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:

(a) conduct research within the sector of healthcare and manage the sector specific PPP Research Programme;
(b) 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);
(c) develop sector-specific capability development strategies for governments around the world; and
(d) 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.

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 the water sector.
Spectrum on road safety

This publication 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_activities.html