



■ Policy review on Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement in Asia and the Pacific released

Curbing corruption in public procurement enjoys high priority among the members of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative. In 2005/2006, they have thus reviewed their mechanisms and safeguards in place to identify risk-areas and to foster reform in this field. The outcome of this policy review is now available. It highlights trends, approaches and achievements across 25 countries in Asia-Pacific and presents a framework to guide policy reform. The report also contains reports on individual countries that provide details on existing policies in national contexts. It seeks to guide Asia-Pacific governments, policy makers, procurement specialists, public officials, and other experts in their efforts to curb corruption in public procurement. The insights gained from this review may also be of interest to the public and the business community. ■■■ [Download the report](#)

■ Just released: Proceedings of the training seminar on Denying Safe Haven to the Corrupt and the Proceeds of Corruption

The proceedings of the Initiative's 4th high-level training seminar, held in Kuala Lumpur in March 2006, are now available. The publication captures the legal and practical challenges of mutual legal assistance and extradition, as well as solutions for improvement, as discussed during the seminar. Experts from 26 Asia-Pacific countries as well as experts from parties to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime attended this seminar on "Enhancing Asia-Pacific Cooperation on Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition, and the Recovery and Return of the Proceeds of Corruption". ■■■ [Download the seminar proceedings](#)

■ Thematic review on Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition and Recovery of Proceeds of Corruption begins

Mutual legal assistance (MLA) and extradition in corruption cases are critical to gather evidence and bring fugitives to justice. Yet, at present, mechanisms of international cooperation among law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial authorities are often too weak to deter corruption effectively. Corrupt officials still hide and launder bribes and embezzled funds in foreign jurisdictions. Bribers often keep secret slush funds in banks abroad and launder the proceeds of their crimes internationally.

The members of the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific will address the issue head-on. In 2006/2007, they will conduct a Thematic Review Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition and Recovery of Proceeds of Corruption to assess their ability to seek and provide MLA and extradition in corruption cases, including cases involving the proceeds of corruption. The basis for this review is an overview report prepared by the Secretariat for the training seminar on the matter held in March 2006. ■■■ [More information on the review](#)

■ Initiative strengthens its partnerships with APG and APEC

Partnerships are crucial to successfully fight corruption. The ADB/OECD Initiative, itself a result of the quest for partnerships, has been active in forging alliances with relevant organizations and institutions. In this spirit, the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) joined the Initiative's Advisory Group in July, whereas the Initiative was granted the status of supporting observer to APG. A first joint project, concerning the impact of corruption on the effectiveness of anti-money laundering mechanisms, is being planned.

The Initiative has also sought to strengthen ties with the recently established APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Task Force (ACT) and other Groups of APEC. The Initiative's Secretariat attended the workshops that the APEC Government Procurement Expert Group and the ACT held in the margin of the APEC Senior Officials Meeting in September in Vietnam to present the Initiative's work.

This newsletter is edited by the [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\) Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific](#) (<http://www.oecd.org/corruption/asiapacific>).

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ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

DENYING SAFE HAVEN TO THE CORRUPT AND THE PROCEEDS OF CORRUPTION

Enhancing Asia-Pacific Cooperation on Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition, and Return of the Proceeds of Corruption
Capacity Building Program



anti-corruption news in Asia-Pacific

- Vietnam enacts procurement legislation to overhaul its regulatory framework
- Australia publishes White Paper on its Overseas Aid Program that directs the delivery of Australia's aid over the next 10 years

recent publications and documents

- [Anti-Corruption Policies in Asia and the Pacific: Legal and Institutional Reform in 25 Countries \(July 2006\)](#)
- [Knowledge – Commitment – Action against Corruption in Asia and the Pacific: Proceedings of the 5th Regional ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Conference \(Mai 2006\)](#)

upcoming events

- [9th Steering Group meeting of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific. Bangkok, Thailand, 27-29 November 2006.](#)
- [First International Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities. Beijing, P.R. China, 22-26 October 2006](#)
- [12th International Anti-Corruption Conference: Towards a fairer world: why is corruption still blocking the way? Scheduled to be held in Guatemala, 15-18 November 2006](#)