Recent events and activities

- **5th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**
The Initiative announced in the conference held in Panama in November 2013 that it is taking further steps to support the effective implementation of UNCAC in Asia and the Pacific. Messages on the Initiative’s Thematic Reviews on Criminalisation of Bribery and Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance and Asset Recovery were delivered by Commissioner Adorito Soares of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Timor-Leste and H.E. Yutin Sinat, Assistant to the Senior Minister, President, Anti-Corruption Unit of Cambodia. Commissioner Soares also participated and gave a presentation on behalf of the Initiative in a panel on thematic and regional findings on UNCAC implementation.

- **Read the Initiative's messages and presentation**

- **18th Steering Group Meeting, Dili, Timor-Leste, 23-24 July 2013**
The Initiative welcomed its newest member, Afghanistan; discussed reports on significant anti-corruption developments and issues; discussed progress in implementing the Initiative’s strategic plan; consulted with representatives of the private sector, civil society and media from Timor-Leste; and discussed and agreed on the Initiative’s specific activities for 2013 and 2014.

- **Read the meeting minutes and other documents here**

- **12th Regional Seminar on Whistleblower Protection and Strengthening Anti-Corruption Agencies, Dili, Timor-Leste, 24-25 July 2013**
The Initiative’s members discussed choices to be made when developing whistleblower regimes, such as whether anonymous allegations should be acted upon. Members also shared experiences, challenges and best practices on preserving the independence of anti-corruption agencies (ACAs), obtaining adequate resources, engaging and educating the public, and building capacity. The participants concluded that whistleblowing is a key tool to detect and deter corruption in the public and private sectors, and should be encouraged and facilitated. They also concluded that successful ACAs secure their independence in the face of pressure by building a coalition of support from a broad range of stakeholders through advocacy, education and awareness-raising.

- **Read the Seminar's conclusions**

Ongoing activities and upcoming events

- **Thematic Review on Corporate Preventive Measures**
The Initiative’s 4th Thematic Review will assess whether corporate compliance and internal control measures as applied in the Initiative’s members meet the standards of the UNCAC and the OECD Anti-Bribery Instruments. Questionnaire responses, which will form the basis of the Review’s report, have been submitted by: Bhutan; Indonesia; Korea; Macao, China; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Singapore; Sri Lanka; and Vanuatu. The Secretariat hopes to receive responses from all remaining members as soon as possible. The Review is expected to conclude by the 19th Steering Group meeting in 2014.

- **Read the Initiative’s previous Thematic Reviews**

- **Royal Government of Cambodia to host the 19th Steering Group Meeting and 8th Regional Anti-Corruption Conference in 2014**
The Anti-Corruption Unit of Cambodia will host the Meeting and Conference in Phnom Penh on 2-4 September 2014. The agenda and theme will be announced after further consultation with the Initiative’s members and the host.

Anti-corruption news from Asia-Pacific

- **Royal Government of Cambodia’s Anti-Corruption Unit, in collaboration with Transparency International Cambodia, conducted a workshop in October 2013 on Evaluation and Monitoring of Anti-Corruption Efforts. The workshop was attended by around 120 participants including members of the Senate and National Assembly, and representatives from government ministries, private sector, civil society, development partners, academia, and media.**

- **More information on the Anti-Corruption Unit website**

- **Thailand’s National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) hosted a Roundtable Discussion on “Strengthening Anti-Corruption Collaboration in the ASEAN Region” on 10 December 2013 in Bangkok for the Heads of anti-corruption agencies in ASEAN countries and high level representatives of UNODC and UNDP. The Roundtable fostered closer relationships among the agencies and explored areas of mutual concern to strengthen inter-agency collaboration in preparation for the forthcoming ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.**

- **Read the NACC press release about the event**

- **ADB conducted a Forensic Accounting Workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 3-4 November 2013. The workshop aimed to transfer ADB’s fraud and corruption detection and prevention skills to members of the Anti-Corruption Commission and auditors of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh.**

- **Visit the ADB website here for more information**

- **OECD hosted a Roundtable on the “Impact of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention 15 Years On, and How to Ensure its Continued Relevance” on 11 December 2013. The event commemorated Professor Mark Pieth’s nearly 20 years of service as the Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions. Roundtable discussants included Commissioner Pakdee Pothisiri of Thailand’s NACC and Dr. S.K. Sarkar, Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, India.**

- **See the OECD’s website for more information, including a webcast of the Roundtable**

This newsletter was prepared by the Secretariat of ADB/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.