

Foreword

Historically, the public sector in Commonwealth countries has been the main provider of basic service delivery and infrastructure. However, large fiscal deficits have limited governments' capacity to meet growing infrastructure needs and have emerged as a major constraint to member countries' efforts to improve their investment climate. To augment limited public resources for infrastructure, private sector participation must be encouraged by creating an enabling environment for increased private sector involvement. Governments of most Commonwealth countries have been turning towards the private sector as a means of financing infrastructure development through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

The Governance and Institutional Development Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat has responsibility for the Secretariat's mandate on public sector development. Its work covers the full spectrum of public sector administration and management. This book, *Public-Private Partnerships Policy and Practice: A Reference Guide*, augments our ongoing work on the Commonwealth PPP Network, an initiative to link senior public sector PPP policy-makers and practitioners from our member countries to each other, to PPP knowledge and resource centres, and to potential private sector investors.

It is recognised that PPP practices are ever evolving, and that there are already many excellent guides on some of these practices, many of which go into great detail. This book is structured with references and links to these guides and other external sources of current information and guidance to which readers can refer. It also offers practical lessons and emerging best practices from a range of case studies on successful and failed projects, and discusses recent experiences with PPPs in some Commonwealth developing countries.

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