

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (November 2021)

▷ Rome G20 Summit Recognizes Anti-corruption Policies of ACRC as Global Best Practice

- The excellence of Korea's corruption reporting system, comprehensive anti-corruption system, inter-organizational cooperation framework was recognized

▷ Korea was ranked a record high position in business environment integrity

- 'Korea was grouped as the country with low bribe risk, with business bribery risk decreasing for five consecutive year

▷ ACRC Actively Communicates with the Transparency International to enhance Korea's performance on the Corruption Perception Index

- On November 8-9, ACRC visited Transparency International in Berlin and explained anti-corruption policy achievements

▷ ACRC to Introduce Korea's Advanced Corruption/Public Interest Report System to International Community

- At an OECD-IDB meeting, Clean Portal was presented as a best practice and discussion on technical supports to Latin American countries was made

▷ ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui to attend Meeting of IOI Board of Directors to Discuss IOI's Key Agenda

- Membership matters, budget plan and regional subsidy, Honorary Life Membership rewarding were discussed

- ▷ **ACRC and UNDP to Share Korea's Anti-corruption Policies with Developing Countries**
 - On November 4, an online workshop was held to present the achievements and takeaways of AIA implementation in Vietnam and Uzbekistan
- ▷ **ACRC introduced Korea's Anti-Corruption Policies to Minister of Fight against Corruption of Côte d'Ivoire**
 - ACRC explained digital technology use in combating public sector corruption
- ▷ **ACRC Appoints Police Ombudsman and Foreign Enterprises Ombudsman**
 - Citizens' rights and interest will be protected and fair business environment suiting global standards will be built

Rome G20 Summit Recognizes Anti-corruption Policies of ACRC as Global Best Practice

The excellence of Korea's corruption reporting system, comprehensive anti-corruption system, inter-organizational cooperation framework was recognized

(8th Nov. 2021, ACRC)

Anti-corruption policies of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) were recognized as best practice suiting global standards.

The Compendium of Good Practices on Measurement of Corruption, an annex of G20 Rome Leader's Declaration adopted on October 31, states that anti-corruption policies of the ACRC and etc. are good practices that meet the global standards.

The Compendium was compiled by G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group with an aim to contribute to effective control of corruption.

It comments that Korea established anti-corruption system at the right time under the then Anti-Corruption Act enacted in 2002 and the Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission enacted in 2008. It also says that the anti-corruption system has deterred public officials from abusing authority and violating laws and at the same time effectively prevented acts of corruption.

The compendium also states that Korea has in place a systemic framework for collecting and analyzing almost all types of data that can lead to corruption or be used to measure phenomenon of corruption,

such as public procurement, transparency in public administration, registration of gifts and money, political donation, financial information exchange.

The ACRC has improved the corruption reporting system on a regular basis. And through a thorough upgrading in March this year, the online corruption and public interest report website, 'Clean portal', added functions of automatic classification of reports and reporting guide. This has enabled anyone to make a report on the website without difficulties.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the ACRC said, "The fact that the G20 recognized Korea's anti-corruption policies as best practice indicates that the global community acknowledged Korean government's policies to build a society full of integrity."

She added, "The ACRC, as Korea's anti-corruption governing agency, will continue to make big achievements on tackling corruption in Korea, serving as an active role in placing the country on the top 20s on Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020".

Korea was ranked a record high position in business environment integrity

*‘Korea was grouped as the country with low bribe risk, with
business bribery risk decreasing for five consecutive year*

(26th Nov. 2021, ACRC)

The likelihood of bribe demand facing business people in Korea in relation to licensing and permit has decreased for five consecutive years.

Bribery Risk Matrix 2021 ranked Korea in the 21st of 194 countries, giving a score of 21 out of perfect score of 100 (lower score means lower risk of bribery).

Bribery Risk Matrix is an index that measures the likelihood that businesses operating overseas may encounter bribe demands when receiving government licensing and permit and other cases.

Bribery Risk Matrix has been getting attention especially when compared to the Corruption Perception Index which measures each country’s perceived level of corruption.

Korea’s ranking in Bribery Risk Matrix has risen for five consecutive years to take the 21th place this year, from the 33rd in 2017, 25th in 2018, and then 23rd place in 2019 and 22th in 2020. Notably, Korea was grouped as countries with ‘low’ level of bribery risk.

※ very low bribery risk countries (18 countries), low bribery risk countries(35) average bribery risk countries (81), high bribery risk countries(49), very high bribery risk countries

Bribery Risk Matrix was developed jointly by business risk management solution provider TRACE and research organization RAND Corporation of the U.S.

RAND Corporation is one of the representative think tanks in the US, a professional research organization that developed the Delphi method and suggested the Planning-Programming-Budgeting System (PPBS) and other research on administration • business management and social research.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “The level of Korea’s integrity evaluated by the global society has been constantly improving for the recent few years in various international indices including CPI. Such progress reflects the achievements of the anti-corruption reform that the Korean government has pushed forward so far.”

She added, “We will actively promote the anti-corruption policy efforts and achievements to the international society, contributing to the enhancement of Korea’s national image and standing on the international community as high integrity country.

“In addition, with our anti-corruption experiences and expertise, the ACRC will discuss limits and areas for improvement in global corruption measurements such as Corruption Perception Index (CPI) with Transparency International which publishes the CPI. By doing so, ACRC will be active in leading international anti-corruption policy trend.”

ACRC Actively Communicates with the Transparency International to enhance Korea's performance on the Corruption Perception Index

On November 8-9, ACRC visited Transparency International in Berlin and explained anti-corruption policy achievements

(28th Nov. 2021, ACRC)

The ACRC, as an agency governing Korea's anti-corruption policies, has carried out multi-dimensional efforts in the international community to enhance the country's performance on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI).

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) had a working-level meeting with the Transparency International (TI) in Berlin, Germany on November 8-9 to promote sustainable improvement of the CPI.

The CPI measures a country's level of public sector corruption, which is the key to economic development and enhancement of national image, according to an industry-academy research center of the Seoul National University.

At the working-level meeting in Berlin, ACRC team explained Korea's various anti-corruption policy achievements, such as operation of Anti-Corruption Policy Consultative Council, establishment of Public-Private Council for Transparent Society which is public-private partnership, enactment of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest, and revision of the Act on the Prohibition of the Improper Solicitation and Graft.

In response, TI said that Korea's anti-corruption policy has been highly recognized by the international community including in the recent G20 meeting and expressed its intention to strengthen its cooperation with the ACRC to spread Korea's cases to countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Director General Han Sam-seok of ACRC Anti-corruption Bureau said, "The International society has now started to recognize Korean government's anti-corruption reform efforts and achievements so far. With stronger push for anti-corruption efforts, we will make efforts to place the country on the top 20ths in terms of high integrity."

He added, "With our anti-corruption experiences and expertise, Korea will play a leading role in setting the international anti-corruption policy trend."

ACRC to Introduce Korea's Advanced Corruption/Public Interest Report System to International Community

*At an OECD-IDB meeting, Clean Portal will be presented
as a best practice and discussion on technical supports
to Latin American countries will be made*

(18th Nov. 2021, ACRC)

Korea's online corruption/public interest report system, "Clean Portal" (www.clean.go.kr) has been recognized as a best case in the international community once again.

*Clean Portal (www.clean.go.kr) is online reporting system on corruption case or public interest violation, giving an easy access to anyone.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) has announced that it will make a presentation on Clean Portal as a best practice of digital platform for trust-building at a high-level special session of OECD-IDB* hosted meeting under the theme of "Transparency, Integrity and Participation in the Digital Era".

*Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is the largest regional development financial institution in Latin America and the Caribbean established to promote regional free trade and provide technical supports.

At the three-day meeting to be held virtually in the Dominican Republic from November 15 to 18, 28 high profile figures are attended, including

President of the Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader, CEO of IDB Invest, James P. Scriven (TBD), Secretary General of OECD, Mathias Cormann, President of International Transparency, Delia Ferreira Rubio, and General Comptrollers of Colombia, Peru, and Chile.

The ACRC is the only country invited outside Latin America and the Caribbean, indicating great interest of countries in Latin America and Caribbean in Korea's online corruption/public interest reporting system using digital technologies.

Director General Kim Ki-sun for Inspection and Protection Bureau of the ACRC delivers a presentation under the theme of "Korea's Corruption Prevention and Control using Digital Technologies: Clean Portal." Following the presentation, he will discuss with IDB how to jointly provide technical supports to Latin American countries.

The ACRC is now conducting feasibility test to introduce the online corruption/public interest report system to Colombia, with a plan to introduce the system through ODA project from 2023.

Director General Kim said, "I hope this meeting could be an opportunity for Korea to share its experiences of building effective online anti-corruption system with the international community. The ACRC will make efforts to help countries in Latin America and Caribbean in building digital-based corruption prevention system."

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui to attend Meeting of IOI Board of Directors to Discuss IOI's Key Agenda

*Membership matters, budget plan and regional subsidy, Honorary Life
Membership rewarding will be discussed*

(15th Nov. 2021, ACRC)

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) will virtually attend Board of Directors' Meeting of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) held in Vienna on November 15, at 7 pm (Vienna local time 11 am) to discuss IOI's important agenda, such as IOI membership application assessment, budget plan, and regional subsidies.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui was elected as an Asia Regional Director with unanimous votes of 13 Asia members at the election held in May 2021. This is her second time to join the IOI's BoD meeting.

◇ International Ombudsman Institute (IOI)

The IOI is a non-profit institution established in 1987 for the purpose of advancing Ombudsman system and promoting the exchange and cooperation among ombudsmen in the world. It has 212 members from 120 countries, and is headquartered in Vienna, Austria, where the executive committee is operated. The general assembly is held every four years and the board of directors' meeting is held every year.

- * **Ombudsman** : Ombudsman is of Swedish origin meaning mediator, arbitrator, and inspector, and the ombudsman institution was first established in Sweden in 1809 as a representative of the parliament which monitor the compliance of judges and public officials of administration.

At the BoD meeting, Ombudsmen of 20 different countries around the world such as the US, UK, Australia, Mexico, the Republic of South Africa, and Thailand will review and discuss key agenda items, such as ▲ IOI membership matters, ▲ budget plan for 2022 and audit report for 2021, and ▲ review on the status of applications for regional subsidies.

In particular, the BoD members will discuss approval of awarding Honorary Life Membership to Peter Tyndall, Ombudsman of Ireland and European IOI Director, according to IOI by-laws stating “Honorary Life Membership may be granted by the Board to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution or who has rendered outstanding services to the organization.”

The Honorary Life Membership is to be awarded to Tyndall in recognition of his leadership as former IOI President and long time IOI executive as well as his contribution to the Resolution on “Role of Ombudsman and Mediator Institutions in the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, Good Governance and the Rule of Law” adopted at the 75th UN General Assembly in December last year.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “The ACRC is serving as National Ombudsman Agency, actively protecting the socially underprivileged.”

She added, “As an IOI Director representing the Asian region, I will also actively contribute to the international community so that Asian Ombudsman institutions can be fully guaranteed their rights within the IOI.”

ACRC and UNDP to Share Korea's Anti-corruption Policies with Developing Countries

On November 4, an online workshop was held to present the achievements and takeaways of AIA implementation in Vietnam and Uzbekistan

(4th Nov. 2021, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) will hold an online workshop to discuss the achievements and takeaways from the ACRC-UNDP “SDG(Sustainable Development Goals) Partnership” project to share anti-corruption policies with Vietnam and Uzbekistan on November 4 at 8 p.m. (7 a.m. EST).

In 2015, ACRC signed an MOU with UNDP to introduce and share Korea's effective anti-corruption policies to developing countries for their local adaptation. Based on the MOU, ACRC has carried out anti-corruption policy-sharing projects with countries selected each year.

Through this policy-sharing project, the ACRC and the UNDP supported Vietnam from 2016 to 2017 and to Uzbekistan from 2019 to 2021 in their implementation of Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment (AIA)*.

* AIA is an instrument to assess public organizations' anti-corruption/integrity efforts and achievements.

As of 2021, the countries for which ACRC has conducted anti-corruption policy-sharing projects are Vietnam, Moldova, Myanmar, Kosovo, Iraq, Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Colombia, Algeria, and Afghanistan.

The online workshop aims to promote a dialogue among all the persons in charge of the ACRC-UNDP-Vietnam and ACRC-UNDP-Uzbekistan projects on their experiences, achievements, and lessons from operating AIA.

The workshop will be attended by a number of participants including Ms. Sara Lister, Head of Governance of UNDP Bureau for Policy and Program Support, Ms. Anne Juepner, Director of UNDP Seoul Policy Centre, and high-ranking public officials of the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam and the Anti-Corruption Agency of Uzbekistan.

During the workshop, ACRC will present on the achievements of ACRC-UNDP's anti-corruption policy sharing projects and the commission's latest anti-corruption policies as well as future direction for improvement.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the ACRC said, "The ACRC will further strengthen support and cooperation with developing countries with regard to integrity policies so that Korea could position itself as a country of integrity in the international community".

ACRC introduced Korea's Anti-Corruption Policies to Minister of Fight against Corruption of Côte d'Ivoire

ACRC explained digital technology use in combating public sector corruption

(9th Nov. 2021, ACRC)

On November 9, at the Government Complex, Sejong, the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) introduced Korea's Anti-Corruption policies and instruments to Minister Zoro Bi Ballo of the Promotion of Good Governance and Capacity Building in the Fight against Corruption (Ministry of Fight against Corruption) of Côte d'Ivoire, explaining digital technology use to tackle public sector corruption.

Côte d'Ivoire, located on the coast of western Africa, created the Ministry of Fight against Corruption this year to actively push forward policies to remove corruption in the public sector. Its main strategy is to digitize administrative system, with introducing an online corruption report system and etc.

Minister Zoro Bi Ballo, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and Côte d'Ivoire this year, visited the ACRC to learn Korean government's experiences of advancing digital administrative system in the fight against corruption.

ACRC Vice Chairperson Lee Jung-hee met and explained Korea's major anti-corruption policies positively recognized by the global community such as the UN, OECD, and G20 to Minister Zoro Bi Ballo, who visited the ACRC, Korea's anti-corruption policy governing agency.

Minister Zoro Bi Ballo said, “The government of Côte d'Ivoire has set anti-corruption and good governance as the first priority in government policies, and I hope that Korea’s experiences of implementing effective anti-corruption policies and instruments such as Public Interest Reporter Protection System could be applied in Côte d'Ivoire.”

At the policy briefing meeting that follows, the ACRC explained its online corruption and public interest report system, stressing that through a thorough upgrading in March this year, the Clean Portal automates classification of reports and provides assistance in report-filing, and thereby enables convenient reporting for everyone. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety and Korea Customs Office also attended the session to present Korea’s digitalized administrative services and digital customs services.

Vice Chairperson Lee Jung-hee said, “We are appreciated that Côte d'Ivoire has visited the ACRC with its strong will to end corruption and aim to learn Korean government’s digitalized administrative system.”

He added, “ACRC will make more efforts to strengthen anti-corruption cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire by inviting Anti-Corruption Training Course for Foreign Public Officials by ACRC Anti-Corruption Training Institute.”

ACRC Appoints Police Ombudsman and Foreign Enterprises Ombudsman

Citizens' rights and interest will be protected and fair business environment suiting global standards will be built

(22nd Nov. 2021, ACRC)

On 22 November, the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) appointed Police Ombudsman and Foreign Enterprise Ombudsman to actively address civil complaints related to policy investigation, enforcement and traffic administration and to better handle unfairness-related difficulties and issues facing foreign companies operating in Korea, respectively.

Choi Jung-muk, the appointee of Police Ombudsman, is now serving as a commissioner of Presidential Commission on Policy Planning and will be in charge of relieving infringed rights of citizens from illegal and unfair activities of duty by the police in the area of such as investigation, enforcement and traffic administration.

Appointee of Foreign Enterprise Ombudsman, Park Gye-ok, served as Director General for Institutional Improvement Bureau and Anti-Corruption Bureau, and Assistant Chairperson for Planning and Coordination of the ACRC. As Foreign Enterprise Ombudsman, with his expertise as a member of ACRC small committee dedicated to handling business grievances, he will take the helm of the entire procedure of handling reports and complaints from foreign companies in Korea.

ACRC Chaireperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “I expect that the newly appointed Ombudsmen could make the best efforts in their respective area to resolve grievances of citizens related to activities of duties by the police and difficulties of foreign businesses operating in Korea.” She added, “ The ACRC will continue to make its utmost efforts to attentively listen what citizens have to say and will strive to build a society full of integrity”

Ask ACRC Police Ombudsman for help whenever your rights are infringed while making a charge or report to the police or undergoing police investigation

- △ Counseling: 110
- △ Make a request on : ACRC’s e-People (www.epeople.go.kr), ACRC website(www.acrc.go.kr)
- △ Mail and visit to the ACRC : Government Complex–Sejong 7 dong, Police Ombudsman Center , ACRC, and annex to Government Complex–Sejon, Government Joint Complaint Center
- △ Fax :044–200–7971
- △ How to make a request : File a request containing the name, address, contact number of the reporter and contents of complaint

ACRC Foreign Enterprises Ombudsman Hotline

- △ Email: acrc@korea.kr
- △ Tel: 044–200–7154
- △ ACRC Foreign Enterprises Ombudsman Operation Procedure

