



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Co-Chairs
Joint Venture for Procurement

Members, Joint Venture for Procurement

19 July 2006

Version 4: Benchmarking and Assessment Tool for Public Procurement Systems

Dear Colleagues:

It is our pleasure, to approve for testing and for the ongoing application of lessons learned through field experience, version 4 of the Benchmarking and Assessment Tool. Following our reply to those members who had contributed comments on version 3 in our letter of June 30, Jocelyn represented the Co-Chairs at the meeting of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness on July 6 in Paris. Co-Chairs from the various Joint Ventures were asked to brief members of the Working Party on progress to date and the next steps in implementing the respective Joint Venture work plans. The key next step for our Joint Venture was agreed to be the approval by the Co-Chairs of version 4 of the tool. As we said in our letter of June 30, version 4 reflects our responses to your comments and, we believe, provides a reasonable basis upon which a consensus can be built with to go forward to undertake the retro-fit and pilot field test exercises over the coming months.

A link to version 4 (which has been published on the DAC website for the Joint Venture) is attached for your convenience.

http://www.oecd.org/department/0,2688,en_2649_19101395_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Please note there will be French, Spanish and Portuguese translations of version 4 available over the next few months, as well, thanks to the translation contributions by the African Development Bank (the French version), the InterAmerican Development Bank (the Spanish version) and the UNDP (the Portuguese version).

The Co-Chairs would also like to recognize with gratitude the following important contributions of time and funding by key member institutions that have been provided to enable their officials to participate directly in the preparation of versions 3 and 4: the governments of South Africa and Ghana, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland, the African Development Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank, CIDA, the UNDP and the World Bank.

Separate communications will be made regarding the implementation of the retro-fit and the pilot field test exercises. Members of the JV will be notified in time so they can indicate their interest in participating. As well, there will be further information provided regarding the timing and the location of the regional meetings where the results and the lessons of the field tests will be shared. The next meeting of the Joint venture will be planned to follow these regional meetings and an announcement will be made over the next few months.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Malinga'.

Henry Malinga, South Africa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jocelyn Comtois'.

Jocelyn Comtois, Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernard Becq'.

Bernard Becq, the World Bank

cc:

Co-Chairs, Joint Venture for Public Financial Management,
Christian Lehembre, Head of Division, Aid Effectiveness