A national workshop to commence the process of drafting Cambodia's National Anti-Corruption Action Plan was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 13-17 September 1999. The workshop forms part of a regional programme on anti-corruption that CDI is implementing in partnership with the Asia Office of the International Development Law Institute. The project, entitled "Asia Pacific Perspectives on Combating Corruption: Legal and Judicial Methods", is underway in Cambodia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea and is being co-financed by AusAID and USAID.

The counterparts for the Phnom Penh workshop were the newly created Ministry of National Assembly Senate Relations and Inspection (MNASRI) and the Centre for Social Development, an NGO active in the field of anti-corruption. Roland Rich, Director of CDI, and Cate Sumner, Programme Legal Counsel, IDLI, conducted an inception in July in preparation for the national workshop. For the one-week workshop, Cate Sumner was joined by Dr Peter Larmour of the National Centre for Development Studies and Peter Feneley, Solicitor to the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

The workshop attracted sixty-four participants from government Ministries, the National Assembly and Senate, the judiciary; provincial administrations and NGOs. The workshop was conducted in Khmer with interpretation into English for non-Khmer resource people and observers.

**Workshop Participants**

The workshop was opened by HRH Norodom Rannariddh, President of the National Assembly, H.E. Khun Haing, Minister responsible for National Assembly Senate Relations and Inspection and H.E. Malcolm Leader, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia. On 14 September 1999 an article in the Bangkok Post quoted Prince Norodom Rannariddh on the problem of corruption in Cambodia and reported the opening of the workshop.

The workshop comprised plenary and working group sessions. Each morning commenced with a plenary session focussing on issues relevant to those being covered by the working groups. The participants were then divided into three working groups, each assisted by one or two facilitators. The following issues were discussed:
Working Group 1: Investigation - John Feneley & H.E. Klok Buddhi
Working Group 2: Audit/ Accountability - Peter Larmour & May Tola
Working Group 3: Education (community) - Chea Vannath

Working Group 1: Existing Anti-Corruption Machinery - Kevin Maguire & H.E. Khau Menghean
Working Group 2: Corruption Prevention (CP): Operating Procedures/ Codes of Ethics - John Feneley & Heav Veasna
Working Group 3: Corruption Prevention: Leadership/ Conflict of Interests - Peter Larmour

For each subject area, the working groups determined objectives, identified the prerequisites necessary to achieve the objectives and recommended activities that could be adopted in order to meet the objectives. At the end of each day, the Rapporteur for each of the three working groups summarised the group's discussion allowing other participants to comment on the emerging draft.

On the final day, the draft National Anti-Corruption Action Plan was presented to the participants by the Secretary of State for MNASRI, H.E. Khau Menghean and was subsequently adopted. The World Bank Acting Representative, Bonaventure Mbida-Essama, briefed the participants on the next steps to be taken by the World Bank in assisting Cambodia to develop a National Action Plan. In consultation with the Bank, the Cambodian Government has committed to present a complete National Action Plan to the donor Consultative Group meeting in April 2000. It was emphasised that the draft Plan developed at the CDI/IDLI workshop is an important foundation for the final Plan.

The workshop was closed by Acting Prime Minister, Sar Kheng, H.E. Khun Haing, Minister responsible for National Assembly Senate Relations and Inspection and H.E. Malcolm Leader, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia. Cate Sumner, IDLI, and H.E. Khau Menghean made closing comments on the results of the workshop.

As a next step, MNASRI will circulate the draft National Action Plan for comment to relevant stakeholders in Cambodia, both within and outside government.