



■ Palau and Viet Nam join the Anti-Corruption Action Plan

Two additional countries have committed to the standards and goals of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia-Pacific. At the fifth Steering Group meeting (5-7 July, Manila), the group welcomed the Republic of Palau and Viet Nam as its 22nd and 23rd members. The Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific, adopted in November 2001, is the regional instrument against corruption and bribery jointly developed by experts from governments, the civil society and donor institutions.

■ Anti-Corruption Policies overview report completed

21 countries have taken stock of their legal and institutional frameworks with the aim to better understand the particular challenges which they face in their fight against corruption. The first overview on anti-corruption policies in Asia-Pacific, drafted on the basis of countries' self-assessment reports, has been finalized by the Steering Group and will be published in autumn 2004.

■ 5th Steering Group meeting defines future work program

Representatives of the Initiative's 23 members discussed their countries' anti-corruption reform strategies and the group's joint activities in support of their efforts under the Action Plan for the coming three years. The Initiative's program of work will focus in particular on capacity building support, continuous policy dialogue and thematic analysis.

■ Training on curbing corruption in public procurement

Corruption in public procurement may raise prices by up to 30%, thus constituting a serious loss of public resources. Sound procurement practices, featuring transparency and competition, when run by skilled and honest officials, cut this waste. The Initiative's second master training seminar (7-9 July, Manila) identified the corruption risk at the different phases of procurement, discussed potential remedies, relevant international practices and supportive measures in the private sector. The proceedings of this seminar will be available in the course of 2004.



recent reforms in asia-pacific

- Bangladesh reforms public procurement
- India enacts interim whistleblower protection
- Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission takes up work

publications

- **Effective Prosecution of Corruption**
Proceedings of the first ADB/OECD master training seminar, ADB/OECD, 2003.
- **Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia Pacific**
The Asia-Pacific countries' joint anti-corruption instrument. The document was adopted in November 2001 and has been endorsed by 23 Asian and Pacific countries until today.

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