

## 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*

**H.E. YONN Sinat, Anti-Corruption Unit, The Royal Government of Cambodia (Initiative Member), during the Asset Recovery and International Cooperation session (27 November 2013, 3-6 PM)**

Dear Distinguished Members of the Asset Recovery and International Cooperation Group,

**The Asian Development Bank/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific** (The “Initiative”) is a regional anti-corruption body consisting of **31 jurisdictions from Asia and the Pacific**.<sup>1</sup> The Initiative is a regional forum for supporting national and multilateral efforts to address and reduce corruption in Asia and the Pacific primarily through the effective implementation of UNCAC. The Initiative seeks to achieve this goal through capacity building based on peer-learning, mutual support and exchange of expertise, while taking into account the geographical and developmental diversity of its members; demands on members’ human and financial resources; and the need to provide value-added in view of the functions and roles of other multilateral anti-corruption bodies.

The Initiative will hold its 8th Regional Anti-Corruption Conference on 3-4 September 2014 in Phnom Penh to be hosted by the The Royal Government of Cambodia. 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.

An important area of the Initiative’s work is Thematic Reviews. Since 2005, the Initiative has conducted Thematic Reviews of specific areas of anti-corruption work among the Initiative’s members. Each Review involves an in-depth evaluation of a member’s efforts in the chosen area, and includes recommendations to each member for improvement. Two years after a Thematic Review is concluded, members provide a written report on steps taken to implement the Review’s recommendations.

The Initiative’s members choose the Thematic Reviews’ topics. Topics are geared primarily towards assisting members to implement UNCAC. Past reviews have focused on corruption in public procurement (2005); and criminalisation of bribery (2010). A fourth review on corporate compliance, internal controls and ethics measures to prevent and detect corruption has just been launched and will be completed in 2014.

The 2008 Thematic Review on extradition, mutual legal assistance and asset recovery in corruption cases may be of particular interest to the UNCAC Working Group on Asset Recovery. A substantial part of this Review was devoted to analysing the legal frameworks, policies and practices in the international recovery of the proceeds of corruption. The Review’s report is addressed to policy makers who endeavour to enhance policies for MLA, extradition, and recovery of assets and, as a practical manual, to practitioners and prosecutors who seek information on the requirements for MLA and extradition in a

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<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.

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country they wish to approach to request legal assistance. The Review's report and a database of relevant laws and treaties are available on the Initiative's website: ([www.oecd.org/site/adboecdanti-corruptioninitiative/mutuallegalassistanceextraditionandrecoveryofproceedsofcorruptioninasiaandthepacific.htm](http://www.oecd.org/site/adboecdanti-corruptioninitiative/mutuallegalassistanceextraditionandrecoveryofproceedsofcorruptioninasiaandthepacific.htm)).

The distinguished members of the Asset Recovery and International Cooperation Group are encouraged to refer to these materials prepared by the Initiative in their future work on asset recovery.

Thank you very much for your attention.