



International Anti-Corruption Day 2010

Forging partnerships to strengthen integrity



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

CORRUPTION
Your **NO** counts

Message

UNODC South Asia

In general, corruption is considered as ethically unacceptable. Nevertheless, persistent and comprehensive action within and across societies has so far remained limited, maybe because we still do not understand fully the consequences of corruption or we believe that little can be done or even that some forms of corruption, such as bribes, belong to a certain culture.

Through corruption, money and resources are diverted away from what they should serve, i.e. socio-economic development, justice and security. South Asia, which is home to one fifth of the world population and faces enormous challenges of sustainably alleviating poverty of millions of people, cannot afford to lose resources to corruption.

In 2003, the world community marked a historic milestone by adopting the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the first ever universal instrument against corruption. Two years later, it entered into force and today, 148 countries have ratified the Convention. Through this Convention, Governments now have universally agreed upon and accepted comprehensive standards and measures to criminalize and prevent a variety of forms of corrupt practices, such as bribery of public officials - both national and international, embezzlement of funds, trading in influence, abuse of functions, illicit enrichment, laundering of the proceeds of crime and obstruction of justice. The challenge now lies in implementing it. The Convention calls on Governments, the private sector and the civil society to prevent and combat corruption.

The International Anti-Corruption day, instituted by the United Nations General Assembly, is an occasion and a yearly reminder for our commitment and resolve to act upon corruption, whenever necessary, in our professional capacity, in our voluntary engagement or as a conscious and responsible citizen. This year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime South Asia is proud to present a series of initiatives taken by Governments, the civil society, the private sector and the UN in South Asia to effectively address corruption. We hope that these initiatives will convince and inspire others to take action in support of integrity and accountability for the benefit of the South Asian people.

Cristina Albertin
Cristina Albertin
Representative for South Asia

पी. जे. थॉमस
P.J.THOMAS



केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयुक्त
केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग
Central Vigilance Commissioner
Central Vigilance Commission

Message

Corruption is one of the major governance challenges that impacts every citizen. It retards the achievement of the development goals and denies the poor access to even the basic services. Due to the complex nature of the problem, combating corruption requires sustained and dedicated efforts not only by the anti-corruption authorities, but by all the stake holders. I am happy to share that the Central Vigilance Commission has initiated various proactive and participative measures to strengthen the enforcement and the preventive approaches to fighting corruption. It is highly gratifying to observe that of late, the global community as a whole is taking a serious note of the problem and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been in the forefront to assist the national efforts. Observance of 9th December as the International Anti-Corruption Day is one of the important occasions to demonstrate our solidarity and I urge all people to reaffirm their commitment to the cause of eradicating corruption.

Date: 02.12.2010

(P.J.THOMAS)

9-11 December 2003 Mérida, México 9-11 de diciembre de 2003



Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la corrupción

**United Nations
Convention
against
Corruption**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been established as the lead UN agency to deal with the emerging and increasingly global challenges of drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime, corruption and to ensure the implementation of universally accepted criminal justice standards.

With its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, UNODC operates in more than 150 countries around the world through its network of field offices. UNODC is present in South Asia since 1987, with its office in New Delhi, India. The Office covers the countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

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- The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) entered into force on 14th December 2005.
- The UNODC acts as the secretariat to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and through its thematic programme, UNODC acts as a catalyst and a resource to help States effectively implement the anti-corruption strategies.
- The Review mechanism is a milestone resolution adopted by the States Parties in 2009 at the Doha session, which ensures implementation of the Convention.
- To provide guidance and assistance, UNODC develops tools, manuals and publications (17 so far) and conducts capacity building activities.

Bhutan: Mr Kezang Zamtsho, Commissioner, Anti Corruption Commission addresses corruption



1) What are the challenges regarding corruption, transparency and accountability in Bhutan?

In Bhutan, the political will to fight corruption is very strong. The Government has a

policy of zero tolerance to corruption. The country ranks at 36th position in the latest Transparency International's corruption perception index. For a young democracy, trying to put in place structures and institutions for checks and balances, the status is encouraging. Corruption in Bhutan is a white collar crime – emerging from misuse of authority, preferential treatment, collusive practices in procurement and lease of natural resources, land-related transactions etc. Institutions for transparency and accountability are in place, but there is scope for improvement in the system-wide internal control systems to enforce transparency and accountability in public service.

2) Can you talk about the Anti Corruption Commission's work?

The Anti Corruption Commission of Bhutan was established by a Royal Decree on 31 December 2005. With the adoption of the Constitution in 2008 the Commission became an independent Constitutional Body. It has three members headed by a Chairperson and has a mandate to prevent and combat corruption. We have adopted a three-pronged strategy – prevention, public education and advocacy and investigation. As fight against corruption is a collective responsibility, networking with agencies is an important activity.

3) What has been the success of the Commission in dealing with corruption and improving transparency and accountability?

A nationwide program on public education and advocacy was launched through workshops, print and broadcast media. Simultaneously work on system studies and improvements were carried out. Our investigations have resulted in almost 100% prosecution with 94% conviction rate.

4) What have been Bhutan's efforts in promoting international cooperation to deal with corruption?

The Commission participates in international workshops and seminars on corruption organized by OECD/ADB, APEC and the World Bank. We have developed links with anti-corruption agencies like the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of South Korea, Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau of Singapore, to name a few in the region.

5) What are the Commission's views on ratification of the UNCAC?

The commission's own view is that the ratification will not be meaningful unless it is followed up by the implementation of the provisions.

India: Message from Mr. R. Sri Kumar, Vigilance Commissioner

The International Anti-Corruption Day has a special significance in the global fight against corruption. It is on this day seven years ago, the member states of the United Nations met at Merida, Mexico and reaffirmed their commitment to eradicate corruption. The global community has crossed significant milestones since then, but the destination is still a long distance away. In India, the Central Vigilance Commission is spearheading the anti corruption efforts. In pursuit of its goals, the Commission has taken various initiatives by shifting its focus from punitive and preventive vigilance management to a proactive and predictive vigilance regime in order to have the maximum impact. Some of the on-going initiatives include drafting of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Paper, which is set to evolve soon as a work plan, commissioning a nation wide public awareness campaign, leveraging technology in vigilance management strategies, ensuring transparency in public procurement plans through promotion of e-governance solutions and advocating integrity pacts.

The Commission is launching yet another innovative project called Project VIGEYE, aimed at empowering citizens to actively participate in addressing corrupt practices in the delivery of public services and execution of public funded projects. Leveraging mobile communication technology, citizens can directly uplink visual, audio, documentary evidence of corrupt practices that they come across in their jurisdiction and transmit them directly to the CVC's portal for follow up action as per law. I sincerely urge every citizen of India, the civil society as well as the government institutions to observe the International Anti-Corruption Day with determination, by making positive and constructive contributions for collective action against corruption. Come let us join hands and build TEAM-India.

- T - Transparency and Technology
- E - Empowerment and Efficiency
- A - Audit Trails and Accountability
- M - Metrics and Mutual Cooperation

India: National Anti-Corruption Policy

Article 5 of the UN Convention against Corruption mandates the States Parties to develop and implement effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability. In a significant step that endorses the spirit of this provision, The Central Vigilance Commission, India has undertaken a project to draft the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in which UNODC was one of the partners. The draft strategy (placed on the Commission's website) represents a blue print for commitment and action by the various stakeholders. It recommends a set of actions to be taken by the government, political entities, judiciary, media, citizens, private sector and civil society organizations. The Commission envisages its effective implementation by developing suitable parameters for evaluating and monitoring the progress of its implementation.

SOME NOTABLE INITIATIVES FROM THE REGION



Sri Lanka: Civil society promotes integrity

A significant section of the population in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka, who are predominantly rural, have limited access to information about Government programmes. This is particularly felt during election times, when outreach activities do not reach the people here. To remedy this situation and include the marginalized sections of society in the development process, the Saviya Development Foundation (SDF), an NGO, initiated a civil society empowerment initiative in the Province in March 2010. The project is supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund in association with UNODC.

A series of activities on community mobilization and awareness raising about the principles of democracy, transparency and gender main streaming were conducted through a network of community based organisations that include voter education programmes, setting up of 47 information centers and gender sensitization. A gender and democracy manual will be released in the near future, to be used in capacity building of 250 women self help groups in the Province.

I PAID A BRIBE

uncover the market price of corruption

India: I Paid A Bribe (www.ipaidabribe.com)

I Paid A Bribe (IPAB) is a unique online initiative of Janaagraha, a Bangalore based not-for-profit organisation, to tackle corruption by harnessing the collective energy of citizens. This initiative aims to use citizen reports to engage with the Government. The website allows citizens to post three types of reports: paid a bribe, didn't pay a bribe and didn't have to pay a bribe. Armed with these citizen reports, the organisation aims to argue for improved governance systems and procedures, tightened law enforcement and regulation and thereby reduce the scope for corruption. Within the first three months of its launch, the website witnessed close to 150,000 visitors and 2500 bribe reports. Punitive action against errant officers by the Transport Commissioner, 'Khata without Corruption' campaign to get the property registrations without bribes, citizen advisory services by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. are amongst the successes of the initiative. There are also plans to make the web site available on mobile phones and to start a telephonic helpline.



India: 5th Pillar (www.5thpillar.org)

5th Pillar is a non-profit organization that aims to eliminate corruption at all levels of the society through the Right to Information Act, the Zero Rupee note, and anti-corruption campaigns. The innovative Zero Rupee note, conceived by 5th Pillar (over 1.5 million copies already distributed), when given to the bribe seeker, sends out a strong message about a person's unwillingness to pay the "The Extra Fee". 5th Pillar has also addressed students of colleges and schools by engaging them as messengers of zero corruption. The 'Freedom from Corruption' education campaign for the younger generation and human chain campaigns to voice public opinion are some other initiatives against corruption.



India: Addressing corruption in the private sector

Similar to any transaction between two parties, corruption has both the demand and supply side to it. The private sector which contributes to the supply side of corruption often gets inadequate attention in anti corruption efforts. Recognizing the crucial role of the private sector in the fight against corruption, in India, UNODC and the local network of the UN Global Compact are working together for sensitization of the corporate world on the adverse impact of corruption, advocacy for UNCAC Ratification, promotion of collective action and public procurement reform.

Transparency International India (TII)

Some of the main activities of the Transparency International India (TII) include working on transparency in public procurement with corporates, governance reforms in service delivery to citizens and accountability in judiciary, politics and elections. TII's grassroots initiative, *Pahal: Shaasan Sudhaar Ki Ore* is being implemented in four districts each in four Indian states, where the marginalized rural masses are empowered to demand and access their entitlements and public services with the knowledge and use of the tools of good governance like RTI, social audits, revived gram sabhas, citizen's charter and e-governance. Integrity Pact, TII's global tool to ensure transparency and integrity in public procurement has been implemented in 39 Public Sector Undertakings in India as a result of sustained advocacy and support from the Central Vigilance Commission. TII also works with political representatives and has developed a tool called Development Pact, that is intended to support holders of public office to credibly re-engage with the public.