

Executive Secretary



UNECE and the Philippines to expand cooperation on Public-Private Partnerships

Mr. Sven Alkalaj, UNECE Executive Secretary, and Dr. Enrique T. Ona, Minister of Health of the Philippines, met on 23 May to discuss strengthening cooperation in the area of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). The Government of the Philippines plans to make the most of the potential that PPPs offer to modernize the country's health sector. In this regard, close cooperation has been developed over the last years with UNECE's PPP programme, to build up capacity and share best practices.

The meeting, which took place on the occasion of Dr. Ona's visit to Geneva to participate in the World Health Assembly, cleared the way for the establishment of the Specialist Centre for Health in the Philippines. The Specialist Centre will be integrated as a part of the Government of the Philippines, and will operate under a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed in the coming weeks between UNECE and the Philippines. The five-year agreement will cement the PPP Specialist Centre on Health in the Philippines as a repository of PPP international best practice in health that can be used to further develop PPPs in the Philippines as well as in other countries. The Specialist Centre in Manila is expected to become operational in the second part of 2012.

The overall vision of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence is to provide member states with PPP delivery and financing options, strategic advice and support, so they can build their local PPP capabilities for the benefit of their citizens. The UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence is organized in the form of:

- a small coordinating hub at the UNECE secretariat in Geneva acting for a number of Specialist Centres located around the world and hosted by public institutions taking responsibility for identifying and articulating best practice in specific sectors (such as sustainable energy, roads, water, waste); and
- regional hubs for training in PPP, with such hubs becoming a conduit for the UNECE training materials and best practices in PPP.

PPP Specialist Centre on Health in Manila

The role of the Specialist Centre on Health will be to:

- conduct research within the sector of healthcare and manage the sector specific PPP Research Programme;
- develop and disseminate international PPP best-practice in the health (e.g. upgrading and operating hospitals and other health facilities, as well as improve provision of healthcare services);
- develop sector-specific capability development strategies for governments around the world; and
- establish an international database within the sector (e.g. PPP health experts/advisors operating globally; past, current, and future PPP projects within the sector around the world).

The members of the Specialist Centre will include, amongst others, the government and semi-government bodies, large/small-medium private-sector organizations, academic institutions, professional /industry representative bodies, and other non-government organizations (NGOs), as well as individuals. □

The film on the Philippines' experience with PPPs in the health sector, presented in Geneva at "PPP Days 2012", is available at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxxkrPPmL9Q&list=PL22F861E9D771FCD6&index=6&feature=plpp_video.

Water

UNECE National Policy Dialogue supports water sector reform in Tajikistan

At a meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (NPD IWRM) in Tajikistan, held on 25 May in Dushanbe, it was decided to finalize a Water Sector Reform Strategy for irrigation, drainage and drinking water in Tajikistan in October 2012.

Following the adoption of the Strategy it will be necessary to revise the Water Code, and it was agreed at the Steering Committee meeting to establish a task force on legal issues to that end. A session of the meeting was also devoted to the challenges Tajikistan faces in



providing safe drinking water, in particular in rural areas. On-going efforts to remedy the situation were reviewed, and a new project funded by the Norwegian Government for the establishment of targets under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)/World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO-Euro) Protocol on Water and Health was launched during the meeting.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources of Tajikistan, Rahmat Bobokalonov, the Ambassador and Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Tajikistan, Eduard Auer, and by Bo Libert, the UNECE Regional Adviser on Environment. More than 60 representatives of national authorities, international organizations and other development partners and stakeholders took part in the meeting. Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Kyrgyzstan and of the Ministry of Water Economy of Turkmenistan were also present to share their experience in the framework of the NPD IWRM in their respective countries. □

For more information on the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue on IWRM, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/npd.html> or contact Bo Libert at: bo.libert@unece.org.

Population

International Working Group on Generations and Gender meets in Stockholm

The 9th Meeting of the International Working Group of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) will take place on 13 June 2012, in Stockholm, Sweden, ahead of the European Population Conference. It will gather focal points of participating countries to exchange experiences with implementing the programme and will address questions from countries planning to join it.

The GGP, initiated by UNECE in 2000 and now run by a consortium of twelve leading demographic research organizations, is a two-pillar programme consisting of internationally comparable, theory-driven, large sample panel surveys conducted in three waves and a contextual database. In combination these pillars are designed to shed light on the full spectrum of factors influencing contemporary demographic trends, including family-building behaviours, migration, and relationships between generations and between the genders.

As the challenges of population ageing, low fertility and the need for intergenerational solidarity become ever greater, the GGP is establishing itself as a key data source for policy-relevant research that can get to the root of these issues. First wave survey data are currently available for 15 countries, and can be accessed via <http://www.ggp-i.org/data/data-access.html>. The contextual database can be found at <http://www.ggp-i.org/contextual-database.html>. □

For further information, please visit: <http://www.ggp-i.org> or contact: ggp@unece.org.

Off the Press

Spectrum on road safety

This publications presents the UNECE's Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011–2020).

For more than 60 years, UNECE has worked to improve people's everyday lives by nurturing and documenting the cutting edge of advances made in transport while assisting governments to formulate ideas and rules that help keep the world moving.

UNECE's mandate is to assist in ensuring that the most advanced and effective international rules are discussed, agreed and implemented to guarantee efficiency in passenger, cargo and traffic flows. This is fulfilled while protecting the lives of road users and minimizing negative environmental impact.

In a world where roads kill more people than malaria, UNECE manages a total of 57 transport-related international legal instruments, which are negotiated by governments and become legally binding for countries that accede to them. These legal instruments cover all the aspects of road safety:

- Traffic rules
- Road signs and signals
- Construction and technical inspection of vehicles
- Road infrastructure
- Border crossing facilitation
- Driving times and rest periods for professional drivers
- Safe transport of dangerous goods and hazardous materials.

All these conventions are administered by the relevant Working Parties or Administrative Committees in charge of updating and amending these instruments in the framework of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC). □

The publication is available at:

http://www.unece.org/trans/wp1/publications/spectrum_road_safety_activites.html.

