



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Asian Development Bank
in collaboration with the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center
and in partnership with the Office of the Ombudsman

Evaluating and Monitoring Anti-Corruption Reforms and Programs

High-level Event and Panel Discussion

March 21, 2016 | 8:30 am | Asian Development Bank | Auditorium B 6 ADB
Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

Background

Transparency, accountability and integrity are key determining factors for sustainable development. At the international level, 140 countries have signed the United Nations Convention on Anti-Corruption (UNCAC), and there are numerous initiatives from all parts of society to fight corruption.

Corruption is one of the main obstacles to sustainable development. Corruption and a lack of transparency in public revenues and spending undermine poverty alleviation efforts and democratic participation. Public resources are squandered instead of being used to promote sustainable development for all. The World Bank has estimated that bribery alone is costing the world 1 trillion US dollars every year.

Corruption creates legal uncertainty. By inflating costs, it holds back the development of the private sector, distorts competition, and deters investors. Corruption weakens political institutions and ultimately calls into question the legitimacy of the state. Disadvantaged sections of the population, particularly women and children, are worst hit. It makes it much harder and more expensive for them to access much needed public services such as basic education and health care. Corruption can be fuelled by inadequate control mechanisms and a lack of transparency and accountability.

Country-specific factors also play a part. It is often a country's rich reserves of natural resources such as oil, gas, minerals or timber that spawn large-scale corruption and non-transparency. In areas like infrastructure or the health sector, corruption can also stand in the way of development. Transparency International (TI) has found, for example, that

corruption seriously compromises an individual's right to health. In the end, corruption and non-transparency weaken progress towards sustainable development.

This is why the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015¹, mentions corruption as one major obstacle to development. Sustainable Development Goal 16 'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels' addresses the fight against corruption under Target 16.5 'Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms'.

Prevention of corruption in development cooperation is a major concern for all actors involved such as development partners, government agencies, private sector and civil society. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has elaborated a strategy on how to support partners in addressing corruption and integrity issues. Germany is helping development-oriented partner governments to rid government institutions of corruption and make public administration transparent, effective and responsive to the public's needs. In 1998, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) adopted an anticorruption policy postulating zero tolerance towards corruption and fraudulent and collusive practices in ADB operations.² ADB works to ensure that project implementation is not derailed by corrupt contractors/consultants and other, including government officials, and that outputs and funds go to the intended beneficiaries. ADB also conducts governance risks assessments at project, sector and country levels and mitigates corruption in cooperation with the government and other development partners.

Other development partners have developed similar approaches on how to support governments and civil society actors to address governance issues in order to achieve results of development efforts and make efficient use of national and international funding towards sustainable development.

The Philippines have signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2003 and became a State Party to the UNCAC after its ratification in 2006. A participatory country assessment in 2011-2012 with participation of civil society organizations resulted in the formulation of the 21 item action plan for UNCAC implementation with a strong participation of the civil society.

The Aquino Administration has made the fight against corruption one of its major thrusts. Since 2011 the government has gone after major corruption cases and created more trust in the functioning of the State. These efforts resulted in higher tax collection, increasing investment and a stable economic growth in the range of 6-7% over the last years. These results correspond with the country's ranking in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) that moved up from 94th in 2013 to 85th in 2014. However, in the CPI 2015, the Philippines slipped again to rank 95, lower than before. Corruption within the public sector remains a challenging issue within the Philippines. Following the Investment Climate Statement 2015, published by the US Department of State, corruption exists in all levels of the government, especially among high-level civil servants. Petty corruption and

¹ United Nations 2015: Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, A/RES/70/1

² ADB. 1998. *Anticorruption Policy*. Manila

facilitation payments are still prevalent as a daily feature perceived even normal by citizens. Specific enforcement-related problems include insufficiently transparent and unaccountable prosecution of crimes related to corruption and bribery, lacking capacity and collaboration of enforcement agencies, and a lack of public awareness on how and where to report cases if corruption as well as a lack of trust in governmental institutions. Notwithstanding several corruption charges have been filed against high-level public officials, none of them has been convicted until today.

In July 2014 the government’s efforts to fight corruption came under major questioning, when the Philippine Supreme Court ruled that President Aquino’s Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) - designed to speed up slow and inefficient government spending - was unconstitutional. Currently, the Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill, which would guarantee public disclosure of many official documents, is still pending and increased efforts are necessary to ensure its passing. The next presidential election will take place in May 2016 and anti-corruption policies will definitely play a role in the election campaigns of the competitors. A stock-taking on the successes and remaining challenges of anti-corruption efforts so far would widely benefit the decision-making for future action.

In this light, GIZ and the ADB in collaboration with the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center and in partnership with the Government of the Philippines’ Office of the Ombudsman, is organizing a high-level event with Panel discussion on ‘Evaluating and monitoring anti-corruption reforms and programmes’ to discuss how action against corruption and non-transparency can be most effectively maintained to ensure transparent, efficient and accountable governance towards sustainable development.

Participants

The event will include stakeholders from government and development partners, private sector and civil society who have an interest in efforts towards good governance and anti-corruption that assist the Philippines and other countries in the Asia and Pacific region in achieving objectives of anticorruption reforms and good governance ensuring accountability and wise use of resources towards inclusive economic development, ecological integrity and social benefits.

PROGRAM

08:00	Registration
08:30	Welcome Remarks David J. Binns, Director, Office of Anti-Corruption and Integrity, Asian Development Bank
08:40	Introduction TBD

	<p>Session 1: Anti-Corruption Reforms and Programs – The general picture towards good governance in public funding</p> <p>Facilitator: Bernd-Markus Liss, Focal Point Anti-Corruption, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Philippines</p>
08:50	<p>Key-Note Speech</p> <p>“Anti-Corruption Efforts in the Philippines – Sustaining the Gains and Moving Forward”</p> <p>Hon. Conchita Morales, Ombudsman of the Philippines</p>
09:20	<p>“Reforming a Government Agency Towards Integrity and Transparency – Ingredients of good governance and maintaining momentum”</p> <p>Raul C. Asis, Undersecretary Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippines</p>
09:40	<p>“Anti-Corruption Reforms and Programs – Monitoring and Evaluating Effectiveness”</p> <p>Elizabeth Hart, Development Consultant and Trainer on Governance, Anti-Corruption and Democracy, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center, Christian Michelsen University, Bergen, Norway</p>
10:15	Open Forum
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	<p>Session 2: Panel Discussion: Anti-Corruption Reforms and Programs – How to evaluate and monitor results-oriented implementation</p> <p>Facilitator: Gambhir Bhatta, Technical Advisor Governance, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jesus P. Estanislao, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Institute of Corporate Directors (topic: AC reforms – initiatives of the private sector and how to monitor effectiveness) ▪ Prospero E. de Vera, Professor National College of Public Administration and Vice Dean, University of the Philippines, Diliman (topic: Monitoring and evaluating AC reforms – the view of academe) ▪ Kate Henlon, Regional Programme Manager, Asia Pacific Department, Transparency International (topic: AC reforms – the role of TI and instruments for monitoring of AC) ▪ Civil Society Representative (Vince Lazatin, TAN, or Mahar Mangahas of Social Weather Station), Philippines (topic: Monitoring AC reforms – civil society monitoring approaches on governance, transparency integrity, accountability) ▪ Nick Gilauria, former Prime Minister of Georgia (topic: AC reforms in Georgia) ▪ NN, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Economic and Diplomacy Directorate, Transparency and AC Unit (topic: monitoring of AC reforms in UK bilateral cooperation)
12:00	Open Forum
12:30	Lunch