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Anti-corruption experts to meet in Manila from Jan. 30 - Feb. 2

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Anti-corruption experts all over the world will gather in Manila later this month to discuss the best practices in institutionalizing good governance.

Among the speakers for the 5th Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), to be held from January 30 to February 2, are Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

The conference will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

A GOPAC press statement said Carpio-Morales, former associate justice of the Supreme Court, will give a talk on Parliamentary Oversight and the Role of Good Audit in the Fight Against Corruption.

"The session will tackle the debate between the seemingly conflicting ideas of the immunity granted to lawmakers in the realm of legislative debate, and the oversight powers they are given to hold other government agencies and officials accountable," the statement said.

The country's anti-graft body chief is expected to share her views on how this privilege affects the work of a constitutionally created and autonomous body such as the Office of the Ombudsman, as well as the importance of audit and transparency in governance.

The session also features Mr. Dimitri Vlassis of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and incumbent GOPAC dhairston Dr. Naser Al Sane.

De Lima, on the other hand, is one of the speakers in the Right to Information and Civil Society Participation in the Fight Against, and Prevention of Corruption, along with Hugette Labelle, head of Transparency International, and Ms. Maria Ressa.

Transparency International, the Berlin-based anti-corruption coalition best known for publishing the annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for the last 18 years, is one of the world's most respected organizations for transparency and accountability

"Freedom of Information (FOI) is just one of the many relevant and controversial topics that will be tackled in the conference, as critical to the development of citizen's capacity to form informed opinions," the GOPAC statement said.

In a separate statement, Sen. Edgardo Angara, GOPAC vice president, said the conference will be a good opportunity not only to showcase the anti-corruption strides achieved by the Philippine government but to learn from leading anti-corruption experts as well

"Anti-corruption must be an integral element in the culture of politics in the Philippines and in other countries worldwide," he said.

In the latest Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released in December 2012, the Philippines ranked

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105th least corrupt out of 176 countries. Transparency International gave the country an overall score of 34 in perceived corruption, with 100 being "very clean."

Other key speakers include Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, president of the coordinating committee of the meeting of women parliamentarians of Indonesia's Inter-Parliamentary Union; Amadou Bouare, an expert on the role of parliaments in the fight against corruption; and John Nye, a professor of economics at George Mason University and research director at the National Research University – Higher School of Economics in Moscow.

President Benigno Aquino III will be the keynote speaker at the event, which is expected to be attended by 500 delegates from 78 countries.

Aquino earlier ordered government agencies to assist the Senate in the hosting of the conference as it will highlight and establish the country's earnest determination to eliminate corruption and poverty on all fronts.

GOPAC is the only parliamentary network with the singular focus of combating corruption.

The 2013 GOPAC International Conference will have the theme "Good laws. Good leaders. Good Citizens." — **Amita O. Legaspi/KBK, GMA News**



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jaypons328

good job mr president sana maubos na ang mga kurap na politician sa ating bansa.



Castronaut

Ang galing naman, napagsama sama lahat tapos tayo host. astig!



TylerZO

Woah, this is quite exciting. Fight against corruption is definitely a fight worth fighting.



corymoran

Tama! sana maging succesful :) hopeful naman ako.

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