# LIDS Team Presents Paper on New Developments in Whistle-Blower Protection at the World Bank

*September 16, 2012 – Phil Underwood*

This summer, **members of the Harvard Law and International Development Society (LIDS) presented a paper at the International Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA) conference in Washington, DC.** The conference, sponsored by the World Bank, brought together anticorruption officials from all over the world, including World Bank's Regional Governance and Anticorruption Adviser Lisa Bhansali, the conference moderator. The LIDS team worked with Alexandra Habershon from the World Bank's Coordinator for the International Corruption Alliance and Integrity Vice Presidency.

Over the course of the spring semester, LIDS team members Connie Sung, Gisela Mation, Nico Palazzo, Phil Underwood and Sushila Rao worked together to develop a paper based on a series of case studies on whistle-blower programs around the world. These case studies showcased both newly-implemented and existing policies and mechanisms on whistle-blowing. These mechanisms have been designed to encourage whistle-blowers to come forward with information surrounding public-sector corruption, and offer them protection after doing so. LIDS studied whistle-blower programs in countries across the world, specifically India, Peru, Bhutan, Morocco, and the United Kingdom, as well as a mechanism implemented by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), a regional organization in eastern Africa. **Case studies specifically analysed the institutional and legal structures of these programs and their impacts on broader corruption policy.**

**Some highlights of the case studies include:**

- A new SMS- and voicemail-based system to accept complaints of illegal exploitation of mineral resources in the Kivu province of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo;

- **Project VIGEYE,** a crowd sourced system offering citizens multiple means to complain about corruption throughout **India,** and a fully digitized system for keeping track of such complaints;

- new legislation on whistle-blower protection in Morocco, which includes provision for hiding of complainants' identities by marking down false addresses and using voice-obscuring technology in testimony;

- a comic book published by the Peruvian *Controlaría General* to boost awareness of their whistle-blowing and anti-corruption efforts; and
  - a series of recent rules promulgated by the Bhutanese Anti-Corruption Commission covering, among other things, debarment of corrupt firms and the making of gifts to public officials.

In keeping with the broader themes of the ICHA program, which is **"focused on the introduction of new approaches such as crowd sourcing and citizen engagement"** to the fight against corruption, the case studies investigated the role of technology on whistle-blowing policy. Many regions in the developing world lack the communications infrastructure that is common in North America and the EU, so policies must take into account the need for alternative methods of making complaints, especially the use of mobile phone technology. Ideally, countries around the world will be able to

adopt these new mechanisms for the promotion of whistle-blowing in cases of public-sector corruption, and the limitation of corruption.

The LIDS team also benefitted from the aid of (and would like to thank) World Bank corruption experts and national authorities, and its supervisors, Harvard Law School Professor Philip Heymann and Christelle Dorcil of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. Other speakers at the event included Carla Salazar, General Secretary for Peru's General Comptroller; K. Subramanian, Officer on Special Duty for the Central Vigilance Commission in India; and Hari Mulukutla, Consultant to GIZ for the Regional Resource Governance Project in West Africa.

**Harvard Law and International Development Society (LIDS) presented a paper at the International Corruption Hunters Alliance (ICHA) conference in Washington, DC**

| 1. | http://www3.law.harvard.edu/orgs/lids/2012/09/16/lids-team-presents-paper-on-new-developments-in-whistle-blower-protection-at-the-world-bank/ |
|---|---|
| 2. | http://www3.law.harvard.edu/orgs/lids/blog-2/ |
| 3. | http://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/international-corruption-hunters-alliance-2012?cid=EXT_WBBlogSocialShare_D_EXT |
| 4. | http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTDOII/Resources/588889-1291841306732/ICHA2012_report_web_final.pdf |

**Other Publications and Reports Published**

**CVC's Anti-Corruption Initiative Gets World Bank's Praise**
http://www.outlookindia.com/news/article/CVCs-AntiCorruption-Initiative-Gets-World-Banks-Praise/766463

**e-Governance Implementation of publicly funded projects/portfolios using Global Project Monitoring System (GPMS) Cloud: Lessons Learnt**
http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/89881014/e-governance-implementation-publicly-funded-projects-portfolios-using-global-project-monitoring-system-gpms-cloud-lessons-learnt

**World Bank Guidance note for Implementing Agencies- Introduction of e-Tools in the Management of Construction Projects**
http://www.indiancst.in/?module=main&action=reports

**Some of the Report Highlights of the INDIAN delegation from Central Vigilance Commission states:**
At the Second Biennial Meeting of the International Corruption Hunters Alliance at Washington DC on 5th & 6th June, 2012.

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| 1. | **The World Bank was appreciative of India's initiative and considers VIGEYE as a good technological innovation in the fight against corruption.** The amount of attention received by VIGEYE is borne out by the fact that the cover page of the agenda booklet of the conference carried a photo. |
| 2. | **Ambassador Richard Kaularich now in George Mason University and others welcomed this initiative of measuring quality of service,** by ACAs as an appropriate application of a proven system of measurement of quality of public service. |
| 3. | **The Harvard Law and International Development Society** presented their preliminary findings on a comparative study being done by them on whistle blower laws and corruption complaint mechanism including **VIGEYE.** |
| 4. | World Bank officials were of the view that in terms of technology, the CVC initiative was quite advanced. |
| 5. | **After the presentation, the World Bank officials expressed a desire to explore the possibility of applying VIGEYE in other contexts especially the development projects funded by World Bank.** Mr. Sanjay Pradhan, Vice President, World Bank Institute was also present. A business opportunity (including job creation) exists when Project VIGEYE is taken to the next phase both in India as well as in other parts of the world as an Indian offering to augment whistle blowing efforts leveraging mobile technology. |

http://vigeyegpms.in/cvc/ http://www.vigeyegpms.in/vigeye/

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CWG tax evasion: Govt slaps recovery notices for Rs 505 crore New Delhi: Many private firms and government departments have been slapped with notices for recovery of over Rs 500 crore tax allegedly evaded by them while executing Commonwealth Games-related projects here. Official sources said recovery notices for Rs 505 crore towards value-added tax (VAT) have been issued by the central government revenue department and trade and taxes authorities of the Delhi government. The demand was raised after a multi-jurisdiction investigation team working under the Central Vigilance Commission detected Rs 1,000 crore tax evasion by the companies and government departments. Following detection of huge tax evasion, tax departments of both Delhi and central governments have also effected recovery of Rs 94.71 crore from private firms and government bodies involved in the CWG-related works, the sources said. The CVC team, which went into alleged irregularities in Commonwealth Games-related civic and construction project ...

http://first-thoughts.org/on/Central+Vigilance+Commission/

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