

**2nd INTERPOL GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON
ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ASSET RECOVERY**

23rd November, 2012

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS OF DIRECTOR, CBI

1. Hon'ble Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
2. Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training
3. Special Director, CBI
4. Officers of CBI
5. Officers from INTERPOL Anti-Corruption Office, Lyon, France
6. Distinguished delegates, friends from media, ladies and gentlemen.

COMPLEMENTS

Let me start by complementing each one of you present here as well as those faculty members and guest speakers who were part of this 5 day training programme, for your contribution, interaction and for the enthusiastic and keen interest shown in the programme.

2. I would like to place on record my appreciation for the INTERPOL Anti-Corruption Office and the Training Division of Central Bureau of Investigation for organizing two training programmes on Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery within a short span of 9 months, the first being in February this year.

3. All of us present here would agree that corruption is probably the most important issue that concerns the developing nations such as ours. It fosters inequity and injustice, and contributes to a disenchanting citizenry. Although it acquires different forms in different countries, bribery, gratification to public servants, corruption in public procurement and contract, exploitation of natural and national resources are some common areas of corruption with which we all deal with in our country in the day to day work.

4. Another common phenomenon which has emerged is collusive corruption in which the public servants connive with big business houses to defraud the Government of valuable revenue. In such cases, there are no complaints as the only loser is the Government whose interests are to be protected by the same public servant.

5. The tremendous growth in the transnational trade and investment, the financial transaction across borders and the ease with which the proceeds of corruption is transferred to another foreign jurisdiction has also increased the potential for transnational crimes and corruption beyond national boundaries, and has created new opportunities for concealment of proceeds of crime in land far away from the one in which the crime is committed.

6. As a consequence, Investigation and prosecution of the corrupt in such cases becomes difficult, especially as it involves gathering of evidence from foreign jurisdictions and involves wealthy and powerful individuals fight protracted battles in the court rooms.

7. Therefore, a concerted effort is called for by the international community, especially by the law enforcement agencies, to fight corruption. This framework should recognize the causes for corruption, evolve principles, institutions, structures and laws to deliver greater accountability in functioning without compromising the democratic principles or the fabric of the respective States.

8. At the International level, sincere efforts have been made to tackle corruption. The UNCAC, the OECD Convention against bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and efforts by many civil society organizations are some of the many steps in this direction and demonstrate the resolve of the international community in the fight against corruption.

9. In India also, a large number of steps have been taken by the Government of India to tackle the issue of Corruption, which includes, amongst others, the recently introduced Lok Pal Bill in both Houses of the Parliament and India's ratification of the UNCAC.

10. As the premier investigating agency of India, the CBI has played a major role in unearthing huge economic and financial frauds and in seizure and confiscation of the property of the corrupt from abroad, which was acquired through corrupt means. The organization has been able to recover stolen assets from abroad at short notice, extradite offenders and prosecute them successfully in the competent court of law. Investigation of such complex cases of corruption and successful prosecution of the guilty would not have been possible without cooperation and coordination from our counterparts abroad.

11. However, in many such cases investigated by the CBI, there has also been a realization of the need for law enforcement agencies across the world to further strengthen both formal and informal channels of communication in dealing with investigation of corruption cases, to view this problem in a global context, and to evolve a multi-faceted approach to address all issues of corruption and find holistic solutions to the problem, to create a community of effort on a matter which is a vital concern for all of us as governments, as public servants and as individuals.

12. Conferences and training programmes like this provide a useful platform to the participants to share their best practices, problems and difficulties in combating corruption, in exploring new ways and means for better cooperation, for ensuring that the proceeds of crime, amassed by a corrupt, are frozen and confiscated.

13. The five day training programme witnessed interaction amongst eminent Investigators, Computer Forensic Experts, Audit and Accounting Specialists and Financial Experts from within India and abroad. It has discussed and deliberated on the ways and means to strengthen international cooperation in multi-jurisdictional corruption investigations, putting in place measures to prevent and detect corruption in public procurement.

14. One highlight of this programme was that the practitioners, who have dealt with sensitive cases, were called as speakers. I am also happy that the participants were given the opportunity for hands-on training in extraction of evidence from the electronic environment.

15. Another important area which was discussed in detail, and was followed by live demonstrations and illustrations from cases actually investigated by the CBI was Asset Recovery.

16. Differences in legal systems, bank secrecy, lack of comprehensive international cooperation, lack of sharing of information etc are some of the reasons which may be mentioned as primary causes for this problem. In fact, the resistance of sharing of information has been identified as a key problem in asset recovery by a number of working groups on this subject in the past.

17. Therefore, I strongly recommend creation of an Asset Recovery Knowledge Centre which would bring out articles, case studies, technical publications and good practices being followed

in various countries in this regard. I would go a step further to suggest that the CBI Academy may well act as a knowledge centre for this purpose.

18. I have been informed that all of you appreciated the visit to the CBI Hi-Tech Lab at CBI Academy, and the work being done there. I was told that some delegates have shown their keen interest in doing courses in cyber crime at the Academy. We conduct courses for officers from SAARC, ASEAN and from Africa, and I would welcome all the member nations of INTERPOL to avail the facilities at CBI Academy, so that we can collectively create professionals skilled in handling hi-tech crimes and help us in tracing, freezing, confiscation and repatriation of the proceeds of crime.

19. The informal channels yield as much result, if not more, than what is achieved through the formal channels and provide speed and efficiency in mutual assistance in tracking and confiscation of the proceeds of crime and in fair and impartial prosecution of fugitive criminals.

20. I am sure that at the end of this programme, at least you will be able to pick up the telephone and talk to each other as old friends and will also be in a position to render immediate assistance.

21. To conclude, I would like to emphasize that training programmes like this is one of the endeavors to build bridges between countries, to create a community of effort on issues which are vital to all the Governments facing the brunt of corruption. More importantly, it also throws up new ideas which may be enriching and rewarding to all the stake holders and the threads picked up from learning here may be put to test in real time situation in our respective countries. I would like to repeat, what I said during the last training programme, that international cooperation amongst us is a two-way street and purely reciprocal. If we want assistance from friendly countries, we must be prepared to reciprocate.

22. I once again thank all of you for attending this training programme.

23. I also hope that the INTERPOL would continue to organize such training programmes in future in collaboration with the CBI Academy in India and with other Anti-Corruption Organizations in different parts of Asia at least once a year where we all can deliberate on the various emerging issues related to corruption, international cooperation in tackling it and about evolving new ways and means for asset recovery.

24. I also take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Bureau of Police Research and Development for their wholehearted support in organizing this 2nd INTERPOL Global Programme on Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery.

25. I would also like to complement Shri Rajiv Tandon, Joint Director, Administration & Training and his team and the officers from INTERPOL for their efforts in successful organization of this training programme.