

## STRATEGY PROGRAMME

March 2008

# TRANSPARENCY IN POLITICAL FINANCING IN ASIA PACIFIC

The findings of the TI *Global Corruption Barometer* and other governance indicators highlight the perception in the Asia Pacific region that political parties are one of the institutions most affected by corruption.

Political finance, defined as the use of resources for funding political organisations and electoral campaigns, is both a blessing and a curse for democracy in Asia Pacific. While resources allow parties and candidates to build solid political organisations, they also weaken democratic values as large donations can undermine elected office holders' independence and tie them closely to special interests.



The Asia Pacific Transparency in Political Financing programme builds on the TI CRINIS<sup>1</sup> project which promotes transparency and accountability in political financing in Latin America.

### GOAL

The programme goal is to help increase public trust in democracy and political parties by promoting transparency and accountability in political party and election campaign financing.

### OBJECTIVES

- **Evaluate the levels of transparency** built into legislation and the political financing practices of political parties and candidates during election campaigns, as well as the financial activities of parties in non-election years, thereby detecting weaknesses and strengths in a given country's system.
- **Engage in awareness-raising and advocacy activities** to promote transparency in political financing by working with parties, electoral authorities, corporate donors, voters and other key national and international stakeholders in this area.

### TARGET COUNTRIES

**Category 1:** Australia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Korea (South), Taiwan

**Category 2:** Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines, Fiji, Cambodia

<sup>1</sup> "Crisis" means ray of light in Latin

## DURATION

Two years

## APPROACH

Replicating in Asia Pacific the successful CRINIS programme employed by Latin American TI chapters, the programme is led by TI chapters in the target countries with input from the TI Secretariat on methodology, quality assurance and regional advocacy. Implementing chapters ensure the sustainability and resource development of the programme.

## KEY INTERVENTIONS AND COMPONENTS

- **MEASUREMENT**

The CRINIS indices produced for each target country allow a thorough evaluation of the state of national political party financing systems as well as comparisons between countries.

- **ANALYSIS**

Narrative reports provide a comprehensive analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of political party financing systems in the target countries and develop recommendations for reforms.

- **ADVOCACY**

Advocacy campaigns promote recommendations for reforms and, notably, citizen monitoring of political finance. Advocacy takes place at both national and regional levels. It involves some engagement with other international actors who work on political processes such as foundations, GOPAC, IFES, IDEA, development agencies and business associations.

- **MUTUAL LEARNING**

The most effective political finance tools and advocacy strategies are identified within and beyond the TI movement.

Contact Information: