



The Regional Programme Meeting (RPM) 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal – Page 2

EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

ASIA PACIFIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

The APD spring has truly been a busy and eventful one. **RPM 2014** was held in Kathmandu and the **NICSA** and **YIS** reports have both been launched. Now we look forward to many more work to unroll and expect to see some of you during the up-coming **AMM**. Anti-corruption must be part of the SAARC agenda!

(By: Ilham Mohamed)

Kathmandu, 23rd May 2014: Following the Asia Pacific Department's Regional Programme Meeting, Srirak together with Ashish Thapa, ED TI Nepal, Rukshana and Ilham met with the SAARC Secretary General in Kathmandu.

The objective of the meeting was to explore ways in which TI can work within the SAARC mechanisms to promote our anti-corruption work in the sub-region. During the meeting, discussions were held on the possibility of working around the issue of governance with SAARC and inclusion of governance as an indicator in measuring progress of South Asian Countries.

As a way forward, Ashish is currently in the process of exploring the possibility of holding a regional meeting on poverty and corruption within the MDG framework prior to the SAARC meeting proposed to be held in November. Regional governments, anti-corruption Commissions and leading civil society groups in South Asia are expected to be part of this gathering. The proposed meeting is part of a wider set of activities to be planned under the South Asia Regional Advocacy Plan to be developed by the APD team with the South Asian Chapters in the coming months.

ANTI-CORRUPTION HELPDESK

Below is a selection of some of the latest answers from the Anti-Corruption Helpdesk. To submit a query, contact tihelpdesk@transparency.org.

HELPDESK RESPONSES:

[Codes of ethics and regulating remuneration in banks](#)

[Transparency in budget execution](#)

[Overview of corruption in the telecommunication sector](#)



NICSA Launch in Kathmandu

Over 100 activists, journalists, and TI representatives attended the NICSA/Nepal NIS report launch in Kathmandu. [Page 3](#)



Asia Pacific: Youth Integrity in Crisis – How do we solve it?

Is Youth Integrity in Crisis? TI has recently launched an alarming report about the status of youth integrity in the region. [Page 4](#)

ASIA PACIFIC CALENDER

- 14 June: Afghanistan 2nd Round Elections
- 28 June: Start of Ramadan
- 9 July: Indonesian Presidential Elections
- 5 – 6 Sep: Pacific Meeting
- 17 Sep: Fijian General Elections
- 20 Sep: New Zealand General Elections
- 17-19 Oct: TI Annual Membership Meeting

Regional Programme Meeting (RPM) 2014 in Kathmandu

(By: Joana Murta Rosa & Ludvig Foghammar)

More than 60 representatives of the TI movement in the Asia Pacific gathered in Kathmandu for 3 days of meetings to discuss emergent corruption challenges within the region and innovative solutions to address the fight against it.

This year, the RPM focused on knowledge and best practices sharing as a means to strengthen chapters' internal- and external capacity towards impactful programme implementation. The meeting was also an opportunity for chapters to discuss new, innovative tools, such as the use of new ICT tools and how to establish and/or expand their networks of volunteers.

"Knowledge is Power – Keep Sharing"

The opening ceremony offered interesting speeches by, among many, the former President of TI Nepal, Dr Devendra Pandey and the Chair of TI Nepal, Bishnu Bahadur KC. In his speech, Dr Pandey praised the work done by the ALACs in the region and suggested chapters in emerging democracies to expand their coalitions to include all sectors of society.



Local Integrity System Bar camp at the RPM 2014



The agenda highlights included how to mobilize and maintain an effective volunteer programme, how to empower women to become champions in promoting good governance and how to further strengthen the use of ICT. To learn more about what was discussed during the

RPM, and for content from all sessions visit the relevant page of the chapter zone:

[Chapter Zone](#)

TI Secretariat would like to thank all chapters for their participation and meaningful contributions that made the RPM into such a success.

Knowledge was shared, experiences exchanged and friends were made, both in the conference room over coffee and at dinner events over local Nepalese delicacies.

A special THANK YOU goes to TI Nepal for all its support and efforts for making this event possible.

Launch Event for South Asia NICSA and Nepal NIS in Kathmandu

(By: Maren Thompson, Ludvig Foghammar & Joana Murta Rosa)

On 21 May 2014, over 100 activists, journalists and Transparency International (TI) representatives from across Asia Pacific came together in Kathmandu for the launch of two new TI reports: *An analysis of corruption challenges in South Asia (NICSA)* and *a comprehensive assessment of Nepal's national integrity system (NIS)*.

The event, divided into a Press Conference followed by an Open Forum with a panel discussion, offered representatives from international and national press as well as other guests an opportunity to learn more about how stronger Right to Information laws and accountability mechanisms can ensure that corrupt acts are exposed and punished and how we can take the respective reports' recommendations forward.



NICSA/NIS Press Conference in Kathmandu

With guest speakers from across South Asia, including the prominent Indian RTI activist, Subhash Chandra Agrawal and the former Chief Commissioner for the Investigation of the Abuse of Authority in Nepal, Surya Nath

Upadhyay, discussions highlighted the importance of independent and empowered watchdogs, independence for civil society, and autonomous and authoritative anti-corruption bodies.

The report particularly highlights that in most South Asian countries laws do exist, however they fall short of international standards and in their effective implementation. It also points out the shrinking space for civil society in many South Asian countries.

Panel Discussion: “Asia Pacific: Youth Integrity in Crisis – How Do We Solve It?”

(By: Ludvig Foghammar and Anna Thayenthal)



On 27 May, TI's Asia Pacific Department and TI India co-hosted a panel discussion in New Delhi on the topic “Asia Pacific: Youth Integrity in Crisis – How do we solve it?” The purpose of the panel discussion was to bring together representatives from government, civil society and youth to discuss the findings of TI's Youth Integrity Survey, which was conducted in four Asia Pacific countries: Fiji, Indonesia, South Korea and Sri Lanka.

In the opening round of the discussion, Srirak, reflected on the findings in the report, including the one stating that almost 72 per cent of the young respondents admitted that they would use corruption to gain an advantage. Later, the speaker from TI Sri Lanka, Ravindra P. de Silva presented the findings from Sri Lanka together with the follow-up work that has been done noting how youth could be an integral part in boosting integrity of a country.

When the turn went to Aparajita Dhar from Restless Development, India, she introduced the idea of creating a model of accountability, where young people would play the central role in holding all of us to account on delivery and progress against the new development framework. Dhar also noted that half of the world's population is under 25 years of age and that approximately half of them are unemployed.

YIS PANEL DISCUSSION IN NEW DELHI

MODERATORS:
Venkatesh Nayak – CHRI
Ilham Mohamed – TI Secretariat

PANELLISTS:
Dr Srirak Pliapat – TI Secretariat
Aparajita Dhar – Restless Development
J.M. Garg - CVC
R. P. de Silva – TI Sri Lanka
Lt. Gen. Rajender Singh – DLF Found.
K. Subramaniam - CVC

Our web feature accompanying the launch of the Regional Report which gives an overview on the findings of the Youth Integrity Survey, including infographics, videos and the report, can be found through this [link](#).

AEC & Anti-Corruption Trends in Southeast Asia – Work in Progress (By: Samantha Grant)

Across the Southeast Asian Region, we see a prevalence of high profile media cases on corruption. The creation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is on the horizon and economies in many countries in the region are growing rapidly. While much research has been done on corruption issues the opportunities and challenges provided in this context demand a systemic strategy to improve governance and reduce corruption in the sub-region.

APD and the Southeast Asian chapters are planning a series of events in the region looking at key benefits from reducing corruption as well as corruption risks associated with the formation of the AEC and other similar trade agreements. The events will explore how transparency, accountability and cooperation in the region can lead to the successful implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community blue print and proactively counter potential corruption related risks in the increasingly connected region. It will also look at how countries can foster their own economic prosperity by reducing corruption both within their own countries and between borders. In order to set the stage for these events, APD has commissioned a paper with an anti-corruption expert to identify anti-

corruption trends in Southeast Asia. The paper will cater to a set of recommendations to be presented to ASEAN countries to ensure the prioritization of anticorruption reforms in Southeast Asia.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPTERS

TI-M's Malaysian Corruption Barometer (MCB) results elicit the NKRA to propose a new act to monitor political funds (By: TI Malaysia)

Transparency International-Malaysia (TI-M) released the findings of the 2014 Malaysian Corruption Barometer (MCB) which surveyed 2,000 respondents on their experiences and views on corruption in Malaysia.

The MCB's findings are salient, particularly as the results were released one year on from Malaysia's historic 2013 general election (GE13) which was shrouded with allegations of election irregularities and fraud. After being sworn in for a second time, the Malaysian Prime Minister declared war on corruption, announcing he wanted to make corruption part of Malaysia's past. Three stark observations can be made from the MCB results:

Perceptions:

1) The public's perception of the government's effectiveness to fight corruption has declined compared to the 2013 Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) findings. 38% of the respondents felt the government's actions are ineffective, compared to 25% in 2013.

2) Political parties were perceived to be the most corrupt organization/institution replacing the police as last year's top spot.

Reality:

3) The incidence of bribery in the public sector has worsened compared to the GCB 2013 results. A key concern for TI-M was that this applied to the education and medical/health services too. Particularly as 22% of the respondents who reported paying a bribe to an education institution said that this was the only way to obtain a service and 20% gave the same reason for medical/health services.

In response to the MCB findings, the government's National Key Result Area (NKRA) Against Corruption declared they are looking at the need to create a new act, or propose amendments to existing ones, to monitor political party funds. TI-M will also issue a letter to the PM highlighting the MCB's findings along with a set of recommendations on how to address the decline in results.



RELATED ARTICLES:

[TI-M Press Statement About MCB](#)
[MCB Survey Report 2014](#)

Grassroots partners of TI Pakistan offered free legal advice during five mobile ALAC Sessions (By: TI Pakistan)

Five mobile ALAC sessions were held in the months of May/June (with three more to be carried out) by TI Pakistan's grass root partners in the provinces of Punjab and Sindh. The ALACs were organised in busy areas (e.g. around court houses), where tables were set up displaying banners for free legal advice.

Objective: The aim of mobile ALAC in the rural areas is to provide a service that will be so unique to the citizen that it cannot do anything but yield favourable results for the aggrieved. Thus, at the outset, this activity will intend to disseminate information and/or legal advice to different groups of people in different localities. Moreover, it will spread TI Pakistan's vision in the grassroots along with gathering new clients and complaints.



Implementation: Each mobile ALAC camp was carried out by our grass-root partner representatives and a lawyer; both were trained and versed in how to handle prospective clients and the limits that the ALAC works within.

The mobile camps have thus far yielded around 300 new contacts that had not heard of TI Pakistan or ALAC's services before.

In conclusion, it was held that this service plays a valuable part in reaching out to the common man and that the chapter should continue with this project.

CSO Transparency Retreat: Being more creative and collaborative signs a way ahead

(By: TT Vietnam)



Vietnam's leading advocates for transparency, accountability and good governance gathered for the first ever CSO transparency retreat hosted by TT on June 12th – 13th, to share, learn and look ahead for collective actions that generate more influential impacts on government and society in Vietnam. The air was heated right at the beginning with open and straight talks on the big picture of current transparency work with several challenges and opportunities for Vietnam's CSOs.

Leaders from 17 organizations including VNGOs from diverse sectors, research institutes, and academic experts – most of whom have collaborated with TT on a range of different initiatives - were unanimous about an urge to strengthen the professionally symbiotic relationship between CSOs and media. Mr Phan Loi, a professional journalist and a media trainer for CSOs said "You (CSOs) have ground level evidences and expertise for debating on government's accountability that provide strong background for us (media) in publishing news. The government can refute allegations of media if these are lacking strong evidence." Likewise, CSOs need media to approach, build trust and engage people better, as Loi also emphasized in the meeting "No law makers can be ignorant of voice of people who are most influenced by policies."

Another topic achieving clear consensus among participants is that doing research strongly remains a scientific and practical mechanism to provide strong evidence for advocacy, as long as this tool is packed with creative approaches in dealing with decision makers. On the other hand, the "debating culture" is still questioned amongst experts. Mr Nguyen Ngoc Anh, the

Director of Development and Policies Research Center - DEPOCEN said: "it's still prevalent in Vietnam that researchers are not yet open to criticism and social debate over their own works. If we want better research products, this "culture" needs to change."

In search of government's support, CSOs must show that they are constructive, supportive and transparent as well as being able to provide practical and effective solutions. Building alliances with academia, governmental institutions and media are essential in the success of advocacy work. One voice is hard to hear, but millions of voices echoed by the media will draw immediate attention.

When discussing concrete initiatives and projects of change, youth and academic integrity hit people on both emotional and critical sides. The alarming figure extracted from the recently launched "Youth Integrity Survey", stating that 72% young people are willing to pay a bribe for personal gain was discussed and concluded that it is not aimed to convey negative emotions from people, but rather to demand solutions for this very global issue.

Young people are more vulnerable to intangible harassment with tangible consequences. The story of a young graduate who faced boycott preventing him from approaching potential employers because he had taken part in a youth-led campaign on anti-corruption before was such a talking case for protecting the role that CSOs are tasked in working with youth.

A vivid briefing on the Open Government Partnership presented by TT's founder, Ms Nguyen Thi Kieu Vien, received enthusiastic and supportive feedback, and multiple ideas on next steps from all participants. The OGP was viewed as a "safe and flexible" option for transparency advocacy in Vietnam.

MORE TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY!

For more information about Towards Transparency Vietnam and the CSO Transparency Retreat, please visit Towards Transparency's Webpage:

www.towardstransparency.vn

"You (CSOs) have ground level evidences and expertise for debating on government's accountability that provide strong background for us (media) in publishing news."

Mr Phan Loi, Professional Journalist and CSO Media Trainer, Vietnam.

Integrity Alliance Networking Events: Time for business sector to take collective action on integrity (By TT Vietnam)

The Vietnam Integrity Alliance was introduced to almost 100 participants at two networking events amongst business chambers, business leaders, trade promotion agencies, and CSOs.

The events were jointly organized by EuroCham Vietnam, Towards Transparency, CanCham and AusCham on 22nd April in Hanoi and 24th April in Ho Chi Minh City.

The concept of an integrity alliance for collective actions by business was developed from a series of discussions following the Anti-Corruption Dialogue in 2013. So far, Chambers and leading businesses consulted in Vietnam agree that an Integrity Alliance is an appropriate framework for business-led collective actions. The Vietnam Integrity Alliance aims to advocate and advance principles of business integrity, transparency and accountability in Vietnam, while helping to promote Vietnam as an attractive investment destination.

During these two events, business experts from Chambers of Commerce joined a panel discussion with interested participants. The panellists themselves and a number of Chambers and businesses throughout the country have expressed their commitment to join the Vietnam Integrity Alliance. An initial steering committee has now been formed by business leaders with TT's participation, which will prepare concrete project initiatives for the official launch of the alliance later this year.



Panellists in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Walk Against Corruption 2014: Zero Corruption – 100 % Development! (By: TI PNG)

The "Walk Against Corruption" (WAC), organised annually by TI PNG, is a well-known event within the TI Movement and a superb example on how chapters can use people engagement to raise both awareness and funds.

The theme of this year's WAC was "Zero Corruption – 100% Development!" and through the theme TI PNG wishes to reiterate the message that corruption threatens meaningful and sustainable development in PNG.

"The extent of corruption in Papua New Guinea is such that it does not need us to just talk about it; we need to immediately do something about it. Fighting corruption should not be a single call of the Prime Minister, or a few leaders or TI PNG. It should and must be the call of all persons who are in positions of power and influence," said Chairman of TI PNG, Mr



Lawrence Stephens.

There remains a need to take strong action now by all citizens to fight corruption and for the Government of the nation to practice good governance. Government needs to display commitment by enhancing governance systems, enforcing and upholding its mandated processes; lack of these will continue to see PNG communities continue to suffer with limited to no health services, poor education for our growing number of children and we will be unable to earn enough money to pay for our daily basic food and services.

Over 100 organizations including schools registered to participate in the 2014 Sir Anthony Siaguru Walk Against Corruption

(SASWAC) in Port Moresby and Lae. More than 2500 participants turned up and over PGK200.000 were raised.

The SASWAC is TI PNG's main fundraising event. The purpose of the SASWAC is threefold; firstly, it creates greater awareness about corruption, secondly, it provides citizens a chance to peacefully demonstrate their opposition to corruption and thirdly (and most importantly), it raises much needed funds for the Siaguru Endowment Fund (SEF). The SEF is a back-up stream of funds which will ensure the future operations of TI PNG.

TI PNG acknowledges the support of various organizations and individuals that pledged their support and resources towards the event, the registered teams and organizations, the volunteer provincial SASWAC Committees and other volunteers who helped out during the event.

WALK AGAINST CORRUPTION LINKS

[TI PNG: SASWAC Project Information](#)

[TI PNG: Facebook Page](#)

Threats and intimidation – Sri Lankan government cracks down on TI (By Ludvig Foghammar - based on TI SL news articles)

A recent government crack-down on events organised by TI Sri Lanka (TI SL) has this far forced the chapter to cancel three planned workshops in the country. With threats, intimidation and by delaying the visa process for international participants, the Sri Lankan government tries to stop uncomfortable information from surfacing.

In the wake of the recently adopted resolution by the United Nations Human Rights Council to undertake a comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes by both parties in Sri Lanka, TI SL and other NGOs have experienced increased government interest in their activities.

On the 22nd of May, a TI SL training session for journalists working in Tamil language was cancelled, allegedly by orders from the government. Two weeks later, another workshop had to be cancelled

after miscreants threatened to disrupt it. When police arrived at the workshop, the Superintendent of Police in the area stated that “security could be provided for their lives only if they walked out” and informed TI SL that the police security would be withdrawn if the workshop was to continue. In these circumstances APD was forced to cancel the international ALAC workshop which was to be held in Colombo in June. We all stand in solidarity with the chapter during this difficult time.

New Zealand Introduces Anti-Corruption Training Tool (By TI New Zealand)



New Zealand events in Auckland and Wellington, held in mid-June, to launch new Anti-Corruption Training generated excellent local interest and engagement.

In Auckland, New Zealand parliamentary Minister of Police Anne Tolley recommended the training as a way for organizations engaged in overseas trade to reduce business risks. The Minister of Commerce Craig Foss joined the Wellington launch and commended Transparency International New Zealand’s work to develop the one and a half hour training. Other speakers welcoming the initiative included the heads of the Serious Fraud Office, Export New Zealand and Business New Zealand.

Transparency International New Zealand (TI NZ) Chair Suzanne Snively, and Directors Ian Tuke and Fiona Tregonning who both worked to source and develop the content for a New Zealand context, demonstrated the materials and discussed their value with the 100 business guests attending the events.

Ms Snively said she was pleased to see so many business groups seek involvement in the training launch and was certain that the self-learning tool will assist important professional development of managers who were working in international businesses.

TI NZ Director Ian Tuke said, “the free training provides clear and practical advice from ethical business practice experts designed to support staff to manage business risks of corruption in countries that operate differently to New Zealand”.

He said the work offered comprehensive learning on a subject rapidly moving up the business priority list for kiwi exporters.

The training is available online through the [Transparency International New Zealand Website](https://www.transparency.org.nz).

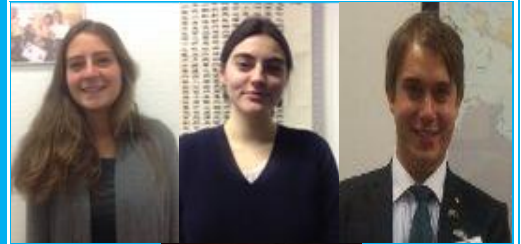
THE SHOUTBOX!



EVALUTATION OF OUR PROGRAMME

Evaluation of the AP programme “Towards Effective Leadership and Reforms in the Fight against Corruption is concluded.” We shared the findings of evaluation with chapters who took part in the Webinar on July 22nd.

The evaluation will be shared with all Chapters in the region soon.



Goodbye!

Welcome!



A big welcome to the newest addition to the EDs in the Region. APD joins TI Malaysia to welcome their new ED Terance Chan Kok Yue.

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!

After their stint in the Asia Pacific Department, it is time for some of our cherished colleagues to move on to new adventures in their professional lives. We would like to thank

Christian Guelisch – Pacific Programme Coordinator
Svetla Koynova – Programme Assistant
Ludvig Foghammar – Advocacy Intern
Joana Murta Rosa – General Intern

We wish them best of luck!

NICSA SOUTH ASIA & NIS NEPAL LAUNCH: MEDIA COVERAGE

[Bureaucracy under political siege: Report](#)

[A corrupt region](#)

[South Asian anti-corruption bodies lack teeth](#)
[South Asian anti-corruption agencies lack teeth, says watchdog](#)

[S Asia's anti-graft agencies 'lack teeth'](#)

[South Asian anti-corruption agencies toothless: watchdog](#)

Financial Management Handbook

In April 2014, five Chapters from the AP region participated in a workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was designed as a platform for Financial representatives of Chapters to raise and discuss solutions on the management of Chapter finance. The outcome was a providing advice on the minimum desirable financial management standards relevant to the operation of any TI chapter. Handbook is now available on Chapters zone.

For any question about it get in touch with Alessandro Ganesini aganesini@transparency.org (Controller, TI Secretariat).

YOUTH & CORRUPTION

What do the new generation in Asia Pacific think about corruption? We asked young people in four countries for their views. Here are the results.

VISUAL & SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT

The info-graphics from the Youth Integrity Survey have been translated into Vietnamese and extracted for sharing on YBO fan-page through online quizzes, which witnessed strong hit rate on this recently re-launched page.

[Quiz: If 72% takes one side, can you take the opposite?](#)

[Major finding in Korea](#)