



## Prague Meeting Highlights Range of Bank Work in Anticorruption

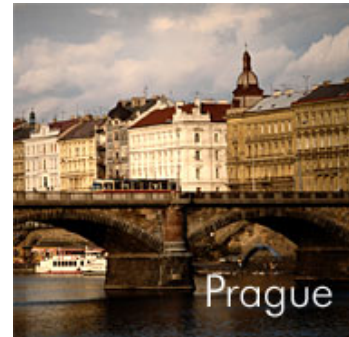
10th IACC enjoys high-level participation

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**October 16, 2001**—The 10<sup>th</sup> annual global anticorruption conference, organized by the IACC Secretariat and Transparency International (TI), took place last week, this time in Prague, with strong backing and participation by the World Bank. Among the participants were Mexican President Vicente Fox and Open Society Institute founder George Soros.

Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, headed the proceedings on the first evening, which also featured the presentation of TI's Integrity Awards to Eva Joly, the investigating magistrate who pinned down corruption at a high political level in France, as well to the team that cleaned up corruption in the city of Londrina, Brazil. Posthumous awards were also made to activists from Mozambique, Ukraine, Colombia, and Burkina Faso who were killed due to their work on anticorruption.

The World Bank contributed substantively on many fronts during this event, both in plenary sessions and in individual workshops. The October 7 plenary session focused on the role of the private sector. Following opening statements from EBRD President Jean Lemierre, WBI Governance, Regulation and Finance Manager Daniel Kaufmann challenged some myths and presented evidence on the inadequate (and often counterproductive) involvement of multinational and domestic enterprises in efforts to address corruption, making concrete suggestions to convert this



'missing pillar' into a positive force, including informatics and business associations.

Wednesday's plenary focused on how to strengthen institutional restraints. Baltasar Garzon Real—the Spanish judge who forced Pinochet to answer in court in the UK and thereby set a precedent in international law regarding dictators—opened the session. Cheryl Gray, Director of the PREM Public Sector Group then explained the importance of sound institutions to development effectiveness and summarized both the World Bank's approach to governance reform and Bank activities to date, giving examples from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The Bank's involvement in many specialized workshops illustrated the breadth of its thematic approach on anticorruption. Bank staff organized and participated in workshops on topics as diverse as corruption in forestry (Nalin Kishor), in the oil sector (Eleodoro Mayorga), and in the judiciary (Linn Hammergren). Rick Staphenurst led a workshop on the role of parliamentary oversight and served as secretary to the first meeting of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption.

At an all-day workshop organized by Jairo Acuna, Maria Gonzalez, and Daniel Kaufmann, seven Latin American countries presented and discussed anticorruption action programs that had been developed through an action learning process facilitated by WBI. Joel Hellman and Helen Sutch organized and participated in the international state capture workshop featuring transition countries. Jennie Litvack's workshop looked at the importance of anticorruption strategies in decentralization. John McCormick and Stephen Zimmermann participated on panels on whistle blowing, recovering the proceeds of corruption, and international investigations. Bank staff also participated in workshops on privatization and corruption, on new research frontiers, and on the role of civil society organizations in global governance.

During the conference's final day, Vicente Fox spoke on the vision and strategy for his country's efforts to clean up corruption in all dimensions of society. George Soros spoke of the dangers of state capture and called for collaboration between his Open Society Institute, TI, the World Bank and others in monitoring changes in transparency and accountability and creating governance "scorecards." Peter Eigen, President of TI, paid tribute to the Bank's "greater openness to civil society under the brilliant leadership of Jim Wolfensohn."

A full report on the conference is in preparation and will be shared with staff. The IACC will convene again in Seoul in two years' time.

**Useful links:** For conference materials and presentations visit the IACC website at <http://www.10iacc.org/index.html>.

Information on the Bank's work on anticorruption and governance can be found at <http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance>.

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