



“Corruption is...a cold, vicious, often violent sacrifice of citizen security, for a narrow, greedy, private, personal profit on the part of a crooked official.”

– Al Gore

TI Americas Regional Meeting

Transparency International (TI) held its Americas 2012 Regional Meeting from May 30 – June 1, 2012 at Breezes Runaway Bay, Jamaica. Representatives of National Chapters from North, Central and South America as well as Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago converged to discuss progress made towards the achievement of the TI 2015 Strategy. The meeting was hosted by the National Integrity Action Limited (NIAL) based in Jamaica and Transparency was represented by Richard Joseph.

The three-day meeting highlighted key issues pertaining to whistleblower legislation, opportunities for corruption in the execution of social programmes and continuing efforts to eradicate corruption in the police, security services and prosecutorial services. Fundraising challenges in the Americas region were also noted and future action, including the use of the fundraising toolkit, was proposed. These discussions culminated in the Runaway Bay Declaration in which the twenty TI National Chapters and Contacts in the Americas committed to maximize their efforts and focus regional action on curbing corruption with the support of citizens and relevant actors and networks.

The highlight of the conference was the public meeting held by NIAL Jamaica on the last day of the conference, Friday 1st June.

The success of the NIAL Jamaica, a new organization, is particularly noteworthy and Transparency can benefit from their best practices.

RECENTLY HELD ACTIVITIES

- **Transparency Thirteenth Annual General Meeting**
- **TI Americas Regional Meeting**
- **Civil Society Accountability Workshops**
- **Transparency Youth Drive**

New Chair, Deryck Murray, visits TI UK Office



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Welcome to Our New Board for 2012-2013 Term

Transparency members welcome Deryck Murray as the new Chair. We also welcome the appointment of outgoing Secretary, Dion Abdool, as the new Vice Chair. The Board also welcomes three (3) new Directors – Josh Drayton, Ronald Ramcharan and Prabha Siewrattan.

We must extend sincere gratitude to past Vice Chair, Karen de Montbrun, and past Directors, Wayne Maughan and Carmena Baird, for their hard work and stellar service.

Transparency mourns the loss of Richard Joseph – outgoing Chair who dedicated the past three years in full service as Treasurer and then as Chair. We miss him dearly and we continue to fight the good fight against corruption today.

“Valued for his friendliness, professionalism and humour, Richard Joseph will be greatly missed by Transparency International.”

– TI Secretariat, July 2012



Members of the head table preparing for start of AGM

AGM 2012

Transparency held its thirteenth Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 24th, 2012 at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain. Individual members, corporate members, special guests and media representatives were among the attendees.

The feature address was delivered by Karl Hudson-Phillips, QC who reflected on the ongoing struggle to stamp out corruption that has persisted since the early years of independence. Issues discussed at the AGM included reporting on activities, external funding, the agenda for future action in the areas of whistleblowing and public procurement and a review of membership fees.



Karl Hudson-Phillips as he delivers his speech



Special invited guest Ken Gordon - Chair of Integrity Commission with Transparency founding member Reginald Dumas



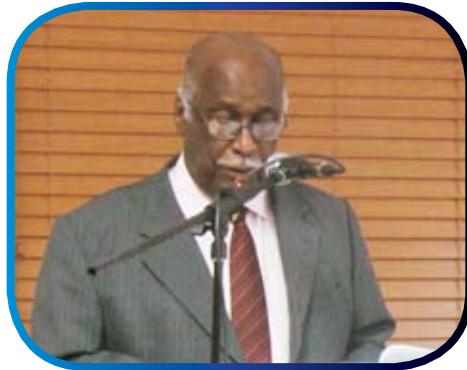
Members of the Diplomatic Corps and other specially invited guests



Alana Wheeler and Deryck Murray chat with corporate members

Excerpt from Speech Given at AGM by Karl Hudson-Phillips, Qc

Increasingly in Trinidad and Tobago, there is the perception that corruption has become systematic. It is so pervasive that we appear to be undergoing a process of being desensitized as to what corruption is. The population is now being assaulted by the revelations of unprecedented corporate greed and institutional incompetence. The idea of fiduciary responsibility appears non-existent. Persons with no legitimate or no known



sources of income are held up as astute businessmen who grab the social columns. The fact that there appears to be no disapproval of questionable conduct seems to make it acceptable or at least not offensive. We are being inoculated against being offended by the offensive.

It is clear that corruption exists at the domestic and international levels. It is the violation of an ethical standard. As ethical standards are culture based, it may be tolerated at varying levels by different groups and societies and even groups within societies. Disapproval is usually measured by the level of reaction to the corrupt practice. The consistent failure of any system to prosecute and punish corrupt practices has a direct bearing on the level of public tolerance of corruption. Low levels of disapproval have a demonstration effect – making corruption acceptable to the man in the street. Laws – any rules or regulations – do not get their force only from the penalty attached. There must first of all be an acceptance of the particular law as being beneficial and just. This acceptance has to be continually reinforced by a predictable application of sanctions when the law is broken. Failure to enforce the law results in non observance of the law and will lead eventually to acceptance of the unlawful conduct as normative.

My mind went back to 1973, almost forty (40) years ago, when many of you might still have been at school. At that time, I gave thought to this very question of corruption. Even then it was a matter of concern to me. I was on the verge of being elected Political Leader of the then ruling party, the PNM. This would have resulted in my being Prime Minister at the tender age of forty (40). I was saved from myself by divine intervention and the return of Dr. Eric Williams who had previously submitted his resignation.

I was to be “enthroned”, as it were, at the reconvened Annual Convention of the PNM on Sunday 2nd December 1973. In advance of the occasion, I prepared an acceptance speech which, as it transpired, I was never to deliver. I now quote from the speech that never was on Sunday 2nd December 1973:

To me, corruption means more than merely putting one's hand into the till. That in itself is reprehensible enough.

Continued on following page

Youth Membership Drive

Youth is a time of promise and potential. It is also the time to build the society that you want to be a part of and to leave a legacy. Building a corruption-free society is a good place to start. The fight against corruption cannot enjoy success without the energy and passion of young people. Transparency recognizes this and has launched a Youth Membership Drive aimed at young people under the age of 35. For young applicants there is a reduced Annual Membership Fee of \$100.00 (no registration fee!)

If you are a young person who wants to take tangible, practical action against corruption then you will benefit from joining Transparency.

*Do your part
to ensure that
corruption does not
become the norm.*

If you know a young person under the age of 35, do encourage them to apply for Transparency membership.

Be part of initiatives to improve transparency and accountability. Help to mould a culture that stands up to corruption and does not compromise ethics and integrity for progress.

Application forms are available online at www.transparency.org.tt. Download and mail or drop off yours today.

Excerpt From Speech Given at AGM by Karl Hudson-Phillips, Qc

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To me corruption means several other things. I will name a few:

1. Corruption is the use of one's position, whether public or private, to secure unfair advantage for one's self, friends or family which is not available to the ordinary honest citizen.
2. Corruption is the use of position or influence on a Statutory Board for instance, so to manipulate the affairs of the people's corporations as to enrich oneself unjustly and immorally, if not strictly illegally, to the tune of hundreds or thousands or millions of dollars.
3. Corruption is the drawing of salaries without hard and honest work whether as road worker or as University lecturer or as diplomat.
4. Corruption is the defilement, sexual, moral, physical and otherwise of our young men and women in the rampant blackmail for employment and jobs.
5. Corruption is the use of bankrupt political ideas to attempt to hoodwink our people.
6. Corruption is the enslavement of our people by foreign and local sources which wish to trap our young people into the new so-called drug culture in order to dominate them and the rest of the society economically, spiritually and politically – the new drug imperialism.
7. Corruption is the misuse of power – the use of brutality, physical as well as mental, which alienates our people, young and old, from our nation.
8. Corruption is the hoarding of goods for exorbitant profit.
9. It is even unfair not to do one's homework or lessons at schools or universities supported by our people's money. Freeness creates even higher responsibilities than services for which one has to pay.
10. Indiscipline is corruption.
11. It is corrupt even to "hands" the ball deliberately to prevent a sure goal – picking the bails is corruption – short runs, beating the starter's pistol."

It is in the final analysis a question of the moral and ethical tone of the society in which we live and the respect which we owe one another. Ethical and moral standards are being sacrificed on the twin altars of privilege and greed.

I leave you with these thoughts. It is said that old men should dream dreams and leave it to the young men and women to see visions. What is required is a new resolve – a moral rearmament of both young and old. We must insist on proper standards of conduct at all levels. I can only hope for the sake of Trinidad and Tobago that organizations like the Law Association and Transparency International point the way to a new direction.

Become a Transparency Member TODAY!

Corruption triumphs in a climate of despair and resignation. When we begin to think that our actions in the fight against corruption are too feeble, corruption scores. It makes a laughing stock of democracy, distorts national and international trade, strangles sound governance and ethics in the private sector, threatens domestic and international security and undermines the sustainability of natural resources and the environment. Human rights cease to have meaning and the poor suffer the most.

This is the disease of corruption and halting its spread requires the undaunted efforts of the collective population. If you want to play your valiant part in the elimination or at least the drastic reduction of corruption, then you are the kind of person who should support Transparency. You can do this by making a donation, becoming a member and/or volunteering your services. (You do not need to be a member to be a volunteer).

*Demand a better
future – a more
just and dignified
existence – and
take steps towards
making this future
a reality.*

For further information on our activities and how you can get involved e-mail us at admin@transparency.org.tt or like our face book page.

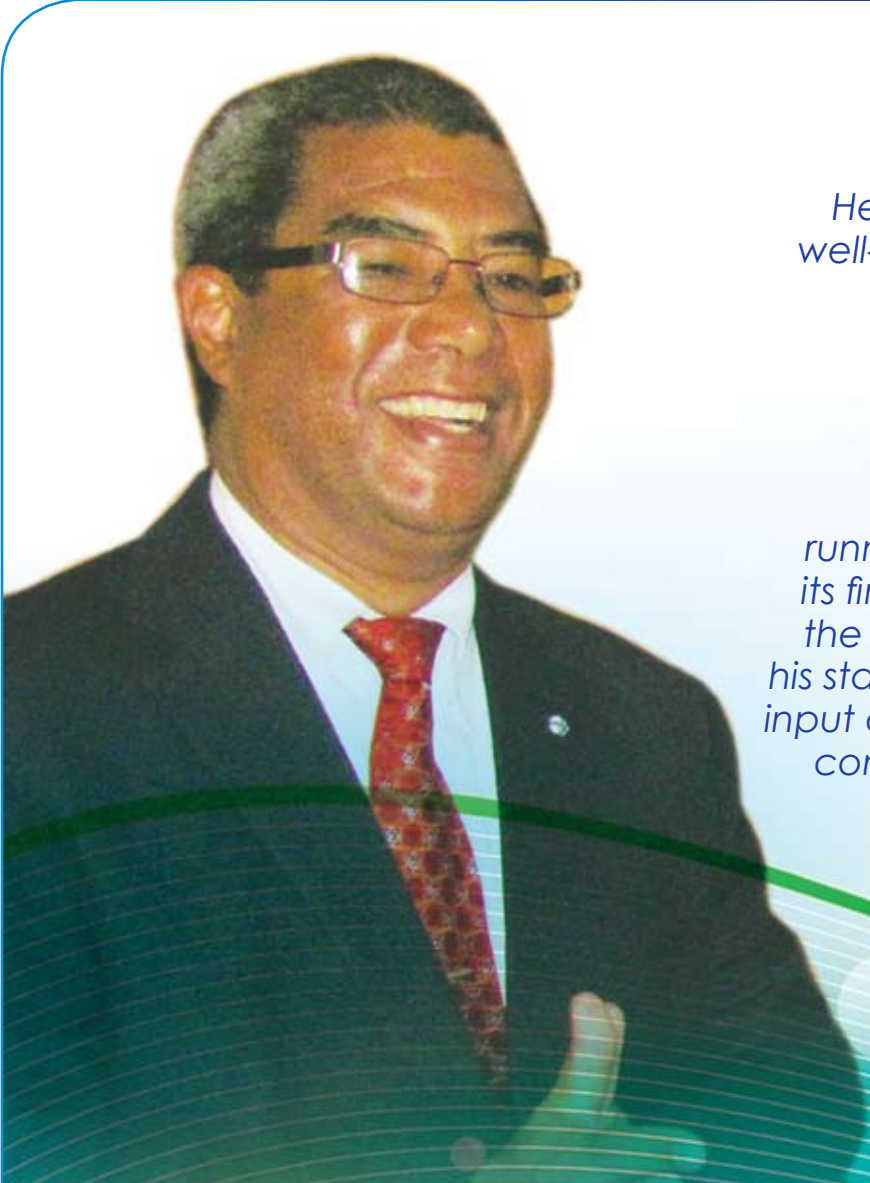
Civil Society Accountability: Principles and Practice Trinidad and Tobago Toolkit

Civil Society Organization (CSO) Toolkit Workshops

From April to June 2012, Transparency held four CSO Toolkit workshops aimed at equipping CSOs to build strong, stable and credible internal structures. The first workshop was the "Train the Trainer" workshop, held on the 21st and 28th April, 2012. At this workshop, potential volunteer facilitators were shown various methods of imparting the toolkit information to other CSOs.

This workshop was followed by three (3) workshops in North and South Trinidad as well as in Tobago. These were conducted on the 19th May, 2nd June and 13th June, and were designed to introduce CSOs to the toolkit and to demonstrate how it can be effectively used to improve their internal accountability mechanisms. Forty four CSOs and government departments were involved in these workshops with more organizations expressing strong interest in implementing the toolkit.



A portrait of Richard Joseph, a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red patterned tie. He is smiling and looking slightly to the right. The background is a light blue gradient with a green curved line and a grid pattern.

Mr Joseph was someone we could call on anytime for guidance and direction. He took a vested interest in the well-being and safety of the staff and he fully supported every project undertaken by the secretariat.

He ensured that everything was in place for the smooth running of the office, particularly its finances. He also encouraged the professional development of his staff. We will miss his invaluable input at the secretariat and we will continue to fight the good fight.

Cindy Paul and Alana Wheeler
TTI Secretariat

RICHARD JOSEPH *Tribute*

A True Champion for Integrity

Who We Are: TRANSPARENCY BOARD

CHAIR – Deryck Murray

Deryck Murray is a Consultant, Employee Benefits to Guardian Life of the Caribbean Ltd. He has served as a career diplomat in the Foreign Service of Trinidad and Tobago during the period 1978 to 1989. Mr. Murray is also well known as one of the heroes of the halcyon days of West Indies Cricket. He was honored in 1975 with the Chaconia Gold Medal for his many outstanding achievements and in 1989 he was inducted into the T&T Sports Hall of Fame.

VICE CHAIR – Dion Abdool

Mr. Abdool is an Attorney at Law with over fifteen (15) years experience in the Corporate environment. He holds a Masters Degree in Corporate and Commercial Law (London), is a Chartered Secretary, an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) and a member of the Canadian Society of Corporate Secretaries (CSCS).

SECRETARY – Frederick A. Du Coudray

Mr. Du Coudray is a retired banker with over 40 years experience. He is presently employed with The National Infrastructure Development Company as a Project Coordinator. He has served as a Director on the Board of the Trinidad and Tobago Development Foundation (Fund Aid), a self help non-profit organization, for approximately 20 years and as the Chairman for 2 of those years. He also served as Chairman of The Power Generation Company of Trinidad and Tobago (POWERGEN) as well as a Director on the Boards of Infolink Services Limited and Credit Reporting Services Limited (TransUnion).

TREASURER – Prabha Siewrattan

Ms. Siewrattan heads the Group Compliance Unit of the Guardian Holdings Group of Companies and has extensive commercial, auditing and regulatory experience in the financial services industry. She is an Attorney at Law admitted to practice at the Bar of Trinidad and Tobago and St. Kitts and Nevis and is also a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA).

DIRECTOR – Michael H. Alleyne

Dr. Michael Alleyne is presently an International Education Consultant and currently holds the position of Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University, DC, USA. He was formerly Chief Education Officer and, recently, Coordinator of the Peace Programme which aimed at reducing violence and indiscipline in schools

DIRECTOR – Annette des Iles

Annette des Iles retired from the Public Service as Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister and Head of the Public Service. Most of her career was spent in the Foreign Service of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Her public service was recognized with the national award of the Chaconia Medal Gold of the Order of the Trinity

DIRECTOR – Josh Drayton

Josh O. W. Drayton currently teaches Public Policy at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus. He is also a Director at Veni Apwann, a Non-Governmental Organization involved in capacity building for Civil Society Organizations. Mr. Drayton also played a key role in the development of the Transparency and Commonwealth Foundation Civil Society Accountability Toolkit for Trinidad and Tobago. He recently completed a Postgraduate Certificate in University Teaching and Learning (CUTL) from the UWI.

DIRECTOR – Susan Nancy Gordon

Susan N. Gordon is a retired Trinidad and Tobago Foreign Service Officer with experience at the bilateral, regional, hemispheric and multilateral levels. Ms Gordon has served at our diplomatic missions in New Delhi, to the United Nations in New York and to the European Communities in Brussels. In Brussels Ms Gordon was involved in negotiation of the ACP-EU Cotonou and Economic Partnership Agreements. More recently she participated in CARICOM and hemispheric integration initiatives in her capacity as Director of the CARICOM and Caribbean Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the course of her career she also headed the other key Ministry Divisions of Multilateral Relations, Administration and International Economic Relations. Ms Gordon is a graduate of Carleton University (BA Hons.1973) and of the Institute of International Relations (1978). She is a certified mediator.

DIRECTOR – Ronald Ramcharan

Mr. Ramcharan has worked in the field of developing Application Systems and Software Development since 1968. He started a consulting company in 1974 and now works as an independent Consultant in this area. Mr. Ramcharan is also certified as a mediator by the Mediation Board of Trinidad and Tobago and facilitates workshops in Conflict Management/Resolution in private, public, social, church and school environments. He is a faculty member at St. Andrew's Theological College focusing on Conflict Management/Resolution and Church History.

“Corruption has its own motivations, and one has to thoroughly study that phenomenon and eliminate the foundations that allow corruption to exist.”

– Eduard Shevardnadze



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Transparency Committee Members Meet

In July 2012, at the new board's first retreat, the decision was made to merge the Communications Committee with the Membership and Fundraising Committee. The functional committees for the period 2012-2013 are:

- 1. Integrity Support Committee (ISC)** – comprising Youth Integrity, Public and Private Integrity Support. This committee met the second Tuesday of every month until June 2012. The new chair for this committee is Dion Abdool supported by directors Annette des Iles, Josh Drayton and Susan Gordon.
- 2. Communications, Membership and Fundraising Committee** - Comprising Communications, External Relations, fundraising and new membership. This committee meets the third week of every month. The Chair for this committee is Lorraine Rostant supported by directors Michael Alleyne, Frederick du Coudray and Ronald Ramcharan.

Join a Committee and let your voice be heard TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS

27 August - Special General Meeting at Transparency Office

8 September - Communications Committee hosts all day workshop on Transparency's branding

Transparency in the Local News

We continue to stand for good governance especially in the appointment of government ministers. Look out for our press releases and our periodic articles on Thursdays in the Newsday Business Section.

We do not believe that this appointment sends a positive message about the standards of behaviour and integrity that we expect from our leaders



Thank you for reading and do share this Newsletter with any persons who you think may be interested in learning about our fight against corruption. They may not be on our mailing list!