

CORRUPTION has been seen as inevitable – unpleasant and unethical, but probably unavoidable. Now, however, it is increasingly being challenged as unacceptable across Asia and the Pacific. In the process, eliminating corruption that plagues people’s daily lives must become a priority: widespread malfeasance corrodes health care, education and public utilities across Asia and the Pacific. Blatant injustice occurs through corrupt police and courts. Cross-border corruption, propelled by transnational businesses, plunders forests and depletes other scarce natural resources. This Asia-Pacific Human Development Report shows how everyone eventually loses with corruption – focusing on why it hurts the poor the most, and on what can be done.

Now is the time to seize the moment, to combine pressure from above, in government as well as the private sector, with the voice of the people from below. International cooperation is also providing more prospects than before. In all, huge political and economic dividends can accrue from empowering countries to crush corruption. But more importantly, eliminating this scourge will allow people across the Asia-Pacific region, especially the poor, to lead lives they value and to reach their fullest potential. This Report spotlights the successes so far, as well as proposes further solutions, and in so doing, aims to ensure that history does not become the region’s destiny.

TACKLING CORRUPTION, TRANSFORMING LIVES


Accelerating Human Development in Asia and the Pacific

This Report was developed by a multinational team under the auspices of the Human Development Report Unit of the UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo (RCC), Sri Lanka. The RCC was established in 2005 to serve countries of Asia-Pacific as a regional hub for development knowledge and expertise, providing policy advisory, capacity development and advocacy services that nurture the creativity of UNDP Country Offices, host Governments and Civil Society Organizations in the region. RCC specializes in Poverty Reduction and HIV and Development, with Gender Equality as a crosscutting concern.

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