

PRESS RELEASE

Despite various reforms, Corruption Perceptions in Cambodia's Public Sector in 2015 remains the same as in 2014

Phnom Penh, 27 January 2016 – Cambodia has maintained the same score of 21 out of 100 in the 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) launched today by Transparency International, showing that despite some improvement and reforms in some specific sectors, it still could not change the perception of the experts, business community and the public when fundamental anti-corruption reforms recommended by the anti-corruption experts have not been undertaken.

The index, which provides a yearly snapshot of perceived public sector corruption by ranking countries from across the globe on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), **ranks Cambodia 150th out of 168 countries this year, with a score of 21.** Last year Cambodia was given a score of 21 and ranked 156th out of the 175 countries surveyed. The CPI is the most widely used corruption indicator. It captures the informed views of experts, business people and the public in countries around the globe and is backed up by data sources from many reputable institutions. It is scrutinised by investors worldwide and research has shown that there is a clear correlation between a higher CPI and higher rates of foreign investment.

“The result for Cambodia in the CPI 2015 reflects that the Governments’ effort to undertake reforms and to fight corruption is not yet effective and sufficient”, said **Ok Serei Sopheak**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Transparency International Cambodia (TI Cambodia). *“While some sectoral reforms have been witnessed and welcomed, it is essential that the Government mainstream such reforms across public institutions with a clear focus on key institutions such as the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, and public service delivery.”* he continued.

Cambodia's CPI score for 2015 indicates that Cambodia continues to be perceived as a highly corrupt country. More work need to be done and governance reforms within the public sector should be a top priority for Cambodian Government.

For the past few years, TI Cambodia has called upon the Government of Cambodia to undertake structural and systematic reforms within key national institutions, with a focus on the reform of the Judiciary, the passage of an Access to Information Law and the a Whistle Blower Protection Law, the amendment of a number of articles of the current Anti-Corruption Law as well as addressing nepotism and conflicts of interest within public institutions. However, so little of these has so far been done and fully achieved. TI Cambodia once again calls upon the Government to implement these recommendations.

“We understand that to change the perceptions and to produce positive results in the fight against corruption it requires time. However, it is important to do it right by focusing on the fundamental aspects first”. said **Preap Kol**, Executive Director of Transparency International Cambodia. *“Furthermore the above recommendations, various studies indicate that the vast majority of Cambodian people now take their stance against corruption and are ready to participate, thus we wish to see the Government fully capitalize public participation in the fight against corruption as part of its key strategy as well”* he continued.

TI Cambodia is committed to engaging with the Government and all relevant stakeholders to work towards further reforms and to promote greater transparency, integrity, accountability and sustainable democratic development in Cambodia.

About the Corruption Perceptions Index

First established in 1995, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is a composite index that ranks countries and territories from around the globe based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be, from a scale to 0 (very corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It aggregates data from a number of different reputable sources that provide perceptions of business people and in-country experts of the level of corruption in the public sector.

The 2015 CPI ranks 168 countries and territories, drawing on up to 12 surveys covering expert assessments and views of business people. In the case of Cambodia, seven sources were used – namely the Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index 2016, the Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Ratings 2015, the Global Insight Country Risk Ratings 2014, the Political and Economic Consultation Asian Intelligence 2015, the World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment 2014, the World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey 2015 and the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2015. For a full list of the data sources, the type of respondents and the specific questions they ask, please see the CPI sources description document on www.transparency.org.

###

Transparency International is the civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption

Media Contacts:

Mr. Ok Serei Sopheak, Chairman of the Board of Directors, (+855) 12 815 302
Mr. Kol Preap, Executive Director, (+855) 12 877 833, kolpreap@ticambodia.org