



ADB OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative  
for Asia-Pacific  
Combating Corruption In the New Millennium  
The Secretariat

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Draft Minutes of the Second Steering Group Meeting  
27-28 May 2002, Manila

(StG03-0303/1)

Participants:

*Endorsing Countries:* Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore.

*Secretariat:* ADB, OECD.

*Advisory Group:* Pacific Basin Economic Council, Transparency International, United Nations Development Programme, World Bank.

*Observers:* AusAID, New Zealand.

Summary of Discussion:

1. Minutes of 1st Steering Group Meeting:

The Steering Group approved the draft minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Group Meeting. No further business is arising from the Minutes.

2. Progress since the Tokyo Conference:

- The Republic of Kazakhstan endorsed the Action Plan on 22 May 2002.
- 13 endorsing countries submitted their priority areas for reform and corresponding project proposals for the implementation cycle 2002-2003 to the Secretariat (Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Vanuatu).

3. Priority areas for reform:

The Steering Group discussed the priority areas for reform and corresponding project proposals under each Pillar of Action. A document summarising the views of the Steering Group on the priority areas and corresponding projects will be prepared by the Secretariat for dissemination among the group.

4. Next steps:

- *Finalisation of project proposals:* Endorsing countries have agreed to revise, where necessary, the project proposals in light of the Steering Group discussion. The Steering Group decided that the finalised projects will be made available on the Initiative's website ([www.oecd.org/daf/ASIAcom/](http://www.oecd.org/daf/ASIAcom/)).
- *Donor assistance:* The following countries have made known to the Steering Group their need for assistance from the Secretariat and the Advisory Group in mobilising donor support for the implementation of their projects: Kyrgyz Republic, Papua New Guinea, Philippines.
- *Reporting mechanism:* Countries have agreed to report on progress made in implementing the discussed priority areas for reform in the framework of the next Steering Group Meeting. The



Secretariat will develop reporting guidelines for this purpose. A stock-taking exercise of existing reform efforts falling under the three pillars of action, possibly along the lines of the document submitted to the Steering Group by Cook Islands, was welcomed by the Steering Group as a helpful supplement to country reports on progress achieved in targeted areas.

- *Review procedure for forthcoming submissions of priority areas for reform:* The Steering Group decided to apply the written procedure to priority areas for reform expected to be submitted in the coming months by endorsing countries which were not in the position to do so by the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Group Meeting and by new endorsing countries.

#### 5. ADB/OECD Initiative: Program of work 2002-2003

The Steering Group approved the Draft Strategy 2002-2003, which outlines the program of work under the ADB/OECD Initiative for 2002 and 2003. In particular the following issues were decided upon:

- *3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Group Meeting:* To be held in February/March 2003. Location to be decided. Proposals by members of the Steering Group in this regard are welcome.
- *Regional meetings:* The Steering Group agreed to hold the Initiative's regional meetings (previously called "conferences") on a biannual basis. The next regional meeting consequently was decided to be held in the fourth quarter of 2003 at a location to be decided. Proposals in this regard by members of the Steering Group are welcome.
- *Sub-regional roundtables:* Four sub-regions logically result from the geography of region: Central Asia, the Pacific islands, South Asia, and South East Asia/Mekong. Members of the Steering Group have reiterated their interest to establish roundtables for these sub-regions, serving various purposes such as work on specific thematic issues, awareness raising on the Action Plan and the fight against corruption in general, and encouraging new countries to endorse the Action Plan. The Secretariat will further explore these ideas, in particular: i) Central Asian roundtable with the purpose to encourage neighbouring countries to join the Action Plan; ii) co-operation with the Pacific Forum Secretariat for the establishment of a the Pacific islands roundtable; iii) thematic roundtable in South Asia; and iv) South East Asian roundtable, possibly to be held in an endorsing South East Asian country, with the purpose of encouraging Mekong Delta countries to endorse the Action Plan.
- *Anti-corruption database:* Members of the Steering Group launched the idea that the Secretariat collects, and makes available to the Steering Group, data on existing anti-corruption legislation, best practices, and training, workshops and conferences on anti-corruption and related issues. The Secretariat will look into ways of making such information available, possibly through its website.
- *Regional training:* Resulting from the fact that various countries have made known their need for training in areas such as prosecution and investigation of corruption, the Steering Group suggested to organise such training on a regional or sub-regional level.
- *Non-endorsing countries:* The Steering Group encouraged the Secretariat to continue its dialogue with non-endorsing countries, particularly of the Mekong Delta, Central Asia and with China. Sub-regional roundtables were considered to be a useful tool for this purpose.