



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL | USA

Transparency International USA Welcomes World Bank's Publication of Corruption Report and Commitment to Serious Reforms

January 11, 2008

TI-USA welcomes the World Bank and Government of India's public release today of a report detailing "significant indicators" of corruption and "failures" of the World Bank's supervision system in five Bank-funded health projects in India. This groundbreaking report makes clear that corruption hurts project implementation, and that the Bank's supervision and evaluation systems failed. The Bank's decision to make the India Detailed Implementation Review (DIR) public is a watershed event, expanding the Bank's disclosure practices. TI-USA applauds President Zoellick's decision to disclose the report and his commitment to fix the systemic flaws. The DIR's findings underscore the urgent need to fully implement the recommendations of Chairman Volcker's independent review from 2007, and to maintain a strong independent investigative unit. President Zoellick's plan to place the Bank's governance and anticorruption work before the scrutiny of independent and external reviewers should help promote accountability.

The India DIR is a groundbreaking risk assessment tool that has demonstrated its value and merits in-depth study. The Bank must now apply the lessons of the DIR to its operations, particularly integrating them into the Governance and Anticorruption (GAC) Strategy. TI-USA calls for future public reporting from the Bank and Government of India on systemic reforms to address these deficiencies.

###

Transparency International-USA is the U.S. chapter of Transparency International, the global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption.

Media contacts:

Aneta Wierzynska
Tel. 202-589-1616