

AGENDA

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

9-11 May 2023 | Manila, Philippines

11th REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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

◆ Background information

About the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

The [Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific](#) (ACI), established in 1999, provides a regional forum for policy makers, practitioners, experts, and private sector representatives to exchange practices and experiences in anti-corruption and business integrity efforts. The Initiative is joined by 34 member economies in the Asia and the Pacific and operated under the joint Secretariat of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The Initiative is mandated to support the member governments' efforts through 1) policy dialogue and sharing anti-corruption best practices at the regional meetings and conferences, 2) policy analysis, including thematic reviews and stocktaking, and 3) corruption prevention and law enforcement capacity development activities. The ACI's three workstreams include: the Public Integrity Network (PIN), the Law Enforcement Network (LEN), and Business Integrity (BI).

About the 11th Regional Conference of the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

The ADB and OECD are organising the 11th Regional Conference at the Asian Development Bank's Headquarters in Manila, Philippines on 09-11 May 2023 under the theme "From Pandemic to Recovery: Building Resilient Economies through Transparency, Integrity and Trust".

The ACI Regional Conference will bring together government anti-corruption policy makers, investigators, prosecutors, law enforcers, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil societies of the member countries to sharpen their policies and practical instruments in fighting corruption and promoting transparency, integrity and trust to promote resilient economies. More specifically, the 11th Regional Conference will be structured as follows:

- High-level Opening Ceremony and Plenary Panel
- Thematic sessions on business integrity and Public Integrity Network (PIN)
- Law Enforcement Network (LEN)
- 25th Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia Pacific Steering Group Meeting

Participants are invited to join discussions throughout the three-day conference. Only participation in the meeting of the LEN is restricted to law enforcement practitioners (investigators and prosecutors).

	Arrival & Welcoming Day – 8 th May 2023	Day 1 – 9 th May 2023	Day 2 – 10 th May 2023		Day 3 – 11 th May 2023	
09:00-12:30	Informal group meetings as required	High-Level Opening Ceremony Plenary Panel: Whistle blower protection in Asia Pacific	Business Integrity (cont.)	Law Enforcement Network (closed meeting)	Public Integrity (cont.)	Law Enforcement Network (closed meeting)
14:00-17:30		Business Integrity	Public Integrity	Law Enforcement Network (closed meeting)	25 th Steering Group Meeting	
17:30 – 20:00		Welcome drinks Networking session				

◆ Meeting Venue and Logistics

The 11th Regional Conference will take place in Manila at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters, located 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Metro Manila, Philippines.

◆ Contact

Asia Pacific Anti-Corruption Initiative Secretariat

anticorruptioninitiativesecretariat@adb.org

Agenda¹

High-Level Opening Ceremony and Plenary Panel | 09 May 2023

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

**09:00 -10:30 Opening Ceremony and High-Level Session:
From Pandemic to Recovery: Building Resilient Economies through
Transparency, Integrity and Trust**

09:00 – 09:15

Opening Remarks

- Mr. John Versantvoort, Head of Office of Anti-Corruption and Integrity, ADB
- Mr. Nicolas Pinaud, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

09:15 – 10:30

High-level Session

The Asia and the Pacific region is a major engine of the global economy. However, countries are still recovering from the economic and social aftermath of the pandemic and medium-term uncertainty remains high in a context of rising inflation. Corruption and a lack of integrity risk undermining individual and collective efforts for recovery, harming citizens, business, and trust in government. Corruption is considered as the highest risk faced when doing business according to an OECD/UNDP survey with companies in South East Asia. A strong resolve to mobilise the private and the public sector as partners is therefore essential to tackle corruption issues and promote an enabling environment for doing business and attracting investment.

Through a dialogue with leaders from the Asia Pacific region, this opening session will identify challenges in building trust, integrity and maintaining a transparent environment for resilient economic recovery in the region and take stock of lessons learned during the COVID-19 crisis.

Moderator: Mr. Nicolas Pinaud, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Panellists:

- Mr. Rahul Singh, Additional Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, India Chair, G20 Anti-corruption Working Group²
- Mr. Heru Prasetyo, Chairman, Indonesia Business Links (IBL), former Director Of International Relation, Agency for Rehab and Recon Aceh and Nias
- Mr. John Versantvoort, Head of Office of Anti-Corruption and Integrity, ADB

10:30 – 11:00

Tea and coffee break

¹ Agenda is subject to refinement and will be published as updated by the ACI secretariat

² The speaker will participate online

11:00 – 12:15

Plenary Panel: Whistleblower Protection Practices in Asia and the Pacific

Whistleblowing is one of the most effective means to expose and remedy corruption. The effective protection of whistleblowers is thus central to both government and business in promoting integrity and in the fight against corruption. The need for effective protection of whistleblowers is recognised in numerous international instruments, including the [United Nations Convention Against Corruption \(UNCAC\)](#) and the OECD [2021 Anti-Bribery Recommendation](#). Protective regimes, however, vary greatly across countries and many jurisdictions face challenges in harmonising protection across public and private sectors.

The OECD 2021 Anti-Bribery Recommendation recognises the essential role of whistleblowers as a source of detection of foreign bribery cases and suggests countries adopt strong and effective legal and institutional frameworks to protect whistleblowers both in the public and private sectors.

This plenary session welcomes participants from the public and private sectors, law enforcement and civil society to discuss whistleblower protection frameworks in Asia and the Pacific countries. Participants will discuss issues in protecting whistleblowers, including practical challenges such as ensuring anonymity, identifying and addressing retaliatory measures and incentivising reporting.

Participants are encouraged to provide the Secretariat with anonymized case studies that can be discussed during the session.

Moderator: Ms. Elodie Beth, Senior Manager, Anti-corruption, Global Relations, Anti-corruption Division, OECD

Panellists:

- 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
- Mr. Rohan Schaap, Director, Investigations Division, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, ADB

12:15 -14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30

Session 1 on Business Integrity: Collective action initiatives

Collective action initiatives are a multi-stakeholder approach to address corruption challenges and raise standards of integrity and fair competition in business.

The OECD 2021 Anti-Bribery Recommendation is the first international standard that explicitly mentions collective action and recommends that countries consider fostering, facilitating, engaging, or participating in anti-bribery collective action initiatives with private and public sector representatives, as well as civil society organisations.

The session will discuss business-to-business collaboration, in particular how business organisations and professional associations in the region help companies implement measures against corruption. The session will also look at the experience of individual companies in promoting integrity in the value chain. Finally, the session will explore how governments facilitate and encourage collective action initiatives. The discussion will build on the outcomes of the 2022 B20 Summit in Indonesia.

Moderator: Ms. Vanessa Hans, Head of Private Sector, Basel Institute on Governance

Panellists:

- Mr. Mark Lovatt, Co-founder & Secretary General, Business Integrity Alliance
- Mr. Phrommet Bencharongkit, Vice President, Thailand Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC)
- Mr. Liu Wei, Senior Inspector, National Commission of Supervision, China

15:30 -16:00

Afternoon tea and coffee

16:00-17:15

Session 2 on Business Integrity: Getting the incentives right, especially for SMEs

60% of companies surveyed during the pandemic reported being concerned with being directly or indirectly associated with at least one sustainability risk, with corruption being the most frequently cited concern (according to the OECD/UNDP study with ASEAN companies on [Responsible Business Conduct and Anti-corruption Compliance in South East Asia](#)).

However, companies do not necessarily have anti-corruption compliance measures and programmes in place. This is particularly true for small and medium-sized enterprises that often have less capacities and resources to adopt these measures, which makes them particularly vulnerable during global crises.

This session will discuss ways that companies, including SMEs, can be incentivised to introduce anti-corruption compliance measures and the role of different actors, including governments, business organisations and large companies in better supporting SMEs in preventing and fighting corruption.

The session will build on the findings from the [Toolkit for raising awareness and preventing corruption in SMEs](#) and the OECD [studies on Corporate Anti-Corruption Compliance Drivers, Mechanisms, and Ideas for Change](#).

Moderator: Ms. Tricia Van Orden, Acting Director, US Department of Commerce and Coordinator of APEC SMEs Ethics Initiative

Panellists:

- 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 Special Administrative Region, China
- Ms. Emily Jeffery, Assistant Director, Attorney General Department, Attorney General of Australia and Ms. Verity Le Maitre, Team Leader Corporate Crime & Foreign Bribery, Australian Federal Police, Australia

17:30-19:30

Welcome drinks and networking session

Day 2 | 10 May 2023

9:30-10:30	<p>Breakout groups on business integrity: Thematic discussions</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>The participants will be divided into separate discussion groups to share their experiences, the challenges faced and ideas for improvement in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government incentives for promoting business integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moderator: Ms. Elodie Beth, Senior Manager, Anti-corruption, Global Relations, Anti-Corruption Division, OECD • Collective action initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moderator: Ms. Vanessa Hans, Head of Private Sector, Basel Institute on Governance • Integrity risk assessments in the private sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moderator: Mr. Ryan Evangelista, Country Director, Center for International Private Enterprise, Philippines <p>Morning tea and coffee</p>
11:00-12:00	<p>Reporting back and conclusions on business integrity: Thematic discussions</p>
	<p>Following the group discussions, a nominated speaker from the break out group will report to the plenary on the conclusions reached by their discussion group.</p> <p>Conclusions by the moderator</p>
12:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	<p>Session 3 on Assessing integrity risks in public sector organisations (Public Integrity Network)</p>
Overview	<p>In the context of COVID-19 and other such global or regional crises, trust in government was essential for successful interventions and mitigation efforts. Authorities should have risk-based measures in place to ensure high-levels of integrity by their staff. The system of integrity risk management for personnel can include a range of tools including recruitment screening and value-based hiring, ongoing asset declarations, psychometric testing and covert checks. Furthermore, evidence from past recessions has shown that economic downturns lead to increased occupational fraud, embezzlement, bribery of public officials, and other integrity violations due to a number of factors including financial pressure, opportunity and rationalization. Inadequate mitigation of these risks can corrode public confidence and trust required for recovery. This session will cover strategies to strengthen integrity in the public sector in times of crises.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Alice Berggrun, Policy Analyst, OECD</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lisa Kelaart-Courtney, Director Prevention and Compliance Division, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, ADB

- Mr. K.C. Woo, Principal Corruption Prevention Officer of the Corruption Prevention Department, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China
- Mr. Wahyu Dewantara Susilo, Research and Monitoring Specialist, KPK, Indonesia

Panel discussion to conclude session.

15:30 – 16:00

Afternoon tea and coffee

16:00 - 17:15

Session 4: Protecting the Independence of Key Authorities in the Integrity Framework (Public Integrity Network)

Overview

In order to have a healthy integrity system, key authorities in that system need to have adequate operational independence and autonomy to address integrity breaches or risks. ACI members and observers to discuss developments and safeguards in place to protect the independence of a range of key integrity functions including anti-corruption agencies, internal and supreme audit institutions, ethics or political finance commissions, ad hoc anti-corruption taskforces or inquiries, and other transparency functions.

Moderator:

- Ms. Alice Berggrun, Policy Analyst, OECD

Panellists:

- Ms. Emily Jeffery, Assistant Director, Attorney General Department, Attorney General of Australia
- Mr. Wangay Dorji, Director, Anti-corruption Commission, Bhutan

Panel discussion to conclude session.

Day 3 | 11 May 2023

9:30 - 11:00

Session 5: Assessing conflict of interest management systems (Public Integrity Network)

Overview

Developing concern about the influence of private interests on governments decisions has called for governments to safeguard integrity within official decision-making procedures. Having effective conflict of interest management systems in place is imperative because if they are not recognized or monitored accordingly, they can threaten government integrity, fall short of citizen expectations and harm trust. The purpose of conflict of interest management systems is not absolute exclusion of all private-capacity interests on the part of public officials, rather it is about striking a balance so that these systems are workable and relevant. The panel will help countries to modernise their approach for managing conflict of interest by mapping “at risk” areas and positions within the public service, as well as providing a range of tools to implement competent conflict of interest systems.

Moderator:

- Ms. Alice Berggrun, Policy Analyst, OECD

The OECD will also conduct a presentation of the [OECD standard](#), the 2003 Recommendation on Conflict of Interest.

Panellists:

- Ms. Songmi Lee, Deputy Director, The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Korea
- Ms. Nikola Sandoval, Programme Coordinator Asia Pacific, Transparency International

Panel Discussion to conclude session.

11:00- 11:30 Morning tea and coffee

11:30 – 12:35

Steering Group Meeting: Takeaways from the conference and proposals for the 2023-25 Program of Work of the Anti-corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

All countries and partners to the Anti-corruption initiative are invited to share key takeaways from the conference and provide ideas and proposals for shaping the 2023-25 Program of Work of the Anti-corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific.

Tour de table with all member countries to the Initiative and advisory group members

Member countries will also be informed about new relevant initiatives in the region, such as the setting up of an International Anti-corruption Academy by the Hong Kong Independent Commission against Corruption.

12:35 – 12:45

Closing ceremony

Concluding remarks by the Secretariat

5th Meeting of the Asia and the Pacific Law Enforcement Network (LEN)

Parallel meeting (restricted)

Day 1 | 10 May 2023

09:00 – 09:30	Welcome and introduction
	<p>Welcome and introduction to the 5th Meeting of the Asia and the Pacific Law Enforcement Network (LEN).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Graeme Seed, Principal Integrity Specialist, Prevention and Compliance Division, ADB • Ms. Corinna de Vathaire de Guerchy, Anti-Corruption Analyst, Anti-Corruption Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD • Ms. April Snedeker, Anti-Corruption Program Advisor, US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, United States³
09:30 – 10:15	Presentation by the ADB Office of Anti-Corruption and Integrity on the role of investigative units of Multilateral Development Banks in combatting corruption
	<p>Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) can play an important role in combatting corruption at the national and transnational levels, including by supporting countries with effective integrity safeguards and co-operating with national law enforcement authorities through their investigation units. Representatives of the ADB Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) will discuss their role in detecting, investigating and sanctioning corrupt practices, including debarment and cross-debarment.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Graeme Seed, Principal Integrity Specialist, Prevention and Compliance Division, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, ADB <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chiawen Kiew, Advisor to the Head of the Office of Anti-Corruption and Integrity, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, ADB
10:15 – 11:00	Networking opportunity (includes morning tea and coffee)
	<p>This session is designed as an informal networking session and will allow participants to meet each other, share information about the institutional and legal features of their jurisdictions and discuss concrete cases where they seek assistance from each other.</p>

³ The speaker will participate online.

11:00 – 12:30

Law Enforcement Responses to Corruption in Crisis Situations
Part 1: Case studies

The Anti-Corruption Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/ACD) launched a project in September 2020 to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement practitioners to combat corruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergency situations. The initiative is supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

The OECD/ACD conducted a series of peer learning webinars and meetings for law enforcement practitioners in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean on topics including (i) emergency procurement and stimulus packages, (ii) whistleblower reporting and protection, and (iii) interagency cooperation and coordination at the national and international levels.

This session will focus on typologies of corruption during the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies, challenges and experiences of countries in detecting, investigating and prosecuting individual cases through presentations of real-life case studies. In particular, the session will discuss corruption cases related to emergency public procurement distribution of relief packages, corruption in the health sector, inter-agency and international cooperation and the use of technology in such cases.

Moderator:

- Ms. Corinna de Vathaire de Guerchy, Anti-Corruption Analyst, Anti-Corruption Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Panellists:

- Mr. Sabuhi Aliyev, Head of Preventative Measures and Inquiry Department, Anti-Corruption Directorate, Azerbaijan
- Ms. Patraporn Leelahawong, Inquiry Officer, and Ms. Kusumal Orachorn, Inquiry Officer, Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand
- Mr. Tessa M Sugiarto, Senior Investigator, Corruption Eradication Commission for the Republic of Indonesia, Indonesia

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:00

Law Enforcement Responses to Corruption in Crisis Situations
Part 2: Practical Guidelines

In consultation with law enforcement practitioners, the OECD Anti-Corruption Division has developed practical guidelines for law enforcement officials that outline good practices developed from the lessons learned and practical solutions used by law enforcement in the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption during COVID-19 and other emergencies.

Presentation of the OECD Guidelines and group discussion.

Moderator:

- Ms. Corinna de Vathaire de Guerchy, Anti-Corruption Analyst, Anti-Corruption Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Presenter:

- Mr. Pedro Gomes Pereira, OECD External Consultant

15:00 – 15:30 Afternoon tea and coffee

15:30 – 17:00 Effective asset seizure and recovery in transnational corruption investigations

Effective asset seizure and recovery have historically been a challenge for law enforcement authorities in the fight against transnational corruption. Complications posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including lockdowns and travel restrictions, exacerbated that challenge.

This panel discussion will explore ways to enhance the tracing, seizure and recovery of stolen assets in transnational corruption investigations. Key topics to be addressed include:

- Legal standards and institutional frameworks
- Detection and tracing of stolen assets domestically and abroad
- Asset seizure, recovery and confiscation

Moderator:

- Mr. Graeme Seed, Principal Integrity Specialist, Prevention and Compliance Division, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, ADB

Panellists:

- Mr. Ce Wang, Inspector, The National Commission of Supervision of China, People's Republic of China
- Mr. Kobus Cheung, Forensic Accountant and Ms. Karen Wing Chi Law, Chief Investigator, Operations Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China
- Mr. Jeffrey A. Alejo, Attorney, Bank Officer V, Investigation and Enforcement Department, Anti-Money Laundering Council of the Philippines.

Day 2 | 11 May 2023

09:30 – 10:30 Conducting remote corruption and fraud investigations in crisis situations

Part 1: Case studies / Good practices

This interactive session will focus on conducting remote corruption, fraud and other financial crime investigations and prosecutions in times of crisis from detection through to trial.

The session will examine lessons learned from the pandemic and other crisis situations and identify good practices that can be carried forward to improve efficiency and enhance prosecution outcomes in an increasingly global and digital world. Topics include digital technologies; remote interview techniques and best practices; preservation, collection, seizure and electronic transmission of evidence; remote judicial proceedings at the investigative and prosecution stages, including obtaining warrants, issuing subpoenas, calling witnesses remotely and international cooperation.

Moderator: Ms. Verity Le Maitre, Team Leader Corporate Crime & Foreign Bribery, Australian Federal Police, Australia

Panellists:

- Mr. Kelden Jamtsho, Deputy Chief Legal Officer, Anti-corruption Commission of Bhutan, Bhutan
- Mr. Nusserwan N. Talati, Principal Integrity Specialist, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, ADB

10:30 – 11:00 Morning tea and coffee

11:00 – 11:30 Discussion on the future direction of the Law Enforcement Network

Group discussion on the future direction of the LEN, including the next host country, designating co-chairs and topics for future meetings.

Report to be made to the Steering Group.

11:30 – 12:30 Conducting remote corruption and fraud investigations in crisis situations
Part 2: Break-out session - Challenges and solutions experienced in practice

11:30 – 12:10 Participants split into smaller working groups will be invited to brainstorm and share experiences on investigative strategies and techniques that proved to be effective and identify challenges arising in the context of corruption cases related to crises. This expert advice and practical experience will be used to inform a publication on detecting and investigating fraud and corruption during crisis situations.

Each working group will discuss a specific topic/theme and highlight good practices and recommend techniques that should be maintained in a post-pandemic world. Discussions should focus not only on domestic investigations but also on international cooperation.

12:10 – 12:30 In this part of the session, a moderator from each working group will present key takeaways from the groups' discussions.