

# **Fighting Corruption in Asia-Pacific: Strategies for Business, Government and Civil Society**

6th Regional Anti-Corruption Conference for Asia and the Pacific  
Singapore, 26-28 November 2008

Draft Agenda

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ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific  
Government of Singapore

## ■ Reducing corruption in Asia and the Pacific is a shared responsibility

Throughout the Asia and Pacific region, there is a growing recognition of the adverse impact of corruption on equitable and sustainable economic growth. Governments have responded by passing anticorruption legislation, strengthening codes of conduct for civil servants, establishing anticorruption commissions, and anticorruption courts. Governments look to international standards including the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention (1997) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003) to provide a framework for reducing corruption in a comprehensive fashion.

However, reducing corruption is not the responsibility of government alone. Corruption occurs where the private and public sectors intersect. There is both a demand side (bribe solicitation) and supply side (bribe giving) to corruption, and the supply side often takes the form of bribes paid by the private sector. Up to now, strategies for fighting corruption in the region have emphasized the demand side. This conference provides an opportunity to address the supply-side, from the perspectives of the public sector, the private sector, and civil society.

Through a combination of plenary sessions and workshops, the Conference will explore options for countering corruption including the supply-side. Experts from the region, from OECD Countries, from public and the private sector, and from civil society, will meet to assess their shared responsibility to fight bribery and corruption. Based on workshop discussions, the final plenary will propose action to advance the fight against bribe giving in Asia-Pacific.

## ■ A forum for government, private sector, and civil society experts

This conference gathers experts from the 28 members of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific and observer countries from the region, OECD member countries, leading enterprises and businesses associations from Asia-Pacific, civil society, and multi-lateral and donor organizations. Participation is by invitation only; individuals interested in attending the conference may request an invitation from the Secretariat of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific.

## ■ Contact

Organizer:  
ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for  
Asia and the Pacific—Secretariat

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Host:  
CPIB Singapore

## ■ Venue

Suntec City International Convention & Exhibition Centre  
Ballroom 2/3, Level 2  
1 Raffles Boulevard, Suntec City  
Singapore

## ■ Draft conference schedule

### Wednesday, 26 November 2008

8:00 – 8:45 *Registration of participants*

#### 9:00 – 9:45 **Opening remarks**

Senior Singaporean Government official  
Ursula Schäfer-Preuss, Vice President Knowledge Management, Asian Development Bank (ADB)  
Secretary General/Deputy-Secretary General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (tbc)

9:45 – 10:30 *Group photo, refreshments*

#### 10:30 – 12:30 **Opening Plenary:**

##### Combating corruption in business transactions

Corruption has an adverse impact on the business and investment climate in the Asia-Pacific region, increases the costs of doing business and correspondingly, the cost of public service delivery. The challenge is to reduce corruption in business transactions by reducing the incentives and increasing the risks associated with corrupt activity.

The plenary session will set the stage for the workshops that follow, by discussing the perceived corruption risk in the region and the impact of corruption on the business and investment climate in Asia-Pacific. It will look at current strategies for reducing corruption, and the importance of fighting the supply-side of corruption. It will also look at the need for business, government, and civil society to share responsibility for finding solutions.

**Chair:**

**Speakers:**

12:30 – 14:00 *lunch*

**14:00 – 17:00 Workshop session (15:15–15:45 refreshments)**

**Workshop 1**

1

**Combating bribery:  
the role of international  
criminal law standards**

Corruption undermines competition and increases the costs of doing business. An effective legal and regulatory framework informed by international legal instruments and based on international standards, which recognizes corruption and bribery as criminal acts, is necessary to support government efforts to reduce corruption.

The workshop will discuss the issue of bribery within the Asia and Pacific context. It will also discuss international legal standards and their enforcement (in particular the UNCAC), present the challenges facing governments as they attempt to implement anti-corruption and anti-bribery offences, and explore options for involving civil society in the legislative process. In addition, it will explore how experience implementing the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention could assist Asia-Pacific countries implement international criminalization standards.

**Chair:**

**Rapporteur:**

**Speakers:**

**Workshop 2**

2

**Conflict of interest –  
the soft side of corruption**

The intersection between the public and private sector can create opportunities for bribery, but corruption does not always manifest as a financial crime. Conflict of interest occurs when private interest compromises public interest.

The workshop will define conflict of interest, discuss various regulatory approaches for managing conflict of interest, and discuss how conflict of interest manifests at the sector level.

**Chair:**

**Rapporteur:**

**Speakers:**

19:00

*Welcome dinner hosted by the Government of Singapore*

## Thursday, 27 November 2008

9:00 – 9:30 Refreshments

9:30 – 12:30 **Workshop session** (10:45–11:15 refreshments)

### Workshop 3

# 3

Ethical business practices:  
Corporate compliance  
programs and integrity systems

In the wake of numerous corporate scandals and an ever-changing regulatory environment, business leaders are becoming more and more aware of legal and reputational risks associated with fraud and corruption.

The workshop will discuss components of effective corporate compliance programs and tools that are available to assist businesses, large and small, to design and implement an appropriate integrity system. It will also examine the application of these systems in practice, including in relation to public procurement contracting.

**Chair:**

**Rapporteur:**

**Speakers:**

### Workshop 4

# 4

Working together to combat  
corruption: international and  
regional initiatives

Individual companies may not always be in the best position to withstand pressure to offer bribes. Regional and international initiatives provide a forum for private sector, public sector, and civil society actors to come together with a common goal of reducing vulnerability to corruption.

The workshop will present lessons learned and assess how international and regional initiatives contribute to raise awareness and commitment to fight corruption in the region.

**Chair:**

**Rapporteur:**

**Speakers:**

12:30 – 14:00 lunch

14:00 – 17:00 **Workshop session** (15:15–15:45 refreshments)

▲ **Workshop 5**

5

Private sector corruption: last piece of the puzzle

The general inclination is to think of corruption occurring involving private and state owned actors, in the case of influence peddling, offering and receiving bribes etc. However, corruption also occurs within the private sector. This corruption can be more difficult to address as it falls outside the remit of typical public sector integrity mechanisms.

The workshop will examine how corruption manifests in private-to-private transactions, tools, and options available to address this form of corruption and the linkages with the rule of law.

**Chair:**

**Rapporteur:**

**Speakers:**

▼ **Workshop 6**

6

Fighting corruption and the sustainable development agenda

The development community recognizes the profound harm that corruption inflicts on development, and particularly on the poor. A number of bilateral and multilateral donors with programs in Asia and the Pacific coordinate their efforts through the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Governance Network).

This workshop will focus on key corruption issues that impact on sustainable development in Asia-Pacific (e.g. in mineral extraction, oil and gas industries and forestry), and follow-up discussions at the 13th IACC in Athens. It will look at the issue of facilitation payments and how they weaken development. It will also discuss how donors incorporate anticorruption into the broader support for governance, and how they can support efforts aimed at ensuring business ethics as well as local and international efforts to deter the supply side of corruption.

**Chair:**

**Rapporteur:**

**Speakers:**

Evening Free

## Friday, 28 November 2008

09:00 – 09:30 Refreshments

### 9:30-11:00 Closing plenary

#### Part I: Report and conclusions from workshops

Rapporteurs from each of the six workshops will present issues identified during the workshop, the impact of these issues on anticorruption efforts and specific actions.

**Chair:** Asia-Pacific country

**Speakers:** Rapporteurs of workshops 1 to 6

11:00-11:30 Refreshments

### 11:30-12:30 Closing plenary

#### Part II: The way forward

- Presentation and discussion of the draft conference conclusions
- Adoption of conference conclusions and recommendations.

**Panel:** Singaporean Government

Carolyn Ervin, OECD

Kathleen Moktan, ADB

### 12:30 Closing remarks

Kathleen Moktan

Senior OECD representative

Senior Singaporean representative

## To whom it may concern:

Tuesday 17:00–18:00 Preparatory meeting for chairpersons, speakers, and panelists  
Venue: tbd

Thursday 17:00–18:00 Gathering of workshop chairs and rapporteurs