Recent events and ongoing activities

15th Steering Group Meeting
Hosted by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on 23-24 September 2010, the 15th Steering Group meeting was attended by 25 out of the 28 member countries, members of the Advisory Group, and observer countries.

See here for more information on the meeting.

The Initiative’s Strategic Principles and Plan for Future Activities
During its meeting in Kuala Lumpur, the Initiative Steering Group considered proposals to implement the recommendations of the 2009 Independent Review of the Initiative prepared by the Small Group on Implementation (SGI). After a vigorous debate, the Steering Group adopted the ‘Strategic Principles and Future Activities of the Initiative,’ which will guide the Initiative as it enters into its second decade.

Read the Initiative’s Strategic Principles and Future Activities.

Thematic Review on the Criminalisation of Bribery
At its 15th meeting, the Steering Group considered and adopted the final report on the Thematic Review on the Criminalisation of Bribery. Drawing on international instruments such as the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, the report examines how each member of the Initiative has criminalised bribery. The report also identifies trends and challenges that cut across the Asia-Pacific region.

The full report is available here.

Regional Seminar on Criminalisation of Bribery
On 24-25 September 2010, the MACC hosted the Initiative’s regional seminar on the criminalisation of bribery. The purpose of the seminar was to provide participants with a general understanding of the key issues for the effective criminalisation of bribery, and to address deficiencies identified in the Thematic Review. Malaysia’s Deputy Prime Minister, the Honorable Tan Sri Dato’ Haji Muhhyiddin bin Mohammed, opened the seminar. Speakers from the Asia-Pacific region and OECD countries gave presentations on a wide range of topics.

The Seminar’s Proceedings are available here.

Upcoming events and activities

16th Steering Group Meeting and 7th Regional Anti-Corruption Conference will be held in Fall 2011 in India. The agenda, theme, date and location will be announced in 2011 by the Secretariat after consultation with the hosts. The Initiative’s previous Regional Anti-Corruption Conference on ‘Fighting Corruption in Asia-Pacific: Strategies for Business, Government and Civil Society,’ was held in Singapore in November 2008.

The Secretariat has started preparing the Strategy and Work Plan for 2012-2014, which will draw on the Initiative’s recently-adopted Strategic Principles and Future Activities. The Secretariat will also prepare a new written self-reporting template for Steering Group meetings. Both documents will be circulated to Steering Group members in 2011 for comment.

Anti-corruption news from Asia-Pacific

ADB and OECD supported the 14th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 15-17 November 2010. ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda delivered a keynote speech during the Conference opening and senior ADB officials participated as speakers. ADB supported the preparation of papers and the participation of ADB member countries’ government officials and civil society representatives. The OECD held a workshop entitled ‘Integrated Solutions for Fighting Transnational Bribery in Asia’ and OECD Deputy Secretary-General Richard Boucher participated in a plenary discussion on ‘strengthening global action for an accountable corporate world’.

Visit the 14th IACC website.

OECD Working Group on Bribery was recognised as an anti-corruption leader by the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics (SCCE). The SCCE awarded its International Compliance Award to the Working Group in recognition of the new Recommendation on Further Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and its Good Practice Guidance on Internal Controls, Ethics and Compliance.

Visit the OECD website for more details.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) of Korea hosted the ‘Symposium on Strengthening Global Leadership and Cooperation against Corruption’ on 5-6 October 2010 in cooperation with the OECD Korea Policy Centre. More than 250 representatives from 25 countries attended. Patrick Moulette, Head of the OECD Anti-Corruption Division, presented on the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

Read more about the symposium.

Bhutan’s UNCAC Self Assessment Report and Action Plan were validated by over 60 representatives from public and private agencies in a three-day workshop organized by the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bhutan.

Read the Report and Action Plan.

Vigilance Awareness Period was observed in India from 25 October – 1 November 2010 commencing with a pledge by the public servants of India. Spearheaded by India’s Central Vigilance Commission, this year’s main focus is ‘Generation of Awareness and Publicity Against Corruption’.

Read the Pledge.

This newsletter was prepared by the Secretariat of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (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.