



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A very Happy New Year to all our TI members!

Let me take this opportunity to update you all through our first newsletter of 2007.

Your committee has in the past year, focused attention on completing many projects and programmes. We have strengthened TI-Malaysia (TI-M)'s administration, are ramping up the website, and raised TI-M's profile in the nation and internationally.

We continue to strengthen the voice and influence of TI-M, in our noble struggle to promote greater integrity, accountability, and transparency, and to fight corruption more effectively in our country.

Towards this goal, we have been issued many press statements on public policy and have responded in a forthright manner in the media to show our stand on best practices, transparency, and related issues.

We have communicated our statements to members on these issues and have received encouraging responses from members as well as the general public, corporate, and diplomatic circles and we wish to thank you all for your support.

We were encouraged that about 100 participants from government and private sectors, and local and international civil society joined us in the World Ethics and Transparency Forum: "Towards Greater Transparency for Global Competitiveness" on February 12-13th, 2007 at the Berjaya Times Square Hotel and Convention Center. We like to record our deep appreciation to the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute

and Institute of Integrity Malaysia for their strong support and participation as role models.

TI-M was represented by Deputy President, Mohd. Ali Hasan at the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, AMM & IACC Workshops in Guatemala (November 12-18th, 2006), where he participated actively.

The Malaysian Transparency Perception Survey was published on March 5th, 2007. The survey cuts across 411 corporations and 1025 individuals. The findings showed that the public perceived that "not enough is being done" by the authorities to fight corruption. There seems to be a gap between what is said and what is done on the issue of transparency especially in privatized contracts and the functioning of local authorities. We urge government to move more boldly towards greater transparency, in the interest of the individual, society, and our country.

We look forward to meeting you at the forthcoming AGM on March 14th. We would appreciate your views on how we can serve you all and the objectives of TI-M more effectively, in the interests of enhancing the work of TI-M and promoting greater integrity in our nation.

Thank you once again for all your support that has definitely sustained your EXCO and encouraged our members of TI-M!

Yours Sincerely

Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam
President
Transparency International Malaysia

EDITORIAL - Reflections

It has been almost a year since I was elected as the Secretary General, a position that I have great respect for and in which it carries a heavy burden. It was a great learning experience to work along with the distinguished EXCO members on the various projects and meeting other civil society and interest groups.

My involvement with TI-M started back in 2004 when I joined as a member out of great respect for Tunku Aziz, whom I first met at a talk at the American Chamber of Commerce. Before long, I was soon roped in to draft the report on behalf of TI-M for the Royal Commission of Police and eventually presented the report to the Commission on behalf of TI-M.

With the challenges of seeking funding for TI-M, I was asked to help out in organizing the fund raising dinner which was graced by our Prime Minister and in which, we managed to raise in excess of RM100,000. It was at that dinner that the Tan Sri Aziz Zainul Abidin Integrity Circles Project (TSAZICP) was launched by our Past President, Tunku Aziz.

Having been involved in the Royal Commission Police submission and fund raising as a new member of TI-M, I have learned as the Secretary General that there is a lot to be done. We can certainly rope in more like minded members who can volunteer their time to advocate greater transparency and accountability in our society.

Life is a journey. As I step down as the Secretary General in this coming AGM, I am hopeful that the Society will move to greater heights.

Dr Chin Young Kheong
Secretary-General
Transparency International - Malaysia

HIGHLIGHTS

Malaysia Transparency Perception Survey 2007

The Malaysian Transparency Perception Survey (MTPS) was launched on Mar 5th, 2007 by YB Dato Shahrir Abdul Samad, Chairman of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee. The event was attended by more than 100 guests from government and private sectors, senior diplomats, civil societies, and members of the media. There was also a discussion panel consisting of Tan Sri Clifford Herbert (Federation of Malaysia Manufacturers), H.E. Lauri Korpinen (Ambassador of the Embassy of Finland), and Edward Lee (President of Section 5 Residents' Association Petaling Jaya), and chaired by Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam (President TI-M).

The MTPS is a reflection of Transparency International (TI) Malaysia's on-going effort to raise public awareness and generate informed debate on issues related to graft and integrity deficit in Malaysia. This survey comes on the back of other extensive work carried out by TI such as the often quoted Corruption Perceptions Index, Bribe Payer's Index and other discourse and seminar events meant to stimulate interest and inform the public about the state and direction of integrity and transparency in Malaysia and in relation to the rest of the world.

The MTPS was carried out among 1025 members of the Malaysian public between November 30th-December 8th, 2006 and among 411 members of the corporate sector from December 11th-January 12th, 2007. The findings of the MTPS 2007 can be briefly summarized into three main points:

1. Members of the public and corporate sector continue to perceive that the problems relating to integrity and transparency remain acute and serious-

The survey finds that members of the

Malaysian public and corporate sector remain embedded in the perception that the level of integrity and transparency in government agencies remained wanting. But significant numbers of members of the public also remain largely trustful of government pronouncements and efforts to improve the standard of integrity and transparency despite some of their own personal experiences.

These can be clearly seen from some of the salient findings:

o 40% of the members of the public and 52% of the corporate sector felt that integrity and transparency levels at government agencies have remained unchanged;

o 20% of the corporate sector and 24% of members of the public felt that integrity levels have declined;

o 46% of the public but only 26% of the corporate sector felt that government sector integrity will continue to improve;

o 47% of members of the corporate sector and 30% of the public had someone close to them pay a bribe over the past year;

o 54% of members of the public and 71% of the corporate sector perceived that there was no transparency in government procurement processes.

2. Public and corporate perceptions of government agencies at risk (particularly enforcement agencies) remain largely unchanged:-

The Malaysian public and members of the corporate sector perceive the police and other enforcement and regulatory agencies as having the lowest level of transparency and integrity. While in the private sector, the building and construction industry was perceived to have the lowest level of integrity by both the public and corporate sector respondents.

Some of the highlights of the findings of this

part of the survey include:-

o Five government agencies with perceived lowest integrity and transparency according to members of the public:

- The Police - 56%
- Road Transport Department - 25%
- Customs and Excise - 19%
- Public Works - 7%
- Land Office - 6%

o Five government agencies with perceived lowest integrity and transparency according to members of the corporate sector:

- The Police - 59%
- Political Parties - 52%
- Road Transport Department - 35%
- Customs and Excise - 34%
- Local Government Agencies - 23%
- Land Office - 21%

o Three private sector industries with perceived lowest integrity and transparency according to members of the public:

- Building and construction - 25%
- Financial services - 6%
- Transportation - 3%

o Five private sector industries with perceived lowest integrity and transparency according to the members of the corporate sector:

- Building and construction - 57%
- Foreign worker recruitment services - 46%
- Energy and natural resources - 24%
- Automotive - 23%
- Transportation - 20%

3. Members of the public and corporate are largely supportive of measures to reform present system of governance-

Public support for likely measures for reform is high, signifying a sense of hopefulness and trust in the leaders and the government to carry out the necessary improvements to the level of integrity in the affected agencies. The findings also indicate a reasonable level of public and corporate sector awareness about the

necessary systemic changes needed to bring about durable improvements in the governance structures of the country.

Some of the main findings include:-

o 90% of the corporate sector and 88% of the public supported moves to blacklist companies in breach of government contracts;

o 92% of the public and 76% of the corporate sector supported the formation of an ombudsman body;

o 95% of the public and 82% of the corporate sector supported legislation to protect whistleblowers in corruption cases;

o 78% of the public and 76% of the corporate sector supported having the Anti Corruption Agency report to Parliament.

Conclusions

The survey finds that the fight against corruption and opaqueness of government sector dealings remains very much a work in progress. The findings also indicate a public and corporate sector that recognizes the need for deeper systemic changes needed to bring about deeper and durable improvements but more so, the findings also reflect that the much wanted positive results would require greater political will and persistence on the part of national leaders and government institutions.

TI President Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam (left) and YB Dato Shahrir Abdul Samad, Chairman of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee at the launch of MTPS 2007

World Ethics and Transparency Forum: "Towards Greater Transparency for Global Competitiveness"

TI co-organized a 2-day conference with Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) graced by local and international keynote speakers such as Tan Sri Bernard Dompok (Chairman, Parliamentary Select Committee on Integrity), Liam Mallon (Chairman of Esso Malaysia), and Dr Purification Quinsimang (Chairperson of Human Rights Commission, Philippines).

Other speakers included Tun Dzaidin, Tunku Aziz, Datuk David Chua, Datuk Syed Amin Aljefri, Alex MacGillivray, Joongi Kim, Samarjoo Manikam, Dato' Mohd Dahan, Dr Denis Osborne, Roger Conant, Stephen Young, Morihisa Kaneko, Herman Shastri, Ustaz Muhd, Uthman El-Muhaddah, Ian Oglivie, John Zinkin, Datuk Denison Jayasoraya, Francisco L Roman, Datuk Zaid Ibrahim, and Lim Guan Eng.

Moderators included Tan Sri Navaratnam, Dato' Michael Yeoh, Richard Leete, Hj. Mustafa Ali, Mohd. Ali Hasan, Dato' Ismail Noor, Datuk Mohd. Tap Salleh, and Tan Sri Simon Sipoun.

Areas of ethics and transparency in Leadership and Good Governance, Accountability, Key Pillars of Tawaring Malaysians, Impact of Corruption on Developed and Developing Countries, Public and Private Sectors, Common Religious Values, Challenges in Asia, and Human Rights were discussed.

The repeated theme was for a much stronger emphasis of good governance at the district, state, and global level in both public and private sectors. "Leaders should lead by personal example, have a duty to strengthen personal integrity, and protect the reputation of their institution" said Tunku Abdul Aziz, former Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary on Ethics and a Past President of TI-Malaysia in the first session of the forum. There was also a call for the development of global

standards that will be adopted as civil norms.

In the private sector, a strong correlation between corruption and investments rates in countries is proven through case studies. Even in the financial industry where organizations are inherently profit driven, corporations have a social responsibility to have an open and sound framework of business practices with respect to the community. Ethical culture within an organization should be educated to both employers and employees and resources must be allocated to detect, expose, and punish those that do not comply with the regulations. In Korea, hindsight shows that Presidents of major conglomerates are not replaceable and those organizations can sustain themselves or even perform better, as shown in the case of Hyundai Motors and Daewoo Group.

In Malaysia, the government is called to account for its actions in order to show commitment to eradicating corruption at all levels. Some of the current discourse is on introducing a "Right to Information" bill, holding local elections, and reinstating court reviews on political parties. The impacts of corruption goes beyond social disintegration but also distorts the economic system, endangers the stability of democratic institutions, violates human rights, and hampers government service delivery to the people.

During the luncheon address, the Minister in the PM's Department, Dato' Sari Nazri Aziz said that the government is seeking suggestions to help strengthen the law, including improving the Anti Corruption Agency and that they lack a good public relations unit to counter criticisms that not enough was being done to stamp out corruption and improve integrity unlike in Singapore.

The religious leaders from all different faiths also unanimously supported transparency and renounced the practice of corruption. Reverend Shastri, Secretary General of the Council of Churches

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ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS, EVENTS

Oct 2006

o CI Ngooi and Richard Yeoh met with visitors from Fitch Ratings Asia to discuss the transparency situation in Malaysia on Oct 11.

o Richard Wong and Richard Yeoh met with representatives of Ernst & Young from USA and HK to discuss possible assistance for TI-M activities on Oct 18.

Nov 2006

o RAZAIC pilot programme on Nov 6-7.

o Richard Yeoh met with Yorick Moes of Oxford Analytical, UK on Nov 7.

o Tan Sri Navaratnam and Richard Yeoh represented TI-M at National Integrity Day event on Nov 9.

o Richard Yeoh met with Fiona David of Australian Institute of Criminology on Nov 20.

o Tan Sri Navaratnam represented TI-M at United Nations Association of Malaysia Dinner on Nov 27.

o CI Ngooi, Mohd Ali Hasan, and Richard Yeoh attended Business & Human Rights workshop hosted by IPECA & PETRONAS on Nov 28.

Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, AMM & IACC Workshops

o Deputy President Assoc. Prof. Ali represented TI-M from Nov 12-18 in Guatemala. Tunku Abdul Aziz and Lee Chung San also attended and participated in the workshops, presentations, and group discussions. The aim of the workshops was to further understand the aims and objectives of TI.

Dec 2006

o The Handbook for Curbing Corruption in Public Procurement is a useful new publication based on practical experiences from Asia and civility and local governments, the Handbook provides an overview of the problem of corruption in public contracting and offers suggestions and experiences of how this problem can be addressed. The book features case studies from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan. Institut Integriti Malaysia President, Datuk Dr Mohd Tap Salleh officiated the launch.

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World Ethics and Transparency Forum: "Towards Greater Transparency for Global Competitiveness"

o TI co hosted this event with ASU on Feb 12-13 at Berjaya Times Square Convention Center to educate and promote transparency and good governance to both public and private sectors. Tan Sri Navaratnam moderated a Special Luncheon Keynote Address by Dato Sri Mohamed Nazri, Minister in the Prime Minister Department/ Preparatory Committee Chairman on "Ethics, Integrity, and Transparency - Key Pillars of Tawaring Malaysia."

o Richard Yeoh spoke at the OHMSI 4th National Congress on Integrity on behalf of TI-M on Feb 3.

o Tan Sri Navaratnam, Dr YK Chin, SJ Forbes, and Richard Yeoh met with the Dutch Ambassador and senior Foreign Ministry officials on Feb 7.

o Tan Sri Navaratnam, Mohd Ali Hasan Lee Chng San, and Richard Yeoh attended the official launch of TSAZICP on Feb 14.

o Assoc. Prof. Ali Hasan represented TI-M at the NGO's consultative meeting called by Wismaputra to discuss the drafting process of the proposed ASEAN Charter on Feb 23.

o Richard Wong and Richard Yeoh met with Mercedes Center on Feb 23 to finalize the TI-M's MTPS.

Mar 2007

Official launch of TI-M's Malaysia Transparency Perception Survey (MTPS).

o The survey was launched on March 5 at Hotel Equatorial by YB Dato Shahrir Abdul Samad, Chairman of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee.

Annual General Meeting

o Date: March 14, 2007 (Wednesday) Time: 6pm Place: Bilik Mesyuarat, Institut Integriti of Malaysia (off Jalan Duta, KL)

Please mark the date in your organizer.

Upcoming Event

o Workshop on Integrity Facts Monday, April 23rd 2007 Hotel Equatorial, Jalan Sultan Ismail, K. L.

Details will be emailed and posted to members and guests.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Anti-Corruption Awareness campaign for Primary School Children funded by the Embassy of Switzerland

The programme is being finalized and will involve working with primary schools and newspapers to promote the anti-corruption message.

K