21st Steering Group Meeting of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

Thimphu, Bhutan
8 November 2016

Minutes of the Meeting

I. Participants
More than 70 participants attended the meeting, including 23 out of the 31 members and jurisdictions, Advisory Group, Secretariat, and other international organizations. No observer countries and organizations attended the meeting.

Member countries and jurisdictions

Present: Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; People’s Republic of China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Kyrgyz Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Timor-Leste; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

Absent: Afghanistan; India; Kazakhstan; Papua New Guinea; Palau; Samoa; Solomon Islands; and Vanuatu.

Advisory Group
American Bar Association, Rule of Law Initiative/Asia Division (ABA-ROLI); Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APGML); German Development Corporation (GIZ); Transparency International (TI); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and The World Bank.

Secretariat: Asian Development Bank (ADB); and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Other international organizations: Office of Public Sector Development Commission and Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission, Thailand.

II. Summary of the Discussions

1. Opening and Adoption of Agenda

The session was chaired by Aum Karma Damcho Nidup, Commissioner, ACC Bhutan. Aum Kinley Yangzom, Chairperson, ACC Bhutan, welcomed the participants to the meeting. The Steering Group then adopted the Agenda of the 21st Steering Group Meeting.

2. Report on “Anti-Corruption Reforms in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

Ms. Olga Savran, Manager of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN), provided an overview and discussed the highlights of a new report published by OECD, “Anti-Corruption Reforms in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Progress and Challenges, 2013-2016”. The report analyses trends and proposes recommendations regarding effective anti-
corruption policies and institutions, anti-corruption legislation and its enforcement, and prevention of corruption in public administration and in business.

Ms. Savran reported that countries in the ACN region achieved visible progress in the anticorruption policy development, co-ordination and monitoring mechanisms. Anti-corruption strategies and action plans became more focused, co-ordination mechanisms have been improved, and anti-corruption awareness-raising and education measures have strengthened and diversified. However, such measures still lack a targeted approach.

3. **Country Scoping Exercises: Lessons from Kazakhstan, Thailand, and Indonesia**

This session was chaired by Mr. Jeroen Michels, Policy Analyst, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD. Mr. Michels provided the background of the country scoping exercises that started last year. Resource persons from Thailand and Indonesia who were directly involved in the country assessments presented an update on the status and outputs of the "country scoping exercises" being completed in their respective countries. Mr. Michels reported on the status of country assessments in Kazakhstan and shared a number of reflections on the relevance of this exercise.

4. **Report from the Secretariat**

Mr. Warren Turner of ADB reported the ongoing initiative of developing strategic long-term plan for 2030 including governance, anti-corruption initiatives, and Integrity Due Diligence in public sector. Mr. Turner also shared that a working paper on Tax Integrity Initiative and position papers on governance are available to the public.

Mr. William Loo of OECD shared that the OECD hosted the first meeting of the Global Law Enforcement Network (GLEN) for anti-corruption practitioners in December 2015, a ministerial-level meeting on combating transnational bribery in March 2016 (at which a ministerial declaration joined by several Initiative members was launched¹), and a conference on anti-corruption law enforcement co-hosted with the French Government and launched by President Hollande. Mr. Loo informed that OECD hopes to hold a second GLEN meeting in 2017.

The Secretariat informed that the Initiative’s current Strategy and Work Programme will conclude in 2017 and invited members to consider the Strategy and Work Programme for 2018-2020.

Ms. In Seon Hwang, Director, Code of Conduct Division, Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of Korea announced that the 22nd Steering Group Meeting and 9th Regional Anti-Corruption Conference will be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, to be held in Seoul in September 2017.

5. **Initiative’s Programme of Work 2018 – 2020**

The session was chaired by Mr. Karma Thinlay, Director, Department of Prevention and Education, ACC, Bhutan. Mr. William Loo and Mr. Warren Turner of the ADB/OECD Initiative Secretariat reported on the progress report and planned activities based on the Strategy and Work Programme for 2015-2017. A discussion paper on the Initiative’s Programme of Work for the next three years (2018-2020) was also presented which included proposals that the Initiative focus on two work streams (prevention and law enforcement); set longer-term, multi-year, strategic

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priorities; undertake activities between annual meetings where possible; enhance its use of research; and form stronger partnerships with other bodies. The meeting indicated general support for the proposals. The chair of the session encouraged participants to actively contribute to the discussions and provide inputs to the draft paper. Participants were also encouraged to send their inputs after the meeting. The Secretariat will circulate a revised version of the paper, for further review and discussion.

6. **Presentation by Anti-Corruption Commission of Bhutan on recent anti-corruption developments and activities**

Mr. Kin Dorji, Principal Integrity Promotion Officer of ACC, Bhutan presented the initiatives that were and are being carried out in 2015 to 2016. These include the following:

1. Mainstreaming integrity and anti-corruption in the development agenda;
2. Research in HRM and mining sectors;
3. Review of systems related to trade and customs in Bhutan;
4. ACA Strengthening Initiative by TI;
5. Judiciary Integrity Scan; and

7. **Presentations by Steering Group Members**

This session was chaired by Mr. Jamtsho, Commissioner of ACC Bhutan. Steering Group Members were invited to present their recent activities. Presentations were made by:

- Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Malaysia
- Anti-Corruption Commission, Timor-Leste
- National Anti-Corruption Commission, Thailand
- Government Inspectorate of Vietnam, Viet Nam
- Anti-Corruption Unit, Cambodia
- Government Audit Office, Cook Islands
- Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau, Singapore
- Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), Indonesia
- Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, Nepal
- Cabinet Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Government of Bangladesh

8. **Presentations by Advisory Group Members**

This session was chaired by Aum Karma Damcho Nidup, Commissioner of ACC Bhutan. Advisory Group members were invited to present their recent work. Presentations were made by:

- German Development Cooperation (GIZ)
- Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APGML)
- Transparency International (TI)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- American Bar Association – Rule of Law Initiative/Asia Division (ABA Asia-ROLI)