

■ Preliminary report on Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition and Recovery of Proceeds of Corruption released

The report is the first outcome of the 2007 thematic review currently conducted by the Initiative's 27 members for the purpose of improving the efficiency of judicial cooperation both in Asia and the Pacific and globally, including with State Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. Targeted at both policy makers and practitioners that seek quick and reliable information on granting and receiving international legal assistance in corruption cases, the report presents the various features of MLA and extradition systems in Asia-Pacific. An enhanced version of the publication, which will include 27 country specific reports, will be available in late 2007.

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■ Initiative's Strategy and Work Program 2007-2008 adopted

At its 9th meeting on 27-29 November 2006, the Initiative's Steering Group adopted the Initiative's Strategy and Work Programme for 2007-2008. The document sets out the priorities of the Initiative's members and the approach that the Initiative will adopt to provide them with assistance in the fight against corruption and bribery in the next biennium. The Work Program includes country peer reviews. Such reviews seek to further stimulate the exchange of experience, to provide due recognition of progress and to help identify needs for capacity building and further reform. ■■■ [Download the Strategy and Work Program 2007-2008](#)

■ P.R. China attends meeting of the OECD Working Group on Bribery

For the first time, a delegation from the People's Republic of China attended a meeting of the OECD Working Group on Bribery on 16-18 January. The Working Group, the body that monitors how its 36 member countries implement the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, heard a presentation on P.R. China's strategy, efforts and instruments to fight bribery in domestic and international business transactions. P.R. China has been a member of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific since April 2005. As the Working Group seeks greater engagement of major emerging economies in the fight against transnational bribery, there was a strong interest in continuing cooperation with P.R. China on anti-corruption matters.

■ Initiative strengthens its partnerships with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and APEC ACT

The Initiative keeps forging new alliances. In November 2006, the Initiative invited the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to become a full member of the Advisory Group to further expand the Initiative's regional partnerships. Cooperation is also being strengthened with the recently established APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Task Force (ACT): the Secretariat of the Initiative attended the APEC ACT Workshop on Public-Private Partnership and Task Force meeting held in Canberra in January.

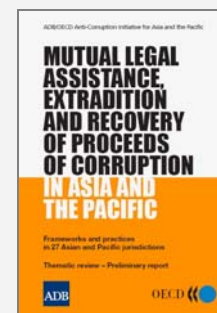
■ Do international instruments help in the fight against corruption?

This question was a major discussion topic of UNDP Regional Conference on "Integrity in Action", held in Phnom Penh in January, where the Initiative shared the experience of the OECD Convention's and the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Action Plan's implementing mechanisms. The conference sought to engage UNDP country offices in the region in supporting the implementation of UNCAC as well as the Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

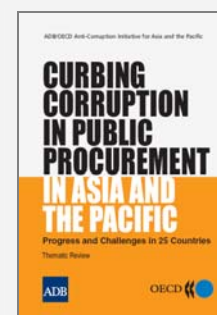
recent publications and documents

■ Strategy and Work Program 2007-2008 of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific (November 2006)

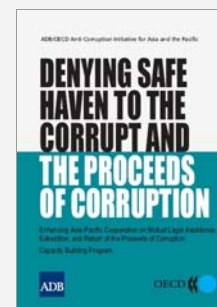
■ January 2007: Preliminary report on the outcome of the Initiative's current thematic review



■ October 2006: Final report on the Initiative's first thematic review



■ October 2006: Proceedings of the Initiative's 4th training seminar, held in March 2006



anti-corruption news from Asia-Pacific

- Indonesia completed gap analysis of its current legal and institutional framework and the UN Convention against Corruption
- OECD releases report on New Zealand's implementation of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention
- DFID launches £100m Governance and Transparency Fund
- Transparency International publishes Handbook on curbing corruption in public procurement – experiences from Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan
- American Bar Association consolidates International Rule of Law Program into single entity – the ABA Rule of Law Initiative