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# ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING EXPERTS FLY TO MANILA FOR GLOBAL CONFERENCE

By *admin*

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The country's efforts to strengthen anti-money laundering legislation have received a nod from the international community. Two world-renowned experts on anti-money laundering are coming to Manila later this month to speak in the 5th Global Conference of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, the Assistant Secretary-General for the United Nations Economic and Social Affairs, and Hon. Roy Cullen, Chair of the GOPAC Global Task Force-Anti Money Laundering, will share their expertise to an audience of 500 strong. Over 300 delegates from 80 countries all over the world, together with 200 Filipino lawmakers and other stakeholders, will be gathered from January 30 to February 3 to share their knowledge and experience, and push for lasting initiatives against corruption.

One of the sessions will focus on the subject of money laundering and bank secrecy—their seeming incompatibility, their relevance to ordinary citizens and the key part they play in curbing corruption. How do we trace the evidence, if the dirty money is re-used for legal businesses? How do we balance the rights of citizens protected by bank secrecy law and the need to curb this widespread corrupt practice? Our two experts will tackle these questions and more in this session.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar earned her post doctorate degree as a US Fulbright Fellow at Harvard University. She also holds a PhD in Economics from the Scotland's Paisley College of Technology and a Master's Degree in Development Economics from the University of Sussex in the UK. She has had a long-standing career with multilateral development banks, such as the World Bank, where she was Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) where she served as Director General of the East Asia region.

Akhtar was named as the First Female Central Bank Governor of Pakistan and was awarded the Best Central Bank Governor in Asia. She is an expert in international monetary issues such as financial and monetary policies, industrial and infrastructure policies, and governance development. She will discuss the extent of bank secrecy and the bank's responsibility in promoting anti-corruption practices.

Hon. Roy Cullen, a former member of the Canadian parliament, has played an active role in implementing Canada's anti-money laundering program. He couples his academic his background business and public administration with his experience of living in working in several countries around the world. He has published two books, *The Poverty of Corrupt Nations* and *Beyond Question Period, or What Really Goes on in Ottawa*. Cullen writes that eliminating corruption will involve a mass collective effort involving all institutions and individuals all around the world.

They belong to a roster of carefully selected speakers who will grace the 5thGOPAC Global Conference to be held in the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) later this month. President Benigno S. Aquino III, whose administration's main thrust is the elimination of corruption, will keynote the event. For more information, visit [www.gopacmanila2013.com](http://www.gopacmanila2013.com) [1].

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