Scaling up Global Integrity National Assessments in Southeast Asia & the Pacific (2012-13) ACTIVITY PROPOSAL (FINAL 19 December 2011)

Summary: Global Integrity proposes to scale up its coverage of Southeast Asian and Pacific countries as part of its ongoing collaboration with AusAID in the region. The intent of this activity proposal is to ensure coverage of key countries in the region not assessed through the Global Integrity process in recent years. (In-country Global Integrity Dialogue workshops would be organized separately following the release of the assessments should there be demand from local stakeholders.)

Background: Global Integrity's country assessments, of which there are now more than 225, blend qualitative, journalistic analysis of the state of corruption with actionable data gathering to assess the existence, effectiveness, and citizen access to key public sector anti-corruption mechanisms. Global Integrity works with teams of in-country and independent journalists and researchers to generate the assessments through a rigorous and standardized research process supported by a web-based technology platform (see http://getindaba.org for details). The award-winning Global Integrity methodology breaks down both the *de jure* existence and *de facto* implementation of key public sector governance mechanisms through more than 300 discrete and actionable indicators that provide a snapshot of the strengths and weaknesses of the national-level anti-corruption architecture. Those actionable indicators range from questions assessing the media's ability to report on corruption to conflicts of interest regulations to transparency surrounding procurement and privatization practices. All 300-plus indicators are anchored by detailed scoring criteria to ensure inter-coder reliability and include narrative comments and references that defend the choice of score. For a full description of the methodology and our latest assessments see:

http://www.globalintegrity.org/report

Proposed Country Coverage: Under the auspices of this proposal, Global Integrity proposes the following country coverage for 2012-2013:

Cambodia, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Vanuatu

As with all Global Integrity assessments, the assessments for these countries will be prepared by teams of in-country experts with the technical and project management support of Global Integrity staff. Global Integrity has previously conducted assessments in all of the above countries, and has existing relationships with in-country analysts from leading non-governmental organizations, think tanks, research centers, and media houses. There are three key roles on each country team: a lead researcher who scores the country's Integrity Indicators, a lead reporter who prepares the country's Reporter's Notebook, and 2-4 peer reviewers who blindly review both the data and the reporting to provide unvarnished feedback and suggested corrections before publication.

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Once the local teams have been identified and contracted for this particular fieldwork, Global Integrity will provide its standard methodological and technical training via phone and video (or in person if possible, especially if we are able to locate a part-time project manager in the region, as discussed below). This training is designed to familiarize team members with our research methods (which employ an "expert assessment" methodology blending desk research with original interviews of key informants, including government officials); our expectations with respect to the quality and breadth of the research; and our Indaba technology platform, through which all research will be submitted, reviewed, edited, and published. For a detailed description of our national-level assessment methodology, please visit:

http://www.globalintegrity.org/report/methodology

(In Cambodia, we anticipate partnering with TI-Cambodia, a relatively new Transparency International chapter that has expressed interest to both AusAID-Cambodia and Global Integrity in carrying out a national-level integrity assessment of the country in 2012. Following discussions with both post and TI-Cambodia in December 2011, we believe there is merit in collaborating with the TI chapter on a single assessment rather than having the two organizations generate separate but similar assessments. We have agreed with TI-Cambodia to explore options for blending the best of both assessments' methodologies (TI's National Integrity Systems approach and Global Integrity's Global Integrity Report methodology) and will determine the exact methodology to be employed in Cambodia in early-2012.)

Following initial submissions of the raw data and reporting, Global Integrity staff will rigorously review the material for inaccuracies, lack of sourcing, and other methodological inconsistencies. Once this initial "staff review" is complete, and Global Integrity staff are satisfied with the initial submission, the material will be made available to the country peer reviewers, who will perform a systematic review of all indicators and the Notebook to flag additional inconsistencies, errors, or poorly sourced judgments. Following the peer review phase, Global Integrity staff will perform another "staff review" of the material, returning portions of the scorecard and reporting flagged by peer reviewers to the lead researcher and reporter for corrections and clarifications. Once Global Integrity staff are satisfied with the corrections and final changes, the indicators and Notebook will be marked as ready for publication. Publication will occur on Global Integrity's website. (Should hard copy versions of the assessments be desired, we can have the material printed and shipped to countries at cost.)

Global Integrity welcomes AusAID missions' recommendations of local researchers and analysts in any of the countries who might be qualified and interested in contributing to the assessments.

Timeframe: We propose splitting the fieldwork in the target countries into two groups, one to be covered in 2012 (Cambodia and Solomon Islands) and the other in 2013 (Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu). Specific project milestones will be:

- **April 2012**: Finalization of any updates/enhancements to the 2012-2013 Integrity Indicators methodology.
- **May 2012**: Fieldwork begins in the initial three target countries (in-country lead researchers and lead journalists).
- **October 2012**: Raw data and reporting received from field teams; first-round staff review begins.

- **November 2012**: First-round corrections to data and reporting completed; peer review process begins.
- **January 2013**: Peer review process completed; second-round staff review begins.
- **February 2013**: Second-round staff review completed; final changes made.
- **February/March 2013**: First three assessments publicly released.
- **April 2013**: Above process repeats for second set of two countries (Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu), with publication slated for February/March 2014.

Resources Required: US$35,000/assessment (US$175,000 total).

Per assessment cost itemization
1) Costs for country lead reporters and lead researchers	US$10,000
2) Costs for country peer reviewers	US$5,000
3) Global Integrity staff review costs	US$15,000
4) Technology costs (Indaba)	US$5,000
TOTAL	**US$35,000**

Key personnel: The Global Integrity Executive Director will have ultimately responsibility for ensuring the on-time publication of quality assessments under this proposal. In addition, at least two senior Global Integrity directors or managers will lead the day-to-day activities associated with these assessments, including all training, data review, and project management activities. Although no final decisions have yet been made, it is likely that Raymond June (Director, Research) will be involved in helping to coordinate this project on a day-to-day basis (Raymond has extensive experience in running Global Integrity fieldwork in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia). As part of Global Integrity's broader engagement with AusAID in 2012 and 2013, we are also hoping to locate a part-time project manager in the region (most likely in Southeast Asia or Australia) to provide additional project management support for these assessments.

For full biographies of all Global Integrity staff please visit our website.

Proposed Reporting Schedule:

January 2013: In-process annual report submitted to AusAID describing progress to date on 2012 assessments, anticipated final publication date for 2012 assessments, and planning updates for the 2013 assessments.

May 2014: Completion report and final acquittal.