

Asian Leaders Call for Comprehensive Action against International Corruption

New Delhi, 29 September 2011 - Twenty-eight Asian countries have agreed that today, more than ever, governments must take a holistic and inclusive approach to fighting corruption.

That is the primary conclusion of the 28-29 September conference of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific, entitled 'Building Multidisciplinary Frameworks to Combat Corruption' and hosted by the Government of India.

'Any approach to combating corruption would need to be multifaceted, as the problem itself has a number of dimensions,' said H.E. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the Honourable President of India, in inaugural remarks at the conference, adding: 'All the stakeholders have to work together in all these initiatives to eradicate the cancer of corruption.'

Delivering the welcome address at the opening ceremony, Vice President of ADB Xiaoyu Zhao stated that the way to reduce poverty and make development more effective is by addressing corruption and governance problems. He further stated that 'Asian countries must transform their institutions with an emphasis on transparency, accountability and enforceability. In this context, this conference's focus on strengthening diverse institutional frameworks to combat corruption is very relevant and timely.'

As Asian economies have grown, their exposure to the risks of corruption in domestic and foreign markets has increased. To address this risk, delegates from the 28 members of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative agreed to do the following:

- **Overcome challenges to international cooperation on corruption** cases by sharing information and evidence with each other by using new and creative methods;
- **Simplify public procurement contracting procedures** to prevent bid-rigging and to promote fair competition;
- **Promote the adoption of internal controls, ethics and compliance programmes** by the private sector to prevent bribery in business, including in particular safe and effective channels for employees to report wrongdoing without fear of retribution; and
- **Enable civil society to play an effective watchdog role** by fostering an environment in which they can thrive and by providing them with safe and accessible channels for reporting corruption.

'Corruption knows no borders,' said OECD Deputy Secretary-General Richard Boucher, in his concluding remarks to conference participants. 'It can occur in many jurisdictions and involve many actors. We call on those of you here today—from government, the private sector, and civil society—to lead by example in the fight against bribery and corruption.'

The full text of the Conference Conclusions are available online at:
www.oecd.org/corruption/asiapacific.

About the ADB/OECD Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

The Initiative was established in 1999 to help governments in the Asia-Pacific region meet international anti-corruption standards. Its Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific sets out the goals and standards for fighting corruption in the region. To date, 28 countries and economies from Asia and the Pacific have endorsed the Plan and agreed on implementation mechanisms to achieve its standards. The Plan encourages effective and transparent public services, strong anti-bribery actions, and integrity in business operations. It supports the objectives of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Member countries and economies include: Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; People's Republic of China; Cook Islands; Fiji Islands; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Kazakhstan; Republic of Korea; Kyrgyz Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Republic of Palau; Papua New Guinea; the Philippines; Samoa; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Vanuatu; and Vietnam.

More information about the Initiative is available online at: www.oecd.org/corruption/asiapacific

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