

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

The Secretariat

9th Steering Group Meeting
Bangkok, Thailand, 27-29 November 2006

StG09-1

Agenda

■ Meeting objectives

The 9th Steering Group meeting of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the 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 May 2006, and
 - reform projects under the beginning 3rd implementation cycle in accordance with the Action Plan;
- 2) to launch the Steering Group's second policy review on mutual legal assistance and extradition in corruption cases against the Action Plan's standards; and
- 3) to discuss and adopt the Initiative's strategy and work program 2007-2008.

For detailed notes on the individual items, please refer to the annotations to the agenda on p. 6.

■ Background documents

- StG09-1: Draft agenda of the 9th Steering Group meeting
- StG09-2: Draft list of participants of the 9th Steering Group meeting
- StG09-3: Compilation of member countries' reports on steps taken to implement the Action Plan
- StG09-4: Draft Overview Report on Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition and the Recovery of Proceeds of Corruption in 27 Asian and Pacific Countries
- StG09-5: Compilation of member countries' replies to the questionnaire of the 2nd thematic review on mechanisms for mutual legal assistance, extradition and the recovery of proceeds of corruption
- StG09-6: Compilation of member countries' self assessment reports of projects under the Action Plan's second implementation cycle (2004-2006)
- StG09-7: Compilation of member countries' proposed new priority areas for reform under the Action Plan's third implementation cycle (2007-2008)
- StG09-8: Draft strategy and work program 2007-2008
- StG09-9: General Information Sheet for Participants
- Publications: "Denying Safe Haven to the Corrupt and the Proceeds of Corruption". Proceedings of the Initiative's 4th Training Seminar, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in March 2006.
- "Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement in Asia and the Pacific – Progress and Challenges in 25 Countries". Outcome of the Initiative's thematic review on curbing corruption in public procurement.



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Monday, 27 November 2006

8:30 – 9:00	Registration of Participants
9.00 – 9.45	<p>1 – Opening session</p> <p>Welcome remarks by H.E. Mr. Charnchai Likitjitta, Minister of Justice, Thailand</p> <p>Welcome remarks by J.P. Verbiest, Country Director, Thailand Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p> <p>Welcome remarks by the ADB/OECD Initiative Secretariat Frédéric Wehrlé, Anti-Corruption Division, OECD Kathleen M. Moktan, Capacity Development and Governance Division, ADB</p> <p>Brief roundtable introduction of delegates, Advisory Group members and observers</p>
<i>9.45 – 10.15</i>	<i>Group photo, coffee break</i>
10.15 – 12.30	<p>2 – Implementation of the Action Plan – Overview and stock-taking of anti-corruption measures in member countries: Country roundtable</p> <p>10.15 – 10.25 Report by Thailand on steps to implement the three pillars of the Action Plan (5-10mn) followed by roundtable discussion.</p> <p>10.25 – 12.30 Reports by Initiative's member countries on recent steps taken to implement the three pillars of the Action Plan, followed by roundtable discussion (the presentation by each member country should not exceed 5 to 7 minutes)</p>
<i>12.30 – 14.00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 15.30	<p>2 – Implementation of the Action Plan – Overview and stock-taking of anti-corruption measures in member countries: Country roundtable (cont.)</p> <p>Reports by endorsing countries of recent steps taken to implement and enforce the three pillars of the Action Plan followed by roundtable discussion (the presentation by each member country should not exceed 5 to 7 minutes)</p>
<i>15.30 – 16.00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.00 – 17.00	<p>3 – Report by members of the Advisory Group on anti-corruption initiatives and technical assistance in support of reforms, and report by observer organizations; Secretariat activity report</p> <p>Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering's invitation addressed to the Initiative to become supporting observer</p> <p>Reports by members of the Advisory Group</p> <p>Reports by observer organizations</p> <p>Activity report by the Secretariat</p>
<i>19.00</i>	<i>Welcome Reception hosted by the Thai Ministry of Justice (venue: Chulalongkorn University).</i>

Tuesday, 28 November 2006

9.00 – 12.30 **4 – Thematic review on mechanism for mutual legal assistance, extradition and the recovery of proceeds of corruption in Asia-Pacific**

Introduction to the purpose and methodology of the review by the Secretariat.

Country roundtable followed by discussion on policies, challenges, and needs for reform in the initiative's member countries. Discussions, moderated by Rita O'Sullivan, Office of the General Counsel, Asian Development Bank and Jean-Bernard Schmid, Investigating Magistrate, Financial Section, Geneva, Switzerland, will cover:

- Frameworks for rendering and requesting cooperation.
- Preconditions and limitations to cooperation.

[10.30-11.00: Coffee break]

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 17.00 **4 – Thematic review on mechanism for mutual legal assistance, extradition and the recovery of proceeds of corruption in Asia-Pacific (cont.)**

Country roundtable followed by discussion on policies, challenges, and needs for reform in the initiative's member countries. Discussions will cover:

- Preconditions and limitations to cooperation.
- Procedures and measures to facilitate cooperation.

[15.30-16.00: Coffee break]

19.00 *Dinner hosted by the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific (venue: Grand Mercure Hotel)*

Wednesday, 29 November 2006

9.00 – 11.00	<p>4 – Thematic review on mechanism for mutual legal assistance, extradition and the recovery of proceeds of corruption in Asia-Pacific (cont.)</p> <p>Country roundtable followed by discussion on policies, challenges, and needs for reform in the initiative's member countries. Discussions will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recovery of proceeds of corruption through international cooperation.
<i>11.00 – 11.30</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.30 – 12.30	<p>5 – Self-evaluation and mutual review of the implementation of reform projects under the 2nd Implementation cycle (2004-2006) and discussion of new reform projects for the 3rd implementation cycle (2007-2008)</p> <p>Presentation of member countries' achievements under their selected priority area(s) for reform and related projects under the 2nd implementation cycle, followed by discussion by the Group: Bangladesh; Cambodia; Cook Islands; India; Japan; Mongolia; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Samoa; Vanuatu (5 min per presentation).</p>
<i>12.30 – 14.00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 15.00	<p>6 – Self-evaluation and mutual review of the implementation of reform projects under the 2nd Implementation cycle (2004-2006) and discussion of new reform projects for the 3rd implementation cycle (2007-2008)</p> <p>Presentation of member countries' selected priority area(s) for reform and related project under the 3rd implementation cycle (2006-2008): Australia; Cambodia; Cook Islands; Fiji Islands; India; Indonesia; Japan; Mongolia; Pakistan; Philippines; Samoa; Vanuatu; Vietnam (5 min per presentation).</p>
15.00 – 16.30	<p>7 – Discussion and adoption of the 2007-2008 Strategy and Work Plan</p> <p>(i) Initiative's Strategy and Work Plan 2007-2008: <i>Oral report by the Secretariat, reading of the draft strategy, and plenary discussion</i></p> <p>(ii) Implementing the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – co-operation with partner organizations: <i>Presentation of the joint work with APGML on links between corruption and mutual legal assistance by the Secretariat and APG and plenary discussion;</i> – strengthening involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Action Plan: <i>Presentation by the Secretariat and plenary discussion;</i> – capacity-building: Identification of priorities for capacity-building and options for joint capacity building with the Initiative's partners: <i>Oral report by the Secretariat and plenary discussion;</i> – ensuring financial sustainability of the Initiative beyond 2007: <i>Oral report by the Secretariat and plenary discussion;</i> – venue and timing of the 10th Steering Group meeting and the 6th Regional Anti-Corruption Conference.
<i>16.30 – 16.45</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>

16.45 – 17.00

8 – Closing session

Summary of the Steering Group discussions and follow-up activities by the Secretariat

Closing roundtable/feedback

Closing remarks by the Secretariat

17.15 – 18.15

Debriefing meeting of the Advisory Group

Evening: free

Notes on the Agenda

	Annotations	Document
<p>Item 1</p> <p><i>Opening remarks by ADB/OECD Secretariat, adoption of the agenda</i></p>	<p>The Secretariat will briefly introduce the agenda of the meeting and propose that delegates agree to the adoption of the agenda.</p> <p>After a brief roundtable introduction of delegates, Advisory Group members and observers. The Group will then express its views on the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering’s invitation addressed to the Initiative to become a supporting observer.</p>	<p>StG09-1 StG09-2</p>
<p>Item 2</p> <p><i>Oral reports by member countries on steps taken to implement the Action Plan – Roundtable</i></p>	<p>Thailand, host country of the meeting, will report orally on recent steps taken to implement the Action Plan (the presentation should not exceed 5-10 minutes).</p> <p>All other member countries will then report orally on recent steps taken to further implement the Action Plan (5 to 7 minutes’ presentation per country followed by a short question and answer session immediately after each country presentation). Each member country will be invited to report on its government’s progress to implement and enforce the policy objectives listed under <i>each</i> pillar of the Action Plan since the May 2006 Steering Group meeting. Presentations should prioritize the elements potentially most important to other members of the Group, as information on the complete set of measures is available in written.</p>	<p>StG09-3</p>
<p>Item 3</p> <p><i>Oral reports by Advisory Group and observer organizations</i></p>	<p>International organizations and institutions represented in the Advisory Group, as well as other international organizations and institutions attending the Steering Group as observers are invited to report on recent developments in their work in support of member countries’ reforms.</p> <p>This item will end with an oral report by the Secretariat on activities undertaken since the 8th Steering Group meeting.</p>	
<p>Item 4</p> <p><i>Thematic review on mechanisms for MLA and Extradition</i></p>	<p>At its 8th meeting held in May 2006, the Group decided to conduct its second thematic policy review, addressing the issue of judicial cooperation – mutual legal assistance, extradition, and recovery of proceeds of corruption – in the prosecution of corruption cases.</p> <p>To prepare this review, the Secretariat has drafted an overview report based on information that members submitted in response to a questionnaire. Under this agenda item, the Steering Group and experts on judicial cooperation from the Initiative’s and OECD member countries will discuss each member country’s mechanisms to request and provide such legal assistance. The discussion will address the areas covered by the review; an expert will moderate the discussions under each of the topics.</p>	<p>StG09-4 StG09-5</p>

	Annotations	Document
<p>Item 5 <i>Implementation projects under the Action Plan</i></p>	<p>Under the 2nd implementation cycle (2004-2006) countries have selected priority areas for reform and defined related projects to target the identified weaknesses. At the 8th Steering Group meeting, a first batch of countries presented the outcome and achievements of the reform projects as well as challenges that arose in the implementation of the reform. Countries that have not yet had the opportunity to deliver a self-assessment report on these reform projects (Bangladesh; Cambodia; Cook Islands; India; Japan; Mongolia; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Samoa; Vanuatu) will be invited to present the outcome and achievements of their projects. The Group will discuss these experiences.</p> <p>Under the Action Plan's 3rd implementation cycle (2007-2008), members of the Initiative are required to identify a new set of priority areas for reform and define related projects in support of reform. At the 8th Steering Group meeting, a first group of 14 countries presented their priorities and related reform projects. Members that have not had an opportunity to present their priorities for reform and related implementation projects under the beginning 3rd implementation cycle (2007-2008) – Australia; Cambodia; Cook Islands; Fiji Islands; India; Indonesia; Japan; Mongolia; Pakistan; Philippines; Samoa; Vanuatu; Vietnam – will be invited to deliver a presentation of these projects, followed by a discussion of possible needs for financial or technical assistance and feedback from donor representatives.</p>	<p>StG09-6 StG09-7</p>
<p>Item 7 <i>Strategy and Work plan 2007-2008</i></p>	<p>At its 8th meeting in May 2006, the Steering Group discussed a preliminary draft of the Initiative's strategy, work program and budget for 2007-2008. Based on this discussion, the Secretariat has developed a draft strategy and work program 2007-2008 for discussion and adoption by the Group.</p> <p>After a first reading of this document, the Group will discuss various proposals to implement the strategy, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – methodology of country reviews; – co-operation with partners: proposal for a joint review with APG on links between corruption and money laundering; – strengthening involvement of civil society's involvement in the implementation of the Action Plan; – identification of priorities for capacity-building; – ensuring financial sustainability of the Initiative beyond 2007; and – venue and timing of the following Steering Group meeting and the Regional Anti-Corruption Conference. 	<p>StG09-8</p>