

# GOPAC DAILY NEWS

A Daily Summary of the 1st GOPAC Conference

Issue 1

Ottawa, 14 October 2002

## GOPAC WELCOMES THE WORLD! OVER 160 PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET IN OTTAWA

### Special points of interest:

- Over 160 parliamentarians are registered to attend GOPAC;
- Over 60 countries from all corners of the world are represented at GOPAC;
- The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) the Parliament of Canada and the World Bank Institute have all generously assisted in the GOPAC conference.

After many months of preparation and planning, the Inaugural Conference of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) started with a bang last night at an opening night reception at the Ottawa Marriott.

The Interim Chair of GOPAC, John Williams (Canada) welcomed the delegates at a reception held at the Ottawa Marriott hotel last night.

"It is my pleasure to welcome so many delegates from around the world to the inaugural conference of GOPAC," said Williams. "While we have a lot of work to



John Williams, M.P. (Canada) and the Hon. David Kilgour, P.C., M.P. speaking at the opening reception for GOPAC

do this week, tonight is an opportunity to meet and get to know each other."

The reception was well attended by over 200

people, including a number of ambassadors and staff from various embassies, in addition to the GOPAC delegates and observers.

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### KILGOUR: "WE ARE WITNESSING THE BIRTH OF A VERY PROMISING ORGANIZATION."

The Hon. David Kilgour, Canadian Secretary of State for Asia Pacific, spoke on the need for parliamentarians to come together to fight corruption and put principles first.

At the opening night reception last evening at the Ottawa Marriott, Kilgour welcomed the delegates to Ottawa and encouraged them in their work.

"The opposite of weakness is strength," said Kilgour.

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## GOPAC Daily News

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"That is what you're showing here today - strength in numbers, strength across borders, strength in your commitment to fight corruption around the world."

Kilgour also emphasized the need for parliamentarians to rebuild the public's faith in their elected officials. "Whether you're from Africa, Asia, the Americas or Europe, you're here because you share a belief that, as public office holders, we have to be beyond reproach," said Kilgour. "We have to instill confidence in some very disillusioned publics; we need earn their trust and rebuild their faith."

Kilgour concluded by saying, "I hope that, as you turn your minds to developing the priorities and mandate of this new organization over the next few days, you can draw inspiration from what we hope to achieve - a world in which corruption and conflict are replaced by honesty and peace."



The Hon. David Kilgour,  
P.C. M.P.  
Canadian Sec. of State for  
Asia-Pacific

## LAST NIGHT'S RECEPTION...

We're on the web...  
[www.parlcent.gc.ca](http://www.parlcent.gc.ca)



# GOPAC

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Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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## WHAT IS GOPAC?

*The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption* (GOPAC) aims to build an international network of parliamentarians organized on a regional basis to fight corruption and promote good governance. GOPAC will serve as a global point of contact, connecting and supporting the work of regional groups of parliamentarians promoting good governance and fighting corruption.