

**MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING GROUP OF THE ADB/OECD ANTI-CORRUPTION
INITIATIVE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
9 November 2009, Doha, Qatar**

The **Asian Development Bank/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific** (“Initiative”) congratulates the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) for its major achievements, in particular helping to raise awareness of the role of anti-corruption in sustainable development, and making anti-corruption one of the priorities in today’s global agenda. The Initiative, which consists of **28 countries and jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific Region**,¹ is committed to the full implementation of the UNCAC, and is taking significant steps to achieve this goal.

Many of the Initiative’s recent activities are directly relevant to the implementation of the UNCAC. Support for Chapter II of the UNCAC on prevention has been given through a regional seminar in 2009 on **good practices in prevention** and a Thematic Review in 2005 on each member’s anti-corruption measures in **public procurement**. In 2007, the Initiative completed a **Thematic Review** of each member’s legal framework and practice in **extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery**. The Review thus examined the implementation of Chapters IV and V of UNCAC in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the **Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific**, the Initiative’s original instrument, provides the following three “pillars” for combating corruption in the Region: 1. Public sector integrity; 2. Business integrity and law enforcement when integrity systems break down; and 3. Engagement with civil society and the general public. Since these pillars reinforce and complement those in the UNCAC, the Initiative’s efforts have also more broadly helped its members achieve compliance with the UNCAC.

The Initiative **announces** that it is taking **specific steps to further support the effective implementation of the UNCAC** in the Asia-Pacific Region, including as follows:

- **A thematic review on members’ implementation of the criminal bribery offences in the UNCAC will be completed and published in 2010.**
- **Voluntary country reviews are envisaged to enable interested members to request, according to their needs, a review and advice from experts on the implementation of specific parts of the UNCAC.**
- **The ongoing capacity development seminar series, which facilitates learning and sharing of cross-country experiences in prevention, detection and prosecution of corruption, and help meet technical assistance needs for UNCAC implementation.**

In addition, the Initiative is interested in working closely with the UNODC on areas of mutual interest concerning the prevention, detection and sanctioning of corruption. In particular, the Initiative invites the Conference of States Parties to collaborate with it urgently to help overcome major challenges globally to effective **international cooperation on investigations and prosecutions of corruption cases and for effective asset recovery**.

¹ The Initiative’s members are: Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; P.R. China; Cook Islands; Fiji Islands; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Korea; Kyrgyzstan; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Samoa; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Vanuatu; and Vietnam.