Addressing corruption in public procurement

Public procurement remains an issue of concern in many countries. In Thailand, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) launched investigations into information received. Prior to this, the ACC had mentored eight investigators to detect corruption. Another 2018 case involved Panasonic executives illegitimately paying intermediaries to secure contracts: for example, in the 2017 Siamux case, contractors were paid $4.5 million in kickbacks. This demonstrates the prevalence of corruption in sectors that attract massive foreign direct investment relative to GDP, such as extractive companies in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. In 2017 in Cambodia alone, 88% of firms were the business community to fight pervasiveness of corruption.

Preventing corruption in the extractive industries

In 2018, ASEAN economies have attained a record level in attracting massive foreign direct investment relative to GDP, rising investment opportunities and revenues in both domestic and foreign companies, a lot remains to be done in terms of financial, legal, and ethical frameworks to combat corruption.

The private sector’s role in preventing corruption

ASEAN countries have made significant progress in their implementation of regulatory frameworks to both domestic and foreign companies. The UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism can be noted, addressing the interplay between gender and private sector and civil society. UNODC seeks to integrate gender-sensitive approaches at all stages of Anti-Corruption efforts.

The importance of corruption in the extractive industry

The extractive industry is a significant source of revenue for many countries, with a large value of the domestic market share, introduced ‘corporate governance and responsibility’ systems for reporting persons. We have heard that if we don’t provide bribes, we will lose our competitive advantage. It would bring a lot of value to create an environment by implementing international legal standards, and governments can tackle corruption and its impacts on the region. In 2017 in Cambodia alone, 88% of firms were the business community to fight pervasiveness of corruption.

Addressing corruption in the extractive industries

The extractive industry, such as mining and oil, is one of the areas most vulnerable to corruption. The large value of the domestic market share, introduced ‘corporate governance and responsibility’ systems for reporting persons. We have heard that if we don’t provide bribes, we will lose our competitive advantage. It would bring a lot of value to create an environment by implementing international legal standards, and governments can tackle corruption and its impacts on the region. In 2017 in Cambodia alone, 88% of firms were the business community to fight pervasiveness of corruption.
Addressing the Interplay between Gender and Corruption

A recent study in the United States found that women tend to experience different forms of corruption than men, often in informal settings.

In Southeast Asia, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is working to improve anti-corruption strategies and support the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

UNODC supports ASEAN countries with mentoring sessions and training programs involving a broad range of stakeholders, such as law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, anti-corruption authorities, academia, and the criminal justice sector. The mentoring sessions are expected to improve the understanding of the concepts and processes involved in anti-corruption measures.

In September, UNODC conducted a training program to address gender issues such as vulnerabilities and opportunities exploited through anti-corruption measures.

One specific outcome of the mentoring sessions is a set of key recommendations for each of the discussed thematic areas: criminal justice, education, capacity-building of law enforcement officers, and support for countries in the development of anti-corruption legislative frameworks.

The initiative led by KPK to develop a comprehensive range of anti-corruption measures from prevention to law enforcement, international cooperation, and asset recovery.

Furthermore, the UNODC organized a two-day Expert Meeting on Gender and Corruption in Bangkok, which contributed to a platform for relevant anti-corruption actors to share information, discuss challenges, and develop actionable ideas to promote a more transparent and accountable public sector.

UNODC supported the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and highlighted the importance of legal frameworks in combatting corruption.

The Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission has more than 1,000 agents in 34 provinces and includes women in its workforce. The focus of the commission is on behavior change, and training women through a family-based approach and games. By training the individuals first, UNODC hopes to make a difference in the institutions.

In September, UNODC contributed to the implementation of UNCAC Chapters on Preventive Measures and Asset Recovery, a peer-review process that assists States in implementing the Convention. In accordance with the terms of reference, each State party is reviewed by two other States.

Other reviews are planned later this year in Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar. The Commission is granted more authority to effectively combat corruption.

Asian countries have developed a comprehensive range of anti-corruption measures from prevention to law enforcement, international cooperation, and asset recovery. UNODC supports countries in the implementation of UNCAC Chapters on Preventive Measures and Asset Recovery.

In a very short period, UNODC conducted a training program in Singapore as part of its core investigation skills for financial investigators. The training program covered financial investigations and cross-border cooperation.

The training was for investigators to promote a platform for relevant anti-corruption actors to share information, discuss challenges, and develop actionable ideas to promote a more transparent and accountable public sector.

In September, UNODC supported the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), allowing the commission to develop a comprehensive range of anti-corruption measures from prevention to law enforcement, international cooperation, and asset recovery.