

The Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES
DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 2003

1.0 Activities Planned for 2003

In our first Strategic Plan, approved in November, 2002, we proposed to carry out the following projects in 2003.

1.1 Public Procurement Reform

We have long been convinced of the need for radical reform of the way Government and the private sector do business. Our main concern in calling for an inquiry into the Airport Project, for example, was that it should help the Country devise ways of preventing in the future the kind of corruption and mismanagement that appeared to have taken place. We therefore planned to begin in 2003 a project that, by building coalitions with all stakeholders, would promote national discussion of public procurement reform, develop specific proposals for reform and advocate the use of TI's anti-corruption tool, the Integrity Pact.

A team to manage the project was formed, comprising *Mr. Boyd Reid* as Project Leader, *Ms. Diana Clyne*, *Mr. Fenrick de Four*, *Mr. Brian Lewis*, *Dr. Michael Lewis* and *Mr. Winston Riley*.

With the help of funding from the British Government we were able to achieve some of these objectives. We hired a Research Officer, *Mrs. Izola Garcia*, to conduct a survey of stakeholder procurement practice and concerns. Her report was presented to a *symposium* in April that brought together over sixty persons from nine Government agencies, seven State owned enterprises and seven private sector supplier organizations. The symposium, entitled 'Transparent Public Procurement', began the process of public discussion of reform by considering the survey results. It then heard presentations on the characteristics of good public procurement systems and on the Integrity Pact by *Ms Valeria Merino* of TI-Ecuador. Following the symposium, we produced and distributed a full report of the proceedings. Electronic and hard copies are available to the public.

In September Mr. Reid was invited by the Ministry of Finance to join a Cabinet approved committee to draft a *Green Paper* on public procurement reform.

Under the revised Strategic Plan the work continues in 2004 as a '*Public Procurement Reform Programme*'. This will include a project to promote public discussion of the forthcoming Green Paper and other Government policy documents with a view to influencing legislative, institutional and procedural reform. It will also seek to have the Integrity Pact implemented in a major public contracting project.

1.2 A Membership Drive

To be able to finance our normal operations without continued outside assistance and have an adequate pool of voluntary support for our activities we estimated that we needed a seven to eight-fold increase in our individual and corporate membership.

A *Finance Committee*, set up by the Board, began the project in June, 2003 with an appeal to business firms. In September we manned a booth at the *Building Industry Trade Show*, provided free of charge by the organizers, and the Chairman, in a post-lunch addressed to exhibitors, invited their firms to join the Institute. Subsequently we addressed an appeal to individuals whose names had been suggested by some of our members.

By the end of the year we had increased corporate membership by 100% to 12 and individual membership by 20% to 62. This has increased our annual subscription income by 80 % to \$38,050. The drive also brought in corporate donations totalling \$10,000. (Membership statistics and a list of corporate members and donors are appended to this report.)

The members of the Finance Committee during 2003 were *Justice George Collymore, Mr. Fitzroy Jackman, Mr. John Jardim, Mrs. Johanna Koorn, Mr. Boyd Reid, Mr. Christopher Sadler and Mr. Audley Walker.*

1.3 Monitoring the implementation of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption

The Plan envisaged that, over the three years beginning with 2003, TTTI would join other TI chapters in the Americas in actively and collaboratively monitoring the implementation by their respective states of the Convention. Our main task would be to assess the extent to which Trinidad and Tobago fulfilled its obligations under the Convention.

During 2003 we held discussions with the official in the Ministry of the Attorney General responsible for the presentation to the OAS of a report on Trinidad and Tobago's implementation of the Convention. He advised us that the review process called for independent civil society involvement. He provided us with information on what had thus far been prepared for submission to the OAS and when the Government's report might be ready for our review.

Based on this information and on discussions with TI-USA, the revisers of the Plan converted the project into an *International Conventions Programme* which would include the monitoring project. The revised Plan envisages August 2004 as a possible date for the submission of our assessment to the OAS and the following February for its presentation before the monitoring committee in Washington DC.

The Programme will also include the monitoring of Trinidad and Tobago's ratification and implementation of the recently signed *United Nations Convention Against Corruption.*

1.4 A campaign of public education on the National Integrity System

To further our objective of motivating and working with all stakeholders to help build the National Integrity System of Trinidad and Tobago, we planned to begin, in October, 2003 a twelve month public education campaign that would include seminars and workshops for stakeholders, outreach programmes for schools, preparation of literature for public dissemination and the issuing of strategic public statements.

When revising the Plan during August and September it became clear that we would not be able to find the volunteers to carry out the project in 2003. The new Plan makes the project part of a three- year *Public Education Programme* that will involve seizing the opportunities that arise to educate the public on the forms corruption takes and on how individuals and groups can combat it. It will pay particular attention to the issues of political party funding, executive accountability and appropriate constitutional reform.

The campaign itself is now planned to take place during the second and third quarters of 2005.

1.5 Promotion of political party funding reform

This project was to continue the follow up on the Conference on Political Party Funding and Regulation held in April, 2002. We were unable to marshal the voluntary human resources needed for this work. As mentioned above, it has now been included in the *Public Education Programme.*

1.6 Promotion of Constitutional Reform

This project was to continue active collaboration with other civil society organisations that were working for constitutional reform, placing particular emphasis on developing structures for greater transparency and accountability in governance. As in the case of political party funding, lack of volunteers meant that nothing was done in 2003 and the project has also been included in the *Public Education Programme.*

2.0 Strategic Planning Activities

During September and October a core team of members comprising our administrator, *Mr. Steve Mulrain*, *Mr. Stephen Abiraj*, *Mr. Frank Clarke* and *Mr. Nikola Mitchell* worked on revising and rolling over the 2002-2005 Strategic Plan. At each stage of the process members of the Institute were given the opportunity to comment on the work done. On the 26th of November, the Board approved the new Plan which covers the period 2004 to 2006.

The new Plan proposes to carry out six three-year programmes, some of which have already been described. The programmes not yet described are the following.

Institution Building

Under this programme the Institute will actively *seek human and material resources* to support the Institute's operations and projects. It includes for 2004 the *Membership Drive Project* already mentioned, and a project to *lobby for tax credits* for companies that fund non-governmental and community based organizations. In 2005 it is proposed to *hire an Executive Director*.

Access to Information

It is proposed to undertake as a *project* under this programme, a critical *evaluation of the Freedom of Information Act, 2001*. We shall look at the legislation's effectiveness in satisfying the public's right to know. The project is estimated to last four months and should start early in 2006.

Private Sector Corruption Prevention

Under this programme we shall conduct, in collaboration with business associations, workshops and other forms of discussion aimed at getting companies to adapt and adopt TI's *Business Principles for Countering Bribery*. We shall also promote risk prevention, especially in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

3.0 Education and Communication Activities

3.1 Global Corruption Report 2003

In February, at a Press Conference in the blue Room of Development Finance Limited, we released Transparency International's second annual report on events and developments that shaped the struggle against corruption from July 2001 to the end of June 2002. We also used the occasion introduced the new Board and speak about our Strategic Plan.

3.2 Independent Anti-Corruption Commission

Also in February the Institute was represented at a meeting at the office of the Attorney General which was addressed by *Mr. Bertrand de Speville*, anti-corruption consultant and former head of Hong Kong's Independent Anti-Corruption Commission, who spoke on nature and operations of such a body.

3.3 Corruptions Perception Index 2003

In October, at the same venue, we released to the media the 2003 CPI. We also communicated the contents of our press release to the Prime Minister and Attorney General. Subsequent press coverage seemed to evoke considerable public attention.

3.4 Seminar on Corporate Governance

Also in October the Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants (ACCCA) organized jointly with TTTI a seminar on Corporate Governance at which Fr. Henry Charles presented *TI's Business Principles for Countering Bribery* in Business to accountants and finance professionals.

3.5 Presentation at UWI

In March the Chairman made a presentation on *Corruption and its Remedies* to students of Public Administration at the University of the West Indies.

3.6 Police Service Reform

Also in March we submitted to the Select Committee a legal opinion on the proposed Police Reform legislation prepared by our Vice-Chairman, Justice George Collymore.

3.7 Talk to Rotary

In November the Chairman spoke to the Rotary Club of Central Port-of-Spain on the work of TTTI.

3.8 Statements to the Media

Releases and statements made during 2003, other than those already mentioned, dealt with:

- issues arising over the sale of WASA properties to employees;
- the content and outcomes of our symposium on Transparent Public Procurement;
- the implications of Trinidad and Tobago's signing of the UN Convention Against Corruption and
- the Prime Minister's acceptance of air travel provided by Repsol and British Gas.

4.0 Other Activities

4.1 Fourth Annual General Meeting

This was held on the 23rd of January at the Parish Centre of the Church of the Assumption, Long Circular Road, Maraval. The following were elected to the Board of Directors:

Mr Boyd Reid, Chairman

Justice George Collymore, Vice-Chairman

Mrs Sonah Nagassar, Secretary

Mr Fitzroy Jackman, Treasurer

Fr. Henry Charles

Mrs Johanna Koorn

Prof. John La Guerre

4.2 Meetings of the Board of Directors

During the period under review the Board held thirteen meetings with an average attendance of 75%.

4.3 General Meeting of Members

In July we held a General Meeting of Members to launch the Strategic Planning exercise.

4.4 Independent Anti-Corruption Agencies

In October we held a meeting of members and guests to hear *Mr. Bertrand de Speville* speak on the work of independent anti-corruption agencies and what is required for them to succeed.

Subsequent to this we assisted Mr. de Speville's firm identify persons and organizations to which he could send a questionnaire as part of its work of preparing recommendations to the Government on the strengthening of the Integrity Commission.

4.5 Newsletters

In the course of the year we published and distributed December and March issues of our newsletter, *TTTI Update*.

APPENDIX

2003 Membership Statistics

<i>Members</i>	<i>At 31 Dec 2003</i>		<i>At 1 Jan 2003</i>	
INDIVIDUAL		<i>% of total</i>		<i>% of total</i>
Financial	48	77	27	52
1 year in arrears			26	50
2 years in arrears			9	18
TOTAL	62		52	100
CORPORATE				
Financial	12	100	3	50
1 year in arrears			3	50
2 years in arrears				
TOTAL	12	100	6	100

Individual Members¹

Mr Stephen A. Abiraj
 Miss Alimah Ali
 Rev. Henry J. Charles
 Mr Frank C. Clarke
 Mr. George Collymore
 Mr John Connon
 Mr Jefferson G. Davidson
 Mrs Annette des Iles
 Mr. Anson Dale Humphrey
 Mr Reginald Dumas
 Mr Emile Elias
 Mr Thomas Gatcliffe
 Mr Johnny Gopaulsingh
 Mr Fitzroy Jackman
 Mr John Jardim
 Mr. Cecil Kelsick
 Mrs. Johanna Koorn
 Prof. John Gaffar La Guerre
 Mr Brian Lewis
 Mr. Timothy Michael Lewis
 Ms Diana Mahabir-Wyatt
 Mr Nikola Mitchell
 Mr. Peter S. Morales
 Ms. Sonah Nagassar
 Mr Joseph A. Nunes

¹ This list does not include members who have requested that their names be not listed in public documents of the Institute.

Rev. Clifford Payne
Ms Dianne Piper-Joseph
Mr Desmond S. Pitt
Mr. Clyde Pryce
Mr Evans Ramrattan
Mr G. Boyd Reid
Mr Hugh Schamber
Mr. Eustace Seignoret
Mrs. Pearl Thomas
Mr. Emile Valere
Mr. Derek I Outridge
Mr. Christopher J. Saddler
Mr. Jean-Marc de Pompignan
Mr. Henry Alan Alcazar
Mr. David Taylor
Mr. Cecil Quesnel
Mr. Michael J. Maingot
Mr. David Perry Evelyn
Mr. Hashim Mohammed
Mr. Fenrick R. De Four

Corporate Members

- 1 Caribbean Communications Network Limited
- 2 VEMCO Ltd
- 3 ENDECO (Trinidad) Limited
- 4 Flavorite Foods Ltd
- 5 Development Finance Limited
- 6 Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation
- 7 West Indian Tobacco Company Limited
- 8 Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago
- 9 First Citizens Bank Limited
- 10 Angostura Limited
- 11 National Flour Mills
- 12 Spancrete Ltd.

Donors in 2003

- Emile Elias, TTTI Member & Former Director, PETROTRIN
- British High Commission
- Transparency International Secretariat
- The United States Embassy
- RBTT Bank Ltd.
- Republic Bank
- POWERGEN
- PLIPDECO