Recent events and ongoing activities

**17th Steering Group Meeting, Hanoi, Vietnam**
The meeting was hosted by the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam on 22-23 October 2012. Members reported their recent anti-corruption activities and discussed specific anti-corruption issues. They also reported steps taken to implement the recommendations of the 2010 Thematic Review on Criminalisation of Bribery in Asia-Pacific. Also discussed were efforts to implement the conclusions of the 2011 Regional Anti-Corruption Conference in New Delhi, India. The Initiative welcomed Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands as its 29th and 30th members. See here for more information about the meeting.

**Consultation with the Private Sector, Civil Society & Media**
During the Steering Group Meeting in Hanoi, the Initiative conducted its first consultation with the private sector, civil society and media. The session resulted in a lively discussion of corruption issues, including how to strengthen cooperation between these sectors and governments. See the list of participants and agenda.

**11th Regional Seminar on Tracing Illicit Flows, Asset Recovery and Asset Disclosure, Hanoi, Vietnam**
The seminar took place on 23-24 October 2012 and was also hosted by the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam. The seminar concluded that effective tracing of illicit flows requires law enforcement to be more sophisticated than those who engage in corruption. Better sharing of information, both within and across jurisdictions, is also needed. On asset disclosure by public officials, the importance of such systems is well-known, but the challenge is to achieve and to measure impact. Effectiveness is enhanced by integrating systems into a larger, overall anti-corruption framework. Read the seminar’s conclusions.

Upcoming events and activities

**Government of Timor-Leste to host 18th Steering Group Meeting and 12th Regional Seminar in 2013**
Timor-Leste is showing its strong commitment to the Initiative by hosting the next Steering Group Meeting and Seminar in 2013. The events will be in Dili on 23-25 July. The agendas and seminar theme will follow after further consultation with the Initiative’s members and Timor-Leste.

**Thematic Review to commence in 2013**
The Initiative expects to commence its 4th Thematic Review which will look at members’ efforts to prevent corruption through corporate compliance, ethics and internal controls. These topics are covered by Article 12 of UNCAC. The Review is expected to conclude in 2014.

Anti-corruption news from Asia-Pacific

**The Philippines’ anti-corruption efforts continued apace in 2012.** The Senate found the Chief Magistrate guilty of betrayal of public trust and removed him from office. Proceedings against a former president continued. Guidelines were issued to enhance public access to asset declarations filed by officials. New anti-money laundering legislation was adopted in June. Additional legislative reforms are underway, including a revision to the Penal Code to expand corporate liability.

Visit the website of the Ombudsman’s Office

**Papua New Guinea** has launched an anti-corruption drive. It has announced the future formation of an Independent Commission Against Corruption and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Task Force. The primary role of the bodies is to implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2010-2030.

Visit the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2010-2030

**ADB, in partnership with the Government of Denmark, supported the capacity building of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh through a small scale technical assistance.** In partnership with the United Kingdom, ADB is also supporting Nepal to improve its public financial management practices, improve transparency, promote accountability to the public, and reduce corruption risks.

Visit the ADB website

**The OECD Working Group on Bribery** has published a typology study on the challenges in providing and obtaining mutual legal assistance (MLA) in foreign bribery cases. Building on the experience of law enforcement officials and MLA experts, this study offers guidance on how to overcome many of the challenges and best practices associated with MLA.

Download a copy of the MLA typology study here

**Launched in 2011, the OECD CleanGovBiz initiative supports governments, business and civil society to build integrity and fight corruption.** It draws together existing anti-corruption tools, reinforces their implementation, improves co-ordination among relevant players, and monitors progress towards integrity.

Visit the CleanGovBiz website for more information

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.