

March Bulletin

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Transparency International
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B U L L E T I N

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Bula Vinaka! Namaste! and Welcome to the fourth issue of TI Fiji's new monthly bulletin. In this edition you can expect monthly updates and information regarding what is happening at TI Fiji, current and up-coming events, as well as general topics affecting TI Fiji.

You can read more in the upcoming quarterly newsletter, *TI Fiji Update*, that will soon be available!

Local Updates

TI Fiji Concludes Workshop Series

The three workshop series on the theme: "Ethical Business Principles in Countering Bribery" was completed on Friday 27th at the North Pole Hotel in Labasa.

The Labasa workshop concluded a series of three workshops funded by the TI Secretariat in Berlin Germany, of which the other two was held in Suva and Nadi.

TI Fiji Programme Officer Zena Sherani, described the workshops as a success and hopes to engage even more representatives from the private and public sector, civil society organisations and various donor agencies in future workshops.

Presenters spoke from diverse backgrounds but with the same underlying message of practicing good ethics in business and in other aspects of daily life.

ALAC into Launch Phase

The Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre have begun setting the platform for its awareness in the lead up to its official launch scheduled for the 15th of April.

Speaking at the Nadi and Labasa workshops, ALAC Programme Director, Koila Kabu emphasized the need for people to know and understand what role ALAC will play once it launches.

"It was good to see that following the workshops participants were able to identify what constitutes corruption and what avenues are available to combat this," she said.

This is a program of TI Fiji whose mandate is **to assist and give advice to the victims and witnesses of corruption**. The ALAC provides victims and witnesses of corruption with

practical assistance to pursue their corrupt related complaints.

There are currently 27 ALAC's operating in 19 countries including Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, which have received over 15,000 complaints from citizens. The success of the initiative in the fight against corruption means that TI Fiji would like to replicate this approach from other continents.

ALAC Advertises for Two Positions

In preparing for its inaugural launch in April 15th, and its subsequent operation in Fiji the ALAC is seeking 2 enthusiastic individuals for permanent positions as Legal Officer and Programme Assistant.

Applications have already started to pour in and is now under the discretion of the selection committee.

Applications close 1st of April, shortlisted applicants will be announced shortly after the due date.

TI Fiji represented at UNCAC regional meeting

TI Fiji Senior Executive Officer, Apisalome Tudreu was part of an eight member delegation to a workshop on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea organised by the UNDP Pacific Centre.

The main objectives of the workshop which was held from the 10-12 March was to:

- raise awareness on the importance of UNCAC and its key provisions;
- consider options for progressing anti-corruption work through UNCAC and the ADB-OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative Framework;
- identify priorities for assistance by UNDP and other development partners;
- learn from the experience of other regions towards advancing UNCAC implementation;

- strengthen partnerships between key stakeholders to support national action plans
- to discuss the to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

UNCAC is the first global legally binding instrument in the fight against corruption came into force on 14 December 2005.

The workshop examined useful experience in the development of anti-corruption programmes around the world, especially in some African nations and in Asia.

The Caribbean experience emphasised the very serious and dangerous challenges in the development of their anti-corruption campaign, and highlighted the importance of regional and inter regional cooperation. Available sources of technical support were also discussed.

TI Fiji has endorsed the workshop outcomes and agreed that TI Fiji collaborates with the other stakeholders in the formulation of a national AC plan of action and to properly incorporate these priorities in the new annual work plan.

TI Fiji hosts Dialogue Fiji Secretariat

In the spirit of inclusiveness and support for democratic governance, TI Fiji has provided office space to the Dialogue Fiji Secretariat. TI Fiji will be temporarily facilitating Dialogue Fiji's administrative activities.

Borne out of the pan-pacific UN organised workshop on conflict resolution in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in May 2008, the goal of the initiative is to engage with others in Fiji's society to create inclusive spaces for dialogue and peace building.

Earlier this month, the first national Citizens Assembly was held to launch the Dialogue Fiji initiative, gather support from broader civil society and also select additional members for the committee.

The Dialogue Fiji committee comprises of representatives from NGOs, faith based groups, marginalised groups, and the private sector, who are representatives of a diverse range of civil society organisations.

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DID YOU KNOW?

In a survey by TI Fiji on Fiji's systems of governance the report revealed that corruption in its various forms exists at all levels of society. Unfortunately, many people perceive corrupt practices as part of business and general life.

The problem of corruption is a national issue and every person in Fiji has a role to play in eradicating corruption and in promoting integrity.

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International Developments

TI Pakistan calls for judges Reinstatement

Transparency International Pakistan calls on the Government of Pakistan to re-instate the deposed judges who were unconstitutionally dismissed on November 3rd 2007 by the then Chief of Army Staff, General Pervez Musharraf, and immediately stop intervention in Media.

Syed Adil Gilani, Chairman reminded the government that in the Annual Meeting of the Transparency International Asia Pacific Chapters (20 countries), held in Manila, called on the Government of Pakistan to re-instate the deposed judges. He said Access to Information is the basic requirement of Transparency which induces Good Governance and the Rule of Law, which are of fundamental importance for Pakistan to develop as a nation and become part of the developed world. It is not the job of a government alone to bring about good governance, but every individual has to strive for this by playing his active role in rooting out corruption from society.

In the view of Transparency International the termination of these judges critically weakens the effective functioning of the judicial sector. The judiciary is a key institution safeguarding the rule of law, accountability of governing institutions and the prevention of corruption.

TI Pakistan launches ALAC Centre

The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity-Aman has launched an Advocacy and Legal Advice Center during a ceremony at the hall of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in al-Bireh today. The gathering included representatives of public institutions, the private sector and civil society organizations in addition to media outlets.

Launching this project comes in harmony with Aman's beliefs that fighting corruption requires collective efforts where all parties take part whether individuals or groups especially victims, witnesses of corruption or whistleblowers.

TI Kenya National Corruptions Perceptions Survey

The Grand Coalition Government in Kenya seems to be losing the war against corruption.

In the wake of widespread starvation and rising costs of living, TI-Kenya's National Corruption Perceptions Survey shows that many Kenyans believe the government has the power, the ability but not the will to tackle corruption. Parliament stands especially indicted in the failure to uphold the common good. The survey, which sought to assess the perceptions of Kenyans as regards progress on the war against corruption one year after the formation of the Grand Coalition, was conducted amongst a random sample of 1000 respondents between February and March of this year.

Cleaning Up Corruption in Water and Sanitation

A recent book published by the World Bank and co-authored by Transparency International Senior Advisor Donal O'Leary entitled *Improving Transparency, Integrity and Accountability in Water Supply and Sanitation* will be presented in April.

The book will prove to be a useful tool for diagnosing, analyzing, and remedying systematic corruption in the water supply and sanitation sectors.

Launch of Corruption Country Study

Transparency International Ireland will launch a major new study on safeguards against corruption and the abuse of power in Ireland on 2 March in Buswells Hotel, Dublin.

The National Integrity System Study is the most wide ranging analysis to be ever conducted on the issue in Ireland.

Funded by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, it examines the risk of corruption and abuse of power in government, politics, business, civil society and the media. It also looks at the role these sectors have to play in promoting integrity in public life.

The study makes some forty recommendations to tackle a problem that contributed to the world financial crisis and is believed to be costing the Irish economy €3 billion in lost revenues and finance each year.

The seminar will look at the role the abuse of power had to play in sowing the seeds of the financial crisis and what needs to be done to restore trust and confidence in our economic and political system.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Welcome to TI Fiji's new addition. In this section, individuals have the opportunity to write and express their opinions and views on topics that TI Fiji is advocating. Every month TI Fiji has a different topic so make sure to keep a lookout!



How are preparations going for the Launch of ALAC? and What are your expectations after the launch?

"Preparations for the Launch of ALAC began way back in 2008 with my predecessor. With just a month to prepare, since my recruitment, the foundation of the Programme has been set i.e. building partner relationships with the public and private sector, creating awareness amongst the various stakeholders."

"More importantly, it has informed members of the public about the services that ALAC provides within TI Fiji."

"Already we have received issues raised by individuals to ALAC. And this is prior to launching its programme."

"One would contemplate that post-launch, the effectiveness of ALAC will be determined through the increased numbers of complaints received, because of the effective response by appropriate agencies"

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Say "No"
to
Corruption



& "Yes"
to
Integrity