

# **ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (August 2021)**

## **▷ ACRC Proposed 93.2 Billion KRW (USD 80 million) for Its Next Year's Budget Focusing on Creating Tangible Outcome for Citizens in Anti-Corruption and Reform for Fairness**

- Making the year 2022 the first year of becoming one of the top 20s in CPI

## **▷ ACRC Spreads Ethics and Compliance Management with Six Major Public Corporations**

- The ACRC signed an MoU for 'spreading ethics and compliance management and introducing certification system' on 12th of August

## **▷ ACRC Nurtures Integrity Education Instructors Who Will Lead Integrity Culture**

- With the growing demand for integrity education, the ACRC beefs up the pool of instructors for professional and knowledge courses who will teach anti-corruption laws and systems

## **▷ ACRC Compiled Excellent Anti-Corruption Policies That Led Establishment of Integrity Culture for the Last 4 Years in the Moon Jae-in Administration**

- The ACRC published a casebook of 100 anti-corruption policies from 78 public organizations

## **▷ ACRC Says, "Dismissal at Request Is Not Allowed for Executives in Public Offices When They are Involved in Misconducts"**

- The ACRC carried out Corruption Risk Assessment on 1,569 bylaws of 13 public organizations in national land and safety sectors, and made 98 recommendations

▷ **ACRC and Korean Association for Corruption Studies Hosted “Anti-Corruption and Integrity” Academic Conference**

- The conference diagnosed policies and had an in-depth discussion for future development tasks to implement anti-corruption and integrity policies in a sustainable manner

▷ **ACRC Accelerates Strategic Support to Expand Local Ombudsman**

- The ACRC cooperate with Local Ombudsman to provide support, including education, experience, information and case sharing

▷ **ACRC Dispatches ‘Mobile Shinmungo(Outreach Bus)’ to Address Complaints in Farming and Fishing Villages across the Nation Hit by COVID-19 Pandemic**

- ACRC visits farming and fishing villages across the nation starting from Muju-gun, Jeollabuk-do province in 26th August

**ACRC Proposed 93.2 Billion KRW (USD 80 million)  
for Its Next Year's Budget Focusing on  
Creating Tangible Outcome for Citizens  
in Anti-Corruption and Reform for Fairness**

*“Making the year 2022 the first year  
of becoming one of the top 20s in CPI”*

- The ACRC unveiled 93.2 billion KRW plan for the next year budget, up by 2.33 billion KRW from this year
- ◆ To put all the energy to introduce the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials in a systemic manner to enhance integrity and fairness in public offices
- ◆ To spread ethics and compliance management culture to improve the level of national integrity greatly
- ◆ To strengthen protection of rights of people by expanding active administration service, and providing customized service for administrative appeals
- ◆ To build a pan-government civic complaint handling system to enhance efficiency of addressing complaints of people

(2nd Sep. 2021, ACRC)

Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) announced that it proposes 93.2 billion KRW for its 2022 budget, up by around 2.3 billion KRW from 90.8 billion KRW in the previous year.

To achieve its national goal of becoming one of the top 20s in CPI in 2022, the ACRC will make its best efforts in creating tangible results for citizens in anti-corruption and reform for fairness. To this end, the ACRC proposed its budget plan focusing on 1) implementation of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials without any problem, 2) stronger support for ethics and compliance management in the private sector, and 3) facilitation of corruption report and public interest report, as well as protection and reward for reporters.

**① Creating the outcome in anti-corruption and reform for fairness through smooth implementation of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials**

First, the commission will make full preparation for stable implementation and early adoption of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials (to be effective on 19th May 2022) as early as possible in public offices.

As the law is applicable to as many as 14,568 organizations and about 2 million public officials, the commission will focus on education and communication to prevent confusion in the early phase and violation of the law due to poor understanding.

※ [New budget item] Operating a system to prevent conflict of interest through education, communication and report handling : up by 570 million KRW (in the 2022 budget plan)

Moreover, for efficient implementation of the system for preventing conflict of interest, an information system will be established to support

the relevant tasks, such as receiving and handling violation reports as well as advance report of matters that should be reported mandatorily, including private interest of public officials. With this, the commission will prevent confusion in the early period of implementation, while staving off waste of budget caused by duplication of system development in each organization.

- ※ [New budget item] Building an information system for the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials : up by 700 million KRW (in the 2022 budget plan)

## **② Stronger support for ethics and compliance management of the private sector to improve integrity**

The ACRC also diligently included the budget to enhance the level of integrity in the public and private companies in the plan as it is essential to make a leap forward to become an advanced country in integrity.

To respond to the strengthened anti-corruption norms from home and abroad, the commission will expand and operate ethics and compliance management training courses for public companies. In the meantime, it will also revamp its support for ethics and compliance corporate management by creating and distributing Korea Compliance Program (KCP), so that companies can voluntarily practice ethics and compliance management.

- ※ Expansion of integrity education and awareness : 2.24 billion KRW (in 2021) → 2.62 billion KRW (in 2022 plan)

- \* Expansion of ethics and compliance management training courses : up by 100 million KRW (in 2022 plan)
- ※ Cooperation with the private sector for integrity, rights and interests : 580 million KRW (in 2021) → 670 million KRW (in 2022 plan)
- \* **[New budget item]** operation of a compliance program for ethics and compliance management : up by 130 million KRW (in 2022 plan)

### ③ **Facilitation of corruption report and public interest report as well as stronger protection and reward for reporters**

The ACRC will strengthen the protection and reward system for corruption reporters and public reporters and enhance easy reporting process in order to encourage more active corruption report and public interest report.

It also expanded the compensation for the reporters who contribute to the increased income or cost saving for public organizations by making corruption reports, public interest reports or report on false claim of public funds.

In addition, the commission increased the budget needed for making ☎ 1398 Call service available for free and improving its features. The ☎ 1398 Call service is intended to provide consultation for the report on corruptive behavior and violation of public interest, violation of the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act as well as Code of Conduct for Public Officials, and false claim for public funds.

- ※ Compensation for reporters of corruptive behavior: 2.55 billion KRW (in 2021) → 2.96 billion KRW (up by 400 million KRW) (in 2022 plan)

Compensation for reporters of false claim for public funds: 110 million KRW (in 2021) → 160 million KRW (up by 50 million KRW) (in 2022 plan)

- ※ Making ☎1398 Call Service for Corruption Reporting and Public Interest Reporting available for free with improved features : 720 million KRW (in 2021) → 860 million KRW (up by 140 million KRW) (in 2022 plan)

Further, the ACRC plans to promote key programs actively in addressing complaints and/or protecting rights and interests in order to enhance rights and interests of citizens who are suffering from COVID-19 pandemic in a swift and practical way.

#### **④ Leading active administration service by operating Active Administration Service Requesting System for Citizens**

First, the commission will promote active administration service that is tangibly effective for citizens by including the budget for operating the Active Administration Service Requesting System for Citizens. This system was introduced to enable citizens to make request for solving public problem caused by unclear laws and regulations.

- ※ Improving corruptive or problematic system : 74 million KRW (in 2021) → 97 million (in 2022 plan)

- \* [New budget item] Operation of active administrative service requesting system for citizens, etc. : up by 23 million KRW (in 2022 plan)

#### **⑤ Providing customized service for administrative appeals**

Also, it develops a system to provide customized service for filing administrative appeals, which became a selected program through Citizen Participatory Budgeting. With this service, as anyone can file administrative appeals easily without getting help from experts, such as

lawyer, it is expected that citizen rights and interests will be protected even more.

※ Operating hub system for administrative appeals : 910 million KRW (in 2021)  
→ 1.4 billion KRW (in 2022 plan)

\* [New budget item] Providing customized service for administrative appeals :  
up by 490 million KRW (in 2022 plan)

## **⑥ Building pan-government Citizen Complaint Handling System to address difficulties and complaints swiftly**

Further, the ACRC added the budget item for planing informatization strategy for pan-government Citizen Complaint Handling System, so that the commission and local ombudsman in each region can resolve difficulties and complaints quickly and efficiently through cooperation and division of labor

※ [New budget item] BPR/ISP for pan-government citizen complaints handling system : up by 190 million KRW (in 2022 plan)

## **⑦ Promoting reorganization of intelligent integrated call center to improve quality of counseling service**

Additionally, the ACRC plans to implement a program for reorganizing intelligent integrated call center without problem (in 2022~2023). This program is to integrate counseling data held by 96 call centers operated by the government agencies centering around the Citizen Call 110, a pan-government phone-based counseling service on civil complaints. By doing so, it will establish cooperative system among agencies and improve the quality of counseling service for citizens.



※ Building 'Integrated Intelligent Call Center'(e-Government budget under the Ministry of the Interior and Safety) : up by 937 million KRW (in 2022 plan)

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the ACRC said, “the commission will solidify the basis for anti-corruption and fairness to place Korea in the top 20s in CPI in 2022. In the meantime, with the mission to serve as the last resort for protecting rights and interests of citizens, the agency will also make greater efforts to protect rights and interests of citizens, so that no one will be marginalized.”

She also emphasized, “the ACRC will do its best in the National Assembly budgeting process to secure the budget for the key programs in the next year according to the plan.” After deliberation and resolution by the National Assembly, the 2022 ACRC budget will be finalized in December.

## **ACRC Spreads Ethics and Compliance Management with Six Major Public Corporations**

*- The ACRC signed an MoU for ‘spreading ethics and compliance management and introducing certification system’ on 12th of August -*

*- Six public corporations will actively promote in Ethics and Compliance Management Program and participate in pilot program for certification program -*

(12th Aug. 2021, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission and six public corporations, including Korean Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), rolled their sleeves up to create a transparent management environment, so that Korea can be in the top 20s on 2022 CPI.

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) signed an MoU for ‘spreading ethics and compliance management and introducing certification system’ with Korean Electric Power Corporation (CEO: Cheong Seung-II), Korea District Heating Corporation (CEO: Hwang Changhwa), Korea Land and Housing Corporation (CEO: Kim Hyun-jun), Korea Expressway Corporation (CEO: Kim Jin-sook), K-water (CEO: Park Jae-Hyeon), Korea Gas Corporation (Senior Executive Vice President of Management: Seung Lee) on 12th August at the Government Complex Sejong.

Ethics and compliance management is not just about introducing relevant systems to enable companies to comply with laws and regulations and run their business in an ethical manner. It is also a way of doing business to allow effective prevention, detection and improvement of corruption risks, such as corruptive behavior and irregularities.

This MoU was signed for the introduction of Ethics and Compliance Management Program as well as Certification Program. These programs are part of the “Anti-Corruption and Integrity Innovation Initiative” that was designed and revealed on April 1st to prevent moral hazard, including real estate speculation by using undisclosed information held by public organizations.

In the future, the six public corporations will actively promote Compliance and Ethics Program and take part in the pilot program of ‘Certificate for Ethics and Compliance Management.’

The six public corporations agreed to cooperate mutually for 1) expanding Compliance and Ethics Program; 2) preventing, detecting and improving corruption risk factors which hamper ethics and compliance management; 3) improving systems pro-actively to introduce the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials in a stable manner; 4) establishing reporter protection system for ethics and compliance management; and 5) doing education, communication, and promotion to establish ethics and compliance management culture.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “by closely working with the six public corporations, the ACRC will establish ethics and compliance management culture across public corporations.”

She added, “this MoU will serve as an opportunity to expand ethics and compliance management program and promote certification system for public corporations, so that Korea can achieve its national goal of becoming one of the top 20s in CPI in 2022.”

## **ACRC Nurtures Integrity Education Instructors Who Will Lead Integrity Culture**

*- According to the growing demand for integrity education,  
the ACRC beefs up the pool of instructors for professional and knowledge  
courses who will teach anti-corruption laws and systems -*

(11th Aug. 2021, ACRC)

With the implementation of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials, the Integrity Training Institute under the Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) fosters integrity education instructors for professional courses and knowledge courses actively in accordance with growing demand for integrity education and reinforces expertise in education.

The Anti-Corruption Training Institute (ACTI) has been nurturing integrity education instructors since September 2016 when anti-corruption education became mandatory for public officials to support integrity education for public organizations in different levels. About 340 public officials handling audits and integrity affairs, lawyers, and professors have been registered and serving as integrity education instructors.

Also, to enhance expertise of instructors, the institute regularly provides information, such as latest anti-corruption policy and system, various reported cases, and court rulings, and operates refresher training courses for continued improvement of teaching capability.

Each organization operating anti-corruption and integrity courses can visit the homepage of the Anti-Corruption Training Institute (ACTI) ([edu.acrc.go.kr](http://edu.acrc.go.kr)) to check out the list of integrity education instructors with their expertise and apply for courses.

**< Overview of Integrity Education Instructor System >**

Category	Content of courses	Selection and registration process	Process of requesting visiting lecture
Instructors for professional courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching professional courses on 'anti-corruption laws and systems' including Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Public Officials, and Code of Conduct for Public Officials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete instructor training courses (basic and professional courses) offered by the Integrity Training Institute → Pass paper-based evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check the list of instructors at the webpage of Anti-Corruption Training Institute(ACTI), and apply for the lecture.</li> </ul> <p>(by each organization)</p>
Instructors for knowledge courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teaching humanity, history, and philosophy-based knowledge courses to cultivate integrity mindset among citizens and public officials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1st assessment) basic evaluation for instructor registration → Pass evaluation for teaching capability (2nd assessment, class demonstration)</li> </ul>	

The Anti-Corruption Training Institute (ACTI) decided to foster integrity education instructors more actively and expand the talent pool as there is growing demand for integrity education due to recent enactment of the Act on Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials.

First, by operating an integrity education instructor training course, the institute fostered 30 new instructors who will provide professional courses on anti-corruption legislations and systems this year, and it plans to select 30 more instructors by the end of this year.

Also, the Anti-Corruption Training Institute (ACTI) will recruit more instructors who will be responsible for humanity and cultural courses to raise integrity awareness among public officials and citizens. Once those applicants who are qualified for certain criteria of instructor pass the second evaluation, they will be registered and serve as integrity education instructor from as early as October.

President Jeong Yun-jeong of the Anti-Corruption Training Institute (ACTI) in the ACRC said, “around 2 million public officials complete anti-corruption education every year. There is growing interest about integrity among citizens and future generation, such as students in elementary, middle and high schools.” She added, “the institute will actively foster integrity education instructors who have expertise to take the lead in spreading integrity culture in our society in the future.”

## **ACRC Compiled Excellent Anti-Corruption Policies That Led Establishment of Integrity Culture for the Last 4 Years in the Moon Jae-in Administration**

*- The ACRC published a casebook including 100 anti-corruption policies from 78 public organizations -*

(31st Aug. 2021, ACRC)

Since the inauguration of the Moon Jae-in administration, public organizations have implemented various anti-corruption policies to enhance integrity. Now, by compiling excellent cases, 「100 Excellent Anti-Corruption Policy Cases in Public Organizations」 has been released.

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) selected 100 excellent cases of 78 organizations among those cases identified in its Anti-corruption Initiative Assessment in the last four years, and published them in a casebook to support uninterrupted anti-corruption reform in the 5th year of the Moon Jae-in administration.

\* The ACRC assesses various anti-corruption policy efforts made by different public organizations and their effect every year, such as plan for anti-corruption, improvement in the areas vulnerable to corruption, and spreading achievements

The Moon Jae-in administration was inaugurated in May 2017 and proclaimed that anti-corruption, integrity and fairness are the most important value in the national affairs. Ever since, it has been making pan-government efforts to complete anti-corruption reform.

Every year, the ACRC evaluates anti-corruption efforts of each organization through internal and external expert panel, and it has announced excellent cases of anti-corruption policies in each organization.

For this year's casebook, the commission carefully selected 100 cases which had great impact to citizens, big social ramification, or high applicability to the field.

All the best practices included in the casebook were commonly the efforts to improve the entire process through internal analysis of vulnerable areas, enhancement of internal culture, operation of various anti-corruption systems, participation in policies, and greater promotion.

There were organizations that made efforts to strengthen their own mechanism to prevent conflict of interest by prohibiting incumbent public officials from recommending retired public officials, and operating refrainment system for reviewing complaints and applications filed by retired employees if any reviewer worked in the same department.

In addition, other organizations collected cases of *Gapjil*, arrogant and authoritarian attitudes or actions of people who have positions of power over others, internally and externally, categorized by type, published casebook, and created various content, such as YouTube web drama, webtoon, etc. for communication and education in order to root out such practice.



Also there were organizations that allowed active use and participation of citizen inspectors in auditing affiliated organizations, so that they can identify areas vulnerable to corruption from the view-point of citizens and improve the systems.

Along with these cases, the commission included challenges and counter-measures to enable other organizations to apply them to their situation.

The commission plans to distribute the casebook to public organizations in an e-book format, while making it available on the ACRC webpage for the general public who are interested in anti-corruption policies. It will also wage a public campaign by creating integrity-related content, such as videos.

Director General Han Sam-Seok for Anti-Corruption Bureau said, “the ACRC expects that this casebook becomes a good guidebook for organizations, so that they can refer to it whenever they need.” He also added, “the ACRC will continuously identify and share excellent policies from organizations in an active manner to encourage many other organizations to make anti-corruption efforts together. Also, it will make its best efforts to show tangible outcome to citizens.”

## **ACRC Says, “Dismissal at Request Is Not Allowed for Executives in Public Offices When They are Involved in Misconducts”**

*- The ACRC carried out corruption risk assessment on 1,569 bylaws of 13 public organizations in national land and safety sectors, and made 98 recommendations -*

(25th Aug. 2021, ACRC)

In the future, executives in public organizations cannot be dismissed at their request if they are prosecuted or under investigation or inquiry in relation to their misconducts.

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) conducted corruption risk assessment on 1,569 bylaws of 13 public organizations in national land and safety sectors, including Korea National Railway and the Road Traffic Authority, and provided organizations with 98 recommendations and 22 tasks in 3 categories.

According to the corruption risk assessment, ACRC found that some organizations did not have regulations that prevent dismissal of executives at their request when they are involved in misconduct, while they do not allow dismissal of non-executive members at their request.

Also, there were organizations that did not have rules restricting the employment of those who mandatorily retired, is dismissed or discharged from other offices for committing misconduct.

Also, there were organizations that operate budget execution standards arbitrarily by having exceptional expenditure provisions to allow them to determine separate expenditure criteria and means. Other organizations did not have regulations for exclusion, recusal and refrainment of members in operating investment and funding deliberation committees responsible for feasibility review of new projects.

So, the ACRC recommended the organizations to limit dismissal at request of executives who are involved in misconduct, and include dismissal for misconduct in the grounds for disqualification of employment.

In addition, it had them improve arbitrary budget execution standards, such as exceptional expenditure provisions, and come up with a mechanism for preventing conflict of interests, so that members in investment and funding deliberation council who have special interests cannot participate in the deliberation process.

Besides, the commission recommended public organizations to create criteria for disciplinary measures for DUI as strict as the disciplinary criteria for public officials to strengthen the punishment of executives and staff members for DUI.

It also made recommendations for public corporations for improving bylaws to prevent preferential private contract by banning the organizations from signing private contract for two years with any companies that hired former employees of public organizations for

executive positions, and requiring organizations to open all private contracts to their website.

The ACRC has carried out full inspection of bylaws for 495 public organizations since last year. It reviewed bylaws of 187 organizations in 7 sectors, such as energy, airport and port, and made 1,971 recommendations for improvement last year. This year, it plans to complete the review of bylaws of 99 organizations in 7 sectors, starting with 20 public organizations in the labor and welfare sectors.

Director General Han Sam-Seok for Anti-Corruption Bureau said, “the ACRC will continue its efforts to make fair and transparent society by actively identifying and improving elements causing corruption, such as conflict of interests and excessive use of discretionary power, in the bylaws of public organizations.”

☐ **Overview**

- A preventive corruption control mechanism that analyzes corruption risk factors in a systematic manner from the drafting stage of statutes and systems and eliminates and improves them in advance.

\* (Legal basis) Article 28 of the Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Article 30-32 of the Enforcement Decree of such law

☐ **Assessment subjects**

- Legislation, administrative rules, local statutes, internal rules of public institutes (bylaws, etc.)

\* With the revision of the ACRC Act in Oct. 2019, the ACRC can assess internal regulations of public offices with its own authority.

☐ **Assessment criteria**

- Assess with 12 criteria in four assessment areas – compliance, execution, administrative process, and corruption control

Assessment areas		Assessment criteria
Compliance	Assess possibility of corruption-causing factors to be working from the perspective of users of administration service	① Reasonability of compliance burden ② Appropriateness of regulatory rules ③ Possibility of special treatment
Execution	Assess the possibility of having corruption-causing factors from the perspective of suppliers of administration service	④ Specificity and objectivity of discretionary regulations ⑤ Transparency and responsibility of consignment and delegation ⑥ Possibility of financial leakage
Administrative Process	Assess probability of corruption caused by administrative procedures, not from the perspectives of users and suppliers	⑦ Easy accessibility ⑧ Openness ⑨ Predictability
Corruption Control	Assess whether there are risks of personal interests, passive administration, and corruption-control tools across the entire administration process	⑩ Possibility of conflict of interest ⑪ Systemic characteristics of corruption-prevention mechanism ⑫ Possibility of passive administration service

#### ☐ **Current status of assessment**

- **(Enactment and revision of laws)** When administrative organizations enact and revise laws, the ACRC assesses corruption-causing factors in the laws before the review of the Ministry of Government Legislation and recommends improvement to the relevant organizations.

\* In 2020, the ACRC reviewed 1,999 laws enacted or revised, and made 347 recommendations to improve 169 laws

- **(Current laws, etc.)** The ACRC selects current social issues including corruption cases as main agenda, assesses corruption-causing factors in laws, regulations and systems and makes recommendations for improvement.

## **ACRC and Korean Association for Corruption Studies Hosted “Anti-Corruption and Integrity” Academic Conference**

*- The conference diagnosed policies and had an in-depth discussion  
for future development tasks to implement anti-corruption and integrity policies  
in a sustainable manner -*

(27th Aug. 2021, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) and the Korean Association for Corruption Studies (President: Cho Jaehyun, KACS) hosted an online academic conference on 27th August under the theme: “Policy Diagnosis and Future Challenges to Achieve Sustainable Anti-Corruption and Integrity Policies.”

This conference was held to diagnose anti-corruption policy achievement, such as establishment of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials, and set the direction of anti-corruption and integrity policies to become one of the top 10s in CPI.

The academic conference jointly hosted by the ACRC and the KACS was divided into three sessions for the in-depth discussion on three topics, namely legislation, policy and implementation system.

In the first session entitled “Seeking Ways to Improve Anti-Corruption-related Laws and Regulations and Ways to Advance Anti-Corruption Policy Implementation,” professor Lee Seung-taek of Sangmyung University presented “Constitutional Review about the Act

on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials.” Also, he proposed integration of the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, which is public officials’ major standards of conduct, and the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials.

The topic for the second session was “Ways to Seek Out Law Strategy for Preventing Social Corruption (Environment).” Professor Jung Shin-kyo of Mokpo National Maritime University presented “Ways to Make the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of Public Officials Effective.” He also suggested complete prevention of pursuing personal interest through confidential information obtained on duty and presented the direction to revise public interest whistleblower protection system for the effective protection of reporters, including better compensation for them.

Professor Kim Ae-jin of Gyeongsang National University presented “Rent Seeking and Corruption.” She analyzed the correlation between level of integrity and local grant tax or government subsidies, suggesting that it is necessary to revise the Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission and facilitate internal auditing function.

Last but not least, the topic of the third session was “the Role of ACRC for Establishing Anti-Corruption Policy and Ways to Build National Integrity System.” Chief researcher Lee Seon-Jung of the Seoul Institute for Transparency at the University of Seoul presented “Challenges for Building Sustainable National Integrity System.” It was



followed by policy discussion that can bring about social change by analyzing the correlation between Social Integration Index and Corruption Perception Index.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the ACRC said, “the Korean Association for Corruption Studies, which studies anti-corruption and integrity in an academic area, and the Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission, which is a spearheading organization in anti-corruption and integrity, will actively work together to bring anti-corruption and integrity in Korea to the next level.”

President Cho Jaehyun of the Korean Association for Corruption Studies said, “I expect that this academic conference can serve as a platform to have an in-depth and constructive discussion with those who are devoted to building clean and fair society.”

## **ACRC Accelerates Strategic Support to Expand Local Ombudsman**

- *The ACRC cooperates with Local Ombudsman to provide support, including education, experience, information and case sharing -*

(19th Aug. 2021, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) supports establishment of local ombudsman in each region to resolve complaints of local residents and protect their rights and interests. As such, a series of local government created their local ombudsman.

According to the ACRC, 58 local governments have introduced and been operating Local Ombudsman as of August this year, up by 9 from the end of last year.

\* 30 local governments in 2017 → 37 in 2018 → 43 in 2019 → 49 in 2020 → 58 in August this year

In addition, over 40 local governments in such as Seoul, Incheon, Gyeonggi, and Chungcheongnam-do are in the process of creating Local Ombudsman, such as through enacting municipal ordinance and appointing Local Ombudsman members. Therefore, the number of Local Ombudsman is expected to increase further in the future.

Local Ombudsman is a rights protection body established under local governments in accordance with the Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-Corruption and Civil

Rights Commission. It plays the same role of the ACRC on the regional level, such as making recommendation for correcting unlawful and unfair administrative disposition by conducting impartial and objective investigation on complaints from the third person perspective.

From last year, the ACRC has implemented measures to facilitate local ombudsman by creating a platform for mutual exchange between the central government and the local governments through the ACRC National Consultative Council, while making the information related to the visit to organizations, consultation, and establishment and operation of local ombudsman available on its website.

In the second half of this year, the ACRC plans to further promote the establishment of Local Ombudsman by collaborating with the local ombudsman in Seoul, Ulsan, Gyeonggi, and Chungcheong which handled high volume of complaints or showed excellent outcome in addressing civil complaints through corrective recommendations, expression of opinion or mediation.

For the upper-level local governments as well as lower-level local governments with over 500,000 population which do not have any plan for creating local ombudsman yet, the ACRC will support them to come up with plans to create their own Local Ombudsman by enabling them to benchmark actual operation examples from the local ombudsman with excellent performance.

For those local governments that already have plans to create their Local Ombudsman, the commission will present ways to enact municipal ordinance, and form and operate the local ombudsman with best

practices, while providing customized support in each stage with consultation for each local government.

Also, to facilitate Local Ombudsman, multi-dimensional supportive measures will be taken, including education, experience sharing and information sharing.

First, the members of Local Ombudsman will be invited to observe onsite complaint consultation and handling on ‘Moblie Shinmungo’, ACRC’s outreach complaint-handling bus, and on-site mediation, so that they can have first-hand experience about the process of addressing collective civil complaints or complaints related to social issues.

Moreover, the commission will host workshops for 235 members of Local Ombudsman to train their complaint handling technique, present cases, and share information. Also, it will share complaints that were resolved by Local Ombudsman on its website.

Director General Ahn Junho of Ombudsman Bureau said, “the number of complaints received through the e-People platform is reaching 10 million cases. Under such circumstances, the role of Local Ombudsman is all the more important than before as it can swiftly address complaints of local citizens.” He added, “by working with Local Ombudsman with excellent operation, the ACRC will actively provide active support for establishment and operation of Local Ombudsman program in accordance with situations in different local conditions.”

## **ACRC Dispatches ‘Mobile Shinmungo(Outreach Bus)’ to Address Complaints in Farming and Fishing Villages across the Nation Hit by COVID-19 Pandemic**

*- ACRC visits farming and fishing villages across the nation starting from  
Muju-gun, Jeollabuk-do province on 26th August -*

(26th Aug. 2021, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) dispatched ‘Mobile Shinmungo(Outreach Bus)’ to Muju-gun, Jeollabuk-do on 26th to listen to and address complaints of farming and fishing villages hit by COVID-19 pandemic.

By using ‘Mobile Shinmungo(Outreach Bus)’ counseling bus, the ACRC has been visiting vulnerable groups suffering from difficulties caused by COVID-19 pandemic and vulnerable regions with limited access to administrative service, and learned their difficulties and addressed them.

As COVID-19 pandemic is prolonged and the number of confirmed cases is growing again, difficulties of farmers due to the sluggish domestic consumption are growing day by day. Against this backdrop, the ACRC plans to visit farming and fishing villages across the nation, starting from Muju-gun, Jeollabuk-do, by considering different characteristics in each region.

The commission will not just listen to the farmers and fishers, but also make continued efforts to provide practical support, such as offering help needed by farmers and improving unfair systems.

Director General Ahn Junho of Ombudsman Bureau said, “despite difficult situation amid COVID-19 pandemic, the ACRC will pay close attention even to the smallest voices by visiting different regions to mitigate inconvenience of people at least a little bit.”