

South Asia Regional Workshop on Transparency and Integrity in the Water Sector



3-5 November 2007
Dhaka, Bangladesh

WIN Water
Integrity
Network
Fighting corruption in water worldwide



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social movement against corruption



Introduction

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), in association with the Water Integrity Network (WIN) an initiative of Transparency International (TI), is organizing the South Asia Regional Workshop on Transparency and Integrity in the Water Sector to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on November 3-5, 2007.

Objectives

To bring together water (covering water supply, sanitation, water resources management, irrigation and hydropower) sector and transparency focused professionals, to share and concretise ideas on how to promote transparency, improve accountability and prevent corruption in the water sector in South Asia. This is intended to lead to:

- Widely shared existing experiences of the current status of the nature and extent of gaps of transparency and accountability in the water sector at both national and local levels;
- Sharing of anti-corruption and integrity initiatives and experiences with respect to water sector, problems and challenges in this regards and opportunities and good practices in the South Asia region;
- New partnerships between water sector and anti-corruption professionals, including possibilities of in-country WIN activities;
- 6 to 8 proposals for joint regional and country level WIN activities, including where necessary, ideas for seeking further funding for activities and commitment from local actors to develop and implement.

The workshop is planned for sharing experiences developing proposals for joint activities for promoting integrity across sub-sectors in water with particular emphasis on the two main streams:

- a) Water Supply and Sanitation; and
- b) Water Resource Management.

The participants

The workshop will be held in Hotel Pan-Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. About 50 participants have been invited to participate in the workshop from the South Asian countries. They represent both water resources sectors and anti-corruption sectors and are from across CSOs, the private sector, utilities, regulators, NGOs, media and government. 30 participants will come from South Asian countries other than Bangladesh - Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. Bangladesh will be represented by approximately 20 participants.

Dr. Huguette Labelle, Chair, Board of Directors of TI will remain present at the inaugural ceremony.

Papers/Presentations

Participants are expected to share challenging or successful experiences in the fight against corruption in the water sector. There will be key-note presentations by selected resource persons.

Some participants will bring a short presentations of 5 minutes to be made in a "Market Place" session focusing on: a) In-country institutional and policy framework in the two above-mentioned thematic streams with particular focus on governance, transparency and integrity; b) Processes and possible entry points of accountability & governance failure and corruption; and c) Good practices and recommendations/way out.

In some cases the presenters may be asked to develop their presentations further after the workshop for a publication.

During the workshop there will be opportunity for joint planning and preparation of follow-up proposal ideas with the option of presenting these in plenary to a panel of interested donors. Efforts will be made for micro-funding and, upto three of the most successful proposals may be selected for further development after the workshop with a view to submitting these to the WIN Secretariat for consideration.

Funding

The workshop is being funded by WIN plus a grant from the Royal Dutch Embassy in Dhaka. TIB is grateful to them for the generous support.

Transparency International Bangladesh

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), the national chapter of the Berlin-based Transparency International (TI) works with a vision of Bangladesh where government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of the people shall be free from corruption.

TIB's mission is to catalyze and strengthen a participatory social movement for raising citizens' voice and demand to promote and develop institutions, laws and practices for combating corruption in Bangladesh and establishing an efficient and transparent system of governance, politics and business with particular emphasis on integrity and transparency in key service delivery sectors affecting daily lives of common citizens.

Towards this mission TIB has been implementing a robust multi-dimensional programme of research, communication & outreach, civic engagement and anti-corruption capacity building in Bangladesh.

The key objective is to catalyze institutional and policy reforms that would create and strengthen the anti-corruption edifice – the national integrity system. Activities are designed to bring the issue of corruption and governance failure to the core of public discourse at national and local levels through various means of public awareness, communication, voice raising and participation for social accountability.


Parallel with national level initiatives, TIB has attached high priority to citizen's engagement at local level in anti-corruption initiatives. Citizens watchdog forums called 'Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC)' have been formed together with youth volunteer and cultural groups that constitute the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) programme working on a fully voluntary basis with technical and programmatic support of TIB.

These CCCs and YES activists, working in 36 different parts of the country outside the capital, implement various types of awareness, communication and advocacy activities. Of particular importance are the social accountability initiatives undertaken by them on selected areas of local public interest. With technical support of TIB, Citizens Report Cards are produced by the CCCs to measure the degree of public satisfaction on the content and quality of services in selected areas of key public service such as education, health, land administration, local government, etc. Report Cards form the basis of communication and advocacy initiatives undertaken by CCCs and YES members to engage the various stakeholders including the service providers, local administration,



public representatives, and cross section of citizens in order to gradually transform these service providing institutions into 'Islands of Integrity'.

The workshop on Transparency and Integrity in the Water Sector opens the opportunity for TIB to expand and deepen its scope of work in terms of social accountability in this vital cross-cutting sector of water supply and sanitation as well as water resource management. TIB would like to explore ways of undertaking follow-up initiatives, with a view to exploring ways of mainstreaming transparency and accountability in the sector at the policy and institutional level as well in terms of social accountability at the local level through engaging various stakeholders.



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