

## SUMMARY REPORT

# 11<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

## From Pandemic to Recovery: Building Resilient Economies through Transparency, Integrity and Trust

9-11 May 2023 | Manila, Philippines

As countries recover from the far-reaching economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and grapple with post-pandemic economic uncertainty, rising interest rates and inflation, corruption threatens to undermine individual and collective efforts for recovery. Transparency, integrity, and trust are the building blocks to combat corruption and facilitate effective rebuilding and robust recovery in Asia and the Pacific.

It is in this context that the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific (ACI) held its 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference in Manila, Philippines, from 9 to 11 May 2023 with the theme “From Pandemic to Recovery: Building Resilient Economies through Transparency, Integrity and Trust.

Jointly organized by the ACI secretariat, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Organisation for Economic and Development Cooperation (OECD), the ACI Regional Conference brought together 132 participants from 18 ACI member and observer countries.

In the spirit of cooperation and inclusion, over three days, anti-corruption policymakers, law enforcement officials, representatives of the private sector, and civil society came together to discuss a wide range of topics, including providing safe avenues for reporting misconduct and protecting whistleblowers, assessing and mitigating corruption risks, incentivizing corporate compliance, law enforcement responses to corruption in crisis situations and effective asset seizure and recovery in transnational corruption. The conference examined lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis to provide actionable insights to contribute to sustainable and inclusive recovery in the region.

The conference included:

- Pre-conference meeting of the ACI Secretariat and ACI Advisory Group
- High-level Opening Ceremony and Plenary Panel on Whistleblower Protection
- Thematic sessions for Business Integrity Group (BIG) and Public Integrity Network (PIN)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asia and the Pacific Law Enforcement Network (LEN)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific Steering Group Meeting

### High-level Opening Remarks and Panel discussion

The conference commenced with opening remarks by Mr. John Versantvoort, Head of Office of Anti-Corruption and Integrity, ADB and Mr. Nicolas Pinaud, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD. As representatives of the ACI Co-Secretariat, Mr Versantvoort and Mr Pinaud highlighted that since 1999, ACI has provided a unique multi-stakeholder platform in Asia and the Pacific region focused on collaboration and inclusiveness of a diverse group of stakeholders with a common goal of utilizing peer-learning, mutual support and exchange of expertise while taking into account the geographical and developmental diversity of its members; demands on members’ human and financial resources; and the need to provide added-value in view of the functions and roles of other multilateral anti-corruption bodies.

Both noted that this year’s conference theme – *From Pandemic to Recovery: Building Resilient Economies through Transparency, Integrity and Trust* – is timely as the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are still being experienced by economies and societies worldwide. The pandemic and other crises bring to the fore the serious societal implications of corruption and reinforce the importance of initiatives like the ACI that bring together anti-corruption stakeholders to take stock of the challenges and lessons learned and promote good practices in integrity, business ethics and law enforcement to continue and strengthen the fight against corruption.

The High-level panel, moderated by Mr. Pinaud, provided a dialogue on the challenges of building trust and integrity and maintaining a transparent environment for resilient economic recovery after crises with leaders from the Asia Pacific region, including Mr. Rahul Singh, Additional Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, India Chair, G20 Anti-corruption Working Group, Mr. Heru Prasetyo, Chairman, Indonesia Business Links (IBL), former Director of International

Relation, Agency for Rehab and Recon Aceh and Nias, and Mr. John Versantvoort, Head of Office of Anti-Corruption and Integrity, ADB. The discussion commenced with a presentation on high-level commitments and priorities of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group 2023 India Presidency, followed by a concrete example of recovery and reconstruction after the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia. Participants also heard about multilateral development banks' practices to ensure transparency and integrity in the projects they finance.

### Plenary Panel: Whistleblower Protection Practices in Asia and the Pacific

This session discussed how whistleblower protection regimes vary greatly across countries. Many jurisdictions face challenges in harmonizing protection across public and private sectors. Panelists Mr. Mark Worth, Founder and Executive Director, Whistleblowing International, European Center for Whistleblower Rights, Mr. Suk-hoon Jang, Deputy Director and Inspector, Whistleblower Protection Department, Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission, Korea, and Mr. Rohan Schaap, Director, Investigations Division, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, ADB shared their experience in ensuring adequate safeguards and detailed the protection frameworks in their jurisdictions. The session examined Korea's commendable whistleblower protection framework but also took a critical look at the challenges in whistleblower protection, such as ensuring anonymity, identifying and addressing retaliation measures, and incentivizing reporting.

Key takeaways:

- Whistleblowing is one of the most effective means to expose and remedy corruption, and the effective protection of whistleblowers is central to both government and business in promoting integrity and the fight against corruption.
- While there have been substantial developments in whistleblower legislation in some countries, many challenges exist in protecting whistleblowers/reporting persons. A well-designed regulatory framework in both public and private sectors is essential for whistleblower protection.
- The OECD 2021 Recommendation recommends that member countries establish strong and effective legal and institutional frameworks to protect and/or to provide remedy against any retaliatory action to persons working in the private or public sector who report on reasonable grounds suspected acts of bribery.
- Discussions touched upon different ways that can be used to encourage reporting: shifting the burden of proof on retaliating persons to prove that such allegedly adverse action against a reporting person was not in retaliation for having blown the whistle, providing a broad definition of retaliation to allow protection against a range of actions that result in reputational, professional, financial, social, psychological, and physical harm, considering the provision of financial incentives to encourage reporting.
- Building trust, together with a culture of transparency and integrity in which individuals are encouraged to speak up, is crucial to establishing a just and enabling environment for whistleblowers.

### Business Integrity Group Meeting

The 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference included the second Business Integrity Meeting of ACI, following its successful establishment as a permanent workstream at the 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference in 2019, held in Hanoi, Viet Nam. Representatives of government anti-corruption agencies and the private sector, including business associations and companies compliance officers, international organizations, civil society, and private-sector-led anti-corruption initiatives attended the meeting.

### Collective Action Initiatives

The first session discussed collective action initiatives, a multi-stakeholder approach to address corruption challenges and raise standards of integrity and fair competition in business. Moderated by Ms. Vanessa Hans, Head of Private Sector, Basel Institute on Governance, the session examined experiences from business-

to-business collaboration with panelists Mr. Mark Lovatt, Co-founder & Secretary General, Business Integrity Alliance in Malaysia and Mr. Phrommet Bencharongkit, Vice President, Thailand Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC) and considered how business organizations and professional associations in the region raise integrity awareness and help companies implement measures against corruption. From the government's perspective, Mr. Liu Wei, Senior Inspector, National Commission of Supervision, People's Republic of China, presented China's efforts in promoting business integrity by improving the national legal framework, strengthening compliance in State-owned enterprises, and enhancing international cooperation.

### ***Business Integrity: Getting the Incentives right, especially for SMEs***

Ms. Tricia Van Orden, Acting Director, US Department of Commerce and Coordinator of APEC SMEs Ethics Initiative moderated this session. The panelists were Ms. Elodie Beth, Senior Manager, Anti-corruption, Global Relations, Anti-Corruption Division, OECD, Ms. Mary Lau, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre, Community Relations Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong, China, Ms. Emily Jeffery, Assistant Director, Attorney General's Department of Australia and Ms. Verity Le Maitre, Team Leader Corporate Crime & Foreign Bribery, Australian Federal Police, Australia. They discussed practical toolkits, experiences and challenges in incentivizing companies, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to introduce anti-corruption measures into their operations, and the role of different actors such as governments, business associations and large companies in better supporting SMEs in preventing corruption.

The second day of the meeting was a half-day break-out group session to deep dive into three main thematic discussions: government incentives for business integrity, collective action – peer learning exercise, and risk assessment for the private sector. Participants shared in-depth perspectives on their respective national anti-corruption and business integrity practices on the topic, identified common challenges, and proposed a set of proposals to facilitate enhanced collaboration in the region.

#### **Business Integrity key takeaways:**

- Business integrity efforts cannot be driven by the private sector solely. This requires an effort across government, companies, private sector companies and associations, public/private partnerships, and society at large, with solutions being co-created with different stakeholders.
- International standards such as the UNCAC, the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and the 2021 Anti-Bribery Recommendation provide useful frameworks for promoting business integrity.
- Companies can play a fundamental role in driving anti-corruption efforts and demanding a fairer business environment by complying with business integrity and anti-corruption regulations, joining collective actions, and holding their government accountable to prevent and fight corruption.
- Supply chain integrity and transparency are essential for sustainable development and a resilient economy. However, companies, especially SMEs, have different levels of resources or capacity to develop, implement, and maintain adequate compliance measures. Anti-corruption agencies, civil societies, and other economic actors such as SOEs and MNEs could support SMEs in this sense.
- Government incentives are a strong driver for business integrity. A clear set of expectations and incentives from the government could support companies to act more responsibly and transparently and contribute to promoting a level playing field.
- Market incentives are also essential for behavioural change. The economic case for business integrity, its benefits in terms of investment, and sustainable growth, both for economies and businesses, should be clear and supported by evidence. Mobilizing businesses as change agents, for example, through value chains, is a key support mechanism.
- Regional anti-corruption platforms such as the ACI play an important role in facilitating public-private dialogue for anti-corruption efforts, including cross-country, cross-sector knowledge sharing, legislative review, capacity building and raising standards in Asia and the Pacific region.

## Report on the Public Integrity Network Meeting

The Public Integrity Network (PIN) held three sessions over two days, each aimed at supporting public sector institutions from Asia and the Pacific region to collectively tackle common challenges in corruption prevention and advance public integrity. These sessions featured seven esteemed panelists representing various countries and organizations who shared valuable insights on promoting accountability and integrity in Asia and the Pacific.

### *Assessing Integrity Risks in Public Sector Organizations*

The first PIN session focused on establishing a comprehensive system for managing integrity risks within government personnel, with a particular focus on the context of global or regional crises such as COVID-19. Recognizing that public trust in government is crucial for successful intervention and mitigation efforts, this session delved into diverse strategies to fortify integrity within the public sector during times of crisis. Noteworthy measures discussed by the panelists included recruitment screening, value-based hiring practices, ongoing asset declarations, psychometric testing, and covert checks.

The three PIN panelists, Mr. K.C. Woo, Corruption Prevention Department, Hong Kong, China, Ms. Lisa Kelaart-Courtney, Office of Anticorruption, and Integrity, ADB and Mr. Wahyu Dewantara Susilo, Corruption Eradication Commission for the Republic of Indonesia (KPK), shared their expertise concerning integrity risks in public sector organizations as well as providing examples of good practice in this area.

Key takeaways:

- Mr. K.C. Woo highlighted the profound significance of fostering enduring partnerships between the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and public sector organizations. He emphasized the Early Prevention Strategy implemented by the ICAC, which encompasses various proactive measures such as providing early advice, conducting meticulous reviews, ensuring continuous monitoring, and disseminating corruption prevention guides. Additionally, Mr. Woo touched upon using ICAC's "best practice" checklists to fortify integrity and accountability standards.
- Mr. Susilo elucidated the Integrity Assessment Survey conducted by Indonesia's Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). This survey comprehensively maps the risks and prevalence of corruption within all public institutions, including ministries, organizations, and regional governments, thus accurately reflecting the overall integrity landscape in Indonesia. Building upon the survey findings, specific areas of risk and areas for improvement can be identified, subsequently leading to the formulation of appropriate recommendations. Mr. Susilo exemplified how, in the wake of the most recent survey, the KPK has prioritized four distinct and impactful dimensions: Trading in Influence, HR Management, Anti-Corruption Socialization, and Service Transparency and Fairness.
- Similarly, Ms. Kelaart-Courtney elaborated on the subject providing insight on why assessing risks in public sector organizations is crucial and how to implement an efficient compliance program, including the importance of having a strong anti-corruption culture. Pillars of such programs and their foundations, designed to enable organizations to identify and address corruption risks that may arise and the appropriate integrity compliance program based on the nature, scale, size and type of operations including considering based on their business activities, geographies and sectors in which they operate, and the type of clients they have, were discussed.

### *Protecting the Independence of Key Authorities in the Integrity Framework*

A fundamental aspect of any robust integrity system is ensuring key authorities' operational independence and autonomy for addressing risks and breaches. This session underscored the significance of implementing safeguards to preserve the independence of various vital integrity functions. Distinguished speakers such as Ms. Emily O'Hara, Assistant Director, Attorney General's Department, Australia and Mr. Wangay Dorji, Director, Anti-Corruption Commission of Bhutan, discussed the importance of independent transparency functions, including anti-corruption agencies, ad hoc anti-corruption taskforces, and inquiries. Their insightful contributions shed new light on this critical aspect of maintaining integrity.

Examples of good practices for protecting the independence of key authorities included:

- From the Bhutanese standpoint, Mr. Dorji elucidated how the Anti-Corruption Commission perceives independence, encompassing a comprehensive range of factors. These factors include the authority to investigate allegations, the provision of appropriate training and resources to carry out tasks effectively, the allocation of a suitable budget, and the availability of adequate financial resources to remunerate staff. Drawing upon the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies as a reference point, Mr. Dorji delved into five key areas of institutional independence: the Institution itself, Human Resources, Leadership, Financial Resources and Oversight. Furthermore, he elaborated on fundamental principles such as External and Internal Accountability, financial autonomy, immunity, and mandate. Relating these principles to Bhutan's Anti-Corruption Commission, he concluded that while the ACC enjoys structural independence and remains free from political influence, it still relies on other entities within the Royal Government for financial support and Human Resources.
- Ms. O'Hara shared insights from the experience of establishing the Australian National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). She highlighted specific mechanisms ensuring independence, such as the discretion granted to handle matters, conduct investigations, and maintain security through the tenure of the Anti-Corruption Commissioners. Ms. Jeffrey also outlined key mechanisms for accountability within the NACC, including oversight by a joint parliamentary committee, oversight by an inspector, and the practice of public reporting throughout the integrity process.

### **Assessing Conflict of Interest Management Systems**

The final PIN session addressed the escalating concern regarding the influence of private interests on government decision-making processes. It emphasized the paramountcy of effective conflict of interest management systems to mitigate this risk. The session also featured a presentation on the OECD standard, the *2003 Recommendation on Conflict of Interest*, which provided valuable context regarding the benchmarks of good practice in this realm.

Speakers Ms. Songmi Lee, Deputy Director, The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Korea and Ms. Nikola Sandoval, Programme Coordinator Asia Pacific, Transparency International, discussed modernizing the approach for managing conflict of interest, as well as striking a balance between public and private so that systems are workable and relevant.

The panel highlighted some key developments as well as provided a range of tools to implement conflict of interest systems:

- Ms. Lee comprehensively described the Korean Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants. This legislation is specifically formulated to proficiently administer and regulate situations of conflict of interest that public servants encounter during their official duties. The Act encompasses all public officials serving in various public institutions and incorporates extensive mechanisms aimed at precluding conflicts of interest. These mechanisms include restrictions on engaging in external activities related to their official duties and the mandatory submission of records detailing the private sector engagements of high-ranking officials. Such provisions exemplify best practices in conflict-of-interest prevention. The primary objectives of the legislation are proactively averting the pursuit of personal benefits by public officials, effectively managing conflicts of interest faced by high-ranking officials more prone to encountering such situations, and restoring domestic and international confidence in the public office in Korea.
- Representing Transparency International, Ms. Sandoval presented an outline of the organization's strategic plans for 2030, which aim to facilitate the implementation of efficient conflict of interest management systems. These plans include advancing institutional checks and balances, expediting enforcement of anti-corruption standards, and promoting social oversight to safeguard the collective welfare. Additionally, Ms. Sandoval discussed a variety of tools available through the TI Knowledge Hub and helpdesk to support the establishment of conflict-of-interest systems. These resources include topic guides on conflicts of interest, comprehensive overviews of conflicts of interest offenses, and integrity pledges.

## Report on the 5th Asia and the Pacific Law Enforcement Network

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asia and the Pacific Law Enforcement Network (LEN) occurred over two days, 10-11 May 2023. It was the first in-person meeting since the pandemic and was attended by 31 participants from 16 ACI members and observer countries. The meeting provided a platform for law enforcement practitioners to exchange experience, establish professional contacts, learn from each other, and enhance cooperation in combating corruption in Asia and the Pacific region. The network focuses on real-life experience in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases, and participation is limited to law enforcement practitioners to facilitate candid and practice-oriented discussions. The ACI co-secretariat chaired the meeting, which was supported by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the U.S. Department of State.

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Ms. April Snedeker, Anti-Corruption Program Advisor in the Office of Global Programs and Policy of the INL at the U.S. Department of State, highlighting the importance of heightened vigilance in combatting corruption in crisis situations. She outlined the project the Anti-Corruption Division of the OECD, with the support of the US INL, has been undertaking since 2020 to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officials to combat corruption during the COVID-19 pandemic and to develop practical guidelines to strengthen the law enforcement response to future emergencies.

The first session was on the role of investigative units of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in combating corruption with a presentation by Mr. Chiawen Kiew, Advisor to the Head of the Office of Anti-Corruption at the ADB Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) on the role of MDBs in detecting, investigating, and sanctioning corrupt practices and cooperation with national law enforcement agencies. This session examined ADB's legal and procedural framework for carrying out administrative investigations into alleged integrity violations in ADB-related activities and the available sanctions, noting these are limited by ADB's mandate and investigative means. The session also examined the relevant considerations for referral to national authorities, emphasizing that referral is discretionary, subject to due process and public interest considerations, and conducted through diplomatic channels. Mr. Kiew's presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the precise role of MDBs and the avenues for cooperation, highlighting the difference in administrative and criminal investigations and reinforcing that national authorities should conduct their own thorough investigations of alleged corruption or fraud in MDB-funded projects with the full extent of the investigative powers available to them.

The meeting then focused on law enforcement responses to corruption in emergencies. Case studies were presented by Mr. Sabuhi Aliyev, Head of Preventative Measures and Inquiry Department at the Anti-Corruption Directorate of Azerbaijan, Ms. Pattraporn Leelahawong and Ms. Kusumal Orachorn, Inquiry Officers, at the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand, and Mr. Tessa Sugiarto, Senior Investigator, at the Corruption Eradication Commission for the Republic of Indonesia. The case studies illustrated corruption cases related to emergency public procurement, relief packages, and the health sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as preventative measures. They provided the context for a broader group discussion on the challenges and solutions of investigating and prosecuting corruption during a crisis, enabling participants to share their experiences and engage in peer learning on topics such as preventative risk assessments, information sharing among domestic agencies, uncooperative witnesses, remote interviewing, special investigative techniques, and dealing with pressure to conclude cases or divert resources. In the second part of the session, the OECD Law Enforcement Responses to Corruption in Emergencies Practical Guidelines were discussed, highlighting good practices and key recommendations for detecting, investigating, and prosecuting corruption during emergencies from the OECD's research and information gathered from other regional and global law enforcement initiatives.

The final session of day one explored the challenges and experiences of countries in asset seizure and recovery in transnational corruption investigations with presentations by Mr. Ce Wang, Inspector at the National Commission Of Supervision of China, Mr. Kobus Cheung, Forensic Accountant at the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong, China and Mr. Jeffrey A. Alejo, Attorney and Bank Officer V at the Investigation and Enforcement Department of the Anti-Money Laundering Council of the Philippines. The Panellists outlined specific features of their legal systems in Asset Recovery. Mr. Ce Wang provided an overview of the Special Confiscation Procedures applicable to corruption and money laundering offenses

where an accused is dead or has absconded and highlighted some of the challenges in recovering proceeds of crime across borders. Similarly, Mr. Cheung gave an overview of the legal framework in Hong Kong, China and used recent case examples to demonstrate some of the legal and procedural complexities of confiscating proceeds of crime concealed by complex cross-border schemes. Mr. Jeffrey A. Alejo explained the Philippines' legal system, which provides for both civil and criminal confiscation of money or property related to unlawful activity, including assets of equal value.

The second meeting day was a half-day workshop moderated by Ms. Verity Le Maitre, Team Leader of the Corporate Crime and Foreign Bribery Unit of the Australian Federal Police, on conducting remote corruption and fraud investigations in crisis situations. Participants heard a presentation by Mr. Kelden Jamtsho, Deputy Chief Legal Officer at the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bhutan, on some of the legal and procedural changes introduced in Bhutan during the pandemic, including remote judicial proceedings and interviews, as well as other innovative and efficient practices such as desk review of cases and thematic training when ACA personnel were subject to lockdowns. He also gave an overview of a COVID-19 corruption case demonstrating how the remote measures worked in practice. Mr. Nusserwan N. Talati, Principal Integrity Specialist at the OAI of the ADB also gave a presentation on the challenges of investigating serious integrity violations, including in fragile and conflict-affected situations and small island developing states and how the OAI is adapting to those challenges and seeking new sources of evidence and harnessing new technologies. Participants then split into smaller groups where they were given specific topics and questions for discussion and an opportunity to share lessons learned from the pandemic and other crises and identify good practices and technologies to improve efficiency and enhance prosecution outcomes. The discussion centered on detection and investigation, procedural and legal changes, international cooperation, and multijurisdictional cases.

Participants were provided networking opportunities to exchange information, discuss specific cases, and share contacts throughout the meeting. The future direction of the LEN was also discussed with the group, including the nomination of a chair or co-chairs and volunteers for the next host country and topics for future meetings.

Key takeaways from the discussion included:

- the importance of maintaining and sharing a contact list,
- support for the chair/co-chair model as in other OECD regional networks,
- an annual in-person event, and
- collaboration with other regional bodies.

The topics suggested for future meetings were best practices in corruption detection, investigation and prosecution, asset tracing and virtual assets, new technologies, financial investigations, corruption typologies, and corruption-related money laundering.



## Report on the ACI 25<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting

The 25<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting was held on 11 May 2023, attended by participants from member and observer countries and economies of the ACI, members of the ACI Advisory Group, and private sector representatives. The Steering Group Meeting was instrumental in setting a direction for ACI's future activities. Member countries, observers and partners were invited to share their contributions to the strategic development of the ACI.

Prior to the Meeting, a survey was made available to participants to collect input and feedback to assist the ACI Secretariat and ACI Advisory Group in developing the Program of Work for 2023-2026 and identifying thematic topics for capacity building, and modalities for the governance of the three workstreams (PIN, LEN and BI). The survey sought feedback on a proposal for a co-chair model for each workstream, which will also shape the current Steering Group model. It proposes the establishment of a Technical Assistance and Training Forum (TA&TF) whose purpose is to identify the TA&T needs of ACI members and to facilitate the coordination and delivery of assistance. The TA&TF will aim also to collate and distribute information about other technical assistance activities in the region, monitor changes in thematic approach, and assist in stimulating technical assistance for donor coordination. Finally, the survey seeks to find out the topics of interest to ACI members and observers either thematically across all network groups or specific to a network group.

Initial findings of the survey showed a high level of support for annual capacity building activities and the co-chairmanship proposal. Survey participants identified virtual assets, asset freezing and recovery, whistleblowing and building/implementing risk assessments as capacity building thematic workshops of interest. In addition, Steering group members requested to further develop knowledge-based products on topics such as assessing the efficiency of compliance programs, the use of new technologies including artificial intelligence in anticorruption prevention and eradication, including in investigation and prosecution. ACI members also expressed interest in developing a compendium of regional anti-corruption and integrity case studies.

The meeting also welcomed member-led proposals to enhance capacity building activities for anti-corruption in the region. In particular, the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption presented on the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Academy which offers training courses for anti-corruption experts.

The survey results will be analyzed by the co-secretariat and reported back to the Steering Group and Advisory Group members in Q3 2023.