

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 twelve-month period between the 10th and 11th Annual General Meetings of the Institute.

These activities were carried out following, for the most part, the strategic directions set in the *Strategic Frameworks 2007-2009* and *2010-2012* in 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 and *mission* to work towards a country and region that are free of corruption.

2 Public Sector Integrity Promotion

2.1 Public Contracting

2.1.1 Construction Sector Enquiry Project

TTTI continued the project, begun in March 2009 and funded by the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF), to assist the Commission of Enquiry into the Construction Sector. To the 8 interventions made previously the following 3 were added during the period under review:

- In October the Chairman, at the request of the Commission, made a written submission on *Recommendations on the Reform of the Public Sector Procurement Regime* that listed what TTTI considered were essential to any adequate reform of public procurement.
- He followed this in November with a written submission, *The Independence of the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute - Rebuttal No. 2*, that responded to erroneous statements about TTTI made before the Commission by a Government Minister.
- Finally, in January, the Institute submitted the report: *'Corruption in the Trinidad and Tobago Construction Industry: Survey 2009'* providing for the information of the Commissioners the results of the on-line survey carried out in March and April, 2009. In March this report was presented to the public during a breakfast meeting launching TI's 2009 Global Corruption Report (see 3.4 below).

TTTI approached its participation in the Enquiry with the express intention of assisting the Commissioners in satisfying their Terms of Reference. We examined systems, processes, practices and procedures and not personalities. We avoided accusing any individual or government agency of corruption.

In the report of the Commission of Enquiry, laid in Parliament on the 6th of April, 2010, TTTI's contributions are fully acknowledged and are reflected in several of its recommendations.

2.1.2 Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Project

TTTI continued its liaison with local stakeholders and the EITI International Secretariat in furtherance of our objective to get Government to implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) so as to bring transparency and accountability to the exploitation of the country's oil and gas reserves. The year has ended with a commitment by the new government to implement the EITI and we intend to hold it to that promise.

2.2 Political Party Regulation and Election Financing

In April TTTI joined with the *Constitutional Reform Forum (CRF)* in writing to the political parties contesting the General Elections to tell the electorate where they stood on *political party funding reform*. Monitoring the writings of parties and the media reports of political meetings it appeared that the only reference made to the issue during campaigning was in the manifesto of the People's Partnership. We reported this to the general public via a media release.

2.3 International Conventions

2.3.1 Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACAC) Monitoring Project

With the help of funding from the *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*, TTTI produced an *independent report* on Trinidad and Tobago's fulfilment of some of its obligations under the IACAC which was submitted in August 2009 to the OAS Committee of Experts in the third round of the follow-up mechanism of the Convention (MESICIC III).

On March 22nd 2010 a representative of TTTI made a *presentation of the report to the Committee of Experts* meeting in Washington, D.C. The Committee of Experts included several pieces of information provided by us in its final report on Trinidad and Tobago.

2.3.2 United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Coalition

In May 2009 TTTI joined a grouping of organisations, the UNCAC Coalition, that aims to mobilise broad civil society support for the UNCAC and to facilitate strong civil society action at national, regional and international level in support of UNCAC. It includes groups working in the areas of human rights, labour rights, governance, economic development, environment and private sector accountability.

During the period under review we joined coalition partners in urging States Parties to the Convention to support a comprehensive *follow-up mechanism* for the Convention and in calling on the G20 Countries to implement Convention provisions regarding *illicit outflows of capital* from developing countries.

In May and June of 2010 we joined in the Coalition's "*Tell us what you've done*" campaign. This involved civil society organisations (CSOs) from approximately 25 countries making the same access to information requests of their public authorities. The aim was to *obtain information on implementation of the UNCAC* and to *test public access to information about anti-corruption efforts* in the different countries and so obtain comparative data on openness practices.

3 Private Sector Integrity Promotion

3.1 TTTI-STCIC Commitment to Transparency Award

At the invitation of the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce (STCIC), the Chairman headed a panel of judges that, in September, awarded *BG (T&T)* with the TTTI-STCIC Commitment to Transparency Award.

3.2 Managing Risks through CSR Best Practice

TTTI arranged for *Dr. François Valérian*, Head of Private Sector Programmes at the TI Secretariat in Berlin, to facilitate a workshop on *Managing Risks through CSR Best Practice* at the *STCIC Energy Conference* in Port-of-Spain in January.

3.3 Contractor of the Year Awards

The Chairman served on a panel of three to select winners for the Contractor of the Year Awards – 2007-2009 given by the Trinidad and Tobago Contractors Association (TTCA) in November, 2009.

3.4 Global Corruption Report (GCR) 2009

TI's 2009 Global Corruption Report (GCR) has as its theme *Corruption and the Private Sector* and includes a *report on Trinidad and Tobago* by TTTI.

With the assistance of TI, we launched GCR 2009 at a breakfast meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port-of-Spain on the 19th of March, 2010.

The main item on the programme was a presentation, '*Global Corruption Report 2009: Corruption and the Private Sector*', made by TI Private Sector Programme Manager, Susan Côté-Freeman. This was followed by short presentations by TTTI members on *Overlapping Directorships and Conflict of Interest* (Bishnu Ragoonath), *Corporate Governance and Private Sector Integrity* (Gerard Pemberton) and *Private Sector Integrity: External Checks and Balances* (Richard Joseph) followed in turn by a panel discussion with questions and comments from the floor.

The occasion was also used for a brief presentation of *2009 Survey Report on Corruption in the Trinidad and Tobago Construction Industry* (see 2.1.1 above).

4 Civil Society Strengthening

4.1 Civil Society Organisation Accountability Toolkit Project

TTTI is partnering with the Commonwealth Foundation (CF) to develop a *Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Accountability Toolkit* aimed at providing guidelines on accountability and transparency for CSOs within Trinidad and Tobago. This is part of a larger project where the CF has worked with the One World Trust to develop similar accountability toolkits for CSOs in Belize, India, Uganda and the Pacific Islands.

This project has begun with *consultation with local CSOs*, the first phase of which, involving the *soliciting via telephone of opinions* from 14 of them, started in May and continues until the end of June. The second phase of consultation will involve a *2-day workshop* facilitating in depth discussions with 15 other local CSOs on principles on accountability and transparency and some of the key challenges facing civil society accountability in Trinidad and Tobago.

The results of this consultation will be used to develop a toolkit properly adapted to the needs of CSOs in Trinidad and Tobago and therefore helpful to them in their quest for greater internal accountability and transparency in their organisations.

We continued to participate in meetings with other local CSOs aimed at mobilising the CSOs and the establishing an umbrella organisation.

5 National Community Education and Empowerment

5.1 Public Education

5.1.1 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

On the 17th of November 2009 we held a media conference to launch TI's *2009 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)*. Subsequent press coverage was generally adequate. The Chairman was given the opportunity by Radio 102FM to hold via telephone a brief dialogue with Minister Conrad Enill arising out of negative comments on the CPI that the latter had made to the media.

5.1.2 Media Communications

We wrote *letters to the daily newspapers* on, among other things, the efforts being made at WASA to develop a culture of integrity and on ways of reducing corruption suggested by the revelations and recommendations of the report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Construction Sector.

The subjects of TTTI *media releases* issued during the reporting period included the 2009 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), International Anti-Corruption Day, a call for the G20 to tackle illicit financial flows and a call for investigation of the Guanapo Church allegations. We also passed on to the local media several releases issued by the TI Secretariat and by the UNCAC Coalition.

Over the period under review there were *over 70 reports, articles or letters in the daily newspapers* that made reference to TTTI or to the words of the Chairman or Secretary.

5.1.3 Press, TV and Radio Interviews

As in previous periods, we were interviewed by the *print media* several times during the period of this report. Our Chairman and Secretary made several *TV appearances* and were interviewed several times for *radio*. We sought to provide comment on topical issues, such as, for example, those arising from the Commission of Enquiry into the Construction Sector, from the perspective of an organisation dedicated to fighting corruption through systemic reform.

5.1.4 Speaking Engagements

During the period under review the Chairman undertook the following speaking engagements:

- the feature address on *Overcoming Challenges in the Construction Sector* at the TTCA's Annual Awards Dinner, November, 2009;
- a talk on *ethical standards and integrity practices* to a Rotary Club *Career Guidance Seminar* (September 2009);
- an address on *transparency and accountability in construction procurement* to a meeting of the Association of Commonwealth Societies of Architects in the Caribbean (October 2009)
- a paper on '*Land Development and the Risks Posed by Corruption*' presented to the Caribbean Land Conference of November 2009; and
- an address on '*Good Governance as an Anti-corruption Tool*' at the People's Forum of the *Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)* held in Port-of-Spain in November, 2009 followed by an address on behalf of the Assembly to the *Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Roundtable Meeting* (See 6.4.3 below).

5.1.5 On-line communication

We now have a list of almost 900 persons to whom we regularly send *e-mails* with information on TI and TTTI activities and concerns. This number is about double what it was this time last year.

Our current *website*¹ was available throughout the period under review, though not updated as frequently as we would have liked. An enhanced version is soon to be launched (See 6.2.1 below).

We are now on *Facebook*² and currently have over 650 fans.

5.2 Youth Integrity Education

5.2.1 Youth Integrity Survey

This is a joint project between the University of the West Indies (UWI) and TTTI coordinated by UWI Lecturer and Director of TTTI, Dr. Bishnu Ragoonath.

The Survey seeks to assess secondary school students' perceptions relating to questions of integrity and ethics as a first step in the development of integrity training courses for the national school curriculum. The project was approved by the Ministry of Education in May.

Questionnaires are being administered by interns employed for the purpose to one Form Two class in each of the secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago. The entering and analysis of the data are to take place during the months of July and August and a preliminary report is to follow.

The data from this project will also be used to inform the establishment of the Youth Arm Programme of TTTI.

6 Supporting Activities

6.1 Branding

6.1.1 Communications Programme

In February 2010, after issuing a call to members for volunteers, the Board established a Communications Committee to implement the recommendations of consultants on the branding of the organisation with a view to improving the Institute's image and the communication of our message as well as increasing the general public's support for our work.

The Committee has been meeting monthly and, among other things, has developed for the Board a proposal for a project to involve youth in the work of the Institute.

6.2 Organisational capacity enhancement

6.2.1 Capacity Building Project

In the period under review, TTTI completed the *second phase* of the project, funded by the Canadian Government, which had begun in December 2007.

With the assistance of consultants, we undertook:

1. a membership drive;
2. enhancement of our website; and
3. development of a re-branding programme.

The main objective of the project was *to increase TTTI's membership* through a public awareness outreach programme to the point where the annual subscription income would support a significant and sustainable increase in the activities needed to achieve TTTI's goal and purpose. We set as a target 100 corporate and 150 individual members by December 31, 2009, an increase of 169%. At the end of 2009 membership stood at 147 (29 corporate and 118 individual members) representing an increase of 58% since the start of the project.

Nonetheless we were able, during duration of the project, to lease a permanent, adequately equipped office and engage a full time Administrative Officer.

An unexpected benefit was a better understanding of how TTTI's interventions are perceived in the national community and of the factors that affect its growth and expansion.

We are poised to take full advantage of the enhancements to the website and to implement the re-branding programme.

¹ www.transparency.org.tt

² <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinidad-and-Tobago-Transparency-Institute/111400937675?ref=nl>

6.2.2 Staffing

On the 1st of August 2009 *Ms. Cindy Paul*, previously outsourced as a part-time *Administrative Assistant*, was employed as a full-time *Administrative Officer*.

On the 15th of March, 2010 *Mr. Josh Drayton* was employed as a full-time *Programme Officer*.

6.3 Funding

6.3.1 Grants/Donations

In November 2009 the *JB Fernandes Memorial Trust* approved a *two-year grant of US\$100,000* to enable us to continue our capacity building activities and fund certain specified projects.

Over the reporting period *donations* were made by individuals and companies totaling \$132,160. Of the many generous donors special mention must be made of *Mr. Emile Elias*, long-standing member of TTTI, who contributed \$101,808.

6.3.2 Membership Fees

During the reporting period the *fees receivable from members* increased as follows:

Member Category		01-Jul-09	30-Jun-10	Increase	
<i>Corporate</i>	Number	27	34		
	Fees	\$88,500	\$106,000	\$17,500	20%
<i>Individual</i>	Number	100	141		
	Fees	\$20,000	\$28,200	\$8,200	41%
	Total Number:	127	175		
	Total Fees:	\$108,500	\$134,200	\$25,700	24%

6.4 International agency liaison

6.4.1 Caribbean Outreach

During the period under review TTTI developed a funding proposal for a conference on *Promoting a Caribbean Free of Corruption* that has been approved by the Commonwealth Foundation.

The Conference, to be held in Barbados in the last quarter of 2010, will aim to make the work of TI better known in the Eastern Caribbean, identify key corruption challenges and get a sense of the possibilities for chapter formation within the region.

Participants will be persons from the region potentially interested in the work of TI. Resource persons will be provided by TI-Secretariat, TTTI and other TI chapters in the Americas.

6.4.2 TI's Annual Meeting of Members (AMM)

TTTI was represented at TI's 2009 Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) held in Berlin in November by the Vice-Chair, Ms. Margaret Rose and Director, Mr. Brian Lewis. They were able to present to the meeting a TTTI proposal to consider the feasibility trans-national chapters as a means of involving small-island states such as those of the Eastern Caribbean in the work of TI.

Attendance at the meeting was made possible by donations from Century Eslon and from corporate members: CCN, Guardian Holdings and the TSL Group.

6.4.3 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

The Chairman took an active part in the preparations by local CSOs for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that was held in Port-of-Spain in November 2009. The Chairman and Secretary attended the first day of the *People's Forum* of the CHOGM with the Chairman addressing a working group on 'Good Governance as an Anti-corruption Tool'. In their interventions they were able to emphasise the need for participatory democracy, regulation of political party funding and the tackling of corruption in a sustainable way.

Director, Ms. Karen de Montbrun, attended the first day of the *Business Forum* which was addressed by the Vice-Chair of TI, *Akere Muna*. The day before directors had an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest with him.

6.4.4 European Union (EU)

During the period under review the Institute maintained contact with the EU Delegation, discussing, among other things, the possibility of sourcing project funding. We have been invited to submit a proposal.

6.4.5 Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The Chairman, with the Treasurer, Richard Joseph, as alternate, served as representative of TTTI on the IDB's *Civil Society Consulting Group*.

6.5 Other Support Activities

6.5.1 Amendment of the Membership Policy

In December 2009, Paragraph 2 of the Membership Policy in the Code of Ethics which read:

“Membership is not open an individual or organisation that, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, is publicly perceived to be identified with and/or an active supporter of a political party or other organisation that has political aims and objectives in whole or in part or in any of its decisions.”

was amended by the Board to read:

“Membership will not be refused by reason only of an individual’s affiliation, engagement or membership in any other body, political party, or association but the Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse membership to persons whose affiliations, engagements and/or memberships, both current and historical, are in the opinion of the Board

- (a) incompatible with and/or
- (b) would serve to undermine the public’s perception of TTTI’s independence and commitment to the Guiding Principles ...”

6.5.2 Strategic Planning

The Board began strategic planning in September 2009 and adopted TTTI’s *Strategic Framework 2010-2012* on the 25th of February 2010

In the same month, at the request of the *TI Secretariat*, we nominated local external stakeholders to be surveyed on-line by TI as part of its own strategic planning process: *‘Strategy 2015’*.

At the invitation of the Americas Department of the TI Secretariat, we were represented by one of our directors, Mr. Brian Lewis, at a *Strategy 2015 meeting* in May in Bogotá, Colombia.

6.5.3 Special General Meeting

On the 25th of March a Special General Meeting (SGM) of members made *amendments to the By-Law* affecting the quorum for General Meetings, the size of the Board of Directors and their terms of office.

The meeting was also given a presentation of the *Strategic Framework*.

7 Board of Directors

The Board elected at the 10th AGM on the 25th of June 2009 comprised Mr. Victor Hart (Chairman), Ms. Margaret Rose (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Boyd Reid (Secretary), Mr. Richard Joseph (Treasurer), Mrs. Karen de Montbrun, Mr. Brian Lewis and Dr. Bishnu Ragoonath.

During the period under review the Board held 12 meetings with an average attendance of 82%.

8 Conclusion

The Board of Directors submits this report to members, confident that we have substantially followed the strategic directions laid down in the Strategic Frameworks 2007-2009 and 2010-2012.

We are satisfied that TTTI is on a sound footing and growing from strength to strength.

We thank you for your continued support.