United Nations Transparency and Anticorruption Study-trip to Singapore
21 – 28 February 2011
INFONOTE

Background
Emerging from 30 years of conflict, Afghanistan is faced with systemic and interconnected political, administrative, economic, and social issues. While there have been great advances made since the Afghan Interim Authority assumed control of public administration in 2002 and also during the subsequent Karzai administration, government administration is still far from effective.

Some of the key issues facing Afghanistan include some misconceptions about transparency and accountability within the Civil Service and related institutions, which allows for increased corruption. The more transparent an organisation is, the more accountable its employees are – assuming responsibility for actions, decisions, and policies while incorporating an obligation to remain answerable for such. The resultant decrease in corruption and increase in trust in the eyes of the public and the international community allows for a greater notion of involvement of various stakeholders, leading to a more effective implementation of public policy.

Objectives
Jointly organized by UNITAR and the Afghan Civil Service Institute and with the financial support of USAID Afghanistan, the programme aims at providing learning opportunities to selected representatives of the Afghan Civil Service by taking them to Singapore to observe various government and not-for-profit organizations implementing state-of-the-art transparency systems or involved in anti-corruption best-practices research and development.

Specifically, this Study-Trip will offer an overview of the fundamental framework of accountability, transparency and anti-corruption within the public sector organizations and civil service of Singapore, as well as the research related to it in that country. These will in particular be focused upon the relationship between transparency and development. In addition, they will also have the opportunity to discuss the inherent issues in interactive After-Action Reviews.

Dates and Activities
Taking place from 21 – 28 February 2011, the schedule includes visits or tours of:
- Singapore Ministry of Finance;
- GeBIZ (e-Government Procurement) Service Centre;
- Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau-CPIB;
- Singapore International Foundation (SIF);
- The Singapore Auditor General’s Office;
- Public Service Division of the Singapore Civil Service;
- Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy;
- Singapore e-Government Leadership Centre – eGLC.

Target Audience
Seventeen (17) Civil Service representatives from Afghanistan will be selected by the Afghan Civil Service Institute (ACSI) and UNITAR to participate in this programme with one senior ACSI representative in accompaniment.

Contact
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