

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE**

No. 5(1)/2023-Admn-I/HR-I

Islamabad, the 25th May, 2023

CIRCULAR

SUBJECT: - 2023 WTO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GPA 2012 FOR THE ASIAN REGION SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FROM 12 TO 14 SEPTEMBER, 2023

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of self explanatory email along with its enclosure, received from Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO Geneva on the above mentioned subject for placing on the website of the Ministry of Commerce.

2. Interested officers, who fulfill the eligibility criteria may send their nominations, duly approved by their respective Head(s) of the Wing(s) to HR-I Section (along with their C.V and details of availed Foreign Training/Workshops etc), latest by 31-05-2023 positively. Nominations received after the deadline will not be entertained.

Encl: As Above



(Aamir Waheed)
Section Officer (HR-I)

**Database Administrator,
Ministry of Commerce
Islamabad**

Fw: INVITATION // 2023 WTO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GPA 2012 FOR THE ASIAN REGION // SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FROM 12 TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

1 message

haja.ranaivo@wto-pakistan.org <haja.ranaivo@wto-pakistan.org>

Wed, May 24, 2023 at 7:32 PM

Reply-To: haja.ranaivo@wto-pakistan.org

To: Deputy Director MoC Ministry of Commerce <ddcommercedivision@gmail.com>

Cc: Sadia Sultan <sowto2.moc@gmail.com>, "ashfaqdcwto@gmail.com" <ashfaqdcwto@gmail.com>, "fahad.raza@wto-pakistan.org" <fahad.raza@wto-pakistan.org>, "owais.hussain@wto-pakistan.org" <owais.hussain@wto-pakistan.org>

**2023 WTO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GPA 2012 FOR THE ASIAN REGION
SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FROM 12 TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above-mentioned activity, kindly find the 2 following documents:

- Invitation Letter - Official Nomination Letter (to be uploaded to the online registration form with a scanned copy of the passport)
- Draft Programme

Please note that:

The candidate needs to complete and submit the online application form which is available using the following link: https://wto.formstack.com/forms/gpa_regional_asia_2023

Upon the online submission, the candidate will receive a confirmation email and will have to forward it to this Mission for endorsement.

To validate the candidacy, this Mission needs to forward the confirmation to the WTO.

Deadline for participants to submit online application forms: 7 JUNE 2023

Deadline to receive validations by the Mission 7 JUNE 2023

Best regards,
Haja

Haja Ranaivo
Trade Development Officer
Delegation Coordinator

Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO
37-39 Rue de Vermont, 1211 Genève
Tel 022 748 70 25 - Fax 022 748 70 29

Before printing, please think about the environment

Save Trees - Think Before Print. Do not print this email unless necessary!

2 attachments

 **Invitation letter - 2023 WTO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GPA 2012 FOR THE ASIAN REGION.pdf**
162K

 **GP23-1 Draft Programme.pdf**
136K



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Direct line: (+41 22) 739 6440
Email: logistics.unit@wto.org


EMAIL


To: Heads of Delegations
Members and Observers to the WTO

E-mail: List attached

From: Bridget Chilala
Director
Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

Date: 24/05/2023





Antony Taubman
Director
Intellectual Property, Government Procurement
and Competition Division

Number of pages (including this one): 8

Ref: GP23 - 1

2023 WTO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON GPA 2012 FOR THE ASIAN REGION

SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FROM 12 TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is organizing the **2023 Regional Workshop on GPA 2012 for the Asian Region** for the benefit of participants from the Asian economies. The Workshop will take place on **12-14 September 2023 in Seoul, Republic of Korea**.

The Workshop

The purpose of the Workshop is to provide a forum for both trade and procurement experts from the Asian region to exchange experience and views on the international trade and government procurement nexus. The main objectives of the Workshop are: (i) to familiarize participants with the GPA 2012 and related WTO activities on government procurement, with a focus on such GPA 2012 features as trade opening, good governance, and economic and sustainable development; (ii) to elaborate on the process and the benefits and costs of accession to the GPA 2012; and (iii) to explore the interaction between the GPA 2012 and bilateral/regional free trade agreements in the Asian region.

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The programme will comprise presentations by WTO Secretariat and other international/regional experts. A draft programme is attached. The Workshop will be held in **English**.

Participation in the activity

The Governments of the WTO Members who are eligible to benefit from this regional workshop are invited to nominate **up to three senior capital-based officials** to be considered to participate in the above activity out of which **one candidate will be selected**.

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Ideally, the nominated officials should be from your government's trade ministry or from your government procurement agency.

Preference will be given to nominees having policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in government procurement and/or related aspects of trade policy.

A round-trip airplane ticket in economy class, accommodation for the duration of the course on a full board basis (breakfasts, lunches and dinners provided) and transfer between the airport and the venue of accommodation during the event will be provided to funded candidates. Further administrative details will be communicated directly to the selected participants.

Participants will be required to contribute to the Workshop by providing comments on their national experiences and actively participating in the group exercise and should come duly prepared.

The application process

The application process consists of the following steps:

1. Interested candidates need to duly complete and submit the online application form, which is available at: https://wto.formstack.com/forms/gpa_regional_asia_2023
2. The online application form requires uploading a scanned copy of the passport and of the official nomination letter, signed and stamped by the competent government authority that is nominating the candidate. A template for such a letter to be signed and stamped by the national authority can be found in Annex 1 to this invitation letter.
3. The application form, including the passport and nomination letter, should be submitted via the online application system **NO LATER THAN 07 JUNE 2023.**
4. Applications are to be validated by the Permanent Mission/Embassy to the WTO. Validations should be addressed by email to the WTO Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation (E-mail: logistics.unit@wto.org) **NO LATER THAN 07 JUNE 2023.**

The WTO Secretariat reserves the right to postpone or cancel this activity in the event of force majeure, or for any reason that renders the execution of the activity impracticable for the organizers.

***Francés/Español**

L'Organisation mondiale du commerce organise un atelier sur l'AMP 2012, à Séoul (à confirmer), du 12 au 14 septembre 2023. Cet atelier étant en anglais, l'invitation et le formulaire de candidature sont distribués en anglais uniquement.

La Organización Mundial de Comercio organiza un taller sobre el ACP 2012 en Séoul (por confirmar), del 12 al 14 de septiembre de 2023. Este taller en inglés, por consiguiente, la invitación y el formulario de candidatura serán distribuidos únicamente en inglés.

WTO OMC

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ANNEX 1

TEMPLATE FOR NOMINATION LETTER TO BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND STAMPED BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY NOMINATING THE CANDIDATE

The [Ministry/Directorate/National Office] of [Member/Observer] officially nominates [name of candidate] to participate in the 2023 WTO Regional Workshop on GPA 2012 for the Asian Region, scheduled to take place on 12-14 September 2023 and hereby confirms that: (i) the candidate has policy responsibility and/or a demonstrated background in trade and/or government procurement matters; (ii) has full command of English and will be able to successfully and actively participate in the programme; and (iii) is fully aware that this nomination is subject to the decisions of the WTO Selection Committee and to the conditions described in the conditions to participate in WTO technical assistance activities.

Details of the official responsible for nominating this candidate:

Name	
Family Name	
Current Post	
Government Authority	
Telephone	
Email address	

By signing this form, the Nominating Authority certifies that all the information included is complete and correct.

Date	Signature	Stamp
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WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ORGANIZATION MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

WTO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE GPA 2012 FOR THE ASIAN REGION

Seoul (TBC), Republic of Korea

12 - 14 September 2023

DRAFT PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Workshop is to provide a forum for both trade and procurement experts from the Asian region to exchange experience and views on the international trade and government procurement nexus. The main objectives of the Workshop are: (i) to familiarize participants with the GPA 2012 and related WTO activities on government procurement, with a focus on such GPA 2012 features as trade opening, good governance, and economic and sustainable development; (ii) to elaborate on the process and the benefits and costs of accession to the GPA 2012; and (iii) to explore the interaction between the GPA 2012 and bilateral / regional free trade agreements in the Asian region.

The programme adopts an interactive approach with embedded breakout sessions to encourage consideration of practical issues, networking, and the exchange of relevant experiences.

Participants are encouraged to come prepared, where possible, to contribute to the workshop especially during the breakout sessions.

Tuesday, 12 September 2023

08:30 Registration

SESSION 1: Opening

Time	Subject	Speaker
09:00 – 09:15	1.1 Opening remarks	Public Procurement Service (PPS), Republic of Korea WTO Secretariat
09:15 – 09:30	1.2 Participant introductions and objectives	Workshop Participants

SESSION 2: Policies underlying the GPA 2012 and the global and regional context

Time	Subject	Speaker
09:30 – 10:00	2.1 Government procurement as a tool to promote sustainable development and economic performance: Recent trends and developments in Asia	Invited regional expert
10:00 – 10:30	2.2 The GPA 2012: Global policy context, trade dimension, objectives, key principles, and policy considerations for developing economies	WTO Secretariat
10:30 – 10:40	2.3 General discussion	

10:40 – 11:00 Break

SESSION 3a: Main commitments and flexibilities, and implementation, of the GPA 2012

Time	Subject	Speaker
11:00 – 11:30	3.1 Introduction to the GPA 2012: Main substantive and procedural commitments and built-in flexibilities (<i>Walk-through of the text of the GPA 2012</i>)	WTO Secretariat
11:30 – 12:00	3.2 The 2011 UNCITRAL Model Law: A useful guide to implementing the GPA 2012 domestically	UNCITRAL
12:00 – 12:15	3.3 General discussion	

12:15– 13:45 Lunch Break

SESSION 3a: Main commitments and flexibilities, and implementation, of the GPA 2012 (cont'd)

Time	Subject	Speaker
13:45 – 14:30	3.4 The future shape of the GPA 2012: A look at recent regional legal reforms and innovations in Korea and beyond	Host country representative, Workshop participant country representative, Invited regional expert

SESSION 3b: The rules of the GPA 2012 as a requirement (GPA Parties) or best international practices benchmark (non-GPA Party WTO Members): The situation in Asia – *Breakout session*

Time	Subject	Speaker
14:30 – 16:00	3.5 National and regional government procurement legal frameworks and practice: A comparative review vis-à-vis the rules of the GPA 2012	Workshop participants

16:00 – 16:30 Break

SESSION 3c: The GPA 2012 and specific government procurement policies

Time	Subject	Speaker
16:30 – 16:45	3.6 SMEs: Relevant GPA 2012 rules and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement	WTO Secretariat
16:45– 17:00	3.7 Sustainable procurement: Relevant GPA 2012 rules and the Work Programme of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement	WTO Secretariat
17:00– 17:15	3.8 General discussion	

Wednesday, 13 September 2023

SESSION 5: Scope and coverage of the GPA 2012, potential market access benefits and national experience of the Republic of Korea

Time	Subject	Speaker
09:00 – 09:30	5.1 Market access opportunities under, and scope and coverage of, the GPA 2012: Use of the e-GPA tool as a market access information resource (https://e-gpa.wto.org/)	WTO Secretariat
09:30 – 09:40	5.2 General discussion	

09:40 – 10:00 Break

SESSION 6: The GPA 2012 and good governance in government procurement

Time	Subject	Speaker
10:00 – 10:30	6.1 Good governance in Asia's government procurement systems: Current challenges and opportunities	Invited regional expert
10:30 – 11:00	6.2 Promoting competition and fighting collusion in the domestic government procurement market: More/better value for money	WTO Secretariat
11:00 – 11:30	6.3 Enhancing integrity in the domestic government procurement market: The GPA 2012 as a tool for fighting corruption	WTO Secretariat
11:30 – 12:00	6.4 General discussion	

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break

SESSION 7: Enforcement of the GPA 2012: WTO dispute settlement mechanism and the domestic review procedures under the GPA 2012

Time	Subject	Speaker
13:30 – 13:40	7.1 Securing adherence to the GPA 2012 through the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU): WTO intergovernmental dispute settlement	WTO Secretariat
13:40 – 14:10	7.2 Securing adherence to the GPA 2012 at the domestic level: Domestic review procedures	WTO Secretariat
14:10 – 14:30	7.3 General discussion	

14:30 – 15:00 Break

SESSION 8: Applying the rules of the GPA 2012: A practical exercise – *Breakout session*

Time	Subject	Speaker
15:00 - 16:30	8.1 Group exercise on the GPA 2012 rules and their implementation - <i>breakout session</i>	Workshop participants

Thursday, 14 September 2023

SESSION 9a: Observership and accession to the GPA 2012

Time	Subject	Speaker
09:00 - 09:15	9.1 Observer status in the WTO Committee on Government Procurement: Benefits and procedure	WTO Secretariat
09:15 - 10:00	9.2 Accession to the GPA 2012: Benefits and challenges, the accession procedure and ongoing accession negotiations	WTO Secretariat
10:00 - 10:20	9.3 Accession to the GPA 2012: Policy considerations for Asian developing economies and prospects	Invited regional expert
10:20 - 10:30	9.4 General discussion	

Session 9a: Observership and accession to the GPA 2012 (cont'd)

Time	Subject	Speaker
10:30 - 10:40	9.5 Availability of technical assistance from the WTO Secretariat	WTO Secretariat
10:40 - 11:00	9.6 Current work and focus of the EBRD, and its GPA 2012 TA facility	EBRD

11:00 - 11:30 Break

SESSION 9b: Market access negotiation covering government procurement: A practical exercise: *Breakout session*

Time	Subject	Speaker
11:30 - 13:00	9.6 Group exercise on market access negotiation under the GPA 2012/In an FTA context	Workshop participants

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch Break

SESSION 10: Significance of the GPA 2012 In the context of FTA negotiations

Time	Subject	Speaker
14:30 - 15:00	10.1 The GPA 2012 as a template for bilateral and regional free trade agreements, with a specific focus on Asia	WTO Secretariat
15:00 - 15:30	10.2 The treatment of government procurement in regional and bilateral free trade agreements: Recent developments in Asia	Host country representative negotiator, Workshop participants

15:30 - 15:40 10.3 General discussion

15:40 - 16:00 Break

SESSION 11: Concluding session

Time	Subject	Speaker
16:00 - 16:20	11.1 Summary observations and main take-aways from the Workshop.	Invited regional expert
16:20 - 16:40	11.2 Participants' evaluation of the Workshop, feedback and comments	Workshop participants
16:40 - 17:00	11.3 Closing remarks	Public Procurement Service, Republic of Korea, WTO Secretariat

17:00 CLOSE