



*Curbing Corruption in South Asia: A Workshop for
Parliamentarians*

July 11th – 12th, 2007

Dhaka, Bangladesh

FINAL REPORT

Curbing Corruption in South Asia: A Workshop for Parliamentarians **Acknowledgements**

The Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption wishes to thank the following organisations for their contributions to the *Curbing Corruption in South Asia: A Workshop for Parliamentarians*:

National Democratic Institute – Bangladesh
World Bank Institute

Conference Chair

Dr. Naser Al Sane, MP (Kuwait)
Vice Chair, GOPAC
Chair, Arab Regional Chapter (ARPAC)

Guest Speakers

General Moen U Ahmed (Bangladesh) Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar (Bangladesh)
Lt. Gen (Ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
Dr. Kamal Hossain (Bangladesh) Professor Eric Uslaner (USA)

Conference and Workshop Speakers

Hon. Al Haj Mohammad Abdo (Afghanistan)
Professor Muzaffer Ahmad (Bangladesh) Hon. Khem Lal Devkota (Nepal)
Ashraf Hossain (Bangladesh) Niall Johnston (UK)
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Faruk Khan (Bangladesh) Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan (Bangladesh)
Dr. Owen Lippert (Canada) Hon. Haroon Ihsan Paracha (Pakistan)
G.M. Quader (Bangladesh) Hon. Rajapakshe (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Vinod Sahgal (Canada) Mr. Oliver Stolpe (Austria)
Hon. Willias Madzimore (Zimbabwe) J.C. Weliamuna (Sri Lanka)

GOPAC wishes to thank the following individuals for their significant contribution to the conference and its administration:

NDI Bangladesh

Mr. Mahabubul Haque, Web Administrator
Mr. Saiful Karim, Operations Manager
Ms. Najia Khogyani-Hashemee, Program Manager
Dr. Own Lippert, Executive Director
Ms. Probashi Mahmud, Executive Assistant
Ms. Shadia Syed, Communications Consultant

GOPAC Secretariat

Ms. Meaghan Campbell, Communication and Program(s) Consultant

Ms. Kimberley Jordan, Program Assistant

Sarah Peeks, Intern

Dr. Martin Ulrich, Executive Secretary

World Bank Institute

Ms. Luiza Nora, Parliamentary Strengthening Program

Mr. Rick Stapenhurst, Senior Public Management Specialist

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Curbing Corruption in South Asia: A Workshop for Parliamentarians **REPORT**

The Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) was contracted by the World Bank Institute¹ to deliver a two day workshop for South Asian parliamentarians in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The workshop was to bring together parliamentarians from the region interested in combating corruption with a few key parliamentary colleagues from around the world, and experts from the field.

The objectives of the workshop were identified as follows:

1. Identify leadership team with representatives from each country to commit to creating a **South Asian regional chapter** of GOPAC, and elect an Interim Chair and Executive Committee, as well as identify priorities for a chapter work plan;
2. Generate interest and, if possible, commitment from participants from each country in working together to form **national chapters** in the South Asian region;
3. Provide broad-based **educational** and other **capacity enhancing activities** to participants focusing on the essential parliamentary oversight role, and on how implementation of the UNCAC could help
4. Provide public visibility regarding the importance of parliamentarians in effectively fighting corruption.

This report will outline the approach taken, summarize the discussions which took place and suggest next steps to take within the region.

PARTICIPANTS

The following parliaments were invited to send three to four participants to the workshop: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Letters of invitation were sent to Speakers of each of these parliaments and requested that delegations represent all political parties, with a special emphasis on including women parliamentarians.

As the selection of participants for a meeting aimed at forming a chapter was considered to be particularly important, GOPAC chose to go beyond official delegations to seek out those individuals with the motivation and skills to provide leadership.

¹ Contracted through the Parliamentary Centre.

Consultations were consequently undertaken with partners at the World Bank, Transparency International country offices, NDI representatives in the region as well as UNDP country offices.

As a result of these combined efforts, the workshop included fifty seven participants (plus staff). Of these, thirty-two were current or former parliamentarians from the region or abroad (see Appendix 1) with the remaining participants representing international and local organisations such as UNODC, TI, Asia Foundation and local embassy staff. The distribution of representation (parliamentarians)² was as follows:

- Afghanistan: 5
- Bangladesh: 13
- Nepal: 5
- Pakistan: 5
- Sri Lanka: 2
- Kuwait and Zimbabwe: 1 each (both GOPAC representatives)

India was invited to participate in the conference but could not send any participants due to budget debates. The Maldives was invited as well but could not attend due to financial constraints and Bhutan did not receive an invitation.

AGENDA

As noted, the focus of the workshop was essentially two fold. The first objective being to provide capacity development in the area of Parliamentary Oversight, the second being to expand the knowledge of GOPAC in the region and initiate interest in forming a South Asian regional chapter - along with corresponding national chapters.

The workshop was designed as a two day program. Day One was to focus on the essential information parliamentarians required to increase their capacity in the area of Parliamentary Oversight. A draft handbook was written and presented by Niall Johnston, Parliamentary Consultant, along with individual country case studies from Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Note that case studies³ from Bangladesh were presented on the Second Day. In addition, a session focusing on the role of

² Although a registration desk was set up and registration was strongly encouraged, not all participants registered.

³ Five case studies were presented – one from each of the political parties in Bangladesh. Our local partners advised that each political party should be given the opportunity to speak as only allowing one representative would be interpreted as favoritism by participants and local media.

Parliamentary Oversight in the effective implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) was conducted and included a representative from the UN Office of Drugs and Crime⁴ – the UN body responsible for the UNCAC.

Day Two focused on how parliamentarians can utilize their parliamentary oversight role in combating corruption in South Asia. It also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the formation of a South Asian Chapter of GOPAC and further actions for the organization. The following section will document the key points of the discussion in greater detail.

The initial agenda was drafted and distributed to all partners for input. However, during the course of the conference it became apparent that the agenda had become captured by the local political situation. As a result, the agenda was changed for Day Two to re-focus participants on a regional agenda. Both the initial and final agendas may be found in Appendix 2 and 3.

DISCUSSION

There was general consensus amongst participants that the states of South Asia – whether they were the strongest of democracies or merely aspiring – were plagued by corruption in their public and private sectors. Corruption was seen as pervasive, showing up in the area(s) of defence, development projects, election financing, and politically sponsored criminality, abuse of power, electoral malpractice, drug dealing, money laundering and human trafficking. In his presentation, Vinod Sahgal, Consultant, identified four major characteristics of corruption in South Asia:

1. Most corruption is upstream - involves heads of government and ministries.
2. Money has ‘wings not wheels’ – money is quickly laundered and sent away from the countries.
3. The corrupt tend to be promoted.
4. Some 500 million people in this region live below the poverty line. This, if for no other reason, means that corruption needs to be addressed.

Participants agreed that they, as parliamentarians, played a key role in providing the leadership and the political will necessary to address the crisis of corruption in their countries. Some spoke of the need to instill in parliamentarians the necessity of

⁴ Oliver Stolpe, Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer.

‘dedicating their lives to the service of the citizens and of the people,’⁵ however, interest was most focused on building institutional capacity and calls were made to international organizations, such as GOPAC and the World Bank Institute, to provide further training on practical approaches to addressing corruption. The Anti Corruption Commission Chair for Bangladesh, Lt. Gen. (Ret’d) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, supported the importance of education in fighting corruption, stating ‘learning, especially learning from others experiences’ was beneficial not only to parliaments and parliamentarians but to anti corruption agencies more generally.

Parliamentary Oversight:

The primacy of parliament in undertaking the oversight of government and executive was repeatedly mentioned. Niall Johnston, observed that within the institution of parliament, parliamentarians – both individually and collectively – had a number of tools available to enact their oversight role. In sum:

1. ***Expand their oversight role throughout the budget cycle.*** Parliaments approve the annual budget and oversee government spending. Through these ex-ante and ex-post budget reviews, they hold the Executive accountable for the use of public funds. This role can be accomplished through the work of parliamentary committees or through individual MPs. Involving parliament more in the budget cycle can create a greater sense of public ownership in economic strategies, realign government priorities and help fight corruption.
2. ***Ensuring greater transparency in decision-making.*** Whether it is committees questioning senior policy makers or parliamentarians putting issues before government in Question Period, parliament has the power and responsibility to question how and when government decisions are made, thereby ensuring greater deliberation, debate and ultimately greater transparency of the policy making process.
3. ***Reviewing, proposing and enacting*** legislation that is necessary to support reform and development. Legislative scrutiny of bills and deliberation by committees – especially where committees engage in public consultation – provide a counterbalance to the Executive. This not only reinforces greater accountability and transparency, but also enables legislation to be more reflective of society’s interests as a whole, rather than the interests of the governing party.
4. ***Establishing wider linkages with other parliaments*** to share information and learn from the experiences of more developed legislatures. Such links can be particularly helpful on a regional basis, where similarities in basic

⁵ Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, Chair, Transparency International – Bangladesh.

conditions make the exchange of different approaches especially insightful for mutual learning.⁶

Of these recommendations, the work of parliamentary committees, reviewing, proposing and enacting legislation and establishing wider linkages with other parliaments and parliamentarians seemed to speak more to participants experiences and needs in South Asia. As regards parliamentary committees, one participant noted that although parliamentary committees play a key role in oversight in the region they are not immune from challenges. Tenure of committee members can be too short, not allowing for parliamentarians to learn their portfolio or the aspects of the job fully. Further, parliamentary committee reports can be ignored by the public and the media - as was the case in Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka, the Chairman of the Public Oversight Committee released a report which named names involved in corruption cases in the country. Unfortunately, there was no media coverage of the report nor did parliament follow up on its findings – resulting in those incriminated by the report still holding their positions in the government.

The most comprehensive document detailing anti corruption legislation is the UN Convention Against Corruption. Of the South Asian countries, only Bangladesh and the Maldives had ratified the convention – although the remaining countries had signed on in 2003. Hon. Willias Madzimure (MP, Zimbabwe) observed that unless parliamentarians are actively involved in the UNCAC from ratification to implementation, the convention would just be a ‘piece of paper.’ Parliamentarians, working within their parliament and partnering with the UNODC and organizations such as GOPAC, ensure that the UNCAC will be a useful tool in combating corruption. Oliver Stolpe, representing the UNODC, confirmed this approach in his presentation, pointing out that the UNODC has and continues to work with GOPAC to ensure that parliamentarians input is received.

Establishing wider linkages with other parliaments and parliamentarians in order to share lessons learned in fighting corruption was of particular relevance to the participants. There was a strong indication from those present that there was a desire to examine political and leadership issues on a regional level as well as ways to improve and strengthen governance institutions. Participants expressed a need to obtain more

⁶ Niall Johnston, Financial Oversight: A Handbook for Parliamentarians (Initial Draft), (June, 2007).

knowledge on the practice of good governance from within the region as well as from comparable countries outside the region. As a result, participants were eager to discuss the next steps in forming a regional chapter of GOPAC in South Asia. This will be discussed in further detail later in the report.

Access to Information:

Principles of transparency, independent media and unencumbered civil society are all extra parliamentary tools to help curb corruption. In addition, they are all intrinsically related - a weakness in one will result in weakness in the others. According to workshop participants, access to information by citizens and parliamentarians as well as a free media continue to be of challenge in the region – with the noted exception of India.⁷

In other countries of South Asia, the right to information is much more limited, making it far more difficult to uncover corrupt activity and follow through with prosecutions. Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, Secretary General and Executive Director of PILDAT⁸ (Pakistan), further commented on the obstacles being faced as regards parliamentary transparency, stating:

“There should be a much transparency and freedom to ATI as possible in order to make parliament a transparent institution. In many countries (in the region), proceedings of parliament are not easily accessible. Sometimes minutes of debates are not available until years after the actual debate... The lack of a transparency culture in Pakistan does not allow the people to be made aware of the excellent work that parliament does.”

Mr. Mehboob went on to make the following recommendations for the region:

1. Minutes of parliamentary debates should be made available on parliamentary websites.
2. Attendance records should also be made available on the website along with the number of hours individual parliamentarians were in attendance.

An independent and free media is also a crucial component of ATI. Workshop participants, however, argued that it was an area in need of development in their

⁷ India introduced its ATI legislation in 2005 and is widely viewed as a good case study of ATI which has worked. Created by parliament and established the right of every citizen along with the responsibility of government to provide information – including reports, emails, opinions and contracts etc. For further details, please refer to Vinod Sahgal’s presentation from the workshop on RTI in India.

⁸ Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency.

countries. Mr. Al Haj Mohammad Abdo, MP from Afghanistan commented that although the media can play an effective role in fighting corruption his experience had been that the media was very political in Afghanistan and was consequently ineffective in doing so. Ms. Fauzia Wahab, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan agreed with Mr. Abdo, stating “the media (in Pakistan) has its own agenda and their own strong likes and dislikes – many of the issues that I have taken up on the floor have never been taken up by the media.”

Political Party and Election Financing:

The issue of political party and election financing is one which parliamentarians face throughout the world - and South Asia is no exception. Workshop participants discussed a wide range of concerns within this thematic area from the independence of electoral commissions (Bangladesh) to preventing those who have been convicted of corruption from being candidates (Nepal) to ensuring the filing of proper returns on election financing (Bangladesh). Although no solutions were identified it is clear that the subject remains significant for the region.

ESTABLISHING A SOUTH ASIAN CHAPTER OF GOPAC

Workshop Chair, and GOPAC Vice Chair, Dr. Naser Al Sane (MP, Kuwait) requested each delegation to nominate two to three individuals to participate in a ‘drafting committee’ – the group which would draft a press release for the workshop as well as work towards next steps for the formation of a South Asian chapter. The following parliamentarians were selected to form the committee:

- Afghanistan: Mr. Sayed Hamed Agha, Ms. Zefnoon Safai
- Bangladesh: Col. Faruk Khan, G.M. Quader, Zahir Uddin Swapon
- Nepal: Khimlal Devkota, Jagannath Khatiwada
- Pakistan: Kashmalla Tariq, Fauzia Wahab
- Sri Lanka: Dayasiri Jayasekera, W. Rajapakshe

On the second day of the workshop, a separate meeting of committee member took place – chaired by Dr. Al Sane. Dr. Al Sane emphasized that the Committee would need to focus the discussion on where and when the founding conference would take place – with the caveat that the meeting location also be the location of the Regional Chapter

Secretariat. As a result, the host country would need to ensure that they could register the organization as a legal entity, obtain sufficient funding in support of the event and most importantly take responsibility for the heavy workload required for organizing such an events.

The representatives from Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka⁹ indicated their keen interest in being chosen as the location for the next regional conference and, ultimately, the location of the South Asian regional chapter Secretariat. A representative from Pakistan suggested that a draw take place – with all participants agreeing to respect the outcome in order to ensure impartiality in the choice as all three countries had strong cases. This was ultimately agreed to and Nepal was the winner of the draw with February 2008 as the date for the founding conference of the South Asian Chapter.

Committee members also reviewed and edited a press release which was issued to the media that day. A copy of the press release may be found in Appendix four.

CONCLUSIONS

The workshop in Dhaka was a good start to encouraging dialogue between parliamentarians in the region on issues of good governance and transparency. A number of regional observers noted that the conference resulted in more productive conversation than other regional events of a similar kind which, in itself, is a success.

Relative to the objectives, the results and indicated further steps are:

Identify leadership to create regional chapter and programming priorities: A team has been to aim for a formal organizing event in Nepal in February 2008, with MP's Khimlal Devkota and Jagannath Khatiwada to take the lead. Further initiatives should be considered to engaging an Indian parliamentarian to join the organizing team. GOPAC could offer to assist the South Asia “drafting committee”. In addition to the focus on parliamentary oversight, participants strongly encouraged consideration of ATI as an area requiring attention in the region. With India’s recent experience in this area, an Indian parliamentarian with a knowledge and interest in this area might be a good candidate to join the drafting committee.

⁹ The representatives from Bangladesh initially indicated their interest in hosting both the Conference and the Secretariat. Upon further discussion, they withdrew the offer.

Encourage National Chapters: Although no specific commitments were made, it is expected that the country members would undertake to initiate the creation of country chapters prior to the February 2008 conference, so that they can be full and effective partners at the Global conference.

Educational/Capacity enhancement: This objective suffered from the pursuit by certain Bangladesh participants of domestic political issues – likely at least partly unavoidable in view of the strained situation in their country. Nonetheless, the 2nd day in particular did address planned issues and provided a useful discussion of Parliamentary oversight and transparency legislation and practices. GOPAC is reviewing its practices for playing such an animating role at regional conferences to strengthen its approach if possible.

Visibility: While coverage was substantial in Bangladesh, it tended to focus more on the first day's events rather than the more substantive discussion on the 2nd day. To get full visibility value, GOPAC and the drafting committee should continue to pursue communication of what has been initiated in each of the regions' countries, with particular attention to extending communication to India.

Appendix One: List of Participants

Curbing Corruption in South Asia: A Workshop for Parliamentarians
July 11th – 12th, 2007
Dhaka, Bangladesh

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Afghanistan

Senator Sayed Hamid Agha
Meshrano Jirga
Afghanistan

Al Haj Mohammad Abdo, MP
Wolesi Jirga
Afghanistan

Mr. Malawi Gul Ahmad Amini, MP
Wolesi Jirga
Afghanistan

Ahmady Mahmud
1st Secretary
Embassy of Afghanistan

Ms. Zefnoon Safai, MP
Wolesi Jirga
Afghanistan

Senator Abdul Ahmad Zahidi
Meshrano Jirga
Afghanistan

Bangladesh

General Moeen U Ahmed
Chief of Army Staff
Bangladesh

Haydory Akbour Ahmed
Lecturer
CQS, BU
Tel: 01714-046280
Sacm675@yahoo.com

Mehbub Ahmed
ED, TI
T:92 51 11123345

Shahzada M. Akram
Senior Researcher
TI Bangladesh
T:01713-06514
akram@tibangladesh.org

Dr. ATM
PIS, UNDP
T: 01715-986507

Rezaul Bari Dina
Ex MP

Jonnathon Cebra
Director
American Centre

Lt. General (Ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury
Chairman, Anti Corruption Commission

Motia Chowdhury
Awami League

Dr. Moni Dipu
Secretary for Women's Affairs
Bangladesh Awami League
T:01711-58-38653

Khandkher Ferdous
Government Officer, DGFI
T:0152-412103

Sheela Haq
Pros. Office
The Asia Foundation
T:01819-250531

Barrister Jamiruddin

M.A. Jinnah
Former MP
T;9881277

Lt. Col. Faruk Khan
Former MP
Bangladesh
T:01713-001766

Mohin Khan
Programmer
DO
Tel: 0152-408023

Ziaur Rahman Khan
Ex MP
T:011-99-80200

Owen Lippert
Executive Director
NDI Bangladesh

Tanvir Mahmud
Research Officer
TI Bangladesh
T:01713-065020
tanvir@ti-bangladesh.org

Dr. H. Mohmud
Awami League
T:01713040373

Haroon Piracha

G M Quader
Former MP
Jatiyo Party Bangladesh
T: 0-1711-198641
gmquader@gmail.com

Ataur Rahman
Professor, Dhaka University
T:9661920/8615583

Sarshed Rawshawn
Former MP
JP

Shah Mohammad Ruhul Quddus

Jammat-E-Islami
Bangladesh
T :01711-354021

Moulana Delawar Hossain Sayedee
MP

Shadia Syed
Communications Consultant
NDI Bangladesh

Zahir Uddin Swapon
Ex. Member of Parliament
Tel: 0713-009797
Zahir15@gmail.com

Sara Werth
USAID

Canada

Meaghan Campbell
Program and Communications Consultant
GOPAC
Campbell.meaghan@gmail.com

Kimberley Jordan
Program Assistant
GOPAC
jordak@parl.gc.ca

Vinod Sahgal
Regional Financial Accountability Specialist (Ret'd)

India

Ajit Joy
UNODC (Delhi)

Kuwait

Dr. Naser Al Sane, MP, Kuwait
Chair, GOPAC
Chair, Arab Regional Chapter

Javeal H. Karren
Director

Kuwait Embassy
T:88227003

Nepal

Khimlal Devkota
MP
T:009-771-435-7034

Kedar Khadkha
Director
Pro Public
0977-9851072225

Jagannath Khatiwada
MP
Nepal
Jn_kh2000@yahoo.com

Narayan Manandhar
Member
TI – Nepal
T:009-7715537967

Sushila Nepal
MP
Nepal
T:9841508833

Kamala Pant
MP Nepal
T :0949841550961

Sushila Swar
MP
Nepal
T :9841343525

Pakistan

Wajahat Ahmed
Secretary Delegation
National Assembly, Pakistan
T:0333-5369403
mwajahat@yahoo.com.pk

Mohammad Laeeque Khan
MNA
National Assembly, Pakistan
T: 92-21-665-3596
laeeqkhanmna@hotmail.com

Qamar Sohail Lodhi
Secretary Delegation
National Assembly, Pakistan
T : 920-300-582-1871 or 9206583
sohaillodhi@hotmail.com

Haroon Piracha
MP
National Assembly
T:0152-2650914

Kashmalla Tariq
MNA
National Assembly, Pakistan
T:92426670333
923005155793
kashmalatariq@hotmail.com

Fauzia Wahab
Member, National Assembly
T:92-519223271
fawahab@orientale.com

Sri Lanka

W. Rajapakshe
MP
Chairman, Committee on Public Enterprises
T:0094112852841
M:0094777447252
F:0094112812230
Email: wrajakshe@sltnet.lk

Dayasiri Jayasekera
MP, Member of Public Accounts Committee
GOPAC Sri Lanka
T:0094777882882
0094112793900
F:0094372201841

dayasirij@sltnet.lk

J.C. Weliamuna
ED, TI Sri Lanka
T:009-4977351208
F:0094112822754
weli@slt.lk
tisl@sltnet.lk

UK

William Graham
Parliamentary Secretary
British High Commission

Niall Johnston
Parliamentary Consultant
niall@nialljohnston.org

USA

Professor Eric Uslaner
University of Maryland

Vienna

Oliver Stolpe
UNODC (Vienna)

Zimbabwe

Hon. Willias Madzimore, MP, Zimbabwe
Chair, Zimbabwe National Chapter

Appendix Two: Original Agenda



Curbing Corruption in South Asia: A Workshop for Parliamentarians

DRAFT AGENDA

Workshop Chair: Dr. Naser Al Sane, MP
Chair, Arab Regional Chapter (ARPAC)
Vice Chair of GOPAC

Wednesday, July 11th, 2007

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies

Facilitator: Shadia Syed, *Communications Consultant, NDI Bangladesh*

Speakers: General Moeen U Ahmed, *Chief of Army Hon. Sircar, Speaker of Parliament*

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Session 1: Welcome and Introduction to Objectives

Clarify objectives of the event; explain why the supporting organizations (GOPAC, NDI, TI) are participating.

Speakers: Dr. Naser Al Sane, MP *Chair (ARPAC), Vice Chair of GOPAC*

Owen Lippert, *Resident Director, National Democratic Institute, Bangladesh*

J.C. Weliamuna, *Executive Director, Transparency International, Sri Lanka*

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Session 2: Parliamentary Oversight

Discussion of the GOPAC Global Initiative, regional experiences (country participants would get together ahead of time to provide brief overview of powers and practices and need for improvement)

Co-Chair(s): Willias Madzimore, *MP (Zimbabwe), Member of GOPAC Parliamentary Oversight GTF*

Niall Johnston, *Parliamentary Consultant*

Presenter: Lt. Gen. Hasan Mashud Chowdhury, Chairman, Anti Corruption Commission *Fighting Corruption in Bangladesh – A Better Plan*

Country Experiences:
Representatives from each country to share a case example.

Afghanistan: Asked Tariq.

Bangladesh: MP (TBC)

India: Vinod Sahgal, *Regional Public Financial Accountability Specialist*

Nepal: Khem Lal Devkota, Member of the National Assembly

Pakistan: Mr. Haroon Ihsan Paracha, Member of the National Assembly

Sri Lanka: Hon. Rajapakshe, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka

12:30- 2:00 p.m.

Lunch

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Session 3: Parliamentary Oversight and the UNCAC

UNCAC overview, governance development assistance, GIA, identifying how international organizations can help and complement Parliamentary Oversight.

Speakers:

Willias Madzimore, *MP (Zimbabwe), Member of GOPAC Parliamentary Oversight GTF*

Dr. Naser Al Sane (*MP, Kuwait*), *Vice Chair of GOPAC, Team Leader of the GOPAC UNCAC GTF. (TBC)*

Oliver Stolpe, *Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer, UN Office on Drugs and Crime*
Vinod Sahgal, *Regional Public Financial Accountability Consultant*

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Session 4: Wrap-up

Wrap up of days discussions, review of the Day 2 agenda and suggestions for informal discussions at dinner.

Chair: Dr. Naser Al Sane, MP *Chair (ARPAC), Vice Chair of GOPAC*

7:00 p.m.

Dinner/Key Note Speaker:

Speaker: Professor Eric Uslaner
Professor of Government and Politics, University of Maryland-College Park
Combating Corruption: Why Political Reform is Economic Reform

Thursday, July 12th, 2007

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Session 5: Roundtable Discussion: Issues and Actions: What parliamentarians in South Asia can do: A Place for GOPAC in South Asia?

Chair: Dr. Naser Al Sane, MP *Chair (ARPAC), Vice Chair of GOPAC*

Observers Panel: Composed of:
Hon. Willias Madzimore, Niall Johnston, Vinod Sahgal, Narayan Manandhar

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:30 a.m.

Session 6: Establishing a South Asian Chapter: Next Steps

Speakers: Parliamentary Participants to react to Session 5 – what might work in the region?

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch

2:30 -4:30 p.m.

Session 7: Next Steps: A South Asian Chapter? An Agenda for Action?

Appendix Three: Final Agenda



Curbing Corruption in South Asia: A Workshop for Parliamentarians

AGENDA

Workshop Chair

Dr. Naser Al Sane, MP
Chair, Arab Regional Chapter (ARPAC)
Vice Chair of GOPAC

Wednesday, July 11th, 2007

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Opening Ceremony

Facilitator: Shadia Syed, Communications Consultant, NDI Bangladesh

Speakers: -Dr. Naser Al Sane, (*MP Kuwait*) *Chair – Arab Regional*

Chapter, Vice Chair, GOPAC

-General Moeen U Ahmed, *Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh*

-Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, *Speaker of Parliament, Bangladesh*

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Session 1: Welcome and Introduction to Objectives

Speakers: -Dr. Naser Al Sane(*MP Kuwait*) *Chair – Arab Regional*

Chapter, Vice Chair, GOPAC

-Dr. Owen Lippert, *Resident Director, NDI, Bangladesh*

-J.C. Weliamuna, *Executive Director, Transparency International, Sri Lanka*

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Session 2: Parliamentary Oversight

Co-Chair(s): -Hon. Willias Madzimore, *MP (Zimbabwe), Chair – Zimbabwe National Chapter*
-Niall Johnston, *Parliamentary Consultant*

Presenter: -Lt. Gen. (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, *Chairman, Anti Corruption Commission “Fighting Corruption in Bangladesh – A Better Plan”*

Country Experiences:

Representatives from each country will share a case example.

- Afghanistan: Mr. Al Haj Mohammad Abdo, Member of the Wolesi Jirga
- India: Vinod Sahgal, Regional Public Financial Accountability Specialist
- Nepal: Hon. Khem Lal Devkota, MP
- Pakistan: Mr. Haroon Ihsan Paracha, Member of the National Assembly
- Sri Lanka: Hon. Rajapakshe, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka

12:30- 2:00 p.m.

Lunch

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Session 3: Parliamentary Oversight and the UNCAC

Chair: Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, *Chair- Transparency International Bangladesh*

Speakers: - Hon. Willias Madzimore, *MP (Zimbabwe), Chair – Zimbabwe National Chapter*
-Dr. Naser Al Sane *MP Kuwait, Chair – Arab Regional Chapter, Vice Chair, GOPAC*
-Oliver Stolpe, *Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer, UN Office on Drugs and Crime*
-Vinod Sahgal, *Regional Public Financial Accountability Consultant*

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Kamal Hossain, - “Parliament as an Oversight Institution”

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Session 4: Wrap-up

Chair: Dr. Naser Al Sane, *Chair, Arab Regional Chapter (ARPAC)*
Vice Chair of GOPAC

7:30 p.m.

Dinner/Key Note Speaker

Facilitator: Owen Lippert
Speaker: Professor Eric Uslaner
Professor of Government and Politics, University of Maryland-College Park
“Combating Corruption: Why Political Reform is Economic Reform”

Thursday, July 12th, 2007

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Bangladesh Case Studies:

- Bangladesh Nationalist Party
- Awami League
- Jamaat- E- Islami

- Jatiya Party
- Liberal Democratic Party

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Session 5: Roundtable Discussion:

Issues and Actions: What parliamentarians in South Asia can do: A Place for GOPAC in South Asia?

Chair: Dr. Naser Al Sane, *MP Chair (ARPAC), Vice Chair of GOPAC*

**Vinod Sahgal and Niall Johnston to provide a summary of the previous days events.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Session 6: Establishing a South Asian Chapter: Next Steps

Speakers: Parliamentary Participants to react to Session 5 – what might work in the region?

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch

2:00 -4:30 p.m.

Session 7: An Agenda for Action?

Appendix Four: Press Release