



PRESS RELEASE

Preview of "UNECE Guide to Promoting Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships"

The U.S. National Council for Public-Private Partnerships (NCP PP), in conjunction with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will hold a press conference in Washington, DC to make a preview announcement of a new publication, the UNECE Guide to Promoting Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships. This press conference precedes ones that will be held in Moscow, Russian Federation and Geneva, Switzerland.

The press conference will be held on Thursday, 18 October 2007, from 2.00 - 4.00 PM in the Club at Franklin Square located at 1300 I ("Eye") Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 (<http://www.franklinsquareclub.com>).

Speakers at the press conference will include:

- Mr. Marek Belka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of UNECE, and former Prime Minister of Poland; and
- Mr. Arthur L. Smith, President, U.S. National Council for Public-Private Partnerships.

This new document has international implications, for both developed and catching-up economies. It is broadly recognized that while PPPs have great potential for helping developing and transition economies meet their infrastructure and social services needs, PPPs are most successful in an atmosphere of good governance. Transparency, accountability and sound legal, regulatory and financial frameworks, all contribute toward encouraging foreign direct investment and maximizing project performance. The same principles obviously apply to developed economies, such as the United States, as well.

UNECE Guide to Promoting Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships. The UNECE Guide was prepared through an intensive consultative process, involving an international expert network on PPPs established under the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, including representation from the NCP PP.

It is broadly believed that the Guide is a timely and much needed addition to PPP literature and could serve as a valuable basis for training and other capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening potential of countries, in particular public administrations, to establish successful PPP projects. The need for such a guide was recognized by 57 Member States of UNECE and more recently by the International Conference on Knowledge Sharing and Capacity-Building on Promoting Successful PPPs, organized by the Government of Israel in cooperation with UNECE in Tel Aviv on 5-7 June 2007. The National Council for Public-Private Partnerships shares this view and supports the publication of this important document. It should also be noted that the increasing international use of PPPs results in new opportunities for growth and investment by U.S. firms.

In the near future, UNECE, working in close cooperation with its partner organizations, is planning to develop and launch a capacity-building programme on PPPs for government officials and other stakeholders in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

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