

Building Multidisciplinary Frameworks to Combat Corruption

7th 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

Closing Address

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

Hon'ble Finance Minister, Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, & the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Richard A. Boucher, my colleague, Dr S.K.Sarkar, distinguished participants in the Conference from around the world, ladies and gentlemen,

We are indeed fortunate to have with us today Mr Pranab Mukherjee, whose leadership in the Ministry of Finance and other economic Ministries has been well acclaimed nationally and internationally. He has been a key figure in formulating the economic policies of the nation.

It is also befitting that he should preside over this last session of our conference on Building Multi Disciplinary Frameworks to Combat Corruption, as he also chairs the Group of Ministers, set up by the Government earlier in the year to suggest measures both legislative and administrative for curbing corruption.

We have watched him tirelessly working on the Lokpal Bill where we had series of discussions with various stakeholders and ultimately we came up with a draft bill, within a record time. It was presented in the Parliament in August this year.

The 7th Regional conference had participants from 28 member countries plus representatives from advisory groups and other stakeholders. It had in all 175 delegates both from the public and the private sector. We had very intensive and extensive deliberations in the course of our discussions. The 2 conclusions have already been briefly outlined by Mr. Richard Boucher.

This is a time in history, as I said yesterday, when people and nations are increasingly introspecting and reassessing the political and economic order, and debating on better path for governance, a time when the issue of effectively combating corruption acquires fresh immediacy and urgency.

It is in this background that the conference has been organized. The tone for the conference was set by the Hon'ble President. In her speech, Her Excellency, the President of India and I quote "Any approach to combating corruption would need to be multifaceted as the problem itself has a number of dimensions. Governments would have to constantly look at and review the existing laws, systems and procedures for ensuring their effectiveness. It would require strengthening of institutions, removing loopholes, stringently implementing laws and making every institution more transparent in its functioning. All the stakeholders have to work together in all these initiatives". The President had also said I believe that any fight against corruption also needs to look at individual behavior as well as societal norms.

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This Conference has shown how more than ever Government, Private Sector and the civil society need to work together to address corruption in Asia Pacific Region in a holistic and inclusive fashion. This conference has also shown how opportunities for collective anti-corruption efforts in the region are increasing with recognition that corruption harms everybody in society and everyone has a role to play to tackle it effectively.

Thank you