

## **Building Multidisciplinary Frameworks to Combat Corruption**

7<sup>th</sup> Regional Anti-Corruption Conference of the  
ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific  
Hosted by the Government of India

New Delhi, India, 28-29 September 2011

### **Welcome Address**

**Secretary Alka Sirohi, Department of Personnel & Training,  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions**

Her Excellency, The President of India, Smt Pratibha Devisinhji Patil, Hon'ble Shri V. Narayanasamy, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, & the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Xiaoyu Zhao, Vice President, ADB, Mr. Richard A. Boucher, Deputy Secretary General, OECD, Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Central Vigilance Commissioner, distinguished participants in the Conference from around the world, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my proud privilege to welcome Her Excellency to the 7th Regional Anti Corruption Conference supported by the ADB & OECD Initiative and being hosted by India. Madam President, this is a time in history when people and nations are increasingly introspecting and reassessing the political and economic order, and debating on better paths for governance, a time when the issue of effectively combating corruption acquires fresh immediacy and urgency. I am sure, Madam, that your vision expressed at this Inaugural session will set the tone for the policymakers and thinkers in their deliberations in the days ahead.

I also welcome our Minister of State who has been the inspiration behind the Conference and under whose guidance several anti corruption measures have been initiated.

I extend a warm welcome to Mr. Xiaoyu Zhao, Vice President, ADB, and Mr. Richard A. Boucher, Deputy Secretary General, OECD, and thank the ADB/OECD Initiative for giving us the opportunity to host this Conference here in New Delhi and for recognizing India as a worthy torch bearer in the global march against corruption. The efforts put in by the ADB/OECD team in making this event possible are admirable.

On behalf of the Government of India, I warmly welcome all the distinguished delegates and guests, friends and colleagues who have gathered here. Your presence adds immense value to the process of shared learning which can be accelerated through deliberations.

This is one of the many endeavours to build bridges between countries, to create a community of effort on a matter which is of vital concern for all of us, as governments, as public servants and as individuals. Corruption, unethical conduct, conflict of interest between the private and the public good, lack of accountability, decline in integrity and rectitude are issues which are taking a toll not only on our developmental process and progress but on our day to day lives as well.

Corruption is a malaise in the governance of nations — a malaise that demands an urgent and immediate response, a malaise that needs to be eradicated as it often threatens to overtake and overshadow all the public good that may have been done. Corruption is contrary to the principle of rule of law that is the foundational principle for democracy. It fosters inequity and injustice, contributing to a disenchanting citizenry. The problem of embedded corruption is also inter-twined

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closely with developing an accountability framework that applies to all within the hierarchy of Government. This framework should recognize the causes for corruption; evolve principles, institutions, structures and laws to deliver greater accountability in functioning without compromising democratic principles or the fabric of the State. The clamour from citizens for better governance can be heard across the world — in developed and developing nations alike. It is for us to hear the voice and respond appropriately. India has been steadfast in her commitment to democracy and democratic values and the theme of the Conference carries deep resonance and salience at this particular moment of our political evolution. We have taken some very meaningful steps to demonstrate our commitment to fight corruption both at the national and international levels. This includes strengthening of our legislative framework, institutions, administrative practices and procedures, and recent ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

Yesterday, the Steering Group met and deliberated purposefully on the Initiative's, work programs and activities for the next 3 years along with country specific anti corruption issues and strategies. In this 2 day Conference, through its plenary and breakout sessions, experts from 28 countries, from the Asia and the Pacific Region, along with an advisory group of related international organizations & other experts, will debate and deliberate on establishing and implementing an effective, multidisciplinary anti-corruption framework in the Asia-Pacific and cover aspects related to -

- strengthening international cooperation in multi- jurisdictional corruption investigations;
- putting in place measures to prevent and detect corruption in public procurement;
- building effective corporate compliance, internal controls and ethics; and
- focusing on the role of the private sector in prevention of corruption and underscoring the importance of citizen's role in strengthening anti-corruption strategies.

It has been aptly said and I quote "The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference". I hope the outcomes that emerge from the deliberations at this Conference would be a milestone in evolving durable strategies and framework for affirmative action to combat corruption in our respective countries.

On behalf of the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India, I once again extend a warm welcome to her Excellency, the President, and to all our distinguished guests.

To those who have taken the trouble of traveling to our country, from other shores, I extend a hope that you will get some time to enjoy the magnificent city of Delhi and its rich culture and heritage. There are three world heritage sights in the city - the Red Fort, Humayun's tomb and the Jama Masjid, which are a treat in history and architectural splendour. At this time of the year the city is at its greenest best and the weather gods are kind. I wish you a pleasant stay with us.

Thank you