

Overview and Key Message

Green Purchasing Network

A Landscape Of Practice To Achieve SCP



IGPN secretariat

China Environmental United Certification Center



Who we are



Promotes green purchasing around the globe by coordinating those who take the initiative in implementing green purchasing towards sustainable consumption and production

Mission

- **Promote globally the development** of environmentally friendly products and services and Green Purchasing activities;
- **Share information and know-how** on Green Purchasing and environmentally friendly products and services internationally;
- **Harmonize the efforts** of Green Purchasing and the development of environmentally friendly products and services from a global viewpoint.

Members

The International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN) keeps its activities with the structure of **Council Members, the Secretariat, Advisory Board, Green Purchasing Networks** and **Associated members** on the basis of the By-Laws.

A member of the UNEP One Planet Network Sustainable Public Procurement Program, support UN SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Who we are



China Environmental United Certification Center (CEC) hosted the IGPN Secretariat since 2018 proposed by the Chair with the approval of the Council and agreed with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China (MEE) .

CEC is a comprehensive certification and professional service institution leading in environmental protection, energy saving and low carbon areas , engaged its activities in policy research and practice of China Environmental Labelling Program, promote china government public procurement implementation, foster sustainable production and consumption transition.

The background



Launch Initiative

- Launched from September 2020 for submissions of good practices for environmentally friendly products/services



Collect Cases

- Cases from 8 Green Purchasing Networks, and 2 international organizations ICLEI, and TCO Development are provided



Formulate Report

- Report drafted and the first circle for suggestions have been undertaken

The typical and diversity in terms of geography, actors and perspectives, hot environmental topic such as plastic pollution, biodiversity and resources efficiency issues are considered and addressed.

The innovation of environmentally friendly products, services or business mode of green purchasing, as well as the lessons learnt in terms of relevance for policy making or green purchasing implementation are highly recommended.

Taking stock of existing experiences and lessons learnt on how to improve green purchasing powerful way to stimulate environmentally friendly products/services to adopt, adapt and scale up proven and effective practices thus in turn stimulate the sustainable consumption and production regionally in this report.

Results and approach

Numbers



Cases from 7 countries/areas and 2 global organizations with 24 key elements represent difference aspects through the green products and purchasing, such as annual award, supply chain, ecolabel, criteria etc.

Coverage



The geography coverage includes global, regional and national, nine cases are from Asian region, among them four cases are in China, two cases are in India; two cases are from global; and one cases from Europe.

Sectors



The systematic review of the case studies divided the whole practices based on its applied scenarios into four categories, i.e., market sector, private sector, business sector, and public sector.

Targets



Target at differences stage, including awareness raising, policy support, purchasing implementation, and technical development based on the purchasing cycle.



Main characteristic and findings



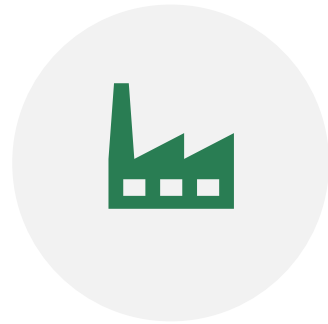
The front-line practice

First hand practice, featuring with the challenge, barrier and restrains for each faced



Diversity Embedded

Approaches scattered in market, private, business and public sector; target at differences stage; geography coverage includes global, regional and national



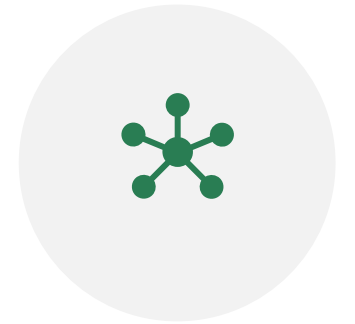
Ecolabel as market tool

Ecolabelling program are served as an effective market mechanism tool to promote green purchasing in several countries



Criteria support implementation

Public sector indicating criteria play a fundamental support to green procurement practice not only local government but also federal government



Multi-approach in private

Private sector indicating products directory, product award approach are commonly taken

Challenge and lesson learnt

Category	Approach	Challenge	Lesson learnt
Market sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecolabel Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of stakeholder cooperation Limitation of product's technical expert Short of environmental monitoring and evaluation Less power to increase the demand of consumers Willingness of the manufacturers to have their products certified Expensive cost of certification Shortage of product criteria availability, and availability and cost of testing and laboratories Terminologies being used were too technical to understand the topic on capacity building activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influencing relevant stakeholders representing groups, sectors, and the public in general, and most especially the government is equally important strategy promoting SCP Enabling policies and laws to encourage and motivate consumers and producers to shift to SCP of goods and services still not adequate
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green product annual award Product Directory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less participation expansion and scope Expensive cost more Limited sustainable product standard For the new product category such as sustainable packaging could not always meet the functional requirement Some product, such as food, not easily available; the price is too expensive to prevail; not easily to trust; not clear to the benefit The results based on Life cycle assessment can be different depending on the system boundaries one sets. Less availability of data on impact assessment Lack of visibility of green products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong, well-devised national eco-labelling scheme, followed by systematic implementation and accompanied with a nationwide environmental and ecolabel awareness initiative could bolster the production and consumption of green products highlighting the life-cycle costs and benefits of green products should be focused Advertise or other communication method of green product should be adopted National environmental laws pertaining to ecolabelling, procurement and green production are needed to kickstart green product market formation and diffusion

Category	Approach	Challenge	Lesson learnt
Business sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular procurement Green product annual award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of a circular mindset: Lack of supporting legislation and incentives; Lack of communication; Technical obstacles: Concerns about data protection; Poor battery lifetime; Barriers to repair or upgrade; Inadequate or lack of warranties; Not enough material reuse Materials contain hazardous substances; Products don't reach recycling facilities; Products and materials are not made for recycling; Not enough economic incentive for safe recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extending product life cuts greenhouse gas emissions Emissions lower when notebooks are upgraded instead of replaced Buying new doesn't compensate for emissions from manufacturing Circular solutions are better also from a financial perspective
Public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guideline Standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current label-based system falls short of encouraging local authorities to take more aggressive actions beyond the basic requirements of the central government Neither national nor industrial environmental standard has been established for ice storage AC systems Information asymmetry caused limited recognition Confusion of market cognition; Low awareness of the standard Dispatched with purchasing requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective communication between the procurement supervisory body and the procuring entity is the key to success More attention required in informing the market of new bidding rules International cooperation opens new opportunities for GPP Collaboration with the industry association promote technological progress

Suggestions and recommendations

Synthesis on ecolabelling scheme and green purchasing

- A strong, well-devised national eco-labelling scheme, followed by systematic implementation;
- Stimulus needs to be materialized as a push factor for consumers to use compliance alternatives;
- promotion and training to educate consumers to level of awareness;
- more clear benefits should be added in to the industry players and consumers to embrace these schemes ;
- Continue building partnerships and develop new collaborations

Advocate the accessibility of green products in private sector

- Diversity approach need to be explored on the basis of traditional annual award or product directory, especially considering the on-line shopping new consuming methodology;
- integrate with the related initiative of green lifestyle;
- Advertisement needs to be adopted by the producers to overcome the lack of visibility of green products;
- Improve the practical participation of the consumers and producers for each green purchasing network, place each consumer or producer bond with the network as a community;
- Stimulate the network serves as a hub for the partnerships

Suggestions and recommendations

Proactive the innovation practice in business sector

- Both circular IT products management and new energy label, provide the fresh practice on the green purchasing in business sector.
- Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution as the three major environmental crises currently faces, green purchasing practice needs to use new technology adapt and explore models at the broader scope of the chain of sustainable consumption and production.

Deepen the pilot effect of public green procurement

- Encourage to integrate tools and methods to promote the alignment of each national public green procurement concepts, principles, methods and procedures with international benchmarks.
- International cooperation opens up new opportunities. International cooperation promotes the green purchasing at local level to establish the system and knowledge for making correct decision. Strengthen cooperation at the global and national levels, which expand resources and opportunities,

Way forward

The IGPN has the mission to use the purchasing power change the business as usual which will accelerate the shift of sustainable development.

With the plans to pursue the work initiated with the present study. Our objectives are to extend the topic and cases along with the main theme of the sustainable consumption and production chain, which will cover, integrate and synthesis the stage of purchasing, producing and consumption.

On line meeting will be set follow-up for discussion, dissemination, and exchange of information.

Additional initiatives, through yearly calls for contribution will be continues, broad topic such as climate change, green trade, supply or value chain and others embodied in the recommendations.

Along with the new perspectives will be opened with the One Planet Network Sustainable Public Procurement Program to promote the practical practice on specific topic in the broad view, and explore the guidance accordingly attract the partners and themes in the near future.



Thank You



Jing WANG 

IGPN Secretariat 

wangj@mepcec.com 

www.igpn.org; www.mepcec.com