

Report on Public Integrity Network Meeting

The OECD reported on the Public Integrity Network meeting, which took place from 4-6 December 2020, as part of its 10th Regional Conference in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The meeting was supported by the Korea Policy Centre. The meeting focused on corruption prevention in infrastructure projects and advanced the debate on topics such as undue influence, policy capture, risk management, audit, data analytics and SDGs. Various country examples and cases from Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Cook Islands, Georgia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam further enriched the discussions and exchange of good practices. Through 6 thematic and interactive sessions, the meeting brought together over 100 participants from 25 countries – experts and leaders from government institutions, anti-corruption bodies, private sector, civil society organisations, and international organisations.

Consensus emerged around the following key findings and recommendations:

- (1) Corruption prevention in infrastructure projects is paramount for socio-economic development in Asia-Pacific and for achieving SDGs.
- (2) Corruption risks occur in every stage of the public investment cycle, as highlighted by the OECD Integrity Framework for Public Investment and the G20 Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Infrastructure Development.
- (3) Undue influence is a critical risk in the early stages of the public investment cycle, undermining the public interest.
- (4) A whole-of-government approach contributes to implementing integrity measures in a coherent way.
- (5) Robust public integrity legislation, anti-corruption strategies, and integrity policies serve as a foundation for mitigating corruption risks in infrastructure projects.
- (6) Transparency, disclosure of information and stakeholder involvement are key to improve accountability.
- (7) Audits are a critical tool for ensuring the integrity and value for money of large-scale public infrastructure projects.
- (8) Risk assessment and management has grown to become an essential part of managing infrastructure delivery as projects manage various risks and allocate resources to control activities using a risk-based approach.

-
- (9) Data analytics can provide objective measures of risk probabilities of potential corruption or fraud, and help managers to understand how past, present and emerging fraud and corruption risk schemes relate to current risk drivers and indicators.