



## **Green Public Procurement Grows with Global Momentum**

14 December 2020 – The Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) hosted a webinar *Ecolabelling in B2B-The Greening of Public Procurement* on 3 December, in conjunction with the GEN 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM). This valuable online experience which highlighted trends and insights into green public procurement had over 100 participants in attendance. The China Environmental United Certification Center (CEC) and International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN) hosted the event.

GEN board member Ms. ZHANG Xiaodan presided over sessions on *International Trends and Perspectives*. Experts from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ecolabelling Denmark and IGPN took an in-depth look at international green procurement and how ecolabels are integrated into the implementation of sustainable purchasing programmes. Mr. Farid Yaker from UNEP gave updates on One Planet Network Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) programme. Ms. Ingrid Elmedal, from Ecolabelling Denmark, shared a case study of the Green Procurers Forum in the Nordic countries. Mr. Augustine Koh from Green Purchasing Network Malaysia clarified green purchasing and ecolabels and proposed an idea on e-shop to promote green purchasing.

Ms. Kate Harris led the second half of the webinar focusing on *GPP-the Experiences and Challenges*. Highlights included hearing about the number of companies, licensees and standard categories that are being scaled globally, which is particularly important for those professionals involved in procurement in China, Japan, Korea and Thailand. Mr. Hiroyuki Kobayashi, from Japan Environment Association introduced two levels of green procurement—the mandatory and the voluntary in Japan. Mr. CUI Xiaodong, from CEC shared that China green public procurement has achieved 90% with ecolabelled certificates. Mr. Joon Sung Ahn, from Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute expressed over 15,000 products, 4,000 companies and 165 product categories within their country are involved in green public procurement (GPP). Dr Wijarn Simachaya from Thailand Environment Institute outlined their Type I, II and III schemes for procurement. The final experience sharing came from German International Cooperation Organisation (GIZ) with fruitful information on GPP and ecolabelling among the five countries in Southeast Asia such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and Bhutan. The result is the very tangible impact of green buildings, offices and beyond through green public procurement.

Participants learned how purchaser collaboratives and forums are strengthening the demand for ecolabel products and services and it was a good opportunity for stakeholders to get updates on the development of both GPP and ecolabels. GEN Chairman, Mr. Bjorn-Erick Lonn spoke highly of the webinar in his closing speech. It was a perfect ending to the 2020 GEN Annual General Meeting.

A recording of the webinar is available on GEN's [YouTube](#) and [Youku](#) channels.

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About GEN: The Global Ecolabelling Network is a non-profit association of leading ecolabel organisations worldwide. Network members follow ISO 14024 Principles for Type 1 ecolabels, awarding certification to products and services that meet multi-attribute, life cycle-based criteria. GEN was founded in 1994 to help protect the environment by improving, promoting and developing ecolabelling. Learn more at [www.globalecolabelling.net](http://www.globalecolabelling.net).

Presenting organisations:

[China Environmental United Certification Center](#)

[International Green Purchasing Network](#)

[UN Environment Programme](#)

[Ecolabelling Denmark](#)

[Japan Environment Association](#)

[Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute](#)

[Thailand Environment Institute](#)

[German International Cooperation Organisation](#)