

## MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING GROUP OF THE ADB/OECD ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**Fifth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), 25-29 November 2013, Panama City**

*delivered by*

**Mr. Aderito Soares, Commissioner of Anti-Corruption Commission, Timor-Leste (Initiative Member), during the Prevention session (26 November 2013, 3-6 PM)**

The **Asian Development Bank/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific** (The “Initiative”) congratulates the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) for its continued achievements, and in particular on the ongoing progress of its review mechanism.

The Initiative is a regional forum that supports its members’ efforts to address and reduce corruption in Asia and the Pacific, primarily through the effective implementation of UNCAC. It does this through capacity building based on peer-learning, mutual support and exchange of expertise. The Initiative now consists of **31 countries and economies in the Asia-Pacific Region**.<sup>1</sup> Its members are committed to the full implementation of UNCAC, and are taking significant steps to achieve this goal.

In 2012, the Initiative held its 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Seminar focused on “Tracing Illicit Flows, Asset Recovery and Asset Disclosure”, which supported members in their efforts to implement UNCAC Article 8 (Asset Disclosure) and Chapter V (Asset Recovery). In July 2013, it held its 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Seminar focused on “Whistleblower Protection and Strengthening Anti-corruption Agencies”, which supported implementation of members’ obligations under UNCAC Article 6 (Preventive Anti-Corruption Body); Article 8 (Corruption Reporting by Public Officials); and Article 33 (Protection of Reporting Persons).

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

- conducting a **Thematic Review** of each member’s legal framework and practice in Corporate Compliance, Ethics and Internal Controls, Including Accounting and Auditing Measures, for Preventing and Detecting Corruption, in support of implementation of Article 12 (Preventive Measures through Private Sector)
- continuing to hold annual **capacity development seminars and conferences** which facilitate learning and sharing of cross-country experiences in prevention, detection and prosecution of corruption, facilitate dialogue between the members and representatives of civil society, media and the private sector, and help meet technical assistance needs for UNCAC implementation.

The Initiative will hold its 8th Regional Anti-Corruption Conference on 3-4 September 2014 in Cambodia. In the coming weeks, the Initiative’s members will choose a theme for the Conference related to UNCAC implementation. The Initiative invites government officials and representatives of civil society, media, the private sector, and donor organisations in all UNCAC States Parties to attend this event.

---

<sup>1</sup> Member countries and economies of the Initiative are: Afghanistan; Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; People’s Republic of China; Cook Islands; Fiji Islands; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Korea; Kyrgyz Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; the Philippines; Samoa; Singapore; the Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vanuatu; and Vietnam.