

Regional Meeting of the TI Chapters in the Asia Pacific Region, May 2009

Canberra May 17th – 23rd: TI Australia was honoured to host a **Regional Meeting of the TI Chapters in the Asia Pacific Region**.

51 TI personnel participated, including TI program staff from Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Zealand and Australia. TI Managing Director, Cobus de Swardt, and Regional Director, Pascal Fabie, were accompanied by key Directors Andre Doren (Communications) and Casey Kelso (Advocacy), and a dynamic young team from Berlin.

Highlights of the week included:

- A Reception in the Main Committee Room of Parliament House: A strong TI supporter, Hon Bob McMullan, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance paid special tribute to the contribution of our late Chair Frank Costigan QC. He also announced the recently finalised Partnership Framework Agreement in Anti-corruption between AusAID and TI.
- Both Cobus de Swardt and Pascal Fabie gave a compelling outline of the vision and commitment of TI to strengthen the global movement committed to shaping a world free of corruption. Both affirmed the need to work alongside others to increase the political will and seek the effective implementation of anti-corruption work in governments, the business community and civil society.
- A strong full day Forum was held at Parliament House: TI personnel engaged with speakers and panellists from Government, academia and the Judiciary. A range of issues at the centre of our work were addressed, including public sector integrity, political corruption, integrity in the private sector and engagement of civil society in fighting corruption. The dialogue was facilitated by Radio Australia's Graeme Dobell. The conversations affirmed the importance and opportunity of the TI-AusAID partnership, which Cobus identified as unique, setting a new standard for TI's relationship with its donors.
- The intense workshop program for the remainder of the week provided opportunities for training in advocacy, strategic planning and preparing for forthcoming TI publications – the Corruption Barometer (June 3rd), Global Corruption Report on the Private Sector in September and a discussion on TI's response to the Global Financial Crisis, in particular identifying the ethical challenges which TI should emphasise in its engagement with key actors.
- TI's Forest Governance Integrity program: This important initiative called for training of TI staff in China, Malaysia, Indonesia, PNG and Solomon Islands
- The Regional Meeting was funded by AusAID and supplementary financial support was provided by ANZ Bank and PriceWaterhouseCoopers, two of TI Australia's leading Corporate members.