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16 - 19 JAN

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7th ISTANBUL PPP WEEK

COMMUNIQUE

16-19 January, 2023

Türkiye



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7th Istanbul PPP Week Communique, 2023

Between the 16th and 19th of January 2023 the "Davos" of the [#PPP](#) world took place in Istanbul, and exceeded all expectations.

During the four days of the event over 150 PPP practitioners - primarily from emerging economies - participated in a forum of PPP practitioners who shared ideas, best practices and latest trends in 30 sessions. This included sessions where 60 speakers (experts in the field of PPPs) discussed ways to implement PPPs as a tool for development and the achievement of sustainable development goals [#SDGs](#)).

The emerging paradigm of People-first PPPs (PfPPPs) - pioneered by the [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#) - was center stage in all discussion that focused on PPPs that invest in people, climate change, and economic development. Most importantly, the PPP week offered leaders in the field of PPPs the opportunity to network with each other, thereby strengthening the opportunity to share ideas in a collegial setting.

On the last day of the event 22 countries presented their PPP pipelines, priorities and projects.

Without the support of [DEİK](#), the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure of Türkiye this event would not have been possible.

Additional participating stakeholders included the [Islamic Development Bank \(IsDB\)](#); [The World Bank](#); [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)](#); [WAPPP | World Association of PPP Units & Professionals](#); [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#); [ASECAP - EU ASSOCIATION](#); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([#ESCAP](#)), ASECAP, and [International Sustainable Resilience Center](#).

The overall theme of the week was how PPPs should play a greater role in creating sustainable and resilient projects that have a tangible mitigating impact on people, the effects of climate change, and economic development. Over and over, speakers stressed the importance of People-first PPPs (PfPPPs) being a tool to achieve national sustainable development goals (SDGs). Additional goals, above the achievement of "value for money" were also highlighted and included determining "value for people" and "value for the future." PPP Week started with Dr. Eyüp Vural Aydın's opening speech where he stressed that PPP is not just a tool of finance, but it is a model of project development for people.

Thomas Barrett (of the Brookings Institute) reminded the participants that the G20 nations is focused on the delivery of quality PPP projects, while Muneer Ferozie (of the IFC) stated that although it is initially more costly to finance sustainable PPP projects, in the long run sustainable and future proofed projects are more cost efficient. Ziad Hayek (President of WAPPP) pointed out that we can mitigate project failure by ensuring wide political support for projects; by improving their design and execution; and by having projects that are more flexible.

Speakers agreed that there is an increasing need to mobilize private sector capital and to look at the wholistic ripple benefits that PPP projects can introduce to communities, especially in the area of social infrastructure projects.



Mark Mosley (formerly of the World Bank and the Global Infrastructure Hub) emphasized to need to not lose the focus on the primary proposition of PPPs – “value for money” in a discussion on renegotiations of PPP projects. Fuad Huseynov (of the ADB) also pointed out that PPP projects are likely to demonstrate additionality during his presentation on ex-ante assessments of development impacts of PPP projects.

Marc Frilet (General Secretary of the UNECE International Center of Excellence - PPP Policies Laws-Institution) highlighted the new PPP Model Law that UNECE has drafted that offers a pragmatic approach to PPP guiding principles that can be transformative. David Baxter (ISRC) in his presentation pointed out unless transparent and competitive procurements become the norm, projects will be subject to corruption and lost opportunities that would waste billions of dollars annually.

Helga van Peer (Infrastructure PPP Expert from Belgium) elaborated on the importance of risk allocation through stakeholder outreach that can help mitigate future “black swan” events. Mehita Fanny Sylla (IFC) provided insights into how MDBs finance PPP projects and how they act as catalysts for opening up markets. Dr. Eyup Vural Aydin (Chair of the Conference) reminded the participants that PPPs are increasingly focusing on global issues are have become cross cutting tools for development.

Tony Bonnici (UNECE – Head of PPP Program) made the following observation – “ PPPs need to consider multi-faceted, resilient, circular economic strategies – in partnership with the private sector – and also need to be fit for the purpose of the SDGs. Atter Hannoura (Director of the PPP Central Unit in Egypt) highlighted that green PPP targets are a moving target and are influenced by politics, thereby requiring dexterous navigation when being implemented. Because of this it is important that politicians take the time to understand projects and give them their full support.

Jean Christophe Barth (Executive Director of WAPPP) strongly recommended that pain-points for investors need to be reduced through better PPP governance. Many presenters shared additional ideas that will be made available on the event’s website. However, the emerging role of women PPP practitioners must not be underplayed and the excellent session on women in infrastructure was one of the highlights of the conference. Müjde Zeynel (Istanbul PPP COE); Ebrunur Yıldız (LIMAK); Fatima Zahra Rahmoun (PPP Morocco) and Ayşe Dönmez (Ictas Infrastructure) are examples of emerging women in the field of PPPs.

In ending, the comment of Hasan Murat Nesimoğlu (Ministry of Trade of Türkiye) endorsed the conference by saying that it is was a great place to meet and exchange ideas. Dr. Aydın and David Baxter (organizers of the conference) were in absolute agreement when they stated that the annual conference makes a major contribution to improving the practice of PPPs and strengthening its enabling environment globally.

On the last day of the conference, Turkish companies made presentations on hallmark PPP projects that covered the lessons learned on the Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge; the Istanbul Grand Airport; the Eurasia Tunnel; the Northern Marmara Motorway, and the Osmangazi Bridge. An additional site visit program to the Turkish projects was undertaken by participant country officials on the last day of the PPP Week.

We look forward to next year’s event which promises to be even more exciting than this year’s one.

Best Regards,
Istanbul PPP Week Committee

An electronic PPP publication that addresses emerging PPP trends prepared by conference speakers will be made available soon.