As the first decade of the 21st century draws to a close, the days of turning a blind eye to corruption are over. There is no denying corruption’s insidious reach and corrosiveness, which continues to trap millions in poverty and fuel inequality and insecurity. By their words, leaders in government and business alike have committed to anti-corruption, extolling the virtues of transparency, accountability and integrity.

Yet in many cases, sadly, their actions do not match the rhetoric. Unfulfilled promises give way to public frustration and as a consequence trust in the institutions and actors that influence our lives is eroded. It is therefore fitting that we gather in Bangkok under the banner of ‘Restoring Trust: Global Action for Transparency’. Trust goes hand in hand with transparency and both are necessary for us to guard against corruption in its many forms. Newer challenges such as globalisation, the digital age and climate change demonstrate the need for increased expertise, innovation and resourcefulness in our strategies and approaches.

Each IACC reveals a global anti-corruption community that is growing in size, strength and diversity. Bringing together more than 1,000 people from over 100 countries, including heads of state, civil society, academics, compliance experts, journalists and business and government representatives, the 14th IACC is proof that demand for positive change transcends national borders. During the next four days it is our chance to look ahead to the next decade and collectively devise practical strategies to combat corruption, ensure new and existing commitments are met, and build back trust in our institutions.

I would like to thank the National Anti Corruption Commission of Thailand and the Royal Thai Government for hosting our 14th IACC, Transparency International Thailand and Transparency International for their hard work and dedication, and the people of Bangkok for their warm welcome.

Hon. Justice Barry O’Keefe
Chair, IACC Council
DO NOT MISS!

With six plenary sessions, 15 special sessions and 40 workshops, the 14th IACC brings you an agenda overflowing with ideas, innovation and inspiration. Many new exciting events and special features are certain to make this a conference you won't forget! Highlights include:

Social media

Have a colleague or a friend who couldn’t make it to the IACC? Want to know what is happening in one session while attending another? This year, for the first time in the history of the IACC series, the conference will go beyond the boundaries of the conference centre’s walls and ensure that as many people as possible can follow and join in the discussions. We will be capturing the workshops results, the stories behind the scenes and the successes in the fight against corruption on the 14th IACC blog. You will find the best quotes and latest updates on Twitter, reflecting the dynamism of the conference. And we will visualise the fight against corruption through interviews, reports and photos of the conference in real-time.

We have also invited talented young journalists from the region to help us cover the conference, interview participants and get the word out! Through social media, we hope to make the IACC a forum for participative dialogue on anti-corruption – in Bangkok and beyond.

14th IACC social media pages including the 14th IACC blog: www.14iacc.org/social
Twitter: www.twitter.com/14iacc If you are tweeting, please mark your tweets with the hashtag #14iacc

Cinema

While IACC social media is busy enabling conversations, what about taking a moment to experience compelling and thought-provoking films? A specially constructed cinema right in the conference centre will do just this. Throughout the IACC nine great films from around the world will be shown that deal not just with corruption and abuse of power, but also with citizen empowerment and activism.

Living with Corruption, an exposé by BAFTA award-winning journalist Sorious Samura, shows the staggering cost petty bribery incurs for the poorest families, travelling from Nairobi’s notorious Kibera slum to Sierra Leone. While The Shadow of Corruption tells the stories of five Transparency International Integrity Awards winners, from a French investigative magistrate who uncovered a web of corruption, to a former head of the Nigerian food and drug regulator (NAFDAC) on a mission to undo the nexus of corruption and counterfeit medication.

Seven other films complete the programme. Both moving and inspiring, these insights into the lives of others provide real life urgency to the topics being discussed at the IACC.

The cinema runs daily and is located in the Plaza.

Transparency International’s 2009-2010 Integrity Awards

Everyday people around the world battle against physical, legal and bureaucratic obstacles to expose and uproot corruption. Transparency International’s Integrity Awards were created to recognise the courage and determination of these individuals and organisations confronting corruption around the world. The Integrity Awards have honoured remarkable individuals, including journalists, public prosecutors, government officials and civil society leaders. The winners are a source of inspiration and celebration because their actions echo a common message: corruption can be beaten.

In some parts of the world speaking out against corruption can be met with threats, intimidation and physical harm, even death. Courageous individuals work at great personal risk to make their voices heard in places where dissent can meet with harsh repercussions. The murder of Sri Lankan journalist Lasantha Wickramatunga in 2009, who was awarded TI’s first Integrity Award, serves as a brutal testimony to the dangers faced by those that speak out against corruption.

The 14th IACC will play host to Transparency International’s 2009-2010 Integrity Awards. Join the awards ceremony as the anti-corruption movement pays tribute to three winners from three different continents, whose incredible strength and determination in the face of corruption speak beyond borders.

The Integrity Awards ceremony takes place on 12 November at the 14th IACC’s Gala Dinner.

www.transparency.org/integrityawards
Changing the rules of the game

“The vision is simple: Empowered citizens. Together we can change the rules of the game.”

Everyday, people from all walks of life take action against corruption in new and different ways. From activists and government officials to business people and journalists, their backgrounds may be diverse, but their goal is the same: systemic change to improve their communities.

For the first time at the IACC, you can participate in a series of exciting and innovative workshops focused on citizen empowerment in the fight against corruption. The People’s Empowerment Special Sessions will facilitate interactive discussions that encourage as many voices and perspectives to be heard as possible. Your input is needed to determine their direction and the final results.

Participation goes to the heart of the sessions, which revolve around productive conversations. Each conversation will be kicked off by people sharing their experiences and insights, after which participants will dive into discussions on such diverse topics as grass-roots campaigning; citizen participation and people-centred approaches; new communications and IT technologies; support and advice for victims, whistleblowers and witnesses, and much more.

Why the fresh approach? For victims of corruption to be supported, they need to be heard. For citizens to mobilise, they need to create and share a vision. For game-changers to connect, they need a space to meet and time to talk. So the fresh approach is about making space for these conversations – here in Bangkok, and afterwards.

The challenges are great, but the vision is simple: Empowered citizens. Together we can change the rules of the game.

The Group of Twenty Summit in Seoul starts tomorrow. What do you think still needs to be done to address the shortcomings in the global financial system laid bare by the crisis?

The G20 leaders have rightfully recognised that transparency and accountability are integral to rebuilding public trust in financial institutions and protecting against similar crises in the future. Such developments as the US financial reform legislation and the imminent UK bribery act are evidence of certain G20 recommendations being taken on board at the national level, but to date much more needs to happen. In several areas restricted public access to information and no space for civil society involvement limits the accountability of governments to their citizens.

Since 2008, Transparency International has called on the G20 to tackle illicit money flowing through off-shore financial centres and tax havens, rigorously clamp down on their companies from bribing abroad and ensure that the financial markets operate with greater public transparency. This includes regular supervision of institutions that pose systemic risk due to their size and greater oversight of auditing and financial services firms. Back to business is not good enough and we cannot let general amnesia replace stated commitments. The world simply cannot afford it.

If you could give 14th IACC participants one message, what would it be?

We have come so far together in the fight against corruption and the results are there for all to see. However, the disease of corruption still exacts a harsh price on people around the world, particularly society’s most vulnerable. Where corruption fuels inequality, poverty and conflict we must persevere in our fight for justice, human dignity and security. As long as people continue to profit from the suffering of others we simply cannot give up.

What do you see as the next steps in the fight against corruption?

Much progress has been achieved in getting regional and international anti-corruption conventions adopted and national laws passed. The challenge now is to ensure that they are rigorously enforced and for governments and companies to live up to their promises. Committing to zero corruption is a critical step, but if citizens don’t see progress in this area disillusion can quickly set in, which is why the 14th IACC’s focus on building trust through transparency is so timely. However, a top down approach only gets us so far. It must be reinforced with public demand for transparency, accountability and integrity. This responsibility lies with each and every one of us.

How does Transparency International help individuals demand accountability?

Standing up to corruption is often not an easy task and in some countries it can be extremely dangerous. From taking on corrupt high level government officials to blowing the whistle on corporate malfeasance, our Integrity Awards winners are inspirational examples of just what individuals are capable of. Many of them are extraordinarily courageous and it is the sad reality that people in many countries still face such danger for acting with and seeking integrity. This is why Transparency International works in many ways to support individuals, for example, our so called “development pacts” are bringing traditionally disadvantaged citizens together with their local authorities and service providers to ensure that their needs are listened to, respected and met. We are also seeing tremendous results through our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres, which provide free support and advice to tens of thousands of victims and witnesses of corruption each year. These centres show that corruption can affect anyone, but with a little help remarkable successes can be achieved.

The People’s Empowerment Special Sessions take place in the Ballroom on Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoon. For times and workshop descriptions – go to Changing the Rules of the Game on www.14iacc.org.
Did you know?

Bangkok currently holds the Guinness record for having the longest place name ‘Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Ratanakosin Mahinthara Yuthaya Mahadilok Phop Nopharat Ratchathani Buriram Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukarn Prasit’.

Tip of the day

Looking for a souvenir to remember your trip to Bangkok? Then head to the city’s weekend Chatuchak Market. Covering an incredible 35 acres, most of its 8,000 stalls crowd along bustling narrow lanes. Each Saturday and Sunday around 200,000 shoppers descend on the market to hunt for bargains. Whether you’re looking for an ‘I love Bangkok’ t-shirt, the latest sunglasses, traditional Thai jewellery or something else entirely, you are almost certain to find it here.

How to say

สวัสดี (sa-wat-dee)
Good morning, good evening, good afternoon, good night, hello, good-bye

สวัสดีครูป (sawatdee krup)
Hello (male speaker)

สวัสดีครับ (sawatdee kaa)
Hello (female speaker)

กรุณา (ga-ru-nah)
Please

ขอบคุณ (kop koon)
Thank you

Useful information

Tourist Police: 1155
Ambulance and Rescue: 1554
Medical Emergency: 1669