

Transparency International Sri Lanka

Presents

National Integrity Awards

in commemoration of

The United Nations Anti Corruption Day

9th December



National Integrity Awards

*To celebrate the champions of integrity
and good governance*

Among

Individuals & Organizations

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Abbreviations

- NIA : National Integrity Awards
- TISL : Transparency International Sri Lanka

TISL Values

Transparency

Accountability

Integrity

Democracy

Solidarity

Justice & Equity

Non Partisanship

Courage

Endurance

Working Principles of TISL

Empowerment

Knowledge led activism

Inclusion and participation

Proactive vigilance

Fair play

Non discrimination

Recognizing & promoting best practices

Set standards

What is corruption?

The working definition of the word corruption is: **abuse of entrusted power for private gain.**¹

Another definition is ‘a person who is entrusted to a public or private duty or obligation, soliciting any kind of inducement in whatever way other than what he/she is entitled to, in order to discharge such duty or obligation’.

Corruption takes place where people abuse their power for their own benefits, but not for what they have been obliged to do according to rules, where there is;

- Public office used for private gain causing loss to the government and to the public.
- Abuse of power by persons holding authority.
- Willingness to do unlawful things for personal gain.
- Inducement to do wrong things succumbing to such inducement.
- Expecting rewards for doing one’s duty.
- The behavior of somebody violating the rules or others’ rights.

Grand and petty corruption

Grand corruption pervades the highest levels of a national government, leading to a broad erosion of confidence in good governance, the rule of law and economic stability.

Petty corruption can involve the exchange of small amounts of money, the granting of favours by those seeking preferential treatment or the employment of friends and relatives in minor positions.

The most critical difference between grand corruption and petty corruption is that the former involves the distortion or corruption of the central functions of the government, while the latter develops and exists within the context of established governance and social frameworks.

Active and passive bribery

“Active bribery” usually refers to the offering or paying of the bribe, while “passive bribery” refers to the receiving of the bribe.

¹ Transparency International Plain Language Guide – 2009, Pg.14

Bribery

Bribery is the offering, promising, giving, accepting or soliciting of an advantage as an inducement for an action which is illegal unethical or a breach of trust. Inducement can take the form of gifts, loans, fees, rewards or other advantages.² It can be initiated by a person who seeks or solicits bribes or by a person who offers and then pays bribes.

Bribery is possibly the most common form of corruption. The “benefit” in bribery can be virtually any inducement: money and valuables, company shares, inside information, secular or other favours, entertainment, employment or, indeed, the mere promise of incentives.

Embezzlement and fraud³

Embezzlement and fraud, involve the taking or conversion of money, property or valuable items by an individual who is not entitled to them but, by virtue of his or her position or employment, has access to them.

Fraud, however, consists of the use of false or misleading information to induce the owner of the property to relinquish it voluntarily.

Extortion

Extortion relies on coercion, such as the use of threat of violence or the exposure of damaging information to induce co-operation. As with other forms of corruption, the “victim” can be the public interest or individuals adversely affected by corrupt act or decision.

Abuse of discretion

Involve the abuse of a discretion vested in an individual for personal gain. For example, an official responsible for government contracting may exercise the discretion to purchase goods or services from a company in which he or she holds a personal interest or propose real-estate developments that will increase the value of one’s personal property.

Favoritism, nepotism and clientelism

Generally, favoritism, nepotism and clientelism involve abuses of discretion. Such abuses, however, are governed not by the self-interest of an official but by the interests of someone linked to him or her through membership of a family, political party, tribe, religious or other group.

² Transparency International Plain Language Guide – 2009, Pg. 5

³ Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, The Global Program Against Corruption, UN Anti-Corruption Tool Kit, Third Edition, Vienna, September 2004

Building a Nation that upholds Integrity

People across the country desire a society which is peaceful, democratic, just and inclusive. There was much promise of such a society in the post independence Ceylon. Pioneering efforts in expanding agriculture, education, industries, health care and social infrastructure as well as becoming a respected member of the international community was pursued by all involved in nation building. Similar efforts were underway among all free countries in the 1940s and '50s.

In this context Sri Lanka has many achievements to be proud of: universal franchise, access to primary education, free education to all citizens, adult literacy, registration of births/marriages/deaths, medically supervised child delivery and health care, efficient postal service, state service delivery system and representation of all villages by numerous state officials are a few. However, the periodic social uprisings and ethno-political conflicts, trends of youth unrest and unemployment, and violence and corruption are indicative of deep rooted issues not addressed effectively.

Post war Sri Lanka requires a new energy and commitment to improve quality of governance that creates an enabling environment to unleash the development potentials and innovative entrepreneurial energy of people across the country.

Such an environment is possible only in a corrupt free environment where merit, justice and fair-play prevail.

Sri Lanka's history is rich with experience of good as well as poor governance. Much can be learnt to help build a nation of integrity where persons who hold positions of power and influence, function to strengthen trust and ensure high levels of ethical and professional conduct to enable development where all benefit is equitable, eliminating root causes of economic disenfranchisement, dissatisfaction, disillusionment and violent conflict.

Why promote anti-corruption?

Corruption robs the country of its wealth and resources. It prevents fair-play and justice, enabling individuals with the ability to influence, through power or wealth, to get others to act in their favour, defying prevailing laws, ethics and basic norms of social justice. Further it, undermines meritocracy, destroys freedom and democracy.⁴

⁴ The National Integrity Systems study (2011)

Present day challenges to strengthening integrity

Corrupt behavior has serious negative implications. If not recognized and eliminated it can spread widely and become the norm that controls social and economic transactions that are expected otherwise to be based on fairness, justice and transparency. Transactions that must be based on trust and fairness transforms into situations that are advantageous to those with financial, economic or other forms of influence and power.

In the absence of proper understanding and effective rules and laws that are implemented rigorously, corruption can grow and corrode public trust in all important institutions. Widespread and grand corruption results in the public losing millions of rupees worth of funds, resources and opportunities that can otherwise be used for the benefit of all people.

United Nations Anti Corruption Day

Recognizing the widespread and corrosive effects of corruption the United Nations developed the Convention against Corruption which was adopted by the General Assembly on 31st October 2003. On 15th March 2004 Sri Lanka became the 2nd country to sign this convention. Sri Lanka ratified the convention on 31st March 2004.⁵

The United Nations also assigned December 9th as the UN Anti Corruption day with the intention of raising 'awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it'.⁶ Events organized on this day, attempts to increase public awareness and commitment to combat corruption. The UN supports member countries with technical assistance and knowhow to strengthen efforts to eliminate corruption.

⁵ http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XVIII-14&chapter=18&lang=en

⁶ <http://www.un.org/en/events/anticorruptionday/index.shtml>

National Integrity Awards

National Integrity Awards (NIA) is presented by Transparency International Sri Lanka to an individual(s) and an organization(s) for demonstrating exceptional integrity in public engagement. It recognizes unsung heroes who work silently and diligently towards eradicating corruption, establishing good governance and building a nation that upholds integrity.

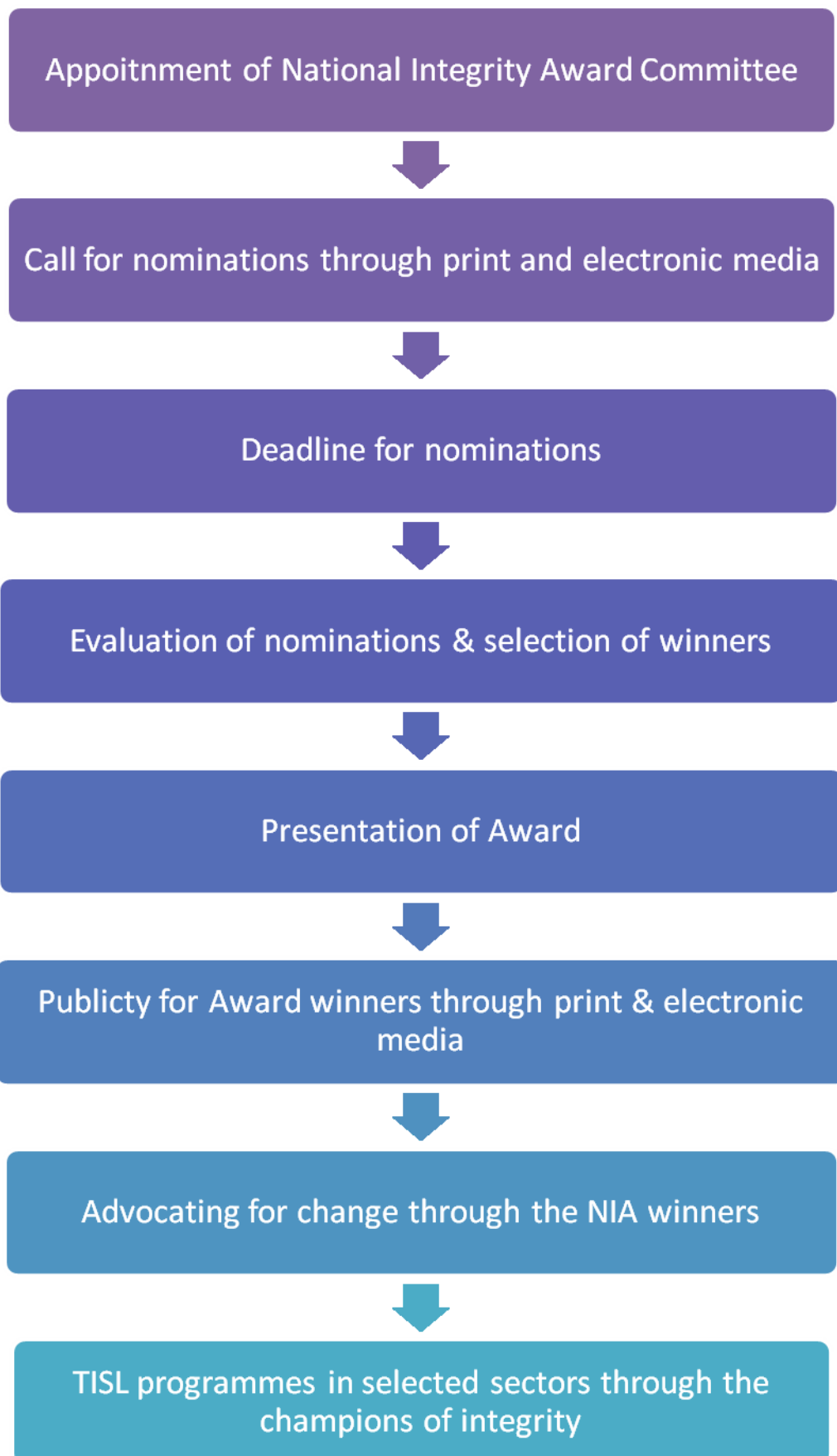
Individuals and organizations are invited to nominate persons and organizations who have shown exemplary courage for the cause of integrity in the fight against corruption in any sector or sphere.

Since its inception in 2004 the Award has been won by 10 inspirational individuals and 5 Special Mention candidates. The winners include high ranking public officials, media personnel, trade unionists and activists.

Each year TISL appoints an independent Awards Committee comprising of eminent persons with national level acceptance and demonstrated integrity in their sector or sphere. It is the committee that selects the winner(s) based on the evidence presented through the nomination file and subsequent investigations.

However the NIA is not an activity that is limited to one day. Rather it is a process which runs through the entire year. While six months is utilized for the selection of the winner the next six months is dedicated to public engagement where the winners will be taken to public forums to share their story if integrity in an effort create a multiplying effect.

The NIA Process



Eligibility

Individuals and organizations that have undertaken action(s) that are likely to significantly combat, or have a significant impact on reducing or eliminating corruption in Sri Lanka are eligible candidates for the National Integrity Award. The action(s) has to be pioneering, innovative and courageous and preferably be initiatives that can be or have been used as models or best practices locally and /or in other parts of the world. The action(s) should have been sustainable in reducing and/or working towards eliminating corruption in Sri Lanka.

Initiatives taken by Individuals and organizations to create, introduce or implement mechanisms to prevent corruption will also be considered for appreciation. Efforts taken by sub units/departments and sub sectors of organizations for the cause of integrity is also eligible.

The actions individuals and organizations take to fight corruption may vary depending on the space in which they operate. To recognize and appreciate acts of integrity within different spheres of influence, Transparency International Sri Lanka encourages citizens to nominate Individuals and organizations such as public officials, media personnel, professionals, social activists, educationalist, trade unions, and women and youth groups that actively engage in anti corruption activities.

Posthumous nominees will also be considered for selection.

An individual or organization can be nominated for the NIA up to 3 times. Nominations exceeding this number of times will not be accepted.

Exemplary anti-corruption initiatives

Various persons, women, youth, officials, journalists, politicians, professionals, activists, members of the clergy and organizations in their various spheres of work and community life, engage in trying to eliminate corruption and strengthen integrity in institutions and organizations to ensure fairness and justice. Often their efforts are not widely known.

The efforts are evaluated considering the following criteria:

- Significance of the impact of the anti- corruption initiatives undertaken.
The extent of impact this effort/activity may have had beyond the personal sphere of influence extending to the,
 - a) Organization
 - b) Local community

- c) Nation
- d) International arena

- Precedence creating to prevent corruption in the future.
- Extent to which formidable challenges that appear strong and difficult for a person holding such position were overcome.
- Degree of personal economic, personal, physical, social, professional, or organizational sacrifices made to achieve a positive impact.
- Ability to use the initiative as a benchmark in anti-corruption work.
- Extent to which the opportunity provided by the position/occupation he/she holds as leverage to engage in anti-corruption interventions.
- The effort may be an individual, group or an organization.
- The effective use of an existing frame work to fight corruption or an innovative effort.

Valuable efforts that don't qualify for anticorruption work

- Social work
- Voluntary work
- Engagement in religious activities
- Regular professional work

Those not eligible for the award

- Individuals or organizations with demonstrated conduct that is in conflict with values and principles of TISL.
- TISL Board of Directors, the Awards Committee and salaried staff of TISL.
- Members of the Award Committee
- Any person who is working or had worked for TISL during the reference year. (A past or current engagements with TISL initiated activities does not preclude an individual from being considered for the Award)

How to nominate

Colleagues, supervisors, managers, activists and concerned persons (third party) may nominate persons, groups or organizations to be considered for the NIA by the Awards Committee. Those nominating must submit a file in which the relevant information are compiled and submitted to TISL with the consent of the person(s) being nominated.

Self nomination will not be accepted.

The nomination file

The nomination file should include the following documents duly completed and assembled in the below stated order. The file should be submitted to TISL on or before the assigned deadline. Incomplete nomination files will not be considered.

- i. Nomination letter signed by the persons making the nomination
- ii. A short Curriculum Vitae or profile of the candidate / organization
- iii. Nomination form filled, including the completed citation and signed by nominee(s.) (Annex A)
- iv. Letter of consent duly signed by the nominee(s). In the case of posthumous nominees, the consent of immediate family is required. In the absence of immediate family, the consent of an extended family member (Annex B).
- v. Integrity pledge signed by the nominee (Annex C)
- vi. Names / contact information of two non-related referees (Annex D)

Optional details/documents:

- vii. Press clippings
- viii. Additional background documentation
- ix. Recordings of radio/television interviews
- x. Any other relevant documents supporting the nomination

Persons may seek assistance from TISL to prepare an application or seek clarifications regarding applications. Information is also available at www.tisrilanka.org

Announcement of winners

The National Integrity Award Committee notifies the final decision to TISL the end of October.

The results, including that of any withdrawal of an award, are announced at the National Integrity Awards Ceremony held on UN Anti-Corruption Day, 9th December.

The prize

A trophy will be awarded to the award winners at a function attended by national leaders and dignitaries on 9th December.

Special press coverage and publicity is provided to create national and global awareness of the efforts and achievements.

Where suitable, the winners will be nominated by TISL for global anti-corruption awards.

Call for nominations

The NIA will be advertised in electronic and print media and nominations will be called for from June. Nominations will be accepted until 31st August. Call for nominations will also be notified on www.tisrilanka.org

The National Integrity Awards Committee

An Awards Committee of Judges consists of not less than three eminent persons with demonstrated integrity and acceptance in society, appointed by TISL will evaluate the applications.

The Awards Committee will maintain the highest standards of integrity in the selection process and undertake the following:

- Annually review and modify the existing guidelines prior to calling for nominations
- Follow the guidelines currently in force and determine the procedure for evaluations
- Refrain from voting on a particular nomination when a conflict of interest may arise
- Request the nominator for additional information to be submitted in support of a specific nomination
- Make further enquiries where necessary
- Decline to consider a nomination where the information provided is insufficient
- To organize, if necessary, a visit to the nominee's organization / locality to verify the accuracy of information submitted or to obtain additional information/ evidence as required
- Publish or disclose the shortlist of candidates
- Make all necessary steps to select the most suitable candidate (up to two persons / organizations) for the Award

- Refrain from making any Award if the nominations are not up to the required standard
- In addition to the winners of the NIA, recommend nominees for special mention
- Where required withdraw an award to safeguard the integrity of the program and TISL

The decision of the panel of judges is final, except where a future Committee considers withdrawal of an award.

Withdrawal of an award

An Awards Committee may withdraw an award that had already been conferred, in the following instances:

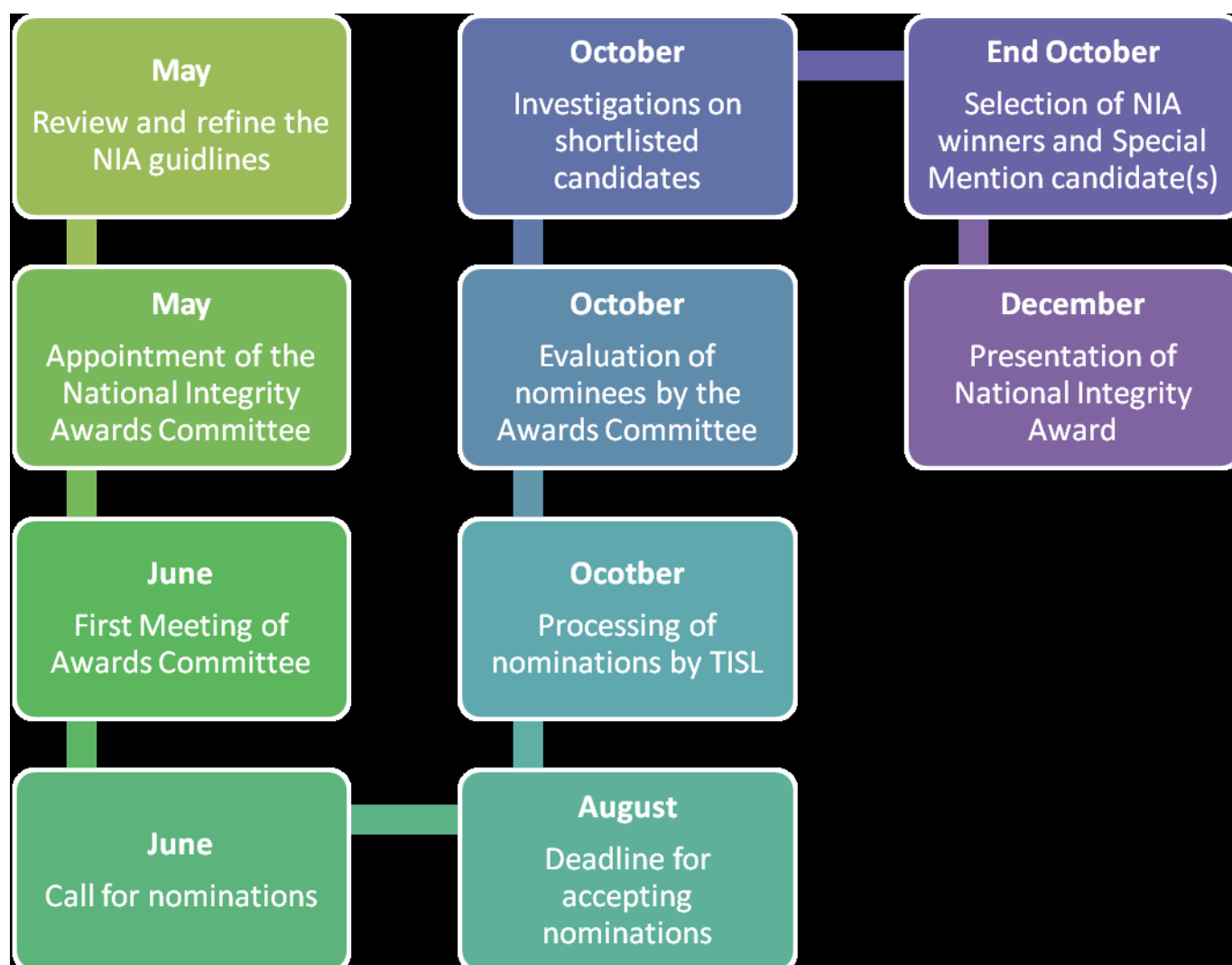
- If it is discovered that a past winner had qualified for the award after suppressing facts relevant for the grant of the award or
- If the winner's conduct could create embarrassment to TISL

However the Awards Committee will gather all information necessary to decide on the matter and give a hearing to the relevant winner prior to reaching such a decision.

In all such instances requiring a consideration of a withdrawal of a previous Award, the Executive Director of TISL is required to make such application to the Award Committee and the Awards Committee shall give adequate reasons for such decision.

However, the Awards Committee has the final discretion to accept, process to conclusion or reject such requests for withdrawal.

Process of Selection



Submission of nominations

The completed nomination file should be submitted by post/ e-mail to reach TISL on or before 31st August to the following address:

Coordinator
National Integrity Awards
Transparency International Sri Lanka
Number 6, 37th Lane, Queens Road,
Colombo 03.

Tel: 0114369781/0114369782/0114369783

Email: nia @tisrilanka.org

The Deadline For Submission Is August 31, 2012

Annex A - Nomination Form

- This must be filled by the nominating persons and forwarded along with the other information required.

Name of nominee person or organization in full		
If person, Rev. / Mr. / Ms. /Dr. / Prof.		
If Organization, Name of Head of Organization		
Person(s) making the nomination		
Name of person 1		
Address		
Contact Number		
Email		
Name of person 2		
Address		
Contact Number		
Email		
Citation (500 words) Explain in detail why this nominee should receive the NIA. (Refer Annex E)		
State any previous nominations or national awards received by the nominee		
Name of award		
Year		
Awarding agency		
Disclosures		

<p>Nominee not convicted of a criminal charge or statutory offence relevant to his / her/ Institutional integrity</p>	<p>Name of nominator (1): Signature: Date:</p> <p>Name of nominator (2): Signature: Date:</p>
<p>Any pending disciplinary or criminal (no civil) proceedings against (in relation) the nominee If so, details</p>	Multiple empty rows for details

Annex B - Consent Letter

To: National Integrity Awards Coordinator
Transparency International Sri Lanka
No. 6, 37th Lane, Queens Road, Colombo 3.

From: NIA Award Nominee(s) [Names / address]

Date:

Topic: Letter of Consent

1. This is to confirm that I/we have been informed that I am/we are being nominated for the National Integrity Award (NIA) 2010 conferred of Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL).
2. I/ we give my/our consent for such nomination.
3. I/we authorize TISL to make public my /our nomination in the event that I am/we are shortlisted for the NIA.
4. I/ we authorize TISL to conduct private research on the merits of my/our nomination.
5. I/we accept that all nominations become the property of TISL and by submitting a nomination, TISL acquires the right to use the, voice and image of a nominee, without compensation, for the purpose of advertising and publicizing all matters related to the NIA programme and the NIA ceremony in any medium, locally or worldwide.
6. As a nominee/s, I/we preclude TISL from collecting/storing or using any personal data without my/our knowledge and written consent. I /we authorize Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) to use my/our personal data for the specific purpose of evaluating the nomination by the Awards Committee only.
7. In accordance with the Nomination Guidelines, I/we also wish to take the Integrity Pledge and undertake to uphold the highest values of integrity at all times.

Sincerely yours,

Signature:

Name:

Date:

Annex C - Integrity Pledge

Signed by the nominee



Transparency International Sri Lanka

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Integrity Pledge
I,
.....
with great determination
pledge to live and serve
as an honourable and incorruptible
Sri Lankan
with a deep sense
of accountability, responsibility and
transparency
in my personal, professional and
occupational life
with the noble purpose of passing on
to future generations
a nation ennobled by Integrity,
dedicating myself as a pioneer in
upholding democratic values,
human rights and duties
unsullied by forces that
impede human and national progress

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நான்
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நோக்குடன் ஜனநாயக ரீதியான
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அடிபணியாமல்
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பொறுப்புணர்வுடனும்
அர்ப்பணிப்புக் கண்ணோட்டத்துடனும்
ஊழலற்ற சிறந்த இலங்கையராக
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எனவும்
திடசங்கற்பம் பூண்டு
உறுதிமொழி பகர்கின்றேன்.

Name of nominee		
Signature(s)		
Date:		

Annex D - Names / contact information of non-related referees

Transparency International Sri Lanka	
National Integrity Award	
Non Related Referees	
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Contact number:	Contact number:
Email:	Email:
Signature & Date:	Signature & Date:

Annex E - Criteria Considered by the Awards Committee

Effort:

- Individual
- Organization

Intervention:

- Use of existing tools / methods
- Creation of preventive mechanism
- New approach

I. General criteria

- 1.1 Significance of the impact of the anti- corruption initiatives undertaken.
- 1.2 The extent of impact this effort/activity may have had beyond the personal sphere of influence extending to the (i) Organization, (ii) Local community (iii) Nation (iv) International arena
- 1.3 Precedence creating to prevent corruption in the future
- 1.4 Extent to which formidable challenges that appear strong and difficult for a person holding such position were overcome
- 1.5 Degree of personal economic, personal, physical, social, professional, sacrifices made to achieve a positive impact
- 1.6 Ability to use the initiative as a benchmark in anti-corruption work
- 1.7 Extent to which the opportunity provided by the position/occupation he/she holds as leverage to engage in anti-corruption interventions