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# A snapshot on Corruption & Anti-corruption in Asia Pacific: A story from Vietnam

by Summer School, Vilnius, 11 July 2014

Vien Nguyen, Founder, Towards Transparency Vietnam

TI Integrity Summer School, Vilnius, 11 July 2014



# Content

Part 1: Context and Key issues in Asia Pacific

Part 2: The case from Vietnam

- *Corruption and anti-corruption landscape*
- *Towards Transparency Vietnam: How do we fight corruption in a politically challenging context?*



# Asia Pacific

- A region with intra-regional differences
- Corruption is a serious problem
- Dynamics over the last 15 years do not show improvement



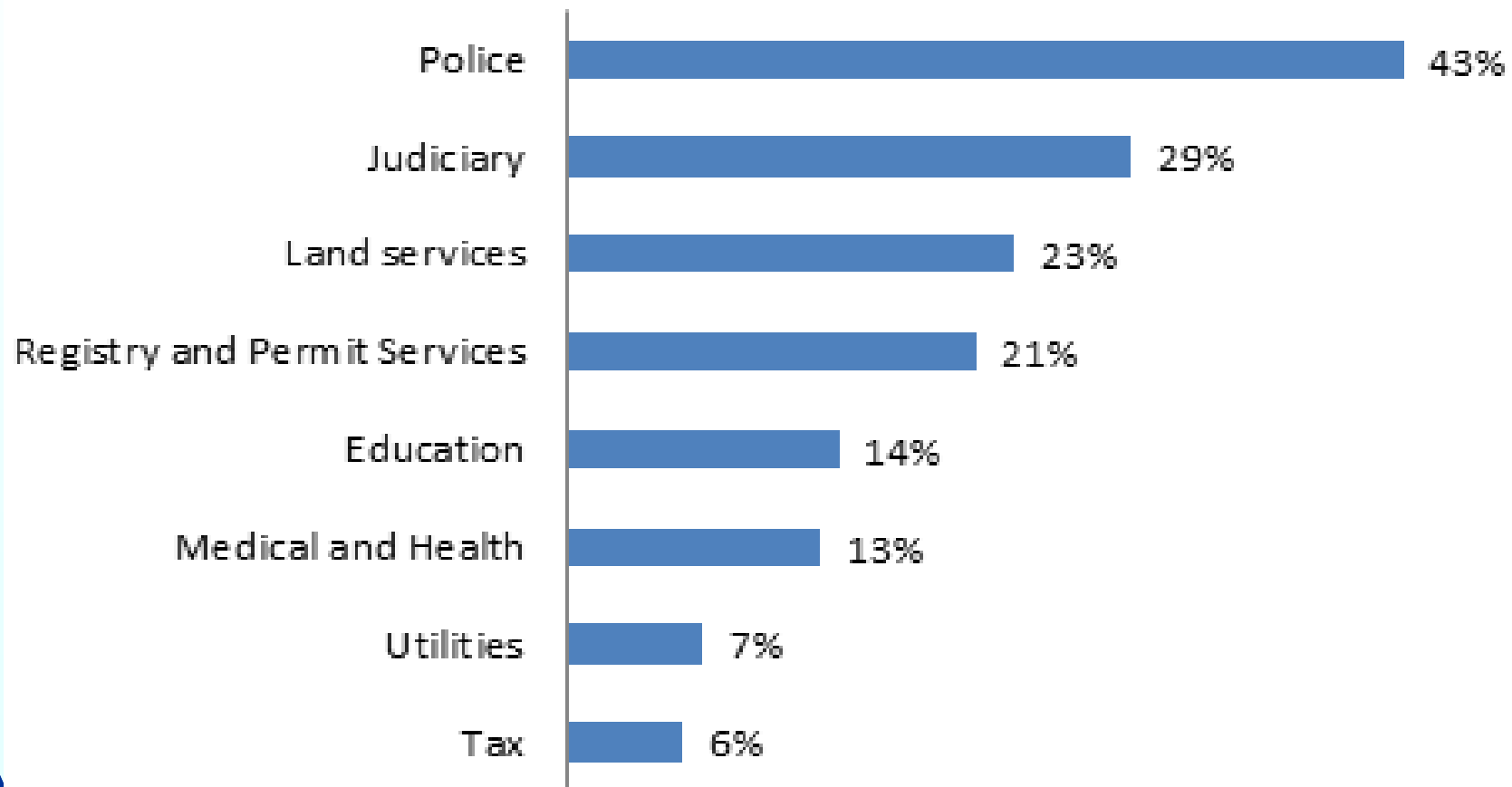
## Asia Pacific

- In 2013, 64% of countries scored below 50 in perceived level of public corruption (TI Corruption Perception Index, 2013)
- Almost half of citizens surveyed think that corruption has increased in their country in 2011-2012
- 30% of people paid at least one bribe in 2012 to any one of the eight public sectors surveyed

(TI GCB 2013)

## Southeast Asia: % of people that have paid a bribe to each service

Source: TI Global Corruption Barometer, 2013



# Southeast Asia: % of people that have paid a bribe to each service

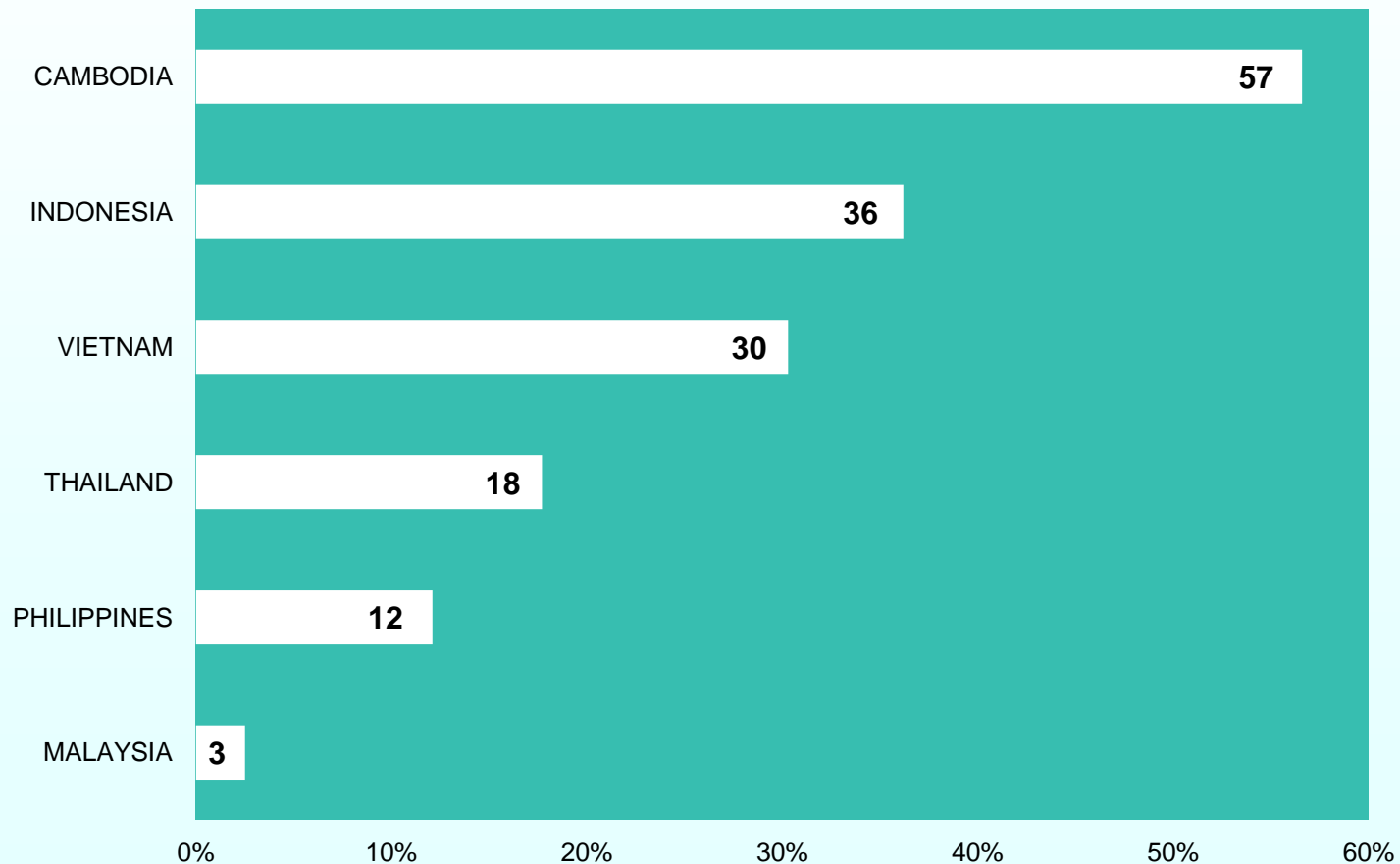
Source: TI Global Corruption Barometer, 2013

COUNTRY	EDUCATION	JUDICIARY	MEDICAL AND HEALTH	POLICE	REGISTRY AND PERMIT SERVICES	UTILITIES	TAX	LAND SERVICES
SEA	14%	29%	13%	43%	21%	7%	6%	23%
Cambodia	30%	65%	38%	65%	62%	28%	18%	57%
Indonesia	21%	66%	12%	75%	37%	4%	6%	32%
Malaysia	3%	8%	1%	12%	2%	2%	0%	0%
Philippines	6%	10%	4%	19%	14%	5%	7%	11%
Thailand	9%	14%	2%	37%	4%	2%	3%	19%
Vietnam	15%	14%	22%	48%	9%	0%	5%	21%

# Southeast Asia: Experiences of corruption

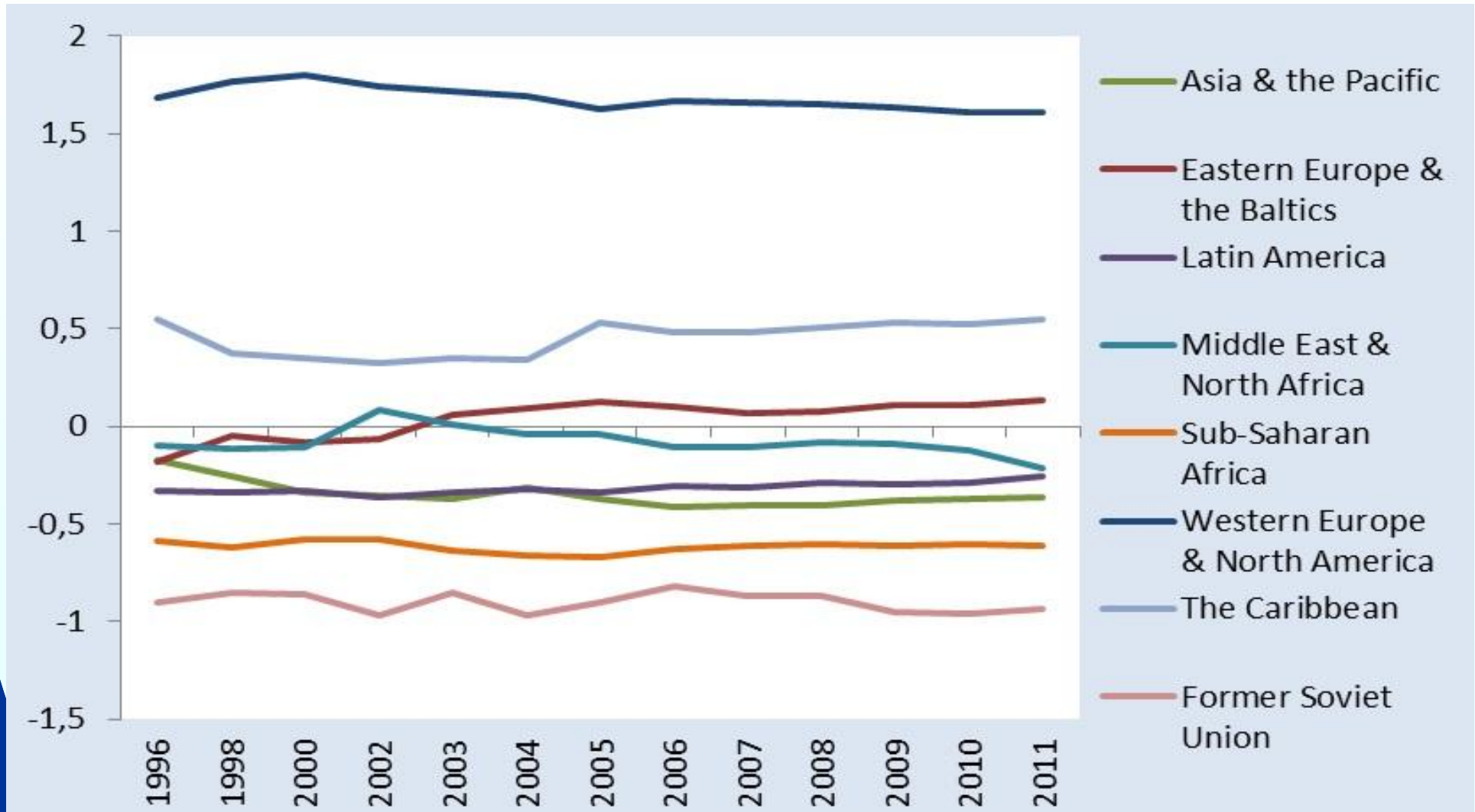
(TI GCB 2013)

At least one bribe in the past year to any one of the eight public sectors surveyed



# Asia Pacific: Overall level of control of corruption is low

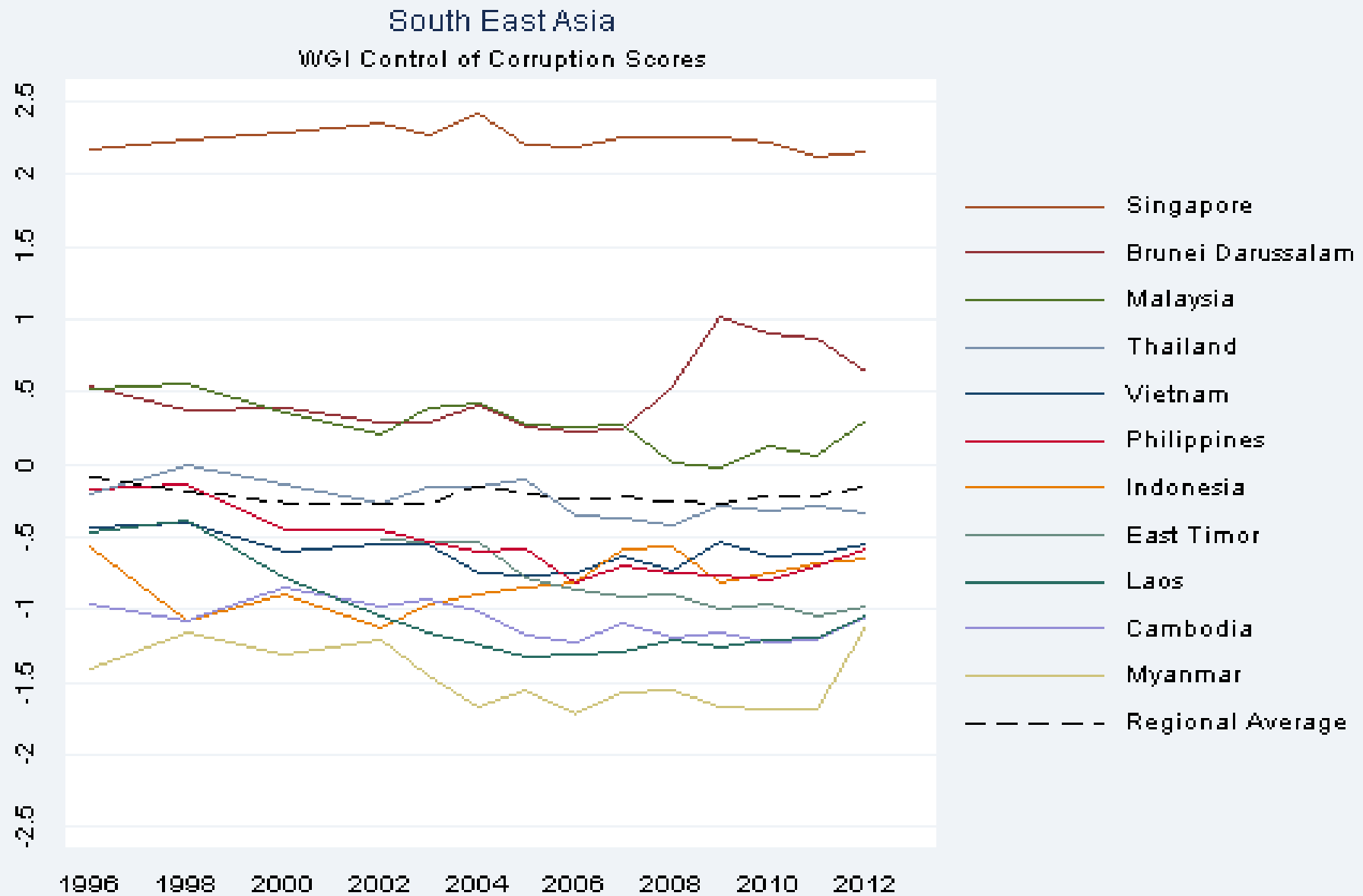
Evolution of the WGI Control of Corruption average by region (1996- 2011):



Data source: Worldwide Governance Indicator Control of Corruption



# Southeast Asia: WGI Control of Corruption, 1996-2012



## Part 2: The case from Vietnam

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*Fighting against corruption  
in a politically difficult context*

# Vietnam: Corruption landscape

- *“Corruption is systemic. It threatens the stability and existence of the regime”*  
(Source: *Vietnam Anti-corruption Strategy towards 2020*)
- Vietnam’s corruption constantly ranked poorly on international indexes:
  - ✓ TI CPI scores: 31/100 points, amongst 2/3 of countries scored below average of 50 points, (TI CPI 2012, 2013)
  - ✓ Poor performance on control of corruption (The world Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators)
- Both citizens and businesses suffer from corruption and bribery

# Vietnam: Corruption landscape

For businesses:

- Corruption is the biggest challenge for doing business in Vietnam (72% of surveyed firms)

(Source: European Chamber of Commerce, 13<sup>th</sup> quarterly Business Climate Index – BCI Report)

- Most corrupt sectors: Traffic police, land administration, customs, minerals management and construction
- But business also contributes to corruption:
  - 70% of surveyed firms had actively proposed informal payment
  - 60% chose to pay officials to expedite work completion

(Source: Government Inspectorate/WB: Corruption from the perspective of Citizens, Firms and Public Officials, 2012)



See [another video](#)

# Towards Transparency Vietnam

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- Established in Nov. 2008
- Became national contact of Transparency International in Vietnam in March 2009
- Jointly developed and supports TI Vietnam Programme implementation

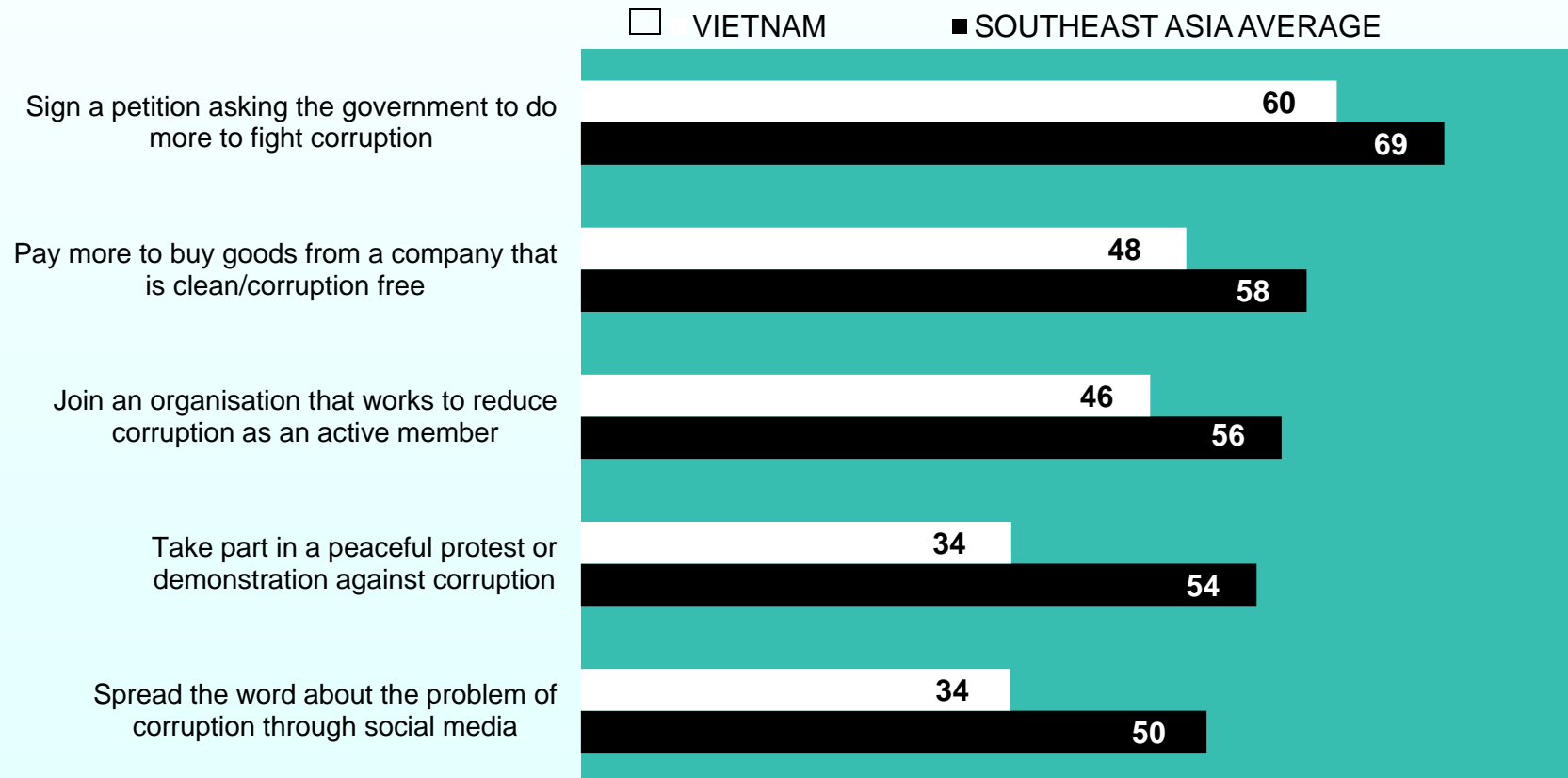
# Which challenges do we face?

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- Corruption still a sensitive issue
- Limited space for Civil society and citizens engagement
- TI and TT are labeled as “sensitive organizations”
- Restricted media freedom

# People's Willingness to Get Involved

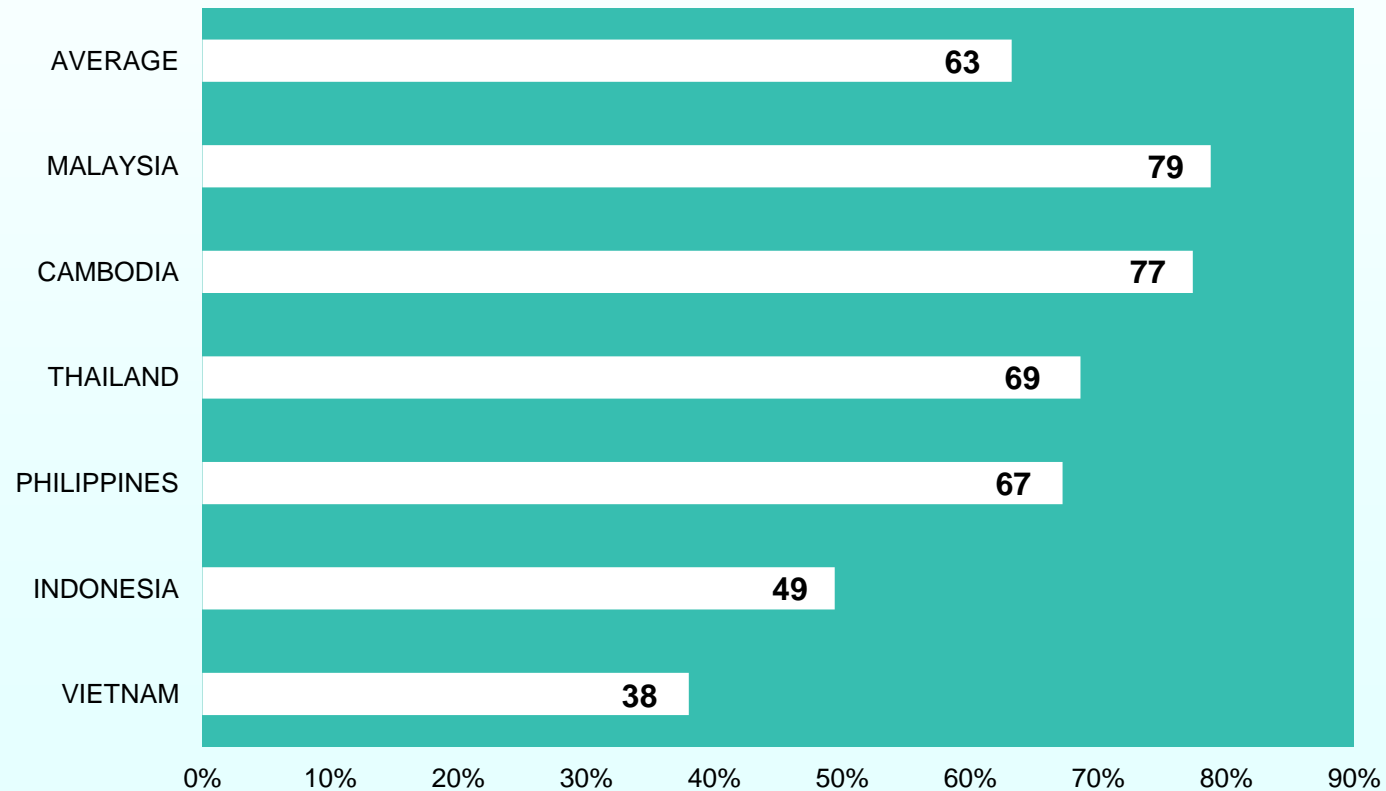
## WILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION (VIETNAM AND SOUTHEAST ASIA AVERAGES)





# Reporting Corruption

## WILLINGNESS TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OF CORRUPTION (SOUTHEAST ASIA)



# What are our Strategies and Solutions?

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- *Sharing TI's Tools, approaches/ "Anti-corruption desensitization" approach*
- Carrying out activities with partners/ a collaborative approach
- *Careful Selection of Strategic focus*
- *"Closed- Door Advocacy"*
- *Combining Research and Advocacy to initiate change*
- Building "islands of transparency, integrity"

# Some lessons learned

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- Corruption in Asia Pacific, including Vietnam still a serious problem
- Demonstrating added values
- Occupying space and pushing the boundaries
- Fighting against corruption in a politically difficult context: **A mission possible**, with exciting adventures!

# Why bribes are paid? Southeast Asia

Source: TI Global Corruption Report, 2013

COUNTRY	AS A GIFT, OR TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE	TO GET A CHEAPER SERVICE	TO SPEED THINGS UP	IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN A SERVICE
CAMBODIA	51%	6%	28%	15%
INDONESIA	13%	6%	71%	11%
MALAYSIA	3%	19%	55%	23%
PHILIPPINES	19%	6%	67%	8%
THAILAND	10%	16%	67%	8%
VIETNAM	24%	9%	41%	26%
AVERAGE	20%	10%	55%	15%

# Key indicators regarding opportunities and resources for corruption, East Asia

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Country	Ease of Doing Business Rank 2012 <sup>1)</sup>	Burden of Government Regulation Rank 2011/2012 <sup>2)</sup>	Shadow Economy 2007 (% of GDP) <sup>3)</sup>
Brunei Darussalam	83	25	31.2
Cambodia	141	42	46
China	91	23	11.9
East Timor	169	57	
Hong Kong SAR, China	2	4	14.7
Indonesia	130	48	17.9
Japan	20	87	10.3
Korea, Rep.	9	114	25.6
Lao PDR	166		28
Macao SAR, China			11.1
Malaysia	14	8	29.6
Mongolia	88	102	16.4
Philippines	136	108	38.3
Singapore	1	1	12.2

# Key indicators regarding deterrents and constraints for corruption, East Asia

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Country	Judicial independence 2011/2012	Freedom of the Press 2012	Freedom of Political Rights 2012	Freedom of Civil Liberties 2012
Brunei Darussalam	33	75	6	5
Cambodia	91	66	6	5
China	66	83	7	6
East Timor	92	35	3	4
Hong Kong SAR, China	12	35		
Indonesia	76	49	2	3
Japan	17	24	1	2
Korea, Dem. Rep.		96	7	7
Korea, Rep.	74	31	1	2
Lao PDR		84	7	6
Macao SAR, China				
Malaysia	43	64	4	4
Mongolia	112	37	1	2
Myanmar		72	6	5
Philippines	99	43	3	3
Singapore	20	67	4	4
Taiwan	42	26	1	2
Thailand	59	62	4	4
Vietnam	87	84	7	5

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Nguyen Thi Kieu Vien

Founder, Senior Advisory member

Towards Transparency Vietnam

Email: [kieuvien@towardstransparency.vn](mailto:kieuvien@towardstransparency.vn)

Web: [www.towardstransparency.vn](http://www.towardstransparency.vn)