

# Southeast Asia Anti-Corruption Newsletter



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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## **Highlights Jan-June 2023**

- [Regional Meeting on Enhancing Collaboration Between SAIs and ACBs](#) – March 2023, Thailand
- [Safeguarding Sport from Corruption Workshop](#) – May 2023, Malaysia
- [International Seminar on Asset Recovery](#) – May 2023, Thailand



## **Addressing the Links Between Corruption and Transnational Organized Crime with the Royal Thai Police Cadet Academy**

**Nakhon Pathom Province (Thailand), 4 January 2023** - UNODC delivered a lecture on “Addressing the Links between Corruption & Transnational Organized Crime” (TOC) at the Royal Thai Police Cadet Academy (RPCA) based on the Academy’s International Law module.

The presentation covered the relationship between corruption and Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the linkages to: The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), Thailand’s legislation related to UNCAC and UNTOC, collaboration between UNODC and INTERPOL under TOC and corruption; and samples of corruption cases involving police and transnational organized crime.

The presentation enhanced the knowledge and understanding of the cadets regarding both the nature of corruption and TOC, as well as existing legislation at both domestic and international levels.

The lecture also created familiarity for the cadets on international legal frameworks and mechanisms to tackle corruption and transnational organized crime, including inspiring them about international cooperation. The trainees expressed their interest when listening to information regarding UNODC’s work with INTERPOL, case studies, and the plan to continuously collaborate with RPCA.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **Digital Evidence Training for Frontline Investigators**

**Jakarta (Indonesia), 19 January and Manila (Philippines) 7-9 February 2023** - The use of mobile devices is increasing, and so is the technology used in financial and corruption-related crimes. Criminals utilize these devices to communicate, store data, and facilitate illegal activities. However, the lack of guidance for investigators and prosecutors on handling electronic evidence poses challenges in ensuring its integrity and admissibility.

In Indonesia, the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information is developing a Standard of Competence for First Responders, requiring professional certification in the identification, collection, acquisition, and preservation of electronic evidence. However, there is currently no institution available for certifying these skills. To address this issue, the UNODC partnered with the Indonesian KPK Learning Centre to organize a "Digital Evidence Training for Front-Line Investigators" workshop. The training aimed to enhance the capacity of anti-corruption law enforcement authorities, prosecutors, and financial intelligence units to collect, preserve, and process digital evidence.

Similarly, in the Philippines, UNODC conducted a digital training course for key stakeholders in the country's anti-corruption landscape. The course focused on equipping investigators with the necessary skills and knowledge for collecting and processing digital evidence. Topics covered included identifying digital evidence sources, conducting investigations, crime scene analysis, collection techniques, data analysis, forensic reporting, and utilizing digital evidence in court. The training aimed to enhance the participants' ability to combat corruption effectively. Both the workshops in Indonesia and the Philippines addressed the challenges posed by evolving technology in financial and corruption-related crimes. By providing training and knowledge sharing, they aimed to improve the handling and utilization of digital evidence in the respective countries' anti-corruption efforts.

A full description of these activities are available [here](#) (Indonesia) and [here](#) (Philippines).



## **Data Mapping Workshop in the Philippines**

**Manila (Philippines), 20 January 2023** - UNODC is supporting the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) in the Philippines with technical assistance related to public procurement processes and the use of open data, digital tools, and data analytics to better prevent, detect, and mitigate corruption risks. The GPPB evaluates the effectiveness of government procurement systems and procurement reform programs and monitors the performance and compliance of government agencies with the procurement rules. Additionally, the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) was established following the passage of the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The UNODC, in cooperation with the GPPB organized a data mapping workshop, to ensure that the data held and publicized by GPPB and PhilGEPS are combined and coordinated at a technical level to achieve a complete picture of contracting in the Philippines without any duplications or erroneous information.

During the workshop, UNODC and Open Contracting Partnership (OCP) conducted a training for GPPB and PhilGEPS on how to complete a technical assessment template for the coordination of the datasets.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **Offshore Financial Investigation Training in Malaysia**

**Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), 10 February 2023** – Following up on request of assistance from investigative authorities in the region, UNODC has placed increasing emphasis on assisting national anti-corruption counterparts in preventing and combating offshore financial crimes. In this framework, UNODC partnered with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to hold a financial investigation training workshop for cases involving assets, entities, and transactions in offshore financial centres for law enforcement agencies.

The objective of the training was to strengthen the knowledge of anti-corruption practitioners and stakeholders in Malaysia to detect, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate corruption cases. Specifically, the workshop aimed to develop the skills and knowledge of investigators regarding the operation of offshore financial centres and how corrupt individuals can exploit legal persons and structures, provide a platform to help advance prosecution-led investigations (particularly those related to financial crime), and provide advanced training on Anti-Money Laundering (AML) that involves strategy, approach, and practical steps in AML investigations.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **UNODC Facilitates Landmark Data Sharing Agreement to Strengthen Philippines' Fight Against Criminal Financing**

**Manila (Philippines), 28 February 2023** - UNODC, in collaboration with the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), is working closely with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the Philippines to improve beneficial ownership transparency in the country.

By requesting the disclosure of information regarding corporate entities, authorities gain vital insights into the flow of illicit funds, strengthening their capacity to disrupt and dismantle criminal networks. To facilitate the sharing of beneficial ownership information between SEC and law enforcement agencies, UNODC organized a workshop on 13 September 2022, which focused on the importance of beneficial ownership information in investigating corruption and financial crimes. The workshop aimed to design robust data sharing agreements that grant relevant authorities, including law enforcement agencies, procurement authorities, prosecutors, and tax authorities, access to and utilization of this crucial information. As a result, 15 data sharing agreements were established between the SEC and various law enforcement agencies and procurement authorities.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **Workshop on Foreign Direct Investment Screening Tools**

**Bangkok (Thailand), 2 March 2023** - UNODC, in collaboration with the Government of Australia, hosted a workshop on the use of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) screening tools to mitigate the risk of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC). This training provided an overview of emerging approaches to combating TOC and promoted greater transparency and accountability measures, particularly the use of FDI screening tools.

The objective of the training was to strengthen the knowledge of law enforcement, criminal justice practitioners, and stakeholders from various Thai ministries concerned with attracting and authorizing FDI in Thailand, in transnational organized crime, including related corruption and money laundering challenges in the Mekong region, and how foreign direct investment could be used as a vehicle for transnational crime.

The workshop gathered 54 participants and presenters from organizations such as the Thailand Department of Special Investigation at the Ministry of Justice (DSI/MOJ), the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand (SET), the office of the National Economic and Social Council (NESDC), the Thailand Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO), the Economic Crime Suppression Division of the Royal Thai Police (RTP).

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **Regional Meeting on Enhancing Collaboration Between Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Bodies**

**Bangkok (Thailand), 16 March 2023** - The importance of inter-agency collaboration at the national, regional, and global levels to prevent and counter corruption is increasingly being acknowledged. Around the world, countries are working to establish closer cooperation between their auditing and anti-corruption authorities. To this end, UNODC launched the Abu Dhabi Declaration Programme (ADDP) in 2021 to promote the role of supreme audit institutions in tackling corruption and enhance their collaboration with anti-corruption bodies.

In working towards these goals, UNODC, in collaboration with the Supreme Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates (SAI UAE), hosted the second Abu Dhabi Declaration Programme (ADDP) Regional Workshop on Enhancing Collaboration between Supreme Audit Institution (SAIs) and Anti-Corruption Bodies (ACBs). The objective of the training was to promote and strengthen the collaboration between the 50 representatives of SAIs and ACBs from the 21 member countries of the Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI).

Participants heard presentations demonstrating good practices of collaboration between SAIs and ACBs and discussed challenges and the way forward to enhance overall coordination of anti-corruption efforts at the national and international levels. A full description of this activity is available [here](#).





## **Drafting Workshops for the Decrees Governing the Revised Inspection Law**

**Ho Chi Minh City and Hoa Binh (Viet Nam), 31 March 2023** - Vietnamese legislators adopted the (revised) Law on Inspection during the ongoing fourth session of the 15th National Assembly in Hanoi on 14 November 2022. The Law clearly defines the purpose, position, role, function, duties, powers and responsibilities of State Inspection Agencies and inspectors, codifies standards for inspectors enhances coordination in inspection, state audit, and investigation activities and emphasizes the importance of information technology and digital technology in inspection activities.

In furthering the application of the new Inspection Law, UNODC, in cooperation with the General Inspectorate (GI) of Viet Nam, organized two consultation workshops on the draft Decrees guiding the application of the revised Law, one for Southern provinces in Ho Chi Minh City on 24 March and another for Northern provinces and central level agencies in Hoa Bình on 31 March 2023.

The workshop in Ho Chi Minh City gathered 57 participants, while the workshop in Hoa Bình gathered 80 participants, including academics, law enforcement officers, law makers, legal experts, legal drafting team members, researchers, government officials in Viet Nam, and UNODC subject matter experts.

During these events, the participants discussed key components of two draft decrees guiding the implementation of the Law on Inspection, specifically: i) The organization and structure of inspection agencies and inspection activities, and ii) Sectoral inspection activities. UNODC will continue to support the finalization of the decrees before they are approved by the Government of Viet Nam.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



### **Training on Asset Declarations Management System**

**Dili (Timor-Leste), 11-14 April 2023** - The new Anti-Corruption Law of Timor-Leste has established an asset declaration system and given the Anti-Corruption Commission of Timor-Leste (CAC) the mandate to receive and verify the asset declarations of most public officials. Additionally, the CAC is responsible for establishing a consultation mechanism to provide information on how to fill in the declarations, developing a guide with explanations regarding how to complete declaration forms, and applying the sanctions provided in the law. Furthermore, the CAC is also expected to produce a yearly statistical report on the overall status of the asset declaration system.

UNODC recognizes the importance of supporting the rollout of this system and has produced a manual and reference guide detailing its operations and usability in partnership with the CAC. Apart from providing asset declaration form templates and guidance on how to investigate complaints and principles of evidence, UNODC also organized a training on the Asset Declarations Management System to enhance the officials' understanding of the subject.

This 4-day training was designed to align with the aforementioned objectives and gathered a total of 20 inspectors from CAC to attend the training. The participants learned how to verify asset declarations according to current standards set by regional players such as Indonesia and the Philippines. The training also included a simulated exercise to collect evidence for an audit.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **Roundtable Discussion on Strengthening Asset Recovery Efforts**

**Manila (Philippines), 21 April 2023** – A Roundtable Discussion on Asset Recovery was held in Manila on 21 April 2023, gathering high-level officials from various government agencies involved in combating corruption and recovering stolen assets. The event aimed to address the challenges posed by the theft of public assets in developing countries and explore opportunities to strengthen asset recovery efforts. Representatives from key agencies, including the Anti-Money Laundering Council, Department of Justice, Office of the Ombudsman, Office of the Solicitor General, National Bureau of Investigations, Philippine National Police, and Securities and Exchange Commission, participated in the discussion. Their collective expertise played a vital role in asset identification, tracing, freezing, and seizure.

During the discussion, participants identified several challenges impeding effective asset recovery in the Philippines. Of notable concern were the tight bank secrecy and data privacy laws, which hindered access to crucial financial information for investigations. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders, the event laid the groundwork for enhanced coordination, improved practices, and a more robust regulatory framework in line with international standards.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



### **Training of Trainers: Asset Declarations on Unusual Wealth in Thailand**

**Bangkok (Thailand), 24-26 April 2023** – The UNODC and the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on Asset Declarations and Unexplained Wealth. The primary objective of this ToT workshop was to enhance the NACC officers' capabilities in conducting inquiries and investigations related to verifying asset declarations. During the workshop, the NACC officers were exposed to advanced exercises focused on asset declarations, providing them with a deep understanding of techniques to identify unusual wealth. Additionally, they explored related issues concerning beneficial ownership transparency, a topic that generated considerable interest among the participants.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **UNODC Roundtable Addresses Public Procurement Fraud and Corruption**

**Manila (Philippines), 28 April 2023** - In order to promote tackling corruption in public procurement in the Philippines, the UNODC convened a high-level Roundtable Discussion on Fraud and Corruption in Public Procurement. The event served as a platform to identify challenges and practical solutions for enhancing the prevention, detection, and prosecution of these illicit activities.

The event gathered key officials from the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), the Open Contracting Partnership, the Open Government Partnership, Open Ownership, PhilGEPS, the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), the Revision of Laws Committee of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The culmination of the roundtable was a series of recommendations aimed at fortifying the integrity of public procurement systems. These included the establishment of a specialized procurement academy to elevate skills and knowledge, the development of a comprehensive code of conduct tailored specifically for procurement officials, the creation of an inter-agency coordinating council or task force to confront public procurement corruption head-on, the integration of whistleblower protection provisions within the proposed procurement law, and the mandatory submission of beneficial ownership declaration forms by bidders to enhance transparency and accountability.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **Regional Workshop on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption**

**Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), 15-16 May 2023** - More than 60 representatives from anti-corruption entities, criminal justice authorities, governments, sports organizations, and private sector from the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) participated in a two-day workshop organized by UNODC entitled, “Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime.”

Held in cooperation with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), the event was hosted by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), supported by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

The workshop included discussions and interactive activities aimed at building capacity and knowledge on a range of topics including: competition manipulation, detection and reporting of corruption offenses, illegal betting, corruption risks during major sport events, good governance of sport, organized crime in sport, abuse in sport, corruption and crime associated with the transfer of athletes.

The overall purpose of the regional workshop was to enhance operational cooperation, coordination and information, awareness raising and communication between relevant actors. The knowledge acquired during the workshop will help the beneficiaries from the ASEAN deliver on future work on tackling corruption and crime in sport.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **International Seminar on Enhancing Capacity to Recover Stolen Assets in Southeast Asia**

**Bangkok (Thailand), 23-25 May 2023** - UNODC and the Thailand's National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) organized a Regional Seminar on Enhancing Capacity to Recover Stolen Assets in Southeast Asia with the objective to strengthen cooperation among Southeast Asian countries to collect intelligence and evidence for tracing stolen assets internationally and promote cooperation and support in recovering the assets. The event gathered representatives from law enforcement authorities, anti-corruption agencies, financial intelligence units, and agencies responsible for managing recovered stolen assets from twelve Southeast Asian countries. The sessions covered topics such as international legal frameworks, preventing money laundering, beneficial ownership transparency, investigative tools, case studies, legal and institutional frameworks for asset recovery, and returning assets to the country of origin.

The seminar included interactive sessions such as group work, a plenary discussion, and an asset recovery quiz to actively engage participants. It provided a platform for knowledge sharing and exchanging good practices to strengthen asset recovery efforts in the region and globally.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



### **Enhancing Skills to Combat Corruption in the Philippines: Forensic Accounting Training for the Office of the Ombudsman**

**Manila (Philippines), 29-31 May 2023** - UNODC recognizes the critical need to strengthen the capacities of anti-corruption agencies and law enforcement authorities to address international corruption cases by tracing illicit financial flows; to address this need it conducted a Forensic Accounting Training Course for the Office of the Ombudsman of the Philippines. The training program aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively utilize forensic accounting techniques in combating corruption and financial crimes. As the primary anti-corruption institution in the Philippines, the Office of the Ombudsman plays a pivotal role in promoting accountability, transparency, and integrity in the public sector.

The three-day training program was attended by 36 investigators and prosecutors from the Office of the Ombudsman. The course delved into various aspects of forensic accounting, including accounting principles, financial statement analysis, identifying irregularities, and tracing illicit financial flows. Throughout the training, participants were exposed to real-world scenarios, providing them with practical insights and hands-on experience in dealing with complex financial investigations. A resounding 100% of participants expressed being very highly or highly satisfied with the training and the overall course content.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).





### **Strengthening Ethical Standards: Philippines Launches the Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability**

**Manila (Philippines), 30 May 2023** - The Philippine legal community took a significant step towards establishing high ethical standards with the launch of the Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability (CPRA) on April 13, 2023. Supported by UNODC, this event signifies a crucial milestone in building trust within the profession. The CPRA serves as the definitive Code of Conduct for lawyers, providing a robust framework deeply rooted in ethical values and integrity. Its comprehensive provisions reflect the shared commitment of legal practitioners to upholding the highest professional standards, thereby reaffirming confidence in the justice system.

This event gathered approximately 300 attendees, among which several high-level officials, including predominantly lawyers from the judiciary, prosecution, and the national government. With the launch of the Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability, the Philippine's legal community embarks on a transformative journey towards a strengthened ethical framework. This significant step aims to restore trust in the justice system and nurture a culture of unwavering integrity among legal practitioners, laying a solid foundation for a just and ethical legal landscape.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



### **ASEAN-PAC Capacity Building Workshop in Indonesia**

**Jakarta (Indonesia), 30-31 May 2023** – In coordination with the Indonesian KPK and Cambodian ACU, UNODC held a regional capacity building workshop with the theme of: “Anti-Corruption Education and Corruption Prevention Strategies”. The aim of this workshop was to provide a platform for anti-corruption practitioners and experts from the anti-corruption agencies in Southeast Asia, members of ASEAN-PAC, to share best practices and experiences.

The workshop participants were able to draw lessons learned from expert anti-corruption practitioners and their colleagues. Participants learned effective strategies in preventing corruption, including through the utilization of innovative technologies and in fostering anti-corruption education in the public sector. The workshop provided participants with opportunities to engage in interactive dialogues at the technical level and to network with their peers.

A full description of the activity is available [here](#).



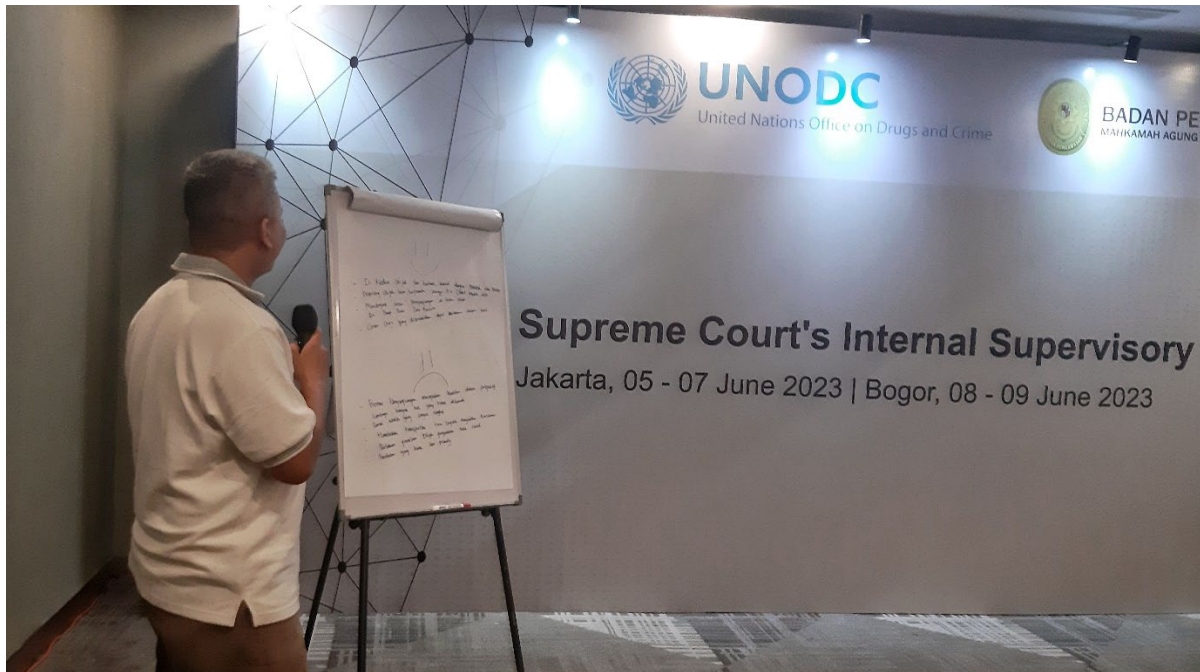
### **Police Cadets Essay Competition in Thailand and Indonesia**

**Nakhon Pathom (Thailand), 2 June and Jakarta (Indonesia) 4 June 2023** – The Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer shows that across the Asia-Pacific region law enforcement agencies are consistently perceived by citizens to be the institutions that suffer most from corruption. While these data represent perceptions by citizens and may not always be fully accurate, they undoubtedly signal a major problem for the criminal justice systems in countries of the region.

In line with the necessity to address these issues, UNODC has launched a series of initiatives for promoting transparency, accountability and the implementation of ethics and integrity rules in police departments across the region. Most recently, Thailand’s Royal Police Cadet Academy (RPCA) and the Indonesia National Police (INP) collaborated with UNODC to organize a workshop to promote the role of police cadets in building a professional environment that enables upholding principles of ethics, integrity, and best practices in fighting corruption. The workshop highlighted corruption’s effects on societies and youth, international anti-corruption norms and standards, and youth engagement in preventing and combating corruption.

These workshops were conducted to prepare the cadets for their participation in the Police Cadets Essay Competition on strengthening ethics and integrity within the police force to be held later in 2023. The competition will be conducted in parallel in 4 Southeast Asian countries (Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam). UNODC is committed to continuing the partnership with the national police in both countries to strengthen ethics and integrity both within the police force and broader society.

Full descriptions of these activities are available [here](#) (Thailand) and [here](#) (Indonesia).



### **Mystery Shopper Training in Indonesia**

**Bogor (Indonesia) 8-9 June 2023** – In collaboration with Indonesia’s Supreme Court Supervisory Body, UNODC provided support for a capacity building program by organizing a Mystery Shopper Training. This training took place on 8-9 June 2023, with the participants engaging in field practice activities at two different courts: the Religion Court of Cibinong and the County Court of Cibinong, both located in Bogor. The training was conducted through in-class sessions and field exercises for 20 newly recruited agents of the Supreme Court’s Internal Monitoring Unit (*Badan Pengawas Mahkamah Agung*). The aim of the field exercises was to simulate real-life situations for evidence gathering, including operation planning meetings and team gatherings. To facilitate the training, tools such as mobile surveillance cameras and cars were provided. The participants were divided into four teams, each assigned one car and surveillance tools for the field exercises.

The training aimed to enable the Supreme Court Supervisory Body to monitor the judges’ and other court personnel’s compliance with their duties and the delivery of court services, ensuring the prevention of corruption within the courts. The training covered various topics, including an introduction to intelligence, the intelligence process, information collection and investigation, as well as surveillance and undercover exercises. These exercises included role-play profiling, information collection, and reporting.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **Strengthening Integrity and Advancing Collective Action Against Corruption in Indonesia's Land Use Sector**

**Sorong (Indonesia) 15-17 June 2023** – UNODC partnered with Indonesia's Anti-Corruption Commission (KPK) and the Indonesian Global Compact Network (IGCN) to organize a workshop addressing the vulnerabilities to corruption in the land use sector, from 15-17 June in Sorong, Indonesia. The workshop's primary goals were to share the identified corruption risks in the land-based sector and discuss practices for mitigating these risks from the private sector's perspective.

Additionally, the workshop aimed to assess the maturity level of companies' anti-corruption policies and raise awareness about anti-corruption strategies to promote stronger business ethics and codes of conduct. The workshop included an introduction to the topic from the IGCN and a presentation by UNODC on the results of a Corruption Risk Assessment in the Forestry sector, conducted across four different provinces since 2018 (South Sumatra, East Kalimantan, Papua, and West Papua). The assessment report identified a higher corruption risk in the forestry sector during land conversion, land management, and licensing processes. It also revealed that companies within the forestry sector had limited exposure to strategies and measures for preventing private sector corruption.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **International Conference on Anti-Corruption Innovations in Southeast Asia**

**Bangkok (Thailand) 16 June 2023** – Southeast Asia gathers some of the world’s fastest-growing economies. Nevertheless, corruption continues to plague governments and public services, slowing down the achievement of SDGs. Corruption and related issues such as organized crime and money laundering are becoming more complex with evolving technologies and increased financial ties among the countries in the region and beyond. In response to these issues, innovative anti-corruption approaches involving all stakeholders need to be developed and put into practice.

The International Conference on Anti-Corruption Innovations in Southeast Asia, organized by UNODC and its partners namely Chulalongkorn University and the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, with support from the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), aimed to showcase innovative approaches to good governance that are being spearheaded by organizations and governments throughout the Southeast Asia. Highlighting these initiatives helped to demonstrate that, despite the region’s ongoing struggles with entrenched corruption, there are promising initiatives that suggest the possibility of meaningful progress.

The conference gathered researchers, civil society organizations, private sector reformers, and public policymakers from several countries in the region and provided opportunities to share innovative ideas across borders to tackle corruption.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



## **Anti-Corruption in Infrastructure Projects Workshop**

**Vientiane 13-16 June and Savanhnakhet Province 20-23 June (Lao PDR), 2023** – In recent years, Laos has embarked on a journey to enhance its infrastructure and facilitate economic growth. The country has witnessed significant progress in various infrastructure sectors, reflecting its commitment to improving connectivity, transportation, and energy systems. The development of new roads, bridges, airports, and hydropower plants has been a key focus; these infrastructure projects are not only transforming the physical landscape of Laos but also fostering greater connectivity within the country and the wider region.

In this context, promoting the capacity of Laotian law enforcement authorities to address corruption in infrastructure development projects is of great importance. Recognizing this, the State Inspection Authority (SIA), with support from UNODC, organized two trainings on this topic for law enforcement authorities in the country.

The trainings were held in two locations, Vientiane, and Savanhnakhet Province, from June 13 to 23, and brought together a combined 64 officials from SIA and relevant government agencies. The participants learned how to identify and investigate common forms of corruption in the planning and building of roads, public buildings, and other infrastructure projects, as well as how corrupt officials and their accomplices conceal the payment of bribes using corporations and trusts based in the nation or another jurisdiction.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).



### **Workshop on Liability of Legal Persons in Malaysia Strengthens Business Integrity**

**Putrajaya (Malaysia), 26 June 2023** – Following the introduction of Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption in the Malaysian legal framework, the UNODC conducted a study to produce recommendations to enhance the capacity of Malaysia's criminal justice system to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate corruption cases against legal entities. The draft study and the related recommendations were presented at the Workshop on Liability of Legal Persons (LLP) in Malaysia, jointly organized by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and UNODC.

This three-day event gathered 130 stakeholders from various entities, including MACC, the Attorney General's Chambers, representatives of the Judiciary, foreign Anti-Corruption Authorities, international experts, academia, NGOs, and business associations. They actively participated in discussions centred around the draft report that analyses the current regulatory and institutional framework.

The workshop included a roundtable dialogue session with non-governmental stakeholders, including representatives from business, civil society, and academia. The objective of the dialogue session was to present the LLP study to other stakeholders and share views on the challenges in enforcing corporate liability in Malaysia.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).





### **Dialogue Seeks to Open Up Malaysian Procurement**

**Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), 28 June 2023** – The Malaysian Government is seeking to develop a new Procurement Act with extensive consultation and public input. To achieve this goal, the Center to Combat Corruption & Cronyism (C4 Center) and the UNODC gathered key stakeholders from civil society, the private sector, the Ministry of Finance, and the Parliament for a three-day introductory procurement dialogue.

Participants identified good practices to be included in a draft Procurement Bill, including: Freedom of Information provisions; extensive and diverse consultations; media engagement; harmonization between State and Federal procurement processes; effective and robust e-procurement systems, among others.

The Malaysian procurement dialogue is part of UNODC's integrity work under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Parliamentary - Civic Partnership Project. This is in partnership with East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI) and the Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia).

A full description of this activity can be found [here](#).



### **Anti-Corruption Workshop for Police Cadets in Thailand**

**Prachuap Khiri Khan (Thailand), 28-30 June 2023** - UNODC, in collaboration with the Royal Police Cadet Academy, organized a training to highlight approaches young police officers can implement to uncover and address corruption.

This workshop aimed to provide police cadets with an understanding of corruption's characteristics and mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption when it occurs. In addition, the workshop provided presentations on international standards of ethics and integrity in law enforcement.

Various presentations from other law enforcement agencies (e.g., the anti-corruption division and disciplinary division of the Royal Thai Police), prosecutor general's office, a former judge, academics, as well as the specialized anti-corruption agencies - namely the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (ONACC) and the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) were provided to the participants. The police cadets also had the opportunity to discuss various thematic areas in group work sessions and present their perspectives regarding how to prevent and tackle corruption in policing.

A full description of this activity is available [here](#).

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