

# 11<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference: Workshop 11.3

## Presentation Abstract

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1. Your name: Dr. Clay Wescott

2. Workshop Title: eSociety and beyond: What citizen,civil society and business can do

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3. Title of case-study or paper: The role of ADB in building public-private partnerships for developing eSocieties in the Asia-Pacific region

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E-Government to combat corruption

The introduction of ICT can reduce corruption by improving the enforcement of rules, lessening the discretion of officials and increasing transparency. There are many examples of the use of "smart cards" to allow access to an increasing range of government services—a kind of electronic one-stop shop. These smart cards can prevent fraud or the misuse of public services and benefits, and thus increase public confidence in welfare and taxation services. Yet, while ICT eliminates many opportunities for corruption for those who do not understand the new technology fully, it opens up new corruption vistas for those who understand the new systems well enough to manipulate them. In a sense, ICT permits an intergenerational shift in corruption and rent seeking. The paper will examine the experience of ADB and others in this area.