

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (Jan. 2023)

- ▷ **Korea hit a record high, ranking 31st in the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)**
- ▷ **ACRC announced “Public Service-Related Organizations’ Comprehensive Integrity Level (Integrity Perception+Integrity Effort-Corruption Realities) in 2022 recorded highest**
- ▷ **ACRC, “8 out of 10 public officials said the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act is effective in securing fairness in performing duties”**
- ▷ **ACRC, “64.7% of the Youth said Improper Solicitations for benefits of a certain person absolutely unacceptable”**
- ▷ **ACRC conducted Corruption Risk Assessment of bylaws of 506 public institutions, removing 4,722 corruption-causing factors inherent therein**

“Korea Hit a Record High, Ranking 31st in the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)”

- Korea ranked 31st among 180 countries in the 2022 CPI published by Transparency International, a rise for six years in a row –

(31 January, 2023, ACRC)

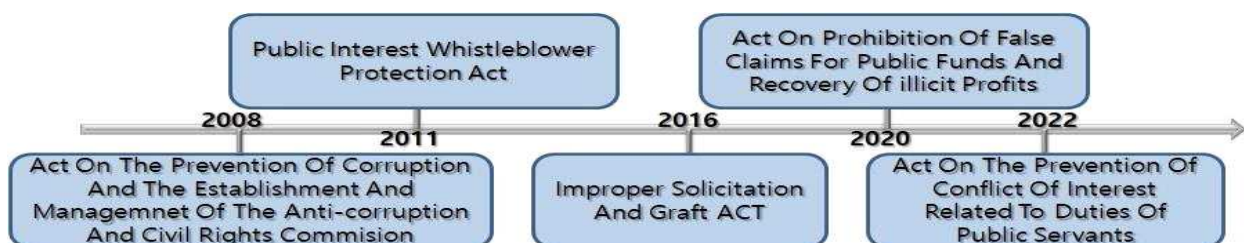
The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) announced that in the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released on January 31 by the Transparency International (TI), Korea hit a record high, scoring 62 points on a maximum of 100 points and ranking 31st out of 180 countries and territories.

Korea's ranking and score increased by 1 notch and 1 point, respectively from those of 2021 and they have been on the rise for six consecutive years since the implementation of the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act in 2016.

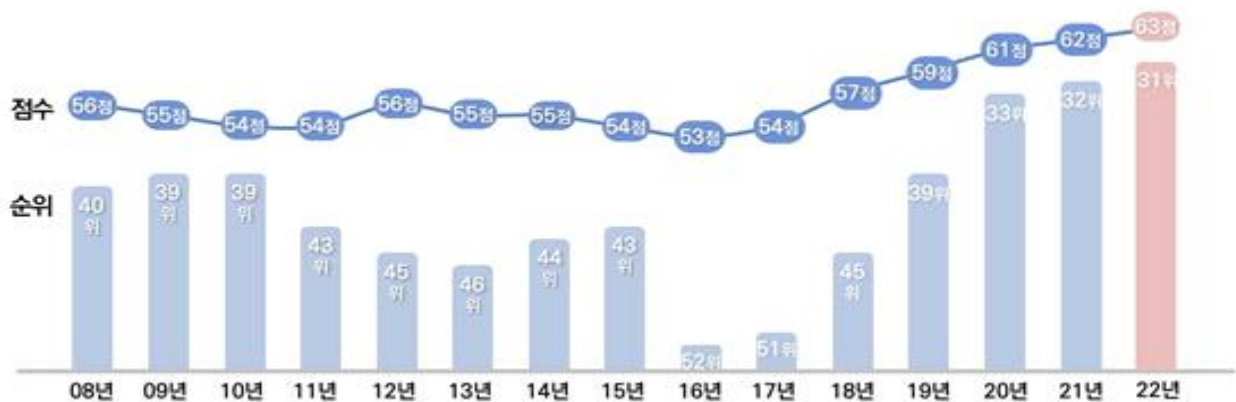
*'17: 51st (54) →'18: 45th (57) →'19: 39th (59) →'20: 33rd (61) →'21: 32nd (62) →'22: 31st (63)

CPI published every year since 1995 by Transparency International based in Germany is a globally representative anti-corruption index that assesses each country's perceived level of corruption in the public and political sector.

< Year of Introduction and Operation of Anti-Corruption Policies >



< Changes in Korea's CPI scores and ranking >



This result may be attributable to the government's strong will and efforts for law enforcement in accordance with laws and principles which has been constantly emphasized since the launch of the Yoon administration, the consistent pan-government anti-corruption reform movement promoted by various ministries including the ACRC, and the corruption prevention efforts pursued by the general public, civil society organizations, the media and academia, etc.

Specifically, the ACRC has played a leading role in improving the CPI through supplementing national anti-corruption policies including the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act (the Anti-Graft Act) for corruption prevention in the country. In particular, ACRC enhanced the integrity awareness in the public sector by completing the nation's anti-corruption legal institution through the enactment and enforcement of the Anti-Graft Act and Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants.

This can be confirmed through the fact that the proportion of survey respondents who said "the Anti-Graft Act has had a positive effect on our society" stood at 91.2%.

* People's Idea Box survey of 4,482 people was conducted from Nov. 7 to 18.

The Ministry of Justice and the Fair Trade Commission, etc. have

exerted efforts to effectively identify and punish crimes of corruption. They have reinforced investigation infrastructure to crack down on economic crimes, including those in the field of finance, stocks, fair trade and tax, and strengthened sanctions against violators.

These pan-governmental anti-corruption efforts have made fruitful results in the Bribery Risk Matrix (BRM) published last November and the 2021 Index of Public Integrity (IPI).

In the Bribery Risk Matrix (BRM) of TRACE International based in the US measuring the likelihood of encountering bribe demands when doing business in a given jurisdiction, Korea hit a record high in the global ranking, classified as the country group of ‘low risk’ in terms of bribery risk.

In addition, in the 2021 Index of Public Integrity released biennially by European Research Center for Anti-corruption and State-Building (ERCAS), Korea ranked 18th among 114 countries and 1st in the Asian region.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “Korea could hit a record high in the 2022 CPI global ranking thanks to the combination of consistent government-wide anti-corruption reforms and the active support from the general public for the fight against corruption,” adding that “the ACRC will continue to push for systematic anti-corruption policies without being complacent about the 2022 CPI result, in order to take a leap forward as a country with an advanced level of integrity that matches its global standing in the international community.”



Reference

2022 CPI Country Results

38 OECD members countries

Ranking	Country	2022 CPI	Ranking	Country	2022 CPI
1	Denmark	90	49	Fiji	53
2	Finland	87	49	Slovakia	53
2	New Zealand	87	51	Cyprus	52
4	Norway	84	51	Greece	52
5	Singapore	83	51	Grenada	52
5	Sweden	83	54	Malta	51
7	Switzerland	82	54	Rwanda	51
8	Netherlands	80	54	Saudi Arabia	51
9	Germany	79	57	Croatia	50
10	Ireland	77	57	Mauritius	50
10	Luxembourg	77	59	Namibia	49
12	Hong Kong	76	60	Vanuatu	48
13	Australia	75	61	Jordan	47
14	Canada	74	61	Malaysia	47
14	Estonia	74	63	Armenia	46
14	Iceland	74	63	Romania	46
14	Uruguay	74	65	China	45
18	Belgium	73	65	Cuba	45
18	Japan	73	65	Montenegro	45
18	United Kingdom	73	65	Sao Tome and Principe	45
21	France	72	69	Bahrain	44
22	Austria	71	69	Jamaica	44
23	„Seychelles	70	69	Oman	44
24	United States of America	69	72	Benin	43
25	Bhutan	68	73	Bulgaria	43
25	Taiwan	68	73	Ghana	43
27	Chile	67	73	Senegal	43
27	United Arab Emirates	67	73	South Africa	43
29	Barbados	65	77	Burkina Faso	42
30	Bahamas	64	77	Hungary	42
31	Israel	63	77	Kuwait	42
31	Korea, South	63	77	Solomon Islands	42
33	Lithuania	62	77	Timor-Leste	42
33	Portugal	62	77	Trinidad and Tobago	42
35	Botswana	60	77	Vietnam	42
35	Cabo Verde	60	84	Kosovo	41
35	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	60	85	Guyana	40
35	Spain	60	85	India	40
39	Latvia	59	85	Maldives	40
40	Qatar	58	85	North Macedonia	40
41	Czechia	56	85	Suriname	40
41	Georgia	56	85	Tunisia	40
41	Italy	56	91	Belarus	39
41	Slovenia	56	91	Colombia	39
45	Dominica	55	91	Moldova	39
45	Poland	55	94	Argentina	38
45	Saint Lucia	55	94	Brazil	38
48	Costa Rica	54	94	Ethiopia	38
94	Morocco	38	137	Russia	28

94	Tanzania	38	140	Kyrgyzstan	27
99	Cote d'Ivoire	37	140	Pakistan	27
99	Lesotho	37	142	Cameroon	26
101	Albania	36	142	Liberia	26
101	Ecuador	36	142	Madagascar	26
101	Kazakhstan	36	142	Mozambique	26
101	Panama	36	142	Uganda	26
101	Peru	36	147	Bangladesh	25
101	Serbia	36	147	Guinea	25
101	Sri Lanka	36	147	Iran	25
101	Thailand	36	150	Afghanistan	24
101	Turkey	36	150	Cambodia	24
110	Bosnia and Herzegovina	34	150	Central African Republic	24
110	Gambia	34	150	Guatemala	24
110	Indonesia	34	150	Lebanon	24
110	Malawi	34	150	Nigeria	24
110	Nepal	34	150	Tajikistan	24
110	Sierra Leone	34	157	Azerbaijan	23
116	Algeria	33	157	Honduras	23
116	Angola	33	157	Iraq	23
116	El Salvador	33	157	Myanmar	23
116	Mongolia	33	157	Zimbabwe	23
116	Philippines	33	162	Eritrea	22
116	Ukraine	33	162	Sudan	22
116	Zambia	33	164	Congo	21
123	Dominican Republic	32	164	Guinea Bissau	21
123	Kenya	32	166	Democratic Republic of the Congo	20
123	Niger	32	167	Chad	19
126	Bolivia	31	167	Comoros	19
126	Laos	31	167	Nicaragua	19
126	Mexico	31	167	Turkmenistan	19
126	Uzbekistan	31	171	Burundi	17
130	Djibouti	30	171	Equatorial Guinea	17
130	Egypt	30	171	Haiti	17
130	Eswatini	30	171	Korea, North	17
130	Mauritania	30	171	Libya	17
130	Papua New Guinea	30	176	Yemen	16
130	Togo	30	177	Venezuela	14
136	Gabon	29	178	South Sudan	13
137	Mali	28	178	Syria	13
137	Paraguay	28	180	Somalia	12

ACRC Announced “Public Service-Related Organizations’ Comprehensive Integrity Level (Integrity Perception + Integrity Effort – Corruption Realities) in 2022 Recorded the Highest”

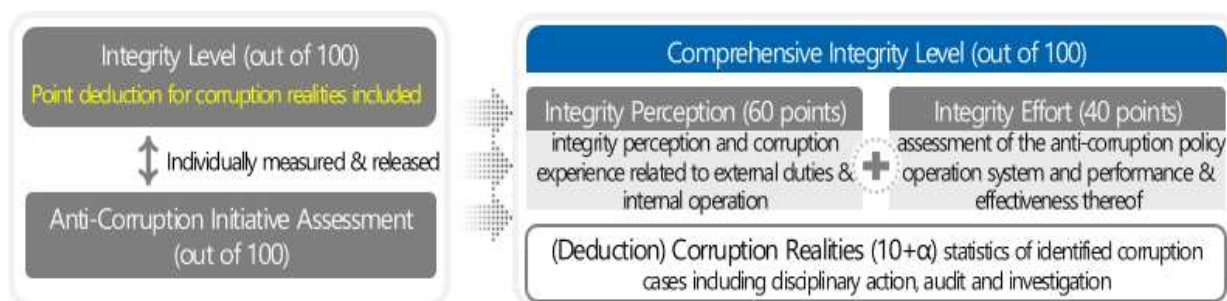
- 2022 Public Institution Comprehensive Integrity Assessment Result is now released -

(26 January, 2023, ACRC)

The result of the renewed 2022 Public Institution Comprehensive Integrity Assessment that covers both the integrity assessment and the anti-corruption initiative assessment found that public service-related organizations received the highest score of 85.7 points, followed by lower level governments (76.6), national universities (75.2), and public hospitals (75.9).

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) released the result of the 2022 Public Institution Comprehensive Integrity Assessment and grades by type of public institution in the morning on Jan. 26 at the Government Complex-Seoul.

ACRC has started to apply the renewed comprehensive integrity assessment system since 2022 after it restructured the assessment system by integrating the existing integrity assessment with the anti-corruption initiative assessment.



Over the past one year, ACRC conducted the revised CIA on 15 types, 569 public institutions by aggregating the results of the assessment of: *integrity perception** measured by the survey of complainants and internal members on external duties and internal operation; *integrity effort* assessed based on the anti-corruption performances and achievements of each public institution; and *corruption realities* measured by the statistics of actual corruption cases.

* A total of 225-thousand people, including approximately 160-thousand citizens who have first-hand experiences of civil services of public institutions and 65-thousand internal members of public institutions, responded to the survey of integrity perception

The score for the comprehensive integrity level of each public institution was calculated by weighted summation of the scores for integrity perception and effort level by a ratio of 60:40 and subsequent deduction of the score for corruption realities.

The Result of Assessment of Admin. Agencies & Public Service-Related Organizations

The average score for 2022 comprehensive integrity level of 501 public institutions, including administrative agencies (46 central administrative agencies, 17 metropolitan and 226 local district governments, and 17 offices of education) and public service-related organizations (195), was 81.2 points.

The number of public institutions receiving the 1st and 5th grade in CIA amounted to 28 (5.6%) and 16 (3.2%), respectively, with the number of 3rd graded public institutions being the greatest at 194 (38.7%).

< CIA Grade Distribution Table by Type of Institution >

classification	1 st grade	2 nd grade	3 rd grade	4 th grade	5 th grade
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Total (501)	28 (5.6%)	139 (27.7%)	194 (38.7%)	124 (24.8%)	16 (3.2%)
Central admin. agencies (46)	4 (8.7%)	12 (26.1%)	14 (30.4%)	16 (34.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Metropolitan gov'ts (17)	0 (0.0%)	5 (29.4%)	9 (52.9%)	2 (11.8%)	1 (5.9%)
Lower-level local gov'ts (226)	15 (6.6%)	56 (24.8%)	91 (40.3%)	50 (22.1%)	14 (6.2%)
Offices of education (17)	1 (5.9%)	4 (23.5%)	7 (41.2%)	5 (29.4%)	0 (0.0%)
Public service-related org (195)	8 (4.1%)	62 (31.8%)	73 (37.4%)	51 (26.2%)	1 (0.5%)

By type of public institution, public service-related organizations scored 85.7 points on average, the highest, while local district governments scored an average of 76.6 points, the lowest, in comprehensive integrity level assessment.

< CI Levels and Scores for Each Category of CIA by Type of Institution >

Classification	CI level (points)	Integrity Perception (points)	Integrity Effort (points)
Total	81.2	82.1	82.2
Central admin. agencies	83.6	83.2	87.0
Metropolitan gov'ts	81.1	80.2	87.6
Lower-level local gov'ts	<u>76.6</u>	<u>79.0</u>	<u>75.9</u>
Offices of education	83.9	80.3	<u>91.5</u>
Public service-related org	<u>85.7</u>	<u>85.6</u>	87.1

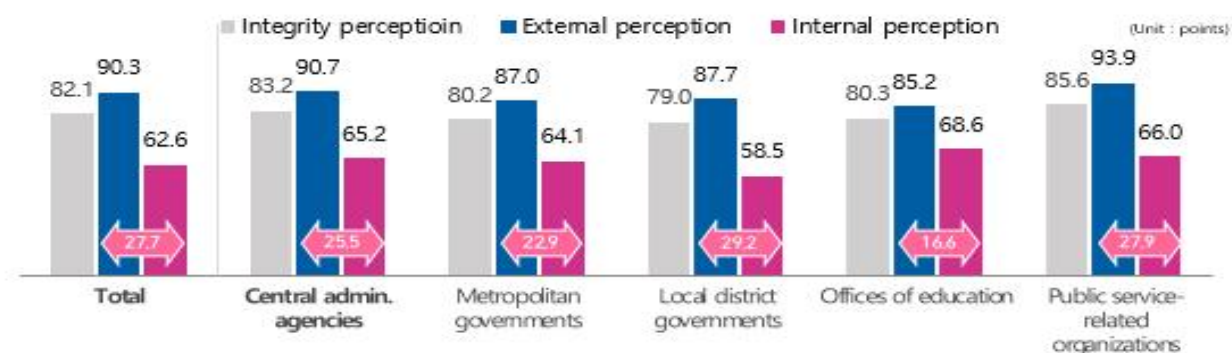
The average score of public institutions for the integrity perception was 82.1 points. By type of institution, public service-related organizations received the highest score (85.6 points) while lower-level local governments got somewhat unsatisfactory result (79 points).

The score for the external integrity perception assessed by complainants who have had first-hand experiences of civil services provided by public

institutions stood at 90.3 points, while the score for internal integrity perception evaluated by public officers working in public institutions stood at 62.6 points, showing a wide gap (27.7 points) between the two categories of integrity perception.

Local district governments and public service-related organizations showed a big gap between the scores for external and internal integrity perceptions (29.2 and 27.9 points, respectively), while offices of education had the narrowest difference (16.6 points).

< Comparison Btw External & Internal Integrity Perception by Type of Institution >



These gaps may be attributable to the adjustment of weighted value allotted to integrity perception assessment items and changes in the way of measurement of corruption experiences, etc. However, more accurate explanation would be that the public administration services provided by public institutions were evaluated highly fair and transparent by the general citizens, while the level of fairness and transparency did not match up to the expectations of internal members of public institutions.

The proportion of respondents among the general citizens who answered that they have experienced corruption in the course of receiving administrative services in public institutions was merely 0.31%.

The proportion of respondents who said yes to the newly added survey questions asking if they have had an experience of offering personal benefits including employment and if they have ever provided real estate-related privileges or inside information took up 0.05% and 0.04%, respectively, lower than that of respondents who said they have experienced corruption such as offering of money (0.13%), entertainment (0.10%) and conveniences (0.11%).

< Corruption Experience Ratio Revealed in Each Category of Integrity Perception >

	Corruption experience rates	Money offering	Entertainment offering	Convenience offering	Personal benefits including employment	Real estate dealings-related privileges and information	Illegal donation for athletic clubs
External	0.31%	0.13%	0.10%	0.11%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%
Internal	2.11%	0.62%	0.82%	1.18%	0.38%	0.14%	-

Public institutions received 82.2 points on average in the category of integrity effort. By type of institution, offices of education recorded the highest score of 91.5 points while local district governments received the lowest score of 75.9 points.

Among a total of 14 assessment indicators in the category of integrity effort, public institutions recorded a high score of 99.1 points in “the improvement effort to raise awareness of anti-corruption institutions”, but received generally lower scores in “the establishment of anti-corruption policy implementation plan (70.4 points)”, “the efforts and leadership of the head and senior officers of the organization (70.7 points)”, and “the assessment of anti-corruption initiative effectiveness by internal members (69.5 points)”.

ACRC came up with meaningful analyses on an issue by issue basis from the result of the CIA conducted this time. First, all public institutions have exerted efforts faithfully for the stable settlement of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants which took effect in May last year.

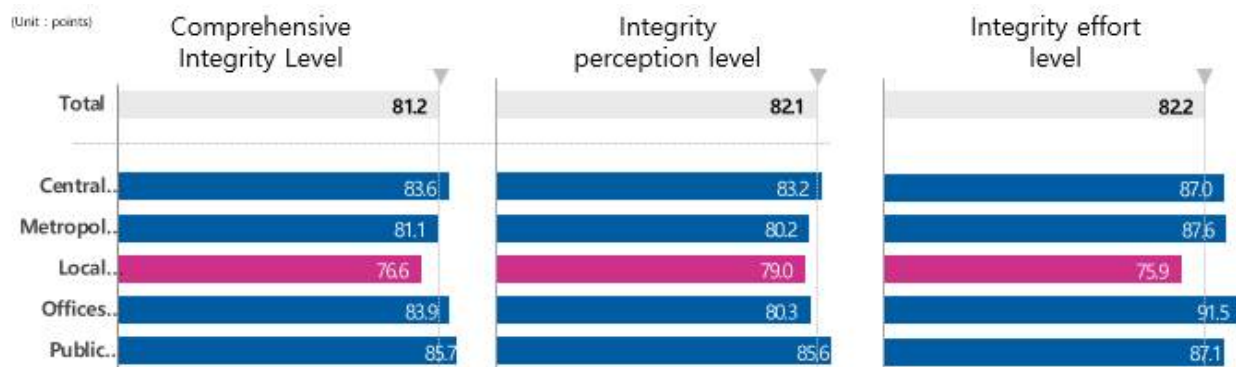
More specifically, 501 public institutions have all designated an officer in charge of the conflict-of-interest prevention affairs and more than 95% of public institutions have established a guideline for effective implementation of conflict of interest prevention system while overhauling their respective code of conduct. In addition, about 857-thousand public officials belonging to the public institutions subject to CIA have completed conflict-of-interest prevention education (90.7%).

Furthermore, it was found that all public institutions scored the highest in both the external and internal integrity perception about personal profit-seeking, indicating that conflict-of-interest prevention efforts made by public institutions have paid off, bringing positive results into the assessment.

Secondly, local district governments performed relatively poorer than other types of institutions in all areas of CIA, including the integrity perception and integrity effort.

Compared to other administrative agencies and public service-related organizations, local district governments received the lowest score in both assessment areas of the integrity perception and effort, with higher rates of corruption experience (external: 0.35%, internal: 2.48%) than the average (external: 0.31%, internal: 2.11%).

< CI by Type of Institution & the Average Scores by Assessment Area >



Among eight integrity effort assessment indicators applied to local district governments, scores for six indicators were lower than the average. In particular, there was a wide gap between scores for an indicator, such as operation of anti-corruption education, which is highly necessary and implementable, received by local district governments and other types of public institutions, indicating that they need to exert more efforts with greater interest.

Thirdly, with the structure of CIA revamped this time, the assessment of effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives based on survey responses from internal members of public institutions has been introduced.

The average score for the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives was 69.5 points, higher than the average score of 62.6 points for the internal integrity perception indicator. By type of institution, offices of education performed the best (76.1 points) while local district governments had the poorest performance (67.2 points).

Notably, there was a high correlation between the comprehensive integrity

level and anti-corruption initiative effectiveness level. In particular, the internal integrity perception level assessed by internal members of an organization and the integrity effort level (i.e. an anti-corruption effort made by an organization) showed a statistically high correlation with comprehensive integrity level of the organization.

< The Result of Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment by Type of Institution >

Classification	Internal integrity perception	Anti-corruption initiative effectiveness	Anti-corruption plan	Efforts of the head	Integrity education	Conflict-of-interest prevention	Protection of whistleblowers
Total	62.6	69.5	72.0	70.2	70.8	69.9	64.6
Central admin. agencies	65.2	68.2	70.7	69.8	68.7	68.4	63.2
Metropolitan gov'ts	64.1	71.4	73.8	72.8	72.2	71.2	67.1
Local district gov'ts	58.5	67.2	69.6	68.1	68.8	67.1	62.3
Offices of education	68.6	76.1	79.0	77.5	77.3	75.6	70.9
Public service-related organizations	66.0	71.8	74.4	71.8	72.9	72.9	66.9

This means that if an organization makes effective anti-corruption efforts, internal members of the organization would notice the effectiveness of such efforts, which would in turn lead to an improvement in the integrity perception level, and furthermore raise the comprehensive integrity level of the organization, creating virtuous cycle.

Fourth, the result of the trial assessment of police agencies in 18 cities and provinces, which was conducted to reflect the purport of the introduction of local community policing system and raise the integrity level of police administration, showed that the average score of those police agencies in the comprehensive integrity indicator stood at 83.1 points, higher than the average score of the entire public institutions (81.2 points).

Police agencies scored 82.2 points on average in the integrity perception

indicator, similar to the average score received by the entire public institutions (82.1 points) and 86.2 points in the integrity effort indicator, higher by four points than the average (82.2 points). This result shows CIA taken this time provided them with an opportunity to make more active anti-corruption efforts.

The Result of Assessment of National Univ. & Public Hospitals

In the case of 33 national universities and 17 public hospitals, given that their organizational characters or tasks are different from those of administrative agencies and public service-related agencies, separate assessment model was applied to them.

Firstly, 33 national universities scored 75.2, 77.6 and 78.8 points in the indicators of comprehensive integrity, integrity perception and integrity effort, respectively, relatively lower than the average scores of administrative agencies and public service-related organizations.

National universities performed poorer in the integrity perception indicator concerning the offering of privileges using personal connections or privately interested relations (71.4 points), receiving a lower score than the average score in other indicators (78.9 points). In addition, in the integrity effort indicator, they received the lowest score of 69.5 points in the area of the efforts of the head and senior officers and leadership.

In the case of 17 public hospitals, they scored 75.9, 77.7 and 78.6 points in the indicators of comprehensive integrity, integrity perception and integrity effort, respectively, relatively lower than the average scores of administrative agencies and public service-related organizations just as national universities.

Notably, it was revealed that there was a big difference in corruption perceptions among internal members of public hospitals according to their occupational category. The integrity perception score of doctors (69.1 points) was relatively higher than the average score of the entire hospital workers including office workers (58 points).

In addition, public hospitals showed a bit disappointing performance in the indicator of the establishment (68.2 points) and implementation (69.1 points) of anti-corruption policy plan.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “The result is the fruit of anti-corruption efforts made by public institutions of various levels and will be a new standard to assess the integrity levels of public institutions in the future,” adding that “we will continue to improve and supplement the CIA so that it can effectively raise integrity levels of public institutions and be trusted by both citizens and public officials.”

ACRC, “8 Out of 10 Public Officials Said the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act is effective in Securing Fairness in Performing Duties”

- The result of a survey of 1,000 citizens and 2,045 public officials on their perceptions of the conflict of interest prevention law released -

(20th Jan. 2023, ACRC)

It was found that eight out of ten public officials perceived the Act on Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants (hereinafter the Act) which came into force on May 19th last year is effective in securing fairness in the performance of their duties.

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) conducted a survey of 1,000 citizens and 2,045 public officials on their perceptions of the Act in December last year* and published the result.

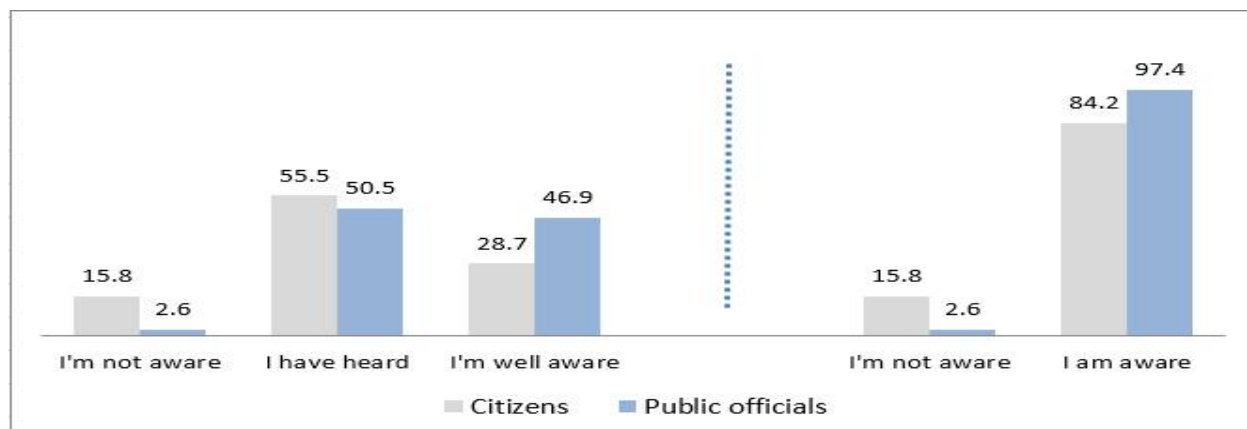
* citizens: 5th – 11th Dec. 2022, public officials: 8th – 27th Dec. 2022

Major contents of the survey relating to the Act included: if the respondents are aware of the Act and the channels for their awareness; perceptions of the effectiveness of the Act, appropriateness of 10 norms of conduct public officials should abide by under the Act and the effectiveness thereof; and how much they support the Act.

< Awareness of the Act and Channels for Awareness >

It was found that 84.2% of the citizens and 97.4% of the public officials who responded to the survey are aware (well aware + have heard) of the Act.

< Awareness of the Act (unit: %) >



Among the citizens who responded they are aware of the Act, 71.7% said they became knowledgeable of the Act through TV or radio while others said through the internet, online media, printed materials, such as newspaper and magazine, and people around them.

< Channels for Awareness of the Act >

(Unit: %, multiple answers possible)

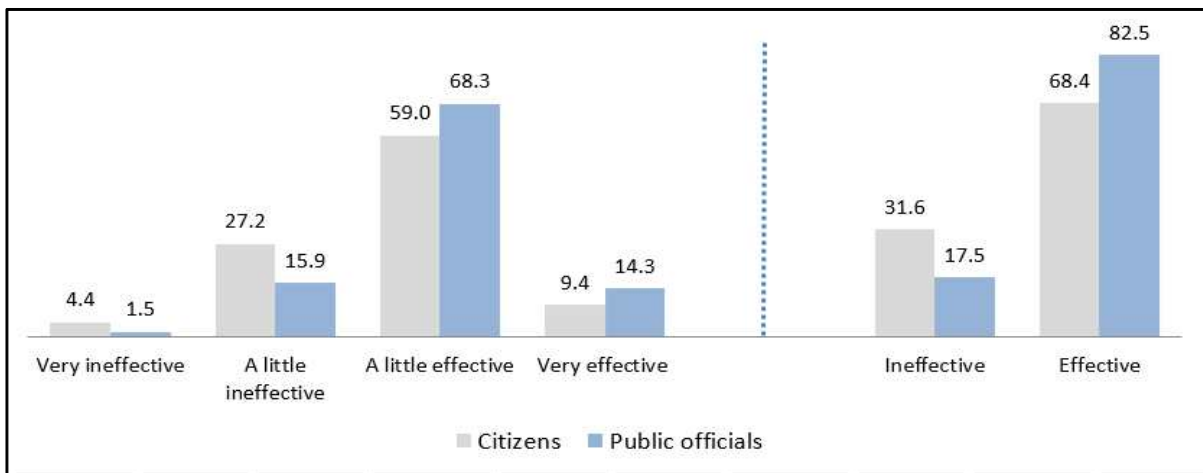
Channels	Citizens	Channels	Public officials
TV, radio	71.7	Workplace training	80.0
Online media	59.9	Media reports	30.9
Printed materials including newspaper and magazine	27.0	In the course of performing duties	28.9
Acquaintances	9.6	Advertisement and promotional materials	6.6
Others	1.3	Acquaintances	1.4
-	-	Others	3.0

< Perceptions of Effectiveness of the Act >

68.4% of the Citizens responded that the Act is effective (very effective + a little effective) in securing fairness for the performance of duties of public officials.

In the case of public officials, 82.5% of the respondents said that the Act is effective in preventing conflicts of interest related to duties of public officials, with executives and staffs of public service-related organizations (89.0%) giving more positive answers than those of central administrative agencies (79.1%) or local governments (78.4%).

< Effectiveness of the Act (unit: %) >

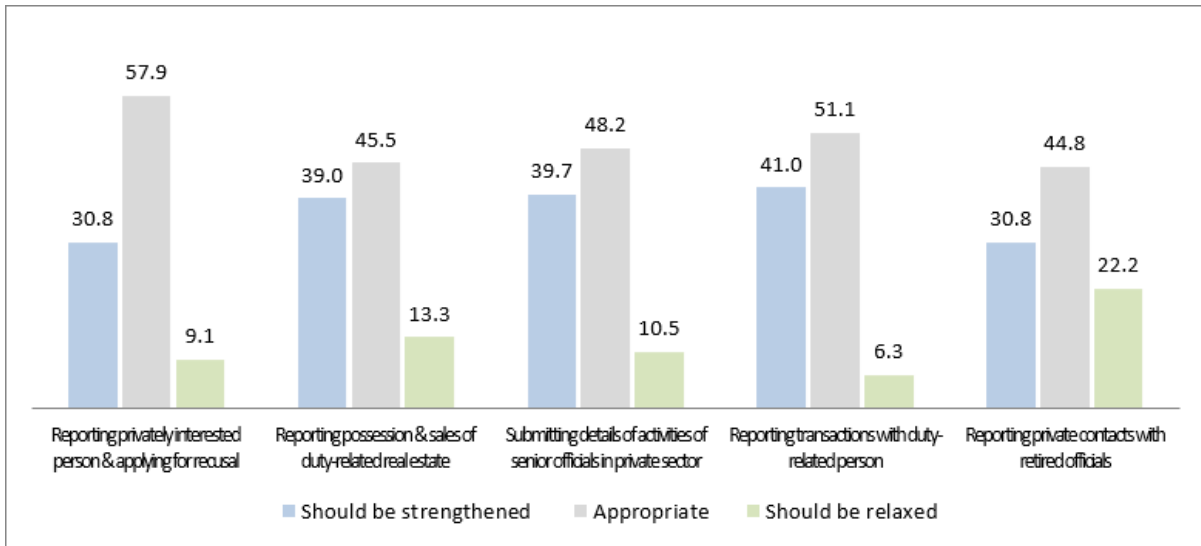


As for why respondents perceived the Act as ineffective, those who answered that “unfair performances of duties by public officials take place in a customary manner” took up 44.3%, while those who answered “public officials are not in knowledge of the relevant Act” accounted for 49%.

< Appropriateness of 10 Duties of Public Officials Under the Act >

The survey found that the biggest number of public officials answered that five duties of reporting and submitting relevant documents under the Act are all “appropriate” and a high proportion of public officials said the five duties “should be more strengthened”.

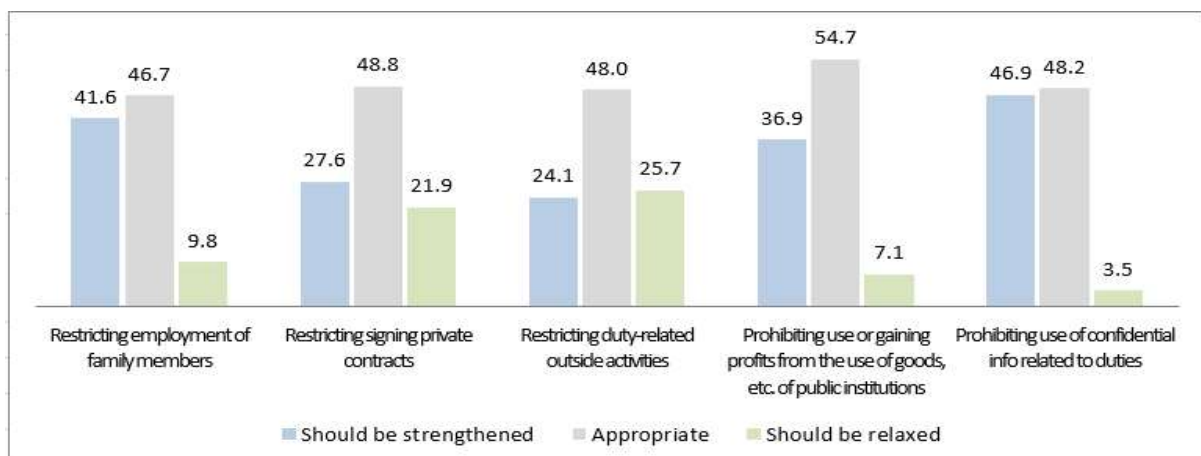
< **Appropriateness of Duties of Report/Submission of Documents** (unit: %) >



And to the question asking if five provisions of restriction and prohibition under the Act are appropriate, the greatest number of respondents chose “appropriate” for all those five provisions.

However, the proportion of respondents who said the provisions restricting employment of family members and prohibiting the private use of goods, etc. of public institutions and the use of confidential information obtained in the course of performing duties “should be more strengthened” was also high.

< **Appropriateness of Provisions of Restriction and Prohibition** (unit: %) >



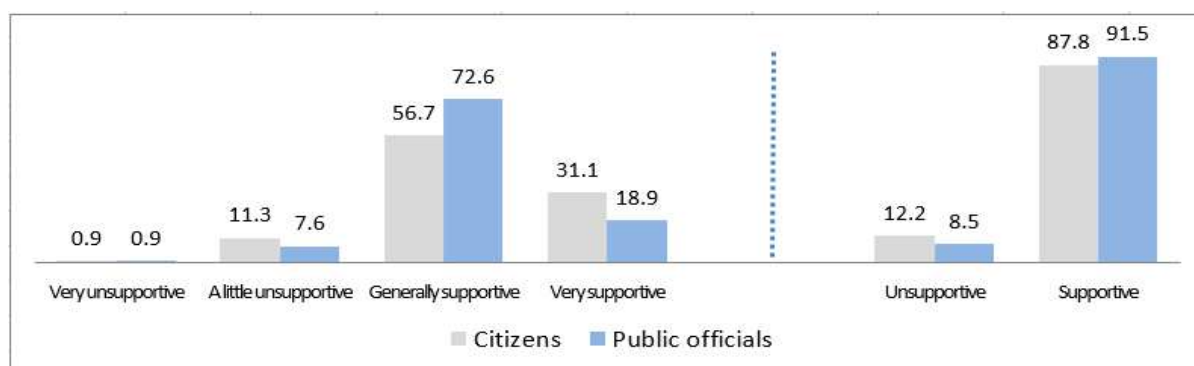
In addition, public officials responded that ten norms of conduct for public officials, including the duties of report/submission and restricted/prohibited acts, are all effective in preventing public officials from seeking personal benefits.

< Proportion of Respondents Supporting the Act >

87.8% of citizens and 91.5% of public officials responded that they are “in support of the Act (very supportive + generally supportive)”.

The survey found that for the prevention of conflicts of interest in public office, citizens think strict punishment of public officials unjustly seeking personal benefits is the most important (49.0%) while public officials think the attention paid and an example set by the head and high-ranking officials of public institutions are the most important (38.6%).

< Proportion of Respondents Supporting the Act (unit: %) >



The Director General of Anti-Corruption Bureau of the ACRC said, “As a result of the survey, it was found that although the Act is at an early stage of implementation, a great number of citizens and public officials positively assess the effectiveness of the Act, as well as being aware of the Act,” adding that “in order for the Conflict of Interest Prevention Institution to successfully take root in public office and to secure fair performance of duties by public officials, the ACRC will continue to support public institutions of various levels in an active manner and carry out educational and promotional activities.”

ACRC, “64.7% of the Youth Said Improper Solicitations for Benefits of a Certain Person Absolutely unacceptable”

- *ACRC conducted an integrity perception survey of 1,925 students at 97 middle and high schools to utilize the results in formulating anti-corruption policies to improve perceptions of the future generation -*

(5th Jan. 2023, ACRC)

The result of a survey of 1,925 middle- and high-school students in the country on their perceptions of acts of improper solicitations for benefits of a certain person against the principle found that 64.7% of the students said “absolutely unacceptable”.

In addition, the greatest proportion of the students responded that strict detection and punishment of unfair acts are necessary to improve an awareness of integrity.

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) surveyed 1,925 students in 97 middle and high schools in the country on their integrity perceptions, etc. in order to establish anti-corruption policies reflecting perceptions of the future generation. The survey was conducted by an opinion research company, Hyundai R&C, for ACRC, with a margin of error of plus or minus 2.62%p at a 95 percent level of confidence.

ACRC asked students questions regarding their perceptions of a general level of corruption and fairness in our society and a few representative types of corrupt acts, such as improper solicitations, privileges given or accepted due to personal connections, and the private use of confidential information acquired in the course of performing duties, and collected their opinions by giving them detailed examples of acts they can

encounter during their school life.

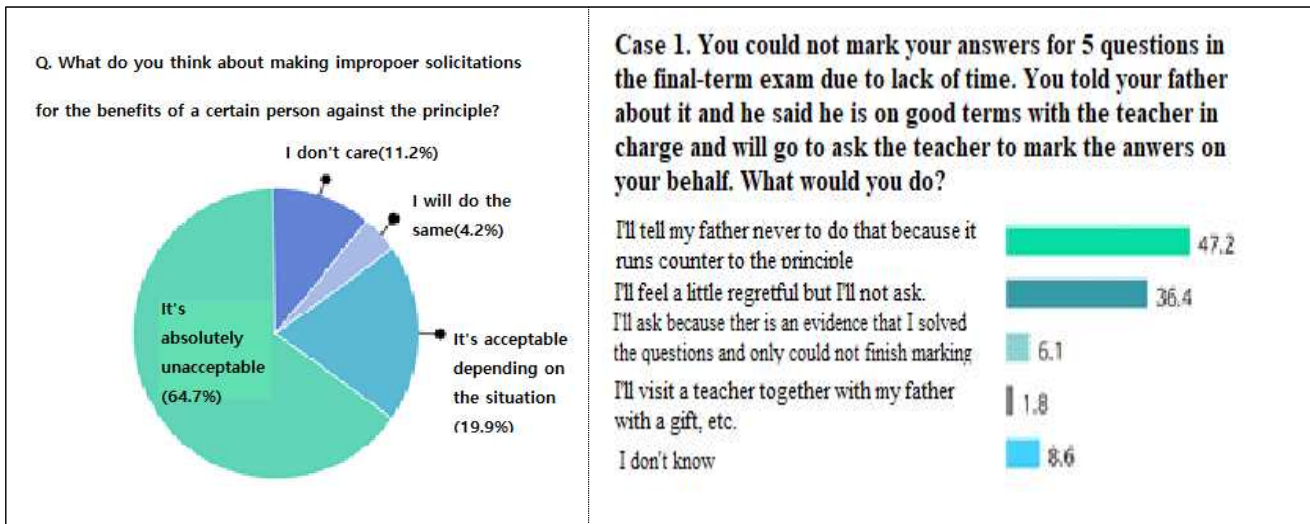
First, as for questions asking their perceptions of the level of corruption and fairness in the society, 49.8% of the students responded the society is corrupt (61.1% in 2020) and 45.3% said unfair (56.7% in 2020), indicating that the perceptions of the youth have been greatly improved compared to 2020.

Second, with regard to a question asking perceptions of different types of corrupt acts, students who said acts of improper solicitations for benefits of a certain person against the principle are “absolutely unacceptable” took up the biggest proportion at 64.7%, followed by students who said “acceptable according to circumstances (19.9%) and those who said “I will do the same (4.2%)”.

Regarding an exemplary case 1 suggested in the survey where a student could not mark answers on his/her answer sheet due to lack of time and his/her father asked a teacher to whom he/she has been close to mark the answers on behalf of his/her child, students who said “I will tell my father never to do it” stood at 47.2%, the highest, followed by those who said “I would feel a little regretful but will not ask my father (36.4%)”, “I will ask my father to make solicitations since there is an evidence that I solved the questions and only could not finish marking (6.1%)”, and “I will visit a teacher together with my father with a gift, etc. (1.8%)”, indicating the highest proportion of students (83.6%) responded they “will not make improper solicitations (never do it + will not ask)” where detailed exemplary cases are suggested.

< Perceptions of Improper Solicitations / Exemplary Cases >

(unit : %)

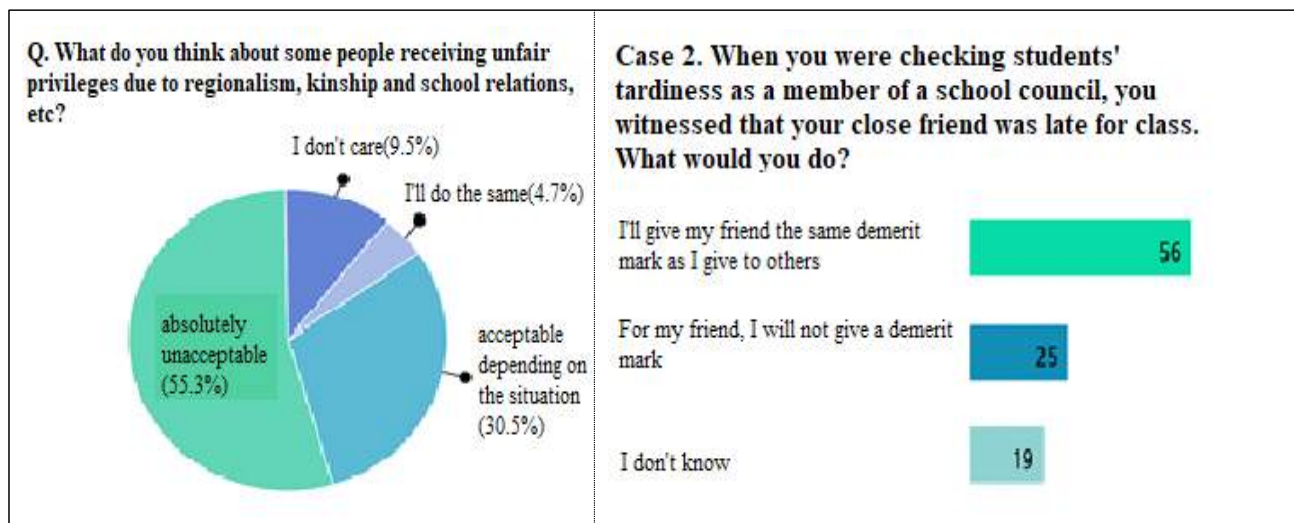


Regarding privileges being provided for some people due to regionalism, kinship and school relations, etc. 55.3% of the students surveyed answered “absolutely unacceptable”, 30.5% said “acceptable depending on the situation”, and 4.7% said “I will do the same.”

As for the case 2 where you noticed your close friend was late for class when you were checking students' tardiness as a member of a student council, the highest rate of students surveyed responded “I will give my friend the same demerit mark as I give to other students (56%),” while 25% said “I will not give my friend a demerit point.”

< Perceptions of Privileges Offered/Received Due to Personal Relations / Case >

(unit: %)

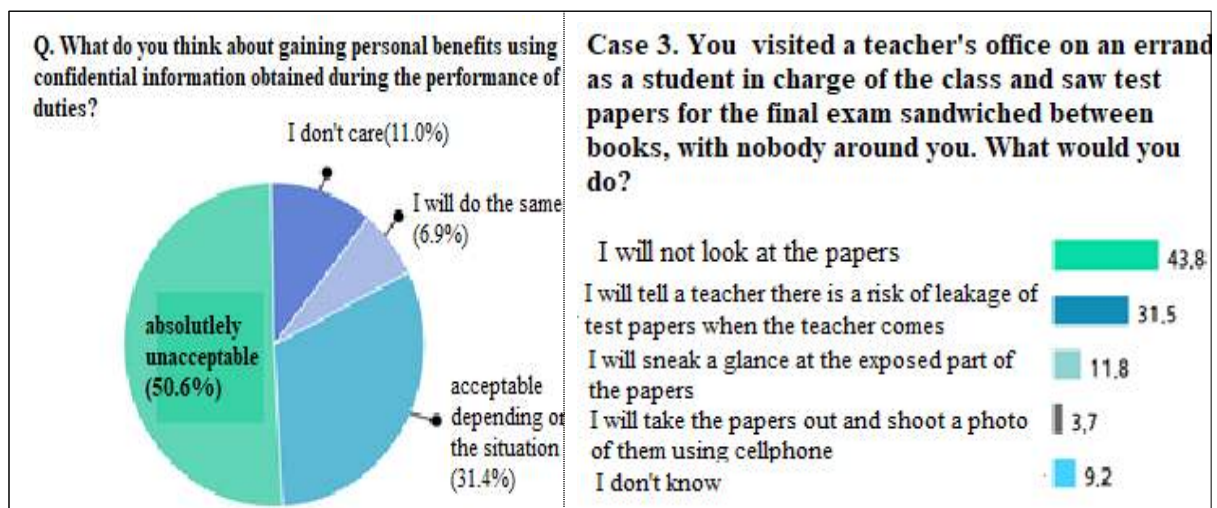


In respect of a question asking perceptions of the use of confidential information acquired during the performance of duties for private benefits, the students who said “absolutely unacceptable” stood at 50.6% while 31.4% and 6.9% said “acceptable depending on the situation” and “I will do the same,” respectively.

When students were suggested a case where they saw final-term test papers in teachers' office as a person in charge of the class, students who answered they would not look at the paper took up the highest proportion of 43.8%, followed by those who said “I will tell a teacher that there is a risk of leakage of test papers (31.5%)”, “I will sneak a glance at exposed part of the papers (11.8%)”, “I will take a photo of test papers using my cellphone secretly (3.7%),” indicating that the proportion of students who responded “I will not use duty-related confidential information for personal benefits (I will not look + will tell a teacher)” was very high at 75.3%.

< Perceptions of Private Use of Duty-Related Confidential Information >

(unit: %)



On the other hand, regarding what we need most to raise an awareness of integrity, the proportion of the youth who selected

“strict detection and punishment of illegal acts (43.7%)” was the highest, followed by those who picked “taking an initiative and setting an example by adults (24.9%)” and “cultivation of a sense of community (17.5%)”.

Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau of the ACRC, Han Sam-Seok, said, “The ACRC will actively promote integrity and anti-corruption training, etc. for the youth, leaders of the future generation, to be able to feel the importance of integrity.”

ACRC Conducted Corruption Risk Assessment of Bylaws of 506 Public Institutions, Removing 4,722 Corruption-Causing Factors Inherent Therein

- Customarily practiced acts of corruption in public institutions, including overseas business trip, abuse of authority over personnel affairs and unfair contract, etc., blocked at the source -

(11th Jan. 2023, ACRC)

The results of Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) on bylaws of public institutions in the country conducted during a span of last three years have found that corruption-causing factors such as overseas business trips, abuse of authority over personnel affairs and unfair contract, etc. have been removed, raising an awareness of integrity of executives and staff members of public institutions.

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) carried out CRA on bylaws of 506 public institutions for the last three years from 2020 to 2022 and published the results.

ACRC established a legal foundation for the CRA* of public institutions closely related to the public life by amending the Act on the Prevention of Corruption and Establishment and Operation of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission in 2009 and started to conduct the CRA on public corporations first, and in order of local firms, industrial complex, quasi-government organizations, and other types of public institutions.

* Corruption Risk Assessment: a primary corruption prevention system aimed at preemptively eliminating corruption risks in the course of implementation of laws

and regulations by analyzing, identifying, removing, and improving corruption-causing factors inherent in those laws and regulations from the very stage of drafting thereof

As a result of the CRA, ACRC identified 4,722 factors with potential for corruption inherent in 48,174 bylaws of 506 public institutions in the country and offered them recommendations for improvement.

ACRC has also established measures to prevent fake and overseas business trip by executives and staff members of public institutions. Specifically, the measures include mandatory submission, etc. of evidence documents to prove trips are for business purposes and reinforcement of preliminary examinations of overseas business trips.

In addition, ACRC has also blocked the possibility for unqualified officials to get promoted by extending the period of limitations on promotion in the case of an official who committed acts of serious irregularities and has clarified the standard for special employment which had been vague previously. Furthermore, the Commission has removed factors that may cause hiring irregularities by making it mandatory for public institutions to go through a personnel committee for any special employment.

To secure fairness in contract, ACRC prohibited entering into a private contract for two years with retired public officials or companies by which retirees are employed as executives.

ACRC also prepared measures to prevent research-related irregularities, including specifying the scope of private interests of investigation commissioners of research ethics violations, disclosing the list of investigation commissioners and the result of investigation, reinforcing

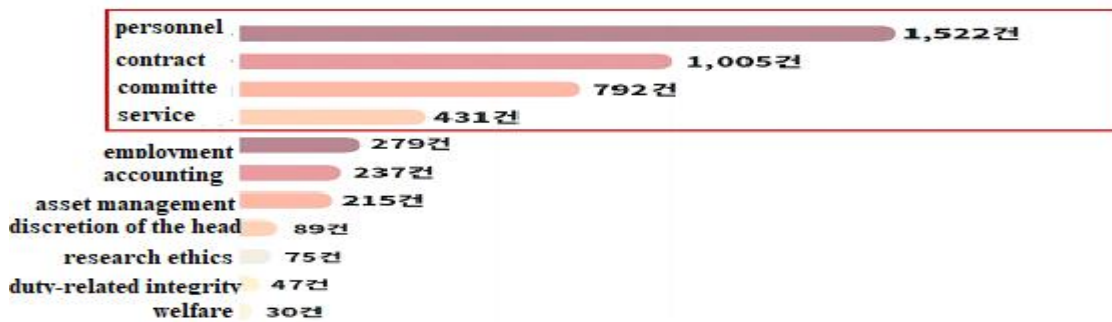
sanctions on those committing research-related irregularities, prohibiting indiscreet provision and illegal use of gift certificates, controlling the use of corporate cards, and strengthening conflict-of-interest preventive rules related to the establishment and management of major review board.

It was found as a result of the CRA that statistically, an average of 9.3 corruption-causing factors per public institution have been removed.

By type of public institution, public institutions whose type is categorized as others have received the greatest number of recommendations for improvement (2,250), followed by local firms/industrial complex (1,756), quasi-government organizations (501) and public corporations (215), indicating that institutions given relatively higher levels of leeway in the management and lower control from the government has received more recommendations for improvement from the ACRC.

By content of recommendations, those related to eradication of personnel or hiring irregularities took up the biggest proportion, amounting to 2,233 cases (47.3%), followed by those concerning improvement in unfair work practices (1,309 cases, 27.7%) and transparency enhancement in the course of institutional management (1,181 cases, 25.0%).

By specific area of duties, among 11 areas, the highest number of recommendations have been offered to the four areas, such as personnel, contract, committee, and service, accounting for 79.4% (3,750 cases), implying many corruption-causing factors existed in the area of duties related to personnel and contract affairs, including the abuse of authority over HR management and unfair contract by the head of a public institution.



After completing the CRA, ACRC surveyed members of the 506 public institutions (278 people responded) and found that the level of integrity awareness has been also improved.

Respondents who said “as a result of the CRA, the level of integrity of executives and employees was raised” stood at 66.9%, more than twice as many as those with negative perceptions (33.1%). Also, respondents who thought the CRA was helpful in preventing corruption in their institutions accounted for 80.2%.

In particular, the CRA has had a diagnostic effect regarding corruption in general management of public institutions, as the level of integrity in all areas of duties, including HR, employment, contract, accounting, and conflict-of-interest, has been evenly improved.

According to the result of the 2022 corruption perception survey of public servants, it was found the level of integrity of public institutions has been enhanced both internally and externally, with more public officials having perceptions of their institutions’ integrity level as improved, scoring 60.9 points on average, one and a half times more than the number of respondents with negative perceptions (39.1 points).

Furthermore, 69.1% of the institutions which experienced the CRA felt the need for it and the number of those interested in voluntary

implementation of autonomous CRA and development of assessment capabilities increased as well.

The vice chairperson of the ACRC, Ahn Sung-Wook, said, “As the CRA conducted over the span of last three years on public institutions have improved the level of integrity and perceptions of autonomous corruption risk assessment in public institutions, the ACRC will continue to support institutions in their voluntary prevention of corruption in various manners and make efforts to prevent corruption in the public sector through CRA.”