



SMP Newsletter – Issue1 [May 2020]



Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to present the first issue of the **Seismic Mitigation Project (SMP) Newsletter**. Through this newsletter, which will be issued every 2 months, we aim to keep you informed and updated on project progress and related activities.

In December 2019, the General Assembly in its 74th Session approved the SMP budget for 2020. Although the design of the seismic retrofit, lifecycle asset replacement and interior renovation was completed in 2019, due to some challenges faced in the procurement process, the start of the main construction works has now moved to the second quarter of 2021.

The focus in 2020 will be on the procurement of key contracts and on Business Readiness activities to prepare occupants for the start of construction in 2021. Given the current COVID-19 situation, we recognize that our project may also be impacted by this pandemic. At present, there are no clear indications of delays, but we will continue to monitor the situation and share any developments with you.

What is clear is that the way we work has changed and the SMP Team will begin the process of reviewing the changes required to ensure that our future workspace is suitable and functional in a post-COVID world. We intend to involve and engage our stakeholders in this process, to find a solution that works for us all and keeps us safe.

We hope you find this first edition of the SMP Newsletter informative and we welcome any feedback you may have.

Meanwhile, stay safe and take care of each other.
The SMP Team

REVISED TIMELINE & KEY DATES

Revised Construction Timeline

In 2019, the SMP was engaged in the procurement process to onboard a general contractor to deliver the main construction works for the project. However, in November 2019, the project had to cancel the procurement bid because the local construction market did not respond as expected to our Request for Proposals (RFP). Since then, the project has recommenced the procurement process, taking many additional measures to ensure a successful contract award this time around. These measures include an extensive survey of the local construction market and revision of the procurement strategy accordingly. The project expects a contract to be awarded in the first quarter of 2021.

Key Dates and Milestones

Business Readiness Activities – 2020 thru 2023

- Completion of the on-site swing space building – Third quarter of 2020
- General Construction Contract Award – First quarter of 2021
- Moves to Swing Space – First quarter of 2021
- Start of the Main Construction Works – Second quarter of 2021



*Estimated Q2 2021: Subject to procurement process resulting in a qualified bid within the budget.

Key Procurement Activities in 2020

Rebid of the General Construction Services

Provision of Furniture [Primary Seating, Office Furniture and Soft Seating]

Moving and Storage Services

Construction Administration Services

Project Objectives and Scope

To find out more about the project objectives and scope, we invite you to view a short project video at the link below:

 [SMP Project Video](#)

CLIENT ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

First Quarterly Stakeholder Committee Meeting

The first quarterly meeting of the SMP Stakeholder Committee took place in February 2020. This was the first meeting to be convened since the revision of the Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) in October 2019, to facilitate broader participation by including stakeholders not only from ESCAP but also from the Agencies, Funds and Programmes and other groups at the ESCAP premises who will be impacted by the project activities.



Budget Workshop for Agencies, Funds, and Programmes

The SMP Team supported by the Division of Administration recently conducted a budget workshop for its stakeholders from the Agencies, Funds and Programmes, who are located at the ESCAP premises. The workshop aimed to inform participants on project related cost matters to support timely budget planning. The workshop was attended by over 45 participants from 18 entities who engaged in robust discussions and exchange of ideas, including opportunities to collaborate on business readiness activities prior to the start of construction. This workshop is the first in a series of business readiness activities planned by the SMP for the next 12 months.

Upcoming Activities in the Next 3 Months



OTHER NEWS

Technical Evaluation for the Provision of Furniture

The SMP is collaborating with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on a joint exercise to procure furniture and related accessories for the future workspace at both locations. The initial review of the technical proposals took place in Bangkok in early February 2020. The Technical Panel consists of staff from both ESCAP and ECA, including representatives from Staff Councils at both locations.



Technical Panel members from left to right

Front row: Ms. Sunari Silva, Panel Chair | Ms. Nopharat Rojanasupsakul, Panel member and ESCAP Staff Council representative | Mr. Simon Boundy, Panel advisor

Back row: Mr. Lulseged Legesse, Panel member | Mr. Chayanon Mesanthasuwana, Panel advisor | Mr. Messkir Lemma, ECA Staff Council representative | Mr. Joseph Baricako, Panel member and ECA Staff Council representative | Mr. Getachew Rorisa, ECA Staff Council representative | Mr. Adisorn Sadsri, Panel advisor | Mr. Rathaputh Karasuddhi, Panel member

Not present: Mr. David Clarkson, ILO Panel Observer

The full review process is expected to be completed in early May 2020, after which technically compliant bidders will be requested to stage mock-ups of various furniture solutions at the ESCAP premises in late July or early August 2020. The on-site mock-ups of the furniture will offer an exciting opportunity for occupants at the ESCAP premises to view and test the shortlisted furniture and provide feedback.

Occupational Safety & Health (OSH)

In 2020, SMP has ramped up its collaborative efforts with OSH, through its active involvement in the OSH Working Group, coordination with the Division of Health Management OSH (under DMSPC) and Agencies, Funds and Programmes, specifically ILO, UNEP, and WHO.

An Information Sharing Session on OSH in Construction Projects was conducted between ILO and the SMP Teams in early March. During this session Mr. Mark Underhill, the Project Director for the renovation of the ILO building in Geneva, shared valuable lessons learned and best practices with the SMP and Facilities Management Teams at ESCAP.



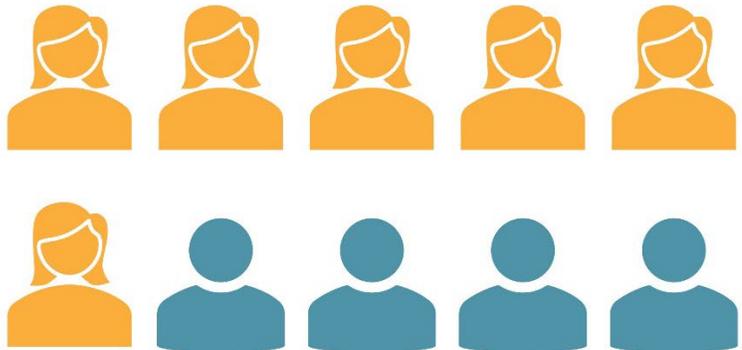
Under the terms of a coordination agreement established in November of 2019 between ESCAP and ILO, Mr. Underhill also serves as an advisor on Occupational Safety and Health matters to the SMP and ESCAP Facilities Management Teams. We wish to extend our sincere gratitude and thanks to ILO for their ongoing support!

SMP FACT:

DID YOU KNOW:

60%

of the SMP team consists of women with technical and logistic backgrounds



This includes architects, structural engineers, cost engineers, logistics officers and procurement specialists, with experience working in North America, Africa, Europe and Asia.



For questions or suggestions please contact | escap-smp@un.org