



IACC update



DAILY NEWS FROM THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE

Thanks and farewell

On behalf of the IACC Council and all participants in the 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference, I would like to express gratitude to our hosts, the government of Guatemala and Accion Ciudadana, who have warmly welcomed us into this culturally rich city, where the marimba echoes through the lively rhythm of daily life, and where the people have treated us with such kindness.

I would also like to extend my profound thanks to all participants for your enthusiastic and thoughtful engagement, your ideas and your ongoing commitment to the fight to bring greater justice and equity to all corners of the world.

I look forward to meeting you all again in two years at the 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference.

Barry O'Keefe

Did you know?

Antigua, Guatemala, was founded in 1543 as the city of Santiago de los Caballeros. Located at the foot of Agua Volcano, the city was designated a Cultural Heritage of Mankind site by UNESCO in 1979.

Today's Programme

09:00-11:00 Closing plenary

Antigua

Getting there: Following the closing plenary, buses will be waiting in front of the Camino Real to take participants to Antigua. The first bus will depart at 11.30 and the last bus will depart at 12.15. The bus ride lasts approximately one hour.

In Antigua: Refreshments will be served in the gardens of the Hotel Casa Santa Domingo throughout the afternoon. Participants are invited to explore the city's many charms, as well as the hotel's museum, where entrance is free.

Getting back: Buses will return to Guatemala City as they fill. The last bus will depart Antigua at 17:00.



Best Investigative Journalism Report on Corruption winners Tamoá Calzadilla and Laura Weffer accept their prize.

Latin American investigative journalism prize

Last night's gala closing dinner honoured two Venezuelan journalists with the Latin American Prize for Best Investigative Journalism Report on Corruption, for stories in the newspapers Últimas Noticias and El Nacional. Tamoá Calzadilla and Laura Weffer shared the US \$25,000 prize for uncovering evidence ignored by the authorities during the investigation into the assassination of state prosecutor Danilo Anderson.

Media plays a key role in the fight against corruption. It can be a dangerous profession; journalists who write about corruption often lay

their lives on the line. In tribute, the Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (IPYS) and Transparency International for Latin America and the Caribbean (TILAC) joined forces in 2002 to recognise exceptional investigative journalism with a focus on corruption, and the courage of journalists who investigate corruption.

The annual award, now in its fourth year, has fostered quality research and reporting and has provided support and international recognition to its winners, increasing their visibility and therefore their safety.

«The issue is not about having zero corruption. The question is how a country's institutions react to cases of corruption. Corruption cases can be seen as an opportunity.»

Daniel Kaufmann, Director, The World Bank Institute



Ms. Zenaida Moya, Mayor of Belize City

Ms. Zenaida Moya, recently elected Mayor of Belize City, knows firsthand the struggles of the anti-corruption movement. A former high-ranking public official and formerly Vice-President of the Public Service Union of Belize, Ms. Moya was removed from her post after blowing the whistle on an alleged million dollar corruption scandal at Northern Fishermen Cooperative, supplier to the U.S. seafood restaurant chain Red Lobster. Ms. Moya will address today's closing plenary.

IACC Update (IU): You lost your post when you blew the whistle. Did you fear further reprisals?

Looking beyond the IACC

The 12th International Anti-Corruption Conference has brought together over 1000 corruption fighters from more than 100 countries for three days of plenary sessions and workshops.

How will we know that our presence here has made a difference? Have we simply debated, or advanced the debate? Have we identified the roadblocks to a world free of corruption, or taken steps to address them? When we leave this culturally rich and lively city, what can we do to keep the momentum going?

Three calls for action have emerged from our time here.

Participants called on the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) to adopt an effective follow-up monitoring programme at its 10-14 December 2006 meeting in Amman, Jordan. This will send a clear message that the parties are committed to ensuring that this landmark convention becomes

Interview with Zenaida Moya: Fighting corruption at the local level

Zenaida Moya (ZM): I did what I felt was the right thing to do and so I did not fear any repercussions. I knew they were inevitable. Corruption is the order of the day with a majority of the members of the current administration, so I felt that it was time that someone, even if only one person, stand up and take a stance against it.

IU: What measures are in place to protect whistleblowers in Belize, and how will you strengthen these measures in your position as Mayor?

ZM: Currently, no specific measures exist to protect whistleblowers in Belize. In my administration, I have openly supported whistleblowing. I will also support the Whistleblowers Protection Bill that the Public Service Union is attempting to get drafted and passed into law.

IU: What accounted for the landslide victory of the United Democratic Party in this year's local elections? Were voters aware of your role in exposing corruption? How strong a role did this play?

ZM: According to the polls, the reason for the landslide victory had to do with citizens' discontent with government corruption and poverty. Seventy-nine percent of those polled said they would vote for a candidate because they felt he or she had integrity. I believe my position on anti-corruption played heavily in voters' minds.

IU: Have you encountered corruption since taking up your post as Mayor of Belize in March 2006?

ZM: Yes.

IU: What measures have you taken to combat corruption in Belize? What more will you do?

ZM: I have been ensuring that internal controls are put in place and will continue to increase citizen awareness of government policy, with the help of the media.

IU: What is blocking the way to a world free of corruption?

ZM: The disillusionment of citizens with the abuse of authority by key public officials and misuse of public funds; it is citizens' acceptance of corruption that continues to block the way.

the world's pre-eminent weapon against corruption.

In the third plenary session, conference participants unanimously called on Chile to speed up the extradition of Peru's former President Alberto Fujimori to face charges of corruption and human rights abuses.

A group of IACC participants initiated an effort to bring more youth into the fight against corruption, circulating a draft declaration affirming the potential of youth to generate positive social transformation and acknowledging the need to engage young activists to fight corruption and the value of doing so. To sign the declaration, or for more information, please contact: Andres Hernandez at: ahernandez@transparency.org

The IACC also reaffirmed that a free and vibrant civil society is fundamental to the successful fight against corruption. This is particularly timely in view of the systematic curtailment of civil society freedoms in several countries.

«A society without norms is a society where the strongest and richest prevail.»

Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica

At the airport:

With all the talk of corruption, the two taxes in two different currencies required of travellers leaving Guatemala may spark suspicion. Rest assured - in mind, if not in pocketbook - these taxes are legitimate. An airport tax of US \$30 will be charged as you collect your boarding pass from the airline counter, and a security tax of quetzals 20 will be charged at a bank booth to the left of the immigration check point. Proof of payment is required to pass

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