

SHORT WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop:

WS 4.7 Enhancing Procurement Integrity through Collective Action

Date and time of workshop:

Date: Friday, November 12, 2010

Time: 9am to 11 am

Moderator:

Nancy Boswell, Pres. & CEO, Transparency International-USA

Rapporteur:

Shruti Shah, Senior Policy Director, Transparency International-USA

Panellists

- Aleksandr Shkolnikov, Director for Policy Reform Programs, Center for International Private Enterprise
- Anupama Jha, Director, TI-India
- Matthieu Salomon, International Senior Advisor, Towards Transparency (TI National Contact in Vietnam)
- Rezki Wibowo, Director, Transparency International-Indonesia

Main Issues Covered

This workshop focused on the importance of transparency and integrity in reducing corruption in public purchasing.

The workshop highlighted recent initiatives to enhance procurement integrity through collective action. It assessed progress on commitments governments around the world have undertaken to increase procurement transparency and reduce corruption through trade arrangements and integrity pacts. It assessed the role of the private sector in contributing to integrity in public procurement through adherence to anti-bribery standards and practices.

Panelist Discussion:

Transparency Through Trade Arrangements: Panelists discussed a TI-USA project carried out in cooperation with TI National Chapters in Indonesia and Vietnam and with support from the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE). This project focused on an assessment of legal and regulatory reforms under the APEC Transparency Standards on Government Procurement, consultation with the private sector on their practical impact, and recommendations for governments and the business community to enhance integrity in procurement.

Fighting Corruption Through Integrity Pacts: The Integrity Pact (IP) developed by TI is aimed at preventing corruption in public contracting. The workshop highlighted the experiences of and challenges associated with TI-India's implementation of the IP in India.

Civil Society Monitoring: Monitoring by civil society experts is a critical component of the Integrity Pact and was discussed by all speakers engaged in using this tool in their countries.

Main Outcomes

The participants and panelists:

1. Shared lessons learned across broad anti-corruption community;
2. Gained an awareness of the gaps between political commitments and practical impact in public procurement;
3. Focused on the importance of awareness and training to strengthen private sector adherence to anticorruption policies and programs;
4. Learned about the importance of monitoring by civil society on procurement projects; and
5. Discussed approaches for collaboration among government, businesses and civil society to enhance procurement integrity and contribute to recommendations for reform.

Main Outputs

N/A

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

The workshop discussion indicated a strong interest in projects relating to improving procurement integrity. A potential follow-up action could be to develop a network of interested NGOs (perhaps via an online forum) to collaborate on developing reform priorities and advocating for their implementation.

Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

The workshop highlighted the basic principles for enhancing procurement integrity:

1. Transparency in the process, including how decisions are made.
2. Implementation of commitments made.
3. Participation by civil society in independent monitoring.
4. Active engagement by citizens and end users.