



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “KNOWLEDGE SHARING
AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ON PROMOTING SUCCESSFUL
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
IN THE UNECE REGION”**

to be held in Tel Aviv, Israel, 5-8 June 2007

INFORMATION NOTICE

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its first session held on the 27-28 September 2006, the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) held in Geneva on 27-28 September 2006 decided that the theme of “Promoting best practice in efficient public-private partnerships” will be one of the focus areas of the Committee’s Programme of work for 2007-2008¹. The Government of Israel will organize, in cooperation with UNECE, an international conference in order to advance the Committee’s work in this area. This notice provides details of the International Conference “Knowledge Sharing and Capacity-Building on Promoting Successful Public-Private Partnerships in the UNECE Region” (Tel Aviv, Israel, 5-8 June 2007).

¹ ECE/CECI/2006/6 Annex II

2. The objective of CECI in the area of PPPs is to increase the expertise of governments to identify, negotiate, manage and implement successful PPP projects. This will be done through an exchange of knowledge and experiences in PPPs in member States and in the identification and testing of best practice. The activities will result in guides, studies and innovative tools that can be used in capacity-building programmes and training. To achieve its objectives, CECI has established an international network of experts in the area of Public-Private Partnerships, incorporating the experts of the former UNECE PPP Alliance.

II. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

3. PPPs refer to a contractual agreement formed between a public sector agency and a private sector entity that allows for greater private sector participation in the delivery of public services. PPPs are becoming increasingly commonplace for building new and upgrading existing facilities such as schools, hospitals, roads, waste and water treatments, as well as power plants and telecommunication networks. They can be a useful tool as part of regional policy, for urban regeneration and sustainable development. As more and more countries get started in PPPs, designing the policy and legislative frameworks, they face a number of challenges where the experiences of other countries that have started PPPs earlier can be useful. The objectives of the Conference are to:

- (a) Review national experiences and lessons learned in PPPs; and
- (b) Evaluate the performance and contribution of PPPs to economic development and competitiveness in both transition and advanced market economies.

4. This exchange will contribute to the preparation of two documents requested by the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration in view of their topicality:

- (a) A Guidebook on Promoting Good Governance in PPPs ²;
- (b) A Comparative Review on the performance of PPPs in advanced market economies and in transition economies;

and

A concluding document containing Policy Recommendations.

5. In addition, the Conference provides an opportunity for governments and business to meet and discuss project ideas in sectors, such as transport, water, energy and social services. A special 'Investor Connect' event will be held on the afternoon of the second day when government agencies, prospective investors, and the business community can meet. On the third and fourth days of the Conference, participants will be able to visit examples of PPPs in the

² **Guidebook on Good Governance in PPPs.** How governments can develop PPPs for sustainable development by *inter alia* enhancing legal, policy and institutional frameworks, transparency and accountability, the social acceptability of PPPs and their security and safety. (Work on a Guidebook has been ongoing. Consideration will be also given on the ways of using the Guidebook as a tool for training).

transport, water and innovative sectors of the economy in order to benefit from Israel's practical experience in this area.

6. The Conference is also the first regional meeting to be held as part of a United Nations Development Account project to increase the capacity of governments to promote PPPs for sustainable development. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are cooperating in the carrying out of this project. In 2008, as part of this project another regional meeting and a high-level interregional event will be held to exchange experiences and to develop the tools and instruments for training officials in PPPs. The concluding document of the Conference will be submitted to the second session of CECI, as well as to the high-level intergovernmental meeting mentioned above.

III. VENUE

7. The International Conference will take place in Tel Aviv, Israel, at the Dan Tel Aviv Hotel (99 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63432, Tel: 972-3-5202525, Fax: 972-3-5249755, e-mail: dantelaviv@danhotels.com)

8. The International Conference will take place on 5 and 6 June 2007. Site visits of PPPs will take place on Thursday, 7 June and Friday, 8 June 2007. The registration of participants will start at 8.30 a.m. on 5 June. The Conference will start on the same day at 10.00 a. m.

9. The Conference will be organized into a Plenary (3 working sessions), a Round Table, a breakout session on 3 thematic areas, and a concluding Plenary session. Each session's moderator will briefly introduce the topics, which will be followed by keynote presentations and a general discussion. The moderator will conclude by summing up the discussion. The concluding segment will be dedicated to the elaboration of the conclusions of the Conference and recommendations for follow-up.

IV. PARTICIPATION

10. Participation is open to representatives of governments and other interested parties from UNECE member States and other member States of the United Nations, representatives of United Nations system, other international organizations and accredited non-governmental organizations interested in the topic of PPPs. Broad participation of government officials, business community and academia is expected. Governments are especially encouraged to invite representatives of the private sector who are involved directly in PPP projects to attend the Conference and its special segments.

11. Governments are further invited to inform their national bodies, PPP units or task forces, and ministries who are involved in the subject, such as trade, industry, investment, economy, finance, environment, etc., 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.

V. STEERING COMMITTEE

12. The Conference will be chaired by a representative of Israel. A Steering Committee comprised of the chairperson, the moderators of the sessions, Mr. Yehudah Raveh and Ms. Simona Halperin from the National Organizing Committee, as well as the UNECE Secretariat will be established.

VI. CONFERENCE FEE AND OTHER EXPENSES

13. No conference fee is charged for the participation in the International Conference. Travel and accommodation expenses are borne by the participants. A limited amount of funds, however, may be available upon request to support the travel costs of representatives of governments from countries with economies in transition (one per country).

VII. PASSPORTS AND VISAS

14. All participants should be in possession of a passport valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of arrival in Israel. For representatives from certain countries, an entry visa is required, which can be obtained from the nearest diplomatic representation of Israel. Information and addresses of the Israeli Missions abroad is available on the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs web site: <http://www.mfa.gov.il/>. It is advisable to make such visa applications well in advance of the date required. The UNECE Secretariat will provide letters to the authorities of Israel (i.e. consular sections at Israeli embassies) confirming the Conference attendance for those participants who need such a letter and request it directly from the Secretariat.

VIII. REGISTRATION

15. Interested parties are invited to fill in the attached Registration Form (Annex II) and return it by Thursday **24 May 2007** at the latest to **both** addresses below:

Ms. Simona Halperin
Deputy Director
International Organizations &
Human Rights Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tel: +972 2 5303951
Fax: +972 2 5303710
Mobile: +972 50 6203457
Email: Simona.halperin@mfa.gov.il

Ms. Ljiljana Stancic
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UNECE Secretariat
Tel.: +41 22 917 1879 or 917 2753
Fax: +41 22 917 0178
Email: Ljiljana.Stancic@unece.org

IX. DOCUMENTATION

16. Three weeks before the Conference, the UNECE Secretariat will distribute the Guidelines on Good Governance and an annotated outline of the Comparative review on the performance of PPPs in advanced market economies and in the countries with economies in transition. These documents will be reviewed during the Conference. UNECE member Governments, intergovernmental and accredited non-governmental organizations, companies and individual experts may wish to submit comments on the Guidelines at the International Conference.

X. INTERPRETATION AND VISUAL AIDS

17. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian, facilities for projecting slides, as well as computer facilities for computer-aided presentations (e.g. Power Point) will be provided.

XI. TRAVEL AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS

18. Participants are requested to make their own hotel and travel arrangements to and from Israel. A list of recommended hotels will be circulated shortly.

XII. FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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ANNEX I

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK

Tuesday, 5 June 2007

10.00 – 10.30 OPENING SESSION

Welcoming addresses: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel
 A representative from the UNECE

10.30 - 13.00 SESSION 1. EXPERIENCES OF PPPs IN UNECE COUNTRIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Moderator (to be nominated)

- (a) Presentation of experience from Israel;
- (b) Presentations of experiences from 3 – 4 other countries.

Country presenters will address the following topics:

- (a) What are the major sectors and areas in which this type of cooperation is desirable?
- (b) How do they operate?
- (c) What have been the major problems encountered?
- (d) What has been their role in enterprise development?
- (e) How do PPPs facilitate project financing?
- (f) What have been the key lessons learned?

The results of this session will contribute to the elaboration of a “Comparative review of experiences of PPPs in the UNECE region” that will be presented to the second session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (Geneva, 5-7 December 2007).

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 – 18.00 SESSION 2. FINANCING PPP PROJECTS

Moderator (to be nominated)

- (a) International finance organizations, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and European Investment Bank;

- (b) Institutional investors; and
- (c) Banks & private equity funds.

The following topics will be addressed:

- (a) Best practices in attracting private finance in PPPs; and
- (b) Recent trends in PPP financing.

Wednesday, 6 June 2007

**09.30 - 11.00 SESSION 3. A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF PPP MODELS AND
THEIR POTENTIAL**

Keynote presentation: BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) / PFI (Private finance initiative) models

Moderator (to be nominated)

Round table: Recent trends and global experiences in PPPs: Facilitating the expansion of PPPs to foreign markets

- (a) Representatives of UNESCAP, UNECA and UNECE;
- (b) Representative from the private sector; and
- (c) Representatives from national and regional government agencies.

Issues to be addressed:

- (a) Needs of governments in developing successful PPP programmes;
- (b) Availability of capacity-building and training initiatives; and
- (c) Goals of the United Nations Development Account project on creating a Public-Private Partnership Alliance for Capacity-Building in Infrastructure Development and Provision of Basic Services.

11.00 – 13.30 THEMATIC SESSION (running in parallel)

Moderator for thematic group (to be nominated)

Each participant will register for the session of interest.

Working Group 1 PPP projects in the Sector of Transport	Working Group 2: PPP projects in Non- Transport Sector of Infrastructure	Working group 3: Financing PPP projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads • Light train • Sea ports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water desalination and treatment plants • Cultural / educational institutions 	Building "Financial Package": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private financing • Public financing and government support

In parallel to these sessions a Drafting Committee will review:

- (a) An Annotated outline of a Comparative review of the Performance of PPPs in both advanced market economies and transition economies.
- (b) Concluding document containing Policy Recommendations.

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 – 17.30 INVESTOR CONNECT: An opportunity for local, regional and national government agencies to discuss project ideas with interested investors and the business community at pre-arranged bilateral meetings.

Participants are invited to indicate their interest in such meetings with specific companies/business groups, and the sectors and areas in which they are interested. If participants wish to discuss specific project proposals, they may want to send a short note in advance, describing the project idea, its size, and the amount of financing required.

A detailed questionnaire in this regard will be sent to participants shortly.

The focal point for the ‘Investor Connect’ will be Ms. Simona Halperin who can be contacted for further details.

17.30 – 19.00 CONCLUDING SESSION: Reports from the moderators, summarizing recommendations and conclusions of the Conference.

Panel: Moderators from the previous sessions.

Thursday, 7 June 2007

PROFESSIONAL SITE VISITS

09.00 – 17.00 Visit to the following PPP projects to be organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- (a) Ashkelon Desalination Plant

IDE's Ashkelon Desalination Plant was declared Desalination Plant of the Year at the prestigious Global Water Awards ceremony in Dubai. Located on Israel's southern Mediterranean coast, the new Ashkelon plant will provide around 15% of Israel's domestic needs. It is the first of a number of similar large-scale seawater desalination facilities planned.

The price of water produced by the plant is approximately \$0.60 per cubic meter. The desalinated water is channelled to a nearby reservoir of Israel's Mekorot Water Company and then distributed through the national water distribution network. Under the terms of the BOT (build-operate-transfer) agreement, VID will sell the water from the plant to the state at a predetermined price over a 25-year period. At the end of the period, the facility will be handed over to the state.

http://www.export.gov.il/Eng/_Articles/Article.asp?ArticleID=3043&CategoryID=354

(b) Ashkelon Technological Industries (ATI)

ATI was established as a collaborative project of the Office of the Chief Scientist, the city of Ashkelon, and private investors. ATI is a business development centre, which actively assists new hi-tech companies in the process towards the commercialization of a novel product on world markets.

<http://www.incubators.org.il/>
<http://www.ati.co.il/>

(c) Weizmann Institute of Science

The Weizmann Institute of Science, located in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions in the world. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the sciences and technology, the Institute gathers together 2,500 scientists, technicians and research students devoted to adventuring into the unknown. In their labs, located in a landscaped campus environment, they share a vision: To better understand nature and our place within it. Inquisitiveness is their predominant trait. It is this curiosity that propelled Homo sapiens up the slope of evolution.

<http://wis-wander.weizmann.ac.il/site/EN/weizman.asp?pi=376>

(d) Highway 6 – The Cross-Israel Highway

Highway 6 is an innovative and advanced electronic toll road. The payment method is designed to allow free traffic flow. It is very easy and most effective: Instead of building toll booths at which the driver has to stop and pay, toll gates along the road contain systems that identify the passing vehicles automatically without requiring the vehicle to stop. This is one of the most advanced methods used anywhere in the world.

<http://www.kvish6.co.il/>

Friday, 8 June 2007

PROFESSIONAL SITE VISITS

(a) Light Train of Jerusalem

Jerusalem is ahead of all other Israeli cities in developing a new traffic system, at the heart of which is the Light Rail Transportation system. The project will relieve traffic congestion in the city and will stimulate rehabilitation and renewal in the downtown area. Work on utilities is already underway and the system is expected to begin operating in 2007.

http://www.rakevetkala-jerusalem.org.il/images/Eng_brochure.pdf

OTHER VISITS

(a) Tour of the Old City of Jerusalem

The Old City was originally built by King David in 1004 B.C. and has always been considered the center of the world. Ancient maps show the three continents known at the time: Europe, Asia, and Africa, situated in a circle with Jerusalem at their center. Since then Jerusalem has been cherished and glorified by kings, rulers, and conquerors who attempted to storm its walls and adored by ordinary people who made it the loadstone of their faith. This was the place where the Jews built the Temple, where Jesus was crucified, and where Mohammed rose to Heaven. Pilgrims, beggars, merchants, students of great scholars, warriors and slaves have all walked its streets, and have praised and revered Jerusalem. Various small PPP arrangements exist in order to protect the historical and cultural heritage of the Old City.

http://www.tourism.gov.il/Tourism_Eng/Articles/Attractions/OldCityJerusalem.htm

(b) Visit of Yad Vashem– holocaust memorial museum

The New Museum consists of the Holocaust History Museum-and within it the Hall of Names- the Museum of Holocaust Art, and the Exhibitions Pavilion.

http://www1.yadvashem.org/new_museum/Galleries/gal10Hall.html

At the end of day 4, the Steering Committee will meet to ensure that the experiences and lessons learned from the PPP site visits are incorporated into the overall conclusions of the Conference.

ANNEX II

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

This form should be filled in and returned as soon as possible but **not later than 24 May 2007**

(Please type or write in block capitals)

Family name (Mr., Ms.):

First name:

Nationality:

Professional position:.....

Representing country, international organization or company:.....

.....

Professional address:

.....

Telephone (please include country and city codes):.....

Telefax (please include country and city codes):.....

E-mail address:.....

During Day 2, there will be three parallel Working Group sessions on different topics. Please indicate by marking 'x' in the box of the Working Group you wish to attend:

Working Group 1: PPP projects in the Sector of Transport	Working Group 2: PPP projects in Non- Transport Sector of Infrastructure	Working group 3: Financing PPP projects
