

Regional Action Plan

**of the South East Asia Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC)
adopted in Manila, Philippines on April 1, 2005**

Following the establishment in Manila, Philippines of the SEAPAC as the regional chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) from among parliamentarians in the South East Asia Region, there shall be an action plan to be implemented over a two-year period ending at the next regional conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

The action plan shall have four main components, namely:

1. Institutionalization;
2. Capacity and knowledge building;
3. Reform dialogues; *and*
4. Ratification of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

The *first* component covers the establishment of the network among parliamentarians in South East Asia, and the institutionalization of a support office for the smooth functioning and sustainability of the activities of SEAPAC.

The *second* component proposes research on anti-corruption related legislation and good practices in parliaments of South East Asia, and capacity building activities for its members.

The *third* component prescribes the establishment of conferences and the holding of dialogues in countries in the South East Asia Region.

The *fourth* component refers to the contribution of SEAPAC to the eventual and ultimate implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption, which requires the ratification of a number of member-countries.

A. Institutionalization

The institutionalization component consists of strengthening the network of parliamentarians belonging to GOPAC from South East Asia, through contacting members of parliaments from the region. The aim is to expand the network as the work materializes and SEAPAC establishes itself as an authority on the issue.

As the bulk of the members of SEAPAC will be invited based on their reputation and track records in fighting corruption, they shall set the tone of the SEAPAC and serve as examples to other parliamentarians.

Local chapters

The participants in the Manila Conference will work as the core group of parliamentarians from their respective countries, organizing for the purpose their local chapters which will be registered and incorporated as a non-profit organization in accordance with their local laws.

The local chapters will formulate their respective mission statements, design a constitution, and adopt a code of conduct to be applied to their members.

Throughout the two-year period, each local chapter will conduct its activities in accordance with its mission statement, its general goal of curbing corruption, and the objective of becoming a developed chapter based on GOPAC guidelines.

Secretariat

The SEAPAC will be supported by a working secretariat responsible for the following:

- Provision for logistics and technical support to SEAPAC and to its members on issues related to their membership.
- Building and hosting a website for SEAPAC, and ensure communication among the members.
- Organization of the activities of SEAPAC, such as its regular meetings and conferences.
- Coordination of the projects undertaken by the chapter and the regional research conducted under its supervision.

The Secretariat will report directly to the President of SEAPAC.

Resource Generation

The Manila Conference was supported by several international funding agencies who are at the forefront in many initiatives in the fight against corruption.

The projects of SEAPAC for the next two years will certainly need funding, and there is a need to build on this goodwill with funding agencies, in order that they will give continuous support beyond the Manila Conference, and sustain the operations of SEAPAC as it establishes itself as a credible and effective vehicle in combating corruption in South East Asia.

B. Capacity and knowledge building

The legislative frameworks in most countries of South East Asia already provide for laws and regulations that can be used to curb corruption or institute reforms. However, due to political circumstances, lack of public awareness, and other reasons, such laws and regulations have either been ignored or under-implemented.

Hence, it is important to provide the members of SEAPAC with the necessary resources to map out such legislation and to document the good practices in the region in order to use them as tools for reform. This will be initiated by pilot studies, conducted by legal and administrative experts, in selected countries in South East Asia. Each pilot study will be presented and discussed at one of the conferences of SEAPAC.

This internal rehabilitation process needs to be combined with an adaptation and adoption process of the good practices developed in other regions and by other GOPAC chapters. For this end, SEAPAC will invite parliamentarians, and resource persons from other regions in order to share experiences and discuss issues such as: developing independent anti-corruption agencies, parliamentary immunity, political party financing, or access to information.

On a broader level, it is necessary for the members of SEAPAC to be acquainted with the international good practices and legislation aimed at curbing corruption. For this end, SEAPAC will provide its members with information on relevant international events.

C. Reform Dialogues

The SEAPAC will promote the holding of dialogues among its members in the region on needed reforms, legislations and tools that could be adopted by the various parliaments concerned.

These dialogues shall feature reform issues, which will cross-fertilize with the practical experiences brought in by the participants from other regions.

D. Ratification of the UN Convention Against Corruption

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption was signed and launched in Mexico in December, 2003.

The parliamentarians in SEAPAC will promote, in their respective countries, the ratification of the Convention and its full implementation.

Adopted on April 1, 2005 in Manila, Philippines.