



The story of  
**PR**ocurement, **I**ntegrity, **M**anagement and **O**penness  
(**PRIMO**)

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE  
FORUM

MAJED M. ELBAYYA  
LEAD PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST—THE WORLD BANK

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# How it was started

- Started in Central Asia as a platform to convene public procurement officials to foster regional cooperation and knowledge sharing
- 1<sup>st</sup> Forum was in Tashkent 2005. 25 participants, 4 countries
- The first 5 forums, every year event held in one of the Central Asia countries
- Fully financed by the World Bank
- Countries take long time to make a decision to host it
- Countries representatives do not prepare for the Forum and do not interact well among each other
- Almost run by the Bank specialists



## How it was evolved

- In 2009 Turkey was invited for the first time to the Forum in Kyrgyz
- World Bank invited Islamic Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and EBRD to the 2009 Forum in Kyrgyz (10 countries)
- Turkey offered to host the Forum year 2010
- Number of Countries invited increased to 14 countries
- First time a webpage is prepared for the Forum
- ADB, IsDB and EBRD agreed to cosponsor the Forum in Turkey
- High level officials attended/opened the Forum in Istanbul
- Bank staff worked closely with country representatives on their presentations-some came without presentation but did during the Forum



# How it evolved

- The location of the Forum in Istanbul and the participation of Turkey in the Forum attracted interest of high level country representatives to attend
- Turkey organized social events and tours which the participants loved
- Forum was well organized with active participation of government of Turkey, the World Bank, ADB, IsDB and EBRD
- The forum in Turkey was a key and a reference milestone for other countries
- Since then, Quality of country presentations improved
- Good speakers on the themes of the Forums from all over the globe were identified and invited every year
- Forum changed from boring lectures to discussion, net working and fun activities
- The dynamics changed. Representatives started to know each other and communicate better



# What happened next



- Every year countries compete and lobby to host the Forum
- Before the officials come to the Forum they discuss hosting the Forum with their ministers and get the Government commitment
- So far countries agree among each other on who to host the Forum
- But this may evolve in the future to voting
- Themes for next forum is now identified during the Forum
- Last year forum we have to vote on the theme of the Forum as there were three interesting themes identified by participating countries. Country has only one vote.
- Media cover the Forum
- Documentary films produced on the Forum



# Where we are now?



- Discussion of the name of the Forum-now called PRIMO
- More donors and international organizations (EIB, OECD, SIGMA, UNCITRAL, EU, WB, ADB, IsDB) sponsor/cooperate on the PRIMO
- Every year participants report on their achievement on the action plan and agree on new one
- From 4 to 23 countries and increases
- PRIMO addresses state of the art reform agenda in public procurement
- Moved the PRIMO forward towards being a global event. Last year Forum in Georgia broadcasted live to public. Any one in the globe can participate



# Where we are now?



- Virtual on-line Forum created (C4D)
- Each year we do a couple of virtual forums on interesting emerging subjects. Next one is on November 10, 2015
- Countries contact each other to discuss procurement reform issues directly
- Countries visit each other to learn from their experience
- Countries give presentations on the virtual platform
- Countries bring more staff and pay from their budget to attend the Forum



# What is our future plan?

- Evolve the PRIMO forum to be a global event on procurement reform and project implementation
- Evolve it to a more sustainable event and be self financed
- Be a resource library for knowledge transfer on public procurement and project implementation
- Transfer it to be fully run and organized by the countries themselves



# Lessons learned

- Requires lots of effort to coordinate—normally we start in December the preparation and hold it in May every year. Not good to hold it in June (end of FY)
- Countries need time to get their government superiors approval to travel
- Bank team being located in field offices helped a lot on the logistics
- It is more efficient that one entity pays all the cost and then be reimbursed from the cosponsors



# Links to Video

- <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2015/06/09/11th-public-procurement-knowledge-exchange-forum>
- [https://www.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner\\_id/619672/uiconf\\_id/30547232/entry\\_id/1\\_qe298kvq/embed/legacy?](https://www.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/619672/uiconf_id/30547232/entry_id/1_qe298kvq/embed/legacy?)