



### What We Have Been Doing

#### ◆ Americas Regional Meeting

Transparency International (TI) is presently engaging in a governance review process and as part of Phase II, TTTI participated in The Americas Regional Meeting from May 19 – 21, 2019 in Panama. The meeting was hosted by TI and comprised of thirty-five (35) regional representatives. Over the three days discussions focused on TI's 2030 vision, governance review, regional thematic priorities: Political Integrity and Dirty Money, gender and corruption as well as grand corruption.

Day one was divided into two sessions:

Part 1 - Vision 2030 Process - A collective exercise to identify what the world and the corruption and anti-corruption landscape will look like in the next decade.

Part 2 - Governance Review - Identify how TI's governance arrangements could be strengthened so TI can effectively respond to emerging issues.

From all discussions, it is anticipated that corruption will become more sophisticated and systematically ingrained in the future with:

- An increase in cross-border corruption
- A more diverse set of powerful actors, including non-state actors (such as individuals and companies)
- Fragmentation of the rule of law

Day two and three was dedicated to presentations on gender, thematic priorities (political integrity and dirty money) as well as some reflections on TI-S (TI Secretariat). Programme Officer, Kernika Charles represented TTTI at the meeting while Chair, Dion Abdool participated in a series of interviews and surveys (Phase 1) from Transparency International.

Do you have a corruption complaint?

Contact our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) T: 626-3797 ■ E: [info@ttalac.org](mailto:info@ttalac.org)



A cross-section of participants from the Americas Regional



Participants from the Americas Regional Meeting



### ◆ School Integrity Club Project Update

On March 30, the Integrity Club Steering Committee held a training session for the Integrity Ambassadors at St. George's College. This was the final training for the integrity ambassadors which provided the students with the tools to address a range of issues including bullying, theft, anger management, conflicts and sexual promiscuity. Over the past year, the integrity ambassadors have led a series of activities in their schools. For example in Hillview College the ambassadors hosted a series of group discussions on the *Benefits of Integrity and Disadvantages of Corruption*. Over one hundred and forty (140) students participated in this activity. And at Speyside High School Tobago the students positioned an 'Integrity Friendship Wall' where all the students from the school were invited to write messages to others or words of integrity. Teachers also used this to restore torn student relationships.

The Integrity Club Project Coordinator, Barbara Chandler has compiled all the activity reports from the schools, results from the SWOT analysis and evaluations which were conducted at the final training session. An Integrity Club (IC) Manual which outlines the process for establishing Integrity Clubs in secondary schools was also developed and is in the process of being professionally edited.

TTTI is also delighted to announce the winners of the School Integrity Club Project essay competition. Students were asked to compose essays on 'How Integrity Clubs can help eradicate corruption in Trinidad and Tobago.'

The winners are:

First place - Leanna Rajkumar - St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando

Second place - Sai Saidu – Hillview College

Third place - Jenissi Charleau - St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando

The other finalists are Deysha Carr, Jordanne Steele, Kereisha Farrell and Cheyenne Roberts.

Prizes were distributed at the Anti-Corruption Conference and on June 25, TTTI hosted a prize giving ceremony, for the students who were unable to collect their prizes at the Conference



Left to right - Jenissi Charleau (Third place winner); Dion Abdool (Chair, TTTI), Leanna Rajkumar (First place winner) and Deysha Carr (Essay competition finalist).





#### ◆ International Land Coalition (ILC) Project

TTTI is currently partnering with the International Land Coalition (ILC) who is seeking our assistance with their efforts in attaining transparency in land matters in the context of the current Procurement legislation.

TTTI have begun sharing documents with the ILC regarding land governance and state land management and on May 8, 2019, TTTI Director, Jason Stedman presented at a National Stakeholder Workshop hosted by the ILC. TTTI remains hopeful that this venture will assist in efforts to eradicate land corruption in Trinidad and Tobago.

#### ◆ Meeting with the Organization of American States

The Organization of American States (OAS) invited TTTI to participate in an interview on March 2, 2019 at the Office of the Attorney General. Every four (4) years via the Mutual Evaluation Mechanism (MESICIC) under the Inter- American Convention Against Corruption, Trinidad and Tobago is reviewed by experts from the Organization of American States (OAS) to gather information on the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption in Trinidad and Tobago. Adopting a comprehensive approach, the Convention envisages measures for the prevention, detection, investigation, and punishment of acts of corruption as well as for the recovery of corruption proceeds. TTTI was represented by Chair, Dion Abdool and Programme Officer Kernika Charles.



Chair, Dion Abdool presenting to the OAS team

Discussions surrounded the status of anti-corruption legislation and some of the anti-corruption commitments by the Government and recommendations to improve same.

#### ◆ Business Integrity Country Agenda (BICA) Project - Update

TTTI is on the verge of concluding Stage 1 of the BICA project with the completion and launch of the BICA report at our Anti-Corruption Conference. In June 2019, a meeting was held to develop the findings/recommendations from the BICA report into concrete strategies and operational actions for change. At the meeting, the BICA Action Plan was finalised and members of the National Advisory Group (NAG) are currently identifying issues/areas that they will champion.

#### ◆ TTTI welcomes ALAC Intern

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, TTTI welcomed Legal Interns, Surendra Ramkissoon and Brandon Jadoonanan from the Hugh Wooding Law School (HWLS). For the period extending March 2019 to July 2019, ALAC received seven (7) new complaints and are expected to be completed in the upcoming months.



#### ◆ Investigative Journalism Award – Update

On March 2, 2019, TTTI met with representatives from the Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago (MATT) to discuss the establishment of an investigative journalism award as well as ways in which investigative journalists can assist TTTI's Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC).

#### ◆ Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act

TTTI in collaboration with other CSOs responded to the Government's proposed amendments to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) under Clause 7 of The Miscellaneous Insurance, Central Bank and Non-Profit Organisations) Bill, 2019. Following three releases and the Government's stated intention to return to the Parliament and begin consultations, a letter has been forwarded to the Attorney General requesting a meeting to discuss the matters proposed.

#### ◆ NPO and "Unexplained Wealth" Bills

TTTI as a member of Legal and Fiscal Working Group (LFWG) and CSOs for Good Governance group contributed to the Unexplained Wealth Bill and participated in discussions with the Attorney General and his team. TTTI expressed support of the Bill as an anti-corruption initiative subject to (in general) non infringement of and respect of constitutional rights, due process which can stand scrutiny. Concern was expressed (in particular) with respect to use of ex parte applications, use of civil burden of proof and reversal of the party who bears it.

#### ◆ Connected Commonwealth

TTTI was invited to participate in the 'Connected Commonwealth' event hosted by the British High Commission on April 17, 2019. The event was held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the signing of the London Declaration, which formed the modern Commonwealth.

In presenting, Kernika Charles highlighted the work and current projects of TTTI including the School Integrity Club Project and our recently launched Business Integrity Country Integrity (BICA) Report. TTTI looks forward to future collaborations with the British High Commission.



## Press and Media Relations

During the period March – June 2019, TTTI continued to engage the media by treating with issues relating to corruption and transparency.

24 May, 2019 - Fighting for the 'common good' - ([Click here to view article](#))

24 May 2019 - Massy VP: Create whistle-blower safe space - ([Click here to view article](#))

17 May, 2019 – Corruption – not so petty - ([Click here to view article](#))

10 May, 2019 - Corruption: We like it so? - ([Click here to view article](#))

9 May, 2019 - Why we may finally be winning the fight against corruption – ([Click here to view article](#))

5 May, 2019 - Legislation to combat corruption – ([Click here to view press release](#))





## Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute

T: 626-5756 / 0988 ■ W: [transparency.org.tt](http://transparency.org.tt) ■ E: [admin@transparency.org.tt](mailto:admin@transparency.org.tt)

### Anti-Corruption Conference 2019

TTTI once again hosted a successful Anti-Corruption Conference (ACC) on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre. Delivering an outstanding and well received keynote address was Rueben Lifuka, Vice-Chair, Transparency International. Mr. Lifuka helped participants face the reality as he stated that 'Due to impunity, the corrupt have lost all manner of fear for public resources and property, the corrupt does not fear the consequences of the law – because through their corrupt deeds, they can circumvent all authorities including the courts of law. It is this culture of impunity that has provided a fertile ground for new forms of corruption – some which violates human rights and threatens peace.' [Click here](#) to view Mr' Lifuka full address.

Apart from TI's Vice-Chair, Rueben Lifuka we had three (3) other international speakers which includes Dr. Pauline Beange, Professor - University of Toronto addressing Campaign Finance; Dr. Olga Binions - Policy Adviser, UK's Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) speaking on Beneficial Ownership Disclosure and Claudia Sanen – Senior Analyst, Transparency International Brazil addressing Business Integrity in Brazil.

Highlights of the Conference included the launch of the Trinidad and Tobago Business Integrity Country Agenda (BICA) Report, an initiative developed by Transparency International (TI) with a view to reducing corruption in the business environment. This report is Trinidad and Tobago's first comprehensive analysis of contributions from all stakeholders on transparency, integrity and accountability in the corporate sector. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the BICA report.

The Conference was well attended by representatives from Diplomatic missions, Civil Society Organisations, Members of the Legal profession, public and private sector, members of the press and the public.

The Conference was only possible because of the support from its sponsors and contributors: Global Affairs Canada; Canadian High Commission; NH International (Caribbean) Ltd.; British High Commission; Aegis Business Solutions; Visual Art and Production Ltd.; International Development Bank; and Yellar Direct. The event also gained vast media coverage which stimulated national discussions.

See links below some of the press coverage of the Conference:

[TT grappling with corruption culture](#)

[Courting controversy](#)

[Human trafficking, growing trend among corrupt police](#)

[People have bought \\$2 million property with suitcase of cash](#)

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**Keynote speaker Rueben Lifuka, Vice-Chair, Transparency International**



**A cross section of the audience at the Conference**



**Front row left to right:** Victor Hart (former Chair, TTTI), Susan N. Gordon (Secretary, TTTI), Ruben Lifuka (Vice-Chair, TI), Dion Abdool (Chair, TTTI), Deryck Murray (immediate former Chair, TTTI)

**Back row left to right:** Nirad Tewarie (CEO AMCHAM), Dr. Pauline Beange (Prof. University of Toronto), Dr Kamla Mungal (Director, TTTI), Jason Stedman (Director, TTTI), Melissa Cobham (Treasurer, TTTI), Claudia Sanen (Senior Adviser, TI Brazil), Sherwin Long (Head of EITI Secretariat), Ariane Moonsie (Director, TTTI)



**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
TRANSPARENCY  
INSTITUTE**

**ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE 2019  
“Crackdown on Corruption  
– Facing the Reality”**

**Thursday, March 21, 2019, Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
<b>AM</b>		
	Masters of Ceremony	<b>Ariane Moonsie and Jason Stedman</b> , Directors, TTTI
8:15	Safety Briefing and National Anthem	
8:20	Performance	<b>Kayla Shim</b> , Form 4, Williamsville Secondary School
8:25	<b>Getting to 21–Facing The Reality</b>	<b>Dion Abdool</b> , Chair, TTTI
8:35	Remarks	<b>His Excellency Tim Stew</b> , British High Commissioner
8:45	Remarks	<b>Her Excellency Carla Hogan Rufelds</b> , Canadian High Commissioner
8:55	<b>The Challenge of Corruption–Facing the Reality</b>	<b>Rueben Lifuka</b> , Vice-Chair, Transparency International
9:35	<b>Campaign Finance Clarity</b>	<b>Dr. Pauline Beange</b> , Professor, University of Toronto
10:05	<b>Transparency in Elections–2020 and Beyond</b>	<b>Justice Frank Seepersad</b>
10:25	Q&A session	
10:40	<b>Path to an Accountable and Corruption-free Police Service</b>	<b>David West</b> , Director, Police Complaints Authority
11:00	<b>Crackdown on Corruption–Facing the Reality</b>	<b>Justice Melville Baird</b> , Chairman, Integrity Commission
11:15	<b>Beneficial Ownership Disclosure</b>	<b>Dr. Olga Binions</b> , Policy Adviser, UK’s Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
11:45	<b>Lifting the Veil on Secret Company Ownership In T&amp;T</b>	<b>Sherwin Long</b> , Head, Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Secretariat
<b>PM</b>		
12:00	Q&A session	
12:20	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1:00	<b>Corruption and Money Laundering</b>	<b>Susan Francois</b> , Director, Financial Intelligence Unit, Ministry of Finance
1:15	<b>Land and Surveying Fraud–Perpetration to Prevention</b>	<b>The Honourable Faris Al-Rawi</b> , Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
1:55	Q&A session	
2:05	<b>The Business Integrity Country Agenda (BICA)</b>	<b>Claudia Sanen</b> , Senior Analyst, Transparency International, Brazil
2:20	Launch: <b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago BICA Report</b>	<b>Dr. Kamla Mungal</b> , Director, TTTI
2:30	Round table discussion <b>BICA Recommendations–Facing the Reality</b>	<b>Dr. Kamla Mungal</b> <b>Claudia Sanen</b> <b>Angela Lee Loy</b> , Chairman, Aegis Business Solutions <b>Nirad Tewarie</b> , CEO, AMCHAM T&T
3:10	Q&A session	
3:50	<b>Fair Play–Protecting the Integrity of Sport</b>	<b>Deryck Murray</b> , Chairman, Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS); former Chair, TTTI
4:05	Closing Remarks	<b>Susan Gordon</b> , Secretary, TTTI

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