 1: **Necmettin Yüksel**, Head of Public Procurement Authority, Türkiye *Towards AI Powered e-GP: Planning for Intelligence & Sustainable Procurement* Presenter 2: **Rommel D. Rivera Deputy Executive Director**, Information and Communication Technology Procurement Group, Procurement Service-Department of Budget and Management, Philippines *AI in Public Procurement: A case study by Tendersniper, India* Presenter 3: **Ramanathan Somasundaram**, e-Procurement Expert, Tendersniper *Sustainable Procurement Toolkit and Data Driven Transparency* Presenter 4: **Bernadine Fernz**, Head of Asia Pacific, Open Contracting Partnership (OCP) (virtual) *Panel discussion and Q&A* Panelists: All presenters, **Abror Gadoev** (Uzbekistan)
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00 – 15:00	**SESSION 3: Leveraging e-GP for Enabling Collaboration and Business Opportunities** Moderator: **Ngan Luong,** Procurement Specialist, PPFD, ADB *Dovetailing e-GP and international trade: The GPA 2012 as a global best (minimum) practices framework* Presenter 1: **Marlena Hofherr**, Technical Assistance Officer, Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, World Trade Organization *Strengthening e-GP systems to enable collaboration* Presenter 2: **Ramesh Radhakrishnan**, Deputy Director General, HoD (eProcurement software Development Division), National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, India *Developing a Regional e-GP Platform –Opportunities and Challenges* Presenter 3: **Chaithanya Chava,** e-GP consultant (virtual) *Panel discussion and Q&A discussion* Panelists: **Presenters 1, 2 & 3**, and **Tiare-A-Alicy Teokoitu** (Procurement Manager, Major Project and Procurement Support Division Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Cook Islands)
15:00 – 15:30	**Coffee Break** **Networking opportunity for participants*
15:30 – 16:30	**SESSION 4: Embedding AI into Next-Generation e-GP Platforms – Market Trends** Moderator: **Jurminla,** Senior Procurement Specialist, OPEC Fund Presenter 1: **Aditya Jha,** dgMarket International Presenter 2: **Nazmul Bhuiyan**, Dohatec New Media, Bangladesh Presenter 3: **Arjun Aadithya Ravikumar**, Tenderintel AI Limited, India Presenter 4: Commerce Dot Com, Malaysia (TBC)

	Q&A (15 minutes)
18:00 – 20:00	**Welcome Dinner** hosted by Ministry of Finance, RGoB

Day Two – 6 October 2026: Lessons Learned and Way forward

8:00 – 9:00	**Registration and Welcome Coffee** **Networking opportunity for participants*
9:00 – 10:30	**SESSION 5: Managing Change and Institutional Transformation in Procurement Reform** Moderator: **Eungkeol Kim,** Senior Procurement Specialist, PPFD, ADB *Adapting to Changes in the Procurement Legal Framework* Presenter 1: **Rathnaseela Endera Arachchige**, Director General, MoF, Sri Lanka *Pakistan e-Procurement Reform Journey* Presenter 2: **Hasnat Ahmed Qureshi**, Managing Director, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, Pakistan *Managing Change in the Implementation of a National e-GP System* Presenter 3: **Joe Sapa**, Chief Executive Officer, National Procurement Commission, Papua New Guinea *Why e-GP 2.0? Bhutan's Next Chapter: From Digital Procurement to Intelligent Procurement* Presenter 4: **Rinzin Lhamo**, Director, Department of Procurement and Properties, Bhutan *Panel discussion and Q&A* Panelists: All presenters, **Hyekyoung Kim**, Director, Public Procurement Service, Korea
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee Break** **Networking Opportunity for Participants*
11:00 – 12:30	**SESSION 6: Paper to Platform: Professionalizing Public Procurement in the digital Era** Moderator: **Eungkeol Kim,** Senior Procurement Specialist, PPFD, ADB *Professionalizing Public Procurement in Bhutan: Certification and Capacity Development in Bhutan's Public Financial Management Ecosystem* Presenter 1: **Leki Tshering,** Chief Procurement Officer, DPP, Bhutan *MAPS Supplementary Modules – Cases of Using e-GP and Professionalization Modules* Presenter 2: **Nicolas Penagos Forero,** Head of MAPS Secretariat, OECD *Strategic Public Procurement and the Professionalization of Procurement* Presenter 3: **Seungkyu Kang**, Director, Korea Institute of Procurement *Panel discussion and Q&A* Panelists: All presenters, **Arafat Istiaque**, Senior Procurement Specialist, World Bank
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00 – 15:30	**SESSION 7: Sharing Knowledge and Practices for e-GP Reform** Interactive Focus Group Discussions *Group 1 – e-GP System Design and Rollout*

	For DMCs planning to introduce or upgrade e-GP systems. *Discussion focus: How to design and roll out e-GP systems that are functional today and AI-ready for future enhancement.* Facilitator: **Anna L Wielogorska,** Manager (Procurement), South Asia Region, World Bank Group 2 – AI-Enabled Enhancement of Mature e-GP Systems *For DMCs with established e-GP platforms.* *Discussion focus: How to use AI and data analytics to improve efficiency, transparency, and value for money in existing e-GP systems.* Facilitator: **Galiya Ismakova,** Procurement Director, ADB *Group 3 - e-Marketplace Design and Evolution* *For DMCs who have successfully implemented and those who are in the planning and design stage.* *Discussion focus: How to design sustainable e-Marketplace and its evolving nature.* Facilitator: **Eungkeol Kim,** Senior Procurement Specialist, ADB
15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee Break** **Networking Opportunity for Participants*
16:00 – 16:30	**Session 8: Wrap-up** Moderator: **Ngan Luong,** Procurement Specialist, ADB *Debriefing on Group Discussions* Representative from each group *Key takeaways and feedback* Open forum
16:30 – 16:45	**Closing remarks** **Galiya Ismakova,** Procurement Director, PPFD, ADB