Sustainable Public Procurement

The Mauritian Experience

By

P. BEEHARRY
Director
Procurement Policy Office
Mauritius
Republic of Mauritius
Mauritius

- An island in Indian Ocean
- Size: 1865 Km²
- Population: 1.2 million
- Source of Revenue: Textile, Tourism, Sugar, Services
- Democracy
- Literacy: >90%
- Official language: English
- Popular Language: Creole and French
- GDP per capita: USD 11600 (2009)
- Growth Rate: 4% (2009) 4.2 (2010)
• Public Procurement Act 2006
• Passed in National Assembly in 2006
• Proclaimed in January 2008
Mauritius as a pilot country

- The Prime Minister promoted a concept known as “Maurice Ile Durable” [Mauritius Sustainable Island]
- Through the National Policy framework of 2007 a policy framework for promoting Sustainable Consumption at national level has been devised
- In 2008 Mauritius volunteered to be a pilot country for SPP implementation, which was approved by UNEP.
- Procurement Policy Office selected as the National Focal Point for implementing SPP
• Setting up of a National Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Director Procurement Policy Office comprising, inter alia,

  Representatives of major spending Ministries/Departments
  Rep of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce & Industry
  Reps of the Private sector & Civil Society
Start-up Mission

- Mission of UNEP Project Officer to Mauritius
- Pledge of Resources
- Discussion on Implementation Plan & Funding Agreement
- Appointment of a Project Officer
Implementation Plan

• Review & Approval of Implementation Plan
• Agree on terms of Funding
• Signature of Funding Agreement
SPP Marrakech Process

- Status Assessment
- Legal review
- Market readiness analysis
- SPP Policy Plan
- Training
- Implementation
Status Assessment

• Status Assessment completed in 2009
• Assessment revealed that generally Mauritius does not consider sustainable criteria in public procurement
• Legal environment conducive for SPP implementation:
  ❖ A sound procurement system
  ❖ Mauritius has ratified most international conventions related to environment, labour conditions, human right
  ❖ Evaluation of suppliers based on price and non-price factors
  ❖ Contract management is carried out
  ❖ Suppliers are engaged
Market Readiness Analysis (TOR)

- Determine availability and market share of the targeted sustainable products/services
- Establish whether the targeted products are available in the local market
- Determine the number of SMEs and/or large enterprises involved in the fabrication or import of the targeted products
- Explore the prospects for in-country supply of new sustainable products and services
- Establish whether the goods and services are available in the international market and impacts of importation
Recommendations (Priority spend areas):

- Buildings
- Waste collection and disposal
- Roads Construction
- Wastewater Management
- Food and Catering
- Water Supply: Works and Maintenance
- Energy: Plants and Equipment
- IT Systems: Computers and Office Equipment
- IT; Computerization and System maintenance
- Paper and Printing
Quick wins:

- IT SYSTEMS: COMPUTERS & OFFICE EQUIPMENT
- VEHICLES
- FOOD AND CATERING; and
- PAPER and PRINTING

Pioneer:

- CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS
Section 19 of the Public Procurement Act provides the grounds for using restricted bidding. It only requires to solicit bids from a minimum of 5 bidders. Bidders may be shortlisted based on sustainable criteria. For example, for low value purchases, bids may be solicited from local SMEs.
• S35 stipulates disqualification of suppliers on the ground of misconduct. For instance, in some procurements suppliers may be disqualified if the conduct, for instance, is related to exploitation of employees.

• S37 concerns examination and evaluation of bids and Section 37(9A) provides a margin of preference for domestic Suppliers and domestic SMEs.

• The Standard bidding document includes the Labour Clause as per ILO Convention in the General Conditions of Contract.
Section 46 of the Act 2006, as amended, gives effect to the provisions of Article 2 of the ILO Convention, which requires the inclusion of labour clauses in public contracts to which the convention is applicable.
• A national and an international consultant with the support of PPO will develop the SPP Strategy and Action Plan by end May 2011

• The National Steering committee will submit the recommendations to UNEP for finalization
Procurement of Vehicles for the Police Department

- Use of Life Cycle costing for bid evaluation
- Taking CO₂ emission and fuel efficient into consideration
- Suppliers engagement
- Capacity building of Procurement Officials of Police Department
- Engaging evaluators
- Some difficulties encountered: Car dealers reluctant to provide CO₂ data
Procurement of Vehicles for the Police Department did not materialise because:

- Use of Life Cycle costing for bid evaluation is a concept not too familiar for procurement officials and evaluators
- Resistance to change
- Stakeholders not familiar with concept of SPP
- Fear that the bidding exercise fails and Police Department might be short of vehicles
- Suppliers reluctant/unable to provide data on CO2 emission
• A capacity building strategy developed in May/June 2011
• An extensive training programme on SPP designed for all stakeholders will start as from June 2011
• Implementation of quick wins
• The pace of implementation based on experience achieved, capacity of procurement practitioners and market response
At the end of the day, SPP promotes best procurement practices, and Mauritius has no choice than to pursue the strategy adopted.

However, the Procurement of vehicles project reveals that we have to be more cautious in implementing:

- Capacity building of stakeholders should be completed first.
- Careful choice of Quickwin
- Country wide awareness session prior to implementation
THANK you