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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
INTOSAI	International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions
IOSCO	International Organization of Securities Commissions
KICAC	Korea Independent Commission Against Corruption
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PBEC	Pacific Basin Economic Council
SOE	State-owned enterprise
USD	United States dollars

Countries having endorsed the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific: Australia; Bangladesh; Cambodia; Cook Islands; Fiji Islands; Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter Hong Kong, China); India; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Kazakhstan; Republic of Korea; Kyrgyz Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Republic of Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Samoa; Singapore; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam (status as of 7 July 2004).

Foreword

Over the last decade, societies have come to realize the extent to which corruption and bribery have undermined their welfare and stability. Governments, the private sector and civil society alike have consequently declared the fight against corruption to be of the highest priority.

In the Asia-Pacific region, twenty-three countries have expressed their commitment to fight corruption by endorsing an Anti-Corruption Action Plan within the framework of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific, a first-of-its-kind partnership among all stakeholders of Asian and Pacific countries. The Action Plan comprehensively promotes the region's objectives and priorities for reform, to develop effective and transparent systems for public service, strengthen anti-bribery initiatives, promote integrity in business operations, and support citizens' involvement. Acknowledging that each country has different needs, the Action Plan leaves the responsibility for defining, assessing and implementing strategies with the countries. Efforts at the national level are consolidated by regional policy dialogue and high-level training seminars.

The international donor community, in particular members of the Initiative's Advisory Group¹, strongly supports participating countries' efforts to build sustainable anti-corruption mechanisms.

In the framework of this Initiative, the participating governments have decided to take stock of their relevant legal and institutional provisions in order to gain a comprehensive and structured overview of the region's anti-corruption framework and to supplement the regular review procedure on specific national priority reform efforts under the Action Plan. Based on self-review, this stocktaking exercise aims to assist participating governments in better understanding the main challenges that their countries face, learning from their neighbors' experience, and identifying measures to further enhance anti-corruption efforts. The exercise

¹ American Bar Association Asia Law Initiative, Australian Agency for International Development, Pacific Basin Economic Council, Transparency International, United Kingdom Department for International Development, United Nations Development Programme, US Department of State, World Bank.

also serves as a benchmark for participating countries to assess achievements under the Action Plan and to identify areas in which further reform efforts are most crucially needed. In the future, the report will be regularly updated with information on new policies and practices developed and implemented in the region.

This report is based on a project that was coordinated by Jak Jabes, Director for Governance and Regional Cooperation, ADB, and Frédéric Wehrlé, Coordinator for Anti-Corruption Initiatives, Anti-Corruption Division, OECD, and was prepared by Joachim Pohl, Legal Expert, Anti-Corruption Division, OECD, under the supervision of Gretta Fenner, Project Manager of the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific, Anti-Corruption Division, OECD.

The Secretariat of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific expresses its gratitude to the participating governments for their efforts to provide comprehensive and detailed information, thus contributing to the overall progress of anti-corruption efforts in Asia and the Pacific.

Editorial Remarks

This report has been drafted by the Secretariat of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific. It compiles information provided by the governments that have endorsed the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific through self-assessment reports and through publicly available information on the relevant institutions' official websites. Additional information provided by international organizations of which governments of endorsing countries are members have also been exploited, such as the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions and the Financial Action Task Force, and official and public reports of the OECD Working Group on Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. The information contained in this report was collected until 30 June 2004, and therefore information on the Republic of Palau and Vietnam, both of which endorsed the Action Plan on 5 July 2004, is not yet included.

The participating countries' individual stocktaking reports, on which this report is based, are available for download at the Initiative's website at <http://www1.oecd.org/daf/asiacom/>

This report was approved by the Steering Group at its fifth meeting in Manila, Philippines on 7 July 2004.

To the extent that each country has defined priorities for reform to combat corruption in its national anti-corruption strategy and under the Action Plan, their reports have reflected these priorities and so does the present document. That the following text may mention certain provisions in some countries does not exclude the possibility that similar measures are in place in others; however, in these cases the respective information was not available to the Secretariat of the ADB/OECD Initiative at the time the report was drafted.

The term "country" as used in this report also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas; the designations employed and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country or territory on the part of ADB's Board and members and the OECD and its member countries.

For convenience, monetary values mentioned in the document have been converted from the respective national currencies to United States dollars (USD), either by the reporting countries themselves or according to the approximate exchange rates as of October 2003.

Every effort has been made to verify the information contained in this report and correctly reflect the countries' self-assessment reports that were submitted to the Secretariat in the course of the stocktaking exercise. However, the authors disclaim any responsibility regarding the accuracy of the information or the effectiveness of the regulations and institutions mentioned in this report. ADB's Board and members and the OECD and its member countries cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of its use for other purposes or in other contexts.