

## **REPORT ON ACTIVITIES FOR PERIOD AUGUST, 2011 TO MAY, 2012**

(Prepared for the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, 2012)

### **1. Introduction**

This report outlines the activities of the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI), the national chapter of Transparency International (TI), undertaken in the period between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meetings of the Company.

These activities were carried out following, for the most part, the strategic decisions set out in the Strategic Frameworks 2010-2012 and 2010-2013 in the fulfilment of TTTI's vision of a world in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption.

Our activities are focused under the major thematic areas of Public Sector Integrity and Private Sector Integrity, as well as related areas such as Civil Society Strengthening and Public Education.

### **2. Promoting Public Sector Integrity**

Corruption in the public sector has pernicious effects on the entire society. It wastes resources. It deprives the poor from access to essential services such as health and education. Left unpunished, it supports a culture of impunity that corrodes institutions, and leads to wider breakdowns in adherence to laws and the rules of society. During the period under review our main concentration has been on integrity in public procurement and in accounting for revenues from the energy sector.

#### **2.1 Public Procurement Reform Committee**

TTTI believes that changing current attitudes and practices in procurement is an essential step towards reducing corruption in our society, and supports all initiatives aimed at positive change. In late 2010 the Joint Consultative Council for the Construction Industry (JCC) established a Committee to respond to an invitation from Parliament's Joint Select Committee on Procurement (JSC) to comment on Legislative Proposals on Public Procurement Reform being considered. The Committee, which includes representatives of TTTI (Boyd Reid), Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce and Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturing Association, met regularly and has submitted extensive proposals to the JSC on the Draft Bill.

The JCC committee has also been carrying out a campaign to make stakeholders and the general public aware of the issues. TTTI's Boyd Reid has contributed to these sessions.

In spite of the work done by the JSC, the Government has not yet met its commitment to introduce new legislation, and the JCC Committee is persevering in its efforts.

TTTI continues to advocate the introduction of new public procurement rules at every opportunity. We have also had meetings with the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of Government Business in the House of Representatives to express our concerns at the slow rate of progress, and to encourage a renewed effort to have the legislation passed. We have offered Government our services to assist in the implementation of the 91

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recommendations of the Uff Commission of Enquiry into the Construction Sector and await its response.

### **2.2. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)**

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a coalition of governments, companies, civil society groups, investors and international organisations formed to encourage transparency and accountability in the exploitation of minerals and other extracted resources ([www.eiti.org](http://www.eiti.org)). It was founded, in part, as a result of TI's lobby with other civil society organisations and other groups to reverse the situation where many countries rich in natural resources are among the worlds poorest. TTTI has been the leading advocate in Trinidad and Tobago of membership of the EITI.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, the then Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs, the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, announced that Government was applying for membership of the EITI. The Minister named a 15-person Steering Committee of stakeholders which comprised Government, extractive companies and civil society. Not only is TTTI represented on the Committee by its current Chair Richard Joseph, but Victor Hart, current member and former Chair of TTTI was appointed the Chair of the EITI Steering Committee.

In addition to serving on the Steering Committee, Mr. Joseph also serves as Chair of the Legal and Tenders Sub-Committee, and his alternate TTTI representative John Downer serves as the Chair of the Technical Sub-Committee. TTTI continues to make significant contributions to the work of the EITI through the work of its members.

### **3. Promoting Private Sector Integrity**

TTTI supports the view that there are two sides to the corruption equation, with the public sector generally being the demand side and the private sector the supply side. That is not to say that there are not demand and supply sides within the private sector which have to be dealt with, as is evidenced by corruption within corporations that has led to failures with devastating impacts on employees, suppliers and shareholders. The cost of corruption in the private sector also leads to waste of resources and additional costs to consumers, often referred to as a hidden tax, and left unattended, it feeds a national culture of acceptance of corruption and its practices.

#### **3.1 Business Ethics for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME)**

On the invitation of Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC), a subsidiary of the Inter-American Development Bank, TTTI joined in an initiative to develop and promote a programme on business ethics for Small and Medium Sized enterprises in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The other partners in the initiative in Trinidad and Tobago are Syntegra Change Architects Limited, The American Chamber of Commerce in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean Procurement Institute Limited, and The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

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The initiative is being implemented through a pilot programme that is being delivered to selected companies. The programme involves the field testing of a manual that has been tailored for use by SME's in the Caribbean. TTTI was contracted by IIC to provide logistical support for activities in Trinidad and Tobago.

A launch took place in September 2011 and was followed by training seminars for participating companies, supported by on site assistance, some of which is provided by TTTI resources. Recommendations arising from the field testing are being used to update the manual.

It is intended that the revised manual, when completed, will become freely available online for companies that are interested in implementing business ethics systems.

### **3.2 Energy Chamber's 2012 Corporate Social Responsibility Awards**

The Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Awards recognises companies that continue to demonstrate a deep and genuine commitment to CSR at the individual community and national level. In support of this initiative TTTI's Chair was invited to serve on the panel of judges for the awards that were distributed on February 7<sup>th</sup> 2012.

### **3.3. TI Private Sector Workshop**

On the Invitation of TI, TTTI's Chair Richard Joseph attended a National Chapter Workshop on Engaging with the Private Sector held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2011 at TI's Berlin headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was harness the experience of chapters with experience in working with the private sector to assist TI in the development of strategies of engagement. The meeting discussed a range of issues in working with the private sector and participants exchanged information on their experiences.

The cost of attendance at this workshop was funded by TI.

## **4. Civil Society Strengthening**

Civil Society Organisations play an important role in National Development, and in responding to unmet needs in the wider society. Often informally organised, their weak governance systems can disqualify them from receiving the funding that they need, and make them susceptible to corruption. Since 2010, TTTI has collaborated with Commonwealth Foundation to prepare a Civil Society Organization (CSO) Accountability Toolkit aimed at developing principles on accountability and transparency that local CSOs can follow. This is part of a larger project where the Commonwealth Foundation worked with One World Trust to develop similar accountability toolkits for CSOs in Belize, India, Uganda and the Pacific Islands.

In July 2011 TTTI held a stakeholders consultation to present the draft Toolkit that was used to provide feedback. It was then finalised and published in printed form and in softcopy on the Commonwealth foundation website. The Toolkit is freely available to any organisation that wishes to use it.

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In May 2012 TTTI began a series of training courses aimed at facilitating the use of the Toolkit. The first part of this programme involved the training of facilitators who would work with CSOs to implement the toolkit. The sessions included representatives from Tobago and Grenada, as well as established CSO support organisations such as Veni Apwan and The Rose Foundation.

The second part involves training of actual CSOs, and will be followed by a formal launch in June 2012. It is hoped that this initiative will help improve governance in the CSO community, and enable them to become more attractive to international and local donors.

This activity was funded by the Commonwealth Foundation and The J B Fernandes Memorial Trust Fund.

### **5. Ant-corruption outreach activities**

#### **5.1 Anti-corruption Conference**

The Anti-Corruption Conference was held on November 1, 2011. The Minister of Housing and the Environment, the Honourable Dr. Roodal Moonilal, gave the opening address on behalf of the Prime Minister who was unable to attend, and the then newly appointed Chairman of the Integrity Commission, Kenneth Gordon, gave brief opening remarks.

The Conference focused on a range of anti-corruption issues including whistleblower protection legislation, integrity commission legislation and political party funding. Our international speakers included Allan Cutler and Bertrand de Speville. Mr. Cutler, a Canadian, is known in Canada as “Mr. Whistleblower” for his role in exposing the “Sponsorship Scandal.” He is an internationally acclaimed speaker and media commentator on ethics and governance issues, and delivered a compelling address on whistleblowing. Mr. de Speville, since stepping down in 1996 as the Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption of Hong Kong, has advised governments and international organisations on various aspects of anti-corruption policy and practice. He delivered an address focusing on the operations of Integrity commissions which was very well received.

Gillian Lucky, Director of the Police Complaints Authority, delivered a presentation titled “Towards a Corruption Free Service” and focused on the areas where Trinidad and Tobago can improve upon in order to promote an ethical protective service.

The proceedings ended with a panel discussion on procurement issues, whistleblower protection and integrity in public office, which was moderated by Professor Ramesh Deosaran, Chairman of the Police Service Commission. The panellists included Allan Cutler, Dr. Hamid Ghany (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI) and Boyd Reid (former Chair of TTTI).

This event was funded by contributions from the European Union and the High Commission of Canada.

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### **5.2 Caribbean Outreach**

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, the Chair visited Guyana to deliver an address at the launch of Transparency Institute of Guyana, which is seeking accreditation as the national chapter of Transparency International in Guyana. The invitation to speak arose from the connections made and encouraged at our first Caribbean Outreach workshop that was held in Port of Spain in 2010.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 2011, TTTI hosted its Second Annual Caribbean Outreach Workshop. The purpose of the Workshop was to bring together individuals and agencies to encourage the development of additional Transparency International (TI) national contacts and chapters in the region. The Workshop was attended by representatives from Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Suriname. The subjects covered included TI's 2015 Strategy, TI tools and methodologies for strategic planning, and the development of strategy for the development of TI in the region. Sessions were facilitated by Alejandro Salas and Zoe Reiter from the TI Secretariat. A draft regional strategy was prepared and agreed by the end of the Workshop.

This activity was funded by Transparency International and the Commonwealth Foundation.

### **5.3. International Anti-corruption Day**

TTTI partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to host activities to mark International Anti-Corruption Day 2011 on 9<sup>th</sup> December. The activities included appearance on a morning television talk show and an exhibition of anti-corruption pamphlets, posters and literature on Brian Lara Promenade, in the heart of Port of Spain. The activities were particularly focused on youth, and included a flash dance and a T-shirt design competition for designers aged from 15-25 years.

This activity was supported by donations from N H International (Caribbean) Limited.

### **5.4. Sport**

TTTI director Deryck Murray was invited to be part of TI Sports Network that was set up to address corruption issues in international sport. In this capacity Mr. Murray contributed to a TI submission to the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s Governance Review Committee that made 19 recommendations about how ICC can safeguard the integrity and reputation of the game of cricket by improving governance and responding to new corruption challenges.

### **5.5. Release of 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index**

The annual release of TI's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) has become a major item on the news calendar in Trinidad and Tobago, and attracts the full attention of media houses, the Government, political commentators and the general public.

The CPI is a measure of perceptions of public sector corruption. It is a survey of surveys undertaken by international institutions ranking various countries based on the perceptions of public sector corruption held by senior resident business

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leaders and non-resident analysts. It should be noted that the CPI is a representation of perceptions which does not aim to capture the reality of corruption on the ground, but acts as a wakeup call for countries. Also, it is known that perceptions play a role in shaping and representing what may be the reality of a situation.

The 2011 CPI ranked Trinidad and Tobago in position 91 out of 183 countries, with a score of 3.2 out of 10 where 0 is the score for the most corrupt, and 10 the score for the least corrupt. In 2010 Trinidad and Tobago was ranked in position 73 out of 178 countries, with a score of 3.6.

TTTI's activities included a formal press conference followed by interviews in the print and electronic media explaining and providing commentary on the results.

### **5.6. Other outreach activities**

In addition to the activities set out above, TTTI continued to engage in dialogue on issues related to transparency, corruption and integrity through news releases and interviews in both the print and electronic media. A newsletter was launched, and an up to date website and Facebook presence are maintained. Our social media postings include not only material generated by TTTI, but also articles of interest drawn from local and international media.

## **6. Relations with TI**

### **6.1 Re-accreditation**

During the year TTTI received confirmation of its re-accreditation as a national chapter of TI for another three years. Several matters that were raised during the re-accreditation process were satisfactorily addressed before completion.

### **6.2. Annual Membership Meeting**

TTTI was represented at TI's Annual Membership Meeting in Berlin held on 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011 by its Chair Richard Joseph. In addition to the Annual Meeting, he attended regional meetings and meetings on topical issues about which the transparency movement is concerned.

The cost of attendance at this meeting was funded by TI.

### **6.3. TI Americas Department Regional Programme Meeting**

TTTI was represented at TI's Americas Department Regional Programme Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011 in Miami, USA, by its Chair, Richard Joseph. The primary purpose of the meeting was to derive a shared understanding of how our region can work individually and collectively towards delivering on the TI strategic plan, TI 2015. The components of the programme were:

- Identification of the key deliverables relating to TI 2015 strategic priorities to which each chapter will commit.
- An exploration of the ways in which Chapters can organize collectively to achieve TI 2015 priorities, as well as how TI can support those efforts.

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- Share learning and facilitate discussion around key transversal themes and issues relevant to TI 2015 and common concern for the region.

The cost of attendance at this meeting was funded by TI.

### **7. Secretariat**

#### **7.1 Strategic planning**

On 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011, TTTI's Board of Directors convened for a strategic planning session to review progress and set priorities for the following three years. The output was a revised Strategic Planning Framework 2012-2014 that is serving as input for a plan that is being harmonised with TI's Strategy 2015.

#### **7.2. Grants and Donations**

TTTI's strategy of obtaining funding to carry out activities structured as projects continued in 2011. Our largest source of funding was the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust, which enabled us continue our capacity building activities, as well as our work with the Commonwealth Foundation on our very successful Civil Society Organisation Toolkit. TI provided most of the funding for our Regional Outreach Programme, and funding was received from the European Union and the High Commission of Canada for our Anti-Corruption Conference. The full list of major providers of grant funds is shown in Note 8 to the Financial Statements.

The Bermudez Group has made a commitment to provide us with a donation of \$60,000 per year for three years from 2011 to assist with meeting the expenses of our Secretariat.

#### **7.3. Staffing**

There was considerable turnover in programme staff during the period. First Josh Drayton, Project Officer, resigned in August 2011 to take up appointment at the University of the West Indies. Tanya Miller, who replaced him in September 2011 as Programme Manager, resigned in March 2012 to take up residence overseas. She was replaced in March 2012 by Alana Wheeler in the capacity of Project Manager on a short term contract.

As expected, these changes have adversely impacted on our capacity to conduct our activities effectively.

#### **7.4 Membership subscriptions**

During the year, there were 7 new individual Members; and 3 new Corporate Members. Membership subscriptions amounted to \$129,600, a reduction of \$14,900 from the previous year. The reduction is due to non-renewals together with a stricter application of rules for the cancellation of membership.

### **8. Board of Directors**

The Board elected at the 12<sup>th</sup> AGM on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, comprised Richard Joseph (Chair), Karen de Montbrun (Vice-Chair), Dion Abdool (Secretary), Frederick Du Coudray (Treasurer), Michael Alleyne, Carmena Baird, Annette des Iles, Susan

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Gordon, Deryck Murray, Wayne Maughan, and Bliss Seepersad. Ms. Seepersad resigned during the year as a result of her work commitments.

During the period under review the Board held 7 meetings with an average attendance of 7 members.

### **9. Conclusion**

The last year continued to be one of consolidation for TTTI. Our new committee system continued to have its teething challenges, and needs renewed commitment if it is to serve as a vehicle for channelling the contributions and involvement of a wider range of members in the development of positions and initiatives on the matters that face us.

We continue to enjoy the respect of a wide cross section of the national community that looks forward to our contributions with interest. Our working relationship with the Government and other CSOs has been consolidated and strengthened.

There is much in the national agenda that offers the opportunity for TTTI to make a meaningful contribution, and with the support of our membership and benefactors we are confident that we will continue to be a force for positive change.