

## recent events

- **Initiative's Strategy and Work Program 2009-2011 adopted**  
The Steering Group has adopted the Initiative's Strategy and Work Programme for 2009-2011. The document sets out the Initiative's priorities and the approach for assisting members to fight corruption over the next three years.  
■■■ [Read the Strategy and Work Program 2009-2011](#)
- **Voluntary Country Reviews**  
One key component of the Strategy and Work Program 2009-2011 is voluntary country reviews. The Initiative has adopted a methodology for voluntary country reviews after extensive discussions in the 12th and 13th Steering Group Meetings. The reviews aim to further stimulate the exchange of experience, provide due recognition of progress, and help identify needs for capacity building and reform. Countries interested in volunteering for reviews and donors interested in providing financial support are encouraged to contact the Secretariat.  
■■■ [Voluntary country review methodology](#)
- **12<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting and 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Anti-Corruption Conference focuses on strategies for business, government and civil society to fight corruption in Asia-Pacific**  
The Regional Conference, which was held in Singapore in November 2008, explored ways to combat bribe-giving to public officials in order to obtain business advantages. The Conference focused broadly on efforts involving business, government and civil society. The proceedings of the Conference will be available soon. ■■■ [More information on the Conference](#)  
The conference was preceded by the 12th Steering Group Meeting, in which the Initiative's members reported on their progress in implementing the Action Plan. Singapore's Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau hosted the conference and meeting. ■■■ [The 12th Meeting's outcomes](#)
- **13<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting and Regional Seminar on Good Practices in Corruption Prevention held in March 2009 in Macao, China**  
At the 13th Steering Group Meeting, the Initiative's Members again reported on their progress in implementing the Action Plan. The Meeting also included a presentation by Mr. Dimitri Vlassis of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime on the Self Assessment Checklist under the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The purpose of the presentation was to encourage the Initiative's members to complete the Checklist. ■■■ [The 13th Meeting's outcomes](#)  
The Steering Group Meeting was followed by a Regional Seminar on corruption prevention. The Seminar allowed member countries to share experiences on developing educational and awareness programs, collaborating with civil society organizations, and partnering with government agencies to prevent corruption. Macao, China's Commission Against Corruption hosted the meeting and seminar.  
■■■ [See the seminar's presentations and agenda](#)



## ongoing activities

- **Thematic Review on Criminalisation of Bribery Offences under the UNCAC to be conducted in 2009**  
At its 12th Steering Group Meeting in November 2008 in Singapore, the Steering Group agreed to conduct a Thematic Review on the Criminalisation of Bribery in 2009. The purpose of the Review is to assess whether the criminal bribery offences in the Initiative's members meet the relevant international standards, such as Articles 15, 16 and 26 of the UNCAC, and Articles 1-3 of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.
- **Independent Review of the Initiative**  
2009 marks the 10th anniversary of the Initiative. The Steering Group therefore decided to conduct a review of the Initiative to assess its impact on fighting corruption in the region, as well as to determine its future direction. The review began in March in Macao, China, when the review team of Harry Garnett and Tony Kwok attended the 13th Steering Group meeting and Regional Seminar. To gather data for the review, surveys and interviews, including on-site visits to Indonesia, Korea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka, are ongoing. The review's final report will be published in fall 2009. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) pledged financial support to the review.

## upcoming events

- **14<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting and Regional Seminar on Political Economy of Corruption, Manila, Philippines**  
The Initiative's 28 members will gather in Manila on 8 September 2009. The members will discuss preparations for the 3rd Conference of States Parties of the UNCAC; consider options to improve the Initiative's self-reporting exercise; and discuss a draft report on the Independent Review of the Initiative. The meeting will be followed by a regional seminar on the political economy of corruption on 9-10 September 2009. Members of the Advisory Group as well as observer countries and organizations in the region will also participate. ■■■ [More information available soon on this Web page](#)
- **Nepal to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting and Regional Seminar in early 2010**  
The Government of Nepal, through the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse and Authority (CIAA), will host the 15th Steering Group Meeting and regional seminar in early 2010. The exact dates will be announced later.

## anti-corruption news and activities in the region

- **Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) replaces Anti-Corruption Agency of Malaysia (ACA Malaysia)**  
MACC was launched in January 2009 to further strengthen Malaysia's national integrity agenda.  
■■■ [More information on the Commission's Web site](#)
- **Center for Asian Integrity opens in the Philippines**  
This center, the first in Asia, seeks to serve as an effective mechanism in integrity and accountability building of public personnel and anti-corruption advocates. The purpose is to develop integrity within government agencies and corporations, local government units, and non-governmental organizations. ■■■ [More information on the Center](#)