
The 2015–2017 strategy and work programme is based on the Strategic Principles and Operational Activities of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific (the Initiative) adopted by the Steering Group in 2010. The Steering Group is composed of the 31 member countries and jurisdictions of the Initiative.1

This report provides an update of progress to implement the six key activities of the work programme, including planned activities in 2017.

Steering Group meetings

Three Steering Group meetings were planned in 2015–2017. The 20th Steering Group meeting was hosted by the Government of Mongolia in November 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in cooperation with the Independent Authority Against Commission. Members of the Steering Group and Advisory Group reported on country-level anti-corruption developments and activities. The Mongolian Monitoring Report prepared under the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia facilitated discussion on the anti-corruption strategy in Mongolia and the ongoing reform of the Criminal Code.

The Royal Government of Bhutan in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Commission is hosting the 21st Steering Group meeting on 8 November 2016 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The meeting will discuss country scoping exercises of integrity systems in Kazakhstan, Thailand, and Indonesia prepared under the OECD Anti-Corruption Network in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The Secretariat will present a discussion paper on the Initiative’s programme of work in 2018–2020.

The 22nd Steering Group meeting will take place in Seoul, Korea. The Government of Korea in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission will host the event in the last quarter of 2017.

Capacity building seminars

Three regional anti-corruption seminars were planned in 2015–2017. The 13th Regional Seminar on Tackling Corruption in Development Projects was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in November 2015. H.E. Mr. Enkhbold Zandaakhuu, Speaker of the State Great Khural (Parliament), Mongolia opened the seminar that was attended by members, observers, and invited speakers from Asia-Pacific. The constraints, challenges and strategies to tackle corruption in development projects were discussed. Experiences were shared on how to safeguard projects so that implementation is not derailed by corruption and that funds reach intended beneficiaries. The Regional Seminar was delivered with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and in collaboration with Transparency International.

Held in parallel with the 13th Regional Seminar was a pilot meeting of the Asia-Pacific Law Enforcement Network (LEN) supported by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Attendance was limited to law enforcement officials,

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1 Afghanistan; Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; People’s Republic of China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Kazakhstan; Republic of Korea; Kyrgyz Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Republic of Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.
investigators and prosecutors from the 31 member countries and jurisdictions to allow frank discussion of case-related information, including on tracing illicit financial flows. It was decided to continue the LEN in 2016, and beyond.

The Royal Government of Bhutan in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption Commission is hosting the 14th Regional Seminar on Development with Values: Social Fence against Corruption on 9-10 November 2016 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The seminar will discuss two topics: anti-corruption agency strengthening initiative; and improving integrity and coordination among law enforcement agencies. The 2nd meeting of the LEN will be held in parallel with the Regional Seminar and focus on mutual legal assistance in corruption cases. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and UNDP are partners and co-organizers of the event.

Regional anti-corruption conference

In 2017, the 9th Regional Anti-Corruption Conference will be hosted by the Government of Korea in cooperation with the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission. Held every three years, the conference is expected to gather policymakers, civil society and business sector representatives to assess progress, exchange ideas and experience, and determine future challenges and priorities in the anti-corruption field. The theme of the conference will be based on a survey to members conducted early in 2017.

Strong and expanded partnerships

Through the Advisory Group, the Initiative continues to reach out to partners and supporters from international organizations, bilateral donors, civil society, business organizations, and other constituencies. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and UNDP have become regular partners and co-organizers of events, contributing their respective expertise to Regional Seminars. Transparency International has also provided significant contributions and is an active member of the Advisory Group. More recently, efforts to strengthen collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Group on Money laundering (APG) are underway.

The Initiative also encourages the participation of non-member country observers that express interest in the Initiative’s events. Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, and Myanmar have all attended Steering Group meetings and Regional Seminars. Taipei, China has also expressed interest to participate in the Initiative.

Thematic reviews

A major thematic review is published about every three years as part of the Initiative’s platform for knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning and aligned to implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The last thematic review on Corporate Measures to Prevent and Detect Corruption in Asia and the Pacific was completed in 2014. The next thematic review is planned for 2017. The focus of the study will be discussed at the 21st Steering Group meeting in November 2016.

Country reviews and scoping exercises

Country reviews and scoping exercises are voluntary and help member countries and jurisdictions identify solutions to specific challenges in their UNCAC implementation. In 2015, the Initiative refined its methodology and launched the first Integrity Scan in Kazakhstan. In 2016, Integrity Reviews in Thailand and Indonesia are being completed. The Thailand review was conducted alongside the judicial integrity scans supported by German Development Cooperation (GIZ). In Indonesia, the review was coordinated with the BAPPENAS Directorate for Analysis of Law and Regulation and the Executive Office of the President. The findings of the three country scoping exercises will be discussed at the 21st Steering Group meeting in November 2016.

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