

Anti-Corruption Hub for South-East Asia

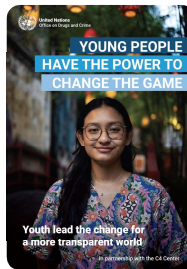
NEWSLETTER
July - December 2024



In this Newsletter

- UNODC celebrates International Anti-Corruption Day
- Impact stories
- News and updates
- New publications

UNODC celebrates International Anti-Corruption Day



"This year's International Anti-Corruption Day campaign is centered on you—the youth. As the generations that came before you, we must actively listen to the voices of young guardians of integrity. Your ideas today could be the key to the most effective solutions for fighting corruption, and fostering a future rooted in transparency and accountability." Annika Wythes, Team Lead, UNODC Anti-Corruption Hub for South-East Asia.

[Learn more](#)

Over 700 people across South-East Asia participated in International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) events with UNODC this year

Thailand

Event on promoting moral integrity with the Department of Corrections.



Viet Nam

Youth dialogue with the Viet Nam Youth Union and Supreme People's Procuracy.



Lao PDR

Event on uniting with youth against corruption with the State Inspection Authority.



Malaysia

Anti-corruption workshop for the private sector.



The Philippines

The 5th State Conference on UNCAC Implementation with the Office of the President; IACD events with the Office of the Ombudsman and the Journalists Against Corruption (JAC) Network.



Indonesia

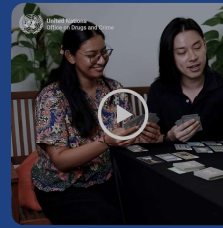
Article focusing on uniting for integrity and empowering stakeholders in the fight against corruption.

[Read about it](#)

"The youth will not stand idly by as corruption eats away opportunities for a better future. We choose to shape and protect a future where the culture of integrity is the norm. No longer just victims, **we the youth are guardians of integrity and anti-corruption partners**. UNODC has consistently supported us in this movement."

Dexter Yang

Founder and Chairperson - GoodGovPH, YouthLED Board Member



Impact stories



Anti-corruption champion: The Enerel Orphanage in Mongolia

Mongolia's first successful recovery of the proceeds of corruption is directly impacting the lives of orphan children.

"Many of the children who graduate get jobs at Erdenet Mining Company and many of the other graduates have made significant impacts on Mongolian society. More importantly, they go on to lead happy lives."

[Learn more](#)



The Philippines' game-changing procurement legislation

With the enactment of the new [Republic Act on Public Procurement](#), the Philippines has achieved a significant milestone. UNODC has partnered with the government on this long-term effort.

[Learn more](#)



[Learn more](#)

The fight for Timor-Leste's independence and a corruption-free future

Alexandre Faustino Freitas endured several years of fighting for the independence of Timor-Leste. Today, as the Deputy Commissioner, he keeps fighting to keep their independence free from corruption.

News and updates

Anti-corruption and human rights efforts are mutually reinforcing

Corruption is a barrier to the realization of human rights. UNODC co-hosted a regional dialogue with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to discuss these interlinkages.

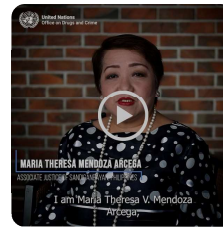
[Learn more](#)



Towards more inclusive anti-corruption policies

Sexual corruption undermines trust, exploits vulnerable people, and perpetuates inequality. UNODC convened a regional dialogue on gender and corruption to advance inclusive anti-corruption policies and programmes.

[Learn more](#)



Indonesian youth stand for integrity

Youth discussions on fighting money politics

Over 120 youth representatives attended discussions in Jakarta and Lampung.

[Learn more](#)

The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and UNODC partnered to empower youth to stand against vote-buying



Short video competition

215 young people submitted videos to the competition, and the top 20 contestants were invited to the video-making bootcamp. The three best videos were awarded.

[Winners](#)



Strengthening cooperation between Lao PDR and Thailand

UNODC hosted a bilateral workshop for the anti-corruption agencies of Lao PDR and Thailand to strengthen efforts in preventing and addressing transnational organized crime and corruption-related threats in border areas.

[Learn more](#)



Malaysia accelerates UNCAC implementation

In a workshop hosted by UNODC and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), government agencies and ministries collaborated to identify challenges and opportunities for advancing UNCAC implementation.

[Learn more](#)

UNODC supports Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Pillar IV Relating to a Fair Economy

IPEF recognizes that anti-corruption efforts are cornerstone to advancing resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness and competitiveness.

With the support of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) within the United States Department of State, UNODC delivered **workshops and developed a study** on three main areas for enhanced cooperation among IPEF partners.

Foreign Bribery Workshop
In Malaysia, hosted by the MACC.

Public Procurement Workshop
In Malaysia, hosted by the MACC.

Asset Recovery Workshop
In Viet Nam, hosted by the Government Inspectorate.



[Go to the study](#)

In November, UNODC celebrated a new collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Australia to support the implementation of UNCAC with IPEF partners.



Implementing the Regional Roadmap to fast-track UNCAC in South-East Asia

Advancing beneficial ownership transparency

Beneficial ownership transparency (BOT) is key to preventing the misuse of corporate vehicles to conceal the proceeds of corruption, making it central to anti-money laundering efforts.

UNODC published a report on BOT implementation in ASEAN and Timor-Leste

[Go to the Report](#)

Regional peer exchange on BOT in South-East Asia

In collaboration with Open Ownership, the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, and the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the exchange brought together anti-corruption authorities, regulators, law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and civil society.

[Learn more](#)



Click above to watch a video on the regional peer exchange

Viet Nam

UNODC provided legislative support in drafting BOT provisions for the Anti-Money Laundering and Enterprise Laws.

The Philippines

UNODC supported the development of standard operating procedures on BO data sharing.

Collaboration with the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)

UNODC contributed to the 2024 APG Typologies Report on the abuse of legal persons and presented on BOT at their November Typologies Workshop.

[Go to the Report](#)



Whistle-blower protection

Whistle-blowers play an important role in the detection and prevention of corruption; however, they face the risk of retaliation, including threats and/or physical harm.

UNODC drafted a knowledge product on whistle-blower protection in ASEAN.

[Go to the Report](#)

Viet Nam

National workshop on whistle-blower protection in collaboration with the National Assembly's Judicial Committee.

The Philippines

Drafting workshop to support the Securities and Exchange Commission's whistle-blower policy.



[Learn more](#)



[Learn more](#)

Malaysia

UNODC has been assisting the Legal Affairs Division that is leading on the reforms of the Whistleblower Protection Act.

- > Active participation in the policy refinement workshop on the reforms.
- > Further assistance in the drafting of the private sector provisions.

Strengthening asset recovery in South-East Asia

"Restoring proceeds of corruption to their rightful owner is a development imperative. By returning corrupt funds, we can mobilize resources to reduce poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also the right thing to do."
 Ghada Fathi Waly, UNODC Executive Director.

[Go to the UNODC factsheet: UNCAC Chapter V on asset recovery](#)

Viet Nam

Workshop with the Supreme People's Procuracy to support the development of the national action plan on asset recovery.



Indonesia

Training on asset management for the Indonesian KPK. For more details, click to watch the video below.



Business integrity

Corruption in the private sector can take various forms, including fraud, bribery, and embezzlement. These acts undermine economic development, market competition, consumer welfare, and equitable opportunities, while also posing significant business risks and distorting markets.

Indonesia

Corruption in the palm oil industry hinders its ability to fully contribute to Indonesia's economic growth. With support from UNODC, the industry is committed to driving change.

[Learn more](#)



Malaysia

UNODC has been promoting private sector integrity in Malaysia by implementing integrity pacts and enhancing regulatory frameworks on the liability of legal persons through a comprehensive study.

[Go to the Study](#)



Enhancing the skills of journalists and civil society organizations to combat corruption

UNODC continues to support the South-East Asian Anti-Corruption Network for CSOs (SEA-ACN) and the JAC network.

JAC roundtable on fraudulent cyber schemes and online gambling

Online scam investigation training for the JAC network
Strengthening journalists' use of open data.

[Learn more](#)

SEA-ACN roundtable on open data
Click the video on the right for more details.



In December, UNODC signed an agreement to launch the second phase of its citizen-focused accountability and transparency project. This initiative, supported by the Government of Sweden, aims to empower civil society and investigative journalism to strengthen anti-corruption efforts across South-East Asia.



Enhancing the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases

Thailand

Workshop on enforcement of foreign bribery laws for Thai investigators.



Viet Nam

Training on how to investigate and prosecute complex corruption cases.



Malaysia

Multi-agency cooperation and investigation methods training for law enforcement officers.



Fostering partnerships

ASEAN - Parties Against Corruption

UNODC delivered technical presentations on UNCAC implementation to ASEAN-PAC at:

-> The Secretariat meeting in Luang Prabang (July), chaired by the Lao PDR State Inspection Authority, focusing on anti-corruption efforts for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The capacity-building workshop led to the Luang Prabang outcomes document.

-> The 20th Principals meeting in Bali (December), chaired by Indonesia's KPK, emphasizing collaborative actions through technological innovations. The workshop supported the development of the next ASEAN-PAC Action Plan.

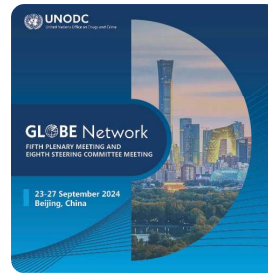
[Learn more](#)



The GlobE Network

Side event at the 5th GlobE Plenary Meeting
UNODC hosted a side event on how transnational organized crime in Southeast Asia's special economic zones, casinos, and scam operations drives human trafficking enabled by corruption.

The Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau of Singapore joined the Network in November.



Further collaborations

OECD/ADB regional seminar on government incentives for corporate anti-corruption compliance



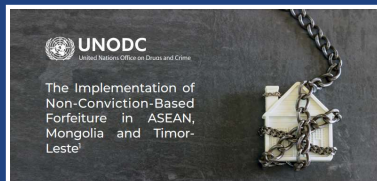
26th UNAFEI UNCAC training for anti-corruption practitioners



Transparency International's Asia Pacific regional meeting



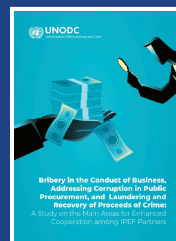
New publications



[Read](#)

The Implementation of Non-Conviction-Based Forfeiture in ASEAN, Mongolia and Timor-Leste

Non-conviction-based forfeiture (NCBF) refers to confiscation for which a criminal conviction is not required, and can be a key tool in facilitating cross-border asset recovery. The report gives an overview of NCBF under UNCAC and its implementation in ASEAN, Mongolia and Timor-Leste.

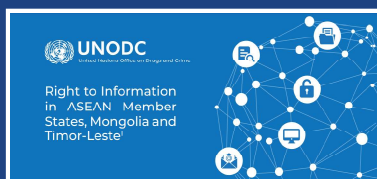


[Read](#)

Bribery in the Conduct of Business, Addressing Corruption in Public Procurement, and Laundering and Recovery of Proceeds of Crime:

A Study on the Main Areas for Enhanced Cooperation among IPEF Partners

This study provides an overview and high-level analysis of three areas for enhanced cooperation in the fight against corruption in IPEF partners: bribery in the conduct of business, addressing corruption in public procurement, and laundering and recovery of proceeds of crime.



Right to Information in ASEAN Member States, Mongolia and Timor-Leste

This paper offers an overview of the Right to Information (RTI), highlights best practices, and provides recommendations

Read

for strengthening RTI legislation and mechanisms.



Liability of Legal Persons: Implementation under UNCAC with a focus on Malaysia

This paper examines the implementation of UNCAC Article 26 on the liability of legal persons, using Malaysia as a case example.

Read

To learn more about the UNODC Anti-Corruption Hub for South-East Asia

[Click here](#)



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

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