

PRESS RELEASE



Media Contacts:

Berlin: Sarah Tyler / Ines Selwood
Tel: +49 30 3438 2045/19, Fax: +49 30 3470 3912,
Email: press@transparency.org

London:
Barbara Ann Clay: +49 (0) 171 499 2061
Jesse Garcia: +49 (0) 162 419 6454

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Asia and the Pacific Regional Highlights Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2005

South Korea has shown the greatest improvement in Asia in the CPI 2005. However, many Asia-Pacific countries have performed poorly, with 13 out of 25 countries scoring at or below 3.0, reflecting perceptions of endemic corruption. Bangladesh remains near the bottom of the CPI, and political instability in Nepal has no doubt contributed its poorer score. Rampant corruption in several countries affected by last year's tsunami raises concern that much humanitarian aid may not reach affected communities.

Improvers 2004-2005

South Korea (CPI 2005 score 5.0; CPI 2004 score 4.5) is the largest improver in Asia compared with last year. It has made significant progress in developing the institutions and laws to fight corruption, beginning with the launch of the Korean Independent Commission Against Corruption (KICAC) in 2002 and continuing in 2005 with the launch of the landmark K-PACT on anti-corruption and transparency, initiated by TI Korea and involving leaders in politics, the public sector, business and civil society.

First appearance in the CPI

Cambodia's low score (CPI 2005 score 2.3) in its first appearance in the CPI reflects the perception of endemic corruption in the country. Cambodia has yet to enact an anti-corruption law after many years of debate. Reforms to improve public sector transparency appear to have faltered, with a flawed National Archive Law passed in August 2005 and a possible Freedom of Information Act still under discussion.

Other newcomers to the CPI 2005 are **Fiji** (CPI 2005 score 4.0) and **Laos** (CPI 2005 score 3.3).

Consistently low scorers

Bangladesh (CPI 2005 score 1.7; CPI 2004 score 1.5) has been a consistently poor performer in the CPI, reflecting the perception that, rampant corruption continues to undermine sustainable development. Particular concerns include political corruption and corruption in law enforcement and the judiciary.

Please turn over

The poor performance of **Nepal** (CPI 2005 score 2.5; CPI 2004 score 2.8) can be attributed largely to continuing political instability. The royal coup in February 2005, the sacking of the elected government in October 2002 and the bloody civil war have all weakened the country's governance systems and public trust in them. Despite constitutional protection of freedom of expression, in practice the ability of the media to report on corruption is curtailed and other democratic freedoms are severely threatened.

Corruption and humanitarian aid

Indonesia (CPI 2005 score 2.2; CPI 2004 score 2.0), and **Sri Lanka** (CPI 2005 score 3.2; CPI 2004 score 3.5) have again performed poorly in the 2005 CPI, reflecting very high levels of perceived corruption. This is particularly worrying in view of the huge humanitarian aid flows following the catastrophic Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004. However, the government is making a serious attempt to curb corruption in Indonesia, while political commitment to do so in Sri Lanka is not yet clear.

Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2005 Asia & the Pacific

Regional average: 4.28
Global average: 4.11

Country Rank	Regional rank	Country	2005 CPI Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
2	1	New Zealand	9.6	9.5 - 9.7	9
5	2	Singapore	9.4	9.3 - 9.5	12
9	3	Australia	8.8	8.4 - 9.1	13
15	4	Hong Kong	8.3	7.7 - 8.7	12
21	5	Japan	7.3	6.7 - 7.8	14
32	6	Taiwan	5.9	5.4 - 6.3	14
39	7	Malaysia	5.1	4.6 - 5.6	14
40	8	South Korea	5.0	4.6 - 5.3	12
55	9	Fiji	4.0	3.4 - 4.6	3
59	10	Thailand	3.8	3.5 - 4.1	13
77	11	Laos	3.3	2.1 - 4.4	3
78	12	China	3.2	2.9 - 3.5	14
		Sri Lanka	3.2	2.7 - 3.6	7
85	14	Mongolia	3.0	2.4 - 3.6	4
88	15	India	2.9	2.7 - 3.1	14
107	16	Vietnam	2.6	2.3 - 2.9	10
117	17	Nepal	2.5	1.9 - 3.0	4
		Philippines	2.5	2.3 - 2.8	13
130	19	Cambodia	2.3	1.9 - 2.5	4
		Papua New Guinea	2.3	1.9 - 2.6	4
137	21	Indonesia	2.2	2.1 - 2.5	13
144	22	Pakistan	2.1	1.7 - 2.6	7
155	23	Myanmar	1.8	1.7 - 2.0	4
158	24	Bangladesh	1.7	1.4 - 2.0	7