Corruption is recognized as one of the main challenges to the effectiveness and sustainability of development efforts. In response, the World Bank Group aims to strengthen its work on governance and anti-corruption efforts.

Good governance and the fight against corruption are essential components of building healthy investment climates and boosting investor confidence. Recent experience shows that engagement of the private sector significantly contributes to these efforts through implementation of business ethics and anti-corruption initiatives on the firm and collective action levels.

The BCD Team

The business ethics and anti-corruption program of the BCD Team aims to strengthen the capacity of businesses to combat corruption along two dimensions: (1) through integrating anti-corruption policies into the competitiveness strategies of firms, industries and regions, and (2) through the facilitation of business-led collective action initiatives against corruption.

Specifically, the BCD business ethics and anti-corruption program consists of three sub-programs:

- **Business Action against Corruption**: Assists enterprises in developing and emerging economies to implement programs and policies that address corruption challenges and promote business ethics on the firm level.
  The program is partially supported by the United States Department of Commerce and the Japanese Government, through a PHRD Trust Fund.

- **Business-led Multi-stakeholder Initiatives against Corruption**: Focuses on business coalitions and their critical role in the fight against corruption and the enhancement of a business-friendly environment. The sub-program facilitates collective action among enterprises, government agencies and civil society organizations to systematically reduce corrupt activities in the private and public sectors.
  Supported by the Japanese Government, through a PHRD Trust Fund.
The Global Classroom Initiative: By targeting young leaders, this sub-program attempts to equip students of leading universities to respond to the complex challenges of today’s business world. The initiative promotes business ethics education and connects business and public administration schools of leading universities around the world.

Most Recent and Current Activities

- High-level global e-discussion, “Towards a More Systematic Fight against Corruption: The Role of the Private Sector”.
- Plenary session, “Partnerships to Combat Corruption: Rising to the Challenge”, during the 2006 Program of Seminars of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Group/Board of Governors Annual Meetings in Singapore.
- Consultation sessions with the private sector and NGOs on “Strengthening Bank Group Engagement on Governance and Anti-Corruption” strategy paper.
- Development of a “Collective Business Action against Corruption” blended learning training program.
- The Young LEADers against Corruption Initiative for high school students.
- Training of business leaders from Central America on private sector perspectives on and solutions to corruption.
- Scenario trainings on Partnering against Corruption for GDLN-Mangers.

Partners

External: Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research at the Wharton School, Hills Center on Governance, United Nations Global Compact, United States Department of Commerce, Transparency International, World Economic Forum, InWent, American Chamber of Commerce in Romania, German Chamber of Commerce.

Internal: World Bank Institute Governance Program, World Bank Department of Institutional Integrity.

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