Press release
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The 2026 UN China Procurement Seminar: Connecting Chinese Enterprises with International Public Procurement In a New Phase

SHANGHAI, 11 November 2026.— Co-hosted by UNOPS, UNDP, the Qingpu District Government of Shanghai, and Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (SUIBE), the 2026 UN China Procurement Seminar (CPS) was successfully held in Shanghai on 10–11 November. Approximately 400 representatives from the United Nations system, government agencies, businesses, academia, and civil society attended the event. Themed "Green · Innovation · Connectivity: Building Resilient and Sustainable Global Supply Chains for Public Procurement," the seminar explored how public procurement can serve as a catalyst for greener, more inclusive, and more responsible supply chains in China and beyond while serving as a practical development tool connecting procurement decisions with the SDGs.

The seminar comes at a time of tightening development budgets and growing uncertainty in global supply chains, even as demand for green, innovative, and sustainable products continues to rise. According to a 2022 analysis by the World Economic Forum, public procurement accounts directly or indirectly for about 15 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, making purchasing decisions a lever for climate action. China, which accounts for nearly one-third of global manufacturing output, has capacity in renewable energy, green manufacturing, emergency response, the digital economy, and healthcare that closely matches UN demand.

Guided by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce and the Shanghai Hongqiao International Central Business District Administrative Committee, the seminar was supported by CICETE, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNV, and UNCTAD. The seminar is a flagship activity of the "Shanghai Sustainable Procurement Project (SHSPP)," launched in 2021 to help Chinese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and women-owned businesses (WOBs) connect with UN and international public procurement markets.

Mr. Shen Xiaokai, Inspector at Level II (Deputy Director-General level), Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, MOFCOM, noted that UN procurement from China grew from USD 328 million in 2023 to USD 451 million in 2025 — an increase of 37.5%. Yet this still accounts for less than 2% of total UN global procurement. He highlighted MOFCOM's continued support for UN procurement information sessions via platforms like the Canton Fair and CIIE, and expressed anticipation for Phase II to leverage big data and AI for a precision distribution platform.

Mr. Wang Ping, Party Secretary of Qingpu District, stated that over the past five years, the project has released nearly 130,000 procurement notices and helped over 1,500 SMEs register as UN suppliers. He proposed three actions: building a "direct express" for international procurement, strengthening a "business incubation hub," and exploring a "new ecosystem" for open cooperation. Ms. Liu Liya, President of SUIBE, introduced the new UN Sustainable Procurement Talent Lab under Phase II. Ms. Ai Yinfang, Deputy Director-General of CICETE, noted that the project is achieving a leap from "platform building" to "ecosystem building,"and expressed her expectation for all parties to jointly embark on a green journey, pursue innovation, and build a bridge of connectivity. Mr. Torben Soll, Deputy Director of the Global Procurement & Supply Division, UNDP, highlighted that Phase I supported over 3,000 enterprises, and Phase II will further link China's green manufacturing capacity with global demand. Ms. Anne-Claire Howard, Director of the Procurement Division at UNOPS and Advisory Chair of the UN Supply Chain Network, praised Phase I for effectively lowering barriers for Chinese enterprises, and believed Phase II will generate even greater impact.

During the seminar, Phase II of the Sustainable Procurement Project was officially launched. Mr. Chen Xiqi, Deputy District Governor, Qingpu District, Shanghai; National Project Director, SHSPP, outlined its three key innovations: exploring a dual-layer operating model of "public goods + sustainability" and establishing a non-profit service platform; building a regular mechanism for UN procurement officials to visit China for sharing and learning, piloting a domestic supplier incubation base, and promoting the integration of Chinese green products into the UN system; and leveraging universities to jointly establish a talent development lab and build a distinctive brand for cultivating international organization professionals.

In the keynote speech session, Ms. Anne-Claire Howard, Director of the Procurement Group at UNOPS and Advisory Chair of the UN Supply Chain Network, delivered a keynote titled "Purchase for Impact." She stated that the UN's global procurement volume exceeds USD 20 billion, with Asia ranking second worldwide by region of supplier. She noted that UNOPS procured USD 1.4 billion globally in 2025, covering 155 countries. Notably, UNOPS directly procured USD 166 million worth of goods and services from China in 2025, cooperating with 114 Chinese suppliers, with China now ranking 12th among UNOPS supplier countries. She praised the Qingpu project's Phase I as a crucial pilot that has effectively lowered barriers for Chinese enterprises, expressed special gratitude for the strong support from the Qingpu District Government, and believed that Phase II will generate even greater impact.

Mr. Torben Soll, Deputy Director of the Global Procurement and Supply Division, UNDP, stated: "In 2025, procurement by the UN system from Chinese suppliers reached approximately USD 451 million, an increase of around USD 16 million over the previous year. This highlights the significant potential of Chinese enterprises in international public procurement. With 2030 fast approaching, development resources becoming increasingly constrained, and global supply chains facing growing uncertainty, we need open partnerships, practical innovation and resilient supply chains more than ever. Sustainable procurement is one of the most practical tools we have to achieve this." He further noted that UNDP's global procurement volume reached USD 3.1 billion last year, with China being

UNDP's third-largest procurement source country. Looking ahead, UNDP will focus on areas such as innovation, green energy, and new energy to help more Chinese suppliers grow together with the UN.

Mr. Benjamin Safari, Head of Supply Management Service, Division of Emergency and Programme Support, UNHCR, delivered a keynote on humanitarian procurement and emergency supply chains. He emphasized that the value of humanitarian supply chains lies not just in delivering goods, but in helping displaced families rebuild their lives. UNHCR is committed to building a simple, efficient, and sustainable integrated supply chain, viewing China as a partner for co-developing solutions rather than just a procurement market. He outlined four priorities for cooperation with China: expanding direct procurement (such as renewable energy solutions); exploring pilot cooperation with the Shanghai government in areas like healthcare supplier training and product testing; strengthening engagement with Chinese logistics and shipping companies to optimize global logistics; and transforming frontline challenges into tested, scalable products.

In the afternoon UN agency sharing session, Ms. Alicia Regodon, Climate Specialist at UNOPS Headquarters, and Mr. Senthil Kumar, Procurement Senior Manager for the Asia-Pacific Region at UNOPS, delivered a joint presentation. Ms. Regodon detailed UNOPS's sustainable procurement framework and climate commitments, including reducing absolute emissions from operations by 45% by 2030, reaching net-zero before 2050, and implementing the GREEN Guidelines. Mr. Kumar showcased how UNOPS translates sustainable procurement into country-level actions through regional projects, such as the Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership and Indonesia's Climate Village Programme.

Ms. Maria Cristina Palamini, Head of Programme at UNOPS's Southeast Asia and Pacific Multi-Country Office, previewed the Global Call for Green Development Best Practices (Green Global Call for Submission). She noted that the initiative aims to bridge borders and identify proven, practical, and replicable green innovations—covering sustainable energy, resilient infrastructure, water and sanitation, and health—placing SMEs and women-led enterprises at the centre. The formal call is expected to open in December 2026 and run through spring 2027, with selected best practices to be showcased globally by mid-2027.

In the sustainable procurement capacity-sharing session, invited by UNOPS, Ms. Yizi Yang, China Country Director of the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), delivered a keynote. Drawing on CHAI's public health market experience across more than 40 countries, she analyzed new trends in the global public health market and introduced market incentive mechanisms such as Advance Market Commitment (AMC) and pooled procurement, providing valuable pathways for Chinese enterprises to bring high-quality public health products to global public markets.

At the event, Phase II of the Sustainable Procurement Project, the UNDP-SUIBE UN Public Procurement and Sustainable Talent Development Laboratory, and the Shanghai Hongqiao Joint Procurement Service Center were inaugurated. The third call for the Mapping of China's Innovative

Solutions for Sustainable Development was also launched, adding healthcare and new energy sectors. The two-day seminar also featured thematic sessions, including UNHCR supplier training, healthcare, renewable energy, and a youth volunteer dialogue. UNDP, UNOPS, alongside its partners, continues to help more high-quality Chinese supplies enter the UN procurement system and serve global sustainable development.

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Notes to the editors:

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About UNOPS

UNOPS offers practical solutions across peace and security, humanitarian and development operations. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners, such as the European Union and its Member States, to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement across the world. Read more: www.unops.org.

Pictures of the event:



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