

Hyde: Keep improving anti-corruption system

FT fijitimes.com/story.aspx

COUNTRIES around the world including Fiji that are party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) have ratified the convention because it is not legally binding.

Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption's (GOPAC) Oceania chair John Hyde described the convention as an aspirational treaty.

Mr Hyde said in terms of best practice no country in the world had been able to fully institute the best practices in every anti-corruption field.

"I think it is a good thing because it means that countries will always be looking at ways to improve their anti-corruption mechanisms," he said.

"So the 10 Pacific Island countries that have ratified the treaty cannot sit back and say we are perfect and we have done everything.

"Instead they are making an effort at striving to better their response systems to corruption."

Mr Hyde added that countries needed to keep improving their response mechanisms.

"However, the good thing about the convention is that in the past 10 years the convention has created a sense of awareness to people," he said. "In the past 10 years communities did not have a high expectation of Government transparency, today the bar is a lot higher.

"People are expecting a lot of honesty and transparency from say if they expect electricity, water or land development from Government and its authorities."