

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE WORLD BANK & THE NACC



OPENING REMARKS

**Prof. Pakdee Pothisiri
(Commissioner, NACC)**

26 October 2009

Ms. Annette Dixon, World Bank Country Director; distinguished colleagues from the World Bank's Bangkok Office; ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome you all to the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission this afternoon for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between our two organizations.

The background to this MOU goes back over 18 months, during which time there has been a notable increase in cooperation and collaboration between the World Bank and the NACC on a range of key issues. As far as the MOU is concerned, the essential factor which undoubtedly increased the momentum for the drafting of this document was the NACC's High-Level Delegation to Washington DC in April 2009. The delegation was led by the President of the NACC and three other commissioners including myself. While we were in Washington DC, the World Bank's Institutional Vice-Presidency generously hosted a full-day of productive meetings for the delegation, which also involved, among others, members of the East Asia Pacific Central Operational Services Unit; Mr. Stuart Gilman from the StAR Initiative; and Mr. Rick Messick.

On our return to Bangkok the concept of the MOU was gradually transformed into concrete reality, largely due to the unstinting efforts and energy of Mr. Joel Turkewitz, Coordinator for Governance and Anti-Corruption Hub, and Mr. Shabih Mohib, Senior Economist, on the World Bank's side; and Ms. Lesley Junlakan, Advisor to the Secretary-General, International Affairs, on the NACC's side: I thank them all for their determination and dedication to ensuring that we could all be gathered here today to put our names to the MOU.

Of course, today is not an end in itself but the beginning of a new era of collaboration between us, as outlined in the Action Plan attached to the MOU which delineates a range of activities on which the World Bank and the NACC have agreed to cooperate in the coming 12 months. I believe that at least one of these—the review of the assets and liabilities framework—has already been started to be developed during Mr. Messick's visit to Bangkok last week to participate in our APEC Workshop on the anti-corruption/money laundering nexus.

Ms. Dixon, ladies and gentlemen,

I will not take up any more of your valuable time but thank you all once again for coming and reiterate my belief that the signing of the MOU here today is the start of renewed endeavours between us to attain a common goal.

Many thanks for your kind attention.

Drafted by
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