



MEDIA RELEASE – COMMUNIQUÉ – COMUNICADO DE NOTICIAS

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Landmark regional anti-corruption forum for South Asian parliamentarians a great success
Dhaka, Bangladesh– A two day anti-corruption forum that drew parliamentarians from around South Asia concluded today in Dhaka. The *Curbing Corruption in South Asia* conference, held from July 11th-12th, was hosted by the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) in conjunction with the National Democratic Institute-Bangladesh (NDI-Bangladesh) and was funded by the World Bank Institute (WBI).

The primary theme of the conference was strengthening parliamentary oversight, with delegates participating in a variety of workshops and seminars exploring ways in which to build the capacity of individual parliamentarians to hold government accountable. Several guest speakers highlighted the importance of effective parliamentary oversight in reducing corruption, drawing on their personal experiences in politics, government and academia.

Dr. Naser Al Sane (MP, Kuwait), Vice Chair of GOPAC and Chair of the Arab Regional Chapter stated that “Without addressing poverty and the unequal distribution of wealth, corruption cannot be reduced. Parliamentarians should work to strengthen governance institutions (i.e. parliament, judiciary) to reduce corruption and these inequities. Ultimately we must restructure old and corrupt societies and rebuild *corruption free* societies.”

Conference participants called on their colleagues in South Asia to sign and ratify the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and to join hands in support of the GOPAC initiative. Participants also resolved to establish a South Asian regional chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption - with the Secretariat to be established in Nepal.

GOPAC is a global network of parliamentarians committed to reducing corruption by strengthening national parliaments as institutions of democratic oversight. Working together with its national and regional chapters, GOPAC works within a local and regional context to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians to address issues of corruption and promote good governance.

Founded in 2002 at a global conference hosted by the Parliament of Canada, GOPAC is a non-partisan organization consisting of members in more than 90 countries.

www.gopacnetwork.org

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