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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **2006 BPI launched**

The Transparency International 2006 Bribe Payers Index (BPI) was launched yesterday.

Chairman of TI's Chapter in Papua New Guinea (TI PNG), Mike Manning, has said that the 2006 BPI that ranks companies from emerging export powers such as India, China and Russia among the worst when it comes to bribing, is a good example that corruption is rampant everywhere.

Anti-TI individuals are often of the opinion that TI criticises the poorer, developing countries too much. But TI's work is not about criticising, but working with government and businesses to strengthen good governance, accountability and transparency in poor, developing, and rich and developed countries alike, Mr Manning said.

The BPI is a ranking of 30 leading exporting countries according to the propensity of their firms to bribe abroad.

Mr Manning said that often bribery will seem to be a way out of a problem that is holding up the work of a company or a way to get a contract without having to compete on the open market.

Every time someone offers or takes a bribe it is because they want to provide sub-standard goods and services or have an unfair advantage over their business competitors, he said.

He said the gain from corruption is of a short term nature and for a few individuals while the gain from honest business practices is a growing economy which will provide better profits for all businesses, and lead to greater wealth for all.

**Ends/...**

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