



## **NIGP & CIPS: A Partnership for Public Good**

### **FAQ**

#### **Who is CIPS?**

CIPS, the UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, is the world's largest procurement and supply professional organization. CIPS has over 65,000 members in 150 different countries, including senior business people, high-ranking civil servants and leading academics.

#### **Why are we partnering with CIPS?**

Together, we combine the strength of the CIPS brand and CIPS' position as the largest professional body of its type in the world, with NIGP's brand, recognized as the largest public procurement professional body in the world. Both organizations are highly respected and bring different attributes to the relationship, together with complementary products and services. The power of the two brands adds to the credibility and authority of both organizations in public procurement worldwide.

Initiatives NIGP has undertaken to develop values, guiding principles and practices for the profession gain tremendous strength and reach through CIPS' active participation in their development and dissemination around the globe. Further, CIPS affords NIGP greater international reach for our educational and organizational development programs.

CIPS gains access to the North American market, academic and organizational networks through NIGP, including stronger links with aid organizations that provide funding for international development.

For many years, CIPS has had a public sector strategy, with over 25 per cent of CIPS membership working in the public sector. However, NIGP's exclusive focus on public procurement expertise expands CIPS' capacity to support its public sector members that CIPS is able to introduce in to its own markets in a structured way.

As CIPS and NIGP work together, it is possible that access to and work with South American countries such as Brazil, Mexico and Panama will become more easily supported from within the USA.

Perhaps most important to sustaining a successful partnership is that the organizations share many common principles and goals. NIGP and CIPS share a belief in the absolute necessity to develop and elevate the role of public procurement for the public, social and economic good of the countries in which both organizations operate. Our missions closely align, sharing the same 'develop, support, promote' theme that is fundamental to NIGP's mission.

**What, if any, joint initiatives are planned or underway?**

There are four streams of work on which CIPS and NIGP will focus:

**1. Large-scale research initiative**

A nearly year-long, major research effort is underway to develop an assessment tool that will be used to help organizations around the world better understand the maturity of their procurement systems and guide their ongoing development efforts.

**2. Development of principles and practices for public procurement**

CIPS expands the reach and global relevance of the current effort underway to define guiding principles and standard practices in procurement to give public procurement agencies the foundation for consistent, professional procurement practices.

Standard practices include developing approaches to:

- Strategic procurement
- Transparency
- Sustainability
- Risk Management
- Performance management
- Performance measurement
- Performance metrics

The aim is to produce over 30 of these principle and practices in a two year period. Before publication of these practices, CIPS and NIGP will hold wide consultations with public procurement organizations to ensure that the work published is internationally representative.

**3. Values and Guiding Principles**

CIPS and NIGP together will promote the importance of public procurement offices adopting and reflecting in their practices, the Values of Public Procurement: Accountability; Ethics; Impartiality; Professionalism; Service; and Transparency.

**4. International Development Funding**

CIPS and NIGP will start to pursue donor funded projects both within the USA and the wider Americas. CIPS and NIGP will also work to develop a joint offering that will include the work undertaken by CIPS and NIGP in terms of a proposition to improve public procurement maturity, through capability and capacity building and other activities across the world.

There are other projects that CIPS and NIGP will work together on but at this stage these are the four priorities.

**How will this benefit our members/corporate clients/development partners/revenue/profile?**

Ultimately the aim is to provide a common international standard of public procurement practice, that CIPS and NIGP can promote worldwide. This will provide a tool kit for our public procurement colleagues and their organizations to use.

Some of this material will be freely available and therefore supports our public good agenda, but it will also provide an opportunity for CIPS and NIGP to develop training and organizational services that will enhance and improve performance in public procurement globally.

**For more information about CIPS:** [www.cips.org](http://www.cips.org).

**For more information about NIGP's partnership with CIPS:**

Brent Maas

NIGP Marketing Director

[bmaas@nigp.org](mailto:bmaas@nigp.org)