

Detailed Course Description

Common concerns are voiced about issues of integrity in the realm of politics such as electoral fraud, undemocratic and weak party systems, non-transparent legislative processes, money politics, and favourable deals for those with access to political leaders. Why is political society filled with so many integrity traps? What can be done to reduce the dangers associated with these traps both for players in the political realm as well as with the wider community be they members of the state, private sector or civil society? These are among the questions to be explored during this course.

Topics covered include identifying and analysing the role of the actors and institutions constitute political society, discussions on the kinds of integrity and corruption challenges that confront these various groups, including the relationships between them and other parts of society that can aggravate these integrity and corruption challenges. Issues to be reviewed include matters relating to political parties and how they are governed internally and how they link to other parts of political society. This will include a look at the issues related to campaign management and how this can affect the integrity and indeed legitimacy of those elected. Other issues to consider will be electoral commissions and how they struggle to establish and maintain independence and how they confront threats to their integrity and authority from candidates and their parties. The varied roles, both legitimate and problematic, played by political lobbyists either for the corporate sector or for civil society will also be reviewed.

Plenary sessions:

- What is political society?
- The questionable role of money in political society
- Campaign finance reform
- Taking a stand for integrity from the inside
- Securing victory against the odds
- The need to clean up the election contest
- Casting light on the players

Course Director:

Kevin Evans, Senior Integrity Governance Coordinator of Tiri

Faculty:

Martin Bell was a BBC foreign affairs reporter and "war correspondent" and reported on wars and conflicts for 30 years. He became an independent politician and was elected as an MP in 1997. He is an ambassador for UNICEF and is an outspoken critic of the state of journalism today.

Kevin Evans has over 15 years experience in governance reform initiatives across electoral, parliamentary and civil service issues.

Needamangalam Gopalaswami is a former Chief Election Commissioner of India and served the Government of India between 1992 and 2004 and he also held the posts of Secretary at the Department of Culture and Secretary General of the National Human Rights Commission.

Ramlan Surbakti, PhD, former Acting Chair of the Indonesian General Election Commission. He has been a key figure in Indonesia's democratic transition and consolidation for over 12 years.

Nuhu Ribadu is a visiting fellow at the Center for Global Development focusing on combating corruption worldwide and to provide fresh thinking on the role of international institutions in this fight. was head of

Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from 2003 to 2007. He served on several economic and anti-corruption commissions and was a key member of Nigeria's economic management team that drove wide-ranging public sector reforms.

Abdul Tejan-Cole is distinguished legal practitioner who has significantly contributed to the growth and development of the law in Sierra Leone. He worked as a trial attorney and appellate counsel in the Special Court for Sierra Leone and taught law at the University of Sierra Leone. He was appointed Commissioner of the Anti Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone in December 2007

Course Coordinator:

Kriszta Bakos, Tiri - Making Integrity Work, London, United Kingdom

Who Should Take the Course?

The course is aimed primarily those active in political society from national to local level, be they political party activists or elected representatives, those involved in campaign management or government and public affairs departments of major businesses.

Others with an interest in the programme would be officials involved in electoral management, in legislative bodies and civil society activists who have to engage political society and the media.

Project officers and managers working in the field of democratic governance would also find considerable value-added for their own professional development from this programme as would policy advisers working within UN and donor agencies working on governance reform issues.