

## INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Stuart Gilman, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has a mandate to fight illicit drugs and international crime - areas increasingly linked to corruption. Transparency Watch talks with Stuart Gilman from the UNODC to find out where corruption crosses over into crime, on the challenges of fighting corruption in failed states and on opium production in Afghanistan. >> read more

## SPOTLIGHT STORY

Anti-corruption in Afghanistan –a view from the ground



In and out of war for the last quarter century, Afghanistan's infrastructure and institutions have been left in a very fragile condition. Its ongoing reconstruction is a major, and enormously expensive, task, providing increased opportunity for corruption. But with problems such as lingering conflict and persistent insecurity, soaring drug production and trafficking, and a government's whose hold on power is not assured, corruption is just one problem among many. Transparency Watch talks with two civil society activists on the ground in Afghanistan to find out how much of a problem corruption is for the state and its people. >> read more

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Transparency International launched a new website to monitor anti-corruption initiatives in Central America and serve as a reference for anti-corruption practitioners and stakeholders. >> read more



The seventh World Social Forum (WSF) addressed ways to create lasting social change under the theme "Another World is Possible". >> read more



The development of the Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI) programme was one of TI's main focuses at this year's World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. >> read more

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## CORRUPTION IN QUOTES

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## INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Stuart Gilman, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

By Amber Poroznuk



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has a mandate to fight illicit drugs and international crime - areas increasingly linked to corruption. Transparency Watch talks with Stuart Gilman from the UNODC to find out where corruption crosses over into crime, on the challenges of fighting corruption in failed states and on opium production in Afghanistan.

**Transparency Watch (TW):** *Your work on anti-corruption in the context of fighting drugs and crime at the UNODC must offer you a very unique perspective on the crossover of the two. Where does corruption end and crime begin? What is it that distinguishes the two?*

**Stuart Gilman (SG):** When we talk about corruption, people assume that it is just a criminal act, when the truth is that before we even get to a crime there are a range of activities that fall into a grey area, that perhaps don't warrant prosecution, but create an environment of corruption, and are in fact wrong. Take nepotism for example, hiring sons and daughters to fill posts in institutions. It is not illegal per se, but it is unethical and can be seen as corrupt. Another example involves accepting all sorts of lavish gifts while in office. In some countries, doing so may not be illegal, but such payments and gifts are certainly unethical.

Once matters get to the level of corrupt acts that are public, it is usually at the point of criminal law being violated. Then it is almost too late. I know the disease analogy is really overused, but it works so well. Corruption is like a cancer- it is much easier to prevent than it is to cure. Once it has spread so far that it is easily recognisable, it is hard to contain and cure.

This is why the entire second chapter of the [United Nations Convention against Corruption \(UNCAC\)](#) focuses on preventive measures, such as creating codes of conduct for public officials, to change the entire ethical environment.

**TW:** *Corruption is often a big problem in failed states, where most institutions have very little capacity. When you are working in these kinds of situations, in which sectors of society can one most easily begin to address corruption?*

**SG:** I don't think it is possible to give one answer that would apply to all countries. Every failed state has vulnerabilities in terms of institutions, laws, capacity; but these may differ from one situation to the next. I believe it is necessary to do a nation-wide assessment in terms of vulnerability to find out whether it is the justice system or the police, or whether the country needs an independent anti-corruption agency or multiple agencies. This needs to be done on the ground. Of course, policy is necessary to support this, and we certainly use the UN Convention as a policy blueprint to guide our work, but each country does need to be uniquely evaluated and addressed with its cultural and political context in mind. Then you can see where to make the greatest impact.

**TW:** *What are some challenges specific to fighting corruption in failed states, such as Afghanistan or Iraq?*

**SG:** There has been no overall strategy in Afghanistan in terms of addressing corruption. The UNODC has of course been urging that the UNCAC be the blueprint for any national strategy. And ideally, that is what the Convention should be used for. But if you are carrying out a large multi-million dollar project on behalf of your government, the last thing you want to do is to go back to your home country and report to the government that the project has been misdirected or ineffective over the last three or four years and brought under the banner of the UN Convention. The country office won't have the same control, the same visibility, but at least now the program will be coordinated. Given the nature of many development programmes this approach will not "ring well" in any capital.

One major challenge comes, surprisingly, from donors. Each donor program, each department, often seems to be working in isolation from any other. This is especially the case in Afghanistan, where a large reconstruction effort is underway, but it remains poorly coordinated because people are not looking to the UN Convention against Corruption as a way to coordinate anticorruption efforts. In many cases, donors seem to have invented their own technical assistance, whether it is working in the

judiciary, or another sector, and suddenly they come up with an anti-corruption law that makes absolutely no sense. In the larger context in Afghanistan, one of those laws cost over a million dollars to create, and yet no one has looked at it in terms of the ability to implement it, much less whether it coordinates with the UNCAC, or efforts of other bilateral, multilateral organisations.

I am really concerned about the multiplicity of non-governmental organisations, and bilateral and multilateral donors. I don't want to lay all the blame on donors, but the irony of it is that donors are not helping in the way they could because of the lack of coordination.

**TW:** *What could be done to improve donor coordination?*

**SG:** Everyone recognises the importance of coordination at the policy level. Donors have set up the Paris Pact. In addition, UNODC is, for example, the secretariat for the International Group for Anti-corruption Coordination (which includes more than 30 multilateral and bilateral organisations, and NGOs – including TI). The difficulty comes on the ground – everyone wants to maintain resources to keep control within a country. Although we have agreement on policy, we need to start looking at what that looks like in country in terms of actual impact — whether it is superficial and, let's face it, often ineffective on the ground. Because corruption is the issue of the day, everyone wants to get in on it. The difficulty is that as more organisations, with their own agendas get involved, the less focused efforts actually become. Our hope is that the UNCAC can be a unifying blueprint for action.

**TW:** *Taking the examples of Iraq and Afghanistan, would you say that the situation in Afghanistan is different to that in Iraq due to the effects of the opium trade?*

**SG:** In Afghanistan, there are of course issues of corruption surrounding the production and the distribution of drugs. A forthcoming UNODC report suggests that in those areas controlled by the Taliban, you are seeing a significant increase in the growth of poppies and production of illicit drugs. The result, of course ironically, is that prices have dropped and so there has been an increase in production in order to maintain the same profit levels. To work on the drug problem, you have to deal with the complexity of the Taliban who control much of the production. Additionally, the problem is compounded because many institutions of government have no effective anti-corruption controls, or are headed by the wrong kind of person, who if not personally corrupt, are ineffective.

It is actually drug distribution that is the problem when we are talking about corruption, and with distribution, you are actually looking at rather different sectors than those that are involved in the production. Again, it is important to do this assessment on the ground to begin targeting the different institutions involved. Is it the border guards, the tax authority, or perhaps the police authority that needs to be urgently addressed? For example, you need to ask whether the salaries of officials are reasonable given the circumstances in Afghanistan. You don't want to get into a situation like Mexico 10 years ago, when border guards were accepting bribes for letting drugs pass over the border because their salaries were too low to support them and their families.

If you focus on the question of corruption in failed states you have to appreciate that there are different degrees. For example in Iraq, the ability to successfully undertake anti-corruption work is different than in other countries because the layers of ongoing violence, tied to political or sectarian causes, undermine these efforts. The situation in Haiti is different. Of course, it also is considered a failed state, but the challenge to combating corruption is not primarily the impact of violence.

**TW:** *Corruption is an obvious problem in developing countries and failed states. What are the main issues UNODC is facing in the EU and North America?*

**SG:** The UNODC has been working, especially when the Austrian government had the presidency of the EU, to engage the countries of “old Europe” in the anti-corruption debate. We are working together with INTERPOL and the Austrian government, to launch an Anti-corruption Academy in Laxenburg, Austria to carry out anti-corruption research and training. But our greatest concerns lie with a number of the countries in “new Europe”, specifically that they will go back on commitments they've made as a pre-requisite of EU membership. I am thinking of Slovenia, which has done away with its anti-corruption agency. Other new accession countries are considering doing the same. The notion that the conditionality, required for entering the EU, disappears once countries have been accepted –this habit of backsliding –is distressing. So this is something we are watching and hoping to address.

**TW:** *What measurements do you use to judge if your anti-corruption efforts have been successful? How is the UNODC working to ensure that the UNCAC will be effective?*

**SG:** UNODC is working on a more micro level than most organisations to ensure that effective technical assistance exists to deal with corruption issues. Specifically, we try to evaluate, for the country or specific agencies, the laws, institutions and measurable impact of anti-corruption policies. We try to avoid perception as much as possible, and focus on actual experience. The idea is not to make abstract recommendations for addressing corruption, but to first conduct a rigorous assessment so that we can have a benchmark against which to measure success. And then build on those benchmarks to find out what we have done right and what we might be doing wrong to see how we can make mid-course corrections to projects.

One example comes from our work on the judiciary in South Africa. We wanted to know before we began how people viewed the judicial system to assess where the problems were. So we asked

questions such as: "Do you believe the judicial system is corrupt? Have you ever been asked for a bribe? Do you know of anybody that has? How many times was your case postponed? If your case was dismissed was that based on lack of evidence?" What we found in South Africa with regards to perceptions of the courts was that over 50 percent of people believed the courts were corrupt, but then if you asked, "were you ever asked for a bribe, or gift or gratuity?" less than one-tenth of one percent said "yes". What is interesting is that the perception of corruption came from the fact that cases were postponed four, five, six times on average, or people had to travel one-and-a-half hours one way to get to a courtroom, or that cases were dismissed because of the way of categorising and storing evidence, so that the evidence would disappear. So what was defined as corruption was actually lack of efficient operation of the court system. And then you could begin adjusting and providing tools to prevent corruption, but also begin building efficiency, which are very different things. I believe an effective anti-corruption strategy must always do both.

*Stuart Gilman is the head of The Global Programme against Corruption and the Anti-Corruption Unit and Rule of Law Section, Division for Operations United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.*

**SPOTLIGHT STORY**

Anti-corruption in Afghanistan –a view from the ground

By Amber Poroznuk



In and out of war for the last quarter century, Afghanistan's infrastructure and institutions have been left in a very fragile condition. Its reconstruction is a major, and enormously expensive, task. A multitude of bilateral, multilateral and NGO donor funds are flowing into the country, to the tune of billions of dollars. This extreme increase in funds, however, provides increased opportunity for corruption.

But in a country where conflict and insecurity persist, where the strength and power of the government is not guaranteed, and where drug production and trafficking is soaring – Afghanistan now accounts for 87 percent of global opium production, according to the International Crisis Group –corruption is just one problem among many. What, then, is the view from the ground? Are the people of Afghanistan concerned with the issue of corruption?

To find out how corruption is being fought in one of the world's most challenging environments, Transparency Watch talked to two anti-corruption champions in Afghanistan. Karen Hussmann, who was on contract with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2006, went to Afghanistan to help develop an anti-corruption programme. Lorenzo Delesgues went to Afghanistan six years ago to continue his research in political science, and is responsible for setting up, in 2005, the first civil society organisation in Afghanistan to work on the issues of corruption and integrity called Integrity Watch Afghanistan.

**Perceptions of corruption in Afghanistan**

Karen Hussmann told Transparency Watch that she believes corruption is one of the greatest concerns to many people in the country. While quick to point out that her assessment is based only on anecdotal evidence, she says it seems to her corruption is more rampant than ever.

"People do think that there is a lot of corruption and that it is worse than in prior Afghan governments," Hussman explains. "Talking to people gives one the perception that corruption has gotten worse over the last years."

These observations are, however, supported by the findings of a soon-to-be-released perceptions survey of corruption in Afghanistan carried out by Integrity Watch Afghanistan. The survey found that 72 percent of respondents felt that their household was affected by corruption, among them 17 percent felt very affected by corruption..

And it is not just that people feel affected by corruption, but that they feel corruption is increasing. The same survey found that 60 percent of respondents considered the time between 2001 and now to be the most corrupt time in the last 50 years –compared to the nine percent who thought corruption was at its highest under the Taliban.

These findings beg the questions; how do people understand corruption in Afghanistan, and has the form of corruption changed over the last years?

Delesgues reports that in Afghanistan, many people see the impact of corruption on their life in the form of "a service that they see others getting that they cannot access themselves." He sees examples of corruption in many areas of daily life, mainly civil servants asking for bribes for services. He speaks of the processes of getting a visa renewed or paying the electricity bills: "It can take sometimes 20 signatures. That creates a lot of opportunity." In addition, Delesgues says that "grand corruption transactions exist in wide-scale and are related to the extraction of precious stones; to the drug trade; to land grabbing or to the appointment of positions."

He also sees a change in the means to get access to corruption. Where corruption previously was more strongly linked with nepotism or political and ethnical ties, it is now switching to be more money based. This is a direct result of the enormous amount of donor funds being fed into the country and then being managed poorly. This is one of the reasons Delesgues believes "the problem is not strictly corruption per se," he says, "but a lack of integrity, and with regards to donors, a lack of accountability. Hundreds of millions of dollars are coming into this country and we do not know precisely where the money has been spent."

The problem is further compounded by the pervasive money stemming from the drug economy, which is used to undermine the fledgling state structures.

Despite the pessimistic view of Delesgues on donor funds, Hussman remains more optimistic, in particular, because there are signs the coordination of donors on anti-corruption work is increasing. She points to the close cooperation between major players such as the WB, ADB, UNDP, DFID, and UNODC working together on assisting the government to develop an anti-corruption road map laying out key areas for action, including sector vulnerability assessments, in preparation for the development of a well-targeted anti-corruption strategy.

#### **What to do to fight corruption in Afghanistan?**

The institutions dealing with corruption that already exist in Afghanistan are, according to Delesgues, "not well articulated and are often inefficient." Hussmann agrees, and notes that the government's anti-corruption agency, established in 2004, has not received much political, technical or financial support. "It is unclear whether it is a lack of capacity, a lack of priority, or a lack of political will," she says. "Probably some mixture of all three."

What is clear is the necessity of translating verbal commitments into tangible action. Considering the very weak institutional environment, limited capacities and many competing priorities, a careful approach has to be crafted. According to Hussmann, key areas of focus should be establishing basic public management systems, reducing opportunities for small-scale corruption at service delivery points, and engaging civil society and Parliament to hold the government accountable.

Indeed, an engaged civil society has a large role to play in ensuring verbal commitments translate into action. However, to-date an organised civil society engagement in this issue has been weak. But increasingly people are becoming more committed to the issues as they become more frustrated that their living conditions are not improving, while they notice those involved in the drug trade build even bigger, flashier houses in Kabul.

Delesgues recognised the need to have a civil society organisation working on issues of corruption and integrity to engage the Afghani people in the anti-corruption fight, and that their voice be strongly represented. "It was important to us that this organisation be seen as legitimate so we had to very careful how we set up the structure of the organisation," This alone took seven months. But now we have a good mix of Afghan and outside experts, and we are working in partnership with the University of Kabul, donors, Afghan and international organisations such as Tiri and ODI."

Established to work intensively on research to understand corruption in Afghanistan, discover the patterns of corrupt practices, and to create education and capacity building tools for public officials and the public, Integrity Watch Afghanistan will be an important rallying point to capture the hearts and minds of people on this issue.

Hussmann also is excited about the new organisation, but has a word of caution on anti-corruption in Afghanistan. "The big point is to consider realistic expectations of how long it takes for a society and institutions to develop, and Afghanistan is facing a Herculean task," she says. "Many people, including the political leadership and, to some extent some international donors are looking for a quick fix, and looking to show results. But tangible results will take a long time and very determined action, from both the government and the international community, which needs to do more to increase its own transparency and accountability."

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:

- [New website a valuable anti-corruption resource for Central America](#)
- [Creating social change at the World Social Forum](#)
- [The Partnership Against Corruption Initiative](#)

#### **New website a valuable anti-corruption resource for Central America**

by Georg Neumann



Transparency International (TI) launched a new website on 5 February 2007 to monitor anti-corruption initiatives in Central America and serve as a reference for anti-corruption practitioners and stakeholders by providing quality information for decision-making.

The Central American Anti-Corruption Resource Network, RECREA for short (“Red Centroamericana de Recursos Anticorrupción”) provides an in-depth view of anti-corruption efforts in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama; including information on the performance of the main actors in each country based on the TI’s National Integrity Systems (NIS). The NIS approach provides a framework with which to analyse both the extent and causes of corruption in a given national context, as well as the adequacy and effectiveness of national anti-corruption efforts.

RECREA will be used, for example, to monitor the follow up to the “Guatemala Declaration for a Corruption Free Region” signed by all Central American Presidents and the Dominican Republic during the 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference last November.

To access the website, please go: [www.transparency.org/recrea](http://www.transparency.org/recrea) .

For further information on the project, please contact: [ahernandez@transparency.org](mailto:ahernandez@transparency.org)

#### **Creating social change at the World Social Forum**

by Felgona Atieno



The seventh World Social Forum (WSF) addressed ways to create lasting social change on issues such as poverty alleviation , transparency and accountability among others, under the theme “Another World is Possible”.

The WSF, hosted in Nairobi Kenya from the 20-25 January, gathered more than 100,000 delegates from around the world.

Transparency International (TI) hosted a stall to showcase TI’s work on anti-corruption, and delegates attended workshops that provided an opportunity to reinforce relationships, exchange views and design a new agenda for the future.

Transparency International was represented by Ivy Ndiewo, Jane Wanjiku, Joy Okech and Dominic Mutuku from the Kenyan chapter and Ms Lavina Bandulah from Sierra Leone.

#### **The Partnership Against Corruption Initiative – Principles for Countering Bribery**

by Veronica Rossini



The head of Transparency International’s (TI) work in the private sector, Jermyn Brooks, made the development of the Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI) programme his focus at this year’s World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland.

The PACI Principles are based on TI's Business Principles Against Corruption, which are the result of an extensive field consultation with many stakeholders. The PACI Signatories companies that have publicly adopted the PACI principles and a zero-tolerance policy towards bribery, currently number more than 120.

The focus on PACI at the WEF 2007 was two-fold: First, the clarification of the implementation process, including a self-monitoring commitment from the signatories, based on TI's tools to support the Business Principles; and second, obtaining a commitment from the top accounting firms to work on an assurance approach for companies' no-bribes programmes in the next 12 months.

The PACI initiative is a good example of how TI can increase its influence by working with partners with strong convening powers – like the WEF – that can provide access to important players in the corporate sector. The project constitutes one of TI's initiatives to improve anti-bribery behaviour in the business world and to reduce the detrimental effects of the supply-side of bribery. Recognising that corporate bribery cannot be fought by law enforcement alone, TI's work in the private sector is based on building preventive mechanisms and on monitored voluntary private sector commitments to improve business conduct.

For more on the PACI initiative, please go to: [www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/paci/index.htm](http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/paci/index.htm)  
To read more about TI's Business Principles for Countering Bribery, and the full suite of implementing tools, please go to: [www.transparency.org/global\\_priorities/private\\_sector/business\\_principles](http://www.transparency.org/global_priorities/private_sector/business_principles)

Corruption stories of note in the news this month:

- [Demonstrations in Guinea](#)
- [Ethics Reforms on Capitol Hill](#)
- [Allegations of Corruption at Suvarnabhumi Airport](#)

### Demonstrations in Guinea

By Veronica Rossini



Fifty-nine people are dead and 233 injured during a country-wide strike in the Republic of Guinea. The demonstrations, instigated by Guinea's two main unions, were in reaction to the open interference of the Guinean President in the country's judicial affairs, reports the *World Markets Research Center*.

According to *The Economist*, the National Confederation of Guinean Workers (CNTG) and the Guinean Workers Union (USTG) organised the strike when reports became known of President Lasana Conté's involvement in the release of two prominent figures implicated in corruption scandals.

*The Morning Star* (UK) reported that the demonstrations took a violent turn when the authorities opened fire on civilians throwing stones at the presidential palace.

After 17 days of demonstrations the President and the unions reached an agreement on 28 January when President Lasana Conté, who took power in a coup in 1984, agreed to share power with a newly-appointed Prime Minister (*International Herald Tribune*).

### Report: Irish Prime Minister siphoned off £7.7 million

By Nicholas Hirst



In the United States, *The Denver Post* writes of a broad agreement that "public disgust with congressional corruption and unchecked spending played a big role in last year's repudiation of the majority Republican Party".

With such consensus in public opinion, it comes as no surprise that House legislators used their first 100 hours [in Congress] to bring "an end to flagrant abuses of power and put Congress back on the side of working families" write Rahm Emmanuel and Marty Meeham, both House representatives, for an opinion piece in the *Chicago Sun Times*.

Gone are the "gifts from lobbyists and lavish vacations ... the corporate jets and pay-to-play schemes like Tom DeLay's 'K-Street project.'" Even the earmark process, "[which] has become what infamous lobbyist Jack Abramoff called an 'ATM for lobbyists,'" is set to face greater scrutiny.

Reactions to the reforms are mixed. *The San Antonio Express-News* praises the reforms as serious, and the *Palm Beach Post* writes "The House ethics package was a good start". Others are less optimistic. *The Washington Post* notes, "the new rules, the toughest changes since Watergate, still leave lots of room for special interests to curry favour", and the Buffalo News concurs that lobbyists "likely will find ways to circumvent the newly established rules".

### Allegations of Corruption at Suvarnabhumi Airport

By Nicholas Hirst



In Thailand, allegations of corruption dominate news headlines as a scandal at Bangkok's showcase new airport comes to light.

As the *International Herald Tribune* reports, the country's "sleek and modern Suvarnabhumi Airport, which opened to great fanfare in September ... has become a national embarrassment with widely publicized problems that include cracks on the taxiways, a shortage of toilets, dozens of design flaws

and a long list of corruption allegations”

In *The Straits Times*, Tortrakul Yoma, Thailand's new director of airports, “estimates that up to 30 per cent of the US \$4 billion spent on the project may have been skimmed off by politicians”. The airport is “a monument to massive corruption unrivalled by any other local project”, agrees *The Nation*.

“The problems,” according to *ABC*, “have exposed not just cracks in the runways, but a corrupt corporate culture, where bribes and dodgy contracts and construction shortcuts are the norm.”

## NEWS FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

### **Handbook: *Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement***

In January 2007, Transparency International published the *Handbook for Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement*. Featuring case studies from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan, the Handbook provides an overview of the problem of corruption in public contracting and offers practical suggestions for action. Intended as a hands-on guide for civil society and local governments, the Handbook is also a useful resource for those in the private sector working in procurement, such as bidders, suppliers, contractors and consultants. It is also available in Bahasa.

For more information and to download the publication, please see:

[www.transparency.org/regional\\_pages/asia\\_pacific#infocus](http://www.transparency.org/regional_pages/asia_pacific#infocus)

### **Transparencia Mexicana launches new website on conventions**

In January 2007, Transparencia Mexicana, TI's national chapter in Mexico, launched a new website to provide information on all anti-corruption conventions ratified by the Mexican government, including the Organisation of American States Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Anti-Corruption Convention. Particular emphasis is given to the channels for civil society's participation and the results obtained to date. For more information please visit: [www.anticorruption.org.mx](http://www.anticorruption.org.mx).

### **Capacity building workshops on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACAC) to prepare the alternative report from civil society organisations**

The Americas regional department at Transparency International (TI) secretariat has been working to help support a stronger civil society contribution to the Follow Up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. The second round of follow up provides a chance to assess the implementation of the Convention by countries. TI has provided funds for some national chapters to carry out educational workshops on the Convention and the Follow-up Mechanism in their countries. TI's chapter in Panama, Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Libertad Ciudadana, and TI's contact in the Dominican Republic, Participación Ciudadana, both hosted workshops in their countries in January 2006.

### **Kuwait Transparency Society held first Transparency Conference**

The Kuwait Transparency Society (KTS), in conjunction with the TI secretariat organised and hosted the Kuwait Transparency Conference 15 -16 January, to build on momentum in Kuwait and the region to fight corruption, following on Kuwait's recent UNCAC ratification the Conference of States Parties.

Conference participants included a wide audience of Kuwaiti civil society, parliament, private sector and government, and the sessions covered the UN Convention, access to information, national anti-corruption strategies and public-private partnerships. The conference was under the auspices of His Highness, The Emir of Kuwait, and speakers came from Hong Kong, Pakistan, UK, South Africa, Nigeria, the TI chapters in Middle East and North Africa and the TI secretariat.

In conjunction, KTS invited Prof. Johann Graf Lambsdorff to give a workshop on the methodology of the Corruption Perception Index (CPI). Following the conference, KTS and TI signed a "National Chapter Promotion Agreement", recognising the association as the TI National Contact in Kuwait. More on KTS can be found at: [www.shafafeyah.org/arabic/index.php](http://www.shafafeyah.org/arabic/index.php).

### **Philippines: National Integrity System (NIS) study released**

Transparency International (TI) and its national chapter in the Philippines (TI Philippines) released the NIS study on the Philippines in January 2007, as part of a regional project to analyse the National Integrity Systems (NIS) of nine countries in East and Southeast Asia. The study found that a lack of prosecutions, convictions and enforcement by the authorities persists. Key suggestions include a review of constitutional law, particularly in areas concerning appointments and the excessive power of the executive, strengthening institutional restraints against political interventions, building capacity within institutions, supporting demand for adherence to democratic principles in the public domain, ensuring independence and fiscal autonomy of accountability bodies, and promoting moral standards and ethical values. As an immediate follow-up measure to the study's release, TI Philippines aims to conduct an

assessment forum and bring together stakeholders interested in pursuing reasonable implementation of the recommendations in the NIS study.

#### **Japan: National Integrity System (NIS) study released**

Transparency International (TI) and TI Japan released the NIS study on Japan in January 2007, also as part of the regional project to analyse the National Integrity Systems (NIS) of nine countries in East and Southeast Asia. The study both praises the positive impacts of reform programmes implemented by the Japanese government in the past 10 years, as well as highlighting certain issues such as corruption in political finance, and practices including amakudari (golden parachuting) and dango (bid-rigging) that need to be urgently addressed. The top three priority areas identified were strengthening enforcement capability, taking a corruption-type-specific approach, and increasing disclosure of information. The study can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

#### **Taiwan focuses on ethics and good governance**

The Integrity Department of Taipei Municipal Government (IPTMG) in Taiwan put ethics and good governance high on the country's agenda with a series of activities in 2006. Taipei Municipal Government has co-operated with TI's chapter in Taiwan, [Transparency Taiwan](#) and the Community Universities in Taipei to promote a series of ethical curricula for more than one year. To mark the UN Anti-Corruption Day 2006, an exhibition on Good Governance and Ethical Society and a workshop on Improving Health Sector Ethics were organised and IPTMG signed a pledge with the Education Bureau of Taipei for further cooperation in community education.

#### **New Tender Board in Bahrain**

In January 2007, Bahrain's Tender Board –established to provide oversight in awarding government contracts and purchases, and to promote transparency and equal opportunities among bidders – hosted its first meeting with new members. Oil and Gas Affairs Minister and Board Chief, Dr Abdulhussain Mirza, hosted the meeting, welcoming the new members and paying tribute to outgoing members for their service. In the context of the meeting, the Minister also received TI Chief Executive David Nussbaum and Dr Jassim Al Ajmi, Chairman of TI's chapter in Bahrain, Bahrain Transparency Society.

#### **Al-Hares Puppet Show Continues its Performances to Children at Private Schools**

Following the launch of Al-Hares Puppet Show at Al-Kasaba in December 2006, TI's national chapter in the Palestine Authorities (AMAN) organised another 19 puppet shows targeting around 3,500 children at private schools in Bethlehem, Ramallah and Jerusalem. Al-Hares is a puppet show based on a short story that conveys lessons of integrity and accountability for kids and tackles issues of corruption, nepotism, and favouritism in Palestinian society and represents an innovative way of using drama to help kids understand corruption.

#### **Kenya: Youth Forum on Governance and Leadership**

In December 2006, TI-Kenya organised a successful youth forum in collaboration with the National Youth Empowerment Council (NYEC), a university student organisation, Youth Action Against Corruption, an Africa Youth Parliament (AYP) initiative, and Kenya Youth Education and Community Development Programme (KYCEP) to stimulate dialogue on governance issues among youth. The forum emphasized the role youth can play in demanding accountability from their government. More forums are planned for 2007.

#### **TI (UK) asks "Is the UK serious about fighting international corruption?"**

Transparency International United Kingdom (TI UK) has organised a discussion centred on addressing this question, with speakers from TI UK and the UK government. This discussion is motivated by the termination of the investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) of the affairs of BAE Systems as they relate to the UK-Saudi Al Yamamah defence contract. The discussion will address the UK's commitment to fight international corruption, and as well as more specific concerns including the independent enforcement of the rule of law, the role of the Attorney General, the UK's commitment to enforce the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and the future of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, and finally the impact of strategic aspects of UK- Saudi relations. Please [click here](#) to read TI's press statement on this issue.

#### **Revenue Transparency Project's Working Group meeting in London**

The Promoting Revenue Transparency Project hosted a working-group meeting in London on 30 January, to discuss the methodology of the Companies' Report, a report that actively involves companies in the different phases of the project through input and feedback mechanisms. Transparency International (TI) is leading the [Revenue Transparency Project](#) in partnership with the Revenue Watch Institute. It aims at bringing transparency to oil, gas and mining revenues by providing robust standards and measurements of progress in implementing practices leading to more transparency and accountability for companies and governments engaged in the extractive industries. In the context of this project, TI will produce a set of reports to measure revenue transparency policies and the performance of governments and companies in the oil, gas and mining industries.

**CORRUPTION IN QUOTES**

"The increasingly baroque fall-out from the BAE-Saudi case has opened Britain up to a series of attacks that harm its standing as an anti-corruption advocate and as a place to do business."

Michael Peel writing in the Financial Times on the BAE affair.  
*Financial Times*, UK; 22 January 2007.

According to an African Union peer review of South Africa, South Africans "feel betrayed, regarding corruption as a negation of democratic gains after a long period of struggle".

Quoted in *The Guardian*, UK; 29 January 2007.

"Absolute power corrupts, and the Chinese Communist party has become one of the most corrupt organisations the world has ever witnessed."

Will Hutton, *The Guardian*, UK; 8 January 2007.

"According to the daily newspaper La Stampa, about 100,000 public servants or representatives in Italy are either on trial or under investigation in connection with alleged criminal offences."

*The Guardian*, UK; 21 December 2006.

"The signal that there is something wrong with British politics is that there is so little corruption and too few real scandals."

Daniel Finkelstein writing in the The Times of London.  
*The Times*, UK; 24 January 2007.

"One of the major changes the year wrought was that it is now difficult for the average citizen to look at the various institutions that form the building blocks of this society with much confidence."

Herb Keinon writing in the Jerusalem Post.  
*Jerusalem Post*, Israel; 4 January 2007.

"Part of your promise to the citizens of St. Peters was honest government. You flat-out lied. You didn't complete your campaign promise ... You abused your position of trust ... to steal, to fatten your own pocket."

U.S. District Judge Henry Autrey sentencing Shawn Brown, former mayor of St Peters.  
*St Louis Post-Dispatch*, USA; 30 January 2007.

"International NGOs like Oxfam, Human Rights Watch, Transparency International and George Soro's Open Society network have the power to change agendas."

Timothy Garton Ash, writing about power and Davos, in *The Guardian*, UK; 24 January 2007.

COMING UP

Coming up in February and March

Coming up in February

12-14 February; Caracas, Venezuela

**The Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACC): Follow-up to the Convention**

15-17 February; Vilamoura, Portugal

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

20 February-2 March; Denver, USA

**2007 Global Education Summit: People, Planet, Purpose – Leading the Way to a Sustainable Suture**

22-23 February; Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**World Cities Conference on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity**

Coming up in March

2-3 March; Barcelona, Spain

**Doing Good and Doing Well**

12-14 March; Lille, France

**Water Status and Monitoring under the WFD Conference**

12-23 March; Washington DC, USA

**Public Private Partnership Series: Designing Legislative, Institutional and Regulatory Frameworks for Successful PPPs**

14-15 March; Brussels, Belgium

**Improving Governance and Fighting Corruption, New Frontiers in Public Private Partnerships**

14-16 March; Copenhagen, Denmark

**Fraud and Corruption Summit**

16-19 March; Cape Town, South Africa

**The Parliamentary Network of the World Bank Annual Conference**

16-20 March; Guatemala City, Guatemala

**Inter-American Development Bank and Inter-American Investment Corporation 2007 Annual Meeting**

18-20 March; Brussels, Belgium

**World Water Assembly for Elected Representatives and Citizen**

19-21 March; Florida, USA

**12th Annual Money Laundering Conference**

19-23 March; London, UK and Dublin, Ireland

**Freedom of Information: Achieving Open and Transparent Government**

23-27 March; Washington DC, USA

**ASPA 2007 Conference: Monumental Possibilities – Capitalising on Collaboration**

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

[www.transparency.org/news\\_room/events](http://www.transparency.org/news_room/events)

**MASTHEAD**

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Barbara Ann Clay, Director of Communications

Phone: +49-30-343 82042

Email: [bclay@transparency.org](mailto:bclay@transparency.org)

Amber Poroznuk, Online and Publications Editor

Phone: +49-30-343 820664

E-mail: [aporoznuk@transparency.org](mailto:aporoznuk@transparency.org)

Transparency International- International Secretariat

Alt-Moabit 96

10559 Berlin, Germany

Phone: +49-30-343 8200

Fax: +49-30-3470 3912

E-mail: [ti@transparency.org](mailto:ti@transparency.org)

Web: <http://www.transparency.org>

