



13th International
Anti-Corruption Conference
IACC

Global Transparency:
fighting corruption for a sustainable future.
Athens, Greece | 30 October - 2 November 2008

WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop

Workshop 6.6: Asia Pacific Human Development Report: Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives

Date and time of workshop

Sunday, 2nd November 2008 from 11:00 to 13:00

Moderator (Name and Institution)

Ms. Nisha Pillai, BBC

Rapporteur (Name and Institution)

Dr. Ramesh Gampat, Human Development Report Unit, UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo

Mr. Omar Siddique, Human Development Report Unit, UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo

Panellists (Name, institution, title)

Dr. Kiran Bedi (India) - The first female police officer of India; Civilian Police Advisor in the UN Peace keeping Department and former Director General of India's Bureau of Police Research and Development.

Mr. Kunda Dixit (Nepal) – Editor in Chief of the Nepali Times and author of *Dateline Earth: Journalism As If the Planet Mattered* and *A People War*.

H.E Dr. M.Osman Farruk (Bangladesh) - Former Minister of Education of Bangladesh and former Senior World Bank Economist for Asia-Pacific.

Honourable Justice Nazhat Shameem (Fiji) – Justice of the High Court of Fiji and the first and only Indo-Fijian female High Court judge and former director of Public Prosecution

Main Issues Covered

Corruption is a development issue – that is, as an issue that affects the poor the most and creates inequalities.

The definition of corruption and the need to go beyond the public sector and public officials.

No political or economic system is immune to corruption; we need strong institutions.

The need and way forward for a holistic approach to fighting corruption that involves politicians, the media, CSOs, the judiciary and police.



Main Outcomes

People need to ask how are their judges appointed and disciplined, how cases are allocated and how to know whether the system is transparent? Do judges sit in an open court? If not, then they should.

Media professionals need a greater sense of integrity and commitment to undertaking their occupations, as well as to understand the importance of their profession to justice and democracy.

The need to develop good police index, preferably by an international organization. Also the need to set up management schools and programs for governance and political leadership.

The need for political commitment for an independent judiciary, law enforcement agency, vibrant media and a clean police. The crucial issue is that these should all be packaged together and not deployed individually and independently.

Main Outputs

Definition of corruption: There emerged a consensus on a broader definition of corruption - Corruption goes beyond the public sector and public officials, it involves the private sector, politicians, lawyers, accountants and businessmen. It also transcends borders. In many cases, the line between what is legal and illegal is blurred. One panellist noted that corruption could involve the tendency to co-opt legislation (as in state capture) as well as the tendency to co-opt other countries; for example a regime in one country sells its resources to another country without any benefit accruing to the people. Other issues raised include the need to understand the sources of corruption and the need for strong political commitment at the highest level.

Incorrect perceptions of corruption: Corruption is present in all societies and at all times; the west is not immune to corruption. Population perception indices, such as the CPI, paint an incorrect picture of poor countries: in many of these countries, only about 1 percent of the population is corrupt and yet the entire country is characterized as corrupt through the deeds of these few.

Practical applications to address corruption: The panellists provided numerous examples of 'solutions' to addressing corruption in different sectors including social services, police, judiciary and the media.

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

- Countries should ratify the UNCAC
- Countries should do their own perception survey
- Invest in the administration of justice: how judges are recruited, transparency of appointment, develop an enforceable code of ethics, have open court proceedings.
- Re-examine contempt of court laws, as they should be used to protect the authority of court and not be used to stop scrutiny by media and the public.
- Media should not only engage in negative press but should profile success stories, whistle-blowers and individuals of integrity.
- Combat patriarchy and sexism along with corruption in order to give women a



greater voice.

- Focus on “life-and-death” sectors when combating corruption such as health and education.

Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

- “Media is not just for journalists”
- “Patriarchy and sexism are a doubly whammy to women who speak out against corruption”
- “If you exclude 50 percent of the population – that is, women – from decision-making, then that’s not democracy”
- “We can either drive the change or live with the status quo”
- “I would net the big politicians and let the small pick-pocket go”
- “The enemy of the media is the dictatorship of the market place – censorship by exclusion.”
- “A woman in decision-making is perceived to be honest but men are perceived to be dishonest. Women must preserve it, while men must work to correct it.”
- “A vibrant media, clean bureaucracy and an independent anti-corruption agency are the most important ingredients in a country’s fight against corruption”
- “Organized coordination should not look like collaboration”
- “Colonial masters selected leaders in the past that created artificial democracies”
- “This is the best workshop that I have attended”
- “One of the best workshops during the past three days”

Signed
