

Foreword

Over the last decade, societies have realized to what extent corruption has damaged their welfare and stability. Governments, the private sector, and civil society alike have consequently declared the fight against bribery and corruption a priority in their overall endeavor and politics.

In the Asia-Pacific region, 21 countries have translated this commitment into action by jointly developing and endorsing an Anti-Corruption Action Plan in the framework of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific. This plan comprehensively assembles the regions' objectives and needs for reform to develop effective and transparent systems for public service; to strengthen anti-bribery action and promote integrity in business; and to support active public involvement in the fight against corruption. One of its most central aspects is the need to render investigation and prosecution of corruption more effective.

Considering the countries' expressed need for capacity building in this reform area of the Action Plan, and the specific obstacles that hamper successful prosecution in this particular field of crime, the ADB/OECD Initiative organized a master training seminar on the subject Effective Prosecution of Corruption. The seminar hosted by the Government of India on 11–13 February 2003 at the Training Academy of the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in Ghaziabad assembled 32 representatives of prosecution agencies and specialized investigation units from 14 countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The aim of the plenary discussions and case study workshops was to build capacity within the responsible law enforcement authorities and to strengthen the participants' practical knowledge in areas where they face particular challenges, such as investigating high-profile cases; ensuring cooperation between law enforcement agencies; reporting corruption within public administration; and obtaining international legal assistance.

These challenges are not unique to the Asia-Pacific region; nor are their remedies. The seminar therefore called upon experts both from Asia, such as Mr. S. K. Sharma, Director of Prosecution of the Central Bureau of Investigation of India, and from outside the region. These included Mrs. Eva Joly, former investigating judge of the Court of First Instance of Paris, France; Mr. Bernard Bertossa, former

prosecutor general of Geneva, Switzerland; and Detective Chief Inspector John Dempsey-Brench of the National Crime Squad of England & Wales. ADB and OECD express their sincere appreciation to the experts for their valuable contributions.

The present document assembles the seminar's background papers and case studies, and the experts' and participants' views on the key topics that formed the basis for discussion at the seminar. As such, the publication aims to make the expertise exchanged and acquired during the seminar accessible to a broader public and thus to contribute to the overall aim of combating corruption in the new millennium.

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