

CPI 2006 regional results: Asia-Pacific

Despite ranking among the ten cleanest in terms of perceptions of corruption, the recent **Australian** Wheat Board Scandal and questions over the financing of election campaigns in **New Zealand**, underscore the importance of continuing to address the risk of corruption.

Singapore, an important international financial centre, maintains a high score in the CPI but should further demonstrate its international commitment to fighting corruption by ratifying the UN Convention against Corruption without delay.

Although **India** and **Japan** show small improvements in their score, the average score for the 25 Asian countries in the CPI 2006 (4.6 out of a clean 10) remains alarmingly low.

Macau and **Bhutan**, featured in the CPI for the first time this year, score better than a majority of countries. In Macau, this may be attributable to continuing efforts in recent years to enhance public administration effectiveness and to the creation of a strong independent anti-corruption commission.

Against a backdrop of a vigorous anti-bribery campaign in 2006, which attracted extensive media coverage, the perceived level of corruption in **China**, which shares its score with **India**, remains very high.

Timor Leste's first inclusion in the CPI regrettably increases to 12 the number of Asian countries scoring below 3.0, indicating that corruption in these countries is perceived as endemic.

Laos continues to see high levels of perceived corruption and this year registers a significant drop in score, in spite the implementation of new anti-corruption legislation.

Although **Pakistan** has made tangible efforts towards the strengthening of public procurement, the perception of corruption remains very high – a situation particularly worrying given the amount of humanitarian aid pledged for reconstruction following the October 2005 earthquake.

In countries with the highest perception of corruption, such as **Myanmar**, **Bangladesh** and **Cambodia**, the lack of political will to strengthen anti-corruption institutions perpetuates rampant corruption, undermining improvements in quality of life for the poorest citizens.

The fact that **Bangladesh** no longer occupies last place in the table is attributable more to the poor performance of several other countries, including **Myanmar** in Asia, than to a drop in corruption levels per se.

Taiwan's score remains the same although recent scandals have rocked the country, suggesting that grand corruption may be on the rise.

Australia, **China**, **Indonesia**, **Mongolia** and **Sri Lanka** are the only 5 countries in Asia Pacific to have ratified the UN Convention against Corruption to date, suggesting a lack of government determination in the region to tackle corruption.

Overall Rank	Regional Rank	Country / territory	Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
1	1	New Zealand	9.6	9.4 - 9.6	7
5	2	Singapore	9.4	9.2 - 9.5	9
9	3	Australia	8.7	8.3 - 9.0	8
15	4	Hong Kong	8.3	7.7 - 8.8	9
17	5	Japan	7.6	7.0 - 8.1	9
26	6	Macao	6.6	5.4 - 7.1	3

32	7	Bhutan	6.0	4.1 - 7.3	3
34	8	Taiwan	5.9	5.6 - 6.2	9
42	9	South Korea	5.1	4.7 - 5.5	9
44	10	Malaysia	5.0	4.5 - 5.5	9
63	11	Thailand	3.6	3.2 - 3.9	9
70	12	China	3.3	3.0 - 3.6	9
		India	3.3	3.1 - 3.6	10
84	14	Sri Lanka	3.1	2.7 - 3.5	6
111	15	Laos	2.6	2.0 - 3.1	4
		Timor-Leste	2.6	2.3 - 3.0	3
		Vietnam	2.6	2.4 - 2.9	8
121	18	Nepal	2.5	2.3 - 2.9	5
		Philippines	2.5	2.3 - 2.8	9
130	20	Indonesia	2.4	2.2 - 2.6	10
		Papua New Guinea	2.4	2.3 - 2.6	4
142	22	Pakistan	2.2	2.0 - 2.4	6
151	23	Cambodia	2.1	1.9 - 2.4	6
156	24	Bangladesh	2.0	1.7 - 2.2	6
160	25	Myanmar	1.9	1.8 - 2.3	3

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