

## Minutes of the Third Steering Group Meeting 4 - 6 March 2003, Jakarta, Indonesia

### Participants

*Endorsing Countries:* Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Vanuatu.

*Absences:* Cook Islands (due to final drafting of new anti money laundering and terrorism financing bills), India (due to parliamentary elections), Nepal (sickness), Samoa.

*Observers:* Cambodia, PR China

*Secretariat:* ADB, OECD.

*Advisory Group:* Pacific Basin Economic Council, Transparency International, World Bank.

*International Organisations:* ABA-Asia Law Initiative, AusAID.

### Summary of Discussion:

#### 1. *Opening:*

The meeting was opened by Mr. Agus Haryanto, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance of Indonesia, representing the host country, Mr. David Green, Country Director of the ADB Indonesia resident mission, and Messrs. Frédéric Wehrlé and Jak Jabes of the Secretariat of the ADB/OECD Initiative for Asia-Pacific.

#### 2. *Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Group Meeting:*

The Steering Group approved the minutes without further changes.

#### 3. *Report by the Secretariat on activities undertaken since the last Steering Group meeting in May 2002:*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Action Plan Master Training Seminar on “Effective Prosecution of Corruption”, held at the Training Academy of the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation, in Ghaziabad, India, on 11-13 February 2003. Feedback from participants collected by the Secretariat as well as Steering Group delegates indicated that the seminar was evaluated highly positively and perceived to be of practical value. The group encouraged the Secretariat

to organise both follow-up seminars on selected topics raised during the seminar in India, and on other topics covered by the Action Plan.

- Anti-Corruption meeting in China, organised by the OECD Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development and the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the PR China in Guiyang, China, in November 2002: The Secretariat and three Steering Group members (Korea, Malaysia and Singapore) participated at this meeting on invitation of the conference organisers. The Secretariat presented at this occasion progress made in implementing the Action Plan in the Asia-Pacific region. The representatives of Korea, Malaysia and Singapore described their countries' accomplishments and thus made important contributions on topics of high interest to China's prosecutors.

- Enlarging support for the Action Plan throughout and outside the Asia-Pacific region:

Bilateral contacts: The Secretariat reported on contacts throughout the year with different governments of the Asia-Pacific region, in particular with Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Thailand, which led Cambodia and PR China to participate at the 3rd Steering Group meeting as observers.

Co-operation with neighbouring regions: On request from the Anti-Corruption Network for Transition Economies (ACN), a regional network grouping countries from Central and Eastern Europe, the Secretariat invited Deputy Prime Minister Otorbaev of the Kyrgyz Republic to represent the Asia-Pacific Action Plan at the forthcoming annual meeting of the ACN and to report on progress made in the framework of the Asia-Pacific Action Plan.

Global networking: On invitation of the Organising Committee of the 11<sup>th</sup> IACC, which will be held in Seoul, Korea, in May 2003, the Secretariat is currently co-organising an IACC workshop on regional co-operation in the fight against corruption, on Tuesday 27 May 2003, 11h00 – 13h00. Representatives from endorsing countries attending the 11<sup>th</sup> IACC are encouraged to participate in this workshop.

4. *Mid-term progress report on implementation efforts in the framework of the Action Plan:*

Indonesia, Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Papua New Guinea reported on progress made in implementing their countries' priority reform areas and corresponding projects. Indonesia, as the meeting's host country, provided a particularly detailed report to the group. Pakistan, later during the meeting and at its own request, complemented its mid-term progress report with an overview on its Government's recently finalised anti-corruption strategy.

The group noted and commented significant progress in many countries and encouraged those countries where implementation has started more slowly to pursue their efforts in order to achieve reform goals.

5. *Review of new projects submitted under the Action Plan:*

Countries that did not submit priority areas for reform at the 2nd meeting of the Steering Group, or that have joined the Steering Group since then, presented to the group their views on possible priority areas for reform. The group recommended that these countries (Bangladesh, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Samoa and Vanuatu) submit to the Secretariat prior to the next Steering Group meeting their priority reform areas for further consideration by the group in December of this year and sharing with a broader audience in the framework of the Initiative's next annual conference.

6. *Reports from observer countries:*

Cambodia and PR China provided extensive reports on their respective governments' current anti-corruption strategies and most recent reforms in this field. The group congratulated both countries on their on-going efforts.

7. *Cambodia endorsed the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia-Pacific:*

H.E. SUM Manit, Secretary of State in the Office of the Council of Ministers, Secretary General of the Council for Administrative Reform, and Director of the Anti-Corruption Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers, formally endorsed the Anti-Corruption Action Plan on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia on March 5, 2003. The group and the Secretariat welcomed the Government of Cambodia as the 19<sup>th</sup> member of the Action Plan's Steering Group.

8. *Self-reporting and stock-taking:*

- Projects reports: The group agreed on a standard format for endorsing countries to report on implementation projects at the end of the Action Plan's first implementation cycle. Project reports will be discussed at the next Steering group meeting and made available as background documents at the 2003 Conference.
- Stock-taking: Pursuant to the Implementation Plan of the Action Plan, the group agreed that each endorsing country will undertake a general stock-taking on policies and institutional capacities that fall under the objectives of the three pillars of the Action Plan, on the basis of a self-reporting format that was agreed at the meeting. The stock-taking exercise will serve as a benchmark for assessing reform progress and sharing experience in the future. The procedure for this review process will be discussed and agreed upon by the group at its next meeting in December 2003. As for project reports, stock-taking reports will be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting and made available as background documents at the 2003 Conference.

The format for the two reports will be made available by the Secretariat to the Group in electronic format.

9. *Other initiatives and thematic reports from countries:*

The following reports were made to the group by members of the Steering Group and the Advisory Group:

- Sam Cooper, ABA-Asia Law Initiative: Report to the group about the ABA-Asia Law Initiative and offering of support from the ABA-Asia expert team to members of the Steering Group in implementing the Action Plan.
- Euy-Whan Kim, Korea: Report on the 3rd Global Forum and the 11th IACC, to be held in Seoul, Korea, in May 2003, and report on on-going preparations of the **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of an international ACA (Anti-Corruption Agencies) forum to be held in 2004.**
- Munir Hafiez, Pakistan: Report on Pakistan's recent efforts to define a national anti-corruption strategy, and lessons learnt in this process.
- Peter Rooke, Transparency International Australia: Update on current status of negotiation of the UN Convention against Corruption.
- Steve Olson, Pacific Basin Economic Council: Overview on recent developments within APEC on anti-corruption related issues, and call upon the Secretariat to develop closer links between the Initiative and this APEC process.

10. *Follow-up activities in the framework of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific:*

Next regional conference of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific: The group noted with appreciation the offers from three endorsing countries (Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Pakistan) to host the Initiative's next regional Conference. The group agreed to hold the Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on December 3-5, 2003. The Secretariat will work with the Government of Malaysia and in consultation with the group on the final details of the event. Invitations to the group will be issued by the Secretariat in due time.

4th Steering Group Meeting: To be held back-to-back with the Initiative's next regional conference on December 1-2, 2003.

Training seminar: The group encouraged the Secretariat to consider organising a follow-up training seminar to the training held in India in February 2003, as well as on other topics covered in the Action Plan. Topics which were proposed in this context include: mutual legal assistance, forensic accounting, political party and election financing, whistle blower protection systems, and public opinion surveys. Furthermore, members of the group suggested that the duration of future training seminars be extended to five days.

## Annex

The Secretariat wishes to add the following information to complete paragraph 3 (Report by the Secretariat on activities undertaken since the last Steering Group meeting in May 2002):

- IADB/USAID Conference on Regional Public Goods, Washington D.C., 7-8 November 2002: The ADB/OECD Secretariat, on request from the conference organisers, has invited Mr. Surya Nath Updhyay, Steering Group representative for Nepal and Chief Commissioner of Nepal's Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, to participate as speaker in this conference and represent the Initiative. His intervention during the session "Sectoral Issues" covered Nepal's current anti-corruption efforts and strategy and progress made in the Asian and Pacific region under the Anti-Corruption Action Plan.