# Asian Development Bank
# Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
# Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

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## Events and ongoing activities

### 14th Steering Group Meeting

On 8 September 2009, 24 of the Initiative's 28 member countries attended the 14th Steering Group meeting at ADB headquarters in Manila, Philippines. The members heard presentations on specific anti-corruption activities in Bhutan, Indonesia and Thailand. The members also discussed a draft report of the Independent Review of the Initiative; proposals to improve the format of oral and written reports on Action Plan implementation; and preparations for the 3rd Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption.

See here for more information on the meeting

### Regional Seminar on Political Economy of Corruption

On 9-10 September 2009, the Initiative held a regional seminar on the political economy of corruption.

The event featured a keynote address by Ms. Huguette Labelle, Chair of Transparency International, entitled "Anti-Corruption and the Sustainable Development Platform". Calling the Initiative "the first of its kind in the region", Ms. Labelle applauded the Initiative for the great strides it is making in the fight against corruption. The seminar included speakers from several Asia-Pacific countries and ADB, OECD, and Transparency International.

Read the speech, press release and seminar presentations

### Independent Review of the Initiative

In 2009, the Initiative decided to conduct an Independent Review of the Initiative to assess its past performance and map out its future strategy, The Final Report of the Review was issued in November 2009. The Report found that member countries are "very positive about the Initiative" and "believe that the Initiative is successfully helping members to reduce corruption mainly through a peer learning process in an informal environment". A Small Group on Implementation (SGI) comprising volunteer Steering and Advisory Group members has now been formed. The SGI will review the Report's Recommendations, and prepare proposals for implementing them for the Steering Group's consideration at the next meeting in 2010. See the Review's Final Report

### United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) 3rd Conference of States Parties (COSP)

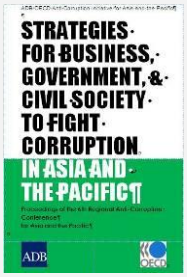
In an effort to strengthen co-operation with the UNCAC, the Initiative attended as an observer the UNCAC 3rd COSP in Doha, Qatar in November 2009.

On behalf of the Initiative, Professor Pakdee Pothisiri, Commissioner of Thailand's National Anti-Corruption Commission, delivered a statement that described the Initiative's activities supporting UNCAC implementation in Asia-Pacific. These include a thematic review on criminalization of bribery offences under UNCAC to be completed in 2010; voluntary country reviews aimed at implementing specific parts of UNCAC; and ongoing capacity building seminars to meet technical assistance needs for UNCAC implementation. In addition, the Initiative further expressed interest in working closely with the UNODC on areas of mutual interest concerning the prevention, detection and sanctioning of corruption. The Initiative also had a promotional booth at the Conference, and distributed souvenirs and hundreds of copies of its publications.

Read the Initiative's statement to the COSP

## Recent publications

**Initiative's 2008 Annual Report**




**Proceedings of the 6th Regional Conference, Singapore**

## Upcoming events

- The 15th Steering Group Meeting in 2010 will tentatively be held in May/June 2010. The Secretariat will confirm the meeting's agenda, date and location soon.
- The Meeting of the Small Group on Implementation (SGI) will be hosted by Thailand's National Anti-Corruption Commission in March 2010. The SGI will prepare proposals on implementing the recommendations of the Review of the Initiative. A kick-off meeting will take place by tele/videoconference on 28 January.
- Thailand will also host the 14th International Anti-Corruption Conference on 10-13 November 2010. A call for workshop proposals is expected in February. See http://iacconference.org/en/14iacc for more information about the Conference.

## Anti-corruption news from Asia-Pacific

- The 4th ICAC Symposium in Hong Kong, China on 15-17 December 2009 coincided with the 35th anniversary of the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). Entitled "Deals Under the Table - the Doing or Undoing of Business?" the Symposium was co-organized with the European Commission Anti-Fraud Office. For more information, visit www.icac.org.hk/symposium/2009/en/p02b.html
- The 9th APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency (ACT) Experts' Task Force Meeting was held in Singapore in August 2009. The APEC ACT was formed in 2005 to advise Senior Officials from APEC member countries in transparency and anti-corruption. Visit www.cpib.gov.sg for more information about the meeting.
- Development Policy Support Program (DPSP) Subprogram 3 has been approved by ADB to help the Philippines achieve higher investment inflows by improving its macroeconomic and fiscal management, strengthening public financial management, reducing corruption and transaction costs of doing business, and scaling up its social safety net programs.
- "Foreign Bribery: Who Pays the Price?" was the burning question as the OECD launched its initiative to raise global awareness of foreign bribery. The initiative's debut on International Anti-Corruption Day 2009 was marked by addresses from the OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Managing Director, World Bank. This was followed by a high-level roundtable debate chaired by BBC World's Komla Dumor, and a colloquium with the world's major emerging economies: India, Indonesia, Thailand, Brazil, the Russian Federation, and South Africa. For more information about the day's events and the Global Awareness Raising Initiative, see www.oecd.org/corruption/initiative.

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This newsletter was prepared by the Secretariat of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific (www.oecd.org/corruption/asiapacific). To subscribe or unsubscribe and for questions or comments, please write the Initiative's Secretariat.