

The TI Source Book 2000

The first version of this Source Book (now translated into over 20 languages) argued the case for a “National Integrity System”, an holistic approach to transparency and accountability and embracing a range of accountability “pillars”, democratic, judicial, media and civil society. The expression has since passed into common usage in development circles, and the argument for an holistic approach to anti-corruption efforts has similarly achieved a widespread consensus. But anti-corruption success stories remain largely elusive.

In part the answers will lie with civil society. If activists remain active, inventive, determined and decisive, the issue can be kept at the forefront of national and international attention even after the battle may appear to have been won. For the potentially corrupt will always be with us, and even those whose National Integrity Systems seem to be in reasonably good shape can find themselves grappling with the unexpected as the determined exploit whatever gaps they can find.

The fight against corruption is not wholly a moral one, in the sense that it is a struggle against the intrinsic “evil” of corruption. Certainly there is a moral element – one which cuts across all major religions and societies throughout the world – but the compelling reason for the struggle is the suffering and deprivation corruption brings to whole societies, and to the world’s most poor. It is concern for the latter, rather than a distaste for the corrupt and their deeds, that rightly drives the global movement against corruption.



This edition of the TI Source Book seeks to combine the ease of the printed word with the immediacy of the Internet. With many initiatives being taken in many different parts of the world, emerging best practice is a rapidly growing area. Readers will find references to the Best Practice documentation, and this is available on the Internet. A summary of the Best Practice material compiled at the time of going to press appears as Part Five of this book.

The Internet version of the Source Book will be kept amended and up-to-date in the light of emerging developments. Additional material is available on the TI web-site, where a searchable bibliography will be found. The TI website is: <http://www.transparency.org>. Comments on the Source Book are welcome and may be sent by email to: jeremypope1@compuserve.com.



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In retrospect, ages seem to have spirits, which historians identify. But is it possible to identify the spirit of a present age, and if so, what if anything should we do as a result? Talk of the spirit of the age in the twentieth century has often been used by tyrants and bureaucrats to suppress criticism from those who object to their vision of the age. We should remember that individuals create their ages, and that individuals of genius transform them.

Karl Popper¹

¹ Quoted by Justice David Baragwanath, Third Annual Administrative Law Conference, Wellington 25-26 March 1998.

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**CONFRONTING CORRUPTION:
THE ELEMENTS OF A NATIONAL
INTEGRITY SYSTEM**

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