





# **EAST ASIA** and the **PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC** PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE

Procurement for the People: Bridging Innovation, Value for Money, and Accountability



Manila, **Philippines** 28 - 30 April 2025



































# Welcome *from the*Government Procurement Policy Board Technical Support Office

Distinguished Delegates,

Mabuhay and welcome to the 2025 East Asia and Pacific International Public Procurement Conference, hosted by the Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO) and co-hosted by the World Bank.

We proudly welcome over 150 participants — including procurement regulatory agencies, practitioners, civil society, academics, and development partners — from across East Asia, the Pacific, and beyond. Your presence affirms the growing momentum to transform procurement into a tool for inclusive, accountable, and innovation-driven governance.

With the theme "Procurement for the People: Bridging Innovation, Value for Money, and Accountability," this conference offers a vital platform for dialogue and collaboration to modernize procurement, optimize public spending, and enhance service delivery across our region.

The **Philippines** was selected to host this second international conference in recognition of its track record in procurement reform — from enhancing efficiency and transparency to pioneering digitalization and civil society engagement. Most notably, the recent passage of the New Government Procurement Act (NGPA) in July 2024, replacing the two-decade-old Government Procurement Reform Act, marks a landmark achievement toward a more agile, inclusive, and future-ready procurement system.

May this conference not only deepen our professional dialogue, but also leave you with a lasting impression of Filipino hospitality, collaboration, and commitment to reform.

We hope your stay in the Philippines is as enriching as the conversations we will share.

Maraming salamat, and Mabuhay!





# Welcome *from the*World Bank and Development Partners

Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and partners in development,

On behalf of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the Climate Support Facility, it is our distinct honor and pleasure to join our hosts the Government of the Philippines in welcoming you to the East Asia and Pacific International Public Procurement Conference.

This gathering brings together a remarkable community of procurement leaders, policymakers, practitioners, and experts from across the region. Together, we embark on a shared journey to explore bold, transformative approaches to public procurement—an area that lies at the heart of effective governance and sustainable development.

With the theme "Procurement for the People: Bridging Innovation, Value for Money, and Accountability," this conference seeks not only to highlight best practices and emerging trends, but also to cultivate enduring partnerships that promote transparency, integrity, and innovation in public procurement systems.

At a time when public trust and fiscal responsibility are more critical than ever, your participation affirms our collective commitment to using public resources wisely, efficiently, and equitably—to deliver tangible results that improve lives and build resilient communities.

We are grateful to the Government of the Philippines through the Government Procurement Policy Board - Technical Support Office for hosting this event. We appreciate very much our partners, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and Climate Support Facility for providing additional resources and taking active part in the program.

We look forward to the rich exchange of ideas, the strengthening of regional cooperation, and the forging of new pathways that will shape the future of procurement in East Asia, the Pacific, and beyond.

Thank you for your presence, your insights, and your leadership in this vital endeavor.

Diomedes Berroa







# **RATIONALE FOR THE FORUM**



Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the **World Bank**, and development partners: the **Asian Development Bank**, the **Islamic Development Bank**, and the **Climate Support Facility**, it is our distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you to the Conference **Procurement for the People: Bridging Innovation, Value for Money, and Accountability**. We are truly grateful for your presence and participation in this important gathering.

The Conference emphasizes that procurement is not merely a bureaucratic function; rather, it serves as a powerful strategic tool for driving inclusive growth and enhancing public trust.

Globally, procurement accounts for a significant portion of government spending, up to 30% of the GDP in many countries. And when managed effectively, procurement can stimulate entire value chains, foster economic resilience, and create employment opportunities.

Governments and institutions are under increasing pressure to deliver more with less, making it essential that public resources are used efficiently, transparently, and with measurable impact. At the same time, the call for more agile, responsive, and forward-thinking procurement systems is louder than ever.

This Conference brings together policymakers, procurement professionals, innovators, civil society, private sector leaders, and development partners to explore how procurement can move beyond traditional metrics. And we will focus on three strategic pillars:

- Innovation: Innovative procurement enables governments to enhance responsiveness, improve service delivery, generate jobs and build systems that are both adaptable and accountable.
- Value for Money: Procurement isn't just about spending less—it's about spending wisely. To ensure that procurement delivers optimal outcomes—not just cost savings, but quality, sustainability, and long-term benefits.
- Accountability: Without accountability, procurement loses its power to serve the public good. Strengthening transparency, citizen oversight, and integrity in procurement systems restore and maintain public confidence.

At its core, this Conference asks a fundamental question: **How can procurement deliver not just value for money, but value for people?** By answering this, we aim to reshape public procurement into a force that empowers communities, creates jobs, stimulates economies, and supports sustainable progress.

We are grateful to the Government of the Philippines through the Government Procurement Policy Board - Technical Support Office for hosting this event. We appreciate very much our development partners, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and Climate Support Facility for providing additional resources and taking active part in the program.

Many Thanks.



# **OVERVIEW OF THE FORUM SESSIONS**



#### Panel 1 - Procurement in Action: From Contracts to Societal Impact

The objective of this panel is to explore how public procurement can be used not just to acquire goods and services, but to achieve broader socio-economic goals across the EAP region — including support for SMEs, job creation, and gender equity reinforcing procurement's role as a policy tool for inclusive growth.

Panel 4 - Sustainable Procurement:

**Beyond Green Policies to Real** 

The objective of this panel is to

compliance-based green policies

environmental impact, leveraging

sustainability and climate resilience.

the region can move beyond

toward real, measurable

procurement as a driver of

examine how public procurement in

Impact

#### Panel 2 - Procurement for **Generation Beta: Delivering Value** for the Future

The objective of this panel is to discuss how procurement systems in the region can evolve to meet the expectations of the next generation — focusing on long-term value creation, sustainability, and impact, rather than just cost-efficiency in the present.

The objective of this panel is to showcase how inclusive procurement can transform opportunities for women-led enterprises in the region, helping to close gender gaps, support innovation, and make procurement systems more representative and equitable.

#### Panel 5 - Women at the Forefront: **Transforming Procurement** Through Inclusion

#### Panel 7 - Open Government **Procurement: Driving Transparency and Public Participation**

The objective of this panel is to discuss how digital tools, open data, and participatory practices can enhance transparency and civic oversight in procurement across the region, helping to fight corruption and improve service delivery.

#### Panel 8 - Unmasking Ownership: **Enhancing Transparency in** Procurement

The objective of this panel is to delve into the importance of beneficial ownership transparency in public procurement, especially for EAP countries seeking to prevent corruption, ensure fair competition, and enhance supplier integrity.

#### Panel 3 - Raising the Bar: **Professionalizing Procurement for Impact**

The objective of this panel is to highlight the need to build stronger procurement systems through professionalization — including training, certification, and institutional capacity-building — to ensure procurement is driven by skilled professionals who uphold integrity and accountability.

#### Panel 6 - Al Sandbox: **Experimenting with the Future of Public Procurement**

The objective of this panel is to explore how EAP countries can harness emerging technologies like Al and data analytics within procurement "sandboxes" - safe, experimental spaces — to test innovation while managing risk and maintaining public trust.

#### Panel 9 - Connecting the Dots: **Public Procurement Practices** Around the Globe

The objective of this panel is to bring global procurement insights into the EAP context — sharing innovations, reforms, and best practices from around the world that can inspire local adaptation and regional cooperation.





DAY 1

**April 28, 2025** 

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Registration of Delegates (Grand Ballroom)

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

**Preliminaries** 

**National Anthem** 

Mr. Mondo Castro Master of Ceremonies

Invocation

Atty. Ma. Jozzenne Claire M. Beltran – Carandang Deputy Director General, GPPB-TSO

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM

**Welcome and Opening Ceremony** 

**Welcome Message** 

Hon. Amenah F. Pangandaman Secretary, Department of Budget and Management

**Opening Remarks** 

Ms. Dandan Chen Operations Manager, World Bank

**Introduction of the Executive Secretary** 

Hon. Amenah F. Pangandaman Secretary, Department of Budget and Management

**Keynote Speech** 

Hon. Lucas P. Bersamin Executive Secretary, Office of the President

on behalf of

His Excellency, Hon. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. *The President of the Republic of the Philippines* 

Commemorative Photograph

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM Networking Break

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM Rationale for the Forum

Mr. Diomedes Berroa

Procurement Manager, East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank

11:15 AM - 12:00 NN From Acceleration to Impact: Sustaining Momentum in Public Procurement for the People

Ms. Hye-Kyeong Kim

Director, Representative from the previous Country Host, Korea

Public Procurement Service (KPPS), South Korea

12:00 NN - 1:00 PM

Lunch



## **DAY 1** April 28, 2025

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM Panel 1: Procurement in Action: From Contracts to Societal Impact

Presenter: Atty. Rowena Candice M. Ruiz

Undersecretary, Department of Education, Philippines

Panelist: Mr. Saimoni Veramu

Head of Procurement, Procurement Office, Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Fiji

Mr. Diomedes Berroa

Procurement Manager, East Asia and Pacific Region (EAP), World Bank

Mr. Jeffrey Taylor

Deputy Director General, Procurement, Portfolio and Financial

Management, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Ms. Boonyaporn Harnyuenyongsakul

Legal Officer, Professional Level, Comptroller General's Department,

Ministry of Finance, Thailand

Moderator: Atty. Kirbee Tibayan

National Programme Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

2:15 PM – 3:30 PM Panel 2 – Procurement for Generation Beta: Delivering Value for

the Future

Panelist: Ms. Soh Siew Luie

Deputy Director of Government Procurement Function Office, Ministry of

Finance, Republic of Singapore

Mr. Dennis S. Santiago

Managing Director, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Ms. Sania Taumaheke

Director, Central Procurement Unit, Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu

Mr. Charlie Villasenor

Executive Director, Procurement & Supply Institute of Asia (PASIA)

Mr. Gul Kamalı

Global Lead, Project Procurement & Financial Management Division

(PPFMD), Islamic Bank (IsDB)

Moderator: Mr. Howard Centenary

Lead Procurement Specialist, World Bank

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Networking Break

4:00 PM - 5:15 PM Panel 3 - Raising the Bar: Professionalizing Procurement for

**Impact** 

Presenter: Mr. George Jadoun

Senior Procurement Advisor, Former Head of the Procurement Division,

International Labor Organization-International Training Center (ILO-ITC)

Panelist: **Dr. Nguyen The Vinh** 

Vice President, Academy of Policy and Development – Ministry of Finance

Atty. Sofia Yanto-Abad

Deputy Director General, GPPB-TSO, Philippines

Mr. Ashutosh Vajpayee

Financial Advisor, Government of Rajasthan Transport and Road Safety Department, Rajasthan, Republic of India

Moderator: Dr. Eileen Lorena M. Mamino

Assistant to the Chancellor and Alumni Relations Director, University of the Philippines in Los Banos, Philippines

DAY 2	April 29, 2025
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration of Participants
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Panel 4 – Sustainable Procurement: Beyond Green Policies to Real Impact
Presenter:	<b>Mr. Senthil Kumar Subramani</b> <i>Procurement Senior Manager, United Nations Office for Project Services</i>
	<b>Ms. Soh Siew Luie</b> Deputy Director, Government Procurement Function Office, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Singapore
Panelist:	<b>Ms. Lana Rose A. Manaligod</b> Assistant Director, Energy Utilization Management Bureau, Department of Energy, Philippines
	<b>For. June M. Alvarez</b> <i>Executive Director, Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI)</i>
Moderator:	<b>Ms. Maria Arnal Canudo</b> Consultant, World Bank
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Networking Break
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Panel 5 – Women at the Forefront: Transforming Procurement Through Inclusion
Presenter:	<b>Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka</b> Former Executive Director of UN Women & Deputy President of South Africa; Founder of Umlambo Foundation; Gender Activist and Campaigner for Universal Access to Education
Panelist:	<b>Ms. Beth Elson</b> Inclusion Advisor, Partnerships for Infrastructure or P4I, an Australian Government program/initiative
	<b>Ms. Yuyu Yulianti</b> Senior Policy Analyst, Directorate for Business Climate Development and International Cooperation, LKPP, Indonesia
	<b>Ms. Maica R. Teves</b> <i>Executive Director, Spark Philippines, Inc.</i>
Moderator:	<b>Ms. Manjola Malo</b> Senior Procurement Specialist, South Asia Region, World Bank
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Panel 6 - AI Sandbox: Experimenting with the Future of Public **Procurement** 

Mr. Khalid Bin Anjum Presenter:

Senior Procurement Specialist, World Bank

Panelist: Mr. Pankaj Dikshit

Chief Technology Officer, Government e-Marketplace, India

**Ms. Ma. Victoria Basinang**Chief Technology Officer, Pointwest Technologies, and Official
Representative of the Analytics and AI Association of the Philippines (AAP)

Ms. Pham Thi Thuy Ha

Director, Procurement Department, Vietnam Electricity

Moderator: Mr. Saad Abdullah Paracha

Senior Public Sector Specialist, Asian Development Bank







DAY 2

April 29, 2025

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

**Networking Break** 

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Panel 7 - Open Government Procurement: Driving Transparency

and Public Participation

Presenter:

**Mr. Xavier Hughes** 

CEO and co-founder of Prokur, Inc. Distinguished Innovation and AI Fellow for the office of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Co-Chair of

President Obama's 21st Century Modernization Task Force

Panelist:

Mr. Januar Indra

Senior Policy Analyst, Directorate for Digital Procurement System,

LKPP, Indonesia

**Atty. Genmaries Entredicho-Caong** 

Executive Director, Procurement Service - Department of Budget and

Management (PS-DBM)

Ms. Altansukh Oyunjargal

Country Procurement Authority Representative, Mongolia

Mr. Kenneth Isaiah Ibasco Abante (Ken)

President, WeSolve Inc.

**Moderator:** 

Mr. Sandino J. Soliman

Executive Director, Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)

DAY<sub>3</sub>

April 30, 2025

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

**Registration of Participants** 

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Panel 8 – Unmasking Ownership: Enhancing Transparency in

**Procurement** 

Presenter:

Atty. Andrej Leontiev, LL.M

Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing Slovakia, External Expert on Beneficial Ownership Transparency and Anti Money Laundering, EU Global Facility on AML/CFT); co-author, Slovakian Anti-shell

Companies Law

Panelist:

**Atty. Emily Manuel** 

Asia Pacific Regional Manager, Open Ownership

**Atty. Genmaries Entredicho-Caong** 

Executive Director, Procurement Service - Department of Budget and

Management (PS-DBM)

**Atty. Daniel Luis Macalino** 

Assistant Director & Head, Anti-Money Laundering Division, Securities

and Exchange Commission

Moderator:

**Mr. Dondon Parafina** 

Managing Director, Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East

Asia and Pacific (ANSA-EAP)











## **DAY 3** April 30, 2025

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM Networking Break

9:45 AM - 11:15 AM Panel 9 - Connecting the Dots: Public Procurement Practices

**Around the Globe** 

Presenter: Mr. Diomedes Berroa

Procurement Manager, EAP Region, World Bank

Panelist: Mr. Jeff Taylor

Deputy Director General, ADB

**Mr. Parises Rattanaphirom** 

Fiscal Analyst, Professional Level, Comptroller General's

Department, Ministry of Finance, Thailand

Atty. Maria Dionesia A. Rivera-Guillermo

Officer-in-Charge, Government Procurement Policy Board –

Technical Support Office

Mr. Gul Kamali

Global Lead, PPFMD, IsDB

Moderator: Ms. Vivien Suerte-Cortez

Team Leader, Institutions and Partnerships, United Nations

Development Programme

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM Closing Ceremony and Handover to the Next Host Country

Atty. Janet B. Abuel

DBM Undersecretary and GPPB Alternate Chairperson, Philippines

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Call Time for Guided Tour for Foreign Delegates





















Sec. Mina, as she is fondly called by those who know her, carries with her 20 years of experience in government service, and has worked in both the Executive and Legislative branches, as well as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). She served as Undersecretary and Functional Group Head of the DBM Office of the Secretary from 2018 to 2019. She was Chief-of-Staff of former Senate President Edgardo J. Angara. She also worked as BSP Assistant Governor, pushing for reforms on digitalization of payments and financial inclusion. With this track record, she brings to the table a unique perspective on the Philippine bureaucracy and a deep understanding of the interplay among the different sectors and agencies in the economic sector.

As Budget and Management Chief, Sec. Mina vows to fully support the PBBM Administration's pursuit of a broad-based and inclusive economic transformation, encapsulated in the Agenda for Prosperity.

She is keen on achieving the modernization of the budget system, establishing bureaucratic efficiency through digitalization, incorporating sustainability and green principles in government spending, and attaining sustainable economic growth through strategic investments in high-impact infrastructure and human capital development.

# **SECRETARY AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN**

Department of Budget and Management Republic of the Philippines

Amenah F. Pangandaman is the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

She holds the distinction of being the only female member of the country's Economic Team and the only Filipina Muslim in the Cabinet of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (PBBM).

As DBM Secretary, she is chairperson of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), Philippine the Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP), the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), the Government Quality Management Committee (GQMC), and Committee on Devolution (ComDev). A staunch advocate of policies and reforms that promote local development, especially inclusive economic growth Mindanao, she is also Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Body (IGRB), leading discussions and initiatives to empower the Autonomous Region in Bangsamoro Mindanao.



A truly dedicated public servant, she was awarded "Public Servant of the Year" by the Asia Leaders Awards, the "Philippines' Women Leaders Award" by the World Women Leadership Congress, and "Outstanding Public Servant" by the Public Attorney's Office. She was among PeopleAsia's "People of the Year" in 2023 and was recognized as a "Woman of Substance" by the publication Rising Tigers in the same year.

Sec. Mina holds a degree in Economics from the Far Eastern University and a diploma and master's degree in Development Economics from the University of the Philippines. She has also attended the London School of Economics for an Executive Master of Public Administration.

In her spare time, she volunteers for various programs of the Philippine Red Cross, finds ways to support the local textile and fashion industries, and spends quality time with her adorable dog, 'Bimby.'

# PANEL 1 – PROCUREMENT IN ACTION: FROM CONTRACTS TO SOCIETAL IMPACT



#### ATTY. ROWENA CANDICE M. RUIZ

Undersecretary, Department of Education

Undersecretary Ruiz has been a catalyst for innovation in public procurement. Notable achievements include securing the Philippines' Observer Status in the World Trade Organization and spearheading the digital transformation of public procurement, transitioning to a primarily digital service delivery system, ensuring business continuity.

During the COVID-19 crisis, she recommended efficient procurement policy measures, initiated the GPPB-TSO Online Blacklisting Portal, and established the GPPB Online Portal for transparency of the use public funds earning international recognition for accountability in the Philippines' COVID-19 Response Program. In 2021, Atty. Ruiz gained global acclaim as a GovInsider-selected woman pioneering technological innovation in public services. And in 2024, she bagged the United Kingdom Alumni Awards for Business and Innovation.

Collaborating with development partners, Atty. Ruiz secured partnerships with the World Bank, United Nations Environment Programme, and various international agencies, contributing to public procurement reform initiatives. Recently, she proposed a new Philippine Procurement Law centered on the principles of open government, innovative solutions, sustainable public procurement, and professionalization of public procurement.

Prior to her current role, she held a leadership position in the Legal Service of the Department of Budget and Management, contributing significantly to legislative measures. As a Chevening Scholar, she pursued a Masters of Law in Globalisation and Development at the University of London, further enhancing her expertise.

# MODERATOR



## ATTY. KIRBEE TIBAYAN

National Programme Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Atty. Tibayan is a National Programme Anti-Corruption Officer at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with over 15 years of experience in governance and compliance.

Her expertise spans public procurement policy, beneficial ownership transparency, and regulatory frameworks. She has led the development of key policies and facilitated data-sharing agreements among law enforcement agencies to strengthen anti-corruption efforts.

Previously, she served as an Investigations Research Consultant at the Asian Development Bank's Office of Anti-Corruption and Integrity, and as a partner at a law firm specializing in white-collar crime. She holds a Juris Doctor degree and is committed to advancing transparency and accountability in public institutions.



**Panel 1:** Discover how procurement serves as a strategic tool and policy driver in achieving critical social mandates including SMEs, Jobs and Gender. This session will focus on how procurement mechanisms are designed to address societal needs, empower communities, and deliver lasting impacts, showcasing its transformative role in governance.



Time: 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM Date: April 28, 2025



# PANEL 1 – PROCUREMENT IN ACTION: FROM CONTRACTS TO SOCIETAL IMPACT



## PANELIST

#### **MR. SAIMONI VERAMU**

Head of Procurement, Fiji Procurement Office, Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics

Mr. Veramu is a highly experienced procurement and finance professional with over 20 years of experience in both the private and public sectors. Currently, as the Head of Procurement at the Fiji Procurement Office, he manages government procurement projects focusing on transparency innovation like eTender and category management.

His prior roles include significant positions at British American Tobacco, Fiji Ports Corporation, and PricewaterhouseCoopers, where he specialized in supply chain, financial strategy, risk management, and auditing.



#### **MR. DIOMEDES BERROA**

Regional Procurement Manager, East Asia and the Pacific, World Bank, Bangkok, Thailand



Diomedes Berroa is a distinguished Panamanian lawyer who has served with the World Bank Group since 2000, where he is a key member of the Integrity Vice Presidency. Over the course of his tenure, he has played a leading role in advancing innovative procurement strategies that integrate artificial intelligence and sustainability, while steadfastly promoting transparency, good governance, and institutional integrity.

Mr. Berroa has been instrumental in strengthening public procurement systems and enhancing public financial management practices across diverse global regions. His contributions have also been central to fostering co-financing arrangements between the World Bank and various multilateral and bilateral development partners.

DAs a core team member, Mr. Berroa played a pivotal role in the design, launch, and implementation of the World Bank's Procurement Framework, which came into effect on July 1, 2016. He has led negotiations of co-financing agreements with major development institutions and has provided strategic leadership in operational procurement.

His expertise was particularly impactful during his tenure as Regional Procurement Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean, where he oversaw procurement operations and led policy dialogue initiatives across 33 countries. Since August 2022, Mr. Berroa has served as Procurement Manager for the East Asia and Pacific Region, where he continues to provide operational leadership and engages in high-level policy discussions on procurement reform.

Mr. Berroa holds a law degree from the University of Panama and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International and Comparative Law from The George Washington University. He is also a published author, having contributed extensively to the fields of sustainable procurement, supply chain management, fiscal efficiency, integrity, and anti-corruption in public procurement.























**Time:** 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM **Date:** April 28, 2025



# PANEL 1 – PROCUREMENT IN ACTION: FROM CONTRACTS TO SOCIETAL IMPACT

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## PANELIST

#### **MR. JEFF TAYLOR**

Deputy Director General, Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management, Asian Development Bank



Mr. Taylor also serves as ADB's Chief Procurement Officer representing ADB in the MDB Heads of Procurement forum. He has been working on the public procurement of infrastructure projects for 36 years, the last 16 years of which have been with ADB.

He is responsible for overseeing the implementation of ADB's procurement policy across its operations, and acts as lead on departmental procurement performance targets, tracking and reporting, HR, and budget.

In his time with ADB, he was the regional procurement head for Central, West Asia; Secretary to ADB's Operational Procurement Committee; Head of ADB's Institutional Procurement Unit and chairperson of its Institutional Procurement Committee, Director of the operational procurement division covering South, Central and West Asia. He is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Purchasing and Supply. He holds a Master of Science in Procurement.

Before joining ADB he worked in numerous countries including Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Cambodia and the Philippines both implementing procurement and advising on procurement reform and professionalization programs.



#### MS. BOONYAPORN HARNYUENYONGSAKUL

Legal Officer, Professional Level, Comptroller General's Department Ministry of Finance, Thailand

Ms. Boonyaporn is a professional-level Legal Officer at the Comptroller General's Department, Ministry of Finance, currently working in the Public Procurement Division. With eight years of government service, her role focuses on proposing policies related to public procurement and enhancing regulatory efficiency.

Additionally, she is part of the secretary team for the Public Procurement and Supplies Administration Ruling Committee, where she proposes recommendations to the committee's rulings. She holds a master's degree from the London School of Economics (LSE).

Before joining the Public Procurement Division, she worked at the Civil Servant Medical Benefit Division, where she played a key role in drafting policies and guidelines. Her experience spans policy development, legal analysis, and regulatory improvement to support effective governance and public administration.





**Panel 1:** Discover how procurement serves as a strategic tool and policy driver in achieving critical social mandates including SMEs, Jobs and Gender. This session will focus on how procurement mechanisms are designed to address societal needs, empower communities, and deliver lasting impacts, showcasing its transformative role in governance.



Time: 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Date: April 28, 2025



### PANEL 2 – PROCUREMENT FOR GENERATION BETA: DELIVERING VALUE FOR THE FUTURE

## PANELIST

#### **MR. DENNIS S. SANTIAGO**

Managing Director, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas



He was the Chairperson of the BAC – Head Office in BSP, procuring Goods, Services, IT Requirements and Infrastructure Projects. Prior to joining BSP, Mr. Santiago was the Executive Director V of the Government Procurement Policy Board - Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO, 2011-2018), where he worked with the operational units to standardize procurement policies and procedures; modernize the eProcurement System; support the development, and implementation of Green Public Procurement; introduce novel procurement approaches and strategies; establish a system for monitoring and evaluation; and, the professionalization of procurement practitioners in government. He was Procurement Adviser with government agencies, Development Partners and Multilateral Development Banks; Lead Negotiator on Government Procurement in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations; and was Program Director for Government Affairs with Procurement Watch, Inc., an NGO.

Mr. Santiago has a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in U.S. Legal Studies (cum laude) and Certificate of Specialization in Insurance Law from the University of Connecticut School of Law, Connecticut, USA; and, a Master of Science (MSc) in Public Procurement Management for Sustainable Development (cum laude, specific subjects) from the University of Turin, Turin, Italy. He was an Adjunct Faculty at the Asian Institute of Management (Program and Project Development and Management), and also teaches at the Faculty of Arts and Letters (Law), University of Santo Tomas; and, the Development Academy of the Philippines (Public Management Development Program).





#### MR. GUL KAMALI

Global Lead, Project Procurement & Financial Management Division (PPFMD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Gul Kamali is a Global Lead Procurement Officer at the IsDB, Regional Hub-Türkiye at Ankara, with over 20 years of experience in procurement and engineering, including more than a decade at IsDB.

He has led and supported key procurement reforms, policy development, and capacity-building initiatives across member countries.

His current focus includes the assessment and implementation of e-GP systems, development of standard bidding documents, and strategic support for procurement operations in complex and high-value projects. He is a civil engineer by training, with a master's degree in transportation engineering.



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**Panel 2:** Value for money is no longer just about cost—it's about delivering outcomes that align with societal expectations and generational priorities. This panel examines how procurement connects strategic investments with long-term societal goals, addressing the evolving expectations of Generation Beta.





**Time:** 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM **Date:** April 28, 2025



#### PANEL 2 - PROCUREMENT FOR GENERATION BETA: DELIVERING VALUE FOR THE FUTURE

#### MR. JESUS CARLOS "CHARLIE" P. VILLASEÑOR

Executive Director, Procurement & Supply Institute of Asia



Charlie Villasenor is known as a procurement and supply chain management icon in Asia for his advancement of best practices, ethics, excellence e-enablement & in supply management. He has multi-industry experience (China Bank, 3M, Coca-Cola, Chevron) and currently leads a large multi-national group of supply chain and technology professionals to deliver results to various organizations around the world in various industries and countries.

#### **MS. SANIA TAUMAHEKE**

Director, Central Procurement Unit. Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu



The Central Procurement Department of Tuvalu was established to oversee the purchases goods of and services under the Public Procurement Act. The new procurement rules ensure the efficient use of public funds and promote transparency of the procurement process.

#### MS. SOH SIEW LUIE

Deputy Director of Government Procurement Function Office, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Singapore

Ms. Soh Siew Luie is the Deputy Director of the GPFO at the MOF since April 2020. The GPFO was set up in MOF to accord dedicated attention to strengthen the procurement function and build capabilities across whole-of-government procurement, to enable effective, efficient, innovative and value-for-money procurement across the Public Service effectively and in a value-for-money manner. It provides one-stop accountability and support to agencies, from policies to systems to people matters.

Within the Directorate, she oversees the Policies and Practices team, which is responsible for the formulation and review of policies relating to procurement, revenue contracting and asset management. The Policies and Practices team is also responsible for driving Government agencies' adoption of best practices in procurement and revenue contracting, as well as supporting the uplifting of the procurement capabilities of the procurement community within the Singapore Public Service.

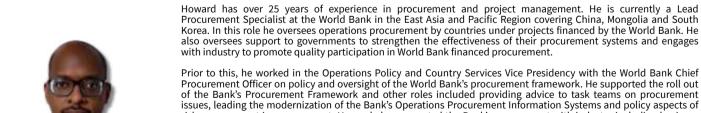
Prior to her appointment in the GPFO, she has also had work experience in the Public Service ranging from workforce skills development, share systems development, to overseeing policies relating to corporate regulation and development of the accountancy sector, to public sector performance and governance.



## MODERATOR

#### MR. HOWARD B. CENTENARY

Lead Procurement Specialist, World Bank



risk management in procurement. Howard also supported the Bank's engagement with industry including business outreach and related advice.

He was previously a Senior Procurement Specialist in the Africa Region of the Bank where he oversaw a broad range of procurement functions including project design and supervision and leading policy dialogue with Governments on Procurement and governance issues. Prior to joining the World Bank, Howard worked with the private sector and the Government. Within the Government of Uganda, he was responsible for procurement under the Privatization Unit in the Ministry of Finance.

Howard is a Ugandan National and holds an MBA and a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Finance.

Panel 2: Value for money is no longer just about cost—it's about delivering outcomes that align with societal expectations and generational priorities. This panel examines how procurement connects strategic investments with long-term societal goals, addressing the evolving expectations of Generation Beta.

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**Time:** 2:15 PM – 3:30 PM **Date:** April 28, 2025



#### **PANEL 3 - RAISING THE BAR:** PROFESSIONALIZING PROCUREMENT FOR IMPACT







#### MR. GEORGE JADOUN

Senior Procurement Advisor Former Head of the Procurement Division, International Labor Organization-International Training Center (ILO-ITC)

George Jadoun is a senior public procurement specialist with over 30 years' experience in capacity-building for modernisation and reform of national public procurement systems as well as an advisor for major international public procurement transactions funded by the MDBs. George authored a multitude of training modules exploring the procedural and business competences required at various stages of the procurement process -supply chain- and aimed at capacity-building and/or professionalization of the procurement function in a number of European, Asian, African and Middle Eastern countries.

In 2015, George retired from the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin -Italy where he served as Deputy Director of the Turin School of Development and Chief of the Sustainable Development & Procurement Training Program. The Training programs offered by ILO-Turin were developed and delivered in partnership with MDBs and other global and regional institutions like OECD and the EU.

George is a lead specialist in evolving public procurement issues like green procurement and socially responsible procurement. He was the team leader for the development of the EU's Buying Social Guide as well for other EU initiatives for promoting awareness on green procurement. He served on the Marrakesh Task Force for promotion of Sustainable Procurement in selected developing countries. He was also the Team Leader for development of the UN Practitioners' Handbook- the key document describing the principles and procedures of UN procurement systemwide.

As the Deputy Director of Turin School of Development, George pioneered the design and introduction of five multidisciplinary Master's degree programs in partnership with the University of Turin; all delivered in blended-learning modality and all targeting specific jobs in trade law, sustainable development, intellectual property rights and public procurement management. Prior to joining the ILO, George worked for a multi-national contractor involved in turnkey construction of large power and desalination plants, other industrial and civil construction projects in the Middle East. George is an engineer, graduate of the American University of Beirut in 1975.

## MODERATOR

#### DR. EILEEN LORENA M. MAMINO

PRESENTER

Assistant to the Chancellor and Alumni Relations Director University of the Philippines in Los Banos

Dr. Eileen Lorena M. Mamino is a Government Procurement Policy Board' (GPPB) Recognized Trainer. She is a holder of a PhD degree in Management. Currently, she is the Assistant to the Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB). Further to that, she is also the Director of the Office of Alumni Relations as well as the Chair of the BAC Secretariat. Dr, Mamino has been immersed in government procurement for the last 20 years.

She further honed her skills and broadened her knowledge on procurement protocols by completing and passing all the 3-Levels of the Public Procurement Specialist Certification Course (PPSCC), jointly conducted by GPPB and the University of the Philippines. The same PPSCC course is now being actively conducted in UP Los Banos. It has Dr. Mamino as the Over-all Coordinator and Program Director.



Panel 3: Explore how professionalization in procurement strengthens accountability and drives value for money. This session will delve into training, capacity-building, and certification programs as pathways to enhance strategic decision-making and public trust in procurement systems.



**Time:** 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM **Date:** April 28, 2025



# PANEL 3 – RAISING THE BAR: PROFESSIONALIZING PROCUREMENT FOR IMPACT



## PANELIST

#### DR. NGUYEN THE VINH

Vice President, Academy of Policy and Development Ministry of Finance, Vietnam

Dr. The Vinh completed his PhD in Economic Development in 2006. Prior to that, he earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the National Economic University, Vietnam. He is currently the Vice President of the Academy of Policy and Development at the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Vinh has over 20 years of experience in advisory, research, and training. He has spent more than 10 years teaching and training in Public Procurement at the university level and through short-term courses. He is the chief author of several textbooks, including those on Public Procurement, E-bidding, and Public Procurement of International Organizations in Vietnam. Vinh is an experienced expert in public procurement, master planning, and comparative/ competitive advantage in provinces.

#### **ATTY. SOFIA YANTO-ABAD**

Deputy Director General, Government Procurement Policy Board – Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO), Philippines

With over 20 years of extensive experience in both the private and public sectors, Atty. Sofia C. Yanto-Abad is a distinguished CPA lawyer and a proven leader in public governance, policy development, and executive management. She currently serves as the Deputy Director General of the GPPB-TSO, tasked to be at the forefront of driving the professionalization of the public procurement practice under the New Government Procurement Act (Republic Act No. 12009).

Previously, she served at the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) overseeing the preparation and execution of budgets in the human development sector. She led transformative initiatives aimed at improving policy on agency performance reviews, optimizing internal processes, and advancing digital platforms to streamline operations within the Bureau. Her leadership also played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Public Financial Management Certification Program (PFMCP), a competency program designed to enhance the skills of public financial management practitioners. From 2016 to 2022, she served as Assistant Chief of Staff at the Office of the Vice President of the Philippines, where she spearheaded the development of key policy improvements, fiscal discipline measures, and systems designed to enhance transparency, accountability, and prudent government spending.

Atty. Yanto-Abad holds a Law degree from Manuel L. Quezon University and a Bachelor of Accountancy from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. As a Certified Public Accountant and an active member of the Philippine Bar, she passionately pursues advocacy for ethical leadership, accountability, and excellence in public service.





#### MR. ASHUTOSH VAJPAYEE

Financial Advisor, Government of Rajasthan Transport and Road Safety Department, Rajasthan, Republic of India

Ashutosh Vajpeyi is a distinguished professional and senior civil servant with the Government of Rajasthan in India with three decades of experience in reforms generated system strengthening and execution. He is an alumnus of the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). His technical background with professional expertise in finance, procurement, and administration, enables him with unique proficiency in executing transformative reforms and leveraging technology. He led the World Bank project on strengthening public financial management systems under which several unique reforms were undertaken and implemented in Rajasthan. These reforms were recognized with winning the World Bank's Vice President Medal.

Ashutosh Vajpeyi has led and contributed to various initiatives and reforms in public procurement and contract management throughout his career. He has been involved in formulation and enactment of the public procurement law and rules in Rajasthan. He led the capacity development initiatives in procurement and contract management in Rajasthan with the World Bank support. He envisioned and designed the first ever sub-national specific foundation courses in public procurement and contract management and trained more than 9000 government officials and bidders. He also designed several advanced specialty courses. A unique training planning and management system has been designed which works as platform for all capacity development programs in Rajasthan. He has been the brain behind creation and implementation of a unique MooC based online foundation training course on public procurement in Rajasthan.

**Panel 3:** Explore how professionalization in procurement strengthens accountability and drives value for money. This session will delve into training, capacity-building, and certification programs as pathways to enhance strategic decision-making and public trust in procurement systems.



Time: 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM Date: April 28, 2025



#### PANEL 4 – SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT: BEYOND GREEN POLICIES TO REAL IMPACT

## PRESENTER



#### MR. SENTHIL KUMAR SUBRAMANI

Procurement Senior Manager, United Nations Office for Project Services

Senthil Kumar is a seasoned Procurement Senior Manager at UNOPS, based in the Asia Pacific Region, East Asia and Pacific Multi-country office. His extensive 18+ years in public procurement across Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa encompass the strategic oversight of goods, services, and works procurement for projects funded by leading international institutions (World Bank, ADB), government agencies, and UN entities.

He possesses a strong track record in managing complex procurement within challenging operational environments and has also contributed his supply chain expertise to the private sector. Furthermore, Senthil has trained over 3000 stakeholders in public procurement best practices.







See page 16 for complete profile.

# Pro

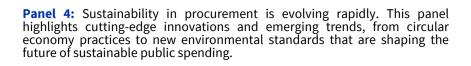


## MODERATOR

#### **MS. MARIA ARNAL CANUDO**

Consultant, World Bank

Maria Arnal Canudo is a Research Analyst at the Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) unit of the World Bank. Her work focuses on governance, institutions and public procurement. Prior to joining the DIME team, Maria was placed in Kenya. She holds a Master in International Development Policy from McCourt School-Georgetown University and a Ph.D.





**Time:** 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM **Date:** April 29, 2025

# PANEL 4 – SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT: BEYOND GREEN POLICIES TO REAL IMPACT



#### MS. LANA ROSE A. MANALIGOD

Assistant Director, Energy Utilization Management Bureau, Department of Energy, Philippines

Ms. Manaligod is the Assistant Director in charge of implementing policies, plans, programs, and regulations on energy efficiency and conservation as well as managing and developing the alternative fuels and energy technology program, including electric vehicles.

Specifically, she is part of the Bureau that oversees the implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, which includes the Government Energy Management Program, which targets the reduction in the electricity and fuel consumption of the government sector by at least 10 percent. For the private sector, implementation of energy efficiency and conservation through designated establishments is also under her Bureau's watch. Designated Establishments or DEs refer to a private entity in the commercial, industrial, transport, power, agriculture, public works, and other sectors identified as energy-intensive industries.

On energy-consuming products, her team also oversees the implementation of the Philippine Energy Labeling Program (PELP) for compliance of importers, manufacturers, distributors, and dealers of electrical appliances. The PELP aims to transform the market and encourage the shift in consumer behavior towards the use of energy-efficient products and technologies by empowering them through the information displayed in the labels at points of sale.

## MR. JUNE M. ALVAREZ

Executive Director, Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI)

Mr. June M. Alvarez is the Executive Director and President of the PCEPSDI, the current administrator of the National Ecolabelling Program-Green Choice Philippines.

PCEPSDI is a leader in environmental advocacy, promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) principles. It pioneers initiatives for a sustainable, resilient future, empowering individuals and organizations with environmentally sound practices for a greener Philippines.

He graduated at the University of Philippines-Los Baños with a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry. Aside from being a registered Forester, he is also an expert in Climate Change and Sustainability specifically in Sustainable Consumption and Production.

His years of experiences in the Environmental Sector have opened many opportunities to PCEPSDI to engage with local and international organizations in implementing sustainability initiatives in the country.



**Panel 4:** Sustainability in procurement is evolving rapidly. This panel highlights cutting-edge innovations and emerging trends, from circular economy practices to new environmental standards that are shaping the future of sustainable public spending.



**Time:** 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Date:



# PANEL 5 – WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT: TRANSFORMING PROCUREMENT THROUGH INCLUSION



## PRESENTER

#### DR. PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA

Former Executive Director of UN Women & Deputy President of South Africa, Founder of Umlambo Foundation; Gender Activist and Campaigner for Universal Access to Education

Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was sworn into office on 19 August 2013 and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position, having devoted her career to issues of human rights, equality and social justice. She has worked in government, private sector and civil society and was actively involved in the struggle to end apartheid in her home country of South Africa.

From 2005 to 2008, she served as Deputy President of South Africa, overseeing programmes to combat poverty and bring the advantages of a growing economy to the poor, with a particular focus on women. Prior to this, she served as Minister of Minerals and Energy from 1999 to 2005 and Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry from 1996 to 1999. She was a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 1996 as part of South Africa's first democratic government.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka began her career as a teacher and gained international experience as a coordinator at the World YWCA in Geneva, where she established a global programme for young women. She is the founder of the Umlambo Foundation, which supports leadership and education. A longtime champion of women's rights, she is affiliated with several organizations devoted to education, women's empowerment and gender equality.

She has completed her PhD on education and technology at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.



# MODERATOR MS. MANJOLA MALO

Senior Procurement Specialist South Asia Region, World Bank



Manjola Malo is a seasoned procurement expert at World Bank with over 15 years of global experience in public procurement policy, operations, and reform. Currently serving as a Senior Procurement Specialist, she has worked across Europe, Latin America, South Asia, and the Caribbean, leading complex procurement strategies that emphasize innovation, sustainability, and inclusion. She has played a notable role in shaping gender-responsive and socially inclusive procurement policies, coauthoring influential policy papers and leading regional programs that integrate procurement with economic and social development goals. Manjola has also co-chaired the World Bank's Sustainable Procurement Community of Practice and contributed to global dialogues on responsible procurement, SMEs, and crisis response.

Earlier in her career, she led Albania's first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) unit for transport and infrastructure, pioneering legal and institutional reforms aligned with international best practices. Her academic background includes a Master's in European Union Law, a law degree, and certification in public-private partnerships. She also serves as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Nottingham, where she helps train future procurement and development professionals. Manjola is passionate about advancing procurement as a driver of equitable, transparent, and sustainable development.



**Panel 5:** Celebrate the transformative impact of women-led businesses in public procurement. This session highlights creative approaches and bold initiatives that break down barriers, empower women entrepreneurs, and reshape procurement systems to be more equitable and dynamic.



**Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **Date:** April 29, 2025



# PANEL 5 – WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT: TRANSFORMING PROCUREMENT THROUGH INCLUSION



## MS. BETH ELSON

**PANELIST** Inclusion Advisor, Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I), an Australian Government program/initiative

Beth is Inclusion Advisor for P4I, an Australian Government program that partners with Southeast Asian governments to foster inclusive growth through sustainable infrastructure. Within P4I, Beth has worked in the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia to influence partners to redefine quality infrastructure in a way that balances economic imperatives with long term public welfare. Recent engagements in Philippines involved providing policy advice to integrate GEDSI in the New Government Procurement Act and other regulatory reforms.

Beth is currently based in the UK and has 20 years of experience in international development, leading programs across SE Asia and consulting in how to meaningfully integrate gender equality, disability and social inclusion into economic governance and infrastructure programs.

#### MS. YUYU YULIANTI

Senior Policy Analyst, Directorate for Business Climate Development and International Cooperation, LKPP, Indonesia

Yuyu Yulianti is a seasoned civil servant and currently serves as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Directorate of the National Public Procurement Agency (LKPP) in Indonesia. With over a decade of dedicated public service, she has held multiple leadership roles within the agency, including Head of the Sub-directorate of Business Entity and Implementation for special procurement strategy and policy. Her work focuses on business climate development, international cooperation, and procurement policy reform.

She holds a dual postgraduate degree in Logistics Management from Trisakti International Business School and Rotterdam Business School, underscoring her strong academic foundation in international logistics and public sector efficiency.

Her extensive experience spans procurement strategy, legal frameworks, and infrastructure development, making her a key contributor to policy innovation in Indonesia's public procurement system.





#### MS. MAICA R. TEVES

Executive Director, Spark Philippines, Inc.

Maica Teves has over 20 years of multisectoral managerial experience, bridging government, civil society, and the private sector. She has served in both the Philippine Congress and Senate, specializing in communication strategies, community outreach, and constituent engagement.

Holding an AB in Political Science and a Juris Doctor (J.D.), Maica is certified in Results-Based Project Management from the Asian Institute of Management. She graduated from the Swedish Institute Management Programme, aimed at emerging leaders in sustainable business. Maica was recognized as a leading woman in Southeast Asia in 2020 and won the Women of the Future Awards in 2021. She is an alumna of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitors Leadership Program and has been honored on the Leading Lights Asia Pacific Kindness and Leadership List by the British High Commission for her impactful leadership. She was recognized by the French Government for her work in Human Rights.

As Executive Director of SPARK Philippines, she champions women's empowerment and economic independence, benefiting over 7,500 women entrepreneurs. She is a fellow of the Vital Voices Visionaries program. She also represents the women's sector on the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Council.

**Panel 5:** Celebrate the transformative impact of women-led businesses in public procurement. This session highlights creative approaches and bold initiatives that break down barriers, empower women entrepreneurs, and reshape procurement systems to be more equitable and dynamic.

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**Time:** 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **Date:** April 29, 2025

# PANEL 6 – AI SANDBOX: EXPERIMENTING WITH THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



## PRESENTER

#### MR. KHALID BIN ANJUM

Senior Procurement Specialist, World Bank

Khalid Bin Anjum is a seasoned Senior Procurement Specialist at the World Bank, possessing over 20 years of extensive experience in public procurement operations across numerous countries, including Malawi, the Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Zambia. Currently based in the Indonesia Country Office, Khalid demonstrates exceptional leadership in introducing innovative practices across diverse contexts at the Bank's corporate as well as regional levels.

His expertise is particularly pronounced in procurement of large infrastructure projects, with a specific focus on the Energy sector. Khalid's advanced skills in data analytics, along with his application of AI and machine learning for procurement, position him as a vital resource in the evolution of procurement practices. He holds a Master's degree in International Business Administration from SOAS, University of London, and his primary qualification is in Computer Engineering. Furthermore, he is a member of the Pakistan Engineering Council and the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), underscoring his commitment to professional excellence.

With over 25 years in Asia's development sector, Mr. Saad Paracha has a strong track record in project management, finance, strategic policy dialogue, co-financing, and regional cooperation—driven by a passion for digital transformation. He spearheaded the CAREC Digital Strategy, fostering digital infrastructure, ecommerce, and startup ecosystems across Central, East, and South Asia.

He led the ADB Challenges platform to identify and scale digital solutions, contributed to ADB's AI Lab to streamline operations, and is now setting up ADB's AI Sandbox to help DMCs pilot solutions in alignment with PSMG's portfolio and navigate AI disruption. He has led the entire life cycle of digital initiatives—from scoping and design to adoption and change management. His extensive experience spans infrastructure, policy reform, service delivery, and climate change, and includes mobilizing cofinancing from partners such as AIIB, GCF, IsDB, and DFID. Beyond projects, he has championed regional cooperation among 11 Asian countries through CAREC initiatives on economic stability, trade facilitation, and climate action.

# MODERATOR MR. SAAD ABDULLAH PARACHA

Senior Public Sector Specialist, Asian Development Bank





**Panel 6:** Like a sandbox for innovation, procurement systems must evolve to test new ideas while managing risks. This session explores how experimental procurement environments are enabling the adoption of AI, data-driven strategies, and community-focused innovations to deliver value for people.



**Time:** 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM **Date:** April 29, 2025



# PANEL 6 – AI SANDBOX: EXPERIMENTING WITH THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



# PANELIST Chief

#### MS. MA. VICTORIA BASINANG

Chief Technology Officer, Pointwest Technologies and Official Representative of the Analytics and AI Association of the Philippines (AAP)

Veck Basinang has been the Chief Technology Officer, for more than a decade now, of Pointwest Technologies Corporation, a 100% Filipino-owned IT-BPM company with a global footprint. Since 2023, she has also concurrently hold the post as General Manager of Pointwest Digital Corporation, Pointwest's digital arm. In addition to spearheading service line innovations in digital technologies like Digital Transformation Consulting, Intelligent Automation, and Data and AI Solutions and Services, Veck brings to the panel her 25+ years of experience in technology leadership, business development and pre-sales from a service provider perspective. She has successfully led teams in pursuing opportunities in both the private and public.

#### MS. PHAM THI THUY HA

Director, Procurement Department, Vietnam Electricity

Pham Thi Thuy Ha earned LL.M degree in Commercial & Corporate Law in 2000 at Queen Mary & Westfield College, University of London (UK). Prior to that, she got her Bachelor of Law from Hanoi Law University, Vietnam. She is currently the Director of the Procurement Department at Vietnam Electricity (EVN).

Mrs. Ha has over 28 years of experience in procurement activities for EVN (a SOE). As head of the procurement department of EVN, she involves setting up the internal compliance system for procurement activities, doing bidding procedures for EVN's projects. She did advisory work for preparation of Vietnam Procurement Law, relevant Decrees and guidance as well as standard bidding documents. Ha is an experienced expert in public procurement, especially procurement for SOEs.





#### MR. PANKAJ DIKSHIT

Chief Technology Officer, Government e-Marketplace, India

Dr. Pankaj Dikshit is an outstanding and distinguished technology leader with over three decades of experience in building large-scale national systems. As the Chief Technology Officer of Government e Marketplace (GeM), a Government-to-Business (G2B) e-commerce platform under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, he is driving transformative initiatives to modernize public procurement in India, using generative AI and agentic AI.

Dr. Dikshit is a recognized authority in IT and information security and a sought-after speaker at industry forums such as the AWS AI Conclave, Startup Mahakumbh, Economic Times CIO & CISO, the Data Security Council of India (DSCI), TOGAF, etc. He has received several awards (AWS, ET Digitech, DSCI) and accolades for his use of AI in GeM and exceptional leadership and contributions to technology innovation.

At GeM, Dr. Dikshit has already deployed GenAI for a customer-facing chatbot, now with a multilingual 'talk' feature as well, that responds to GeM-specific queries and even creates tickets and provides their status. He envisions deploying more use cases using generative AI, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and decision support systems to transform public procurement. His mission is to implement his long-term technology strategy that enhances GenAI and AI inclusion, automation, operational efficiency, enables intelligent automation, and transforms GeM into a global benchmark for digital procurement innovation.

**Panel 6:** Like a sandbox for innovation, procurement systems must evolve to test new ideas while managing risks. This session explores how experimental procurement environments are enabling the adoption of AI, data-driven strategies, and community-focused innovations to deliver value for people.

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**Time:** 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM **Date:** April 29, 2025



# PANEL 7 – OPEN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT: DRIVING TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



#### **MR. XAVIER HUGHES**

CEO and co-founder of Prokur, Inc. Distinguished Innovation and AI Fellow for the office of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Co-Chair of President Obama's 21st Century Modernization Task Force

Xavier is CEO and co-founder of Prokur, Inc. Founded in 2022, Prokur emerged to fill a critical gap in the procurement landscape. He specializes in large-scale innovation, market growth, big data, digital product development, conceptual design, and service innovation and automation. Prior to leading Prokur, he was a Distinguished Innovation and AI Fellow for the office of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy where he led the research and implementation of Generative AI and workforce innovation.

Before joining Governor Murphy's administration, Xavier Hughes was the first Chief Technology and Innovation Officer in ICMA's history, where he led the creation of in-house digital products, launched a nationwide mobility and digital infrastructure innovation framework, and supported the missions of over 5,000 local governments and their leaders. From 2010 to 2016, Xavier served as the first Chief Innovation Officer in the history of the U.S. Government and Department of Labor, where he led the development of innovative business practices, performance and technology applications to improve outcomes and simplify operations. He also served as Co-Chair of President Obama's 21st Century Modernization Task Force.

# MODERATOR

MR. SANDINO J. SOLIMAN

Executive Director, Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)

Sandino Soliman graduated from the University of the Philippines in 2006 with a degree in BA Philosophy. A passion for volunteerism led me to work in the national office of CODE-NGO, a network of NGOs, POs, and cooperatives starting 2009. Since then, he has immersed himself with civil society organizations and networks and has been engaged in training and advocacies for transparency, accountability and participation in governance. From being a volunteer of the coalition, he is now the Executive Director.



**Panel 7:** Artificial intelligence and big data are reshaping procurement practices worldwide. This panel explores how these technologies enhance transparency, improve decision-making, and promote participatory governance while ensuring accountability in public spending.



**Time:** 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM **Date:** April 29, 2025

# PANEL 7 – OPEN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT: DRIVING TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



## PANELIST

#### MR. JANUAR INDRA

Senior Policy Analyst, Directorate for Digital Procurement System, LKPP, Indonesia

With over two decades of experience spanning public sector reform, digital procurement, and institutional development, he also briefly held the role of Acting Director for Digital Procurement. He holds a dual postgraduate degree in Logistics Management from Trisakti International Business School and Rotterdam Business School.

Januar has served in key roles across various government institutions, including the Ministry of Public Works and the Southeast Sulawesi Provincial Government. A certified procurement trainer and project management professional (PRINCE2 & PMBOK), he has led procurement modernization efforts, represented Indonesia in international forums, and received the Satyalancana Karya Satya medal for his years of service.

## MR. KENNETH ISAIAH IBASCO ABANTE (KEN)

President, WeSolve

Kenneth Isaiah Ibasco Abante (Ken) is President of WeSolve Foundation, where he empowers communities towards systems change in the Philippines, including Tarabangan Bicol Disaster Volunteers Network for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction and management, the Safe and Sound Cities Naga Project and Move As One Coalition for sustainable transport, and the People's Budget Coalition for budget transparency and accountability. From 2012 to 2016, Ken served in the Department of Finance in roles covering tax, customs, local finance, budget, economic policy and strategy, and the leadership transition.

Ken finished the management engineering program with a minor in philosophy from Ateneo de Manila University in 2012, and earned a master's in public administration in international development from Harvard Kennedy School in 2019. Ken has been recognized locally, nationally, and globally, most recently as one of The Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines (TOYM 2023) honorees for socio-civic and voluntary leadership. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Maria Ressa calls Ken "civic engagement at work." Ken loves to cook adobo, but recognizes his cooking is not nearly as good as his mother's.





**Panel 7:** Artificial intelligence and big data are reshaping procurement practices worldwide. This panel explores how these technologies enhance transparency, improve decision-making, and promote participatory governance while ensuring accountability in public spending.



**Time:** 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM **Date:** April 29, 2025



# PANEL 7 – OPEN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT: DRIVING TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



## PANELIST

#### MS. ALTANSUKH OYUNJARGAL

Country Procurement Authority Representative, Mongolia

Altansukh Oyunjargal is a legal and procurement specialist with extensive experience in public procurement and international cooperation. Currently serving at the State Procurement Agency of Mongolia, she has held various roles, including Junior Legal Specialist and Procurement Affairs Partner. She holds a Master's Degree in International Cooperation from the University of Bologna and a Bachelor's in Law from the University of Law, Adamas, Mongolia. Fluent in English and Russian, with working knowledge of Italian, Ms. Oyunjargal is committed to advancing transparent and effective procurement practices in Mongolia.



#### ATTY. GENMARIES ENTREDICHO-CAONG

Executive Director, Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM), Philippines

Atty. Genmaries S. Entredicho-Caong is the current Executive Director V of the Procurement Service–Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM). Prior to this, she served as Procurement Group Director of the PS-DBM. She has nearly 24 years of experience in legal practice, development work, and technical advisory services, with extensive expertise in public procurement under both international donor-financed guidelines and the Philippine Government Procurement Reform Act.

She has played an integral role in shaping the New Government Procurement Act (NGPA), serving as part of the PS-DBM team that proposed its new provisions and as a member of the Technical Working Group for NGPA bills in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Before joining PS-DBM, Atty. Entredicho-Caong was a Consultant for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), where she acted as Procurement and Legal Specialist for various projects in the Philippines. She supported government implementing agencies such as the Public-Private Partnership Center (2012–2022), providing legal and procurement advice for PPP project development and tendering; the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), where she supported ADB's Emergency Assistance for the Reconstruction and Recovery of Marawi Project; and the National Electrification Administration (NEA), assisting procurement activities under the Grant Assistance for Poor Municipalities Affected by Typhoon Yolanda.

She also served as a Consultant for the World Bank in 2015 and 2016, contributing to the Government Procurement Policy Board–Technical Support Office's (GPPB-TSO) professionalization project and the revision and harmonization of the Philippine Bidding Documents and Generic Procurement Manuals with the 2016 Revised IRR of RA 9184. She was among the pioneer lawyers of the GPPB-TSO when it was established in 2003, working in Legal, Training, and Policy Research before heading the Monitoring Unit.

Atty. Entredicho-Caong holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Santo Tomas (UST), where she also graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Management. She is certified in Public Procurement Levels 2 and 3 by the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply and the United Nations Development Program.



**Panel 7:** Artificial intelligence and big data are reshaping procurement practices worldwide. This panel explores how these technologies enhance transparency, improve decision-making, and promote participatory governance while ensuring accountability in public spending.

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**Time:** 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM **Date:** April 29, 2025





#### PANEL 8 – UNMASKING OWNERSHIP: ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY IN PROCUREMENT



## PRESENTER

#### ATTY. ANDREJ LEONTIEV, LL.M

External Expert on Beneficial Ownership Transparency and Anti Money Laundering, EU Global Facility on AML/CFT); co-author, Slovakian Anti-shell Companies Law

Andrej Leontiev is a partner and co-heads one of the biggest international law firms in Slovakia - Taylor Wessing. He is Head of the Automotive group in CEE and heads the CEE Start-up and Venture Capital group. He has an industry focus on Private Wealth, Real Estate & Infrastructure as well as on Technology, Media & Communications. He is well known for his expertise in all areas of Corporate and M&A, in addition, he is active in Commercial and Dispute Resolution. Andrej is frequently appointed as arbitrator.

Andrej worked on multiple legislative initiatives for different Slovak ministries. He was one of the main idea leaders on the transparency of beneficial ownership. Andrej is a co-author of the Slovak Anti-shell Companies Law, as well as its substantial recent amendments. He regularly gives lectures and publishes articles on this topic.

## MODERATOR

#### MR. DONDON PARAFINA

Managing Director, Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and Pacific (ANSA-EAP)

Don Parafina has recently returned as managing director of ANSA East Asia Pacific after almost four years leading the citizen empowerment component of USAID's Cities for Enhanced Governance and Engagement (CHANGE) Project. A development practitioner with over 20 years of local and international experience in governance,

Don specializes in civil society participation, transparency, and social accountability, including its application in public procurement.



**Panel 8:** Go beyond surface-level transparency by addressing the critical issue of beneficial ownership. This panel explores how uncovering hidden ownership structures strengthens trust, mitigates corruption risks, and promotes equity in procurement processes.

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**Time:** 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM **Date:** April 30, 2025



# PANEL 8 – UNMASKING OWNERSHIP: ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY IN PROCUREMENT



## PANELIST

#### **ATTY. EMILY MANUEL**

Asia Pacific Regional Manager, Open Ownership

Emily Manuel has extensive experience in policy and international development, having worked as a legal consultant for development agencies, the government, and non-government organisations. She earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law degrees from the University of the Philippines and her Master of Law and Technology degree from Tilburg University.

She is currently Open Ownership's Senior Regional Manager for Asia Pacific, where she supports priority national governments implementing beneficial ownership transparency.

#### ATTY. DANIEL LUIS MACALINO

Assistant Director & Head, Anti-Money Laundering Division, Securities and Exchange Commission

Atty. Macalino is the Assistant Director of the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), leading the Anti-Money Laundering Division, which oversees AML/CFT regulations for securities, lending, financing, and non-profit sectors and manages the country's beneficial ownership registry.

Deputized as a Special Prosecutor by the Department of Justice and a Financial Investigator by the AMLC, he joined the SEC in 2020, rising to head its AML/CFT program.

A sought-after speaker at international forums, he has also served as a City Administrator and Legal Officer of a local government, Graft Prevention Officer at the Department of Finance, and Technical Staff at the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

He holds undergraduate and Master's in Public Management degrees from Ateneo de Manila University and a Juris Doctor from Arellano University.





# ATTY. GENMARIES ENTREDICHO-CAONG

Executive Director, Procurement Service - Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM), Philippines

See page 26 for complete profile.



**Panel 8:** Go beyond surface-level transparency by addressing the critical issue of beneficial ownership. This panel explores how uncovering hidden ownership structures strengthens trust, mitigates corruption risks, and promotes equity in procurement processes.



**Time:** 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM **Date:** April 30, 2025



# PANEL 9 – CONNECTING THE DOTS: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PRACTICES AROUND THE GLOBE



# PANELISTS



MR. JEFFREY TAYLOR Deputy Director General, Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management, Asian Development Bank

See page 13 for complete profile.



MR. GUL KAMALI
Global Lead, Project
Procurement &
Financial Management
Division (PPFMD),
Islamic Development
Bank (ISDB)

See page 15 for complete profile.

Vivien Suerte-Cortez is a seasoned development professional with over two decades of experience in governance, transparency, and civic engagement, primarily within the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

She currently serves as the Team Leader for the Institutions and Partnerships Programme at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines. In this capacity, she leads initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional capacities, promoting evidence-based policymaking, and enhancing public accountability.

Prior to her tenure at UNDP, Suerte-Cortez was a consultant for Thematic Policy Areas at the Open Government Partnership (OGP) until 2023. Her work there centered on anti-corruption, open contracting, and civic space reforms. She also managed the Philippine portfolio for programs like Open Up Contracting and Making All Voices Count under Hivos Southeast Asia. Earlier in her career, she led efforts at the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific, where she played a pivotal role in institutionalizing the Citizen Participatory Audit program within the Philippines' Commission on Audit.

Suerte-Cortez holds a Master's degree in Public Management from Ateneo de Manila University and a Bachelor's degree in Community Development from the University of the Philippines. She has contributed thought pieces on civic space and democratic accountability, including articles for the Open Government Partnership blog. Her work emphasizes the importance of protecting civil liberties and fostering inclusive governance.



**Panel 9:** This session brings together lessons from procurement practices across the globe. Panelists will share impactful innovations, challenges, and strategies that are transforming public procurement into a force for global progress and equitable development.



**Time:** 9:45 AM – 11:15 AM **Date:** April 30, 2025



# PANEL 9 – CONNECTING THE DOTS: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PRACTICES AROUND THE GLOBE



## PANELIST

#### ATTY. MARIA DIONESIA A. RIVERA-GUILLERMO

Officer-in-Charge, GPPB-TSO, Philippines

Atty. Maria Dionesia A. Rivera-Guillermo is the Deputy Director General and concurrent Officer-in-Charge of the Government Procurement Policy Board - Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO). With over 23 years of legal and corporate experience both locally and internationally, she has been a key figure in shaping public procurement reform in the Philippines. A member of the Philippine Bar since 2001, she has devoted more than a decade to advancing government procurement systems and legal frameworks.

She represents the Philippines in foreign trade discussions involving government procurement. She led the legislative process for the New Government Procurement Act, ratified in May 2024, and has been pivotal in developing procurement policies and tools, including the modernization of the Philippine Bidding Documents and the creation of the GPPB Online PBD Builder. Prior to her leadership at GPPB-TSO, she held roles such as Head of the Legal Division and Secretariat of the Bids and Awards Committee at DPWH Cordillera Regional Office, and Senior Legal and Compliance Officer for the Middle East office of a U.S.-based venture capital firm.

Atty. Rivera-Guillermo earned her Bachelor of Laws from the University of the Cordilleras and is currently pursuing her Master of Laws at San Beda College.

#### MR. PARISES RATTANAPHIROM

Fiscal Analyst, Professional Level, Comptroller General's Department, Min. of Finance, Thailand

Mr. Parises Rattanaphirom has been working in the Electronic Government Procurement and Focal Price Division for over six years, particularly within the Electronic Government Procurement Development Subdivision. He plays a key role in advancing the development of Thailand's electronic government procurement system (e-GP), ensuring that the platform complies with relevant laws and regulations, enhances operational efficiency, improves user experience, and strengthens transparency in public procurement processes.

He is also part of the core team driving the adoption of Blockchain technology in the bidding process, enhancing trust and transparency in public procurement. In addition, he contributes to the development of several strategic projects, including the integration of electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC) into the e-GP registration system, the creation of Red Flag tools for risk detection, and the establishment of interconnected procurement data systems. Mr. Rattanaphirom is committed to supporting the government's efforts to modernize procurement practices, aiming to ensure transparent, efficient, and value-driven public spending.



**Panel 9:** This session brings together lessons from procurement practices across the globe. Panelists will share impactful innovations, challenges, and strategies that are transforming public procurement into a force for global progress and equitable development.



Time: 9:45 AM – 11:15 AM Date: April 30, 2025





