

ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

The Secretariat

7th Steering Group meeting
Hotel Nikko New Century, Beijing, People's Republic of China
26-27 September 2005

StG07-0905(2)

Agenda

The 7th Steering Group meeting of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific has the following three main objectives:

- 1) to report on and discuss
 - implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia-Pacific, including recent anti-corruption reform projects that have taken place since the last meeting of the Steering Group in April 2005, and
 - plans for upcoming reform projects in accordance with the Action Plan;
- 2) to complete the Steering Group's self-evaluation and mutual review process on implementing the Action Plan's standards for curbing corruption in public procurement; and
- 3) to assess trends in endorsing countries' anti-corruption strategies and their overall compliance with the standards and principles of the Action Plan.

■ Implementation and Enforcement of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan:

Country roundtable

As specified in the Action Plan's implementation mechanism, Steering Group meetings provide endorsing countries with a regular opportunity to discuss and review their on-going and planned anti-corruption efforts, achievements, and priorities and to report on progress in the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia-Pacific. Delegates are invited to report on their governments' progress to implement and enforce the Action Plan, with a particular focus on anti-corruption reform undertaken since the group's last meeting in April 2005.

Member countries will also present their outlook on potential new priority areas for reform, to be considered for selection for the Action Plan's third implementation cycle in early 2006. This information will also be used to update the Initiative's stocktaking report, to ensure the accuracy of this key benchmarking instrument, and to measure progress in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Country presentations should not exceed 10 minutes. Compliance with this time limit will allow for full participation of all attendees and will be highly appreciated.

Mutual review of implementation of Anti-Corruption Policies

Measuring progress of anti-corruption reform by means of assessment tools and indicators has proven crucial to ensuring effectiveness of Action Plan implementation efforts, evaluating the efficiency and appropriateness of selected anti-corruption strategies, and identifying weaknesses and gaps to be targeted by future reform. In this aim, member countries agreed to use the Initiative's *stocktaking report on anti-corruption policies* as a benchmark against which to evaluate developments and measure progress in domestic and region-wide anti-corruption efforts. They also agreed to update the report regularly to reflect new anti-corruption policies and measures implemented by member countries. The first edition of the stocktaking report was adopted by the Steering Group in July 2004.

Since this time, a number of developments have taken place, including the arrival of four new member countries (People's Republic of China, Palau, Thailand and Vietnam). A draft second edition that captures



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recent progress as well as information on these four new member countries will be presented to the meeting by the Secretariat.

As discussed at the group's 6th meeting in April 2005, this second edition further includes a clear, easy-to-read matrix that illustrates progress made in member countries to meet Action Plan standards. The 7th Steering Group meeting will discuss this updated edition of the stocktaking report on anti-corruption policies in Asian and Pacific countries, with a view to adopting the report

■ **Thematic self-evaluation and mutual review of implementation of the Action Plan: Legal and institutional measures for curbing corruption in public procurement**

Endorsing countries have conducted a thematic review on curbing corruption in public procurement in the Asia-Pacific region, as decided by the Steering Group at its 5th meeting in July 2004 in Manila.

The goal of the review is three-fold: (i) to better understand the corruption risks inherent in institutional settings and procurement practices; (ii) to identify shortcomings and loopholes in the legal frameworks and practices related to public procurement in order to help curb corruption in these processes; and (iii) to assist in designing policies and procedures that ensure greater integrity and accountability in procurement. For the purpose of this review, a questionnaire covering issues related to transparency, integrity and accountability in procurement processes was sent to all endorsing countries and jurisdictions.

Replies to this questionnaire have formed the basis for the overview report prepared by the Secretariat. This overview analyses the policies, practices and rules governing public procurement procedures as reported by endorsing countries. The first draft of this overview report, covering 12 of the Initiative's member countries, was discussed at the Steering Group's 6th meeting in April 2005. Based on this discussion, the group agreed to expand the report with information on the remaining 13 member countries and to amend it with country-specific information, as well as recommendations on priority measures to be taken by member countries to further enhance transparency and combat corruption in public procurement.

The discussion of the amended, second draft overview report at the Steering Group's 7th meeting is part of the Initiative's thematic self-evaluation and mutual review of the implementation of the Action Plan. It will be moderated by public procurement specialist. The expected outcomes of this discussion include the finalisation and adoption of the overview report and its recommendations.

■ **Background documents**

- StG07-0905(1): Minutes of the 6th Steering Group meeting (Hanoi, Vietnam, 19-21 April 2005)
- StG07-0905(2): Agenda of the 7th Steering Group meeting
- StG07-0905(3): Compilation of replies to the questionnaire on curbing corruption in public procurement
- StG07-0905(4): Revised draft overview report on measures to curb corruption in public procurement in Asia and the Pacific
- StG07-0905(5): Draft of second edition of stocktaking report on anti-corruption policies in Asia and the Pacific
- StG07-0905(6): Compilation of endorsing countries' new priority areas for reform under the Action Plan's third implementation cycle
- StG07-0905(7): List of participants of the 7th Steering Group meeting

■ **Participation**

Participation is by invitation only and reserved for members of the Steering Group and Advisory Group.

■ **Location**

The Steering Group meeting takes place at Hotel Nikko New Century (No 6 Southern Road, Capital Gym, Haidian District, Beijing 100044) in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

Monday, 26 September 2005

08.00 – 09.00 *Registration*

09.00 – 09.30 1 – Opening

Welcoming remarks by Mr. Li Zhilun, Minister of Supervision of PR China

Welcoming remarks by ADB Resident Mission Director

Opening remarks by the ADB/OECD Secretariat

09.30 – 10.00 2 – Report by the Government of PR China, introduction of delegates, adoption of minutes and agenda

Introduction of the delegates of endorsing countries and of the Advisory Group

Report on the Government of PR China's anti-corruption strategy (Mr. Huang Shuxian, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Supervision of PR China)

Adoption of the minutes of the 6th Steering Group meeting and the agenda of the 7th Steering Group meeting

10.00 – 10.15 *Coffee break*

10.15 – 12.30 3 – Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan: Country roundtable

As part of their commitment under the Anti-Corruption Action Plan, member countries will outline trends in their domestic anti-corruption policy to comply with the Action Plan and present recent anti-corruption projects that have been undertaken since the last meeting of the Steering Group in April 2005.

As part of their presentation, member countries will further provide the group with an outlook on potential new priority areas for reform to be selected under the Action Plan's third implementation cycle in early 2006.

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 16.00 Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan: Country roundtable (continued)

16.00 – 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 – 18.00 4 – Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan: Mutual Review of Stocktaking Report

Reading and adoption of the draft second edition of stocktaking report on anti-corruption policies in Asian and Pacific countries

19.00 *Welcome dinner hosted by the Government of PR China*

Tuesday, 27 September 2005

09.00 – 13.00	5 – Thematic Self-evaluation and Mutual Review of Implementation of the Action Plan: Legal and institutional measures for curbing corruption in public procurement Second reading of the draft report on measures to curb corruption in public procurement in Asia and the Pacific Moderator: Mr. Robert Rothery, Principal Procurement Specialist, ADB <i>(10.30 – 11.00 Photo session and coffee break)</i>
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 15.00	Thematic Self-evaluation and Mutual Review of Implementation of the Action Plan: Legal and institutional measures for curbing corruption in public procurement (continued) Reading and adoption of the draft recommendations for member countries
15.00 – 16.00	6 – Advisory Group Roundtable and Report by the Secretariat Oral reports on various anti-corruption initiatives by members of the Advisory Group; brief report on activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the previous Steering Group meeting.
16.00 – 17.30	7 – Conclusion Summary of the Steering Group meeting discussions by the Secretariat Closing roundtable/feedback Closing remarks by the Secretariat

Evening free