



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TRANSPARENCY INSTITUTE

Quarterly Newsletter

January – March 2012

Welcome!

Welcome to TTTI's first instalment of our quarterly Newsletter. Our intention is to keep you up to date on our activities, alert you to upcoming events, provide interesting commentary on local, regional and international issues of Anti-corruption and good governance and to highlight any burning issues that you ought to be aware of.

In this issue...

- ❖ The history of TTTI
- ❖ Launch of the Corruption Perceptions Index
- ❖ The second TTTI Caribbean Outreach Seminar
- ❖ TTTI's Anti-Corruption Conference

and much more...

History of TTTI

Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI) is the local chapter of Transparency International (TI), a global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption. TI's headquarters is based in Berlin, Germany and was formed in 1993. TI's vision is a world in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are of free of corruption.

The local chapter of TI, TTTI was launched in 1998 as an independent, non-political and non-profit civil society organization incorporated in 2001 registered under the Companies Act 1995 and governed by a Board of Directors elected by our members, both individual and corporate.

TTTI was the first TI chapter in the Commonwealth Caribbean and has continued to encourage and lend assistance to other Caribbean countries to form national chapters of TI. TTTI works to reduce corruption and foster good governance by raising awareness, stimulating action and contributing to the reform of public and private sector systems.

Recently held events

- Second Caribbean Outreach Seminar
- TTTI Anti-Corruption Conference
- Launch of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

“Young people have got to be oriented to right and wrong and from an early stage.” -

Ken Gordon, Chairman of the Integrity Commission speaking at TTTI's Anti-Corruption Conference.



TTTI's Anti-Corruption Conference
From left to right:
Bertrand de Speville;
Richard Joseph - Chair TTTI;
Allan Cutler - President of Canadians for Accountability;
Honourable Roodal Moonilal – Minister of Housing and the Environment;
Ken Gordon – Chairman Integrity Commission;
and
Deryck Murray – Director, TTTI.

Launch of the 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index

Transparency International's (TI) Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) was launched in 1995 and continues to be one of the TI's best known tools in its fight against corruption. Countries are ranked as ascertained by various methods including surveys and assessments by experts on their perceived levels of corruption.

While there have been criticisms of the CPI with regards to its quality and the lack of actionable insights created from a simple country ranking, Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI) believes that this tool has been extremely useful as a monitoring mechanism and a way for nationals to voice concerns in this area through survey completion.

TTTI, the local chapter of Transparency International along with other Chapters launched the CPI on December 1 of 2011 where Trinidad and Tobago was ranked as **ninety-one (91) out of one hundred and eighty-three (183) countries** with a score of **3.2 out of 10**. In 2010 Trinidad and Tobago was ranked in position 73 out of 178 countries, with a score of 3.6.

TTTI has noted this score with concern as a score of ten (10) is considered 'Very Clean' while zero (0) is 'Highly Corrupt'. TTTI is concerned that the perception of corruption in Trinidad and Tobago has grown worse. We have continuously called for the implementation of the recommendations of the Uff Enquiry into the Construction Sector and the enacting of new public sector procurement legislation as ways to improve the perception of corruption in Trinidad and Tobago. TTTI has also voiced its displeasure with the continued presence of Minister Jack Warner in the current Administration and the many allegations about improper procurement and poor governance practices at some State agencies.

Our focus therefore continues to be to increase our efforts at promoting anti-corruption practices through conferences and seminars, press releases in the television and print media, meetings with the Prime Minister, members of the government, opposition and other key persons and embarking upon youth initiatives.

TTTI's Caribbean Outreach Seminar

TTTI hosted a regional seminar encourage and promote the establishment of more Transparency International National Chapters in the Caribbean. We were fortunate to have the assistance and expertise of Transparency International's Director for the Americas Mr. Alejandro Salas and Senior Programme Coordinator of the Americas Department Ms. Zoe Reiter to facilitate the Seminar and Workshop.

Countries in attendance included Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname. Participants benefitted from substantive, comprehensive presentations on, followed by discussions of Transparency International, including its genesis, structure, financing, objectives; TI's five year Strategy to 2015; the Central American Network and the Framework for a Pan-Caribbean Strategy. Under this item, the practicalities of implementation of the Key Areas of focus and activities specific to Caribbean priorities under each of the Five Strategic Priorities in the Framework were discussed with the Framework for the Strategy still to be fine tuned.

Of particular significance was the agreement reached among the representatives of the



Alejandro Salas, Director for the Americas, TI Berlin presenting on the Central American Strategy at the Caribbean Outreach Seminar.

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) present to proceed with the establishment of an OECS Chapter of TI rather than individual chapters given resource constraints. This is significant because it is a new approach as there is no such arrangement in TI to date and it may facilitate the participation in TI of other small states.

We wish to express our gratitude to TI Berlin and the Commonwealth Foundation for the Funding received for this Seminar.

TTTI's Anti-Corruption Conference

TTTI's Anti-Corruption Conference was held on November 1, 2011 at the Trinidad Hilton and Conference Centre. We were honoured to have the Minister of Housing and the Environment, the Honourable Dr. Roodal Moonilal present to give the opening address on behalf of the Prime Minister who was unable to attend the proceedings and the newly appointed Chairman of the Integrity Commission, Mr. Ken Gordon who gave brief opening remarks.

The Conference which was generously sponsored by the European Union and the Canadian High Commission, focused on issues including whistleblower protection legislation, integrity commission legislation and political party funding. Guests were treated to presentations from international speakers which included Allan Cutler and Bertrand de Speville and our local speaker Ms. Gillian Lucky.

Mr. Cutler, a Canadian, is known in Canada as "Whistleblower" for his role in exposing the "Sponsorship Scandal" and is an internationally acclaimed speaker and media commentator on ethics and governance issues. Mr. Cutler delivered a compelling address on whistleblowing where he spoke extensively about his experience as a whistleblower in Canada.

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. Mr. de Speville gave a riveting presentation titled "Looking Back, Looking Forward" which focused on the operations of Integrity Commissions.

TTTI's Secretary Dion Abdool moderated an interactive session between Mr. Cutler, Mr. de Speville and the audience which was well received.

Ms. Lucky is currently the Chair of the Police Complaints Authority. Her presentation titled "Towards a Corruption Free Service" was an informal,

yet well delivered one which 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. The panellists included Allan Cutler, Dr. Hamid Ghany (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI) and Boyd Reid (former Chair of TTTI).

The panel discussion began with Professor Deosaran briefly introducing the speakers and outlining some of the topics that would be discussed. He underscored the importance of unlocking the link between justice and economic considerations and appealed to TTTI to highlight the imbalance for persons of different means seeking justice in the courts.

Professor Deosaran then introduced Dr. Ghany who spoke about three fundamental principles of democracy which were ministerial responsibility, parliamentary oversight and judicial independence. He surmised that when these principles are adhered to and utilised properly the country can benefit from accountability and proper protection of the public purse and can monitor the conduct of those who hold public office.

Mr. Reid contributed to the discussion by outlining the proposed Public Procurement Law which can tackle corruption. After giving a brief history of the law including its creation in 2006 to its introduction to parliament in 2010 as a legislative proposal, Mr Reid summarized that the Bill proposed an independent regulator, establishes offences, recommends tools and encourages Civil Society involvement.

Finally, Mr Cutler made his input on Public Procurement and emphasised the importance of ethics and law to shape the bidding process. He underscored the necessity of the public buyer being fair in order to encourage bidders.

TTTI is very pleased with the outcome of the Conference which generated much dialogue on the outstanding Legislation on Procurement, created renewed interest in the work of the Integrity Commission and further increased persons' understanding and awareness about anti-corruption measures such as Whistle blower legislation.

Following the Conference, TTTI has been approached by several Media houses to give additional information through interviews to further enlighten the public on Anti-corruption issues.



A cross-section of the audience at the Anti-Corruption Conference

Etcetera...

Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of Transparency International (TI) was held at TI's Headquarters in Berlin on October 16, 2011 and TTTI Chair, Mr. Richard Joseph was in attendance. At this meeting TI re-elected TI Chair, Ms. Huguette Labelle (Canada), and Vice-Chair, Mr. Akere Muna (Cameroon) to another three-year term as TI's global leadership.

Ms. Delia Ferreira Rubio (Argentina) and Mr. Rueben Lifuka (Zambia) were also re-elected as board members, while Mr. Jermyn Brooks (UK), Ms. Elena Panfilova (Russia), Mr. José Ugaz (Peru) and Ms. Elisabeth Ungar Bleier (Colombia) were newly elected as board members.

Transparency International's board is elected by its movement of 87 National Chapters worldwide and 27 individual members.



Re-elected Chair, Transparency International, Huguette Labelle.



Re-elected Vice-Chair, Transparency International, Akere T. Muna.

TTTI Gets Re-accredited!

TTTI is happy to announce that the TI Board of Directors approved the recommendation of the Membership Accreditation Committee (MAC), following the accreditation review of Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute to reconfirm the Chapter's status as a fully accredited National Chapter of Transparency International.

Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute will therefore continue as a fully accredited National Chapter of Transparency International, enjoying all the rights and privileges of a Member of TI under the TI Charter.

TI also acknowledged the significant contribution that this Chapter has made to the TI Movement and that the Movement was truly grateful to TTTI and our colleagues for that. TTTI was further encouraged to work closely with the TI Secretariat in developing its strategic priorities.

TI Private Sector Meeting

On December 15-16, 2011 Richard Joseph attended a Workshop at Transparency International's Headquarters in Berlin. The Purpose of the Workshop was to develop the aims set out in the TI 2015 Strategy and the newly launched Russian Integrity Programme.



Casey Kelso of TI-USA makes a presentation at the Private Sector Meeting and Workshop at the TI Headquarters, Berlin.

Who we are...

Our Board of Directors

Chairman: Richard Joseph

Richard Joseph is an independent consultant with extensive experience gained at working at senior management levels in public accountancy, banking and industry. Mr Joseph has served as Director since 2009 and Chair since June 2010.

Vice Chair: Karen de Montbrun

Mrs. de Montbrun is presently the Manager of St. Dominic's Pastoral Centre. She is also a former president of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association and was employed for over 20 years in various positions. Mrs. de Montbrun has served as a Director since June 2009 and Vice-Chair since 2010.

Secretary: 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 (Lond.), 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).

Treasurer: 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 Co-ordinator.

Director: Wayne Maughan

Mr. Maughan is a senior professional specializing in Programme and project management with over 30 years' experience. He has also worked as an independent consultant in socio-economic development in the Caribbean. Mr. Maughan has been a member of the Governments team in the formulation of several of the IDB funded projects.

Director: 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 in 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 in the T&T's Sports hall of fame.

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: Carmena Baird

Ms Carmena Baird is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. She has represented the Private Sector at numerous National and International Trade and Economic Fora. Her work includes the development of position papers on trade, industrial and economic issues

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: Susan Nancy Gordon

Susan Gordon is a retired Foreign Service Officer of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. She held senior positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and served as Delegations in Brussels, New York (United Nations) and New Delhi.

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**Look out for
Next Quarter's
Issue.**

Become a Member of TTI

Corruption hurts everyone. It harms the poor the most, undermines democracy and the rule of law, distorts national and international trade, jeopardizes sound governance and ethics in the private sector and threatens domestic and international security and the sustainability of natural resources.

If you agree with the above statements and would like to see corruption eliminated or at least much reduced, then you are the kind of person who should support TTI. You can do this by making a donation, becoming a member and/or volunteering your services. (You do not have to be a member to be a volunteer.)

Check our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for further information.

Upcoming events...

Launch of the CSO Accountability Toolkit

TTI advocates greater accountability by T&T's public and private sector organisations and in particular our Civil Society Organisations. As such we have partnered with the Commonwealth Foundation (CF) to produce a Civil Society Accountability Toolkit for Trinidad and Tobago which offers step by step processes for Civil Society Organisations to follow to ensure their accounts of work conducted are reported correctly.

TTI plans to hold a Launch of the CSO Toolkit at Hotel Normandie in Port of Spain, Trinidad and a series of Workshops for Civil Society Organisations in the Month of March 2012.

Raise a hand, raise a finger, do anything, but don't let corruption linger!

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!