

IACC is the biggest global anti-corruption forum which is held biennially. This year, the conference was held in Korea on-line for the first time in its history, under the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. It made this year's IACC the largest-ever one with more than 500 speakers and over 1.6 million visitors to the official website that served as the conference hall.

Notably, the conference was participated by world's leading anti-corruption figures as speakers, including UN Secretary General António Guterres, OECD Secretary General Ángel Gurría, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, WEF President Børge Brende, ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa, IDB President Mauricio Claver-Carone, and Professor Michael Sandel of Harvard University.

Upon the opportunity of hosting the conference one-line, the ACRC organized it to be open to all citizens around the world and decisively exempted 550 dollar-worth registration fee. As a result, the 19th IACC recorded the largest-ever number of participants.

For the 2020 IACC held under the theme and objective of "Designing 2030: Truth, Trust and Transparency", the number of programs offered for four days was increased to more than 120 from 60 of previous conferences. All the events and meetings of the conference were live-broadcast on-line and participants from around the world communicated through real-time chatting and discussions.

As more participants than ever before participated in this year's conference, more fruitful discussions on more diverse anti-corruption issues were carried out. Participants explored practical ways to realize anti-corruption goals that are more emphasized globally under the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances, to clarify areas in which governments, global organizations, civil societies, media, and academia around the world should pay attention and make efforts.

Significance of international and global cooperation was emphasized as well. All the participants agreed that alliance and collaboration that cross national borders are essential to protect “truth, trust, and transparency”, the common values for the humanity, amidst “ethnocentrism” that is aggravating due to uncertainties and the pandemic.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the ACRC expressed her gratitude to more than 500 speakers and all the participants from around the world for showing their commitment for anti-corruption efforts by taking part in the on-line video conference despite various inconveniences.

The chairperson highlighted, “the task in front of us now is to put the ideas and discussions that we have shared for the past four days into action. The footsteps that we take in these times of crisis and despair will be the key to make our future be hopeful.”

The outcome of the 19th IACC was titled “Seoul Declaration” to commemorate the host country South Korea and was proclaimed toward the entire world. The declaration announced by the representative of young journalists includes measures to achieve joint objectives based on equity amid the proliferation of corruption during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as “holding power to account, supplying vaccines fairly, eradicating structural discrimination, upholding democratic norms, expanding the domain of civil society, ensuring freedom of speech, and forging alliances across national borders.”

The full text of the declaration and details of all the discussions of the conference are available on the official website of the 19th IACC (www.19thiacc.pathable.co).

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui discussed expansion of global anti-corruption cooperation with Asian women leaders

November 20, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea



Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) invited ambassadors of six Asian countries including India and Thailand to Korea on November 20, to share Korea's anti-corruption efforts and achievements so far and to discuss international anti-corruption cooperation.

The ACRC (Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) held a policy discussion with six Asian countries' ambassadors to Korea on the 20 November at Millennium Hilton Seoul, for successful hosting of the IACC to be hosted in Seoul from the 1st to 4th of the next month.

Women ambassadors to Korea who are women leaders representing major Asian countries are invited to the discussion hosted by Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui. This time, ambassadors from six Asian countries—India, Thailand, Bangladesh, Brunei, Kyrgyzstan, and Pakistan—to Korea attended the discussion.

At the discussion, the ACRC asked for each country's active cooperation for and interest in successful hosting of the 19th IACC, while introducing Korean government's anti-corruption efforts and achievements.

The participants also discussed how to take the opportunity of Korea's hosting of the IACC to expand international cooperation including exchanges of anti-corruption information and collaboration with the global society.

The IACC is the world's biggest public-private anti-corruption forum, which is jointly held by Transparency International (TI), an international non-governmental organization based in Germany, and the government of a host country. After the first IACC held in 1983 in Washington, U.S.A., it has been held in various countries around the world every other year.

Notably, this year's IACC is hosted as on-line video conference for the first time of its history, under the theme of "Designing 2030: Truth, Trust and Transparency" It is open for participation of anyone from around the world.

The ACRC actively promoted the 19th IACC to the ambassadors at the discussion and asked for active participation of anti-corruption experts of each country, to make the IACC be a more meaningful opportunity to share diverse experiences of the global society and explore countermeasures against corruption.

The ACRC has requested active participation and interest in the 19th IACC by offering publicity materials to embassies of different countries in Korea which were not able to attend the discussion.

The ACRC published "Korea Anti-Corruption Report" to introduce the Korean government's anti-corruption endeavors and experiences to the global community upon the opportunity of the 19th IACC.

The report was presented to the ambassadors who attended the discussion.

"Korea Anti-Corruption Report" is posted in the form of e-book on the official website of the 19th IACC and it is available for free for anyone.

ACRC won Gold Awards, Best Awards, in the Year of Government in 2020 International Business Awards

- Other countries should take lessons from Anti-Corruption Training Institute of Korea -

September 23, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea



The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) won Gold Stevie Awards, the best award in the category of Organization of the Year-Non-Profit or Government Organizations in the 2020 International Business Awards (IBA)

Celebrating 17th anniversary this year, the IBA, operated by US Stevie Award, gives awards to public and private organizations in the world for the efforts and achievement they made in the previous year.

This year, about 3,800 entities from some 60 countries were competed in the 13 categories, such as management, PR campaign, HR resources, customer services, and IT. About 250 professionals around the world participated in judging nomination to the 2020 IBA.

The awards ceremony was initially scheduled to be held in the late October in Paris, France. But due to COVID 19, it will be held online in the early December (asia.stevieawards.com)

The ACRC submitted in the category of Organization of the Year various training programs and achievements of the Anti-Corruption Training Institute (ACTI), the only institute dedicated to anti-corruption and integrity training in Korea.

Judges highly recognized ACTI programs' potential for high growth in the world as they cover not just public officials but also ordinary citizens including teenagers and adults, as well as foreigners.

ACTI's diversified approaches which include using concerts and cable TV programs not just general lectures also received positive comments.

The judges especially praised ACTI's integrity trainings aired on cable TV or International Protocol Television (IPTV) and real-time education online delivered via virtual education platform, in response to COVID 19.

They gave applause to the ACTI with compliments such as "an innovative approach to dealing with corruption", "Every civil society should have one like this", and "I do hope this can thrive and serve as a blueprint for other nations"

In July this year, the ACRC won Gold Stevie Awards in Excellence in Government Innovation in the 2020 Asia-Pacific Awards. In August, the OECD said in its Economic Review of Korea that corruption of low-level public officials has been almost eradicated, in particular thanks to the ACRC. As such, ACRC is gaining a series of positive comments in the international community.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, "Winning Gold Stevie Awards in IBA holds a great significance, in that the international community acknowledged the ACRC's efforts to not just improve laws and regulations but also to spread integrity culture in day to day lives."

Will aggressively innovate its work to meet citizens' expectations for a nation of integrity and will continue to communicate with citizens with one step closer to them."

ACRC Published Institutional Improvement Case book, ‘Most Common Innovation: institutional improvement’

- *The case book includes 40 institutional improvement cases to resolve social issues such as fine dust and hiring irregularities -*

September 9, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea

“Let's reduce fine dust !”, “Why are female girls not allowed to wear school uniform pants?”

「Institutional Improvement, Most Common Innovation」, a compilation of institutional improvement cases made possible by recommendations of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) was published and distributed.

The ACRC, since its launch in 2008, has issued to 1,500 of central governments, local governments and public institutions a total of 900 recommendations for improvement on unreasonable laws and regulations that may cause corruption and civil complaints. Among the recommendations, 95.2 were accepted.

The compilation consists of three chapters: Make change together with citizens (citizen participation); Make public administration clean (anti-corruption); Make lives of citizen convenient. With an aim to help citizens better understand ACRC's institutional improvement recommendations, the case book introduces stories of unfairness and difficulties in everyday lives, along with measures to remove them.

They include citizen difficulties in everyday lives and measures to remove them, such as sudden closure of child-care center, difficulties in terminating a content subscription, and girls having no choice of opting for school uniform pants.

The compilation also explains how complaint data is analysed using the data collected on the e-People, and how citizen opinions are gathered through People's Idea Box, which is a portal for citizen participation in policies. This clearly shows that citizens' opinions are reflected in measures to improve laws and regulations to change citizens' lives.

In fact, the ACRC used its analysis of 14,649 fine dust related complaints and suggestions to issue recommendations requiring increasing the number of child-care facility centers subject to indoor air quality control. In addition, based on 26,162 pieces of mobile gift card related public opinions, the ACRC recommended extending expiration date on mobile gift cards of goods and services.

The compilation will be distributed to public agencies and other agencies and will be uploaded on ACRC website (www.acrc.go.kr) as well

Director General Gwon Seok-won of the Institutional Improvement Bureau of the ACRC said, "I hope this compilation could be a help to share opinions on how to make good laws and regulations." He added, "The ACRC will always highly value citizens' opinions lodged on e-People and People's Idea box and continue to lead by example in making institutional improvement to enhance quality of life for the people."

ACRC ran an anti-corruption training webinar for countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- ACRC's new anti-corruption training program conducted in the Russian language -

November 3, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea



The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) of the Republic of Korea ran a webinar for three days from November 3, 2020 to share its anti-corruption policies and experiences with countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Organized by the Anti-Corruption Training Institute of the ACRC, the online training course was designed to help build anti-corruption capacities of public officials in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Since 2013, the ACRC has hosted a training course for international anti-corruption practitioners by inviting roughly 15 countries every year. This

year, it opened its training program in the Russian language for the first time to address a steady increase in the need for anti-corruption training in the region where Russian is widely spoken.

Due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's course was organized as a webinar, bringing together about 30 public officials from anti-corruption agencies of 10 countries—Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

The training course covered Korea's major anti-corruption policies including the Anti-Corruption Initiatives Assessment, Corruption Risk Assessment and whistleblower protection and reward program, which have won international recognition as best practices in the anti-corruption field.

The ACRC also provided its 8th annual anti-corruption training course in the English language as a webinar on November 17 to 26, 2020. The training webinar is expected to be attended by some 30 participants from 11 countries including Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Laos and Tunisia.

Jeon Hyun-heui, Chairperson of the ACRC, said that more and more countries were showing interest in learning about Korea's experiences in fighting and preventing corruption.

"As the Korean government has designated the year 2020 as a "Year of New Northern Cooperation," the ACRC will step up its efforts to expand partnership with countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia for exchanging knowledge and practical skills in the anti-corruption field" said the Chairperson.

ACRC enhances system for protection of tenants' property rights

- *Expanding the subject to moving-in registration to include foreigners, for check on prior-order tenants for house auction, etc. -*

December 14, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea

Property damage that used to be incurred to tenants and other parties because residence of foreigners and Koreans with foreign citizenship is not indicated on moving-in registration records for houses will disappear.

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) has set up a “plan for indication of foreigners’ residence on moving-in registration records” for protection of tenants’ property rights and recommended institutional improvement to the Ministry of Justice.

Moving-in registration records are checked before beginning of a real estate auction process, in order to identify whether there exists any prior-order tenant of the house put up for the auction. Currently, residence of Korean citizens and Korean expatriates can be identified on moving-in registration records, but there is no legal ground for inspection of residence of foreigners and Koreans with foreign citizenship.

Such problem has been caused because foreigners are not subject to mandatory moving-in report. This would bring about a risk of unexpected restriction of property rights of other tenants or auction bidders, if there exists a foreigner resident who is not indicated on the moving-in registration of a house.

That is why the ACRC has recommended institutional improvement to the Ministry of Justice of Korea to ensure that residence of foreigners and Korean citizens with foreign citizenship can be identified from inspection of moving-in registration records of houses.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Justice has decided to amend the enforcement rule of the Immigration Control Act, and the enforcement rule of the Act on the Immigration and Legal Status of Overseas Koreans, to indicate moving-in information of foreigners who have reported change of place of residence and Koreans with foreign citizenship who have reported their residence in Korea on moving-in registration records of houses, within the second half of the next year.

Yang Jong-sam, the Director General of the ACRC's Institutional Improvement Bureau, said, "We hope this institutional improvement serves as an opportunity to more thoroughly protect the property rights of tenants. We will keep finding out inconveniences for people and improving them through diverse channels of communication with the people such as People's Idea Box and e-People."

ACRC will Make a Transparent Society to Build a Good Business Environment

- ACRC held Policy Roundtable with Foreign Businesses on October 7 -

October 7, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea



The Korean government met with global companies operating in Korea to support them in their business integrity efforts and management activities for development.

On the morning of October 7, at The Plaza Hotel Seoul in Jung-gu, Seoul, the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) held a policy roundtable with executives of Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Korea to introduce the Korean government's major anti-corruption policies and listen to difficulties global companies experienced in Korea.

The ACRC organized the meeting to help foreign businesses better understand the government's anti-corruption policies. This meeting was also

an arena for cooperation and communication to help the government reflect suggestions and proposals of the global companies, which are suffering difficulties due to COVID 19.

The meeting was attended by around ten executives of foreign Chambers of Commerce in Korea, including Mr. Jeffrey Jones, Chairman of the Board of Governors of American Chamber of Commerce in Korea, Mr. Sean M. Blakeley, President of British Chamber of Commerce in Korea, Mr. Rocky Yoo, Chair of Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Korea, Ms. Barbara Zollmann, President of Korea-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Mr. Christoph Heider, President of European Chamber of Commerce in Korea.

At the meeting, ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui introduced the ACRC's efforts to make Korea a transparent society which is prerequisite to a good environment for businesses. She said that the ACRC will step up its efforts to improve laws and regulations for ending corruption by implementing Conflict of Interest Act, a legislation to enhance public sector integrity.

She also talked about achievements made by the Business Complaints Team of the ACRC and promised the participated foreign businesses an active support so as to resolve business activity- related complaints.

The foreign business leaders, representing foreign chambers of commerce in Korea, expressed their appreciation for the promise and assured in return that they would lead by example in business integrity so that their efforts could be a reference for Korean companies as best practices.

Chairperson Jeon said, "The ACRC will actively provide supports to both Korean companies and global companies for their business integrity efforts for their shared growth."

ACRC will remove unfair venue rental rules of charging the full payment for canceled reservation

- *Rent fees should be fully refunded if cancelation is made before a certain date, which could relieve difficulties of the culture and art industry due to COVID 19 -*

September 22, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea

To relieve difficulties of the culture and art industry in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, improvement will be made on unfair and unreasonable rules regarding venue rental fees, which require the full payment even for canceled reservations as cancelation penalty.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) came up with a measure to enhance transparency in public venue rental and issued a recommendation thereon to organizations such as local government agencies and the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism. The related agencies are going to complete the implementation of the recommendation by September 2021.

Public organizations rent the cultural facilities they own and operate, such as the auditoriums, exhibition halls, outside stadiums, and outdoor stages, to private sector entities during the time when the facilities are not used, and charge them rental fees.

The ACRC conducted a nation-wide survey on the operation of such public cultural facilities. It turned out that at a time when the culture and art industry is having a huge difficulties after the government's social distancing policies due to COVID-19, there were many cases where when a contract

was canceled, the prepaid amount was not returned under the name of cancellation penalties.

So, the ACRC recommended rent bids should follow the Act on Contracts to which the State is a Party in terms of bidding notice period, qualification evaluation procedure, and other requirements. The tendering party is encouraged not to have pre-consultation with bidders and to receive bid applications online not offline.

When it comes to the assessment council for bidder qualification, outside members should make up more than 50 percent of the council members, and minutes and assessment results should be disclosed to secure transparency.

In addition, multi-layered fee scheme should not be imposed for the same facility, and gap among each scheme should be minimized. Renter's margin should not be additionally charged as rental fees, as well.

Moreover, if cancellation is made before a certain designated date, the prepaid amount should be fully refunded. The upper limit for cancellation charges and contract deposits should not exceed 10 to 20 percent of the rental fees. As such, the ACRC took measures to set contract conditions more beneficial to renters compared to the ordinary contract condition.

Director General Gwon Seok-won of the Institutional Improvement Bureau of the ACRC said, "If ACRC's institutional improvement measures are widely implemented, people in the culture and art industry and anyone having difficulties due to COVID 19 could be given opportunities to receive welfare services in the field of culture and art in a fair and transparent way."