



Transparency Watch

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INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Zenaida Moya, Mayor of Belize City, Belize



Ms. Zenaida Moya, recently elected Mayor of Belize City, knows firsthand the struggles of the anti-corruption movement. A former high-ranking public official Ms. Moya was removed from her post of Registrar of Cooperatives and Credit Unions after raising allegations of corruption and mismanagement at Northern Fishermen Cooperative society, supplier to the U.S. seafood restaurant chain Red Lobster. >> read more

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How '2' fight corruption in Zambia



Transparency International's (TI) Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) released last month, showed that bribery for access to services is extremely high in Africa, where 32 percent of respondents indicated they had paid bribes in exchange for services such as registrations and permits. TI Zambia launched a "How '2'" campaign in 2006 to raise citizens' awareness on how to obtain public services without resorting to paying bribes. >> read more

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INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Zenaida Moya, Mayor of Belize City, Belize

By Amber Poroznuk



Ms. Zenaida Moya, recently elected Mayor of Belize City, knows firsthand the struggles of the anti-corruption movement. A former high-ranking public official Ms. Moya was removed from her post of Registrar of Cooperatives and Credit Unions after raising allegations of corruption and mismanagement at Northern Fishermen Cooperative society, supplier to the U.S. seafood restaurant chain Red Lobster.

The findings of Ms. Moya's report for the subcommittee on fishing cooperatives on Belize's largest cooperative allege that uncollateralized loans and salary advances running in the millions of dollars had been given to the nine-member management committee. According to the report, the managing committee "members abuse their positions to issue large and unsecured loans to themselves and their associates [while] the by laws of the cooperative do not allow for loans to staff [and] no promissory notes exist for these advances and no collections are being done."

The day after the report was issued, Ms. Moya was transferred to another department.

Transparency Watch (TW): *You lost your post as Registrar of Cooperatives and Credit Unions after raising the allegations of corruption at the Northern Fisherman Cooperative society, one of the largest cooperatives in Belize. Did you fear further reprisals?*

Zenaida Moya (ZM): I did what I felt was the right thing to do and so I did not fear any repercussions. I knew they were inevitable. Corruption is common among members of the current central government administration, so I felt that it was time that someone, even if only one person, stand up and take a stance against it.

TW: *What measures are in place to protect whistleblowers in Belize, and how will you strengthen these measures in your position as Mayor?*

ZM: Currently, no specific measures exist to protect whistleblowers in Belize. In my administration, I have openly supported whistle blowing. I will also support the Whistleblowers Protection Bill that the Public Service Union is attempting to get drafted and passed into law.

TW: *What accounted for the landslide victory of the United Democratic Party in this year's local elections? Were voters aware of your role in exposing corruption? How strong a role did this play?*

ZM: According to the polls, the reason for the victory was citizens' discontent with government corruption and poverty. Seventy-nine percent of those polled said they would vote for a candidate because they felt he or she had integrity. I believe my position on anti-corruption played heavily in voters' minds.

TI: *Have you encountered corruption since taking up your post as Mayor of Belize in March 2006?*

ZM: Yes, this new City Council has uncovered instances of corruption by the previous Belize City Council that has cost the residents of Belize City.

TW: *What measures have you taken to combat corruption in Belize? What more will you do?*

ZM: I have been ensuring that internal controls are put in place at the Belize City Council, as I believe one has to clean its own house before looking to clean another's. I will also continue to increase citizen's awareness of government policy with the help of the media.

TW: *What role did journalists play in bringing this scandal to public attention? How independent is the media in Belize?*

ZM: Journalists were key in bringing this scandal to public attention. The media is fairly independent and keen on exposing corruption in every form.

TW: *What is blocking the way to a world free of corruption?*

ZM: The disillusionment of citizens with the abuse of authority by key public officials and misuse of public funds; it is citizens' acceptance of corruption that continues to block the way.

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SPOTLIGHT STORY

How '2' fight corruption in Zambia

By Amber Poroznuk



Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) released last month, showed that bribery for access to services is still high, and remains most common in Africa. The Barometer found that registry and permit services are the second most bribe-ridden sector – following the police– with nearly one-in-ten respondents who have had contact with them reporting that they had paid a bribe. The number was even higher in Africa, where 32 percent of respondents indicated they had paid bribes for services in this sector.

While the most commonly bribed sectors in Africa were the police, tax revenue and utilities, the biggest bribes were paid to obtain registrations and permits – on average, more than € 50. This is not a new phenomenon, however, and these findings strongly support those of past editions of the Barometer. The answer to how to counter such persistent corruption in services is simple: education.

Transparency International (TI) Zambia launched a campaign in 2006 to raise citizens' awareness about the correct way to obtain public services without resorting to paying bribes. The "How '2' Avoid Corruption When Acquiring or Procuring Public Services" campaign was conceived after TI Zambia's local Corruption Perception Index revealed that the procedures for acquiring public services are confusing, time consuming and often costly in many public institutions.

TI Zambia chose to target 12 institutions, perceived in TI Zambia's Corruption Perceptions Index to have high levels of corruption including: the Department of National Registration, Zambia Revenue Authority's Customs & Excise, Road Traffic Commission, Zambia Police Service, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Lands, Public Service Pensions Fund, National Pensions Scheme Authority, Passport Office, and Lusaka City Council Licensing Unit.

Working together with the above institutions, TI Zambia circulated information on the correct procedure for obtaining, for example, a passport, national registration card, or a driving license. This information was distributed on radio, television and in newspapers, as well as on posters, leaflets, and the internet. The posters were put up in various public services offices as a grassroots way of empowering citizens with the knowledge to access public services free of corruption.

Each poster features a flow chart visually representing detailed guidelines to on how to acquire services from the targeted institutions as well as recommendations on how to avoid corruption. General recommendations included: to be conscious of, resist and report corruption; always carry certified copies of identification documents; avoid engaging touts or middlemen; always demand for and keep official government receipts; understand the procedure and prepare required documents; and to only get advice from authorised officers.

Designed to promote the TI Zambia vision of building the country anchored on citizens and institutions of integrity, the campaign points out that citizens also must take responsibility to resist, reject and report corruption. So it seems taking the tactic of educating people about their rights is simple, but also effective. Take a page out of TI Zambia's book and stay well-informed.

For more on the Global Corruption Barometer, please see: http://www.transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases/2006/2006_12_07_gcb . To learn more about TI Zambia's work, or this information campaign, please see: <http://www.tizambia.org.zm/howto> .

This area provides highlights of the valuable work of the anti-corruption movement, championing a world free of corruption.

This month highlights the following stories:

- [Worldwide celebrations on Anti-Corruption Day send out encouraging message](#)
- [Conference of States Parties UNCAC](#)
- [Ethics and corruption in education](#)

Worldwide celebrations on Anti-Corruption Day send out encouraging message

by Georg Neumann



Transparency International and its network of national chapters around the world spread the encouraging message that corruption *can* be fought, with their exciting and colourful events to mark the third-annual United Nations International Anti-Corruption Day.

The Coalition of Accountability and Integrity (AMAN; TI's national chapter in the Palestinian Authority) organised the first ever "Transparency Festival" which featured a ceremonial signing of anti-corruption codes of conduct and an [Integrity Awards ceremony](#). The festival was attended by more than 400 people in Gaza and the West Bank. In Sri Lanka, an anti-corruption slogan competition organised by [TI Sri Lanka](#) brought close to 300 people together.

[TI Bangladesh](#) organised an eight-hour concert to mark UN Anti-Corruption Day, attended by more than 25,000 of the nation's youth. It also hosted various and creative activities such as rallies, debates and painting competitions, a human chain, street theatre shows, and a remarkable cross-country nine-hour bicycle ride to Dhaka. [TI Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) also organised a concert to mark the day. The concert, featuring a performance by the Youth Symphony Orchestra South Eastern Europe was attended by 350 people.

National Integrity Awards ceremonies carried out in the Palestinian Authorities and in [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) honoured the countries' anti-corruption heroes on Anti-Corruption Day to show that combating corruption requires brave and visionary people to lead the fight. In Turin, [TI Italy](#) awarded public bodies and organisations for adopted ethical measures.

Around the world, hundreds of people convened in seminars and discussions to debate anti-corruption issues and look for new solutions. In Nepal, discussions concentrated on the role of political parties and media figures in minimising corruption. In Sri Lanka the focus was on the right to information to fight corruption. Other conferences dealt with implementing conventions – as was highlighted by TI Bosnia and Herzegovina activities– and discussed the links between corruption and poverty and human rights, for example TI Cambodia and [TI UK](#). Many national chapters issued press releases to draw the attention of the media, the public and the governments to the importance of anti-corruption work.

The Transparency International secretariat in Berlin launched new web pages on Anti-Corruption Day to illustrate the importance of fighting corruption to a general audience and to highlight a new television advertisement that was created to raise awareness about the impact of corruption. TI's television advertisement reminds the movement and the public why anti-corruption work remains so important: "Corruption marks children, families and societies for life". These web pages and the advertisement are accessible through TI's homepage at www.transparency.org.

If you have ideas on how the TI movement should mark the next anti-corruption day, please contact: aporoznuk@transparency.org

UNCAC Conference of State Parties

by Georg Neumann

One year following the entry of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) into force, more than 700 governmental representatives from 89 countries and more than 40 civil society organisations met for the first Conference



of States Parties (CoSP) and related civil society meetings to discuss follow-up of the Convention. The CoSP was from 8 to 14 December 2006 in Jordan.

A major accomplishment of the conference was the decision to establish a monitoring programme for the convention, including the establishment of an intergovernmental expert working group. The CoSP also committed to complete a survey of implementation before the second session of the CoSP and to establish a working group on asset recovery. The conference additionally produced a resolution calling on governments to criminalize the solicitation or acceptance of bribes by officials of public international organisations. While the CoSP called on donors to provide additional resources for technical assistance to facilitate the effective implementation of UNCAC, it failed to take action on some key details of the monitoring programme, such as addressing the need for dependable funding.

Civil society's strong presence at the conference played a vital role in contributing to discussions on the implementation and monitoring of the convention. Transparency International (TI), including representatives from a dozen TI national chapters and the secretariat, and the Coalition of Civil Society Friends of the UNCAC, a coalition of more than 40 non-governmental organizations from 30 countries, organised a number of civil society meetings in connection with the CoSP and published the daily newsletter *The Monitor* to keep participants informed.

The second session of the CoSP will be in Indonesia in November 2007.

Ethics and corruption in education

by Bettina Meier



Since 2001, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) Institute for International Planning (IIEP) has been striving to find ways to address the problem of corruption in the education sector with their 'ethics and corruption in education' research project. The results are highlighted in the new publication *Corrupt schools, corrupt universities: What can be done?*

The publication reviews the areas most prone to corruption, namely: financing of schools, teacher management and behaviour, public contracts – particularly for school construction and textbook production – organisation of examinations, accreditation of higher education institutions and private tutoring. It additionally highlights strategies to improve transparency and accountability, such as creating and maintaining transparent regulatory systems, strengthening management capacities for greater accountability and enhancing ownership of the management process.

The 'ethics and corruption in education' research project also produced training materials that will form the basis of a summer course on "Transparency, accountability and anti-corruption measures in education", offered by IIEP from 11 to 20 June 2007 in Paris, France. The course is designed for education managers and administrators, and civil society representatives. TI chapters are invited to apply (no registration fees). Please contact Muriel Poisson at: m.poisson@iiep.unesco.org

Corrupt schools, corrupt universities: What can be done? by Jacques Hallak and Muriel Poisson, Paris: UNESCO Publishing (2006) can be downloaded at www.unesco.org/iiep/, or by contacting: n.kelsick@iiep.unesco.org Other IIEP publications on corruption in education can be downloaded at www.unesco.org/iiep/eng/publications/recent/etico.htm

Corruption stories of note in the news this month:

- [Dropped BAE bribery investigation gets mixed reactions in Britain](#)
- [Report: Irish Prime Minister siphoned off £7.7 million](#)
- [Infighting in Nigerian politics amid accusations of corruption](#)

Dropped BAE bribery investigation gets mixed reactions in Britain

by Nicholas Hirst



Citing the “wider public interest,” the British government ordered the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) to drop its inquiry into the alleged bribery of Saudi officials by aerospace and defence company BAE Systems to secure a £ 40 billion arms deal.

Britain’s Lord Goldsmith specified, in a [statement](#) to the House of Lords, that pursuing the inquiry risked causing “serious damage” to the UK’s relationship with Saudi Arabia, a key ally in the war on terror. This, in his opinion, “outweighed the need to maintain the rule of law.”

British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph* applauded the government’s decision to halt the investigation but slammed the SFO for “taking it upon itself to make the 2001 Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act – which does outlaw such payments – retrospective.” According to the same source, this served not only to incense “a major ally in the war on terror” but also jeopardized “a highly valuable contract” from Britain’s largest foreign defence customer putting “thousands of defence industry jobs at risk.”

The Guardian took the opposite view writing: “The rule of law ... surely requires that the executive does not intervene in the operation of the course of justice.”

To read more about this case, please see the spotlight section on TI’s homepage at: www.transparency.org

Report: Irish Prime Minister siphoned off £7.7 million

By Nicholas Hirst



The recently released [Moriarty Report](#) investigating the long-serving Fianna Fáil party leader and four-time Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, Charles Haughey, alleged that he received over £7.7 million in secret payments from businessmen over a 17 year period, a total sum worth about €45 million today.

The late Mr Haughey, who owned a Georgian mansion, his own island, a yacht and various racehorses, was also alleged to have sold passports illegally and to have “misappropriated” funds raised for a colleague’s liver transplant. Mr. Haughey’s actions had “devalued democracy,” concluded the report.

The *Financial Times* called the report “profoundly shocking - and utterly unsurprising”, remarking that the real question is “why he was allowed to get away with it?” The *FT* also noted that “Mr Ahern [the current Prime Minister] needs to do far more to repair the damage done by his predecessor and mentor to restore faith in public life.”

The *Sunday Business Post* remarked that over the years when Haughey was in power the media “didn’t do at least one part of their job as well as they should”. With an upcoming election in Ireland, the newspaper wrote that “monitoring the relationship between money and politics, and money and politicians, might be the best reaction to the efforts and findings of Moriarty”.

Infighting in Nigerian politics amid accusations of corruption

by Nicholas Hirst



Nigerian President Olesugun Obasanjo has dismissed his Vice-President and declared the position vacant after Vice-President Atiku Abubakar accepted the Presidential nomination of the rival Action Congress (AC) opposition party.

Despite the fact that Obasanjo is prevented from running for another term as President by law, tensions between the two men are running high. Each have accused the other of corruption and, despite a court ruling that the charges had no legal basis, Mr Abubakar remains under investigation for allegedly diverting US \$125 million into personal business interests.

The legal basis for the dismissal of Mr Abubakar has been widely disputed. An editorial in the Nigerian *Daily Trust* called the decision “the most reckless, the most impudent and also the most dangerous yet to the sanctity of the 1999 Constitution and the health and survival of the Democratic Fourth Republic.”

Business Day wrote that this related to President Obasanjo’s desire to see his hand-picked successor, Mr Umaru Yar’Adua, “whom many believe Obasanjo will be able to manipulate behind the scenes,” become the next President.

As such, President Obasanjo would maintain power and influence but, writes *Business Day*, “Nigeria no longer needs recycled old generals shaping its future; it needs a generational shift to move on from its past.”

NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

Condolences in Zambia

It is with immense shock and sadness that Transparency International (TI) has learned of the sudden death of the Chair of TI Zambia, Professor Alfred Chanda, in a road accident in Zambia on 7 January 2007.

Professor Chanda has been Chair of TI's chapter in Zambia since its inception. In addition to playing an important part in the development of the chapter, he has been a leading figure in the fight against corruption in Zambia and beyond. TI Chair Huguette Labelle paid tribute to 'a highly respected scholar and prominent advocate of integrity and good governance who contributed tremendously to TI's endeavours in Africa.' Enjoying a worldwide reputation as an international human rights law expert, Professor Chanda was deeply committed to the anti-corruption movement and TI's vision. The author of several books, and well-known in Zambia through regular public statements and media appearances, he acted as its representative at the international level on many occasions, and has been a source of inspiration to anti-corruption activists across Africa.

Professor Chanda will be greatly missed by TI. Our thoughts are with his wife, children and other family members, as well as the staff and members of TI Zambia.

Electoral awareness seminars launched in Papua New Guinea

Transparency International (TI) Papua New Guinea (PNG) recently launched a series of Provincial electoral awareness seminars ahead of the national elections in early 2007. The seminars are designed to teach voters and candidates running for office about elections and good governance. TI PNG together with the PNG Electoral Commission and Ombudsman Commission of PNG will visit provinces to introduce the Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) system and teach how it can be used in electing good leaders. The seminars, funded by the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program (AusAID), feature mock elections representing the LPV and other awareness material such as posters animated with cartoons, election information kits and leadership code handbooks for candidates.

Stakeholders call for a hold on a major infrastructure project

In late 2006, TI's chapter in Trinidad and Tobago joined several professional associations to publicly call on the government to put the development of a rapid rail transportation system on hold. The petitioning associations allege that the government decided to proceed with the US \$1-2 billion project without an adequate feasibility study and was about to award a contract using a flawed procurement process. The associations ask for the delay of the project until a regulatory framework for mass transit is established and it is determined whether a rail system should play in an integrated solution to the country's serious traffic problems. The government's initial response was that the petitioners were misinformed and it would not delay the process.

Corruption fighter held in detention in Algeria

In November 2006, Mr Bououni Achour, member of the Algerian Association for Fighting Corruption (AACC) was held in detention for several days. At the AACC's annual conference, a few days before his arrest, he had denounced the mismanagement of public funds at the National Group for Aerial Navigation (ENNA). He has since been released. The Transparency International secretariat and national chapters in Morocco, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Niger, among others, have expressed solidarity with Mr Achour in Algeria, as well as all those who denounce corruption only to face systematic reprisals and other forms of intimidation.

Please find a detailed report about the event at:

www.transparency.org/content/download/12434/119358/file/AACC_communique_09-12-06-EN.pdf

Anti-corruption youth concert in Bangladesh attended by more than 25,000

Transparency International (TI) Bangladesh organised the first Anti-Corruption Concert for Youth in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 29 December 2006. With the theme "The Invincible Youth will surely Resist Corruption", the eight-hour concert was intended to sensitise the nation's students to issues surrounding corruption to ensure that the spirit and values of the anti-corruption movement are instilled in Bangladesh's future leaders.

Renowned national artists and musical groups performed on a complimentary basis, while prominent civil society leaders, including Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus of the Grameen Bank, delivered

inspirational addresses. Prof Yunus told the crowd that corruption was a huge giant - the biggest impediment to Bangladesh's development. He emphasised the importance of a collective social movement to combat corruption, and specifically, the necessity of active involvement of young people.

More than 25,000 students attended the concert, having received free entry cards on first-come-first-served basis. The concert was broadcast live on television and online and was featured as a leading news item by many news channels. More than 7,500 online viewers sent impromptu feedback - the highest record to date for any such transmission in Bangladesh.

"The greatest achievement of the Bengali nation is our independence. Our commitment to the immortal heroes of our struggle for national independence and democracy - We shall protect our independence and sovereignty at any cost. Our commitment today: we shall resist corruption at every stage of our lives individually and collectively. In solidarity with the social movement against corruption, we know that we never gave in to evil forces, We promise today - we shall not give in to the evil force of corruption. My confident pronouncement to my youth - The Invincible Youth shall Surely Resist Corruption".

To see live coverage of the concert, go to: www.ti-bangladesh.org/concert/

Transparency and Accountability Act signed in Canada

TI Canada celebrates the proclamation of the provincial government of Newfoundland's new *Transparency and Accountability Act*. The Act, proclaimed on 15 December, 2006, requires the public release of information in the following areas: strategic planning, annual reports, financial forecasts, public entity borrowing, and performance-based contracts for senior government officials. This legislation will ensure greater public scrutiny and accountability of government departments.

TI Zimbabwe celebrates 10 years of anti-corruption advocacy

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z), celebrates 10 years of work to fight corruption and foster good governance in civil society, the private and the public sector. Looking back, one of the most important events have been the chapter's contribution to crafting anti-corruption legislation and the establishment of a policy framework on the suppression of money laundering in Zimbabwe. In 2001, TI Z hosted a regional conference for TI's African chapters in Nyanga culminating in the Nyanga Declaration on the Recovery and Repatriation of Africa's Wealth. TI Z also facilitated the re-launch of the local chapter of the African Parliamentary Network against Corruption in 2004, and since 2005 has been leading a Regional TI Advocacy Desk. TI Z also has been focusing on a number of strategic partnerships to link corruption with topics such as gender, HIV/AIDS and youth. Currently, the chapter is implementing a National Integrity Systems Study on Zimbabwe and five other countries in the SADC region. To learn more about the chapter's work, please go to: www.kubatana.net/tiz

Promoting transparency in procurement and strengthening corporate responsibility in China

On 14 December 2006, Transparency International co-hosted a high profile seminar for experts, scholars and representatives from the "top five" state-owned construction companies, as well as 30 representatives of the public sector and civil society in China interested in fighting corruption in the construction sector. Located at Tsinghua University in Beijing, together with China Supervision Institution (CSI), Anti-Corruption and Governance Research Centre (ACGRC) and Engineering Management Research Institute (EMRI), the seminar highlighted TI tools such as the Integrity Pact and the Business Principles for Countering Bribery.

This seminar is the first phase of a project promoted by TI's contact group in China, entitled: Promoting Transparent Procurement and strengthening Corporate Responsibility, funded by the United Kingdom's Embassy in Beijing.

Latvia's Supreme Court Senate upholds TI Latvia's Petition

On 24 October the Administrative Cases Department of the Supreme Court Senate of Latvia ruled to uphold a petition submitted by TI Latvia regarding a construction permit issued in November 2003. TI Latvia argued that the permit issued by the Construction Board to an owner who undertook construction of the "Ainas" property was unlawful since it violated the law on protected zones of sand dunes on the Baltic Sea. TI Latvia's aim was not to attack the specific individual who owned the property and who was permitted to begin construction work. Rather, the petition was filed to set a legal precedent as to how individuals should protect their rights vis-a-vis local officials. Following the 24 October ruling, the owner of "Ainas" must go to court to demand compensation from the local government for the losses endured as a result of TI Latvia's petition.

Meeting of the Experts Committee, OAS Anti-Corruption Convention

Transparency International presented recommendations at the Meeting of the Experts Committee of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption to strengthen the Mechanism. The meeting took place December 11 to 15, 2006 in Washington D.C. The recommendations can be consulted here: www.transparency.org/regional_pages/americas/convention. It is part of the second round of review as follow-up to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC). Between 2006 and 2008 new and important anti-corruption measures will be reviewed, such as procurement of goods and services, acts of corruption and whistle blower protection. The extent to which each of the countries has implemented the recommendations issued in the first round also will be evaluated. The first reports of the following countries have been approved during the meeting: Argentina, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Ecuador and Honduras.

National Integrity System study of Cambodia

In December 2006, Transparency International and the Centre for Social Development released a National Integrity System (NIS) study of Cambodia. The study showed that although the government demonstrates some signs of political will against corruption, after a decade of cautious political peace and billions of US dollars in aid, the systems in place to promote integrity and prevent corruption are still weak and lacking in capacity. Recommendations from this study can be downloaded here:

www.transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases/2006/2006_12_19_nis_cambodia

The NIS Study of Cambodia is part of a regional project to analyse the integrity systems in East and South East Asia, including studies of China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Index of performance and integrity in public contracting

Transparencia Paraguay, TI's national chapter in Paraguay, recently released its Index of Performance and Integrity in Public Contracting, which evaluates the evolution of public contracting in Paraguay at the level of each individual institution. The index examines the first two years (2004-2005) of the implementation of a new law (2051/03) that establishes the Central Normative and Technical Unit as the only institution authorized to monitor and administer the government's public contracting system.

Using information obtained from the governmental website www.contratacionesparaguay.gov.py, the index was able to confirm that in 2004/2005 the number of public contracts non-conform with normal procedures has increased. Additionally, it found that an important part of all public contracts are concentrated in the hands of a fistful of companies. The index received broad attention from the national press.

New Board elected in TI Greece

TI Greece welcomes its new Board of Directors, elected at their Annual Members Meeting on 6 December 2006. The new Chair, Mr Constantinos Bacouris, brings a wealth of diverse experience from the private sector to the chapter, having previously worked for and served on the board of many companies in Greece and abroad. TI Greece offers its thanks and appreciation to Mrs Virginia Tsouderou, its founding Chair of the Board, for her dedication to the chapter and to the fight against corruption in Greece. Mrs. Tsouderou will remain a member of the TI International Advisory Council.

CORRUPTION IN QUOTES

"When Sharon was in office, there was a sense that the public, as much as it is concerned over corruption, was willing to overlook it in the case of a popular leader. Indeed, corruption has become like the weather - something to complain about but not to expect to influence or change."

On whether corruption is increasing in Israel.
The Jerusalem Post; Israel; 5 January 2007

"We like to kid ourselves that doing business in Britain is largely free from corruption and fraud, but it's a myth. It is as bad here as anywhere in southern Europe."
Mr. Simon Bevan, the head of fraud services at the British accounting firm BDO Stoy Hayward, on the 40 percent increase in fraud in Britain in the last year.
The Guardian; UK; 3 January 2007

"One important message we all should take from the elections is that people want to end the secretive process by which Washington insiders are able to get billions of dollars directed to projects, many of them pork barrel projects that have never been reviewed or voted on by the Congress."

American President George W. Bush, speaking in response to newly-elected Democrats ethics drive.
The New York Times; USA; 4 January 2007

"Indeed one cannot avoid the impression that the French are taking the whole business of cracking down on bribery by their companies abroad much more seriously than the British. As *The Economist* pointed out in a recent editorial on Britain's non-investigation into the Saudi-BAE systems scandal: "Even France, Britain's nemesis in the arms trade, brought 11 prosecutions for bribery in the 18 months to last June - 11 more than Britain."
Gideon Rachman, chief foreign affairs commentator for the *Financial Times*, on prosecution of bribery in Britain and France.
Financial Times International Affairs Blog, 2 January 2007

"Corruption isn't a natural disaster: it is a cold, calculated theft of opportunity from men, women and children who are least able to protect themselves"

Bhuran Hasan, Journalist
The News International; Global; 10 January 2007

"Winning the war on corruption is not about the body count of how many people are in jail. What is important is to secure tomorrow and the future as you deal with the past."
Martha Karua, Kenyan Justice and Constitutional Affairs minister
All Africa; Africa; 22 December 2006

COMING UP

Coming up in January

16-18 January

International Conference on Sustainable Development in Conflict Situations

18-19 January

Energy Dragons Rising: Global Public Policy Institute conference on Global Energy Governance and the Rise of China and India

22-24 January

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2007

24-25 January

The 2007 International Aid & Trade Event: Building Partnerships for Humanitarian Relief

24-28 January

World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2007

25-27 January

World Social Forum Meeting 2007

Coming up in February

2-3 February

10th National Conference on e-Governance

5-6 February

Investing in Asia's Urban Future

5-7 February

International Congress on Ethics

15-17 February

Second Global Conference on Social Responsibility: Role of Business in Alleviating Poverty

For more information on these events, visit TI's events page on the website, at:

www.transparency.org/news_room/events

MASTHEAD

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