



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL - PAKISTAN

NEWSLETTER

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Annual Members Meeting 2022

Transparency International Pakistan Annual Members Meeting 2022 was held on 21st January 2023 at Avari Towers. The Board of Trustees, Members and Staff of Transparency International Pakistan participated in AMM 2022 to take stock of the work done during 2022 and chart the way forward for 2023.

Justice (R) Zia Perwez, Chairman Transparency International Pakistan briefly highlighted TI Pakistan work and appreciated the efforts of TI Pakistan team. Mr. Kashif Ali, Acting Executive Director presented detailed overview of the activities and achievements of TI Pakistan during 2022. During the AMM 2022, the Board also welcomed seven new Trustees to the TI Pakistan Board of Trustees.

1. Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar, advocate Sindh High Court and a Managing Partner at Muzaffar & Company.
2. Justice (R) Muhammad Athar Saeed, former judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.
3. Justice (R) M. Shaiq Usmani, former judge of the Sindh High Court.
4. Prof. Dr. Uzma Shujaat, Professor and Director Area Study Centre for Europe, University of Karachi.
5. Prof. Nausheen Wasi, Assistant Professor International Relations University of Karachi and Director, Program on South Asia Studies.
6. Mr. Tariq Mahmood, Director News, Samaa TV.
7. Dr. Nabil A. Zubairi, Professor, Department of Sociology & Director Evening Programs, UoK.



On 19th January 2023, Transparency International Pakistan signed MoU with Pakistan Eye Bank Society, leading social service sector organization in the field of health and cornea transplantation.

The MoU was signed by Justice (R) Zia Perwez, Chairman Transparency International Pakistan and Mr. Kashif Ali, Acting Executive Director, TI Pakistan and Mr. Qazi Sajid Ali, President Pakistan Eye Bank Society and Dr. Qazi Muhammad Wasiq, Medical Director PEBS.

Under the MoU, both organizations have committed to consider bribery and corruption as a menace which raises serious political and moral concerns, undermines good governance and economic development, and distorts international competitive conditions.



Both organizations affirmed to share a responsibility to combat bribery in all its forms and manifestations.

TI Pakistan will provide technical assistance to PEBS for anti-corruption and integrity compliance, key for any business growth.

Advocacy and Legal Advice Camps (ALAC)

Transparency International Pakistan runs free Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC), offering free legal assistance and moral support to victims, witnesses and whistleblowers of corruption in Pakistan.

During Jan-Mar 23, ALAC in collaboration with TI Pakistan grassroots partner organisations organized free legal advice camps in Tehsil Matli, District Badin, Village Noor Muhammad Raho, New Saeedabad, District Matiari and District Shikarpur, Sindh province.

The main objective of ALAC is to provide community a safe platform to report their issues confidentially and to enhance their awareness about social accountability tools to hold public officials accountable.



Citizens highlighted local governance related issues and raised their voice against closed schools, teacher absenteeism, shortage of medicines in public hospitals, broken roads and use of substandard material and corruption in public projects.

Legal experts provided advice to the citizens on how to pursue their complaints to seek redress. TI Pakistan has also written to the authorities to address citizens complaints and improve good governance at the local level.



For Free Legal Advice, you can contact Transparency International Pakistan's Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) at the given details:



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0333-2261415



Training of Public Officials on Anti-Corruption Mechanisms

Transparency International Pakistan, in collaboration with City Institute of Image Management (CIIM), Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), hosted a highly informative workshop on “Training of Public Officials on Anti-Corruption mechanisms at KMC Building on 22 February 2023.

Around 40 government officials, including 15 females, from different departments participated in the workshop, where they were briefed on anti-corruption approaches, social accountability, public procurement, and Right to Information Laws.

The workshop featured expert speakers who shared insights on various topics. Mr. Kashif Ali, Acting Executive Director of TI Pakistan, gave a comprehensive overview of public procurement systems and laws in the country, highlighting various sections of the PPRA Rules, and the monitoring mechanism of TI Pakistan.

Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed, Project Coordinator TI Pakistan, provided an overview of social accountability mechanisms and its different tools, including the Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016. Advocate. S.M Jafri spoke about the challenges faced by public officials in exercising their duties and the role of transparent public administrations in promoting good governance.



International Women's Day 2023: Breaking Down Barriers and Promoting Accountability

In commemoration of International Women's Day 2023, celebrated on 9th March every year, Transparency International Pakistan in collaboration with Working Women Development Foundation (WWDF) organized seminar and a community dialogue in Sheikh Bhago, District Kasur and District Lahore.

Both events focused on the topic of Women Empowerment: Breaking Down Barriers and Promoting Accountability and were attended by women participants from different walks of life including women rights activists, civil society representatives and government representatives from social welfare department.

Prominent speakers spoke during the workshops and emphasized on the importance of women rights. They spoke about how women are often neglected despite their untiring efforts and involvement in building up a society. They encouraged women to keep working despite numerous challenges they face on daily basis and to contribute towards nation-building.

TI Pakistan representative Mr. Ashfaque Ahmed gave detailed presentation on the role of women in the fight against corruption and stressed that women are often disproportionately affected by corruption and urged participants to use Access to Information Laws to raise their voice and hold representatives accountable.

Participants appreciated that the workshops were the great opportunity to bring together women from different backgrounds and discuss issues related to women's empowerment. Such events play a vital role in creating awareness and promoting gender equality in the country.





Youth Awareness and Capacity Building Workshop on Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions)

On 20th March 2023, Transparency International Pakistan organized capacity building workshop on Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions) at Sindh Madrasa ul Islam University, Karachi.

Around 200 students, including 90 females, participated in the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness and enhance the capacity of youth on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role young people can play in the promotion and implementation of SDG Goal 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions) in Pakistan.

Speakers who joined the workshop included Dr. Kamran Ahmed, Assistant professor, FMS Szabist Karachi and Co-Founder Thinkers Tribe, Mr. Avinash Advani, Project Manager, Shahid Afridi Foundation, Dr. Hashim Zuberi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at SMI University, Dr. Jamshed Adil, Dean SMI University, Mr. Kashif Ali, Acting Executive Director, TI Pakistan and Mr. Ashfaque Ahmed, Project Coordinator TI Pakistan.



Local Government and Civil Society Capacity Building Workshop on Balochistan Right to Information Act 2021

On 20th March 2023, Transparency International Pakistan organized Civil Society Capacity Building Workshop on Balochistan Right to Information Act 2021. The workshop aimed at enhancing the capacity of local government representatives, teachers, lawyers, and journalists about the Balochistan Right to Information Act 2021. The workshop was attended by 45 participants and focused on providing information about the roles of the Public Information Officer and the Information Commission, as well as proactively disclosed information under the law. Attendees were also taught how to write RTI applications and file complaints with the Information Commission.



The Balochistan Right to Information Act 2021 is a legal framework that grants individuals the right to access information held by government bodies or public institutions. Local party members, Councilors, as well as chairmen and councilors of municipal communities from nearby UCs, attended the program.

For Free Legal Advice on Right to Information Laws, contact Transparency International Pakistan's Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) at the given details:



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The workshop began with a recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by Mr. Zahoor Mehar's highlighting the work of Transparency International Pakistan, specifically their efforts to promote transparency and accountability in Balochistan. Meer Bashir Ahmed Nichari discussed the issues of district Khuzdar and informed the audience that he filed a complaint against some departments for not working well. He emphasized the role of youth in raising their voice through social media and raising awareness about the issues of their area.

Another speaker, Mr. Abdul Khaliq Pandrani, explained that access to information laws empower citizens, and it is now their responsibility to use them. Mr. Musa Khan Mengal highlighted issues in Khuzdar, specifically those related to health and education. He informed participants about the Balochistan RTI Act and explained the procedure for filing an RTI application and complaint with the Information Commission when an application is denied.

During the Q&A session, Chairman Abdul Wahid raised concerns about departmental backlash when reporting corrupt practices and asked whether TI Pakistan would provide assistance in such situations. All questions were satisfactorily answered, and participants thanked TI Pakistan for organizing the workshop on Baluchistan Right to Information Act before dispersing with good wi

Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on Anti-Corruption

As part of Transparency International's efforts to promote anti-corruption initiatives and engage with civil society actors, TI Korea convened a meeting of TI chapters in Asia Pacific on 29th March 2023. TI Pakistan Acting Executive Director, Mr. Kashif Ali participated in the meeting. The meeting was in line with the upcoming Summit for Democracy Regional Meeting on Anti-Corruption, which focused on four main themes of importance to anti-corruption efforts in the region: (1) international cooperation, (2) financial transparency and integrity, (3) the role of non-governmental stakeholders, and (4) technology and anti-corruption. TI Chapters emphasized that the Civil society organizations (CSOs) have a crucial role to play in anti-corruption efforts, and the meeting aimed to discuss their role in progress against corruption.



TI Pakistan also participated in the Summit for Democracy Regional Meeting on Anti-Corruption: Challenges and Progress in Addressing Corruption, hosted by the Republic of Korea. The conference gathered anti-corruption stakeholders from governments, the private sector, and civil society to take stock of progress in anti-corruption efforts and hear proposals for further actions to prevent and combat corruption.



STORY OF IMPACT

PKR 1.13 Billion Outstanding Royalty Recovered from Two Companies on TI Pakistan Intervention

Governments across the world need resources, material, equipment, and services to execute public projects. The execution of the projects, procurement and services permits require that the entire activity be carried out in transparent, economical, and efficient manner, to result in the best value for the country, government and its citizens.

On 16th December 2022, TI Pakistan came across a complaint of official collusion with the private companies causing loss of PKR 1.13 Billion to the national exchequer. It was pointed out that to undertake petroleum exploration activities, exploration licenses were granted to M/s SPUD Energy over Guddu and Bolan blocks, and to M/s Frontier Holding Companies over Badin IV South Block. These licenses were given under the provision of Pakistan Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Rules, 1986.

On account of commercial discovery in these blocks, the President of Pakistan granted a development and production leases to the holders of license to undertake development activities and produce petroleum. M/s Sui Southern Company (SSGCL) is the nominated buyer of the natural gas and crude oil/condensate from Bolan Block and Badin IV South Block, while M/s Engro Fertilizers is the nominated buyer of the natural gas from Guddu Block.

Under Rule 36 of Pakistan Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Rules, 1986, read with the Article 9.1 of the Petroleum Concession Agreement (PCA), the license holders M/s SPUD Energy and M/s Frontier Holding are under an obligation to pay royalty to the Government at a rate 12.5% of the petroleum produced and saved. Under Article 161 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the royalty on gas is collected by the Federal Government and paid to the province where the well-head of gas is situated.

It was alleged that M/s SPUD Energy was in consistent willful default of its obligation to pay the outstanding royalty of the total sum of PKR 834,821,397, while M/s Frontier Holding was alleged to be in willful default of its obligation to pay the outstanding royalty of the total sum of PKR 303,195,732, a total of approx. PKR 1.13 Billion loss to the national exchequer in Pakistan.

TI Pakistan took up the complaint and wrote to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 16th December 2022, to look into the matter and direct the regulators to recover the outstanding amount along with the interest prior to proceeding further on the contracts with the two companies.

It was astounding to observe that in pursuant to TI Pakistan letter, the Director General Petroleum Concessions on 11th January 2023

responded to TI Pakistan and stated "that the provincial share of royalty is directly transferred to the relevant province where well-head is located... and the federal government has nothing to say or advise in this regard'. The DG (PC) response was axiomatically contrary to the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, Rules of Business 1973 and Pakistan Petroleum (E&P) Rules 2001.

The Constitution of Pakistan 1973 under FOURTH SCHEDULE, places mineral oil and natural gas under the legislative of Federation. Moreover, Article 161 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 bestows Constitutional obligation upon the Federation to collect Royalties for onward remission of funds to the Province where the wellhead is located. The Rules of Business 1973 expressly make the Ministry of Energy as the concerned ministry of the Federal Government tasked with Oil and Gas.

On 16th January 2023, TI Pakistan wrote another letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan that the response of DG (PC) was even contradictory to the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), Directorate General of Petroleum Concessions directives issued on 17th February 2022 which have found M/s SPUD Energy to be in continuing willful default of its obligations to pay the outstanding royalty of a total sum of PKR 734, 450, 141/- and that no concrete progress has been made or initiated by the DG (PC) to recover the outstanding amount.

In response to TI Pakistan letter, on 20th January 2023, the Prime Minister of Pakistan vide its Office letter No.4(5)/Mis/DS/(EA-I)/2022/83 instructed t

The Secretary Petroleum Division to ensure recovery of the outstanding amount within two weeks and submit compliance report.

In compliance to the PM orders, the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) vide its letter No. Accounts 1(24)/ 2014-15 Vol-1 Part, dated 27th January 2023 wrote to the MD SSGC to withhold payment to the defaulter M/s SPUD Energy and deposit outstanding royalty in the Government treasury and ensure the same within two weeks.

On 14th February 2023, Director General (PC) informed TI Pakistan that Royalty amounting to Rs. 1.025 Billion has been deducted from the sale invoices of the defaulting companies i.e., M/s. Spud Energy and M/s. Frontier Holding Company Limited through SSGCL, and the same has been deposited in the Federal Treasury.

Transparency International Pakistan's tireless efforts have resulted in saving PKR 1.13 Billion to the national exchequer.



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