

Southeast Asia Anti-Corruption Newsletter



July-December 2022 Highlights:

- International Anti-Corruption Day and 20th Anniversary of UNCAC
- Meeting the Next Generation of Thai Police Cadets
- Regional Anti-Corruption Conference in Bangkok
- Public-Private Dialogue on Beneficial Ownership Transparency in Indonesia
- Offshore Financial Crimes Training in the Philippines
- Timor-Leste Asset Recovery Law Conference
- Supporting the Government of Viet Nam in Developing a New Inspection Law
- Financial Crime Investigation Training in Laos

Upcoming 2023 Events:

- Training on Electronic Evidence for First Responders – Jakarta (Indonesia), 17-19 January
- Regional Workshop on Enhancing the Collaboration between Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Bodies – Bangkok (Thailand), 14-16 March 2023
- Police Cadet Essay Competition – Thailand/Indonesia/Philippines/Viet Nam, May 2023

This newsletter is brought to you by the UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia & the Pacific (ROSEAP) Anti-Corruption Team. For more information about our activities or to unsubscribe, please contact david.spence1@un.org.



International Anti-Corruption Day and the 20th Anniversary of UNCAC

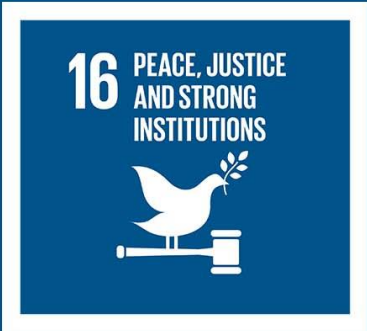
Reflecting on a world made better thanks to the collective efforts of the United Nations and its partner organizations towards building peace, justice, and strong institutions, the General Assembly has designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD).

Across Southeast Asia, UNODC and national Anti-Corruption partner organizations commemorated the IACD in various ways. In Thailand, the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand (NACC) celebrated IACD in collaboration with the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and relevant stakeholders by organizing a half-day event under the banner of “Zero Tolerance: Thai people do not tolerate corruption,” featuring a discussion about clean and transparent investment in Thailand.

In Laos, UNODC, the State Inspection Authority (SIA) and the Institute for Legal Support and Technical Assistance (ILSTA) organized a ceremony to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of UNCAC. The event promoted and raised awareness among employees, civil servants, soldiers, police, social organizations, private sector and international organizations, as well as the media and students to understand the consequences and dangers of corruption and the importance of preventing and deterring it.

In the Philippines, UNODC, the Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the Office of the Ombudsman organized a workshop event to coincide with the IACD. The workshop aimed to gather insights on the state of the anti-corruption infrastructure in the Philippines, map-out anti-corruption initiatives and stakeholders, identify and discuss viable innovative approaches against corruption.

The 2022 IACD also marks the start of our efforts to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). This is reflected by this year’s theme of, “UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption.” While we are grateful for the benefits afforded by the Convention, crucially, we must be diligent in identifying and addressing remaining legislative gaps to ensure that UNCAC remains a truly strong mechanism in the years ahead.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Promoting Integrity and Ethics for the Young Generation of Police Cadets

Phuket (Thailand), 1-3 July 2022 - UNODC recognizes the importance of instilling integrity and ethics among recently graduated police cadets. To this end, the organization closely cooperated with the Royal Police Cadet Academy (RPCA) in hosting a workshop to provide police cadets with an understanding of corruption’s characteristics and mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption. This workshop was held from 1-3 July 2022 in Phuket, with 49 police cadets in attendance who learned international standards of ethics and integrity in law enforcement.

At the event, the cadets received knowledge from specialized anti-corruption agencies such as the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and UNODC. Additionally, the cadets received guidance from the Public Prosecutor regarding professional principles and ethics of investigating officers, the tools to assess and prevent corruption risks in law enforcement agencies, the Integrity Assessment Checklist, and stories from successful initiatives around the world tackling corruption.

During the event, UNODC had the opportunity to speak with some of these inspiring young cadets, and would like to share their thoughts and impressions with you [here](#).

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Cryptocurrency Capacity Building with Indonesia’s Anti-Corruption Authorities

Jakarta (Indonesia), 8 July 2022 - UNODC supports Indonesia's Anti-Corruption authorities in countering the threats posed by virtual-asset-based illicit financial flows and money laundering. UNODC, in cooperation with the KPK Anti-Corruption Learning Centre (ACLC), conducted a training on Tracing, Seizing, and Confiscation of Cryptocurrency for analysts, investigators, and prosecutors of the KPK, Police, Attorney General’s Office, and PPATK (Indonesia Financial Investigations Unit). This training was organized in Jakarta in a hybrid format from 4-8 July 2022.

The purpose of this training was to enhance Indonesia’s Investigative and Prosecution Authorities’ understanding of cryptocurrencies and their ability to conduct tracing, seizing, and confiscating of cryptocurrency for investigative purposes. The training covered topics such as cryptocurrencies, financial crime risk typologies and practical investigation techniques for blockchain and cryptocurrencies, including its utilization, management, anonymity, privacy, and traceability of transactions.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Regional Anti-Corruption Conference for Law Enforcement Professionals in Southeast Asia

Bangkok (Thailand), 29-31 August 2022 - UNODC, in partnership with The Globe Network and the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand (NACC), hosted the 'Regional Anti-Corruption Conference for Law Enforcement Professionals in Southeast Asia' in Bangkok from 29-31 August 2022. The conference featured discussion panels on topics such as: Corruption challenges and anti-corruption best practices in Southeast Asia, criminal justice responses to corruption, and lessons learned from other regions in tackling corruption. Conference working groups focused on topics such as: Fortifying regional and international cooperation, enhancing land institutional frameworks, and addressing the links between corruption and other crimes.

The guests in attendance were provided with the opportunity to discuss and contribute to the outcome document, which focused on enhancing cooperation among Financial Investigation Units (FIUs), improving efficiency in Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA), preventing money laundering, and promoting international cooperation to seize and manage stolen assets. This document will be used as a roadmap for preventing corruption and working more effectively with law enforcement across the region. Overall, the conference aimed to inform the work of UNODC and its partner organizations in fighting corruption, and to guide policymakers and other regional and national stakeholders in developing programmes, policies, and systems that are truly effective investments in combatting corruption in Southeast Asia.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Enhancing the Philippines' Capacity to Collect and Verify Beneficial Ownership Data

Manila (Philippines), 13 September 2022 - Transparency of beneficial ownership of corporate vehicles is increasingly regarded as an essential element in the fight against corruption. On 13 September 2022 UNODC organized a workshop on the Utilization of Beneficial Ownership Information and Data Sharing Agreements (DSAs) for Preventing and Detecting Corruption. 97 participants attended the workshop from procurement authorities, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, tax authorities, and other national authorities.

During the workshop, the Philippines' Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) presented the concept of beneficial ownership and its identifying criteria in the Philippines. The Anti-Money Laundering Commission (AMLC) shared its experiences in requesting beneficial ownership information from the SEC, and how access to beneficial ownership information helps the AMLC in investigating financial crimes, money laundering, and asset recovery.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Strengthening the Integrity, Objectivity, and Competition of Public Procurement in Viet Nam

Hanoi and Nha Trang City (Viet Nam), 14 September 2022 - In Viet Nam, as elsewhere, preventing and combating corruption in public procurement is central to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public services and to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. In this light, UNODC held two back-to-back training workshops on addressing corruption risks in public procurement, on 7-9 and 12-14 September 2022 in Hanoi and Nha Trang City, Viet Nam.

Each event introduced participants to the core standards and principles to be followed in public procurements to ensure accountability and transparency. These included: the requirements to prevent corruption in public procurement under the UN Convention against Corruption, UNODC's methodology to identify corruption red flags in the three stages of procurement and step-by-step processes to develop risk mitigation plans to address the risks. The training gathered 82 senior and lead inspectors from Northern, Central and Southern Viet Nam.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Improving the Capacity of Indonesia’s Anti-Corruption Authorities to “Follow the Money” in Cross-Border Financial Investigations

Jakarta (Indonesia), 23 September 2022 - UNODC collaborated with the Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) to organize a Training on Cross-border Financial Investigation which took place in Jakarta in two sessions, in September 2022. The training gathered 57 government officials from the Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission, the Attorney General's Office, the Indonesian Police, and the Indonesian Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center. The training focused on asset recovery, non-conviction-based confiscation, financial investigations, asset management, organized crime, and corporate criminal liability.

The objective of the training was to support Anti-Corruption and Law Enforcement Authorities in Indonesia to develop the ability to “follow the money” in cross-border corruption investigations and improve their capacity in asset tracing and recovery. The training strengthened participants' understanding of basic financial analysis and cross-border investigation, a need that was also highlighted by the review of implementation of the UNCAC in Indonesia.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Public-Private Dialogue on Beneficial Ownership Transparency in Indonesia

Jakarta (Indonesia), 13 October 2022 – To promote reporting of Beneficial Ownership information by companies, the UNODC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Indonesia, Transparency International (TI) Indonesia, and the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, jointly organized a Public-Private Dialogue on Beneficial Ownership Disclosure on the 13th of October in Jakarta.

The workshop gathered over 190 participants from various backgrounds, including the Chambers of Commerce of important industries in Indonesia (i.e., extractive, plantation, agriculture, and health industries), notaries, lawyers, government representatives and civil society organizations. This activity successfully facilitated honest communication and discussion between the government and businesses regarding beneficial ownership disclosure and management and identified challenges and impediments faced by the private sector when disclosing BO information.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Pilot Testing of New Automated Procurement Reporting System in the Philippines

Manila (Philippines), 26 October 2022 - To ensure increased accountability in public procurement in the Philippines, UNODC collaborated with The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), along with the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) on developing automated procurement reports. The pilot testing of the new reports took place in Manila in October 2022.

The objective of the pilot testing was to follow-up on the workshop conducted by UNODC on 2-3 November 2021 to provide technical advice to GPPB in revising procurement reports forms to ensure compliance with the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS), which enables disclosure of data and documents at all stages of the contracting process by defining a common data model. OCDS was created to support organizations in increasing contracting transparency and allowing a deeper analysis of contracting data by a wide range of users.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Conducting Corruption Risk Assessment Training to Guard Against Irregularities in the Cambodian Health Sector

Phnom Penh (Cambodia), 1-4 November 2022 - UNODC collaborated with the Cambodian Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) to organize a Training in Risk Assessment in the Healthcare sector, which took place in Phnom Penh in three sessions in November 2022. The training gathered nearly 100 government officials from institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Unit, Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, provincial level health departments and various health facilities throughout the country.

The objective of the training was to support Anti-Corruption and Healthcare officials in Cambodia to develop mitigation strategies against corruption and fraud in the healthcare sector and support the engagement and implementation of these strategies by stakeholders. When applied to the healthcare sector in Cambodia, risk assessment strategies enable stakeholders to identify acute opportunities for corruption and implement policies and practices to effectively prevent its occurrence.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Offshore Financial Crimes Training in the Philippines

Manila (Philippines) 14-18 November 2022 - To strengthen the ability of anti-corruption authorities in the Philippines to respond to the threat of offshore banking and legal entities, UNODC organized an Offshore Financial Crimes Investigation Training Workshop from 14-18 November 2022 in Manila.

The training gathered a total of 31 participants from The Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), The Department of Justice National Prosecution Service (DoJ-NPS), The National Bureau of Investigations (NBI), The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) (Philippine FIU), and The Securities and Exchange Commission Enforcement and Investor Protection Division (SEC-EIPD). The workshop focused on the various ways in which criminals attempt to hide their illegal activities, and best practices for investigating them.

The objective of the training was to provide investigators with an understanding of the legal structures associated with offshore financial centers and how corrupt individuals may exploit them to conceal and disguise the proceeds of crime. The training aimed to enhance capacities of Philippines' anti-corruption authorities to conduct financial analysis in the context of prosecution-led investigations.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



Discussing the Draft Asset Recovery Law at the International Conference on Asset Recovery in Timor-Leste

Dili (Timor-Leste), 21-22 November 2022 – Timor-Leste lacks a comprehensive asset recovery law, which could ensure full compliance with UNCAC, particularly Chapter V on Asset Recovery. To assist Timor-Leste with its asset recovery efforts, UNODC and the Prosecutor-General’s Office co-organized an International Conference on Asset Recovery as an Efficient Instrument to Combat Corruption and Related Crimes, from 21-22 November 2022.

The event brought together stakeholders from the government, National Parliament, judiciary, law enforcement agencies, academics, civil society organizations, and the private sector to discuss a draft law on “Creating the Asset Recovery Office and the Asset Administration Office” prepared by the Public Prosecutor’s Office. Among other high-level speakers, the President of Timor-Leste opened the event, demonstrating the significant importance that national authorities are giving to this issue.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Strengthening Institutional Capacity in the Forest Management Sector through Corruption Risk Assessment in Papua and West Papua Province

Papua and West Papua (Indonesia), May and November 2022 - In early May 2022, UNODC conducted an on-site Corruption Risk Assessment in the forestry sector in collaboration with the Provincial Governments of Papua and West Papua. Papua Island is especially significant because it is home to the largest forested area in Indonesia, accounting for more than 30% of the country's total forested area. Throughout the risk assessment process, vulnerabilities for corruption and the potential severity of its effects were identified in the business process of forest land acquisition for land-based businesses.

In finalizing the risk assessment, UNODC conducted a focus group discussion with stakeholders in Papua and West Papua on the 24th and 28th of November 2022 to discuss the findings and recommendations of the report. This was done with the aim of ensuring adoption of the findings and recommendations for further development in the forestry management of Papua and West Papua.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Building the Capacity of the Lao PDR State Inspection Agency (SIA) to Conduct Financial Crime Investigations

Vientiane (Laos), 5-9 December 2022 – To strengthen the ability of the Lao PDR State Inspection Authority (SIA) to conduct financial crime investigations, UNODC collaborated with the SIA to conduct a Financial Crime Investigation Training from 5-9 December 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Vientiane. The training was designed to meet the needs of the SIA, specifically, to address potential deficiencies in the investigative capacity of the agency that were previously identified through a training needs analysis.

Throughout the workshop, the participants had the opportunity to work closely together through major daily exercises, discussing and brainstorming methods to enhance their capacity for the detection, investigation, analysis, and disruption of illegal financial flows in corruption-related crime. The workshop focused on the following core elements: Bribery & corruption techniques, money laundering typologies, investigation strategies and techniques, and investigation management.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Roundtable Discussion on Combatting Transnational Organized Crime with the “Multidoor Approach” in Indonesia

Bandung (Indonesia) 14-16 December 2022 - UNODC, in collaboration with the Indonesia National Police, held a roundtable discussion from 14-16 December in Bandung, Indonesia on the theme, "Corruption as a Facilitator of Other Crimes and the Importance of a Multidoor Approach." The aim of this discussion was to enhance the understanding of relevant authorities in the typology of corruption and how it facilitates other crimes, approaches to investigating and prosecuting these crimes, strengthen cooperation and coordination between authorities, and encourage their adoption of the “Multidoor Approach.”

The event gathered 45 participants from organizations including the Indonesian National Police, Indonesia Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), Indonesia Financial Investigations Unit (FIU), and civil servant investigators from several ministries. This activity also included UNODC participants from several programmes who shared their research and findings regarding how corruption facilitates environmental crimes, the smuggling of persons and wildlife, and the trafficking of dangerous waste.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



UNODC Supports the Government of Viet Nam in Developing a New Law on Inspection

Hanoi (Viet Nam), 3 December 2022 - In support of Viet Nam’s Government Inspectorate (GI), UNODC hosted a consultation on the draft law on 16 September 2022, and a drafting workshop on the new “Law on Inspection” on 3 December 2022. These meetings created opportunities for law makers, academics, law enforcement officers, and government officials in Viet Nam, as well as experts from UNODC, to discuss and formulate productive and effective inputs to the new Inspection Law.

The law clearly defines the purpose, position, role, function, duties, powers, and responsibilities of State Inspection Agencies, stipulates coordination in inspection, state audit, and investigation activities to minimize overlaps, and emphasizes the importance of application of information technology and digital technology in inspection activities, et al.

At the request of the GI, UNODC will continue to support implementation of the law via development of a Decree guiding the application of the revised Law on Inspection.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



Consultation with the Supreme Court of the Philippines regarding the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations (SPJI)

Manila (Philippines/Virtual), 22 December 2022 – On 13 December 2022, UNODC and The Supreme Court of the Philippines conducted a hybrid meeting to explore how UNODC’s Anti-Corruption Programme can best support The Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations 2022-2027 (SPJI). The SPJI is the Supreme Court’s long-term reform plan to address institutional challenges using four guiding principles: Timely and Fair Delivery of Justice, Transparency and Accountability, Equality and Inclusivity, and Technological Adaptivity.

During the meeting, The Chief Justice highlighted his vision of modernizing court processes and operations, strengthening information and communication technology governance, management and operations, effective use of data in policy and decision-making and upgrading information sharing in the justice system.

UNODC expressed its commitment to supporting The Supreme Court in the above-mentioned activities and confirmed that it has the materials and resources to do so. UNODC will also support the National Summit on Ethical Responsibility to be held on 1-2 March 2023.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).

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