

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

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Interim Committee on Government Procurement

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QUESTIONNAIRE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Response by the Republic of Korea

The attached communication contains the replies from the delegation of the Republic of Korea to the questionnaire on Information Technology in Government Procurement contained in document GPA/IC/W/4/Rev.1, dated 16 September 1994.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Replies received from Korea

1. Could delegations give a brief description of any steps taken or planned to introduce information technology (electronic commerce) into public procurement? If so, does this cover contracts which are covered under the Agreement presently in force, or under the newly-signed Agreement? At all levels of government? In the event that delegations are not considering introducing information technology into public procurement, could they explain the reasons?

Procurement information at all levels of government is provided in the official gazette "Kwanbo". The information can also be obtained via the GINS* information network system operated by a private company. The main function of the system is to provide such information to its subscribers on a commercial basis.

*GINS: Goldstar Information Network Service

2. What function(s) would information technology serve in such systems and who will be the users?

Notification of tenders and contract awards. There are about 1,200 suppliers and other subscribers who use the system.

3. Could delegations describe the technical aspects of the systems in use or planned? In particular as regards infrastructure/hardware-software and its options/standards?

N/A

4. Could delegations describe any limitations affecting access to information available in a system? How wide is potential access to interested suppliers? What are the access possibilities for suppliers of other signatory countries? What possible obstacles to access might arise for suppliers in other signatory countries?

No limitations. For potential users of the system, a PC, a modem and a telephone line are required. One possible obstacle to access for foreign suppliers is that the GINS system is operational only in Korean.

5. Has any thought been given to the question of interaction between electronic tendering and the obligations concerning publication and time-limits imposed by the Agreement?

N/A

6. For those delegations who use a database which lists government procurement opportunities:

(i) What is the name of this database?

GINS. It is a simple commercial network system distributing information to the potential users.

- (ii) How long has the database been operational and how many suppliers use the database?

The database has been operational for five years and 1,200 potential suppliers and customers use it.

- (iii) Is a fee charged to suppliers using this system? If so, how much, and what is included in the fee?

33,000 Korean won per month (VAT included).

- (iv) Can suppliers obtain tender documentation electronically? If so, how?

Yes, they can get them through their PC.

- (v) How is information on the database organized?

A private company collects the procurement information from the Office of Supply of the Republic of Korea (OSROK) and from local governments.

- (vi) Does the database offer any other features?

N/A

- (vii) What is the approximate number of procurement opportunities listed on the database annually?

7,500 per year (OSROK only).

- (viii) Is the system managed by the government or a private company?

By a private company.