



## Concept note

### SCOPE – BUSINESS INTEGRITY SERIES

## **Regional Business Integrity Conference**

### **Culture of Business Integrity – Pathway to Sustainability and Success**

*06 – 07 March 2017*

*Ballroom 2, Level 3, Amara Hotel, 165 Tanjong Pagar Road, Singapore 088539*

#### **1. Background**

**1.1.** Corruption undermines the rule of law and impacts economic and social development, disproportionately hurting the most vulnerable groups. Many people face the necessity of paying bribes to gain access to essential services. Corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion cost some US \$1.26 trillion for developing countries per year; this amount of money could be used to lift above the poverty line, those who are living on less than \$1.25 for at least six years.<sup>1</sup>

**1.2.** For companies, corruption adds up to 10% to the total cost of doing business in many parts of the world and up to 25% to the cost of procurement contracts in developing countries.<sup>2</sup> Red tape and corruption especially in procurement can distort market mechanisms, prevent fair competition and deter investment. It also exposes companies to legal risks and erodes public investor trust and confidence.

**1.3.** World leaders have recognised that corruption is a key obstacle to progress, prosperity and sustainability. The new development agenda adopted by world leaders in September 2015 sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim to create a life of dignity for all by 2030. Goal 16 of the SDGs aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. **“Substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms”** is among the targets of this goal.

**1.4.** All these issues and concerns are magnified in ASEAN as the bloc strives, in post-2015 integration, for greater regional economic, socio-cultural, and political-security. The ASEAN Community Blueprint 2025 adopted by ASEAN leader in November 2015 highlights the need to **“instil the culture of integrity and anti-corruption and mainstream the principles thereof into the policies and practices of the ASEAN Community”**. Key actions identified include but not limited to promoting ASEAN cooperation in implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption; strengthening the implementation of domestic laws and regulations against corruption and of anti-corruption practices in both the public and private sectors within ASEAN. These has been done and will continue to be done through the capacity building programmes; and promoting the sharing of experiences, best practices and exchange of views on ethics, values and the culture of integrity to strengthen anti-corruption activities.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16*, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>

<sup>2</sup> International Chamber of Commerce, TI, UN Global Compact & WEF Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (PACI), *The business case against corruption*, <http://www.weforum.org/pdf/paci/BusinessCaseAgainstCorruption.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> *ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025*, A.2.3



**1.5.** Initiated by the ASEAN CSR Network (ACN) and supported by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UKFCO) through its Prosperity Fund, the Working Group on Business Integrity in ASEAN (Working Group) was established in September 2014. ACN and Working Group recognise an urgent need for collective actions against corruption and the enhanced role of businesses in the fight against corruption in ASEAN. With key international partners such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), the Transparency International (TI), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), ACN and Working Group work to promote business integrity in the region, in line with ASEAN’s goals of building a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive ASEAN community.

**1.6.** ACN and Working Group are also exploring opportunities to engage with wider community of business integrity and sustainability leaders, including professionals and educators under Sustainability Consortium of Professionals and Educators (SCOPE) in collective actions against corruption. Co-founded by ACN and the NUS Business School’s Centre for Governance, Institutions and Organisations (CGIO) in July 2016, SCOPE comprises professionals and educators who are strongly committed to promote research, teaching and practice of sustainability in the region.

## **2. Objectives and Expected Outputs**

**2.1.** The *Regional Business Integrity Conference: Culture of Business Integrity – Pathway to Sustainability and Success* is designed to provide a platform for Working Group, key partners and stakeholders to participate in interactive high-level dialogues, and practical sharing of best practices and experiences.

**2.2.** The overall objectives are to:

- Raise awareness and understanding of business integrity and its linkage with sustainable growth;
- Encourage businesses and key players to make official commitment of upholding high integrity standards, including high standards of transparency and accountability.
- Provide Working Group, partners and other key stakeholders with the know-hows and collective actions platform to fight corruption and bribery in business transactions, create level playing field and promote business’s long-term sustainability and success.

**2.3.** Expected outputs include:

- Endorsement and commitment to the Regional Integrity Pledge (RIP);
- Case studies of best business integrity practice which can be replicated and scaled up;
- An action plan and a tentative calendar of events/activities for 2017-2018 of Working Group.

## **3. Activities**

- Panel discussions (Day 1, morning)
- Case studies/Workshop (Day 1, afternoon)
- Coordination meeting of the Working Group (Day 2, morning)

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## 4. Target Participants

Over a period of one and half days (06 – 07 March 2017), the conference will bring together approximately 100-120 speakers and delegates. This will include senior representatives from:

- Working Group on Business Integrity in ASEAN
- Anti-corruption agencies, including South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC)
- Businesses
- Stock exchanges
- Governments
- NGOs
- Academics

## 5. Partners

- Members of Working Group
- ACN's participating networks
- CGIO
- Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX) (tbc)
- Singapore Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) (tbc)
- UNODC
- UNDP
- TI

## 6. Donors & Supporters

- Core Donor: Government of Sweden
- Donors: UKFCO, Government of Canada

## 7. Organiser: ACN

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## 8. Programme

Monday 06 March 2017			
9am – 1pm	<p><b>Session 1: Opening Session</b> “Building a corruption-free and sustainable ASEAN community: opportunities and challenges”</p> <p><b>Session 2: Panel Discussion</b> “Enabling a culture of integrity in business: enforcing ethical business regulations”</p> <p><b>Session 3: Panel Discussion</b> “Towards sustainability: incorporating ethics and integrity into business strategy”</p>		
2.30pm – 6pm	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; background-color: #e2efda;"> <p><b>Session 4: Case Studies</b> “Restoring business integrity: what works, what does not?”</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; background-color: #e2efda;"> <p><b>Session 5: Workshop</b> “Mitigating risks in public procurement: tools and good practices”</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Session 4: Case Studies</b> “Restoring business integrity: what works, what does not?”</p>	<p><b>Session 5: Workshop</b> “Mitigating risks in public procurement: tools and good practices”</p>
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Tuesday 07 March 2017 (By Invitation ONLY)			
9am – 12.30pm	<p><b>Session 6: Coordination Meeting of the Working Group on Business Integrity in ASEAN and Partners</b></p>		