



TRANSPARENCY
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Social movement against corruption

annual report 2007





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Making Waves

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Foreword

The year 2007 was highly eventful for Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), and a year of extraordinary success. With a deep sense of satisfaction, humility and pride we present this report reflecting the flavour of the intensity and success of our work during the year.

We have made more discernable progress in intensifying the anti-corruption demand. We continued to catalyze citizens' voice for transparency and accountability through research, communication, outreach and civic engagement activities nationally and locally. We also moved on building our institutional capacity.

Our emphasis on citizens' participation through the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) continued with much more vigour than ever before. In addition to various programmes of public awareness at local levels, the CCCs and YES groups pursued numerous successful initiatives in key institutions of service delivery, especially education, health and local government yielding visible results.

The reporting period coincided with a high-profile anti-corruption drive by the Caretaker Government that also went ahead with a number of important policy and institutional reforms which have the potential of lasting impact on the future of anti-corruption movement in Bangladesh. Many institutional reforms introduced by the Government reflected TIB's recommendations. We had the privilege of working together with the reconstituted Anti-Corruption Commission in a series of citizens' outreach and communication programmes.

Anti-corruption movement remains a hugely challenging mission - a long way to go. We are convinced, however, that we are on the right path to make further progress steadily. As we move on, we solicit your thoughtful critiques, suggestions and ideas on how we could make our social movement more robust and more effective. Your support is our main source of strength.

Executive Director



Maisha Maliha Eala

Contents

1. Introduction	7
2. Two-way Impact	8
- Institutional Reforms	9
- Local Level Voice and Accountability	10
3. Specific Outputs and Results	13
- Local Capacity – Actors & Channels	13
- Issue-based Alliances/Networks/Partnerships	18
- Working with Media	21
- Corruption Perceptions Index 2007	22
- Research for Campaign and Change	24
- Fighting Corruption in the Water Sector	43
- TI Chairperson in Bangladesh	46
- Institutional Capacity	47
4. Financial Statement	51

Introduction

This report covers activities implemented by TIB during the period January–December 2007, the fifth year of the Making Waves project. The key objective of the project is to generate greater people's awareness and participation in anti-corruption activities and create demand for institutional and policy reforms for ensuring accountability, transparency and efficient functioning of public and private bodies.

The year 2007 was a period of unprecedented achievements and success for the project, which commenced in 2003, initially for 5 years, then extended till the end of 2008. TIB's network of 36 Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) and the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) spread all over Bangladesh became key pillars of the social movement against corruption, driven essentially by volunteers. During the reporting period this social movement was featured by extraordinary activism and vibrancy of the YES activists.

The Making Waves project is funded by the generous support of DFID, DANIDA, the Norwegian Government and SIDA. TIB is grateful to them for the grant and for excellent cooperation throughout the year.



An Anti-Corruption rally on IACD 2007

Two-way impact

The Making Waves project has been successful in creating increased demand for transparency and accountability in governance. Project activities have had significant direct and indirect impacts in two main ways: catalyzing unprecedented policy and institutional reforms at the national level; and at the local level leading to visible and measurable positive changes in the quality of key service delivery institutions in the health, education and local government. As the Impact Assessment study conducted by independent experts noted, thanks to the successful implementation of the Making Waves project TIB is now identified as being synonymous with tackling corruption in Bangladesh and, anti-corruption has become a key theme of public discourse and central to the public policy agenda. The Output to Purpose Review (OPR) 2007 also commended the progress of implementation.



Students taking anti-corruption oath

Institutional Reforms

For the first time an opportunity has been created in Bangladesh to make corruption a punishable offence. TIB has catalyzed or has been directly involved in key national level institutional and policy changes carried out by the Caretaker Government, the most notable of which are:

- a. Reform of the Anti-Corruption Commission;
- b. Reform of the electoral process and the Election Commission;
- c. Reform of the Public Service Commission;
- d. Improvement in efficiency of service in the Chittagong Port;
- e. Bangladesh's accession to the UN Convention Against Corruption;
- f. Recognition of corruption as major development challenge in the SAARC region and agreement to exchange information on national experience in combating corruption to effectively address this problem;
- g. Inclusion of anti-corruption essays in the text book of level IX and XI; and
- h. Contribution to the Public Procurement Rules 2007 and inclusion of TIB in the Public-Private Committee on Public Procurement.

TIB has expanded issue-based coverage of work for integrity such as humanitarian assistance. Issue-based partnerships with a number of other non-governmental organizations have been developed to strengthen both national and local level initiatives.



First national Health Rights conference



TIB and ACC organized a seminar on IACD 2007



Mothers gathering are regularly held in CCCs to various schools

Local Level Voice and Accountability

TIB has created a mechanism in the local levels through which the people can channel their opposition to corruption. They have done this by holding to account officials working in the delivery of public services in 3 main sectors: health, education and local government where real changes can be observed in hospitals, schools and local government services. This has impacted on transparency and accountability of these public services in terms of content and quality of services.

Ojifa gets her health service

On 7 July 2007, the Rangpur YES group went to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital with their Satellite AI-Desk with the key motto – information is the key to empowerment.

To prevent people from being victims of corruption at the service delivery end, they provided the visiting patients and their attendants various information related to the range of services and facilities available in the hospital. They informed the authority about the observed gaps between entitlement and what was actually provided. Persuaded by the YES activists, the Hospital Director joined them, promised corrective measures, took a few impromptu decisions, and fixed the Complain Box donated by CCC in the Hospital campus.

Meanwhile, something else was going on in the hospital. YES activists observed the teen-aged patient Ojifa in critical condition, and her family members being tricked out of the hospital. Even after paying the due fees, she was denied of the service and was being sent by a clique of the hospital staff and middlemen to a nearby private clinic.

They had no idea who and where to complain, nor was there anyone around to challenge the corrupt middlemen. YES members took it up with the authority. The fault was acknowledged, action taken promptly. Ojifa was provided the due service including the pathological tests that she had already paid for.

YES members returned to CCC office to review the day's work. They once again realized the power of access to information, and raising voice in ensuring rights. They pledged not to rest ... there is a long way ahead ... until other Ojifas achieved their rights too.

Making Waves has captured the social conscience of young people and provided them with a way of voicing their opposition to corruption, and engaging in volunteer work to improve transparency and accountability in their areas.

Rozina saved from a possible disaster in life

Rozina (13) of Pukpukuria, Chokoria, a student of class-seven had no idea that her father arranged her wedding until she was told that it was going to be a boy of 16 from a nearby village who she didn't like anyway. She was also worried that the wedding would mean that she would have to drop out from the school, which she didn't want.

She didn't know what to do until she told it to her friends Trishita and Toyeba, who happen to be members of the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) group working with the Chokoria Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC). Thanks to the Tothyo-potro (Fact-Sheets) Trishita and Toyeba knew what Rozina didn't – the way to stop it on the ground that marriage is illegal before the age of 18.

They came forward to help Rozina. Together with a few other YES members they decided to counsel Rozina's parents away from their wrong decision. They first met the Upazila Nirbahi Officer together with Rozina, and persuaded him to stand by her. He spoke with the concerned UP chairman who then accompanied Trishita, Tayeba and Rozina to the latter's home. Together they succeeded to convince Rozina's parents that marriage was illegal and immoral before the age of 18. The parents gave up the idea of the giving their daughter into marriage and decided that she should continue her school. Thus Rozina was saved from what could be a major curse for life. Rozina has also become a friend of AI-Desk.



Face the public program at CCC area



YES members giving information through satellite AI-Desk

The energy and commitment of the CCCs have been commendable. Their capacity to challenge and engage with authorities is a testament to the standing with which the committee members have in their local communities. Volunteerism associated with the work of CCCs and YES has taken deeper roots.

An integral element of the fight against corruption at the local level is the activities of the YES groups. TIB's work has impacted on the mind and conscience of young people in Bangladesh. The enthusiasm and youthful vitality of the YES group have demonstrated that young people no longer accept that corruption has to be part of their daily lives.

All issue-based subcommittees of CCCs including Finance, Education, Health, Research (Report Card), Gender, and YES became operational strengthening devolution of the institutional capacity within the CCCs.



Citizens raising their voice to ensure transparency and accountabilities at the grass roots



Specific Outputs & Results

Specific outputs achieved during the period include:

Anti-corruption local capacity – Actors & Channels

- The number of core members mobilized as the anti-corruption constituency under the project became 1,825 in 36 CCC areas, of which 528 were CCC members and 1,297 YES members. They engaged themselves in various types of anti-corruption campaigns, especially in the key public service delivery sectors such as education, health, local government, land administration, police and lower judiciary. Twenty three percent of the CCC members and twenty four percent of the YES members were women.
- By the end of the year one pressure group was formed comprising of at least 2 representatives of vulnerable communities in each CCC area to work with school management committee (SMC). Information were disseminated through 60 Mothers' Gatherings, 83 SMC meetings, 90 Face-the-Public meetings, 38 Seminars, 7 Roundtables, 20 Workshops, 126 dialogues (discussion meeting, opinion sharing meeting, citizens meeting) and 14 consultations meeting with stakeholders.



YES activists participating in anti-corruption debate, rally and exhibition

*A people's
theatre show
organized by
YES members*



- Issue-based networks have been developed in CCC areas for providing legal support and awareness raising on gender. Shojon (Citizens for Transparency) groups have been formed in 3 CCCs having engaged 125 members. In addition to core members of YES, more than 50,000 young women and men were engaged through various activities including anti-corruption concert, oath-taking in schools, cartoon competition, debate competition, and essay competition. 2082 young friends (Shojon) of YES were mobilized to work on various issues.
- In addition 340 young members at the university level were engaged through activities such as Debates organized in partnership with the Law Department of Dhaka University, Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS), observance of the International Anti-corruption Day and International Women's Day.
- CCC-YES activists catalyzed improvement in the quality of service in 1 health centre (Government Hospital) & 1 educational centre (Government Primary School) at 50% CCC areas.
- Quality of service delivery changed in at least one health centre and one educational centre at 20% of CCC areas as a result of post-CRC campaign coupled with the activism of the YES groups through AI-Desks. The total number of such service delivery institutions that recorded improvement was 53 institutions (19 Govt. hospitals, 20 Govt. Primary Schools and 11 UPs and 3 in Municipalities). Changes included open budget and disclosure in 31 education centres, 25 health centres and 12 Local Government offices, the latter providing information on budget/distribution of VGD/VGF.
- Other campaigns which contributed to change included 60 Mothers' meetings, 12 Face the Public, 19 Seminars, 7 Roundtables, 14 Workshops, 126 dialogues (discussion meetings, opinion sharing meetings, citizens meetings) and 14 consultations meeting with stakeholders. In addition, 12 follow-up Mothers meetings and 13 follow-up SMC meetings were held as planned (30% CCCs). In addition, follow-up Face the Public meetings were held in 5 CCC areas. These resulted in most cases in commitment and actual delivery by the authority to improve the quality of services.

Changes in Education

Before Intervention	Intervention Type	Impact/After Intervention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anomalies in distributing stipends Collection of unauthorized fees Extra money collected over fixed rates Teachers reluctant to take classes School Management Committee inactive Little or no engagement of parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens Report Card published CCCs engage SMCs & authority Mothers meetings Satellite AI desks Anti-corruption Oath-taking Promotional campaigns engaging all stakeholders CCC-YES monitor progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undue payments stopped Scholarship distribution transparent SMCs reformed and activated Improved awareness of rights Education authorities more aware of anomalies and commit to address Teachers' performance improved including time-keeping and discipline Drop-out reduced Text books available for free distribution Private tuition reduced Teachers, SMCs, officials and guardians jointly engaged

Changes in Health Services

Before Intervention	Intervention Type	Impact/After Intervention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctors time spent on private work, irregular hours, referring patients to private practice or diagnostic centre Money charged for free services/extra money taken for service Inadequate facilities: beds, operating theatres, trolleys and ambulances Bribes for medical certificates Medical representatives in doctors' offices Lack of cleanliness and hygiene Medicine unavailable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report Cards extensive publicity Engage hospital authority, Civil Surgeon & other officials Information disseminated on services available Satellite AI-Desks Public theatre shows Complain boxes installed Citizens' Health committee set up CCC-YES monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctors to hospital on time Doctor availability increased Information on ticket fees, charges, etc published/displayed Extra money from fees for tickets to welfare fund Cleanliness improved Key health personnel (Civil Surgeon, etc) more reform orientated List of medicines and doctors & nurses on duty displayed Payment for ambulance service stopped Diversion of patients to clinics stopped Unauthorized payments for services stopped

Changes in Local Government

Before Intervention	Intervention Type	Impact/After Intervention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low quality of services • Misappropriation of allocated money • Staff shortages • Corruption in procurement • Low level of monitoring of development works • Extreme suffering of vulnerable people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Report Cards (highlighted issues and attract press coverage) • CCC members engage elected bodies on recommendations • Face-the-public • Citizens informed on service available/ budget provision • Complaint boxes installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected reps and officials acknowledge problems and commit to working with CCC and civil society • Improved service quality: roads, water supply (tube wells) • Open budgets • Revenue collection increased • Extra money for trade license stopped • Transparent and increased distribution of VGF and VGD cards • Citizen's Charter signed • Media interest raised • People demanding rights • Representatives held accountable to commitments made



Students taking anti-corruption oath

CCC-YES Coverage



Following alliances/networks/partnerships were formed:

- a. TIB catalyzed an alliance of 5 organizations with a view to working on land rights. In addition to observance of the land rights day nationally and locally, specific advocacy efforts were undertaken to address corruption in land management in Natore, where thanks to the CCC-YES intervention in collaboration of various stakeholders including the local administration the river-bed of the Chandana river was released from corrupt land-grabbers and returned to the landless people.
- b. Another important issue-based partnership was for campaign in favour of Right to Information Act. Together with 5 leading NGOs (MJF, BNNRC, MMC, D-NET, ASK), TIB strengthened the campaign for enactment of this vital Act to ensure people's right to information – the mother of all rights. By the end of the year significant positive progress was achieved with commitment expressed at the highest level of the government.
- c. TIB joined a network of 53 organizations formed for campaigning on health rights. The network was launched as a part of activities organized in connection with the 1st National Health Rights conference. TIB has also worked closely with the Election Commission in connection with reform of the electoral rules. TIB has for the first time been involved in the Public-Private Committee on transparency in public procurement.
- d. Other issue-based collaborative effort included various efforts to bring into focus the linkage between anti-corruption movement and the women's rights movement. Campaigns included collective participation of stakeholders in demanding empowerment of women as a catalyst for reducing corruption which on the other hand is indispensable for progress in ensuring women's rights.



A roundtable to observe the Right to Know day

- e. For the first time TIB became a close partner of the Anti-Corruption Commission. In recognition of TIB's role behind setting up of the Commission in the first place, followed by persistent efforts to catalyze its effective functioning, the reconstituted ACC requested collaboration of TIB in communication and outreach for citizens engagement as a means of prevention of corruption. A series of collaborative programmes was organized throughout the year jointly by ACC and TIB which not only added new dimension to TIB's campaign programme but also added a new fillip to TIB's credibility as the anti-corruption movement.
- f. National level youth engagement activities were highlighted by two major national debate competitions held to mark the IACD and IWD in collaboration with the Law Faculty of the University of Dhaka and Dhaka University Debating Society. In addition 7 local level debate competitions were held including those in Chittagong University, Bramanbaria, Faridpur, Rangpur, Madhupur, Jessore and Rajshahi.
- g. The constituency of TIB members were further expanded and strengthened during the reporting period. The Annual Members Meeting and Quarterly Members Days were regularly organized, with a view to facilitating closer involvement of members in planning and implementation of various TIB activities.



Students of Chittagong University in a rally

Partnership with ACC

TIB has played the key role in creation of the Anti-corruption Commission. On the basis of a diagnostic study (December 2001) on the former Bureau of Anti-Corruption, TIB raised the demand for an independent anti-corruption commission. A draft law produced by TIB was grudgingly adopted by the then Government, and the Commission was set up in November 2004.

The Commission failed to deliver because of lack of Government will to grant it due independence, and because of lack of initiatives by the then Commissioners, appointed on political consideration. TIB continued its campaign and advocacy for an effective and independent Commission.

Consistent with recommendations submitted by TIB to the Caretaker Government, the Commission was reconstituted and a number of important reforms was introduced in the Anti-Corruption Act, which paved the way for ACC to become a more effective institution.

Soon after the transition, TIB was called upon by the ACC to explore the possibility of partnership. As a stakeholder in an effective ACC, TIB joined hands with ACC in anti-corruption prevention campaign, titled **Jago Manush, durnity protirodhe jago** (Rise up people, to prevent corruption), a citizens outreach and communication programme.

This partnership is with the understanding that TIB wouldn't have anything to do with the prosecution or specific cases of corruption. While TIB would continue to demand corruption to be proven a punishable offence, matters related to prosecution are not in its jurisdiction.

Jago Manush involves national and local level citizens' outreach and communication aimed at engaging wider constituency of citizens at large, and the youth in particular in the social movement against corruption. Activities jointly implemented under Jago Manush included: anti-corruption citizens rallies, anti-corruption theme song, competitions (essays, cartoon, debate) etc., anti-corruption oath-taking by students, and observance of the International Anti-corruption Day.

This partnership is based on the logic that while laws, institutions and prosecutions are indispensable, for anti-corruption efforts to be effective and sustainable it needs to engage citizens, especially new generation who must say no to corruption, refrain from it and resist it individually and collectively from their respective position.

Working with the Electronic and Print Media

The electronic media continued to be a key vehicle for TIB's communication and campaign activities, with a significant new dimension added thanks to successful entry of TIB communications into the state-run BTV. In addition to coverage of reports and news of TIB and airing of TV messages, at least 9 issue-based TV talk-shows including direct phone-in shows were transmitted through the private channels as well as the public TV station. The themes included International Anti-corruption Day, Right to Information, corruption in the NGO sector, power sector, Biman, Rajuk, International Women's Day, Anti-corruption Youth Concert, and corruption in humanitarian assistance. Besides, Chairman and other members of trustee board and ED regularly participated in other TV talk shows and phone-in programs related to corruption.

The print media has also been extensively used for widest possible communication of TIB news, messages and campaign. TIB has been on the news regularly for coverage of events, advocacy and developments both nationally and locally. Coverage included research findings and recommendations, citizens report cards and follow-up actions at local levels, collaborative work with ACC and other alliance partners.



A number of issue-based TV Messages and TV Talk show aired in different TV Channels

Corruption Perceptions Index 2007

Bangladesh ranked 7th



On September 26, 2007 the Transparency International (TI) released its annual Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2007. In a scale of 0-10, the index provides international ranking of countries in terms of perceived degree of prevalence of political and administrative corruption. The results showed that Bangladesh scored 2.0 points and was ranked 7th from below, which is 162nd among 180 countries included in the index in 2007. In the same position with the same score as Bangladesh are five other countries - Cambodia, Central African Republic, Papua New Guinea, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

This year Somalia and Myanmar have been ranked at the bottom of the list implying that in these two countries corruption is perceived to be highest, followed by Iraq and Haiti in the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. In the 4th position jointly ranked are Uzbekistan and Tonga, followed by Sudan, Chad and Afghanistan in the joint 5th position while Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Laos and Guinea have been ranked in the 6th position.

At the other end, among countries where corruption is perceived to be lowest are Denmark, Finland and New Zealand sharing the top position with each scoring 9.4. Immediately following them is the highest ranking Asian country, Singapore, scoring of 9.3 jointly with Sweden.

It may be recalled that Bangladesh was earlier placed at the bottom of the list for the fifth successive year from 2001-2005. In 2006 Bangladesh was ranked in no 3. Notably, while most low scoring countries continued downward trend, and even many high-ranking countries also received lower scores in 2007, Bangladesh remained steady in score at 2.0. As a result Bangladesh showed improved performance compared to 10 countries that formerly scored better, as shown below.

CPI: Bangladesh's score and rank compared to other low-scoring countries 2006-2007

Sl	Country	Score		Rank (from below)	
		2006	2007	2006	2007
1	Bangladesh	2.0	2.0	3	7
2	Cambodia	2.1	2.0	4	7
3	Central African Republic	2.4	2.0	7	7
4	Papua New Guinea	2.4	2.0	7	7
5	Turkmenistan	2.2	2.0	5	7
6	Venezuela	2.3	2.0	6	7
7	Congo Democratic Republic	2.2	1.9	5	6
8	Equatorial Guinea	2.1	1.9	4	6
9	Laos	2.6	1.9	9	6
10	Chad	2.0	1.8	3	5
11	Uzbekistan	2.1	1.7	4	4

Although Bangladesh's ranking has improved from 3rd in 2006 to 7th in 2007, the score remained steady at 2.0.

Further details on CPI and related issues can be obtained from
www.ti-bangladesh.org
www.transparency.org

Research for campaign and change

- A key mechanism through which TIB has been creating demand for reducing corruption and generating accountability and transparency is the robust research programme at local and national level. In the reporting period 79 Report Card surveys were released locally at the CCC level. These report card surveys were focused primarily on the quality of public service in public sector health and education, but also included local government, lower judiciary and police. Released locally in the respective CCC areas, the Report Cards have been effectively used in improving the content and quality of services provided by the institutions, with particular emphasis on the engagement of all stakeholders.
- TIB's research program with special emphasis on National Integrity System (NIS) monitoring and diagnostic studies on key institutions of public interest continued throughout 2007. A consolidated Parliament Watch (2001-2006) on all the sessions of the 8th Parliament was released in February 2007. One of the recommendations of the report – positive incentives for MPs attending the session regularly – was implemented by the Speaker. Moreover, Rules of Procedure was amended providing that all standing committees would be formed within three sessions of a new parliament.
- A number of diagnostic studies were released in 2007. The study on Tracking the Election Process was released in February 2007, which led to wide media interest and coverage as well as multi-stakeholder response. The study revealed the nature of violations of electoral code of conduct by the candidates before the 9th Parliamentary election that was postponed. It also tried to estimate the amount spent by the candidates in the study areas for electoral campaign. The set of recommendations were actively considered by the reconstituted Election Commission.



Roundtable
discussion on
Chittagong Port



Some participants in the Right to Know Roundtable

- Another diagnostic study on the Public Service Commission was released in March 2007. It identified the nature of corrupt practices within the PSC – the body that conducts examinations for recruitment to the public service in the country. After the release of the report, the commission was restructured and some reform measures were undertaken. The importance of the study was recognized by the Government at the highest level and the PSC authority and caretaker government started implementing some of its recommendations.
- The diagnostic studies on Bangladesh Biman (August 2007), NGOs (October 2007), Power Sector (November 2007), Public Universities (February 2007) and RAJUK – Capital Development Authority (August 2007) were also released during the period. All these reports received wide coverage in the media. Particularly the study on NGOs ignited a huge debate within the society, as it revealed different nature of irregularities and corrupt practices in the NGO sector. A follow up study on the Chittagong Port was released in May 2007 in Chittagong. The study made an attempt to evaluate the steps undertaken by the caretaker government and assessed the impacts. The concerned authorities took the report into consideration and a number of reforms recommended by the study was implemented including private berth operating system instead of stevedoring, improvement in the monitoring system, and recovery of the port land from land-grabbers, which led to control of irregularities and substantial reduction of turnover time of ships in the port.
- TIB reports and recommendations were acknowledged by the government at varying levels including the Chief Adviser. Specific policy and institutional reforms followed, underlining the importance of TIB's research and campaign.

Follow-up on Chittagong Port

TIB has been working on the Chittagong Port, a lifeline of the national economy, especially for the export and import trade, and their huge knock-on effects on almost every aspect of the society, economy and policy. Many of the TIB recommendations for transforming the governance and management of the port were reflected in steps taken by the caretaker government with the assistance of Joint Forces. These led to some substantive changes including streamlining of the services resulting in reduction of turnover time of ships in the port. Various forms of irregularities and indiscipline were controlled while exchange of bribery visibly declined to some extent.

TIB made a series of further recommendations that included:

- A 'zero tolerance' policy to corruption and irregularities must be institutionalized in the Port including strict monitoring of the process of observance and accountability.
- For achieving benefits of competition and value for money, the loading and unloading operations at the port should be handed over to private management.
- Security system should be enhanced by installing CCTV and VTA system. All commodities should be checked through scanner machines. No commodity should be released without scanning report verified by the customs authority.
- Intensive monitoring of the work of PSI companies must be institutionalized for reducing revenue loss through fraudulent practices. Negative and positive incentives should be applied to control allegations of irregularities and corruption involving the PSI companies and Customs officials.
- Special measures should be taken to address the large number of pending writ cases which could release a huge of Tk 1200 crores in unrealized revenues.
- The Port Authority Act 1976 should be amended to make it consistent with current realities that demand efficiency, cost-effectiveness, speed, accountability and checks and balances in the work of the port.
- The overwhelming proportion of the work of the port and Customs House including processing of documents must be digitized through online operation (e-governance).
- All destructive political activities including indiscriminate work stoppages (hartals) should be prohibited in the port, and work in the port should be categorized as 'essential service'.

Parliament Watch – Report on functioning of the 8th Parliament 2001-6

Within fifteen years of restoring parliamentary democracy, the credibility of the Parliament of Bangladesh - as the key institution for establishing accountability of the Government to the people - faced a huge crisis. Confrontational politics and a “winner takes all” game have led to a situation that Members of the Parliament were hardly serious about attending the sessions. Absenteeism and delayed attendance were so common that at the 8th Parliament at least 5 bills were passed without the necessary quorum. TIB's Parliament Watch report also highlighted that out of the 373 working days of the 8th Parliament, proceedings could commence on scheduled time on only nine days. Wasted time for quorum crisis was estimated to be one-fifth of the total working time, causing a direct financial loss of Taka 20 crore 45 lakh. That the priority of MPs were anywhere but the Parliament was reflected by the fact that seven out of 23 sessions (4th, 7th, 10th, 13th, 16th, 18th and 19th) of the Parliament had to be held simply to avoid violation of the rules of procedure of the Parliament.

Standing Committees were formed as late as after 18 months of formation of the Parliament. Chairmen of all Standing Committees being from the Treasury Bench, they did not play any significant role in investigating allegations of corruption and other irregularities within the relevant ministries or departments. Nearly 87 percent of the committees even failed to meet the mandatory requirement of meeting once a month, which was a violation of Rules of Procedure. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was able to discuss only 20.7% of audit reports.



TIB's recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Parliament included:

- All political parties must make a firm political pledge to make the Parliamentary Committees effective;
- All Committees must be formed in the first session, at least within three months of forming the Government;
- Political parties should also make a firm political commitment against the practice of boycott, absenteeism and delayed attendance in the sessions of the parliament;
- The office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman as provided in the Constitution must be appointed without delay;
- Members of the Parliament who do not disclose and update their assets and liabilities in a Parliamentary Register of Interests should be barred from becoming members of the Parliamentary Committees;
- Chairpersonship of the Standing Committees should rest with the opposition to the extent possible, at least 50 percent of all Committees including the Public Accounts Committee and those of key ministries should be chaired by the opposition;
- Rule 188 (2) must be strictly observed to ensure that no member shall be appointed to a Committee who can bring conflict of interest on matters to be addressed by the Committee;
- Article 70 of the Constitution which prevent floor crossing has outlived its relevance and must be reviewed to ensure objectivity and integrity of the parliamentary practice; and
- A Parliamentary Code of ethics should be adopted and enforced with special emphasis on conflict of interest and declaration of assets and interest.

Bangladesh Election Commission – A Diagnostic Study

In the first ever diagnostic research on the Bangladesh Election Commission (EC) TIB reported some of the key weaknesses and predicaments of the then Commission. These included:

- a. Dependence of the EC on the Government in respect of appointment of the CEC and other Commissioners, and recruitment and posting of EC Secretariat officials as well as field level election staff which often takes place on partisan consideration;
- b. Dependence of the EC on the Government on crucial financial matters like budget allocation and disbursement of funds;
- c. Irregularities and corruption within the EC observed in appointment, promotion and transfer of the officials at the EC Secretariat and field offices, financial irregularities and lack of transparency in a number of cases such as the voter ID card project, UNDP project, and training;
- d. Failure of EC to abide by the relevant legal provisions such as voter list preparation and upgrading, delimitation of constituencies, issuance of voter identity cards, collection of information of candidates and dissemination thereof, taking actions against candidates violating electoral code of conduct, taking actions against candidates and political parties for not submitting statement of expenditure, illegal promotion and transfer; and
- e. Absence of a proper system of accountability of the Election Commission.

TIB's recommendations included:

1. Appointment of CEC and other Commissioners should be vested in a non-partisan body like Parliamentary Standing Committee and outside the jurisdiction of Government/Chief Executive;
2. An enabling law for the EC specifying the qualification and number of Election Commissioners, and ensuring accountability of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners through reporting to the parliament;
3. The EC Secretariat should be independent from government control, and all Secretariat activities should be under EC's own control for all practical purposes;

4. Immediate reform of election laws, ordinances, rules, and orders engaging all stakeholders;
5. A work plan should be developed for regular activities such as yearly voter list updating and delimitation of constituencies. A multi-purpose digital voter ID card must be introduced;
6. Special judicial set up (additional High Court benches) in order to resolve election petitions within six months;
7. EC should have a prosecution unit for dealing with allegations of irregularities before, during and after election. The EC should be given the authority to file cases against any candidates who violate electoral law and code of conduct, and to cancel candidature if the concerned candidate is proven guilty of violating electoral laws or code of conduct;
8. All financial documents including yearly audit reports, detailed budget, annual report must be made public through print media and website, which should be regularly enriched and updated with all relevant laws and rules, as well as financial allocations and expenditures.



Roundtable discussion on Election Commission

Challenges of Governance in the NGO Sector

A ground-breaking study on the Challenges of Governance in the NGO Sector was released in October. TIB conducted this important study on the ground that it is in the interest of further credibility of the highly important, successful and growing sector that issues of internal governance of the sector should be a subject of public discourse and policy attention within and outside the sector. While most of the findings of the study cannot be generalized, nor can these be equally applicable to all, key findings included:

- Ineffective governing body and lack, or insufficient perspective, of the role of the governing body and Board-Management relations;
- Unlimited discretion in the hands of the Chief Executive with little scope of checks and balances, limited participatory management, little accountability to the service recipients;
- Low level of transparency in financial management, featuring anomalies in procurement processes, practice of depriving staff of portion of the approved/promised salary;
- Low transparency in the process of awarding projects and exaggerated evaluation of projects are among other prevailing problems troubling the sector. No less important is the culture of secrecy with extreme reluctance in disclosing information especially those on finance and human resource management.

TIB's recommendations included:

- An independent NGO Commission should be set up for overseeing the overall functioning of the sector, especially to provide policy guidelines in key areas of governance like Board-Management relations, systemic checks and balances, transparency, disclosures, accountability and above all, sectoral credibility;
- The governing body should empower the chief executive to operate within the policy guidelines set up by the Board. On the other hand the governing body members should perform their roles effectively so that the executive head's accountability is ensured. Specific set of Governance Manuals and Code of Conduct should be framed to ensure checks and balances, must be enforced with strictly monitored zero tolerance against all forms of irregularities and corruption;

Reforming Biman: TIB's recommendations

On August 8, 2007, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) released its report on “Biman Bangladesh Airlines: Challenges of Governance and Way Out”. Consistent with one of TIB's recommendations the Government decided to convert Biman Bangladesh Airlines into a Public Limited Company.

However, a number of other key areas of concern remain. Following upon the above-mentioned study TIB organized a brainstorming session with relevant experts and stakeholders including senior management of Biman during which the problem of governance and aircraft purchase were identified as the most vital areas demanding immediate priority attention. Highlights of recommendations in this connection are as follows:

Governance

The Board of Directors: The Board of Directors (BOD) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines should function as the policy making body, determining the vision and mission of Biman, and periodically reviewing and updating the same. It will approve the institutional and business strategy as well as administrative and financial policies developed by the Board of Management, and oversee the implementation of the same by the management.

The BOD will appoint the Chief Executive Officer and delegate full authority and responsibility to him/her to implement plan of business operations including procurements, flights and day-to-day management profitably, effectively and credibly within the policy framework provided by the BOD. The Board shall develop a set of Board Rules delineating its powers, jurisdictions and functions consistent.

The Board of Directors may consist of the following members:

- ✓ Civil Aviation Secretary, Government of Bangladesh
- ✓ Finance Secretary, Government of Bangladesh
- ✓ A reputed expert on international aviation
- ✓ A well-known expert/analyst in a relevant field from academe (preferably with such academic/ research background as Law, Public Administration or Economics)
- ✓ A representative of trade bodies (preferably from the Chambers, or the association of travel agencies)
- ✓ Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority
- ✓ A representative of the Armed Forces
- ✓ A reputed and credible banker (equivalent of the Managing Director) and
- ✓ CEO of Biman (Member-Secretary).

The Board of Management: The Board of Management (BOM), headed by the CEO, shall be responsible for implementation of the plan of business operations of Biman including procurements, flights and day-to-day management profitably, effectively and credibly within the policy framework provided by the Board. The BOM shall adopt an Operations and Management Policy consistent with the institutional and business strategy adopted by the BOD, and shall be responsible for, and entitled to fully implement the same.

In addition to the CEO, who will be the Chair of the BOM, it shall be comprised of 4-6 members with expertise and experience in marketing, finance, operation, engineering, and research and development (R&D). Members of the Board of Management will be the competent employees of Biman in relevant disciplines, but may also be drawn from outside Biman.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The CEO should be appointed on a fully competitive basis through public announcement. S/he must have proven expertise in commercial aviation industry and the capacity and experience in running an international airline profitably, efficiently and credibly.

The key indicators of success or failure of the CEO as well as all other staff of Biman shall be the measure of profits made, credibility established, markets expanded, service efficiency excelled, etc., and should be linked with well-designed and an effectively monitored positive and negative incentive structure.

New Generation Aircrafts

Biman has been using aircrafts that most, if not all other airliners of the world have discarded over 20 years ago. Old aircrafts involve high fuel consumption and maintenance costs, higher insurance premium rate, and increase the scope of corruption in purchase and/or lease of aircrafts, store and purchase of spare parts, and in the tender process. Biman must procure new generation aircrafts as soon as possible. The management should be empowered to decide the right kind of aircraft to be bought on the basis of recommendations of Biman's Fleet Planning Committee and by ensuring (a) transparency in procurement, (b) fuel efficiency, (c) cost effectiveness, (d) service warranty.

Ratification of the Cape Town Convention and Aircraft Protocol

Substantial investment will be required for the purpose acquisition of new generation aircrafts. In this connection, Bangladesh should accede as soon as possible to the Cape Town Convention and Aircraft Protocol, which will help Biman to offset its weak capital base and facilitate purchase of the aircrafts on credit with minimum down-payment.



Promoting Integrity of the Public Service Commission

The Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC), a Constitutional body mandated to select the most competent persons for public service through competitive tests. It also plays the advisory role in framing recruitment rules; promotion, transfer and disciplinary matters; employees' appeals and memorials; and other matters related to the public service. The PSC has a critical role in establishing transparent and accountable governance in the country. The role of the Commission, has however, been debated for long, especially with regard to its capacity, integrity and neutrality. In view of the vital importance of this institution in the national integrity system, TIB undertook a study to diagnose the root causes, nature, and extent of irregularities and corruption in the Commission, and to offer policy recommendations. Highlights of this report released on 22 March 2007 are as follows:

Key Findings

- The Secretariat of the Commission is practically under the control of the government. The internal recruitments, disciplinary and administrative issues of PSC Secretariat and BCS examination are influenced by the government.
- The qualification and eligibility criteria and appointment procedure for appointment of Chairman and Members are not clearly defined. As a result, barring few exceptions, the Chairman and Members have been appointed on partisan political consideration since 1972, making the PSC an outfit serving partisan political interests.
- Lower rank of Chairman/Members compared to other Constitutional bodies has created scope of subservience of the PSC to senior Government officials.
- Absence of mechanism for ensuring accountability of the Chairman and Members of the PSC, and Staff of PSC Secretariat.
- Leakage of question papers for examination, selection of candidates by bribery, recruitment of partisan candidates, and deliberate abuse of the quota system contributing to a massive erosion of trust and credibility of PSC.

Main Recommendations

- The Commission must be granted full independence in terms of administrative, financial and operational control.

- Specific provisions must be made to ensure transparency, accountability and integrity of the Chairman, Members and Staff of PSC Secretariat.
- PSC should be reportable to the Parliament through Standing Committee on Public Service.
- It should have specific qualification and eligibility criteria, and appointment procedure for appointing of Chairman and Members of the PSC.
- The status and rank of the Chairman should be made equivalent to a Minister, and members should be equivalent to the Judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.
- A Human Resource Unit should be established at the PSC, with special emphasis on training and capacity building of the staff.
- At least 75% of places should be on purely merit basis, while the remaining may be distributed for affirmative action on the basis of gender, ethnic and religious identity.
- The existing generalised system of examinations should be replaced by cadre-specific examinations.



*A section of the participants at the roundtable discussion on
Public Service Commission (PSC)*

Improving Efficiency of the Power Sector

This study examined the problems behind inefficiency and governance failures in the electricity sector. Overemphasis on short-term and ad-hoc delivery rather than long term vision, partisan political influence, and lack of transparency in procurement process, poor performance of the public sector power plants many of which are outdated, distributional inefficiency, slow and inefficient decision-making, coordination failure among agencies, ineffective BERC, high level of discretion with low level of accountability, influence of CBA leading to rampant corruption and harassment of consumers have been found to be the key problems that bedevil the power sector.

Recommendations made by TIB included:

- An Independent Commission to prepare and supervise 'Vision 2025';
- Emphasis on higher levels of production and efficiency in distribution;
- Delegation of authority of policy decision and execution to the Ministry;
- Appointment of experienced professionals as CEO and board members for all distributor entities;
- Appointment of Ombudsman for energy sector;
- Allocation of funds for R&D;
- Competitive and transparent procurement process;
- Updatable asset disclosure of officials;
- Banning of import/renting of out-dated/old plants;
- Strictly enforceable Sectoral Code of Conduct;
- Capacity building and professionalization of BERC; and
- Introduction of e-governance.



Mamun Hossain

Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition 2007

Draft Public Procurement Rules 2007

TIB Recommendations

At the invitation of the Government, TIB submitted on May 5, 2007, comments and recommendations on the draft Public Procurement Rules 2007. These included:

I. Conflict of Interest

1. To facilitate full, clear-cut and comprehensive enforcement of Conflict of Interest rules and deterrence against violations of the same we propose the following:
 - i. Schedule VI should include provisions to provide the name(s) and addresses of Minister(s)/ MPs/Government Officials who have interest/stake, or are associated with the bidder, if any;
 - ii. If the bidders provide incomplete and/or wrong information with regard to conflict of interest, their tender would be deemed disqualified. They would be black-listed for future bidding for specified periods depending on the level of proven offence;
 - iii. Any bidding entity having proven record of involvement in corruption shall be deemed disqualified. They would be black-listed for future bidding for specified periods depending on the level of proven offence.
 - iv. Any bidder, or any other party having interest with the bidder including family or business relationship, who is found to be involved in creating any predicaments – insider bidding, blackmail, physical insecurity, etc., – against free and open bidding shall be deemed disqualified. They would be black-listed for future bidding for specified periods depending on the level of proven offence; and

II. Integrity Pact

2. The Rules should include provisions making it mandatory for both the contractors and the authority to comply with strict anti-corruption policy. One successful good practice in this connection are the Integrity Pacts between the concerned government authority and the bidders containing:

- i. Rights and obligations of all parties to the effect that neither will pay, offer, demand or accept bribes, or collude with competitors to obtain the contract, nor in the process of carrying it out;
- ii. Rights and obligations to disclose all commissions and similar expenses paid to anybody in connection with the contract;
- iii. Provisions for sanctions for violations of the above. Such sanctions may range from loss or denial of contract, forfeiture of the bid or performance bond and liability for damage, to blacklisting for future concerned employee of the Government.

III. Social Accountability

- 3. We propose inclusion of a separate section on Social Accountability with provisions to enable citizens participation in:
 - i. Oversight/advisory role in the selection process;
 - ii. Monitoring of implementation;
 - iii. Register complains of irregularities and corruption to the concerned authority; and
 - iv. Mainstreaming social accountability mechanism including "Citizens Report Card" in various stages of public contracting and implementation.

IV. Code of Conduct of Public Procurement Authority

- 4. A key standard for transparent and accountable public contracting is a clearly defined Code of Conduct strictly observed by the public procurement authority. We are proposing that all public procurement authorities should adopt and enforce a Code of Conduct that commits the contracting authority and its employees to a strict transparency and anti-corruption policy.
- 5. It will be highly desirable and functionally useful to capture the key underlying objectives, spirit and values of the rules in the form of the proposed Code of Conduct ensuring zero tolerance against corruption, and provide mechanisms for reporting corruption and protecting whistleblowers.

Ombudsman: Why Now, and How?

Article 77 of the Constitution of Bangladesh provides for the establishment of the institution of Ombudsman. Successive governments have failed to meet that commitment, except the passage of the Ombudsman Act of 1980 and subsequent setting up of the Office of Tax Ombudsman, which has at best remained symbolic.

On May 15, 2007, jointly with Manusher Jonno Foundation, TIB organized an advocacy seminar to reinforce the long-felt need to establish the institution of Ombudsman. The key note paper presented at the seminar argued why and how the Ombudsman should be established without any further delay. The key areas of focus included the appointment principles and process including qualifications, tenure, jurisdiction and powers, human and financial resources, operational independence and accountability. The key recommendations included:

- The Ombudsman should be viewed as an institution composed of a Chief Ombudsman, and several others to be appointed in phases with specialized sector-specific jurisdiction.
- The Ombudsman, like any other watchdog body, to function effectively must be endowed with the necessary institutional capacity and resources, financial and operational independence free from political or administrative interference, influence, fear or favour.
- Powers and jurisdiction of the Ombudsman should be clearly defined and sufficiently communicated to the members of the public to avoid over-expectation and possibility of the Ombudsman being overburdened with activities of other institutions. To avoid overlapping jurisdiction with ACC, for instance, it should be clear that Ombudsman is a watchdog against maladministration, abuse and incompetence that has caused harm or loss to the aggrieved citizen. When it comes to abuse of power for financial or other material gain it becomes jurisdiction of the ACC.
- There should be close mutually complementary relationship between the Ombudsman and other pillars of the national integrity system.
- Key to success of the Ombudsman is unqualified access to all information from the concerned institution, office or persons. Hence enactment and enforcement of Right to Information Law are critical.
- Public information and awareness campaign should be further intensified by all stakeholders, especially non-governmental organizations to demand setting up of the institution of Ombudsman and making it function effectively.

Bangladesh a State Party to UNCAC

TIB started campaign for Bangladesh's signing and ratification on the UN Convention against corruption soon after the Convention was adopted and opened for signature. At an advocacy seminar organized by TIB to mark the International Anti-corruption Day on 9 December 2004 on the subject, the then Law Minister made a commitment to ratify the Convention within a month. However, efforts to follow-up to translate this commitment into reality were all in vein for nearly two years.

TIB continued its campaign and advocacy for the cause throughout the period nationally through direct contact with the authority, and locally by mobilizing public support to the cause through seminars, rallies, signature campaigns.

Soon after the new Caretaker Government took over on January 11, 2007, TIB submitted a memorandum to the Government providing the rationale and benefits of Bangladesh's accession to the Convention. Within a few days the Adviser for Foreign Affairs called to acknowledge TIB's contribution and informed that the Government had reviewed the documents and decided to accede to the Convention. Indeed, Bangladesh became a State Party to the Convention with effect from 27 February 2007.



Corruption - a major challenge in SAARC region



Encouraged by Bangladesh's accession to the UNCAC, TIB proposed to the Government to explore the possibility of regional cooperation in combating corruption in South Asia. Ahead of the fourteenth Summit of the Heads of State or Governments of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), TIB submitted to the Government the following options to be raised by the Bangladesh Delegation to the Summit: a) Agreement to explore ways of cooperation in fighting corruption in the region; b) Decision for SAARC to accede to the UNCAC (apropos Article 67-2);

c) Commitment to explore a regional anti-corruption convention in line with UNCAC; and d) Commitment to transforming South Asia into a Corruption Free Zone.

The Government of Bangladesh took TIB's proposal with due importance and succeeded in persuading the fellow delegations of SAARC member states to acknowledge corruption as a key challenge to development. Paragraph 27 of the Delhi Declaration issued in the wake of the 14th Summit mentioned: "The Heads of State or Government recognised that corruption was an issue of serious concern and agreed to exchange information on national experience in combating corruption to effectively address this problem".

Anti-Corruption in School and College Text-books



Thanks to a joint effort of TIB and the Anti-corruption Commission in October 2007, for the first time in the history of Bangladesh anti-corruption essays have been introduced by the National Curriculum and Text Book Board in text books for 2008 for students at levels IX and XI.



Fighting Corruption in the Water Sector

THE DHAKA DECLARATION

The South Asia Regional Workshop on Transparency and Integrity in the Water Sector was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh during November 3-5, 2007. It was organized by Transparency International Bangladesh with the support of the Water Integrity Network (WIN) and the Royal Netherlands Embassy. The support of the Bangladesh Water Partnership, the IRC - International Water and Sanitation Centre - of Delft, the Netherlands, UNICEF, the national chapters/organizations of Transparency International in India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as the Secretariats of TI and the WIN in Berlin were also critical to the success of the Workshop. 68 participants included representations from South Asian countries -Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - and also Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom in this first ever initiative in South Asia on this subject. Dr. Huguette Labelle, Chair of the Board of Directors of TI inaugurated the Workshop on November 3. Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal, Honorable Adviser, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh graced the Closing Session on November 5 as Chief Guest and H.E. Ms Bea M. ten Tusscher, Ambassador of the Netherlands in Dhaka attended as Special Guest.

The Declaration:

The Participants:

Underscore that access to safe water is a fundamental human right, which should be ensured and safeguarded;

Note that the water sector is prominently prone to corruption because of its monopoly structure and lack of accountable decision-making and because it involves the implementation of large projects undertaken by the construction sector, which according to TI is perceived to be the sector most prone to corruption. A nexus of corrupt politicians, public officials, consultants, civil works contractors and suppliers exacerbates this;

Further note that corruption involving activities such as illegal connections, false meter readings and inaccurate billing juxtaposed with unsatisfactory collection levels could severely damage the financial viability of water utilities and hampers their efforts in providing adequate water and sanitation services and coverage to consumers;

Note with concern that corruption undermines efficient management of water resources, degenerates public institutions, results in unsustainable development, reduces economic growth, increases poverty and affect the quality of life;

Note with concern that women, the poor and the disadvantaged are the major victims of corruption. Moreover, corruption is a major impediment to meeting the targets of development and poverty reduction, including the Millennium Development Goals in water and sanitation; Share the conviction that political will is the preeminent factor for fighting corruption and that this needs to be supported by appropriate legislation and regulation to promote transparency and accountability. In this regard, the constructive tripartite engagement of the public and private sectors as well as citizens is vitally important; and

Note the importance of access to information as a key to combat corruption in water and other sectors.

Recommendations

The Participants:

1. Recommend that the policy and institutional framework, especially the judiciary and law enforcement institutions conform to practices pertaining to the rule of law. This will ensure effective control of corruption;
2. Recommend that a sectoral integrity study be undertaken to guide sectoral policy for the water sector in each country, based on known good practice;



*Dr. Huguette Labelle,
Chair of the Board
of Directors of TI
inaugurated the
Workshop*



*South Asia
Regional
Workshop on
Transparency
and Integrity
in the Water
Sector*

3. Recommend that a corruption risk assessment as well as a monitorable and accountable anticorruption plan (both of which should be updated, as required) be undertaken as part of all projects supported by Governments and development partners. In particular, this should address forms of corruption that prevent equal access to water services. In addition, each project should include an integrity component to enable citizens' participation in monitoring;
4. Recommend a strict procurement regime based on transparency and accountability. This would include the use of standardized procurement documentation, public disclosure of all major procurement-related decisions (including evaluation criteria and reports) as well as the active involvement of civil society organizations in monitoring the procurement process to meet the highest standard of transparency and accountability and recommend applying Integrity Pacts, or similar tools, in all major water infrastructure projects;
5. Recommend effective involvement of local communities in all aspects of project identification, preparation, implementation and operations and maintenance to assure accountability and sustainability. Appropriate measures should be taken to ensure the effective involvement of the poor and disadvantaged groups within the community including women and minority groups;
6. Reiterated the importance of citizens' access to information and recommended that appropriate legislation be enacted in countries, which have not yet done so, and steps taken for effective enforcement of the same;
7. Stress the importance of promoting transparency and integrity, of mutual learning and sharing of experiences of best practice in the water sector among the countries of South Asia; and
8. Recommend widespread support for WIN's efforts, regarding awareness raising, deepening of the knowledge base on sectoral corruption, development of anticorruption tools, capacity development and in particular for its small grant program for 'on the ground' activities to fight corruption. It was also recommended that the WIN take advantage of existing platforms within South Asia.

Dhaka, Bangladesh, November 5, 2007

TI Chairperson in Bangladesh

Dr Huguette Labelle, Chairperson of Transparency International visited Bangladesh during November 2-3, 2007. This was her first visit to a South Asian country. During her visit she delivered the key-note address on “The Role of Media in Fighting Corruption” in a Seminar that featured TIB’s annual Investigative Journalism Awards giving ceremony. She delivered a public lecture on “Corruption: Global Roots, Global Solutions”, and inaugurated the South Asia Regional Workshop on Transparency and Integrity in the Water Sector organized jointly by TIB and the Water Integrity Network (WIN). She met the Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed and Adviser for Foreign Affairs Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury. Dr. Labelle met for exchange of views with the Board of Trustees of TIB, members of the staff and Conveners of the Committees of Concerned Citizens. Before leaving Bangladesh she held a press conference participated by a large number of representatives of print and electronic media. Dr Labelle welcomed the initiatives of the Government of Bangladesh in fighting corruption, especially the reform measures to make the key institutions of the National Integrity System effective. She also highly commended the efforts of TIB, especially its research and communication programmes that have contributed to reforms, civic participation particularly youth engagement as part of the social movement against corruption.



The winners of TIB’s annual Investigative Journalism Awards 2007 with the guests

Institutional capacity

TIB further strengthened its institutional capacity for greater transparency and accountability. The Human Resources Manual, Operations Manual, Gender Strategy, Communication Strategy have been developed in a participatory approach. The M&E system has been developed. 14 different categories of capacity building and skill development training or workshops were organised for staff as planned in response to the need assessment analysis conducted earlier. Similar trainings were organized for the CCC and YES members as planned. 100% of theatre activists participated in theatre workshops at 33 CCCs. 32 CCC members – mainly Conveners – and 15 employees of TIB received resource mobilization training overseas. TIB and CCCs are active to build up alliances to strengthen and sustain the anti-corruption movement. TIB encourages the CCCs to sustain themselves using local resources. Some CCCs have created special funds towards sustainability through their own resources. Others have covered costs of activities through raising funds locally.



← YES Orientation ↓



Theatre workshop →



← Corruption & Women workshop



Building anti-corruption capacity

The reporting period coincided with a high-profile anti-corruption drive by the Caretaker Government that also went ahead with a number of important policy and institutional reforms that have the potential of lasting impact on the future of anti-corruption movement in Bangladesh. A supportive context at the national level has contributed to a greater acceptability and positive overall response to TIB's work from both Government and beyond. This should not, however, lose sight of the fact that TIB has long been working under a political environment which was very resistant to its activities and to its key messages against corruption. Even in that environment TIB exercised influence and exerted impact through engaging stakeholders at the varying levels and mobilizing the general population in local level activities. The evidence shows that in both conducive and adverse contexts, TIB can have and has had a significantly positive impact.



A portrait by Mahabub Showkat Biki, student of class seven

Some communication tools

TIB published a book titled 'Cartoons against Corruption' by compiling cartoons by eminent cartoonists of the country as well as the winning cartoons of the anti-corruption cartoon competition-2006. Besides, a number of communication tools were published this year. Greeting card and stickers were published on the occasion of International Mother Language Day. A brochure titled 'Women against corruption' was published on the occasion of International Women's Day. A brochure on theatre titled 'Theatre against corruption' was also published. An analytical brochure on 'Corruption Perceptions Index 2007' was also published. A catalogue was published on the occasion of 'Anti-corruption cartoon competition-2007'. Separate brochures and stickers were published on the occasion of International Anti-corruption Day and Begum Rokeya Day on 9 December. A desk calendar was published carrying cartoons drawn by the winners of Anti-corruption Cartoon Competition-2007 as a new year's souvenir. Beside the regular publications CCC Newsletter, 'Nagorik Prottoy' and the TIB newsletter 'Waves', the Annual Report 2006 of TIB were also published.



TIB BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of TIB is the policy making body of Transparency International Bangladesh. The Board defines the vision and mission of TIB, and periodically reviews and updates the same. It provides the leadership and guidance to the work of the organization. The Trustees are:



Chairman
Prof. Muzaffer Ahmad
Professor Emeritus
Institute of Business Administration
Dhaka University



Member
Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury
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Former Adviser
Caretaker Government
and Comptroller & Auditor General



Member
Advocate Sultana Kamal
Executive Director
Ain-O-Salish Kendra
and Former Adviser
Caretaker Government



Member
Mr. Tawfique Nawaz
Senior Advocate
Bangladesh Supreme Court



Member
Prof. Iqbal Mahmud
Former Vice Chancellor
Bangladesh University of
Engineering & Technology



Member
Prof. Khan Sarwar Murshid
Former Vice Chancellor
Rajshahi University



Member
Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed
President
Bishwo Shahityo Kendro

Executive Director: Iftekharuzzaman

Financial Statement



AZIZ HALIM KHAIR CHOUDHURY

Chartered Accountants

Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying Balance Sheet of Transparency International Bangladesh Chapter (TIB) for the period from 01 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 and the related Income & Expenditure statement, Receipts & Payments statement for the year then ended.

Respective Responsibilities of Managements and Auditors

TIB management is responsible for preparing the financial statements, which give a true and fair view, in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the related International Accounting Standards (IAS) as adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB). Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion based on our audit on those statements and to report our opinion. This responsibility is established by the ICAB.

Basis of Audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing as adopted by the ICAB. Our audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audit also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the TIB in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the TIB circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations, which we considered necessary, in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion:

In our opinion, the financial statements gives a true and fair view of the state of Transparency International Bangladesh Chapter (TIB) as of 31 December 2007 and of the results of its operation for the period then ended according to the best of our information and explanations given to us and shown by the books of the TIB.

- We have obtained the relevant information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- Proper books of account as required have been kept by the TIB so far as it appeared from our examination of those books.
- The Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure statement and Receipt and Payment statement dealt with the report are in agreement with the books of account and returns.

Dhaka, April 18, 2008

Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
 Chartered Accountants

CORPORATE OFFICE
 725 A (1st Floor), Satmasjid Road,
 Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
 Tel: 9121816, 9145017, 8310206
 Mobile: 01713-063137, 01552-333741
 Fax: +88 02 9137097
 E-mail: mahalim@bdcom.net

BARIDHARA OFFICE
 House # 01 (3rd floor), Road # 07,
 Baridhara, Dhaka-1212
 Tel: +88 02 8859169
 Mobile: 01711 526360
 Fax: +88 02 8859162
 E-mail: mahalim@bdcom.net

CHITTAGONG OFFICE
 HBFC Bhaban (4th Floor)
 1/D, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong
 Tel: +880-31-2510964
 Mobile: 01724-014431
 E-mail: mahalim@bdcom.net

LONDON OFFICE
 Nawana House
 37/A, Chambelayne Road
 Kensil Green, London Nw 10 3NB,
 London, UK, Tel: 44 20 8290 9676
 Fax: 44 20 8940 9677
 E-mail: mahalim@bdcom.net

Balance Sheet

As At 31 December 2007

		Amount in Taka	
Property & Assets	Notes	31 December 2007	31 December 2006
Current Assets:		31,287, 268	22, 917, 794
Cash In Hand		6 334,176	540, 541
Cash Of Bank	7	30,467,052	21,442,253
Advances And Deposits	8	486,040	935,000
Total:		31,287,268	22,917,794
Fund & Liabilities:			
Current Liabilities	9	16,286,681	14,038,642
Fund Accounts		15,000,587	8,879,152
Balance As On 10-01-2007		8,879,153	29,726,705
Excess/(Shortage) Of Income Over Expenditure		6,121,434	20,847,553
		31,287,268	22,917,794

Annexed Notes form an Integral Part of this Balance Sheet



Treasurer



Executive Director



Chairman

Signed in terms of our separate of even date annexed.

Dhaka, 18 April 2008


Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
 Chartered Accountants

Income & Expenditure statement

For the period from 01 January 2007 to 31 December 2007

Particular	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		2007	2006
Income:			
Grant	10	118,026,145	83,846,651
Membership Subscription	11	26,300	46,700
Other Income	12	1,348,774	942,068
A. Total Income		119,401,219	84,835,419
B. Expenditure:		113,279,785	105,682,972
Making Waves (NIP Phase-II)	13	109,245,709	105,052,775
General Fund	14	16,232	14,268
Investigative Journalism Award	15	105,416	-
International Travel	16	519,074	423,873
SHC-Strengthening ACC	17	640,000	-
TI-NIS Country Studies (Soth Asia)	18	-	104,589
TI-Humanitarian	19	-	87,467
TI-WIN Workshop	20	2,256,688	-
Other Expenses	21	496,666	-
C. Excess/(Shortage)of Income Over Expenditure (A-B)		6,121,434	(20,847,553)
D. Total:		119,401,219	84,835,419

Annexed notes form an integral part of this Receipts and Payments Statements



Treasurer



Executive Director



Chairman

Signed in terms of our separate of even date annexed.



Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants

Dhaka, 18 April 2008

Receipts and Payments statement

For the period from 01 January 2007 to 31 December 2007

Particular	Amount in Taka	
	2007	2006
Inflow of funds:		
Opening Balance:	21,982,794	28,935,705
Cash in Bank	21,442,253	28,594,798
Cash in Hand	540,541	340,907
Receipts:	119,419,622	84,835,419
Grant	118,026,145	83,846,651
Membership Subscription	26,300	46,700
Other receipts	1,348,774	942,068
Received from APO	18,403	-
Total:	141,402,416	113,771,124
Outflow of funds:		
Project Expenditure:		
Making Waves (NIP Phase-II)	106,568,232	91,158,133
General Fund	16,232	14,268
Investigative Journalism Award	105,416	-
International Travel	519,074	423,873
BHC-Strengthening ACC	640,000	-
TI-WIN Workshop	2,256,688	104,589
TI-Humanitarian	-	87,467
Other Expenses	495,546	-
Total Expenditure:	110,601,188	91,788,330
CLOSING BALANCE:	30,801,228	21,982,794
Cash at Bank	30,467,052	21,442,253
Cash in hand	334,176	540,541
Total:	141,402,416	113,771,124

Annexed notes form an integral part of this Receipts and Payments Statements



Treasurer



Executive Director



Chairman



Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants

Dhaka, 18 April 2008

Transparency International Bangladesh

Progress Tower

House # 1, Road # 23, Gulshan # 1
Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh

Tel : +880 2 8826036, 8854456
9887490, 9887884

Fax : +880 2 9884811

E-mail : info@ti-bangladesh.org

Web : www.ti-bangladesh.org



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