

OPEN DOORS 2012
(A Regional Conference for Procurement Practitioners in East Asia-Pacific)
A Concept Note

BACKGROUND

Open Doors 2009 & the ANSA-EAP Regional Procurement Agenda

The Open Doors 2009 Regional Forum on Procurement Monitoring.¹ successfully convened what was to become the social accountability (SAC) procurement regional network in EAP. More importantly, Open Doors 2009 set in motion the crafting of the regional procurement agenda of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP). This agenda aimed to harness and build on existing groups and initiatives focused on procurement monitoring, in an effort to consolidate and capacitate them towards becoming an active community of SAC practitioners. In the context of a SAC community of practice, the knowledge (i.e., tales, tools, techniques) used by the practitioners in each country may be shared, improved, adapted, and adopted by other groups in the network.

Instrumental to this objective was the establishment of sub-network procurement country groups that have an articulated focus on mainstreaming SAC in the citizen monitoring of public procurement. These procurement sub-groups in Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, and the Philippines—set up with assistance from ANSA-EAP—currently form the regional procurement monitoring network.

Almost two years after, ANSA-EAP shifts the focus *from* convening the citizen practitioners and their counterparts in government as well as partners from resource providing institutions into a community of practice. Part of this is the move towards the development of tools as well as sharing these tools for peer review and perhaps adaptation.

At this juncture, ANSA-EAP moves forward with its objective of strengthening the community of procurement practitioners through a regional gathering aimed at sharing experiences and identifying possible collaborations. The gathering will have four dimensions: 1) centrepiece of the gathering—Open Doors 2011—will be sharing on and development of social accountability tools for procurement practitioners.

¹ *Open Doors 2009 was held in Hong Kong on November 2009.*

Procurement Tool: The Philippine Procurement Scorecard

The tool—the procurement scorecard—aims to setup a direct feedback mechanism between procuring entities and monitors.

This scorecard will be piloted in the Philippines. Citizen monitoring of public procurement is deemed most advanced in the Philippines among all four ANSA-EAP priority countries, due to the *Government Procurement Reform Act* (Republic Act 9184), which is already in full swing.

During the workshop, the Philippine Procurement Network (P2N) will share the Philippine pilot experience and results. During the planning session in the regional gathering, other country groups will be urged to either customize the Philippine scorecard, or develop their own.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The regional gathering aims to contribute to the regional procurement agenda of ANSA-EAP and its partners by sustaining the connection and dynamic exchange among the country groups involved in the procurement monitoring sub-network. This means feeding the growing and deepening work in procurement and contract monitoring.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

This regional gathering gives life to the strategy of ANSA-EAP to provide the networking, capacity building, and technical support necessary for the emergence of capable SAc practitioners that could eventually evolve into a resource group for sustained and quality procurement work. Specifically, the regional gathering aims:

1. To present the experience of the procurement scorecard pilot as a tool to advance SAc in procurement monitoring in EAP countries;
2. To gather updates from network partners about developments, innovations, and experiences in citizen monitoring, specifically on procurement and other PFM processes (e.g. advocacy work and gains in countries where procurement law and mechanisms are still being advocated);² and
3. To explore and identify a collaborative undertaking among participants to strengthen procurement monitoring tools and strategies at the country and regional levels.

² Depending on resource availability, a public procurement specialist from other country/region could be invited to share relevant experiences

TOPIC LIST

1	Reviewing the situation of procurement monitoring in each country. This a) covers a short sketch about the environment for Social Accountability and specifically procurement monitoring as well as contract monitoring in each country, b) gains and challenges (updates) per country group: activities undertaken, gains, lessons, needs, and way forward (<i>Template to be provided to country partners</i>) Cambodia Indonesia Mongolia Philippines
2	Resource Person: from another region, <i>Other Country Relevant Experiences (TI-Serbia)</i>
3	Short Conversation on: <i>Procurement Observing viz. Contract Monitoring</i>
4	Presentation of experiences of the procurement scorecard pilot in the Philippines; feedback from expert
6.	Open Forum/Plenary
7.	Sketching the Way Forward
6	Wrap Up

Activity Dates: January 16-18, 2012

Venue: Manila, Philippines