11th Conference of the Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network



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SESSION 1:
Digital Transformation & Procurement – Policy Updates and Trends

ADB

Public Procurement Service

KOREA e-Asia & Knowledge Partnership Fund

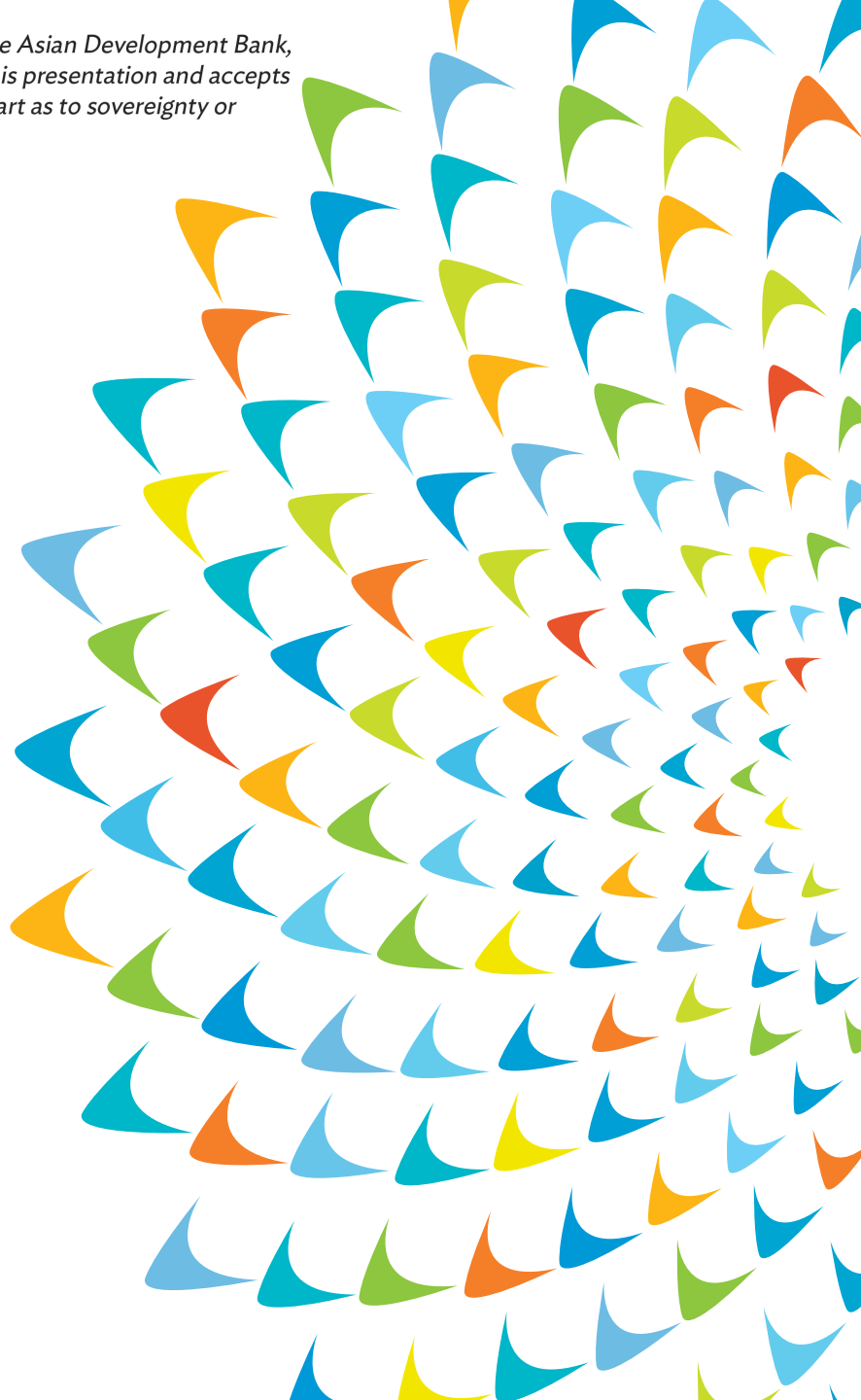
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APPeN

Thimphu, Bhutan, 5-6 October 2026

Digitalization to Intelligence:

The Journey to Version 2.0 in Asia and the Pacific



Eleven years of the Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network
Asian Development Bank

SESSION OVERVIEW

What This Session Covers

- Where APPeN began - and why the region needed it
- Eleven years, eleven conferences: the platform we built together
- What we achieved: adoption, operations, assessments, knowledge
- What members tell us works - and what still holds us back
- Why the next chapter is about intelligence, not just digitalization
- The road to Thimphu and the version 2.0 agenda

PART 1 Where it began

From a conference observation in Denpasar in 2011 to a standing regional network founded in 2015

Eleven years of the Asia Pacific Public Electronic Procurement Network
Asian Development Bank

ORIGINS, 2011-2015

A Network Built on Demand

- **2011, Denpasar**

ADB's regional e-GP conference identified a gap: Asia and the Pacific had no counterpart to the established European and Latin American procurement networks.

- **Korea's PPS proposed the answer**

PPS put forward a regional network under ADB's convening role, backed by financial support and KONEPS operating experience.

- **A scoping workshop tested the idea**

Indonesia, Mongolia, Turkiye, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam helped refine the cooperation areas and affirmed the concept.

- **RETA 8520 approved, December 2013**

USD 2.15 million - USD 1.65 million from TASF and USD 0.5 million from the Republic of Korea e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund.

- **First APPeN conference, Manila 2015**

The network opened for business with ADB developing member countries, e-GP experts and development partners in the room.

THE CONFERENCE PLATFORM

Eleven Years, Eleven Conferences

2015-16

Manila, Seoul
Network launched under TA 8520

2017-18

Tbilisi, Washington
Assessments and SaaS pilot

2019

Manila
TA 9680 mainstreams e-GP

2020-22

Online, hybrid
Platform held through the pandemic

2023-24

Tbilisi, Manila
TA 10000 adds AI and security work

2026

Thimphu
Hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan

Every conference has drawn procurement officials from ADB developing member countries, e-procurement experts and development partners.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Eleven Years at a Glance

33

Developing member countries
using e-GP in 2024, up from 12 in 2014

$10.8B

ADB contracts planned to be processed through e-GP
in 2024 alone, across 55 projects

110

e-GP system assessments
completed, with 98 approved for ADB-financed projects

5

Regional e-GP surveys
2011, 2014, 2017, 2020 and 2023 - a unique regional dataset

ACHIEVEMENT ONE

e-GP Went From Exception to Norm

Adoption across Asia and the Pacific

- Systems in ADB developing member countries grew from 12 in 2012 to 22 in 2018, and to more than 33 by 2024
- The 2023 survey gathered detailed data from 32 countries on adoption, functionality, infrastructure, governance and security
- Central and West Asia and East Asia report full coverage; South Asia stands at 80% and Southeast Asia at 57%
- Every South Asian country except Maldives has launched e-GP; Mongolia and the PRC have operated systems for over a decade
- Nearly every responding country now runs a public procurement portal for notices, legislation and standard bidding documents

ACHIEVEMENT TWO

e-GP Moved Into ADB Operations

13 → 55

Projects using e-GP
per year, 2015 to 2024

$2.2B → $10.8B

contract value planned to be processed through eGP systems (11years)

402 → 925

Procurement packages
handled electronically, 2019 to 2024 (5 years)

Contracts processed (at least partially) through e-GP rose from USD 5 billion across 2010-2014 to USD 18.9 billion across 2015-2018 - the clearest single measure of the network's operational effect.

ACHIEVEMENT THREE

Assessment and Accreditation at Scale

- 110 e-GP system assessments completed; 98 approved for use in ADB-financed projects
- 74 approvals in India across central and state systems, 5 in the PRC, 17 across eight other developing member countries
- Two Pacific countries approved on the ADB-supported shared SaaS platform
- Assessments use the MDB e-GP Guideline, jointly developed with partner banks and updated in December 2023
- Most systems are approved for nationally advertised open competitive bidding; India, Georgia, Nepal and the Pacific go further

ACHIEVEMENT FOUR

Knowledge That Travels

Evidence and research

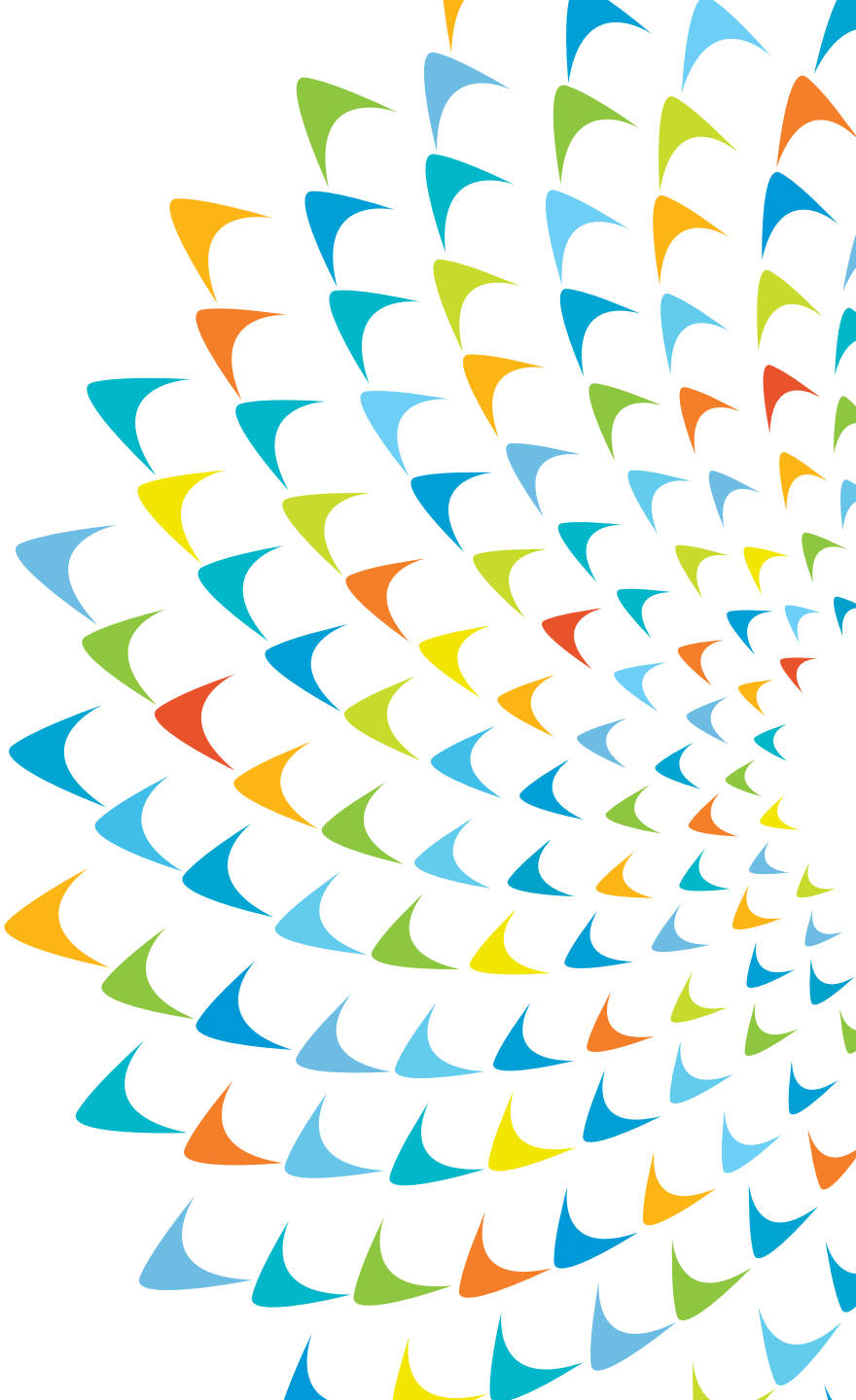
- Five regional e-GP surveys since 2011, with the sixth due to start in Q4 2026
- Knowledge papers on blockchain in e-GP, IFMIS integration and e-procurement complaints
- Country case studies across the PRC, India, Armenia and the Philippines
- Third-party IT security audits of national platforms

Capacity and delivery

- Annual APPeN conferences, e-GP Education Programs and International Procurement Workshops
- Cybersecurity training for system operators
- Shared SaaS platform competitively tendered and configured for smaller members
- Country advisory support on e-GP strategy and digital transformation roadmaps

PART 2 Why Version 2.0

The foundation is built. The question now is what we do with the data, and how intelligently we use it.



EVIDENCE FROM THE 2023 SURVEY

What Members Tell Us

Top reported benefits

- Improved transparency and fairness
- Stronger business confidence in procurement integrity
- Better management and statistical reporting
- Reduced procurement risk
- Demonstrable value for money

Top reported challenges

- Users lack IT knowledge
- Inadequate and unpredictable funding
- Shortage of technical expertise to implement systems
- Coverage still concentrated on notice, invitation and submission
- Few systems reach contract management and monitoring

From Digitalization to Intelligence

- Public procurement is moving from digitization of paperwork to intelligent use of the data that digitization created
- Members asked for AI, robotic process automation and big data to be enabled inside e-GP systems, not bolted on beside them
- Policy priorities must be carried by the system: sustainability, MSME participation, vulnerable groups and climate action
- Inclusiveness is a design requirement - small suppliers in remote areas with limited connectivity cannot be left behind
- Cybersecurity, data safety and the risks of system integration are now first-order concerns, not technical footnotes
- Open data is the enabler: accountability, policy analysis and market competitiveness all depend on it

The Version 2.0 Agenda: AI

Transparency and integrity

Automated red-flag identification and anomaly detection in bidding behaviour, turning procurement data into an early warning system.

Efficiency and automation

AI-assisted review of bidding documents and contracts, assisted bid evaluation, and intelligent contract management planning.

Market intelligence and value for money

Bidder prediction, price prediction, rate analysis and benchmarking, and market trend analysis to sharpen every procurement decision.

System enhancement

AI-powered chatbots and virtual procurement assistants, plus AI-supported procurement data standards and reporting.

NEXT

The Road to Thimphu

- **5-6 October 2026, hosted by Bhutan**

The Department of Procurement and Properties, Ministry of Finance, hosts around 70 participants - the first APPeN conference in the Himalayas.

- **A first-ever global call for AI case studies**

Real-world applications of AI in public procurement, submitted from around the world, with the selected study presented at the conference.

- **Regional platforms, shared solutions**

Progress on the ADB and World Bank Pacific Regional e-GP Platform will be tabled for feedback and further dialogue.

- **The sixth regional survey opens in Q4 2026**

Conference outputs will feed a broader impact assessment of eleven years of ADB support through the APPeN platform.