

***Speaking Notes, Marina Walter, DRR UNDP
Integrity Risk Assessment in Public Procurement - 23 September 2014
Amari Watergate Hotel, Ballroom C, 6th Floor***

Khun Nakorn-Khet Sutthaprida, *Deputy Secretary-General of OPDC*,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen

We are here today to discuss the issue of integrity risks in public procurement.

As we all know, public procurement is key to the smooth and efficient functioning of public organizations as part of their service delivery to the public and the country. Public procurement has a considerable large volume in Thailand with a direct impact on the country's economic, political and social development. The procurement of goods, services and works by government departments consumes a considerable part of government resources, and should be delivered under the overriding objective of receiving the best value for money.

However there are constant risks that challenge the integrity of procurement processes. They can range from simple administrative mistakes to a window for corruption or the abuse of public resources.

Identifying these risks to procurement practices as well as understanding the threats behind them, and how they can be diagnosed and addressed will render these processes more efficient. The result can be stronger procurement practices that ensure better value for money and a more transparent expenditure of public funds.

To strengthen public procurement processes in Thailand is a very important initiative and we are commend the OPDC for its leadership on this issues together with our key partner agencies, namely:

the Comptroller General's Department,
The State Enterprise Policy Office,
the Anti-Corruption Organisation of Thailand,
and all of you here representing your organisations.

The objective of today is to learn from all the experienced practitioners in the room and to get your insights and help in identifying where you see risks to integrity. When sharing your input with us please bear in mind that the intention is not to introduce overly rigorous control systems, but to strengthen procurement processes to allow for reasonable safeguards in order to maximize its efficiency and minimize any risks to integrity.

We hope that this assessment of integrity risks in public procurement will help shed more light on the concept behind it and, provide a deeper analysis of actors, relationships, and institutional vulnerabilities that facilitate conditions for abusive practices in the first place. With this improved knowledge, we will work with our key partners and stakeholders to formulate strategies, measures and tools that are better targeted and respond to the needs of Thailand.

We are delighted to see that many participating agencies and Bureaus and look very much forward to your active participation and to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

Thank you.

