

**1ST INTERPOL GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON
ANTI-CORRUPTION & ASSET RECOVERY**

17th February, 2012

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS OF DIRECTOR, CBI

1. Shri Pradeep Kumar Misra, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training,
2. Special Director,
3. Officers from INTERPOL,
4. Distinguished delegates,
5. Friends from the media,
6. Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Let me start by congratulating all the delegates and experts who participated in this training programme, either as participants or as guest speakers, for their valuable contribution during the past five days. The efforts put in by the Training Division of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the INTERPOL Anti-Corruption Office (ACO) in making this programme a success are deeply appreciated.

2. The programme provided a very useful platform to the participants to share their best practices, problems and difficulties in combating corruption and also the intricacies involved in recovery of assets.

3. It has helped all of us focus on issues which are crucial for cooperation in investigation of corruption cases, which have international dimensions. From critical analysis of the efforts being made by UNCAC and the OECD towards international cooperation in investigation, to discussions on wide ranging subjects such as framework of multi-jurisdictional investigations, the programme was well conceived and executed.

4. Special emphasis was given to the issue of Assets Recovery, which is a highly complex field of work, and requires expertise and coordinated efforts. The sharing of latest techniques adopted by the INTERPOL member countries, as well as sharing of technical publications and case studies, handbooks and manuals on asset recovery should prove very useful to the participants. The programme had both theoretical as well as hands-on sessions on the subject, which were explained with the help of about half a dozen case studies. This will surely help in further improving the quality of such investigation in our respective countries.

5. Senior officers from the Interpol, the CBI, the Central Vigilance Commission and the Enforcement Directorate as also experts from the American Bar Association, Chartered Accountants and Cyber Forensic Experts shared their experiences and expertise with the participants at various sessions of the programme.

6. Every session was followed by a number of interactions, discussion and experience sharing. This was reflective of the fact that the end objective of this programme -- to strengthen international cooperation to fight corruption; to understand the different ways and means being adopted across the globe in such investigations and the different methodologies adopted for tracking the proceeds of crime—was fully achieved.

7. The good practices being followed in different countries, as shared by the officers from various countries in the last session, will surely help in understanding the complex issues of investigation of corruption cases and asset recovery involving two or more countries.

8. The programme has further strengthened the perception that law enforcement officers in different parts of the world may don different uniforms, but their aim and objectives remain the same – to curb corruption, and equally important, to punish the offenders and recover the property earned through corrupt means.

9. In today's globalised context, effective international co-operation is essential for fighting corruption that transcends international boundaries. We need to engage with each other at all levels to effectively deal with those criminals indulging in corrupt practices at a multi national level. This requires more effective cooperation amongst all the Law Enforcement Agencies.

10. Multi jurisdiction cross border aspects of an investigation into corruption and international asset recovery involves numerous processes like tracing, freezing, confiscation and repatriation of proceeds stored in foreign jurisdiction. We must realise that international cooperation is a two-way street, and is given on a reciprocal basis.

11. There is a need for many more such programmes to explore the ways and means of more meaningful cooperation between law enforcement agencies at an informal level. This will provide speed and efficiency in mutual assistance in asset tracking, effective and efficient prosecution of criminal offences.

12. This training programme will also go a long way in forging this informal network amongst all the 38 officers who have spent the past 5 days together. I am sure at the end of this programme you will be able to pick up the telephone and talk to each other as old friends and also be in a position to render useful assistance on a agency to agency basis.

13. Let me conclude by thanking you all for your valuable contributions towards making this training programme a success. I hope all the delegates will be carrying with them a resolve to further the efforts in tackling corruption and tracing illegal assets. I also hope that you have enjoyed your stay in India and will carry back fond memories of the time spent with officers from various countries.

14. The training division deserves full appreciation and congratulations for having successfully organised in India the first training programme of this kind for Interpol.

15. We are grateful to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Bureau of Police Research and Development for their help in organising this 1st INTERPOL Global Programme on Anti- Corruption and Asset Recovery.

16. I thank all the delegates for having accepted our invitation to attend this programme and hope you have a memorable trip to visit the Taj Mahal tomorrow.

17. Thank you.