Corruption

lack of integrity
moral perversion

for what is thought to be best in any point of view.
Contents

01 Key Meetings

06 C4 Center Collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

09 S.17A Online Training

11 Collaborations & Engagements

15 Build MY-Town Play Sessions

17 C4 Center in the Press
KEY MEETINGS
Dr Edmund Terence Gomez and Cynthia Gabriel, members of the Board of Directors of C4 Center were speaking at a press conference of the APPGM - Integrity, Governance and Anti-Corruption held at Karangkraf. Former Cabinet Minister Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar, APPGM Chairman Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh, Deputy Chairperson Mas Ermieyati and many others attended the program.

The press conference saw members of the APPGM (both government and opposition Members of Parliament) sitting alongside civil society representatives to discuss the measures needed to combat corruption in Malaysia. The continued democratisation of the legislative process via CSO involvement is a welcome improvement which C4 Center shall continue to strive for.
C4 Center being a member attended the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia (APPGM) Meeting on Political Financing at Parliament to call for political parties funding allocations to be included in the draft political financing legislation. The APPG comprises Members of Parliament from across the board and members of civil society organisations including C4 Center, IDEAS and the Bar Council.

The APPG also calls for an independent commission to oversee political financing, as well as proposes that it be done through a new independent commission, or for authority to be granted to the Election Commission (EC).

While regulating political financing is a low-hanging fruit and an initial step towards curbing corruption, Malaysia must also undertake a comprehensive institutional reform agenda ensuring the Political Financing Act is not another toothless law. C4 Center will continue to engage parliamentarians and the government on key reforms via various channels.
The All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia (APPGM) on Political Finance had a meeting with the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Dato' Sri Azalina binti Othman Said and presented our draft legislation on political finance to the Minister.

It is time Malaysia regulates the finances of political parties to weed out political corruption and hold political parties accountable. The APPGM delegation was headed by Chairman YB Wong Chen joined by other MPs in the Committee and civil society organisations including C4 Center, which is part of the APPGM.

C4 Center looks forward to engaging the government further on the need for a political finance law and calls upon the Prime Minister to give the utmost priority and importance to this reform area.
Meeting with Representatives from the Ministry of Finance to discuss the drafting of a Procurement Bill

C4 Center attended a meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to discuss the drafting of a Procurement Bill. The MOF had extended an invitation to C4 Center as one of numerous civil society organisations consulted to provide initial input on the issues that need to be covered in legislating a Government Procurement Bill -- C4 Center has long advocated for the legislation of a Procurement Bill.

During the consultation meeting, C4 Center imparted the pressing need to create a procurement process that was more transparent and ensured access to procurement-related information for all stakeholders in order to ensure a sufficient level of public oversight over government procurement which has conventionally been plagued with corruption. Some of the issues covered in further detail included the need for standardisation and legal enforceability of procurement protocol, defining and imposing limits on “national security” and “emergency” as a method to escape oversight, as well as the wide powers of Ministers in deciding how tenders are allocated in their respective ministries. C4 Center emphasised the need for good governance in the procurement process as a whole in order to ensure that services and infrastructure obtained for public utility are efficient and of sound quality and that politicians will not be able to abuse the process for personal gain.

C4 Center is currently in the process of working on a full report on the challenges that exist in Malaysia's procurement and the issues that need to be taken into account in the legislation of a Procurement Bill in order to be presented to the government.
3-Day UNODC Workshop: Greater Public Procurement Awareness in Malaysia for Parliamentarians, Civil Society and Media
C4 Center in a joint collaboration with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), organised a three-day Public Procurement Workshop. The main aim of the workshop was to educate a wide array of stakeholders – Parliamentarians, civil society organisations, members of the media – on Malaysia's procurement processes, including its flaws as well potential areas for reform. The secondary aims of the workshop were to gather feedback and perspectives from these stakeholders on their views on additional issues that need to be addressed in order to introduce improvements into the procurement system and to synergise efforts across the board in the lead-up to the announced legislation of the Public Procurement Act.

Over the three days of the workshop, panellists were invited to present on multiple aspects of procurement and participants were invited to provide further input or have discussions about the points raised. The main issues raised on the first day were with regards to the existing laws and policies governing public procurement, the procedure involved, and the weaknesses in the existing procedures that enable corruption to take place – speakers invited from the Ministry of Finance greatly contributed to the overall understanding of this area. Additionally, the Malaysian government's budgeting process and respective Ministries' procurement processes were elaborated on. The discussions that took place highlighted that while there existed regulations on paper that sought to enable good governance in public procurement, there are still many vulnerabilities due to the lack of legal enforceability.

The second day of the workshop focused on the e-procurement system, access to information in the tender process and for the public, and subsequently the technologies that could be introduced and implemented in order to overhaul the procurement system. It was identified that while e-procurement was a crucial element of Malaysia's procurement system, its implementation was not standardised across all states, and the information provided on online portals was insufficient in terms of guaranteeing transparency and oversight into tender notices and announced projects. Participants were asked to work in groups to discuss and provide suggestions on what a better e-procurement system would look like – the consensus was that tender notice information such as exact eligibility criteria, budget, duration of project, announcement of tender award and justification, etc. should all be included in an easily navigable platform. Additional discussions that took place regarding the prospects of introducing novel technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain into the procurement system to reduce human intervention and corruption were floated as well.

The third and last day involved looking to the private sector, examining how companies conduct internal procurements to identify points of emulation into government procurement – a speaker from a renowned multinational company was able to shed light on this matter, as well as provide insight from the private sector's point of view regarding improvements to be made to public procurement as the government continues to engage the private sector. Finally, the workshop examined best practices from around the world, looking at how other countries have managed to improve their procurement system and deal with instances of corruption that may arise in these dealings. One of the key takeaways was that many countries with robust and efficient procurement systems empowered oversight bodies to review, investigate, and provide remedies to injured parties as a result of flawed procurements, even in the absence of a procurement legislation.

From this workshop, C4 Center has managed to ingrain an interest in the subject of public procurement in multiple key stakeholders as well as address the urgency with which the flaws in public procurement need to be dealt with. Connections with individuals and organisations equipped with the skills and knowledge required to pursue a concerted effort in reforming public procurement were established. C4 Center's existing work and ongoing research on reforming public procurement will be presented to them at subsequent workshops and discussions to open more areas of discourse in directing the Malaysian government's plan to legislating the Procurement Act.
S.17A OF THE MALAYSIAN ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (MACC) ACT ONLINE TRAINING
C4 Center held our first online training on S.17A of the MACC Act, conducted by C4 Center’s Deputy CEO Sudhagaran Stanley. The training was attended by representatives of various private corporations, journalists, members of the Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry and more.

Under Section 17A of the MACC Act, commercial organisations are liable and can be punished if their employees or associates are involved in corrupt practices.

C4 Center’s objective behind this training is to provide capacity development for corporate businesses on the requirements of S.17A and the adequate provision. We aim to assist companies to navigate through adequate procedures including developing a robust Whistleblower Protection policy within the organisation.
COLLABORATIONS & ENGAGEMENTS
Following a research project on the regulatory and institutional framework and capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption cases against legal persons under Section 17A of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009, the UNODC held a roundtable dialogue session with non-governmental stakeholders, wherein the draft report was presented to attendees for comments and discussions. Areas of discussion included the stipulation of autonomous and successor liability of commercial organisations, elaborating upon the present Adequate Procedures Guidelines to assist commercial organisations with anti-corruption compliance, and the issue of sanctions. C4 Center was invited due to our extensive work in this area for our continuous advocacy in pushing for the strengthening of corporate liability in Malaysia.

This session sought to improve upon the current corporate liability regime regarding corruption offences in Malaysia by bringing together and encouraging discourse between representatives from corporate entities, trade unions, civil society, and academia. The draft recommendations were considered and improvements were suggested thereto, and all feedback raised during the dialogue was to be incorporated into the final report of the UNODC.

C4 Center’s presence at the dialogue session enabled us to provide our perspective on the various recommendations made, particularly on extending the scope of S. 17A to cover other categories of legal persons and the Adequate Procedures Guidelines.
As a member of the Coalition of Malaysian NGOs in the UPR Process (COMANGO), C4 Center attended the final consultation on the draft COMANGO Joint Stakeholder Submission to provide our perspective on the intersection of human rights and corruption and good governance. Further, a preliminary draft of C4 Center’s own UPR Sole Submission was presented to the attendees.

The UPR process is one of the few avenues under international law for civil society organisations (CSOs) to compel the Malaysian government to answer for the measures it has taken to protect and uphold principles of human rights, or lack thereof. CSO involvement with the UPR is imperative for the efficacy of the review, as they are able to provide an unbiased first-hand account of the government's successes and failures.

Unfortunately during Malaysia’s previous UPR cycle in 2018, topics of corruption and good governance were scarcely addressed. The links between corruption, good governance and human rights have been well-recognised – any government’s ability to protect and uphold human rights is negatively impacted by corruption and poor governance e.g. misappropriation of funds which could have instead been used to improve public infrastructure. Therefore, C4 Center sought to provide insight in a key area of Malaysian human rights advocacy which had been overlooked in the past, as well as to contribute to and show solidarity with, the broader civil society ecosystem focused on human rights issues.
GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives) held a regional meeting for members in Asia Pacific. C4 Center was one of the 122 member organizations from Asia Pacific. GAIA's three workstreams are zero waste, anti-incineration, and plastics, and the purpose of the meeting was to lay the groundwork for the formulation of a regional plan.

During the meeting, C4 Center shared the current environmental regulations, and corruption issues on plastic management. Members further shared about environmental legislation in other nations, current difficulties and best practices that we could capture and incorporate into Malaysia's policies.

C4 Center aims to provide a new perspective on environmental governance by addressing corruption and poor governance within the environmental policies, procedures and regulations.
BUILD MY-TOWN PLAY SESSIONS
Build MY-Town Play Session at Vivae Board Game Cafe

C4 Center hosted Build MY-Town play sessions in collaboration with Vivae Board Game Cafe at both their branches located in Damansara and Ampang. Build MY-Town is part of our advocacy work to create awareness about corruption among the general public. This play session served as a platform for networking with other prominent faces in the local tabletop game industry, educating the public on the role of an MP and creating awareness of the key reform changes that we constantly push for. This is another platform in which C4 Center attempts to engage with youths on institutional reforms.

In Build My-Town, every player acts as a Member of Parliament (MP) in charge of a constituency. The goal of each player is to improve their constituency by building developments on it. Besides the primary purpose of building developments, another key mechanic of the game is passing key reforms such as the Whistleblower Protection Act, Ombudsman and more much like real-life Parliamentary voting, which significantly impact the outcome of gameplay.

By taking up the role of an MP, players will be able to develop an understanding of the important role MPs play in pushing for reforms in Parliament and how we as normal citizens can advocate for reforms through our representatives in Parliament.

Build MY-Town Play Session at Klang Car Free Program

C4 Center took part in the ‘Car Free Klang Day’ Program themed ‘Malaysia Without Corruption at Klang, a royal city and former capital of the state of Selangor, Malaysia. Klang's car-free day, held on the third week of each month, has become an event many look forward to. The goal behind the theme of the event is to raise awareness within the Klang Municipal Council in particular and the local community in general, that corruption is the country's number one enemy.

C4 Center was there as part of our advocacy work to create awareness about corruption among the general public through our political card game, Build MY-Town. Through this campaign, we were able to deliver our message to the public in a fun way as even kids as young as 12 years old took part in the gameplay session and learnt a lot about Malaysia's legal system, institutional reforms and how Parliament works.

As with all our gameplay sessions, C4 Center hopes that through playing Build My-Town, players will develop a curiosity for the many reforms needed to improve Malaysia that civil society organisations often advocate for.
C4 Center released eight statements in this quarter.

MACC’s investigations in the judiciary: a symptom of deeper institutional rot

Auditor-General’s Report 2021 Series 2: Parliamentary democracy reduced to a farce by Perikatan Nasional

MBPJ Councillors steamrolled, to what end?

remedying Corruption or doing it?

Batas Baru land sale, profiteering over state-owned lands: why has this land sale gone unchallenged?

Dialogue aims to open procurement

8 PRESS STATEMENTS

36 MEDIA FEATURES
WHAT’S COMING IN THE 3RD QUARTER?

KEY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, FORUMS, GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENTS.

Follow C4 Center on social media for our latest updates and anti-corruption works.