

Transparency International honours Prof Mark Pieth as leading expert against international bribery

Basel, 20 January 2007

Prof Mark Pieth, President and Founder of the Basel Institute on Governance, has been awarded the 2007 Integrity Award by the leading international NGO anti-corruption coalition Transparency International. He receives the award, which will be presented to him in a ceremony to be held on 21 January 2008 in Berlin, jointly with Le Hien Duc, a Vietnamese grassroots anti-corruption activist.

A criminal law and criminology professor at the University of Basel, Mark Pieth receives this award "for his outstanding leadership in fighting corruption on an international scale". In its citation honouring Mark Pieth, Transparency International further said that he has always stood his ground and never stopped being outspoken about the need to implement the anti-bribery rules that countries have committed to. Congratulating Mark Pieth in a press release, OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría said that this award is a clear signal of support for the international fight against corruption.

Mark Pieth has dedicated almost his entire professional career to countering corruption, including as Chairman of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, in relation to which he is often faced with powerful opposition when he criticises countries for failing to fully implement the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. He further has been a member of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the Iraq UN Oil-for-Food Programme, in the framework of which he exposed more than 2500 companies worldwide for committing criminal acts, including bribery, for the purpose of benefiting from lucrative Iraqi oil contracts.

His exposure in this context to the enormous losses that developing countries suffer because of bribery, graft and fraud has led Mark Pieth to initiate and co-found the Basel Institute on Governance. The Basel Institute on Governance is an independent non-profit organisation specialised in research, policy advice and capacity building in corporate, public and global governance. Through its International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR), the Institute is further one of the only specialist institutions worldwide able to provide countries with hands-on and practical assistance to detect, confiscate and repatriate assets that were stolen through corruption and related crimes. For more information, visit www.baselgovernance.org.

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Information about the award ceremony:

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